

## The Entomological Section.

*President*—The Rev. Preb. A. P. WICKHAM, F.E.S., East Brent Vic., Burnham.

*Joint Recorders*—Colonel T. JERMYN, F.E.S. (5, Highbury Road, Weston-s.-Mare), and Mr. H. H. SLATER.

*Treasurer*—Mr. H. DOIDGE, The Bank, High Street, Taunton.

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

THE Annual Meeting was held at Taunton Castle on March 2nd, 1923. All the officers were re-elected, and the Treasurer's balance in hand amounted to £9 19s. 0d. It was decided that the Section should widen its activities by including in them the recording of the land and fresh water *Crustacea*, *Arachnida*, and *Myriopoda*, as well as of the Insects proper, being the whole of the Division *Arthropoda*, or *Articulata*.

We have had a number of losses of members, through death, or migration, and invite members to try and obtain fresh recruits, especially for the Junior Branch (under 19 years), through which we get some of our best workers in the less popular groups of insects.

I am asked to bring before our members the notes issued by Mr. Tuckett for the S.W. Naturalists' Union, relative to the forwarding to him, as soon after death as possible, of birds and small mammals, for the purpose of collecting the external parasitic insects which they may have on them, and also any internal parasites, all of which ought to be recorded. The notes are too bulky for insertion here, but we shall be very grateful for any help that members may give, and I shall be glad to let any members, desirous of giving it, see a copy of Mr. Tuckett's instructions as to what to do.

### LEPIDOPTERA.

*Argynnis Latona*, L. Mr. J. M. Jaques (with Prebendary Wickham) took a rather worn example in the "*Aurinia field*"

at Ashcott, amongst *Aurinia* and *Selene*, on May 29th. The second occurrence in the county of this species.

*Senta maritima*, Tausch. C. J. Perrens has taken fifteen examples of this eastern county insect near Bridgwater at the end of July and on August 1st. They include the vars: *wismariensis* and *bi-punctata*. Apparently they take no notice of light or sugar, but are only attracted by honey-dew on willows. This is our "event of the year!"

*Tephrosia consonaria*, Hb., is recorded from West Somerset by J. F. Bird; several specimens. It has previously been only obtained in the county by G. B. Coney at Stourton.

*Abraxas grossulariata*, L. I took a particularly fine dark variety in the garden here, where the species feeds exclusively on *Euonymus japonicus*, and, though not so freely, on *Eu. radicans variegatus*. Mr. Coney tells me that he is breeding some fine forms from *Euonymus* also.

*Eupithecia pusillata*, Fb., has been found by J. F. Bird on spruce trunks at Alcombe. Doubtless to be found wherever the spruce is established, but this is only about the fourth record for the county. It is with much regret that I have to mention that Mr. Bird has left the county, and is now settled in Gloucester.

*Anaitis plagiata*, L. "Entom. Soc.," February 7th, 1923. "Dr. K. Jordan . . . pointed out that the insect known as *A. plagiata* consists of two species, the true *A. plagiata*, and the smaller and paler *A. efformata*, Gn., both species occurring in Britain, whereas only *A. efformata* is found south of the Mediterranean, and in southern Spain and Portugal."

The following *Microlepidoptera* are Mr. A. R. Hayward's contribution, both new to the county:—

*Lipoptycha (Dicrorampha) saturnana*, Gn. Haselbury Park, Crewkerne, 3.VI.1923.

*Mompha (Myrmecocela) ochraceella*, Tgst. Greenham, Crewkerne, 10.VII.23.

Two other micros of his deserve mention—

*Eucosmia (Penthina) oblongana (marginana)*, Haw. (Only taken in Somerset previously by Mr. Vaughan on the bank of the Avon below Leigh Woods, Clifton). Haselbury Park, Crewkerne, 2.VI.23.

*Heliozele resplendella*, Dougl. (previously once at Brislington by Sircom). Shapwick, 27.VI.23.

Colonel Jermyn sends me the following :—

PLECOPTERA.

*Perlida*—Stone Flies.

From Mr. M. E. Moseley, our referee for the order, and taken by him at Withypool in June, 1921. Apparently the first recorded in Somerset.

*Perla nigra*, Scop.

*Leuctra nigra*, Klap.

*Leuctra hippopus*, Kempsey.

*Chloroperla grammatica*, Poda.

*Nemoura cinerea*, Oliv.

*N. marginata*, Pict.

*Isopteryx torrentium*, Pict.

*I. tripunctata*, Poda.

*Trichoptera*—Caddis Flies.

Mr. Moseley has identified the following additions to our list :—

*Grammataulius nitidus*, Müll. Brick Pits, Bridgwater, 1.VIII.23 (H.S.).

*Limnophilus flavicornis*, Fab. Street, 4.IX.22 (Miss E. M. Lee).

*Leptourus commutatus*, McLach. Cannington Brook, 11.VII.23 (H.S.).

*L. fulvus*, Ramb. Cannington Brook, 11.VII.23 (H.S.).

*Mystacides nigra*, Pict. Cannington Brook, 11.VII.23 (H.S.).

*M. longicornis*, L. Sedgmoor, 16.VII.14 (T.J.).

NOTE.—*Mystacides dissimilis* was printed in error in last year's report, and should be cancelled.

HYMENOPTERA ACULEATA (Wasps and Bees).

The following additions to our list have been determined by Dr. R. C. L. Perkins, F.R.S.

- Psammochares rufipes*, L. Minehead, 21.VIII.22 (R. Jermyn).  
*Psammochares nigerrimus*, Scop. Shapwick, 22.VI.17 ;  
 11.VIII.22 (T.J.) ; Wembdon, 21.VIII.22 (R.T.).  
*Psammochares cardui*, Perk. Shapwick, 11.VIII.22 (T.J.).  
*Salix notatulus*, Saund. Shapwick, 11 and 13.VIII.22 (R.J.).  
*Harpactus tumidus*, Pz. Weston-s.-Mare, 2.VII.20 (T.J.).  
*Passaloeus corniger*, Shuck. Wembdon, 11.VII.20 (R.T.).  
*Symmorphus (Odynerus) crassicornis*, Pz. Shapwick, 5.VIII.16  
 (T.J.).  
*Colletes succinctus*, L. Shapwick, 5.VIII.16 ; 11.VIII.22  
 (T.J.) ; 19.VIII.22 (H.S.).  
*Sphcodes variegatus*, V. Hag. Keynsham (H. J. Charbon-  
 nier) ; Shapwick, 11.VIII.22 (T.J.).  
*Halictus freygessneri*, Alfk. Weston-s.-Mare, 13.V.22 ;  
 Ashcott, 13.VII.22 (T.J.).  
*Halictus punctatissimus*, Schk. Ashcott, 13.VIII.22 (R.J.).  
*Halictus leucopus*, Kirb. Ashcott, 13.VIII.22 (T.J.).  
*Andrena angustior*, Kirb. Weston-s.-Mare, 9.V.22 (T.J.).  
*Andrena fucata*, Sm. Minehead, 8.VI.20 (T.J.) ; 15.VIII.22  
 (R.J.).  
*Andrena coitana*, Kirb. Withypool, 18—20.VIII.22 (T.J.).  
*Andrena saundersella*, Perk. Cannington, 22.V.20 ; Shap-  
 wick, v.22 (H.S.).  
*Andrena subopaca*, Nyl. Weston-s.-Mare, 27.V.20 ; 13.VI.22 ;  
 Wembdon, 5.III.21 (R.T.).  
*Nomada tormentillæ*, Alfk. Shapwick, 22.VI.17 (T.J.).  
*Epeolus rufipes*, Thoms. Dunster, VIII.16 (H. Audcent) ;  
 Shapwick, 8.VIII.19 (T.J.) ; Minehead, 21.VIII.22 (R.J.).

Miss Joyce Barrington sends me the ensuing notes on *Coleop-  
 tera* (Beetles).

The following species are new records for the County (Wemb-  
 don, Bradney, and Cannington being all near Bridgwater).

- Carabus arvensis*, Hbst. Priddy, Mendips, 15.IV.1907.  
*Elaphrus riparius*, L. Bradney, 19.V.22 ; Wembdon, IX.23.  
*Elaphrus cupreus*, Desf. Wembdon, IX.23.  
*Silpha reticulata*, F. Bradney, 19.V.22 ; Shapwick, 3.VI.22.  
*Silpha sinuata*, F. Bradney, 19.V.22.

- Hister unicolor*, L. Chilcot, Wells, VIII.1905.  
*Donacia sericea*, L. Turf Moor, 3.VI.22.  
*Donacia dentata*, Hopp. Wembdon, VII.23.  
*Donacia vulgaris*, Zsch. Turf Moor, 27.IX.23.  
*Chrysomela hyperici*, Forst. Turf Moor, 3.VI.22.  
*Phaedon cochleariae*, F. Chedzoy, 10.VIII.13.  
*Luperus rufipes*, Scop. Turf Moor, 3.VI.22.  
*Gastroidea viridula*, De G. Bradney, 12.VII.22.  
*Cassida nobilis*, L. Chedzoy, 19.V.22.  
*Cassida nebulosa*, L. Turf Moor, 3.VI.22.  
*Cassida viridis*, L. Turf Moor, 3.VI.22.  
*Scolytus rugulosus*, Ratz. Creech, Bruton, IX.22.  
*Metoeus paradoxus*, L. Cannington, 15.VIII.22.

Miss Barrington has been giving considerable attention to the Water Beetles for some years, the results of which she proposes to give us as a full list later.

HENRY SLATER.

## The Ornithological Section.

*President and Recorder*—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U., Melbury Osmund Rectory, Dorchester.

*Vice-Presidents*—Lt.-Colonel J. W. GIFFORD and Lt.-Colonel A. E. LASCELLES.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Taunton Castle, Taunton.

THE 1923 Annual Meeting of the Section was held at the Somerset County Museum on April 11th, when the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, President, occupied the chair.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1922, which showed a balance in hand on December 31st of £14 16s. 6d. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £26 4s. 8d. set aside as the Somerset Egg Cabinet Fund.

It was decided that the Section should become affiliated to the South-Western Naturalists' Union and subscribe to its funds (about twopence a year for each member of our Section). The Union invited the Section to elect a Recorder for the bird

section of the Union, and Mr. B. W. Tucker (Chewton Mendip, Bath) was appointed.

The officers of the Section were re-elected. The membership was reported as seventy-one ordinary members and one honorary member.

The Ninth Report on Somerset Birds (1922), edited by the President, was sent out to the members of the Section in February, 1923. It consisted of nineteen folios, typewritten. A small stock of this report and some of the earlier annual reports are kept in hand and may be purchased by new members of the Section. The 1923 Report will contain a list of members.

At the meeting held on September 18th the revision of the sub-division of the county into Ornithological districts was fully discussed. The present recorders were given power to act with the chief recorder and the secretary in this matter, and to submit their proposals at the next annual meeting for confirmation. The new tentative arrangements would determine the manner in which the Bird Report for 1923 would be classified.

During the year the Society had purchased from the Wiglesworth Fund, Kirkman's *British Birds*, 4 vols., and Dresser's *Manual of Palaearctic Birds (European)*, 2 vols.

The chief additions to the Ornithological Department of the Museum were:—Two Bar-tailed Godwits taken at Steart and Berrow, and set up by Mr. F. H. L. Whish, who has presented a Slavonian Grebe taken at Bridgwater. Miss S. Carver has presented six cases of birds shot at least fifty years ago on Catcott Heath or Edington Moor.

The bird cases, formerly exhibited in the Walter Room, have now been arranged with the general collection of Birds in the Great Hall.

In the afternoon of September 18th, after the morning meeting, Mr. Lewis R. W. Loyd read a paper on "Bird Life on Lundy," which was well illustrated by a large series of lantern slides reproduced from photographs by himself and Mr. C. J. Pring. The lecturer was cordially thanked.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

## The Botanical Section.

President—Mr. J. W. WHITE, F.L.S.

Committee—Dr. H. DOWNES, F.L.S., Mr. N. G. HADDEN, Miss I. M.

ROPER, F.L.S., Mr. H. S. THOMPSON, Dr. W. WATSON, A.L.S.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. D. MILLER, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton.

THE annual general meeting was held at the Museum, Taunton Castle, on January 29th, 1923, Mr. J. W. White, F.L.S., President, in the chair, when the usual formal business was transacted. Miss Roper and others presented herbarium specimens, and Dr. Downes a copy of Thurston and Vigur's Supplement to Davey's "Flora of Cornwall."

The Essex Field Club presented a large number of herbarium specimens, chiefly from Somerset, collected about a hundred years ago by Dr. Southby, *olim* Gapper, of Bridgwater. These have been examined by Dr. Watson and the Secretary, and a selection has been forwarded to Mr. Cowan for mounting and adding to the Museum herbarium. Unfortunately the majority of the sheets are not worth preserving, even from the historical point of view.

On March 9th, an informal expedition was made by several members of the Section and friends. The party visited Stogumber and Minehead Warren. No discoveries were made, but the status of *Galanthus* and *Leucojum vernum* were considered, and *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* and other interesting early flowers were noticed in bloom. While it is reasonable to look with a certain degree of suspicion on the status of the Snow-drop beside streams, the plants growing in the thicket above Stogumber Station have every appearance of being native.

A field day was held in conjunction with the Entomological Section on June 12th, to the Polden Hills. Though a little rain fell in the afternoon, a few botanists, chiefly from Taunton and Bridgwater, employed a pleasant day in walking from Cossington and Edington Stations to Ashcott Inn, where tea was provided, and the return to Bridgwater was made by motor. A thoroughly typical lias flora was observed, somewhat unrelieved by finds of distinction, the less common plants

noticed including *Lathyrus aphaca*, *Habenaria viridis*, and *Lithospermum arvense*. The flora was in a backward state, and sedges were not conspicuous, few species being noticed on the Poldens. The Bee Orchid was in great abundance. The thanks of the Section are due to Colonel B. A. Warry for permission to botanize on his land.

Much time and care had been spent in preparation for a meeting at Dulverton in July on a scale rather more ambitious than usual. Unfortunately this meeting was so little supported that it had to be abandoned.

A field day to Athelney and the moors was held on August 14th. The party spent some six hours in examining the rhines while walking from Athelney Station in a circular route towards Boroughbridge, and over Salt Moor and North Moor to Bankland Farm, and thence back to Durston by the canal bank. Generally the long drought had partially dried the ditches, and burnt brown the fields and roadsides. The rhine flora was past its best, Carices, Batrachian Ranunculi, etc., being quite over, but the remnants of many interesting ditch plants were observed, among those noticed being *Sparganium neglectum*, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, *Stellaria palustris* and its non-glaucous form. *Trifolium fragiferum* was abundant in many places. From several previous visits these ditches appear particularly rich in water crow-foots, and might repay closer attention. Tea at Durston concluded a pleasant ramble.

Thanks chiefly to the encouragement and financial aid of Mr. A. G. Tansley, F.R.S., Mr. H. S. Thompson has collected sufficient donations to purchase a small enclosure of peat between Glastonbury and Ashcott Station, and to vest it in the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves. The idea was firstly to save from destruction by further peat cutting the rare sedge *Carex evoluta*, which is not known elsewhere in Britain, and secondly to secure the land with its varied surface for experimental purposes and ecological study. The field is to be known as the "Sharpham Moor Plot." A strong local committee of management has been formed and funds are still needed for its upkeep. Mr. C. Hunter, M.Sc., The University, Bristol, will act as honorary secretary.



In August a careful investigation was made by Mr. Thompson of the present vegetation of Steart Island and Point. The result of his observations, which are largely ecological, appear in the *Jour. of Bot.*, Jan., 1924. The article ends with a reference to further changes on Berrow Flats and in their vegetation.

Messrs. G. Bell and Sons have published during the year a "Readable School Botany" from the pen of Dr. Watson.

Over three hundred notes have been added to the Card Index during the year, and a selection from these follows:—

- Viola riviniana*, Reichb., var. *pseudo-mirabilis*, Greg. (5) Near Moorlinch. *Miss Roper*.
- Stellaria palustris*, Retz. (4) Muchelney Ham. *H. Downes*.
- Sagina maritima*, Don. (2) Steart Island. *H. S. Thompson*.
- Malva pusilla*, Sm. (4) Tintinhull. *H. Downes*.
- Erodium neglectum*, Baker & Salmon, in J. of B., 1920. (9) Sand dunes, Berrow. *W. Watson*. *E. cicutarium* var. *glandulosum* previously recorded from this locality is probably this segregate.
- Rhamnus catharticus*, L. (4) Martock; Sock Dennis, Ilchester. *H. Downes*.
- Trifolium striatum*, L., var. *erectum*. (3) Gotton, Taunton. *W. Watson*.
- T. scabrum*, L. (4) Ham Hill. *H. Downes*.
- Melilotus arvensis*, Wallr. (8) Well established beside river pathway between Burnham and Highbridge. *Lady Davy*.
- Callitriche truncata*, Guss. (8) Sharpham Moor. *H. Thompson*.
- Trinia glauca*, Reichb. fil. (9) A monoecious specimen on Purn Hill, Bleadon. *C. and N. Sandwith*.
- Caucalis latifolia*, L. (3) Garden weed, West Monkton. *W. D. Miller*.
- C. daucoides*, L. (3) New road, Cheddon. *Miss Miller*.
- Doronicum pardalianches*, L. (10) By the Chew, Chew Magna. *Miss I. M. Roper*.
- Hypochaeris glabra*, L. (9) Purn Hill, Bleadon. *C. G. Trapnell*.
- Taraxacum palustre*, D. C. (3) Huish Champflower; Staple-grove; Langford Heathfield. *W. Watson*.
- Senecio squalidus*, L. (9) Wall on Tickenham Hill. *C. and N. Sandwith*.
- Anagallis foemina*, Mill. (5) Charlton. *Herb. Gapper*.

- Lithospermum purpureo-caeruleum*, L. (3) Woodside below Curry Rivel Monument. Possibly Ray's station. Locally called "Myrtle." *W. D. Miller*.
- L. arvense*, L. (3) Cornfield between Hillfarrance and Nynehead. (8) Cornfield at Cossington. *W. D. Miller*.
- Cuscuta trifolii*, Bab. (2) Field near Hartrow Brake, Elworthy. *N. G. Hadden*.
- Verbascum virgatum*, Stokes. (8) In two or three spots on the sandhills at Burnham. (9) Site of old glassworks, Nailsea. *C. and N. Sandwith*.
- Mentha pubescens*, Willd. (10) A patch by the Chew, Compton Dando. *C. and N. Sandwith*.
- M. rotundifolia*, Huds. (3) Spaxton. *Herb. Gapper*. (4) Wadeford, near Chard. *W. Watson*.
- M. piperita*, L., var. *vulgaris*, Sole. (9) This rare variety has reappeared in good quantity near Clevedon with *M. longifolia*, presumably in David Fry's station, where it was reported in 1915 by C. Bucknall. See *Jour. of Bot.*, Feb., 1918.
- M. rubra*, Sm. (9) Nailsea Drove. *C. and N. Sandwith*. (4) Ditch on roadside above Staple-Fitzpaine. *W. Watson*.
- Leonurus cardiaca*, L. (2) Bossington. Same station as noticed in 1913. Has apparently escaped previous record. *W. D. Miller*.
- Teucrium chamaedrys*, L. (5) Charlton. *Herb. Gapper*, c. 1830.
- Scleranthus perennis*, L. (3) There is an atypical plant from Spaxton so named by Gapper in his herbarium.
- Chenopodium ficifolium*, Sm. (10) Beautiful specimens in allotment ground at Ashton Gate. *C. and N. Sandwith*.
- C. urticum*, L. (3) Roadside between Taunton and Cheddon. *W. Watson*.
- Polygonum minus*, Huds. (5) Turf Moor. *Herb. Gapper*, 1832. Confirming Sole's 1782 record which Murray bracketed.
- Sabicornia dolichostachya*, Moss. (2) Southern shore of Steart Island. *H. S. Thompson*.
- Rumex maritimus*, L. (4) Thorney Moor. *H. Downes*.
- Urtica dioica*, L., var. *angustifolia*, Wimm. & Grab. Taunton School grounds. *W. Watson*.
- Spiranthes autumnalis*, Rich. (2) Watchet Hill. *W. Watson*. (3) Creech St. Michael. *Miss Hicks*.

- Orchis hircina*, Crantz. (8) Burnham. *Miss Stewart*.  
*Sparganium neglectum*, Beeby. (3) Rhine between Borough-  
 bridge and Durston. *R. D. R. Troup*.  
*Wolffia arrhiza*, Wimm. (8) Edington. *E. J. Hamlin*.  
*Potamogeton Drucei*, Fryer. (10) In the Avon at Bath. In  
 flower 1922. *J. W. White*. In fruit 1923. *H. S. Thompson*.  
*Carex pairaei*, F. Schultz. (4) Ham Hill, Martock. *H. Downes*,  
 teste *A. Bennett*.  
*C. goodenowii*, Gay, var. *chlorostachya*, Druce. (8) Catcot  
 Drove. *W. Watson*.  
*C. riparia*, Curt.  $\times$  *acutiformis*, Erhr. (3) Rhine near Borough-  
 bridge. *W. D. Miller*.  
*Agrostis alba*, L. var. *coarctata*, Hoffm. (9) Dune marsh with  
*Epipactis palustris*, Berrow. *W. Watson*.  
*Cynosurus echinatus*, L. (8) Railway siding, Highbridge.  
*W. D. Miller*.  
*Bromus unioloides*, H.B.K. (4) Roadside near Martock Station.  
*H. Downes*.  
*Lycopodium selago*, L. (1) Winsford Hill, with *L. alpinum*.  
 Both very scarce. *W. D. Miller*.  
*Chara fragilis*, Desv., subsp. *delicatula*, Braun. (3) Rhine,  
 Northmoor. *Miss I. M. Roper*.

Though doubt has been expressed as to its origin, the discovery of *Orchis hircina* in Somerset must rank as an important factor in the year's work, and—if Gapper's identification of *Scleranthus perennis* is accepted (and the limited material perhaps confirms it)—another species is thus added to the County flora. Botanists will also have heard with interest of the discovery in Scotland by Lady Davy of *Carex microglochis*, new to the British flora.

Mention may be made of the visit of the British Mycological Society to Bristol in April. The Society visited Ashton Court, Cleve Combe and Wrington Warren with satisfactory results.

The list of members circulated during the year has been reduced to 55, by the death of one member and the resignation of three others.

The Section continues to benefit by the herbarium work of Mr. T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., to whom a debt of gratitude is due.

## **The Microscopical Section.**

*President*—H. DOWNES, M.B., F.L.S., The Grange, Martock, Somerset.

*Committee*—Lt.-Col. J. W. GIFFORD, F.R.A.S., Oaklands, Chard,  
and WALTER WATSON, D.SC., ASSOC.L.S., Taunton School, Taunton ;  
together with the President and Secretary.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—C. R. KILLICK, M.B., Tower Hill, Williton.

ONE meeting has been held during the year at which the business of the Section was arranged ; several members brought their microscopes and exhibited specimens. The Section has spent its surplus funds in the purchase of books for the Society's Library, and the sum of £2 2s. 0d. was voted for the binding of volumes of the Royal Microscopical Society's *Journal* from the year 1908.

The following books have been purchased and, if required by members of the Section, can be obtained from the Secretary :—*The Microscope*, Cross and Cole ; *Coles' Critical Microscopy* ; *The Microscope*, Conrad Beck ; *The Microscope*, Lewis Wright.

A small cabinet was purchased for a suggested collection of slides at the Museum, and Mr. F. G. Dowell undertook to take charge of them.

The Section has joined the South-Western Naturalists' Union and it is hoped that by means of this society assistance may be obtained in directing the work of members.

C. R. KILLICK.