

## The Entomological Section.

*President*—Mr. GERALD B. CONEY, The Hall, Batcombe.

*Recorder*—Mr. A. E. HUDD, F.E.S., 108, Pembroke Road, Clifton.

*Treasurer*—Mr. W. A. BOGUE, F.E.S., The Bank House, Watchet.

*Secretary*—Mr. H. H. SLATER, Brooke House, Cannington.

WE have again to report progress. Our members increase in number, and we are fortunate in getting active workers amongst them. But they only represent the county partially as yet. From Districts I (Dulverton), IV (Ilminster and Yeovil), the western half of III (Wellington and Wiveliscombe), and the eastern half of X (Bath and Frome) we get hardly any field-notes; this handicaps severely the working out of the distribution of species in the county.

One more field is occupied. Colonel Jermy has undertaken the Neuroptera (Dragonflies, Lacewings, Ephemerae and Phryganidae), and is finding a number of unrecorded species—or was, till the War claimed his time and attention. He will be much obliged to any member who will collect him material in any, or all, of the four above groups.

This year we make a start with the additions to the Hymenoptera. Some members have been collecting bees and flies for Mr. H. J. Charbonnier, our specialist, but it is hoped that much more will be done in this direction in the coming season, if the subject is to be adequately dealt with. He asks me to beg members to send him any bees or flies that they may meet with, excepting only the blue bottle, the common house fly, and the common dung fly. His address is Olveston, Tockington, Gloucs., and material should reach him by the end of September at latest. (See the report for last year).

Hardly any ichneumons have been sent in this year. But collectors, and especially breeders, of lepidoptera, must meet with a number every season! We fear that with some of us

entomology does not mean much more than a devotion to the interests of one's own cabinet, rather than to those of science (*i.e.* general knowledge). The Entomological Secretary will gladly forward any ichneumon flies to our specialist.

Our field meetings have been rather better attended lately, though we still have members whose faces we have never seen. (We regret to have to mention the loss of one member, the Rev. Walter Paterson, by death). We had a most enjoyable meeting at Stourton (King Alfred's Tower) on June 1st, and some interesting experiences; but at Burnham, on July 9th, there seemed to be fewer insects about than usual, which was to be regretted, as we had several members present for the first time. Nor did we do any better at night, for which six or eight members stayed on. Larvæ, too, were unusually scarce. Our August meeting (at Cheddar) synchronised with the outbreak of war, and was abandoned by general consent.

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### **The Ornithological Section.**

*President* :—The Right Hon. LORD ST. AUDRIES.

*Recorder* :—Miss AMY SMITH, The Mount, Halse, Taunton.

*Secretary and Treasurer* :—Mr. GEORGE HISCOCK, South Road, Taunton.

THE Annual Meeting of the Ornithological Section was held at Taunton Castle, on February 12, 1914, when the attendance was unfortunately small owing to bad weather. In the absence of the President the chair was occupied by Dr. J. Wiglesworth, of Winscombe, author of "St. Kilda and its Birds."

Reference was made to the death of the Recorder of the Section, Mr. James Turner, which took place at Minehead, on Dec. 31, 1913 (see *Proc.*, LIX, i, 55). Mention was also made of the death of the Rev. Father Chichester, of Minehead, a keen ornithologist, who had from time to time presented stuffed birds of local interest to the Museum.

The Recorder's "Notes on Somerset Birds, from 1865 to April, 1913," have been distributed to all members of the Section who have paid their subscriptions. It is hoped to distribute further papers of the same kind of material for 1913-1915.

At the Annual Meeting, Miss A. Smith, on being asked to become Recorder of the Section in succession to Mr. J. Turner, expressed a wish to retire from the office of Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. George Hiscock was elected to fill this vacancy. Miss Smith accepted her election as Recorder of the Section,—at any rate for the present.

In the earlier part of the year the repapering and ticketing of the Haddon Collection of Birds was completed (*Proc.*, LIX, i, 53), and these cases are now exhibited against the wall in the s.w. corner of the Great Hall. Other birds in the general collection have also been ticketed afresh, and several of the bird cases in the Marshall and Bidgood collections have been repapered.

On June 4, 1914, the Taunton Field Club organized an excursion to Brean Down and Berrow, and they were joined by several members of the Ornithological, Botanical, and Entomological Sections of the Society. Among the addresses given on that occasion was one by Mr. H. Cox on "The Birds of Brean Down," an account of which appeared in the *Somerset County Gazette*, June 6, 1914. A pair of Peregrine Falcons was seen on that occasion, but the Ravens were "not at home." A number of Shelducks were observed.

Among the gifts this year is a series of eggs collected locally by Mr. A. W. Turner. The Museum has only a poor collection of eggs at present, and members of the Section are invited to assist in this matter and communicate with the Recorder, Miss Smith, who has made a temporary cabinet for the purpose.

A specimen of the Great Northern Diver shot by Mr. Venables Kyrke, at Chard Reservoir, has been stuffed for the

Museum collection. Mr. A. W. Turner has presented a Peregrine Falcon (immature male), caught at Staplegrove, in April, 1913. A pied Jackdaw, shot at Misterton, near Crewkerne, on Nov. 2, 1914, is also being set up for the Museum.

Goldfinches seem to be on the increase in West Somerset. A small flock came to feed on Miss Smith's lawn at Halse a short time ago, and they had not been seen there in any number in the observer's memory.

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## The Botanical Section.

*President and Recorder*—The Rev. E. S. MARSHALL, F.L.S.,  
West Monkton Rectory, Taunton.

*Secretary*—Mr. W. D. MILLER, Cheddon, Taunton.

THE season has been a quiet one, and there is little of moment to record.

The spring meeting of the Section was held at Taunton Castle on February 20th, 1914. There were twelve members present. The accounts for the preceding year were passed, showing a balance in hand of £1 3s. 0d. Field-days were arranged, and other business was transacted.

The President's supplement to Murray's "Flora of Somerset" appeared in Vol. LIX of the *Proceedings* of the Parent Society. It proves to be a most interesting addition to the literature of the subject, and occupies rather more than half the space of Mr. Murray's original volume. It is identical in form, and can be had separately from the Society (the price now having been reduced to 5s.).

The Section held three Field-days as arranged. (1) June 4th, to Berrow and Brean Down, in conjunction with the Taunton Field Club. A very fair number were present, and the excursion was thoroughly enjoyable. Interesting plants noted were *Silybum Marianum*, *Daucus gummifer*, *Hyoscyamus niger*, *Anthriscus vulgaris*, and *Trifolium filiforme*.

Though the white rock rose on the south side of Brean Down and the yellow on the north were in full flower, no case of the hybrid seems to have been reported from there, while on Purn Hill the parents and the hybrid may be gathered within a few feet of one another.

(2) July 2nd to the Haddeo Valley. Only a few members were present, and heavy rain interfered with work. Among other plants *Hesperis matronalis*, and *Polygonum Bistorta* were noted.

(3) July 30th to Chard Common and Reservoir. Again only a few members took advantage of a fine day and an interesting locality. *Inula Helenium*, *Radiola Millegrana*, and *Genista Anglica*, were noticed; and among the bog plants *Narthecium Ossifragum*, *Drosera longifolia*, and *Pinguicula Lusitanica* in great abundance.

In this connection the Secretary would be glad of suggestions as to localities, dates, etc. The pleasure and usefulness of Field-days would be greatly enhanced if such arrangements could be made as would enable a much larger number to be present.

On May 22nd, the President and a small party paid a visit to Steep Holm. The peony is apparently in much the same condition as when Mr. Murray visited it in 1891. The present lessee has this year taken legal proceedings with a view to checking depredations. Nearly the whole of the top of the island is a forest of *Smyrnum Olusatrum*, and attempts to keep this plant in check have proved fruitless. Other interesting plants noted were the *Allium Ampeloprasum*, *Cerastium pumilum*, *Lavatera arborea*, *Statice binervosa*, and a sub-species of *Plantago Coronopus*.

The thanks of the Section are due to the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Colonel Gifford and Mr. C. Kemeys-Tynte, for permission to botanize on their land.

We regret to have to record the death of the Rev. W. G. Paterson, Rector of West Lydford.

