

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 1.

12 June 1942- 21 May 1944.

C.E. 1-270 A.

Red ticks¹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles² round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means top flat or garden 98c Banbury Road.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

Editor's notes:

Sheets (not pages) of loose-leaf quarto are numbered, so to maintain consistency of pagination with the original, '{reverse side}' indicates material on the under side, which often, but not invariably, relates to the following sheet (i.e. would be on the left page in an open book). Pages that begin or end in mid-sentence are shown as such.

The original layout and typography are followed as closely as electronic systems allow though to enable both sides to appear on a single page, blank spaces may be reduced and the margins are omitted. Drawings are scanned and inserted as near to the original size and position as pagination allows. Editor's notes and explanations are shown in { }. Specimen numbers (many, but not all, originally in right margins headed 'C.E.' on top side and left margin on reverse side) are placed as near to their subject as possible, as A and 00, or A and 00 as they appeared in the original.

Species names appear in italics, other underlining remains and **bold** replaces C.E.'s red marks. Handwritten additions and corrections are not distinguished from typing. Scored out material is omitted entirely. Abbreviations are shown in full where the meaning is clear. Incomplete or ungrammatical sentences and inconsistent use of upper/lower case, number format, inverted commas etc. are unaltered and only blatant spelling errors are corrected.

¹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

² Edited to A or 00

NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON. 19-29 JUNE 1942.

Puddle End, North Leigh, not far from Witney. This is a dairy-cattle farm, with poultry as well, set in pasture and corn and other fields on a clay promontory overlying the basic limestone of the Evenlode Valley. It never rained: we came and went in drought and heat.

{reverse side}

19 – 22 JUNE 1942.

19-22 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

The skeleton of the scenery is The Stream (the Hickmans know no special name) which rises just below Shakenoaks Farm, passes Bridewell Farm (with a little tributary joining there), Field Farm (before Bridewell it curves by the lower field of Puddle End and used to give the water before Witney piped supplies there), crosses the road and eventually winds to Ashford Bridge to join the River Evenlode.

One can wander over pasture or the broad margins of corn and pea fields, or down the Lane – and narrow track walled with wild thick hedges of

maple (*Acer campastris*)
 hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
 blackthorn (*Prunus spinosus*)
 dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
 wild rose (*Rosa* species)

turning easily by succession into elms, ashes, hollies and a few oaks. The elms are not wych, yet have a freer and more sprouting shape than some round Oxford.

The country has some stone-walls too, though these are not dominant. They indicate the clean limestone influence of the local rocks which replace the clay of the farm itself along a certain line.

{reverse side}

19 – 22 JUNE 1942.

Cornus sanguinea

Crataegus monogyna and *oxyacantha*

An Ortalid:

B.M. Hobby det. 1942. all in Hope collection.

2. 19 June (1) 1 *Tenthredo mesomelas* L. R.R. Askew det. 1961.
3. 21 June (3) 3 *T. temula* Scopoli R.R. Askew det. 1961
4. 21 June (2) 2 *T. acerrima* Benson (one of these, ? det. species was not kept)
R.R. Askew det. 1961.

5 1 ♀ (specimen lost later), 1 ♂ *Panorpa communis* L.

2 ♀, 3 ♂ *P. germanica* L.

19-22 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON ***

The pattern of trees is open hedgerow elms, only one small mixed wood (of oak deciduous). The hedge-flowers now are very abundant dogwood, roses, some elder, scattered *Heracleum sphondylium* everywhere, blue *Geranium pratense*, and many grasses etc. In the hedges hawthorn is not very dominant, but there are both the dissected-leaf species with one pistil, and the blunter-leaved one with two. The **dogwood** was just coming into flower, that did not seem to attract many insects, except small brown opaque-speckled winged triangle flies † *Platystoma seminationis* L. 1

I collected a few sawflies from the *Heracleum* flowers, 2
and noticed various hover-flies, 3 Asilids, 4
etc., but no bumble or common bees. Nor did the butterflies frequent them.

On the nettles and scrub, particularly at one corner of the lane, † scorpion-flies were often seen at rest, both male and female, and I collected a sample, on various dates. 5

I also noted and collected butterflies in the lane and by the track going down to the stream. †6, †7

1 ♂ *Coenagrion* caught in the lane, presumably coming from the stream. 7A

{reverse side}

19 – 22 JUNE 1942.

♂ *Pararge megara* confirmed, not kept because damaged in preparation.

19-22 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON ****

The farm.

A garden full of flowers has a few butterflies

1 ♀ silver-spotted skipper (*Hesperia comma*)

Large whites (*Pieris brassicae*)

A few walls (*Pararge megara*)

8

Probably also the two smaller whites. But I did not see any orange-tips, heaths or blue. One or two large skippers (*Ochlodes venata*).

The **elders** have on some of the new green stems dense cylindrical masses of large wingless aphids with grey and black jerseys on.

In front of the house is a little concrete ornamental pond a few feet across, dried to low-level and full of mud and leaves. Dense swarms of a water-beetle that is not *Daphnia* or *Simocephalus*. *Corixae*, other beetles, and some Gerrids.

On 20 June a magnificent ♂ *Libellula depressa* (caught and examined carefully) arrived to hawk here – powder-blue abdomen and stained glass window wing bases.

{reverse side}

19 – 22 JUNE 1942.

Hilara curtisi collect 3 ♂ 1 ♀. (det. R.L. Coe, 1942).

All put in Hope Department collection which has none of this species.

19-22 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

The stream. Turning off the lane to the right, before coming onto the limestone, one follows a little track passed a hedge and by the edge of a flowering wheat field, down to the bottom, where a belt of long grass grows, and a little stream runs quite fast in a cleft of banks. It has some willows and hedge scrub overhanging and shading it here, and dense nettle and grass and willow-herb on the bank. The water is shallow, a few inches, running over a bed of flattish limestone fragments mixed with a little rounded gravel (probably from the Plateau drift). Just where the track crosses a little culvert the hot baking sun on the grass, racing butterflies and feeling of insurgent insect life in the grass, change suddenly to cool shade patches by the flowering elders and a tall silvery willow, and down by the stream the hard cool streak of protected shade and riffle over the stones, that has a slightly dank windless feel. I made some casual notes on the fauna, backed by some specimens taken on the 28th. Today, however, I caught some † *Hilara* both ♂ and ♀. They fly very close over the water surface, haunting the fast riffle over the stones, rather than the quieter pools where sediment has collected.

9

The other things were: *Gammarus pulex* abundant

Caddis larvae in grit cases, some with bits of plant incorporated too.

Empty igloo cases under stones, probably caddis

{reverse side}

19 – 22 JUNE 1942.

23 JUNE.

19-22 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

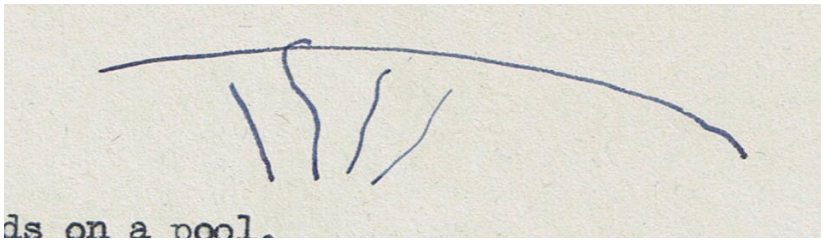
An adult *Sialis* on bank vegetation

Black, and brown, planarians under stones.

A tiny fish.

Limnaea peregra walking on things, and its egg masses under stones.

Lines of eggs, possibly Chironomid, under stones, like this



Some Veliids on a pool.

The appearance of this stream and its fauna is of cleanness, but very recently dug out for re-draining, though it is not, of course, new. Its water gushes out of field drainage pipes above this spot, and evidently comes at the junction of clay and limestone. It is not unlike the one in Bagley, Bottom Copse.

23 JUNE

1 ♀ *Panorpa germanica* on the nettle-scrub inside of the lane, clay area. 5A

1 sawfly on *Heracleum* 5B

{reverse side}

24 JUNE 1942.

24 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

Went further down the lane, past the turning to the stream, and as far as the head of its channel. The ground turns quite suddenly to limestone, as one crosses the boundary of the Oxford clay onto, successively, limestone of Cornbrash, Forest Marble and Great Oolite. When one reaches the last, it is the edge of the Cotswolds! The calcareous soil is shown by big clumps of yellow **rock-rose**, by more *Clematis* in the hedges, (in one place climbing up elms to 20 ft.), *Plantago media*, and above all by thinning out of *Dactylis glomerata* and other grasses like *Lolium perenne* and false oat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), and their partial replacement by dominant *Bromus erectus*. There is a little quaking grass also (*Briza maxima*).

On the roadside scrub was an immature male, or mature female, of *Libellula depressa*, with brilliant yellow-brown abdomen, and yellow marginal marks on it, and dense brown stained-glass patches at the base of fore and hind wings. This is some way from suitable waters.

Common blues (*Polyommatus icarus*) and large skippers (*Ochlodes venatus*) flying among the grass on the calcareous roadside. Also *Pieris brassicae*, *Euchloe cardamines*, and an unidentified brown.

The hay is being cut during the last few days, the weather having stayed hot and clear.

An abundant ant runs on the ground among tall grass at the bottom of the field where I studied the stream. Some of these caused "nettle stings" on Joy's legs. No specimens were kept.

{reverse side}

24 JUNE 1942.

25 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

The limestone end of the lane has become our favourite spot.

Collected and noted some grasses here:

10

† False-oat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) (= *avenaceum*)

† *Lolium perenne*

Bromus sterilis (rare)

† Two other grasses with conspicuous awns (rare)

† *Avena* (now *Helictotrichon!*) *pratensis* (rare)

Briza maxima (rare)

A small *Carex*

A **yellow ant**† had two mounds entirely covered with rock-rose (not in flower), just as some at Hollybush had pure thyme.

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{reverse side}

25 JUNE 1942.

Pieris brassicae, napi, rapae.

Glyceria fluitans (L.) R. Br. Hubbard det. One specimen kept by me, two by Hubbard for Kew Herbarium. (Collected 29 June 1942).

25 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

The weather has changed from hot dry calm sunny, to a cool east wind and strato-cumulus cloud. With this change, all the **whites**, including *Euchloe cardamines* had disappeared, and only *Ochlodes venatus* and *Pararge megara* and one blue were seen in flight.

The head of the stream-bed is only a dry ditch by the hedge. It runs some hundred yards along the road, beyond the point marked on the 1 inch map.

At this stream-head is a triangle of dense rose and blackthorn scrub, with tall grasses, thistles and *Heracleum sphondylium* in spaces among it. Two kinds of †“moths” flying among this in the day. 12

In the evening I visited the pasture fields of this and Field Farm, that lie on a clay (and partly plateau gravel clay) capping that forms a gentle spur down to some 350 feet. There is a pond, now empty, but obviously full in wetter times, with damp bottom still. Near it two large willows with split trunks. The pond has a little *Callitriche*, but is mainly filled with tall loosely rooting *Glyceria*, very lush. 13
Its height

{reverse side}

25 JUNE.

3 slides made, with medium. A large proportion were parasitized, and the parasites emerged after a few days and were kept, as 14A (5 specimens). (All given to Hope Department)

14 B 1 ♀ *Panorpa communis* L. on scrub-nettle on clay part of lane.

26 JUNE. 1942.

25 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

and free flowering are due to fenced protection from the cattle and horses that use the field. On it were some green winged, black wings, and green wingless † aphids, taken by sweeping. Nothing else in the net but small flies. 14 14A

The Field Farm has close grazed grass, on which more than half a dozen **lapwings** (perhaps two of this year's families) swoop and scream, as if nesting there or with young. 14 B

In a corner, among some rough grass, a colony of *Microtus agrestis*, with holes, surface runways, and traces.

26 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH/ASHFORD BRIDGE.

In the morning, visited small wood one field away from the Lane. It is oak-hazel with mixture of other trees, degenerating entirely, as cattle have free access. Carpet is patches of bluebell, bramble, grass and *Conopodium majus*. 15
A pond trampled out of existence, nearly dry. No butterflies, but some *Tortrix* flying.

In the Lane, collected a small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), and saw a few *Ochlodes venatus* and a fast flying brown. 16
Only a few large and small whites, but no *cardamines* flying. Perhaps the latter were near the end of first-brood life – nearly all I have examined have looked very battered. The last two nights, cold with north wind probably finish them off.

{reverse side}

26 JUNE 1942.

18 Det. by C.E.

19 Det. by C.E.

25 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

In the afternoon we walked to Ashford Bridge, via North Leigh. From Puddle End to the village and as far down as the fine limestone quarry (yellow Luxor ruined temple in drenching sun) by the bridge where the road crosses the Stream, there is no *Bromus erectus* by the roadside, though much **cocksfoot** and **false-oat**. This follows the clay especially. By the bridge *erectus* begins to be dominant, and continues so on the limestone all the way to Ashford Bridge. **Rockrose**, *Clematis*, *Plantago media*, a little *Pastinaca sativa*, blue *Geranium*, also abundant on this stretch. Saw small heaths (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and a small tortoiseshell on the limestone roadside. 17

Tansley (British Vegetation) characterises dominant *Bromus erectus* for chalk and the Cotswold oolite, though partly local on the chalk. *Arrhenatherum elatius* and *Dactylis glomerata* he says are also calcareous, though cocksfoot also flourishes in neutral grassland. The lime in the Oxford clay (D. B-P. {= Donald Baden-Powell}) is probably enough for them but not for *B. erectus*. Both associations depend upon the absence of grazing, but stand late summer cutting. Their fauna may come up at night. (B.M. Hobby suggests this might be an adaptation to avoid being grazed!)

At Ashford Bridge, walked down the Evenlode right bank as far as the place, Whitehill Wood, where the steep wood joins it (the one where C. Robbins and I found *Gagea lutea* about 1921). There is open river bank, pasture with dense nettle patches, and other tall plants. The little fringing "reed swamp" of bulrushes etc. Flying and settling on a dense nettle patch several feet high, on the bank above and abutting on the river, I saw a ♂ white-legged damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*) 18 – blue and black small delicate dragonfly, with partly white legs, and several ♂ *Agrion splendens* – a vivid green, with a blue glint (not ultramarine blue as Longfield says). 18A

{reverse side}

26 JUNE 1942.

17A 1 ♀ *Panorpa germanica* L. on scrub by road and oak wood, steep road by the quarry.

Donald Baden-Powell says the Plateau Gravel is utterly deficient in lime.

25 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON.

I searched the little limestone quarry up the steep road from the bridge, but owing to the dry weather and fewness of suitable stones that could be turned (there were some big blocks with corals, kept a fossil oyster shell), found no *Helix pomatia*. [17A]
About 1921 I found a female laying eggs in a hole.

{reverse side}

27 JUNE 1942.

28 JUNE 1942.

21 *Platambus maculatus* L. C.E. det. 1943.

Nemouridae: 1 ♀ with bunch of eggs on end of abdomen. One set of wings kept on dry slide, and abdomen on another.

Nemoura variegata Olivier. C. Elton det. 1942.

27 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

In the Lane, all the *Euchloe cardamines* have disappeared, and there are fewer *Pieris brassicae*, but a fair sprinkling of *P. rapae*, also *Ochlodes venatus* and an occasional brown or blue. Today was fairly warm and sometimes sunny, as long as one got out of the north breeze. 19

Mr. Young worked until last week at Ashford Hill (on the Evenlode, above the bridge). The "ford" can be seen a few yards below the bridge, which is where we saw **Daubenton's bats** in the summer of 1939. Incidentally, there is a very fine ash near the ford. Young caught a **crayfish** in the Evenlode here in 1941, by turning over stones; he said they were numerous and large.

28 JUNE 1942.

Warm and part-sun, part-cloud, with a north breeze still. We went down the lane to the stream again. Saw no orange-tips, a few **large skippers**, **small** and **large whites**, a **green-veined white**, a blue, a **small heath**, and a **small tortoise-shell**.

Joy again got "nettle-stung" by a small golden-brown ant (*Myrmica*).

In the stream I collected

Grit-case Caddis larvae (in stony, not muddy parts) 21

Empty igloo cases under stones

1 *Platambus* and two larvae possibly its at margin in W.

Small Chironomid larvae

An adult **stone-fly** under stone on margin.

Although the stream has been cleaned out lately, and vegetation and algae are almost entirely absent, except for micro-scum, a few *Apium* and some green conferva have begun to colonise open muddy spots.

{reverse side}

28 JUNE 1942.

28 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***

All the **large** and **small whites** I have been able to examine close have been males, and usually battered specimens.

I find that the drought, which has been unbroken during our stay, began a week or two before we came.

In the evening, we visited the limestone end of the Lane in hot sun. One ♂ **orange-tip**; **large** and small **whites** rather frequent. One **green-veined white**; some *Ochlodes venatus* (males have vastly predominated all this week). One blue. 22

Among the *Bromus erectus* on the roadside, every yard or two there is a spider cocoon: a complete outer "bag" of close sheet web, an inch or two across, woven round some bent over leaves of grass (probably *erectus*). This is about six inches off the ground. It encloses a spherical cocoon of brownish white flocculant stuff. All we saw had cocoons in, burst, with tiny spiders in the "bag", but no adult was seen. This seems to be the work of *Pisaura mirabilis*, the largest wolf-spider, that carries its egg cocoon in the pedipalpi. There is a fine series of photos by Ward, in Savory's "*spiders and allied forms*". The last shows the young escaping after the female has remove the outer tent.

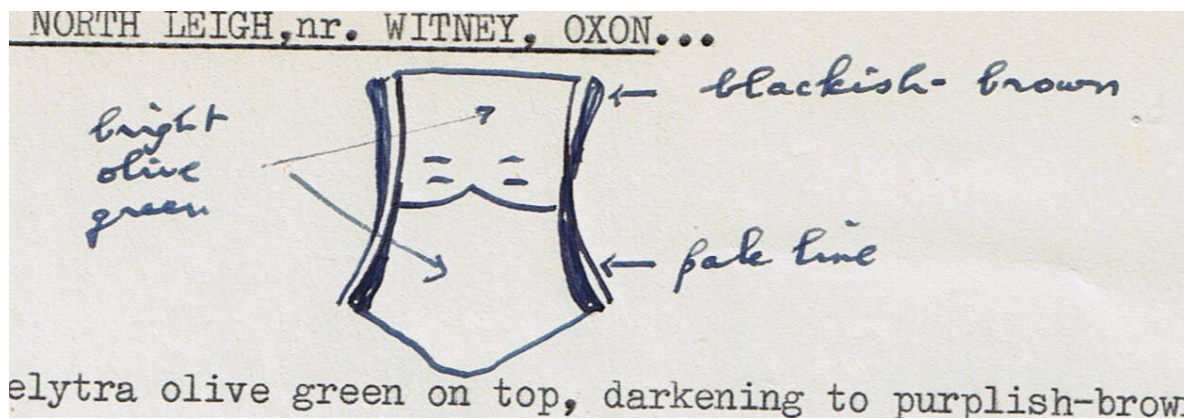
In long grass (*B. erectus*) no grasshoppers except one ♀ at one place, and a few young ones. 23

It seemed to be definitely in the longer grass, rather than the short-grass-with-rock-rose. [RUN ON TO MIDDLE OF PAGE 30]....

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28 JUNE 1942.

28 JUNE 1942. NORTH LEIGH, nr. WITNEY, OXON***



Palpi white; elytra olive green on top, darkening to purplish-brown on sides and tips; legs and joints yellow green, dark brown knee on hind legs; abdomen green below, mottled dark above; general upper colour bright olive green.

= *Omocestus viridulus* L. It is one of the earliest grasshoppers species. Burr does not map it for Oxon., but there are several records in Oxon.V.C.H.

At the "stream head" among tall grass, *Heracleum* and rose-bushes, the same two day-flying (or fluttering) moths as before.

24

{reverse side}

5 JULY 1942.

♂ *Aeshna grandis* L.

7 JULY 1942

♀ *Tegenaria atrica* (C.L. Koch). W.S. Bristowe det. 1944.

8 JULY 1942

5 JULY 1942 OXFORD.

Miss M. Gibbs was given in a paper bag a large dragon-fly, by her green-grocer in Little Clarendon Street, who found it inside the window of his house. The books say it often turns up in town gardens away from water. The first week in July is its earliest appearance, so this one is fresh from the factory. 50

7 JULY 1942. OXFORD.

A very large house spider found in the kitchen of top flat (98 Banbury Road). 51

8 JULY 1942. OXFORD.

Since 4 July I have noticed a great dancing swarm of mosquitoes (*Culex pipiens*), that assemble towards dusk by the eaves behind our flat, attracted evidently by the heat coming from the hot water tank inside the lavatory. They may have begun before the date I first observed them. Tonight it is 10.40 p.m. and double-summer-time sunset, cool, with a light wind and clear sky, after a showery day. Besides the mosquitoes there were about a dozen

{reverse side}

8 JULY 1942.

C.E. det.

12 JULY 1942.

Kept in 70% alcohol

54. *A. maculipennis*

OXFORD, 8 JULY 1942***

chafers buzzing and zooming round the same spot. Several were trying to pair with a settled female. Four times a **swift** came whizzing wide circle and clapped up against the place before flying on. It evidently took or tried to take a chafer. A ♂ and ♀ flew into the house and were kept. 52

They were *Amphimallus* (= *Rhizotrogus*) *solstitialis* L., the summer chafer. It is common locally in England, and said to fly round tree-tops at dusk. [see also O. E. S. 6]

OXFORD, 12 JULY 1942.

Clearing out the vegetable box in the kitchen I found a spider, and it occurred to me that many must get into houses by these vehicles. n.k.

At night, between 10 and 11 p.m., right into the dusk of night a huge swarming went on as usual by our roof. I netted a dozen and kept some, all of which were ♂ *Anopheles*. One or two **summer-chafers** zoomed with them still. 54

Two **small bats**, (one seemed to show white belly when it wheeled) were coursing round the house, but at second, not third, floor level. They did not approach the dense mosquitoes swarm, many hundred strong, from which was a thin shrill hum.

[All the *Myotis* have white bellies. *Daubentonii* and *nattereri* are medium-sized, gregarious over water. *Bechsteinii* is medium-sized, very rare. Whiskered bat *mystacinus* is same size as pipistrelle and haunts houses and trees, so almost certainly this is one.] The pipistrelle was also seen several times later, quite certainly unicolorous and small. (30 July).

{ reverse side }

14 JULY 1942.

OXFORD. 14 JULY 1942.

10.30 p.m. The usual huge mosquito swarm at the eaves. Every now and then a coupling pair could be seen to fall away from the swarm, so evidently it had some connection with mating.

Exactly over the crown of the pine tree in front, quite separate from the big swarm, was a column several feet high of similar-looking mosquitoes. The books say summer-chafers fly round the tops of trees at dusk: are they warmer or for longer?

{reverse side}

OXFORD. 16 JULY 1952. {sic = 1942?}

B.M. Hobby's information.

B.M. Hobby and C.E. det. Sight record.

B.M. Hobby det. sight records. [E.B. Ford says *euphrosyne* and (rare) *selene* come in the wood, but gone by early June. Also *cydippe* occurs; and *aglaia* might (it comes at Tubney). Sometimes a first-brood comma can look like a fritillary on the wing.]

B.M. Hobby and C.E. det. sight records and one in net.

OXFORD. 16 JULY 1942.

BAGLEY WOOD. With B.M. Hobby to continue survey of Bottom Copse communities (details with B...). By the little stream that runs down a cut-over valley on calcareous grit, the vegetation densely overhangs the banks. Big tussocks of *Deschampsia caespitosa*, brambles, tall figworts. The stream was full in May, drying now to a trickle between pools, densely peopled with shrimps, beetles, and caddis. We specifically looked on the marginal zone, where fast cocoon-bearing Lycosid spiders run, and three kinds of small ground-beetles, including a *Bembidion*. Here also were several kinds of Dolichopodid flies, especially one (the largest) with bronze and green shine and smoky wings with blunt, truncate, white tips. At times they were doing a mating dance on the stones, limber long legs frisking round.

The figworts had to species of *Cionus*, squat hairy square weevils with quite long legs that they tucked away in alarm, and whitish colour on which are vivid spots. The larva is shining slimy black and has no legs. There are about five species, and only one on *Scrophularia*.

An *Aeshna grandis* flew with saffron wings by the woodland edge near the stream. It cannot breed in this trickle.

Over and among the grass and tall herbs and sprouting alder and poplar stumps in this little valley, and down the track way by ash plantations, we saw fully a dozen brilliant silver-wash fritillaries (*Argynnis paphia*) flying and settling spread in full glory. In the valley also a good many green-veined whites (*Pieris napi*) whose gentle flight becomes easier to know.

{reverse side}

16 JULY 1952.

16 JULY 1942. OXFORD***

Bagley Wood (cont.)

The day was sunny/overcast, warm and windy.

19 JULY 1942. OXFORD.

Since the 14th the mosquitoes have swarmed in hundreds at their chosen site, except last night, which was very windy, so that not one appeared. The hot-water tank is part of the circulation of the bottom flat, whose people stopped heating it about four days ago. This proves that the heat comes sufficiently from our pilot-gas-jet in the bathroom water-heater. No more summer chafers since the 12th. Their flight is short.

There is, so far no invasion of female mosquitoes into the flat, except one or two strays, and *Theobaldias*, which have white and black legs, and probably did the biting which has given me several bad spots on the ankles.

Today I saw a **spotted flycatcher**'s nest at 9 Chadlington Road, of which young Peter Leslie had a careful record. It had two eggs, second clutch after a successful earlier fledge. The bird had built against the outer wall of the house, first floor, among some large *Ampelopsis*, where the stem made a good niche against the wall. The nest was thin stems or roots (perhaps some hair) with a little weave of moss. There was one bird hawking by the road.

{reverse side}

20 JULY 1942.

21 JULY 1942.

20 JULY 1942. OXFORD.

Tonight was fairly cool, little breeze, a sky with patches of thin cloud. The mosquitoes had just begun to prospect the roof in ones and twos, at about 10.15 p.m. Five minutes later they were out in full force. Still quite light.

Today mosquitoes first appeared in any numbers inside the landing windows.

21 JULY 1942. BAGLEY WOOD, OXFORD.

This evening, 5 – 7 p.m., warm muggy sun, there were white Admirals (*Limnitis camilla*) flying in on rides of South Milestone Piece and on the old Peg Brake. There is a great mixture of plantations here, all ages and both conifer and deciduous. The butterflies must chiefly breed in the oak and birch mature woods, where the food-plant, honeysuckle (*Lonicera peri-clymenum*) is very common, chiefly on the ground, forming part of a low field layer. I saw about 8 butterflies, one of which settled on a bramble flower. Mostly they floated and twisted in a very practiced tropical way at man level, occasionally sailing up among the trees. E.B. Ford says they have been common for some years in Bagley, but 20 years ago there were none. Also that nearly all British butterflies except the great tortoiseshell have been increasing in England in recent years. This year he found the speckled wood in Bagley, though it was only recorded a few times previously in the district. These rides are grass and bracken and bramble mostly. There were also two *Argynnis paphia*, which I confirmed by the wing-shape and the stripey silver-wash, on a resting individual.

{reverse side}

21 JULY 1942***

The W.A. was common early last century and then died out by middle except in some residual summer-warm countries. Recent recovery over much of its normal summer range.

Kenneth Chandler says it comes in woods at Limpsfield, Surrey. E.B. Ford confirms that it practically never comes outside woods. But it must migrate somehow.

Southern says (28.7.1942) that birds eat the berries, and Church notes that all oak underwood shrubs except one or two are bird-eaten and insect-pollinated. Perhaps honeysuckle is perpetually introduced from outside. (On 7 March 1944 W.B. Alexander said at the Oxford Ornithological Society that he is sure he has seen marsh tits eating honeysuckle berries.)

22 JULY 1942. OXFORD. Tonight blowing a gale, dry. No mosquitoes swarming, though they have been out every night lately.

23 JULY 1942. OXFORD. Full mosquitoes swarm. No bats seen tonight. Definite small-size unicoloured **pipistrelle** seen two nights ago, but not the white-bellied one again.

21 JULY 1942. BAGLEY WOOD, OXFORD ***

Last week M.K. Colquhoun reported having seen a **white Admiral** in a wood some way north of Oxford. Tansley's big book gives honeysuckle as common constituent of mature oakwood (both species), succession beech-wood, though not climax (e.g. on Chilterns); some ash-wood (Somerset, example, but not much in Derbyshire); and Scottish birch woods. The butterfly is given by Sanders for "large woods", with a southern and midland distribution. The occurrence of honeysuckle in hedges and scrub would presumably not help the butterfly much. In Bagley we may therefore take it to be primarily a member of the oakwood community, egg larva pupa in field and shrub layer, adult in all layers above the ground. Sanders says bramble is their only flower food, and this also fits in with the oakwood complex, for Tansley says for pedunculate wood: "The trailing form of the honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) is often abundant in the *Rubus-Pteridium* society". These come on light soils (here gravel?), and as bracken at any rate can't stand intense shade, we have something like the same society as occurs in the artificial rides, where *Holcus mollis* is very abundant. Anne Pratt notes the very early leafing of **honeysuckle**, which agrees with the hibernating larva of the butterfly, with renewed feeding in very early spring. Incidentally, Averil Morley has pointed out that this oak-wood honeysuckle in Bagley seldom flowers, as it does in open hedges so luxuriantly. (These are moth-fertilized).

Frohawk says in his books that the W.A. {= white admiral} lays on honeysuckle, not only in the dense parts of the wood where it does not mainly fly, but at the edge of rides. It is strictly woodland, (unlike the silver-washed fritillary which occasionally comes out into thisty fields outside woods. The latter differs also in laying eggs on e.g. oak trunk several feet up. Egg hatches and tiny larvae hibernate on tree, coming down to go onto dog violet in spring). The larva hibernates from September to March, and first spins the leaf stalk onto the stem to prevent it dropping off in winter. (This knocks out my early leaf point?).

RUN ON TO PAGE OPPOSITE

{reverse side}

24 JULY 1942.

Specimens kept.

24 JULY 1942. OXFORDSHIRE.

Went out rat-baiting with A.D. Middleton to Great Tew. On Yarnton dump there were many nettles. Small tortoiseshells (*Aglais urticae*) were flying, also *Pieris brassicae* and ♂ meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*). The tortoiseshells were flying about in a strong wind without trouble. Such sites are similar to stackyards, and we saw many *urticae* and "whites" at Tracey Farm, Great Tew, and one next to it, where nettles grow in the farm yards.

There is a shallow marsh, late-succession stage of a nineteenth century railway bank digging, now full of *Typha latifolia*, *Scirpus lacustris* and *Carex vesicaria*. The refuse is gradually filling it. So the railway is completing the cycle by dumping what it has brought to town into the hole that enabled it to cross the canal to get to town.

As one goes by Glympton estate there are fine oak-ash woods scattered in open elm-and-hedge and-wall country. This marks the beginning of the same limestone plateau as at Combe etc. Beyond Glympton as far as Great Tew, this open country has no large woods, mostly rolling fields with a great deal of corn. Hill Wood and Out Wood are fine-looking thick oak-ash, belonging to Barnett of Glympton, who A.D.M. says is a difficult man and preserves some game.

Today received a Phalangid from Mrs. Leslie in the house at 9 Chadlington Road. n.k.

(98C) OXFORD.

During the last two weeks there have been a steady trickle of *Theobaldia annulata* into the house, attacking one fiercely. All seen were ♀, except 1 ♂.

{reverse side}

26 JULY 1942.

26 JULY 1942. OXFORDSHIRE.

Drove to Tracey's Farm, south of Great Tew, going by Banbury Road and Hopcrofts Holt and Sandford St. Martin and coming back by Enstone and the Woodstock Road. Although the many walls, occasional quarry sections, ashes and scattered hedge elms, maple and *Clematis*, scabious, gave one the impression of being over onto the limestone on the northern stretch, there is practically no *Bromus erectus* or any rock-rose on the road sides, the big grasses being cocksfoot and false oat.

Nearly all the area I mean is coloured on the 1 inch map as Great Oolite. According to Donald Baden-Powell the limestone becomes locally partly decalcified at the surface, which would explain this variability.

At the base of a vast beech by the roadside, just north of Hookerswell Farm, was a 'pan' of water one or two inches deep, with dead beech leaves and mast, and a gravel base (someone had thrown it there). About a foot wide, between buttresses. In it about a dozen mosquitoes larvae, of which I kept three large ones to breed out in the water of their pool. 56

Small Chironomid adult emerged 29 July – presumably from one of the small larvae that I thought were mosquitoes, and which must have been collected accidentally (n.k.). On 7 August an adult mosquito emerged: ♀ *Aedes geniculatus*. White knee-joints and bright dark and white body pattern. Edwards, Oldroyd and Smart say it is entirely confined to tree-holes, especially in brown water. It is a bad man-biter.

Part of Hill Wood (on the west of the road at Glympton) is a cut wood now growing up again with thin youngish trees (ash, sycamore, beech). The ground has *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, tall ragwort, spear thistle. Among the ground plants a wasp (*Vespula*) was dragging a large moth and wrestling with it. The moth seemed very battered and half the thorax chewed away, and the apparent fluttering may have been from the wasp chewing at its wing muscles.

57 Given to B.M. Hobby, Hope Department

57

The old disused mill-pond at Tracey's Farm is colonised by shrubs and trees, but still has a marsh on soft mud, with water forgetmenot. 58

Digraphis over 4 ft. and trailing stemmed *Glyceria* living in part shade. 59

{reverse side}

28 JULY 1942.

Kept in 70% alcohol

29 JULY 1942.

29 JULY 1942.

Today P.H. Leslie brought a spider taken in the house 9 Chadlington Road, on some cut flowers. It was holding on to a spherical white egg-cocoon much larger than itself. n.k.

Mrs. Evelyn Young, who lives at North Leigh, reports seeing a number of marbled whites (*Satyrus (Agapetes) galathea*) in a rough scrubby pasture field in the angle between and just behind the fringing woods of Ashford-Bridge-North-Leigh and Ashford-bridge-East-End roads, on 26 July. She says that there is a badger colony in Whitehill Wood, below Ashford Bridge (informed by Mr{s}. Pope of Ashford Mill, through her husband, who was working there).

29 JULY 1942.

R.B. Freeman entomologized at school, when he was at Bradfield College, in the Pang valley west of Reading. This was in . A mile north of the school is Greathouse Wood, (on Reading Beds capped higher up with Plateau Gravel – and with gravel and sand and warren names). It is mostly dry-facies oak-wood, with bluebell, bramble, bracken, and rides. It is open standards rather like SMP in Bagley. Here White Admirals abundant (were known to be there also at turn of century, from specimens his godfather had). They flew in the rides mostly, and had most of their caterpillars on honeysuckle at the ride edges, not many inside the wood. On honeysuckle

{reverse side}

29 JULY 1942.

30 JULY 1942.

3 AUGUST 1942.

29 JULY 1942***

that climbed up trees. Some Purple Emperors also came in this wood, but flew high.

Occasionally he had seen a W.A. {= white admiral} flying fast over the playing fields, right away from the woods.

30 JULY 1942, OXFORD.

A medium-sized spider, same size and shape as C.E. 60, white with dark ventral line, red horse-shoe on back, long light-coloured legs. On ground in gardens, 9 Chadlington Road, from Mrs. E. Leslie. 61

3 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD.

During the last week the mosquitoes have swarmed as usual, but are much fewer, hundreds instead of thousands. All this summer, I have collected and mounted 90% of the mosquitoes entering the flat, and am keeping those on the landing windows separate, though I did not do so earlier on in the summer. Gentle steady rain has kept the swarm in tonight. Not one dancing.

Venables tells me that a great many **moorhen** and **coot** eggs on the River were taken for food this year, by people raiding the reeds. Many broods are late (second or so) and small. He thinks a few **swan** eggs were also taken. This is because of hen's eggs being rationed during the war.

Last night was reading Church's monographs. He is really the genius for this district's ecology, and gives me a wonderful pattern to start from. Although he stuck to a 3-mile radius, most of his conclusions strike much wider e.g. he entirely anticipates the soil-farming relations so clearly brought out in the L.U.S. 1 inch map. I make out that there are very roughly the following distributions:

{reverse side}

3 AUGUST 1942.

6 AUGUST 1942.

Sylvia curruca. (Note on this to B.W. Tucker.)

3 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD***

Dry soils: Neutral or acid. Plateau gravels.

Neutral or slightly calcareous. Leached sands, some decalcified limestone.

Calcareous. Limestones and sands and chalk, and valley gravels.

Heavy soils: All alkaline (except local peats?).

With organic matter (flooded). Alluvium

Less organic. Clays.

The Dry soils have most of the arable, also wood and heath. The Heavy soils have most of the grass land, more pasture on the clay, more hay meadows on the alluvium. The hay on the alluvium seems to mature later than on the hills. There are woods also on the clay, but Church says they are very similar to those on the dry soils. But I think the ground vegetation (bluebells and so on) will vary much with the soil. Tansley says the upper soil of most oakwoods is leached and acid, which should make a rather sharp distinction with the open land round it e.g. on the local clays.

6 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD.

N.V. Polunin reports **White admirals** in a wood on Shotover Hill – the Horspath side.

A large brown dragonfly with saffron wings was quartering the grounds in front of the Electricity Department – coasting belly down to the gravel drive, or swooping round the grass and evergreens. = *Aeshna grandis*

At 2 p.m. a **lesser whitethroat** (all grey upper and crown, dark eyes streak, dark wing-edge not rufous, tail looking shorter and bird slightly smaller than common whitethroat) hunted for quite 15 minutes in the limetree outside 98c. It was mostly searching the under sides of leaves at all levels, twice seen with a largish yellow object which might have been one of the abundant lime fruits. Witherby & Co. say it eats many berries in the summer.

{reverse side}

7 AUGUST 1942.

8 AUGUST 1942.

11 AUGUST. OXFORD.

7 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD DISTRICT.

R.B. Freeman saw a **marbled white** (*Agapates galathea*) flying weakly in *Juncus* patch in Chawley gravel pit, Cumnor Hill, at 8.30 p.m. (2 ST).

8 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD.

The **lesser whitethroat** again feeding on the lime-tree at 2 p.m. It was definitely picking animals off the under sides of leaves, not eating fruits. Several times seen to jump up half a foot, from a lower twig, and snatch at the under leaves.

E.B. Ford told me that, although the usual habit of the **marbled white** is to be locally gregarious in certain fields, immediately around Oxford it behaves differently and occurs in a dispersed manner along roadsides etc. He denies any correlation between the marbled white and calcareous soils, as it is common on Devonian sandstones in Devon.

Today E.J.E. took a spider similar to C.E. 61, on the flower head of some cut white *Phlox* brought several days ago to our flat from 239 Woodstock Road. It had an identical egg cocoon of dull greyish green. n.k.

AUGUST 11. OXFORD.

Mosquitoes swarm still by our roof. Only a few enter the flat. One *Theobaldia annulata* attacking, killed, not kept.

{reverse side}

16 AUGUST 1942.

Probably *Aeshna cyanea* ♀

20 AUGUST 1942.

♂ *Tenegaria atrica* (C.L. Koch). (W.S. Bristowe det.) 1944. n.k.

19 AUGUST 1942.

16 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD.

By the L.M.H. entrance to the Parks, at 3 p.m., a large dragonfly hawking among the trees, keeping mainly to the shade (hot sun today) and then settling on a lime at 15 feet. Not as large as *Aeshna grandis*, and with light green bands on abdomen, and the same colour on thorax. The wings shone golden-brown in some lights, but were mainly clear.

20 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD. Huge *Tegenaria* from drawing-room of P.H. Leslie,
9 Chadlington Road, Oxford. 63

19 AUG. 1942. OXFORD.

Tonight, and two days ago also, a *Theobaldia annulata* was caught full of blood – bulging and translucent red with it. These are the only two such we have found. But the *Theobaldias* that come in constantly attack us. Most are slain, all caught by me. None of the others seem to bite. We have not (Joy and I) had more than a few severe bites, but Catherine (aged 2½ who cannot protect herself and is exposed much more both by day and night) has had two bad attacks, the first very severe with a dozen bites, about three weeks ago, which partly rose in chicken-pox-like blisters that the Doctor himself was doubtful about at first. The second, a few days ago was also about a dozen bites, on face, arm and buttocks, but the lesser reaction indicated some immunity after the first attack. It is pretty certain, though it cannot be proved absolutely, that these have been *Theobaldia* bites, not *Trombicula*. These *Theobaldias* do not sit about in obvious positions so much as *Anopheles*, but many perch on the edge of a table or a curtain or cornice, where they are very hard to see.

{reverse side}

64 70% alcohol ♂ *Meconema thalassina* Degeer (crossed curved cerci). Lucas says adults only after beginning of August.
C.E. det.

66 70% alcohol

19 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD.***

Theobaldia annulata flies in a determined zig-zag fast way to the attack, instead of sailing slowly about like some smaller species of mosquito that have infested the flat in past years. With this goes a “zig-zag loud buzz”, instead of a steady hum.

At various times in the last two years, specimens of a long flat-cylindrical dark brown beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*) resembling the mealworm beetle have turned out in the flat, some in the drying cupboard of the lavatory. Their origin mystified us, but it now seems that they come to the heated roof, like mosquitoes and summer chafers. No specimens yet kept. War-time black-out makes attraction to light unlikely.

20 AUGUST 1942. (See previous page).

23 AUGUST 1942. OXFORD.

On the sycamore between Department of Zoology and the Clarendon (New) Lab, I found very few aphids, though many ‘husks’, but the following, in casual short search, undersides of leaves:

An adult large long-antenna green **grasshopper** n.k. 64
 A medium-large adult green lacewing (Not kept)
 A small spider, yellow abdomen with brown jagged horseshoe mark, the rest pale, but legs with brown at major joints. It was attending (a ♀) a great pile of aphid skins, along which tiny pale young spiders crawled. The skins had certainly been gathered by the spider to cover its young or their cocoons.

28 AUGUST 1942. COMPTON.

With Middleton to Compton, Berks. on a rat survey and on a piping hot day. The new plough-up of downland since the War has made a huge corn harvest that is just being gathered.

{reverse side}

28 AUGUST 1942.

Pararge megara sight records C.E. *Maniola jurtina* & *Aglais urticae* sight rec. C.E.

67 *Fannia canicularis* L. *Aphiochaeta rata* Wood *Pegomyia iniqua* Stein
 L.W. Grensted det. 1945. (some duplication in Hope Department)

Three different kinds of flies have pupated. Taylor of the Hope Dept. says mushrooms are usually heavily infested with Mycetophilids. Only the very small ones, and the large ones with spines on hatched yet. (Have given some to the Hope Dept.)

A. rata Wood seems to be very variable, and Lundbeck suspects more than one spp. But this must come there (nothing else has the four very unequal scutellar bristles). The Bristles on the hind tibiae are deficient – but this is a very variable character.

P. iniqua Stein was taken in great numbers in ‘Feld-Champignon’ by K... (L.W.G.)

28 AUGUST 1942. COMPTON***

Wall butterflies common by grassy road-bank above Mayfield Farm, Compton; by the grass bank at the Laboratory, Compton; and over short pasture and the nettle-waste of an abandoned farm-yard at Roden Farm, not far from the Ridgeway east of East Ilsely. One first notices their bright fritillary colour and low, pausing flight near the ground. Then one can see the marbled pattern above and the damask design below. They were mixed with large **meadow browns** and an occasional small **tortoiseshell** at Roden.

Cornstack sites not infrequently have **nettle** patches, as do most farm-yards, and these give possible food for small tortoiseshells, red admirals, peacocks and commas. Today I saw a **peacock** by an isolated barn + stack point in Compton area.

A close-grazed pasture field in Stockley's Farm, near Aldworth, Berks., had a fine fleet of **mushrooms**, growing in every part of the field, on grass path and half hidden among the dense grass. A horse paddock. The stems and part of the crowns next day proved full of small white maggots, and a few were put in a glass jar with bits of blotting paper, and muslin covering the top. 67

We could not eat any of the mushrooms.

{reverse side}

1 SEPTEMBER 1942.

68 In 70% alcohol ♂ *Tegenaria parietina* Fourcy (W.S. Bristowe det. 1944).

6 SEPTEMBER 1942.

1 SEPTEMBER 1942. OXFORD.

Christine Fox brought in another of the huge *Tegenaria*, caught in her bedroom at 101 Woodstock Road.

68

While I was catching it to kill it, two hind legs broke off as if by autotomy.

I looked into the static water tank in Corpus garden to see if mosquitoes had come there, but saw none. Instead there were quite large numbers of a small **Isopod** (*Asellus*), crawling actively on the side walls; also a few beetle larvae. On the bottom are some mud cases which might be worms or Chironomids.

6 SEPTEMBER 1942. OXFORD.

The mosquitoes were still swarming in large numbers at our roof. Only relatively very few enter the house, and nearly all these are collected. Last night a *Theobaldia annulata* with blood in it attacked me. Catherine last week had a third series of bites, not so bad as before, on the face and arms. I was bitten very badly on one place on the biceps, and the day after caught a *Theobaldia* in our bedroom. The lump was nearly as sore as a boil, and lasted several days. There is autumn cool in the air and the menace may go soon. But where do they come from? This swarming to heat means they may be waylaid while flying from distant sources. Also one sees them most commonly in woods round here.

Collected in Corpus water tank today and got 2 *Asellus*, which were almost out of the water, and when put in a small tube walked into the air-space by the cork.

69

1 *Corethra* (*Chaoborus*) larva floating.

70

1 non-red Chironomid larva on side. (more seen.)

n.k.

{reverse side}

6 SEPTEMBER 1942.

6 SEPTEMBER 1942. OXFORD ***

Yesterday the gardener Hewlett said starlings commonly bathe in the little pools of water are on the rubberoid cover to the C.C.C. tank. Also some blackbirds. Dons consulted at dinner last week had noted blackbirds and sparrows. (These little pools have thick alga in them, but no obvious animals except some possible Chironomids or worms). It would be easy for an *Asellus* brought on a bird's foot or plumage, to reach one of these pools and thence walk through a hole to be washed into the tank. The Chaplain, Wetherall, who controls the fire-guarding and use of trailer pumps, is positive that nothing but main water from the garden hydrant has entered the tank. It looks like a proved case of dispersal by birds. This type of cover to the tank (most have only a safety wire-mesh) is rather unusual, and is designed to keep out leaves from the trees. The rubberoid soon sagged between the battens to make enchanting shallow bird baths.

{reverse side}

14 SEPTEMBER 1942.

14 SEPTEMBER 1942. OXFORD.

The mosquito swarms at the roof are thinning out now. A sample (two net-sweeps separate) gave 19 small ones, no *Theobaldia*, and all males. 2 ♂ *Culex pipiens* L. 72A

Southern showed me two fine long-horned grass-hoppers he had caught. *Tettigonia viridissima* L. is the biggest British one, an inch or two of green plated armour. It came in a limited stretch of roadside bramble scrub on the road from Islip to the Noke turn before Woodeaton. Bayzand had noted it also for Islip in the Oxon. Victoria County History { = VCH}, and there are several other regional records. The other, *Pholidoptera cinerea* L. a smaller brown armoured creature with a yellowish belly, was in the field layer of Wytham woods, among brambly, rushy, stuff, in the wood, not just in glades.

{reverse side}

18 SEPTEMBER 1942.

24 SEPTEMBER 1942

25 SEPTEMBER 1942

18 SEPTEMBER 1942. COTSWOLDS etc.

There is a big pedunculate **acorn crop** near Eynsham (one sees few oaks up on the bare Cotswolds land, except in definite woods like Wychwood). The hedge **hawthorn crop** is moderate only, the rose hips fairly lavish. Great billows of *Clematis* are striking sights up on the limestone.

On the big gravel pit lake at Cassington a pair of **swans** had to ugly ducklings (reared on an island) and there was a **coot**. The gravel shores look bare, but here and there are shore patches of *Phragmites* and *Typha*, and some seedling willows. When I stopped to look one day in May, there was a pair of **swans** nesting, and a pair of **coot**, one or two **tufted duck**, and a pair of **great crested grebe**.

24 SEPTEMBER 1942. OXFORD.

A comma butterfly (*Polytonia c-album*) on Horspath refuse dump, visiting flowers.

25 SEPTEMBER. OXFORD.

Mosquitoes still swarming at the roof. Several males have entered the house today, one or two ♀ *Theobaldia*. Nights have suddenly got cold this week, and today was very cold.

{reverse side}

11 OCTOBER 1942.

3 NOVEMBER 1942.

11 OCTOBER 1942. OXFORD.

Perhaps a dozen mosquitoes still swarming at dusk at 98c. Cold now at night.

3 NOVEMBER 1942. OXFORD.

These swarms have virtually gone, but one or two *Theobaldias* have entered the house from the back, within the last ten-days, and there are a few *Anopheles* about. We have experienced no bites since the middle of September.

{reverse side}

11 DECEMBER 1942.

12 DECEMBER 1942.

11 DECEMBER 1942. OXFORD.

Miss Barnett in Lathbury Road, North Oxford had some "field-mice with long tails", *Apodemus* (presumably *sylvaticus*) enter her house last winter, and they ran about the kitchen at night, making great leaps. The garden is a moderate size one enclosed in a high brick wall, with only an ash tree.

12 DECEMBER 1942.

In the afternoon I bike to the big gravel-pit lake south of the by-pass at Cassington. The bottom has no fixed submerged phanerogamic vegetation, but is clean gravel with local drifts of broken dead *Typha* (which has reedswamp patches) etc. In this debris are abundant *Asellus*, a large beetle larva, a small spotted *Hydroporus*. One young **swan**, and no other birds seen. There are some small

{reverse side}

12 DECEMBER 1942.

1 JANUARY 1943.

25 FEBRUARY 1943

73 Inspected 10 April, found to have emerged perfect, ♀ (not kept).

26 FEBRUARY 1943.

12 DECEMBER 1942. OXFORD ***

ponds at the edge of the lake (which may have an area of the order of 10 acres). They are separated by big gravel banks from it, and their water was muddy green, unlike that of the lake.

1 JANUARY, 1943. OXFORD.

Venables found a **long-eared bat** dead, impaled spread out on a hawthorn by a well at Binsey. He thinks it had been caught by a sudden gust of wind.

25 FEBRUARY 1943. OXFORD.

On the large sycamore by the iron wicket gate into the Parks between New Clarendon and Physiology, a greyish-green pupa with dark scattered speckles, about an inch long, was fastened by a thin mat of white silk threads to the trunk, not far above the ground. 73
Identified by E.B. Ford as the large cabbage white (*Pieris brassicae*), and kept for emergence of it or parasites. It was 35 yards from the new allotment, separated by rough grass, and it must have walked at least this distance. I could find no more pupae on the small fence posts around the allotment, nor on other trees near. The colour of this pupa was an excellent match to its background of bark.

26 FEBRUARY 1943. OXFORD.

A ♂ **blackbird** was eating some of the few remaining berries on a large **ivy** plant growing on a pollard willow at the Rollers, in Mesopotamia. These ivy plants have here very cordate leaves.

{reverse side}

24-25 MARCH 1943.

75 *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii* Brandt. C.E. det. 1943.

23-24 MARCH 1943. COTSWOLDS.

Took the train up the Evenlode Valley to Kingham, and noticed how important the willows are that grow in the valley, and sometimes spread a little way up from the flood-plain itself into hedges on dry soil. Most of them are pollarded. The steep woods on the limestone scarps that the river has cut back, are characteristic of the part from Long Handborough up to Charlbury. This is the section where the river has cut down through the oolite and later layers of limestone. On the return I noticed at Shipton-under-Wychwood there is a straight cut of Evenlode, and on the flood-plain by it the original meander, now confined to a grassy depression (no doubt flooded sometimes) and an ox-bow pond surrounded by tall unpollarded willows. While I stayed at the Prewitts' cottage in Fifield, I was told that the **box tree** now in full flower (its scent is thick and musky, a bit like hawthorn) swarms with hive bees when the day is warm. Today its flowers smelt strong, but the tree was deserted, because of a cold east day. Searched under flat slabs of Cotswold limestone that form the rock garden. There were several small groups of a brown *Myrmica*,
74
and with them one specimen of *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggii*, also some small white ? Protura with di-pronged tail. 75

The latter were only found under the same stones as the ants. 76

There were innumerable woodlice and slugs, but no beetles. No mosquitoes in the cottage or out-buildings. A water-vole in the Evenlode by Long Handborough Halt.

{reverse side}

4 APRIL 1943.

= Duke's Lock

Confirmed by Prof. L.W. Grensted. Best paper for reference is Proceedings of the Malacological Society (1925), volume 16, part 6, page 267.

Unio pictorum (L.)

Anodonta cygnea (L.)

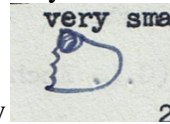
A. anatina (L.)

4 APRIL 1943. near OXFORD.

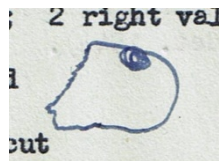
Went to the canal bank just south of the lock at Oxey Mead. Here there is a narrow strip of rough grass between the tow-path and the canal. The spot is close to the noise of the railway and of the Eynsham bypass. Immediately on the riverbank there are **water-voles** burrows or sort of "slip-ways", communicating with deeper holes in the bank or at any rate with partly covered holes – larders or dining rooms. In several of these places, but mostly in the under-ground pockets I found middens of mussel shells, almost certainly left, packed in tight, in one case lying on an open shelf, by water-voles. One larder full I got out and brought home about half, omitting among other things the small fragments. It contained:

2 *Unio pictorum*: 1 whole animal, soft parts inside, but siphon end of valves bitten off symmetrically. 1 exactly the same but open and no soft parts left. (One toothed hinge, one plain) 77

26 *Anodonta*, mostly *anatina*, and one valve of *cygnea*. (Untoothed hinge, straight in former, curved in latter); 24 left valves very small fragments of



right valve at hinge; 2 right valves much cut away 77



1 nibble round

cut away as in all the left valves above, but right valve deeply scalloped into



2 bivalve, with hind end

{reverse side}

4 APRIL 1943.

12 APRIL 1943.

78 ♀ *Tegenaria atrica* (C.L. Koch). (W.S. Bristowe det. 1944). In 70% alcohol.

15 APRIL. OXFORD

storing until circa end of May. You can get model of gallery system by pouring in molten "Wood's Metal".

Very few bees themselves to be seen, though hot sun, and many craters. Many were observed, however, on a full [RUNS ONTO PAGE 69]

4 APRIL 1943. near OXFORD ***

These facts suggest that water-voles catch the mussels in the mud by taking the siphon end in their mouth, carry them to the bank; cut into the right valve and eat the meat; find *Unio* too tough a shell to do this – they are much more thick-shelled. I have found several earlier published notes on this habit, mainly by water-voles, but no details except that one man mentions attack on one valve only. There is one clear case of brown rats eating *Anodonta* in Cheshire marl-pits. I must get exact confirmation of the Oxey Mead animals being water-voles, not Rn. Canal conditions must be especially good for mussels, and other food is scarce, at any rate in winter and spring. If there really is a preference for *Anodonta*, the selection pressure might be quite important.

12 APRIL 1943. OXFORD.

H.V. Thompson brought me a large *Tegenaria* from the B.A.P. Animal House (Path. Lab.).

78

15 APRIL. OXFORD.

Within the last few days I have noticed large numbers of *Andrena* “craters” in the big lawn in front of the University Museum. I can remember this great colony since at least 1923. A.H. Hamm watched them for many years and says only *Andrena fulva* usually present. The main occurrence is in the main lawn between the drive and the road. A few in the new lawn and narrow earth bed beside the Radcliffe library. Some craters in the bed by the road.

O.W. Richards says *A. fulva* winters in holes, possibly becoming large imago during winter. Pushes out. Probably pause for flower feeding and maturing of ovaries. Excavate more (not known if same hole or a made hole, but colonies as a whole certainly persist on ancestral spots). Stores pollen and there are about 4 larvae per hole, though mortality (e.g. from *Bombylius* and *Nomada*) varies. The large craters now are probably due to several emerging, from side galleries. May remain open for

(See opposite page)

{reverse side}

4 APRIL 1943.

79 “Museum lawn”. *Andrena fulva* Schr. 2 ♂ 2 ♀. B.M. Hobby det.

80 *Bombylius major* L. flying on front lawn. B.M. Hobby det.

81 Flowers of *Alliaria officinalis* (syn. *Sisymbrium alliaria*).

15 APRIL 1943. OXFORD.

flowering pink cherry by the Old Clarendon Lab. Both males and females seen on the tree and a few on the lawn. 79

This bright tawny ♀, and the ♂ with white face, cannot be confused with any other *Andrena*. Some of the ♀s had pollen on legs. Most of the crater holes were open. The lawn has not been mowed lately, perhaps not this year. Flying near the *Andrena* area was a large parasitic fly, *Bombylius*. 80

Another seen visiting **Jack-by-the-Hedge** in the back Museum grounds. 81

There are four species of this large fly, whose Dipterous body is fluffed out with long bright brown hairs to make it look very roughly like a bee. It has a huge long black proboscis. This species cannot be mistaken for any other, as the wings have a jagged black band on the front half. (Another species, *canescens*, has spotted wings, and two smaller ones clear wings). Its larvae devours {sic} bee larvae etc.

{reverse side}

2 MAY 1943.

It is different! = *Cardamine amara*. E.F. Warburg det. 1958.

2 MAY 1943. OXFORD.

Went for a walk along by the canal, from Polstead Road as far as the bridge beyond St. Edward's School playing fields. There was a lot of tall *Carex* and a few other canal edge and bank flowers, including a sprinkling of ~~*Nasturtium officinale*~~, which looks very different from the sort of water cress one eats, growing 85A

{reverse side}

2 MAY 1943.

L.S.V. Venables found smallish mussel shells with part of the valves bitten away, on a sloping pollard willow by Sutton Pools today, but did not know if water voles did the deed.

One bred through: a smallish moth of the type with whitish on hind part of wings, to look like bird droppings when closed. (n.k.)

5 MAY 1948.

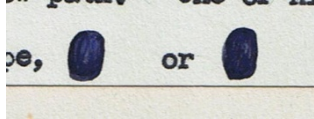
♀ *Gomphus vulgatissimus* L. C.E. det., B.M. Hobby confirmed.
Kept in 70% alcohol.

2 MAY 1943. OXFORD***

erect, with clear-cut 9-pinnate leaves set rather spiral up the stem, and delicate white flowers with bright pink or red stamens.

Saw a perch about 5-6 in. long. Also very many groups of tiny and small roach-like fish, and one which might have been a loach.

Only one water-vole, but he was only three feet below swimming down the canal close to the bank of the tow-path. One of his landing holes had some gleaming fresh dung, about this



shape, , not pointed or tapering like that of a brown rat. It is black. The vole's tail looked $\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2}$ the body – longer than I had imagined. No sign of mussels being eaten, but I did not search very thoroughly. All this part of the canal has the back-gardens of houses or factories or coal wharves or playing fields abutting, with some swampy fields etc. to the west of the path.

Hawthorn, still sappy with spring, was much infested with a small grub or caterpillar bunching and spinning together leaves towards the end of sprays. Kept some to breed out.n.k.

5 MAY. OXFORD.

Michael Young brought in a fresh live dragonfly, a medium sized hawk with a slightly club tail and brilliant yellow and dark markings and clear wings. It was numbed, on the hedge by the path down to Parson's Pleasure. 87

{reverse side}

5 MAY 1943.

5 MAY 1943. OXFORD***

Gomphus vulgatissimus continued. Longfield and Lucas' books says it is a rare and local species, known now or past from Essex (near Epping), Surrey, Sussex, Hants. (including New Forest), Herts. Oxon., Berks., Glos., Hereford, Worcs. (Worcester), and Wales. The Oxon./Berks localities recorded are as follows:

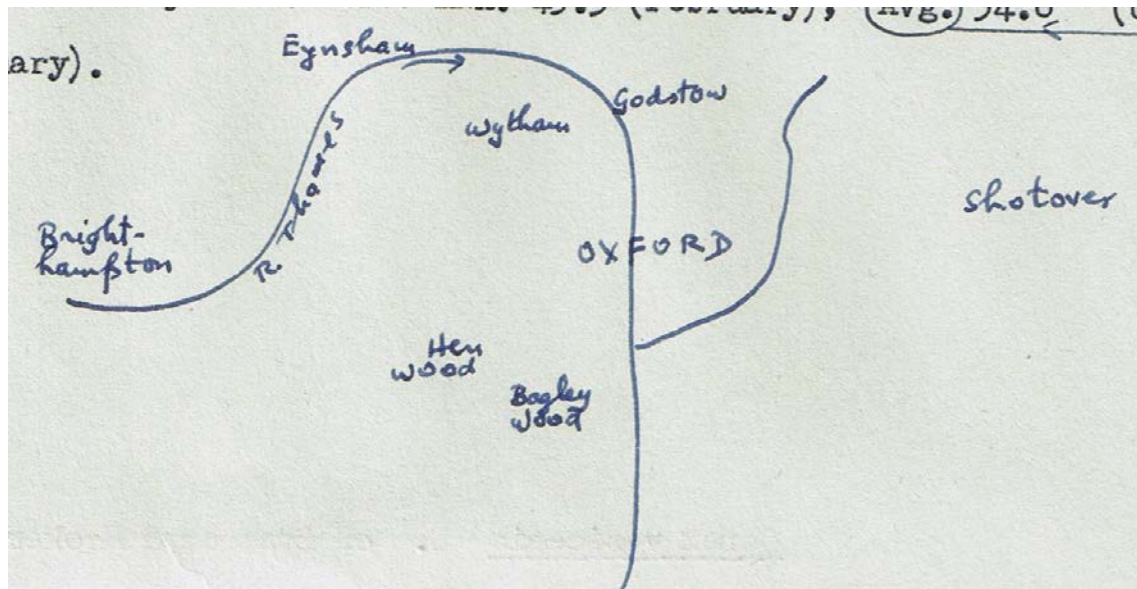
Lucas (1900): Reading (Thames)†; Bagley†; Brighthampton.

Longfield (1937): no details, but mentions Thames generally.

Oxon. Victoria County History, Zoology (1939); Brighthampton; Thames below Eynsham†; Shotover; Upper Thames near Oxford†; Hen Wood; Wytham Woods.

B.M. Hobby says it is frequent by upper Thames at Godstow. So evidently it is a regular component of Thames neighbourhood in the O.E.S. area. The records in the (old) Berks. V.C.H. p. 73 for: Thames near Reading; near Bagley Wood; Thames side above Godstow; Eynsham; are presumably those marked with †.

Its range is rather like that of *Luffia ferchaultella* lying within the 62 °F. + July isotherm. It would be interesting to have river temperatures. The figures by Manley for 6 years of the Cherwell at Oxford (cited by Church. B. Mem.14:12-13) give July maximum 68.5 °F (actually annual max.), Min. 61.1°. Avg. 63.1°. The lowest winter monthly means were: Max. 43.5° (February), 39.3° Avg. (February), min. 34.8° (January).



{reverse side}

9 MAY 1943.

9 MAY 1943. OXFORD CANAL.

Went along the same stretch of canal as last week (2nd). The large *Carex* by the canal edge is just beginning to fruit. Its arrangement of spikelets, very angular stem, and smooth tapering beaked fruits are characteristic.

88

{reverse side}

8 MAY 1943.92 *Phyllobius parvulus* (Olivier). P.J. Osborne det. 1955.11 MAY 1943.

On 14th these fallen blossoms were no longer attracting the bees, though a few were visiting *Octandra* flowers on the tree, but apparently with the same lack of success; some queen *Bombus* also visiting. Noticed hive-bees at the pink chestnut flowers on the tree.

9 MAY 1943. OXFORD CANAL cont***

Collected another consignment of the small green caterpillars that infest the tips of **haw** twigs, rolling and spinning the young leaves together. (Went mouldy)

All the way along, from Polstead Road up to the railway bridge, the leaves of

meadow-sweet

91

were frequently infested with shagreen-emerald weevils, that seemed to have eaten small holes in the leaves (not enough to affect the plant).

92

Many were in copulation. I put one copulating pair in a tin with one undamaged leaf, to see if these holes are made by them. (Yes. Specimens not kept.) Noticed that the gale of wind and rain had made the canal water very muddy, and there were 6 – 10 in. waves.

Saw one sand-martin, but it did not come near the canal.

11 MAY 1943. OXFORD.

In Corpus Christi College garden last night's tremendous gale knocked off a great many single flowers off the *Aesculus octandra*. The yellow flowers lay in thousands on the lawn, and round and on them were dozens of the President's **hive-bees** (*Apis*). There must have been a strong smell of honey coming from the fallen flowers, and the bees tried to get at it, half-way down the flower, but were unable to penetrate it. They ignored the fresh-fallen **pink chestnut** flowers lies among the others.

{reverse side}

16 MAY 1943.

98 *Haltica lythri* Aub. C.E. det. 1945.

101 4 *Donacia simplex* Fab. (101 n.k.)

101A

100 *Galerucella nymphaeae* (L.) var. *sagittariae* (Gyllenhal). P.J. Osborne det. 1956. 70% alcohol. Provisional det. by C.E. from picture in 'Comity of Spiders'.

16 MAY 1943. OXFORD.

Went to the canal just by the bridge over to St. Edward's School.

A cock **reed bunting** in some planted willows by the canal.

A group of *Epilobium hirsutum* on the canal edge was infested by a small metallic **blue-green beetle**,

98

and holes in the leaves must have been made by it. Only noted at one place.

99

Many coppery *Donacia*, possibly two species, walking on the tall leaves of the *Sparganium* at canal edge, some in copulation.

101

One pair (101A). Not noticed last week. Also a small elongate flattish **pale brown beetle**.

100

The *Donacias* were abundant all along this stretch. A crumply fat spider, probably *Aranea diadema* L.

102

was frequent in the brown flower spikes of *Carex riparia* Curt. E.F. Warburg det. 1959., which is certainly commonest

102A

{reverse side}

16 MAY 1943.

19 MAY 1943.

16 MAY 1943. OXFORD ***

forb at the canal edge, and all the large *Carex* here is this species, the seeds show. There are small *Carex* as well, above the water line.

There were very few mayflies.

On the sycamore at 98c the first mother aphids are to be seen, one or two on a leaf. The flowers are still out and attract *Andrenas*.

19 MAY 1943. OXFORD.

In the Botanic Garden, a spotted flycatcher sat on the 4 ft. bamboo canes used to stake up larkspurs, and on other advantage points, hawking away at intervals. Later on two were seen to be visiting a hollow niche in the stonework of the large gateway on the west side at 12 ft. up. The hole is roofed with lead sheeting that covers the stone "gable". An end of mossy nest was visible. One of the birds would settle on the ground and pick up objects to carry up to the nest. Witherby's book, (confirmed by H.N. Southern) says it is very unusual for the species to go on the ground; I have never seen it before. Witherby notes that breeding season (meaning nesting) starts in the third week of May.

The spotted flycatcher, according to Southern and my own experience, does not nest higher than 25 feet or lower down than 6 feet. This also applies broadly to its vertical hunting range. It is in

{reverse side}

19 MAY 1943.

21 MAY 1943.

19 MAY 1943. OXFORD***

this country a garden and wood margin and tall-scrub with open patches bird; and is known in Lapland birch woods, also reaching to Mediterranean lands. In winter it comes in African acacia or thorn scrub or forest edge. All this hangs together in a picture of a bird living almost entirely within a 20 foot zone or less.

In the 25 yards south of this west central gateway, three other birds were nesting in or on the high wall: a starling slipped into a narrow crack in the coping, some 15 feet up; a blue tit entered (carrying food in its mouth) a tiny hole at the same height; a song thrush or hen blackbird left a nest built in the creeper about 6 feet up.

We also saw a robin, a tame cock chaffinch, and blackbirds. This is a rich bird refuge indeed.

Webb, the gardener, says goldcrest nested in the conifers last year.

21 MAY 1943 (OXFORDSHIRE).

Wilson of C.C.C., a historian-economist who fishes, told me about the Red Spinners, a leading fishing society to which he belongs. It owns all fishing on the Evenlode for ten miles, from Fawler (above Ashford Bridge) to Cassington

{reverse side}

21 MAY 1943.

20 MAY 1943.

105 One of the parasites that mimics an ant emerged, but not kept, as host unknown.

26 MAY 1943.

106 2 *Plagiodera versicolora* (Laicharting). C.E. det. 1946.

107 *Phyllopertha horticola* L. (C.E. det. 1943).

108

These willow posts are recorded in Richards paper (*J. Ecol.* 18:131; 1930) as *Salix alba*.

21 MAY 1943. OXFORDSHIRE.

and some salmon fishing on the Dorset Stour. On the Evenlode he has observed trout, pike, perch, roach, dace, minnow, chubb, gudgeon; not bream. Had not noticed loach. Herons visit this stretch, probably from Wytham. There are large pike in Blenheim Park Lake.

20 MAY 1943. BAGLEY WOOD.

The **badger**'s den seems to be going strong, with fresh scrapings and well-marked runways. In the sycamore wood (open, immature) near here in Bottom Copse, *Mercurialis perennis* has been badly "shot up" by *Hermaeophaga mercurialis*, which were fairly numerous as adults: no larvae visible. [103] [104]

There were also some very small yellow sminthurine collembola on the mercury, as well as on the sycamore leaves. A small silvery cocoon on the underside of a mercury leaf. Kept to breed out. [105] n.k.

26 MAY 1943. BAGLEY WOOD.

The old willow fence posts on the field up to Bottom Copse, that O.W. Richards studied twenty years ago, are now cut willow trunks, sprouting afresh. On the leaves is a sawfly gall in abundance; [106]

also numerous small dark green metallic chrysomelids, eating the leaves, and pairing. [107]

Also several smallish brown hairy chafers with green shining thorax. n.k.

I observed another of these in the stream valley clearing of Bottom Copse, eating a hole in young coppiced poplar leaf. n.k.

{reverse side}

26 MAY 1943.

28 MAY 1943.

30 MAY 1943.

110 ♂ ♀ *Donacia simplex* Fab.

111 Laid a clutch of eggs on a bit of leaf, while in the tube: 22 spherical ochre-coloured eggs about 0.5 mm diameter.

♂ ♀ *Galerucella nymphaeae* (L.) var. *sagittariae* (Gyllenhal). P.J. Osborne det. 1956. (Eggs and one adult given to Hope Department)

1 *Sialis lutaria* (L.)

26 MAY 1943. BAGLEY WOOD***

I am slowly making a collection of types of plant damage done by herbivorous beetles, inspired by the sight of Waters' incredibly neat and large collection of micro-moths and plants mined by them, left by him to the Hope Department stop today the class again collected the stream fauna in Bottom Copse, and we got 3 surface insects, 2 marginal beetles, and about 12 species of stream animals (see B...). Hobby found a single marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) in the area near the stream. This is very unusual in Bagley, but the species has a reputation for appearing and establishing suddenly and then dying out again.

Large numbers of the handsome large Cercopid with red wings and black spots on them, especially on coppiced poplar, with large frothy "spits" on the twigs. = *Triecphora vulnerata* (Illiger).

28 MAY 1943. OXFORD.

No mosquito swarm as yet, at the roof. Practically none entering the house as yet, but tonight there was a ♂ *Theobaldia annulata* (not caught).

30 MAY 1943. OXFORD.

Walked on the usual canal stretch in warm sun and breeze. Some of the *Sparganium* (it is presumably *erectum*) is coming into flower. On it are numerous pairing *Donacia*, including one with a silvery touch on legs and belly, that was not noticed last time. 110

Beetle (same as C.E. 100) was collected pairing on an isolated water dock with no bur-reed near; also on another water dock – but not seen elsewhere. 111

A few alder-flies sitting on the bank grasses. 112

{reverse side}

30 MAY 1943.

Sight record C.E.

Common demoiselle *Enallagma cyathigerum* Charp. 1 adult ♂ (blue and black), 1 ♀ (grey-green and black), 1 young ♂ (ditto lilac on thorax + black; one blue segment). C.E. det. 1943. In copulation. Longfield notes this species will breed in brackish water e.g. in "saline lakes of the Outer Hebrides." It is the only dragonfly in Shetlands. It is Holarctic.

Pararge megara Sight record C.E.

4 JUNE 1943.6 JUNE 1943.7 JUNE 1943.

30 MAY 1943. OXFORD***

A few ♂ *Agrion splendens* flying and settling on canal bank forbs, also along a ditch near the canal, in St. Edward's School grounds, that had tadpoles in it (frog). Some green *Agrion* ♀ presumably also this species.

Dozens of elegant small **demoiselles** of brilliant fresh blue and black bellies, 113 and (some actually flying and settling joined together) uncoloured ones. A **wall butterfly** by the tow-path.

No mayflies dancing.

In Corpus Christi College garden a grey squirrel on the Mound trees.

4 JUNE 1943. OXFORD.

In the front drive of the Oxford W.A.E.C. (Banbury Road), a large *Chrysopa* green lacewing flew in its scissors-helicopter fashion, and a hen **house sparrow**, swooped down out of a beech and caught it eight feet from the ground, then settled on the ground and consumed it. Direct proof that sparrow can be harmful to agriculture, even in the breeding season!

6 JUNE 1943. OXFORD.

Today or so, the first swarming of mosquitoes at our roof was seen – about a dozen in. One ♂ *Theobaldia* inside bathroom.

7 JUNE 1943. OXFORD.

Saw three adult **house sparrows** pecking insects off leaves and petioles and young keys of **sycamore** at 98c, 8 pm. (two hours early summer time).

{reverse side}

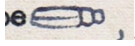
8 JUNE 1943.

“Furniture beetle”
Anobium punctatum (Degeer). C.E. det. 1946.

Haltica lythri Aub. ♂ ♀ C.E. det. 1945.

Kept in 70% alcohol

8 JUNE 1943. OXFORD.

About a dozen small beetles entered the flat and wandered about upside down on the dining-room ceiling. They are about a quarter of an inch long, light brown, striae on elytra, arched thorax, head set rather below and looking downwards, body the shape , quite thin spiny legs, and peculiarly jointed antennae. Perhaps they come from the dead *Robinia* outside that is beginning to rot. 114

12 JUNE 1943. OXFORD.

During the last few days, more similar beetles have come into the room, including some larger ones, possibly of another species. 115

A small swarm of mosquitoes over the top of the pine tree, in spite of a cool westerly breeze that blows them away every now and then; a few over the lime, and at the roof. Walked down the usual canal stretch. There seem to be none of the swallow tribe feeding along this part of the canal. Today I found that the metallic dark blue beetle (= C.E. 98) on the *Epilobium* (now grown over a foot high) were eating the lower leaves. I kept a pair. 116

There were clusters of oval orange-yellow eggs, 12 or more in a clump, and a small dark "micropyle" on each n.k.

There was a large dark blackish green weevil on nettle leaf, with very lanky legs. lost.

{ reverse side }

3 JULY 1943.

4 JULY 1943.

Galerucella nymphaeae (L.) var. *sagittariae* (Gyllenhal) by implications – for no other beetle, or insect, has been developing on these particular dock plants.

70% alcohol (Samples of each given to the Hope Department)

3 JULY 1943. OXFORD.

Only a small swarm of mosquitoes, and not more than two or three have been seen in the house during the last month.

4 JULY 1943. OXFORD.

Walked by the canal. The *Galerucella* on water dock have all gone as adults, leaving rusty-looking eroded patches of surface tissue eaten both on upper and lower leaves, and some holes. A few egg patches still unhatched, but most have now turned into larvae of various sizes up to about a centimetre: yellow ground colour, heavily covered with black tubercles, three short tubish legs in front. They range all over the plant, some even to small leaflets among the tall flower panicles that have recently opened. The larvae erode the surface layer of both upper and lower sides of the leaf. By the end of the season damage will be quite conspicuous.

Large larvae 119

Small larvae and eggs 120

This species on this stretch of canal bank seems to be only on *Rumex hydrolapathum*, and on nearly all plants of it (one plant consistently quite free): though C.E. 100 was on *Sparganium*, on which none seen since. It is not on *Carex vesicaria*, *Diglyphis* (now in flower) yellow *Iris*, *Epilobium*, *Scutellaria*, or grasses.

{reverse side}

4 JULY 1943.

C.E. det. 1943. 70% alcohol

122 *Succinea pfeifferi* Rossmässler (= *elegans* Jeffreys)

4 JULY 1943. OXFORD.

Some male *Agriion splendens*, and a good many small blue and black/or green demoiselles, some pairing. Collected one male *Enallagma cyathigerum* in magnificent blue and black. This ♂ is easy to tell by segments 9 and 10 being entirely blue, with no black patterns on 10. 121

No *Donacia* seen on any bur-reed or other tall forbs. *Sparganium erectum* in translucent delicate flower.

On *Sparganium erectum*, *Carex vesicaria* and *Iris pseudacorus*, saw for the first time this year the good many *Succinea*, are above the water, and quite active in glass tube, where they sail along with mysterious and graceful élan, crouching under pale glassy brown shells. 122

Although there is practically no surface vegetation, a good many submerged patches of *Myriophyllum*, *Potamogeton* etc. have grown up since winter. Still no swallow tribe at all.

Collected skullcap, *Scutellaria galericulata*. 123

Ellis (1926) notes: "By the Thames, *S. putris* is scattered all over the water-meadows, where *S. pfeifferi* is confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the river-banks; the habitats of the two species only overlap to a small degree where the meadow gives way to sedges." J.E. Harting (1875), "Rambles in search of shells ..." says (p. 58) reed buntings, bearded tits etc. eat quantities of *Succineas*. (They are pretty conspicuous against leaves, owing to dark grey bodies i.e. *pfeifferi*.)

8 JULY 1943. FIFIELD (OXON.)

A thick garden hedge of hazel with huge leaves on it, bigger than anything I have seen in woods. I

{reverse side}

8 JULY 1943.

124 on slide

9 JULY 1943.

(Samples of C.E. 132, 133 & 134 given to Hope Department)

Rumex hydrolapathum

8 JULY 1943***

took a sample of animals living under the leaves. Small wingless and wing yellow aphids were the most numerous, and are sluggish in action. 124

Presumably connected with them were a few *Theridion pallens*, with white spiky cocoons, also several other small spiders of probably 2 species. n.k. 125

And one other spider that was in a regular web spun between the leaves. n.k.

There was one *Chrysopa* (small size), and a small red pear-shaped shining bars, by a cast skin of itself, which was lurking by a sort of cocoon covered with debris, in a hemisphere shape, about ¼ in. across. There were some swiftly elusive flying yellow small Jassids, which left the leaf the moment it was turned over – but I caught one. 131

9 JULY 1943.

Collected some more stages of *Galerucella nymphaeae* (L.) var. *sagittariae* (Gyllenhal), from water docks by the Canal at Frenchay Road. Among these were clusters of hatched-egg shells, looking like pheasant clutches, under the lens. 132

Also large-sized larvae, many of which have pupated, attached by one end, on the leaf. 133

I also took a leaf sample to show beetle erosion. An interesting point is the concentration near the central vein – perhaps due to the recent drought of several weeks that broke today. 134

Species inferred from adult material collected on Canal at other times.

{reverse side}

18 JULY 1943.

18 JULY 1943. OXFORD.

Walked down the Canal from Polstead Road to Walton Crescent and on to the small Thames bridges and boats Medley. The canal bank vegetation by the tow-path had been cut, and this must be an important factor in the lives of the marginal insects. A few of the smaller water dock leaves had escaped the scythe and had *Galerucella* larvae and pupae on them. One water dock leaf had a group of black velvety aphids attended by small black ants. The pollard willows had some small bluish chrysomelids decimating a few of the leaves. No “swallows” at the Canal. Saw a flowering rush in the Thames.

{reverse side}

1 AUGUST 1943.

12 AUGUST 1943.

13 AUGUST 1943.

70% alcohol

14 AUGUST 1943.

{Pages 89 to 106 are missing}

1 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD.

A meal-worm beetle entered the flat recently, *Tenebris molitor* L. This is the beetle that Joy has several times found in the drying cupboard for clothes by the warm water tank (of the bottom flat, which is in ours!) 219A

12 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD.

Since the early winter practically no mosquitoes have been seen in the house or stair passage of 98c. Today four entered, not Theobaldias.

30 AUGUST. OXFORD (MUSEUM).

At dusk "10 p.m.", while getting ready for fire-guard sleeping, I saw several white moths fly low over the Dept. of Zoology stock ponds, which have a dense covering of water-lily and other water plants. They weave over the surface like minute Daubenton's bats, occasionally settle on weeds, and on the stone sides or among taller marsh plants. One was collected. It was about ½ in. long, satiny white wings with some obscure fuscous markings, usual spines on legs, very thin antennae. 219

Medium-sized *Nepa* were active on the wet surface, crawling right out of the water, or in a film of it over water-lily leaves.

14 AUGUST. OXFORD.

In the Botanic Garden. The spotted flycatcher was assiduously feeding a single half-grown nestling, that sat by the edge of its nest, under the lead-sheeted coping

{reverse side}

14 AUGUST 1943.

17 AUGUST 1943.

Chorthippus bicolor Charp. (C.E. and H.N. Southern det. 1943).

14 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD ***

of the West Gate. Possibly the other nestlings (if there were some) did not survive the heat wave, under their metal roof.

A nuthatch, accompanying a small mixed flock of blue and great tits etc., gave its sharp mellow note in the Turkish Hazel. Two goldfinches too, starlings, a chaffinch, sparrows. What a wealth of small birds in this retreat!

The mosquitoes swarm outside our bathroom roof is thin but persistent all this time. A few more mosquitoes have entered the house, including one *Theobaldia* (identified in flight).

17 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD.

The short grass in the University Parks, short after the hay-mowing, with little aftermath in the grilling heat of several weeks' drought, has a good many good-sized, fully winged, brown-marbled grasshoppers with green pronotum top, and green underbellies, and a marked restriction of the pronotum's "waist". They fly easily, looking lightish as they do. The elytra has a white subcostal line, and a white patch towards the hind end. Antennae not clubbed.

{reverse side}

18 AUGUST 1943.

220 *Chorthippus bicolor* Charp. (C.E. det. 1943). ♂s and ♀s.

221 *C. parallelus* Zett. (C.E. det. 1943). ♂ ♀

19 AUGUST 1943.

222 ♂ *Tegenaria atrica* (C.L. Koch) n.k

222A ♂ *T. atrica* (W.S. Bristowe det. 1944). n.k.

Field details by C.E. The ♀ pronotum top was dark red.

18 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD.

Collected some better specimens of grasshoppers in the Parks short grass, and found two species, in fact the two commonest British *Chorthippus*, *bicolor* 220
(as yesterday) and (much fewer) *parallelus*. 221

(Noticed that *bicolor* turned red-stained all over in 70% alcohol, *parallelus* developed red tip to abdomen (!), *albomarginatus* no red.)

19 AUGUST.

Today a very large *Tegenaria* appeared in my (modern built) room in the D.C.A., Museum. 222

And another from next-door room, 20th August = C.E. 222A

{reverse side}

27 AUGUST 1943.

27 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD.

The static water tank in Corpus Christi College garden now swarms with *Asellus*, many adults in couples, also a large wave of young ones, all walking about on the concrete sides, on which a thin film of green alga has grown. There is a thin layer of dead leaves and debris at the bottom, where the fauna is invisible. Nothing else detectable on the sides except some small beetles.

{reverse side}

27 AUGUST 1943.

29 AUGUST 1943.

223 *Gerris najas* (Degeer)

On 30th noticed how they disappear from the water surface when it is roughened by the wind, no doubt clinging to marsh plants, and sally out when calm returns. Even then they keep within a foot or two of the bank, skating in an easy jerking way to counteract the current and keep their place. One was devouring a small insect like a mayfly. Their haunt would rather tend to coincide with that of water bats.

Berks V.C.H. gives R. Kennet for this species (page 117).

27 AUGUST 1943. OXFORD-NEWBURY.

After one passes Compton and Hamstead Norris in the train from Oxford, the soil suddenly changes to sands (shown in deep sand-pits) and gravels (seen on railway banks), and with this at once quantities of heather (*Calluna*) appear on the banks. Presumably one has passed from the Cretaceous onto the Tertiary (? Reading Beds), and these gravels may be the same that Donald Baden-Powell and I have found in a small patch overlying the chalk between East Ilsley and Compton. It might not be a bad plan to take as the southern limit of the Oxford Ecological Survey, not the watershed of the Downs, but some convenient road-boundary at the junction of the Cretaceous and Tertiary.

29 AUGUST 1943. NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE.

The River Kennet runs through the town and is joined a little below it by the River Lambourn. The waterways in this valley seem fairly complex in detail, and subject to much control. In the part flowing quietly through the town were several large aggregations of the biggest *Gerris* I have ever seen, hugging the bank, where the water surface gets some slight shelter or whirlpool. These skaters seem fairly easy to catch by hand. They appeared silvery below, but lost this when put in alcohol. They are very dark generally.

223

{reverse side}

29 AUGUST 1943.† Presumably *Dendrocoelum lacteum*

29 AUGUST 1943. NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE***

In the afternoon (warm, overcast) visited Dr. Morgan's fishing hut and stretch of trout stream just above the Bagnor Halt – on the River Lambourn. Looked at the stretch between the hut and the weir above. It is shallow mostly, a foot or two, with some deeper pools, gravel bottom partly mud-covered, but essentially a stone river bed. Thin covering in patches (? where there is silt) of ? *Ranunculus* (crowfoot), *Apium*, *Callitriche*, etc., and some *Lemna trisulca* among the weeds. Tall marsh *Carex*, *Epilobium*, *Scrophularia*, hemp agrimony, a little *Phragmites*, etc. And a great meadow-marsh of similar plants, containing much fleabane in flower, also mint and hemp agrimony etc.

House martins and swallows over the whole area. Some moorhens. A good many smallish trout seen.

I used a new kind of scoop bought in an ironmongers, real use unknown. Handle about 18 in. long. Wire mesh rather too coarse without filters, but brings up good fragments of plants and mud to wash in my white enamelled dish.

Fauna:

Limnaea pereger (Müll.) common Very small *Pisidium* 1, dead valves 224

Physa fontinalis (L.) locally common A young bullhead *Cottus gobio* L. 224

Bithynia leachii (Shepp.)

Gammarus pulex Degeer common (n.k.)

A large white planarian† (n.k.)

Some snail leeches, mayfly nymphs (small), an alder fly larva, some grit-case caddis larvae, chironomid larvae, very small worms. No *Asellus* or dragon fly stages (or adults seen) or *Planorbis*. No water beetles (except 1 small one not kept) or bugs. No surface insects.

{reverse side}

29 AUGUST 1943.

† But see C.E. 224.

225 *Chorthippus parallelus* Zett. C.E. det. 1943.

226 *Acrydium vittatum* (Zett.) C.E. det. 1943. This is what Americans call a grouse locust.

29 AUGUST 1943. NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE ***

The invertebrates are obviously rather sparse in total numbers, except for very small larvae. Morgan (and his fishing colleague Mr. Peskin, met today) say about this stream that (a) it is very cold (b) fed by springs from these gravels (c) has no coarse fish† in, though these abundant in Kennet (d) trout grow well only to certain size, beyond that get very thin and starved (e) grayling (the only other fish) are abundant and grow well. Morgan had asked me to survey the snails to see if they are an explanation.

In the river bank path, which is marsh-meadow cut to a short coarse grass-herb layer, like very coarse cut-hay-meadow, were numerous ♂ *Chorthippus parallelus* Zett. and a few ♀. Both had much green on. The dark hind knees of the ♂ were conspicuous. 225

A few much smaller very dark not very active grasshoppers with marbled ochre and dark legs, wings projecting beyond the abdomen. 226

{reverse side}

31 AUGUST 1943.

31 AUGUST 1943. NEWBURY***

Walked by the Kennet path through the town outskirts. At 10.45 a.m. in full bright day-light (not sun), a pipistrelle flew about above the river up and around the houses for some time. This must be very unusual: perhaps it had been disturbed. This is the first time I ever saw a bat flying close and clearly: usually they flicker in a tantalizing half-light of dusk or moonlight. The bat was all brown, had little pointed ears, long wings, and no detectable tail – only a round abrupt stump of behind. It was about the size of a small house-mouse, possibly.

In the afternoon again visited Dr. Morgan's Lambourn River stretch. The day was calm and warm and sunny and cloudy-sunny. The water-keeper, Parry said (a) much time is given to checking the growth of weeds, the open gravelly patches being mostly due to this kind of management (b) the river has much muddy bottom lower down (c) there are no fresh-water mussels, no coarse fish, a few kingfishers. He was astonished at my finding a young bullhead.

The main shallow water vegetation is certainly water crowfoot, supported by *Apium*. In the deeper parts below the hut, there is a good deal of the submerged opposite-ovate-leaved *Potamogeton*. Today I (a) observed the river (b) swept marginal vegetation above and below the hut (c) dredged below.

{reverse side}

31 AUGUST 1943.

231 *Ashfordia granulata* (Alder)

31 AUGUST 1943. NEWBURY***

There is a little island in the shallow upper stretch, covered with thick vegetation, with tall willows behind it on the far bank. J. {= Joy?} saw here a water-vole crunching stems of tall *Sparganium* (others had been pulled down and nibbled in the stream, above the island); and I watched it eat some water-cress (or *Apium* ?). Then saw a second vole picking out bits of plant that had drifted down and caught against a boom. Then the first vole pulled up water-crowfoot and feasted on it.

Two moorhens on the bank. A robin also visited the muddy margin. Trout were rising with the loud plops. There were some small pale mayflies about; one swept from marginal plants. 229

Sweeping at 2 – 3 ft. in tall coarse belt of marginal *Carex*, *Epilobium*, etc. produced a rich fauna of spiders, bugs, small beetles, and flies etc. (not kept); 1 small *Succinea*, apparently young *putris* L. It had only three whorls, but the complete *putris* shape; amber colour of shell, white foot (but grey tentacles), very fine striae on shell. No other *Succineas*, except a few very young. 230

Also abundant a very small hairy five-whorled snail; with mottled shell. 231

Two caddis in single specimens (a) large, wings brown and grey marked, with two clear cross-zones, yellow brown legs, green abdomen (b) medium bright brown 227

Also very many very small caddis, brown or dark, very active. 228

No dragonflies seen today, of any stage! Beating some willow trees near the river produced 2 rolled-leaf-wing stone-flies *Leuctra*, like C.E. 155 (specimens lost). 232
Also many small caddis flies like C.E. 228.

{reverse side}

31 AUGUST 1943.

1 SEPTEMBER 1943.

31 AUGUST 1943. NEWBURY***

There was no time to sweep thoroughly on the marsh plants below the Hut. Found a very strange caddis-fly, very black with wings set flatter than usual, and whole body held rather flat and elongate as it sat on a bur-reed leaf (*Sparganium erectum*). Although the mid and hind legs are normal, the front legs are clothed with long black hairs like those of the wings, and are held in crooked position in front like calipers or the front appendages of a scorpion or crayfish. The prominent eyes are brown, or else black or bluish black, though the front tarsi are mainly light-coloured. The antennae are extremely slender, banded dark and light, and reach beyond the tip of the wings. 235

Dredging in the water-weeds at the edge of the river below the hut produced numerous small mayfly nymphs of more than one kind, some minute dipterous larvae, *Gammarus*, one small *Planorbis*, and a fish leech (*Geometra piscicola*). 234
Again; no dragon-flies, beetles or bugs.

1 SEPTEMBER 1943. NEWBURY.

At dusk we watched about a dozen water-bats, presumably **Daubenton's**, wheeling and flying swallow-like over the slow Kennet, by the new ferro-concrete bridge on the edge of the town. There is shelter from walls, buildings and trees here. The only insects that could be seen flying were swarms of small flies. An occasional dim white flash of belly could be seen.

{reverse side}

2 SEPTEMBER 1943.

2 SEPTEMBER 1943. NEWBURY.

Today was warm and sunny, and the Lambourn River by Morgan's hut was flat and glassy, and the banks are flanked by a dense belt of riotous tall plants to act as a screen for fishermen casting from the path. The willow herb is *Epilobium hirsutum*, the other main components being a very tall *Carex*, *Spiraea ulmaria*, *Phragmites*, (*Scrophularia* species) *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Inula dysenterica*, *Lythrum salicaria galericulata*, *Scutellaria*. (A little *Mimulus langsdorfii*).

Today I collected thoroughly in the river, again finding a complete absence of all Hemiptera, large-water-beetles, or dragonflies of any stage. The bed is composed of rather rough not-flat stones not more than an inch or two in diameter. Much of this is free from plants, though there is some silt lodged in the stones below. In some patches there are tufts of dark filamentous alga on the stones, but no moss. The silt builds up in esker-like patches, and may be 6 – 8 in. deep in places. It is covered with water-weeds: *Ranunculus*, *Callitriche*, *Apium*, and a little *Potamogeton* that is either *perfoliatus* or *praelongus*. Tansley cites Butcher as giving for the "moderately silted" river (between "torrential" and "silted") *Ranunculus fluitans* as one of the chief dominants. In some weed patches at the margin of the stream, large clusters of *Lemna trisulca* hang about. The silt is mostly clean, though darkish to light brown, and only occasionally it smells of gas when disturbed. The current is quite fast, though nowhere violent, and the depth runs perhaps from very shallow sand-bars up to 2-3 feet in the part above the hut. It feels rather cold.

The water vole and the two moorhens were seen again. The format has several lavatories on the bank, but no burrows found.

{reverse side}

2 SEPTEMBER 1943.

240 *Cottus gobio* L.

241 1 *Hygrobates naicus* (Johnston) ♀, with 10 + eggs.
1 *Megapus spinipes* (C.L. Koch) ♀

242 2 *Helmis maugei* Bed. (= *aenea*)

2 SEPTEMBER 1943. NEWBURY***

Collected weeds by sweeping with my coarse strainer and sorting in white tin plate. Except for *Gammarus* and small mayfly nymphs, the fauna was extremely sparse. *Potamogeton* leaves had rather a lot of small Dipterous larvae.

1 Medium-sized thin <i>Planorbis</i> (lost).	
Several very small <i>Planorbis</i>	
Small <i>Physa</i> , a few – <i>Physa fontinalis</i> (L.)	235
1 <i>Limnaea pereger</i> (Müll.)	235
1 very young <i>Asellus</i>	(n.k.)
<i>Gammarus pulex</i> Degeer very abundant	236
Small mayfly nymphs	237
Small dipterous larvae, 3 <i>Simulium</i> having sucker at one end. Abundant. Including red. <i>Chironomus</i> .	238
Several caddis case larvae made of plants	239
Small bullhead (several, one kept) <i>Cottus gobio</i> L.	240
1 small (very young) silver-bellied fish	(n.k.)
2 mottled-yellow water-mites (preserved in Viets' mixture)	241
2 small blackish crawling beetles with long legs and striated elytra, at base of weeds.	242

{reverse side}

2 SEPTEMBER 1943.

248 1 *Lebertia* species

2 SEPT. 1943. NEWBURY***

Collected on stony bottom by scooping stones (and a little silt) with the white plate, and afterwards shaking stones individually. The fauna was different from that of the weeds, having quite distinct caddis, and partly mayfly, fauna, no snails. In common were abundant *Gammarus* and probably some of the mayfly nymphs. There were small dipterous larvae. Except for shrimps and mayflies, rather sparse.

Small <i>Baetis</i> -like mayfly nymphs	243
Small broad-headed, flat-limbed, marbled-limbed mayfly nymph.	244
1 <i>Rhyacophila</i> caddis larva	245
Several grit-cases caddis larvae, curved small, and straight larvae.	246
Three small dappled water beetles, active swimmers.	247

Three curious small larvae almost certainly this species, at same spot. Projection in front of head proves them Hydroporine. Description by Balfour-Browne (1940) – yellow head, 1 and 2 thoracic segments dark banded, 3 and 1 abdominal. 1 clear yellow, 2-5 dark, rest pale. Swollen central body, exactly describes except it has also some darkenings of thoracic 3 and abdominal 1. Could not be other species, as these do not occur here. 247A

Beetles are all *Oreodytes rivalis* Gyll. (Name in N. Joy's book, *Graptodytes sanmarki* Sahlb. was given 7 years later but is used on Continent, *rivalis* being treated as mountain variety. Genus difference is Balfour-Browne v. all comers!)

1 yellow-mottled water-mite (preserved in Viets' Mixture)	248
Small bullheads < 2 in. Several (n.k.) (Dr. Morgan says bullheads can do considerable damage to trout redds in the spawning season)	
Small Diptera larva	249
3 banded beetle larvae	
Stonefly nymph	247B
<i>Gammarus</i>	247C

{reverse side}

2 SEPTEMBER 1943.

250 1 ♂ each of *Leuctra fusciventris* Stephens. C. Elton det. 1949.
251

2 SEPTEMBER 1943. NEWBURY***

Sweeping and beating bank vegetation at 2-3 ft. gave 1 roll-winged stone-fly, and 1 small mayfly. 250

One roll-winged stone-fly also beaten off an ash by the parallel stream that flanks the Wood. 251

8.15 p.m. We watched **Daubenton's bats** by the bridge at Newbury, flying socially in the cool dusk, seldom rising higher than 10-20 feet. But a pipistrelle was flying at 15 -25 feet. Then a **noctule** flew at tree-top height over the river for some time, steady fast flutter like a puffin, with sudden dips and turns, or at 25-40 feet. Slight rain did not check these bats very much.

{Separate page interchelated as page 119 (cont.)}

Copy of letter from Dr. M.T. Morgan.

PORT OF LONDON HEALTH AUTHORITY

5, Church Passage,
Guildhall,
London, E.C. 2.

Your ref: MO/M 31st January, 1946.

Dear Elton,

Many thanks for your letter of the 29th. I hope you have recovered satisfactorily from the 'flu.

I will arrange to have some of the records sent to you for perusal and shall welcome any suggestions you have to make for a reduction in the amount of clerical work required.

Your grayling note is interesting. No doubt grayling take bullheads and also minnows on occasion, but my impression is that they do not act predatorily to anything like the extent as do trout and that their food is for the most part insect. For instance, I have never seen grayling chasing minnows and must confess that I have never caught a grayling with a minnow, though I daresay it is quite possible. Grayling, as you know, tend to live in shoals and do not often hunt on their own.

As for grayling absorbing shrews, this must be most unusual in England – indeed, I have never heard of such a thing. The Russian grayling must be some fish!

Do please come and see me if you have a few minutes to spare when next you are in town.

Yours sincerely,

Signed... M.T. Morgan.

{Separate page interchelated as page 119A}

COPY of letter from Dr. M.T. Morgan

{not dated}

Your further note on the Lambourn is most interesting. There is no doubt in my mind that you can never produce heavy trout without snails – even shrimp in amounts will not fatten them up to anything like the same extent. The trouble is to get the snails growing abundantly and for this, as you say, numerous back-waters and bays full of weeds are required. There is, as a matter of fact, a considerable number of feeders draining into the River but the water in them is unfortunately comparatively stagnant owing to the height of the river maintained for the purpose of generating electric power.

Furthermore the river has suffered from a superabundance of ribbon weed which produces nothing except reed smut and there is not nearly enough ranunculus, starwort and oenanthe. We hope to correct this by eradicating the ribbon weed (not an easy job) and by replanting with good weed.

It is alarming to find the abundance of may-fly nymphs since may-fly is not a welcome insect from the fishing point of view. There was a very considerable hatch of may-fly this year and it looks as if the Lambourn is going to become a may-fly river for a period. I imagine you did not find any crayfish.

To return to snails, breeding them is not so easy a job as J.C. Mottram and others suggest. However, I am going to have a try at it next spring and I am going to ask you to come down again at that time and give me your valued advice.

Again many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Signed... M.T. Morgan

12 SEPTEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

Walked by the canal, usual stretch. No beetles observed in water docks or bur-reed.

15 SEPTEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

A small swarm of mosquitoes persists at 98c still, at dusk. The flat has been almost completely free from mosquitoes this summer, and especially from *Theobaldias*, and none of us has any recognisable bites including Catherine. All, or all practically all, mosquitoes have been collected and kept. In the last four days a few have come in: there have been very heavy rains but it has not got particularly cold.

21 SEPTEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

A few days ago the Ministry of Agriculture sent some tiny brownish-yellow ants that they wanted identified. They were *Monomorium pharaonis*, a house pest, from the tropics, now a rather widespread nuisance in Britain. 252

Within ten minutes of writing back, I was rung up by the local Sanitary Inspector telling of

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21 SEPTEMBER 1943.

24 SEPTEMBER 1943

252A ♀ *Tegenaria parietina* Fourcy (W.S. Bristowe det. 1944).

25 SEPTEMBER 1943

21 SEPTEMBER 1943 OXFORD***

an infestation of the same species in the kitchens of Oriel College! It is very small, and can only be controlled by feeding poisoned syrup bait to the workers, who kill the queen by feeding it to her. R.B. Freeman (who confirmed the Oriel outbreak) used thallium successfully in syrup, in an Oxford private house infestation.

24 SEPTEMBER, OXFORD.

H.V. Thompson brought in another very large *Tegenaria* from his house in Abbey Road.

252A

25 SEPTEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

All through the War years I have been keeping up a practically complete mounted collection of every mosquito found in 98c top flat, including a number coming onto the top inside window at the top of the staircase outside the flat. Except for a certain number of *Anopheles maculipennis* and *Theobaldia annulata*, I have not hitherto had time to identify the numerous other specimens. Today I caught a live one and found it to be ♀ *Culex pipiens* L., the species one would expect to be far commonest. The very short palpi make it a non-Anopheline.

253

254

The absence of well-marked rings on the legs puts 11 species out of the running. But the knees of the femora and tibiae have light scale patches that make this part of the key confusing at first. (These are absent from the closely allied *Culex molestus*, which also does not have the bands on abdomen constricted laterally, and has practically no dark spots along mid-ventral line). The completeness of the 6 abdominal bands knocks out all other species except *Culex apicalis*; and 6 species of *Aedes*. But the latter have pointed, not blunt, ends to the abdomen, besides often striking individual patterns. *Apicalis* has the pale bands on the posterior of each segment and is very rare, though recorded from Berks. The books do not say that *pipiens* has metallic green eyes, with a touch of reddish sheen, or that the

{reverse side}

25 SEPTEMBER 1943

29 SEPTEMBER 1943

25 SEPTEMBER 1943 OXFORD***

abdomen from below is light translucent brownish. At rest, the legs stick up behind, but the body is more or less horizontal. When hibernating, the books say it squats, which some of our mosquitoes were doing in recent cold nights.

I also found today an *Anopheles maculipennis* Meig. ♀ which had not fed. n.k.
It has green metallic eyes with no red sheen in them. The long palpi, making the proboscis look trifid, nail it as *Anopheles*. The spotted wings (caused by closed clustering of scales), pale yellowish top-knot on head, patch of fringing pale scales at the end of the wings, brown colour separate *maculipennis* from the other three species. The legs seem a good deal longer than those of *C. pipiens*, and the body (as well as the legs) is held at an angle. There are no conspicuous body patterns; except for the dark scales on the main wing veins, the general ground colour is similar to that of *pipiens*. *Maculipennis* bites man, *pipiens* doesn't, cases attributed to the latter being really *molestus*. Only two varieties of *mac.* in G.B.: *messeae* found wild mainly inland, not biting in autumn and winter because it has made a large fat-body; *atroparvus* mainly coastal, in water up to high brackish, hibernates less completely, bites man more. Former mostly hibernates away from man. Latter is mainly British malaria carrier.

29 SEPTEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

When I went with Julian Rzóška today to see his mouse experiments in the Buffer Depot near Wolvercote Cemetery, we also visited a straw stacked close by, which had a small colony of *Rattus norvegicus*. This wheat straw is obviously poor food. In some very long uncut grass near the rick

{reverse side}

29 SEPTEMBER 1943.

Prof. L.W. Grensted helped me to identify:
54 (certain or probable) *Cepaea nemoralis* (L.)
2 *Theba cantiana* (Montagu)
1 *Trichia hispida* (L.) or *striolata* (C. Pfeiffer)

22 OCTOBER 1943.

29 SEPTEMBER 1943 OXFORD***

a rat run radiated out. In it was a small pile of snail shells gnawed by rats and empty. Under a pile of rusty tins near by was a very large midden of snail shells, also gnawed and empty, and with the tooth marks roughly visible on the broken shell edges; also some cut heads of wheat straw and old rat dung. Most of the shells seem to be *Cepaea nemoralis*, no *hortensis* identified. Mostly adult, a few smaller. None except the *Trichia* were very small. 256

22 OCTOBER 1943. OXFORD DISTRICT.

Went out ratting to Pat Venables' poison sites, round Hinksey, Boar's Hill and Cumnor. The autumn-blown leaves still hang onto trees and shrubs, and our lovely yellow, brown, orange and crimson. By Medley boats a kingfisher flew into some low trees. At an isolated barn below Cumnor Hurst there was a rat colony, and there was a network of runways among nettles and grass. The big tussocks (rather after the fashion of tufted Aira) were cocksfoot grass, *Dactylis glomerata*, and the rats had been chewing off the lower stalks and leaves, leaving ragged ends to the bits left lying in the runways – quite unlike the clean work of voles and all different lengths. But there were no snail shells. A crab-apple tree had runs and a hole near it, but the few apples left lying did not seem to have been chewed; though Middleton says he has found rats eating many crab apples in the Burford area.

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9 NOVEMBER 1943.

c. 3 DECEMBER 1943.

{Appears on this page but belongs at bottom of page 124}

they fly off and disgorge seeds... They flew only a few yards to a plane tree... Popular as this fruit is with birds, I have never seen seedlings coming up anywhere.” (p.).

9 NOVEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

When sweeping up the wet matted leaves under the trees on the lime walk in Corpus garden, I found a great many medium-sized whitish earthworms active outstretched from their holes. This was at 3-4 p.m. on a sunny afternoon: perhaps the exclusion of light by the pile of leaves in enabled the worms to work by day.

There was a large, very dark-mottled *Tegenaria* lurking under an open pent-house just outside Corpus greenhouse. 257 n.k.

♀ *T. atrica* (C.L. Koch). (W.S. Bristowe det. 1944)

c. 3 DECEMBER 1943. OXFORD.

The house has a thick frontage of *Pyracanthus*, spiny, dark green leaves, masses of large orange berries. A song-thrush carried one away in its beak. (Noted this again c. 28 December).

Probably *Crataegus pyracantha* (syn. *Pyracantha coccinea*). "They hold their brilliant berries a long time in autumn and winter if the birds spare them." (W.P. Wright (1941). "An illustrated encyclopaedia of gardening." Everyman's edition p. 119). 257A

"The rather dry fruits of... *Pyracantha angustifolia*, *P. crenulata*, are also much neglected here, though *P. coccinea*, perhaps a little softer-fleshed, is altogether cleared before the winter is over, so that at Kew it is necessary to net the bushes to preserve the fruit." (H.N. Ridley (1930). "The dispersal of plants throughout the world." p. 415). "The Missel{sic = mistle}-Thrush... I have also seen it in Kew Gardens feeding on... *Pyracantha coccinea*." (p. 473). "The Blackbird.... The sweet juicy berries of the mountain ash, or Rowan tree (*Pyrus aucuparia*), are cleared off a tree in my garden within a few days of being ripe, while those of *Pyracantha coccinea*, which actually touches the tree, and ripens its showy fruit a fortnight later, though sometimes attacked in September, is often not cleared of fruit till the middle of the winter.... Of *Pyracantha coccinea*, blackbirds eat the fruit very largely, at intervals, swallowing as many as from 17 to 30 in succession, after which they fly off and disgorge seeds.... They flew only a few yards to a plane tree.... Popular as this fruit is with birds, I have never seen seedlings coming up anywhere." (p.).

{reverse side}

15 FEBRUARY 1944.

21 FEBRUARY 1944.

23 FEBRUARY 1944.

15 FEBRUARY 1944. OXFORD.

The static water tank in Corpus garden has now a large population of *Chaoborus* (*Corethra*) larvae, as well as *Asellus*, and small Corixids.

21 FEBRUARY 1944. OXFORD.

This is said to be one of the big waxwing invasion years. Today I went to see a small party of these birds reported to be in a garden in Wolvercote – Woodstock Road roundabout. There were three birds, in the trees and shrubs, and flying over also to a roadside hedge. They were quite tame, very smartly plumaged, and the black face, slate-fawn back and waxy quills, were clearly seen.

23 FEBRUARY 1944. (NEWBURY)

Dr. M.T. Morgan said that since the New Year a factory had dumped 500 lb. of sodium cyanide in a side stream flowing into the Kennet River! This has killed all the fish for seven miles (Lambourn, of course, unaffected): huge pike several feet long, large chubb and barbel, trout. Large numbers of bullheads. A great and catastrophic mortality from HCN. The fish float as long as there is life in them, and sink and stay on the bottom when they die. The invertebrates seemed quite unaffected. The dangers to which rivers are subject are also shown by Prof. Laurie's story told me lately, that a firm released a ton of milk into the River Dovey near Aberystwyth one night, because their plant could not handle it.

{reverse side}

7 MARCH 1944.

7 MARCH 1944. OXFORD.

This evening I gave a lecture to the Oxford Ornithological Society on "Ecological Succession", which seemed to interest the younger people at any rate. Afterwards W.B. Alexander mentioned that he remembered a pasture slope near Hastings which was then colonised by badgers. Masses of ragwort grew on the earths, then hawthorn scrub (and rabbits). Believes that some special action had to be taken about it.

{reverse side}

8 APRIL 1944.

8 APRIL 1944. OXFORD.

Last week I noted *Gyrinus* and to copulating *Dytiscus* in the Corpus static water tank, as a result of the cover being partly removed lately.

The papers record that March was the driest one for 27 years (since 1929), over most of G.B. and N. Ireland, but especially S.E. England and E. Midlands, London had 2 mm., against an average of 43. Hebrides more than average.

{reverse side}

9 APRIL 1944.

Fixed in Bouin, transfer to glacial acetic, mounted in medium in slides.

10 APRIL 1944.

A. armata

9 APRIL 1944. OXFORD.

At home the *Andrena armata* holes are open in the dry sandy-clay of the front beds, lawn and edge of path. I saw one ♀. The only blossom in the front garden is pear, but I saw none of these species at it. The ♀ was just sunning on the path, and the score or so of holes were unvisited.

The **sycamore** in the front garden has bursting-tight green, but still unopened buds. These all have half a dozen or more greed aphids sitting all over the bud, apparently some adults (wingless). Thus this important leaf-sucker of the sycamore antedates the opening of the leaves it will afterwards invade. Perhaps autumn eggs are laid near the buds. 259

10 APRIL 1944. OXFORD.

I did a complete walking census of the main lawn in front of the University Museum, but found only two *Andrena* craters open on the grass (north half, and none round the edge of the drive). No bees seen. The pink double cherry is not yet in flower. Last year I remember the bees disappeared very abruptly at the end of the month or in May, at the same time as some weather vagary that I did not note at the time. The lawn has not been touched yet by the gardeners, and the winter's litter of sticks lies on it. (I lightly brushed in the two bee craters with my hand, to facilitate later counts).

{reverse side}

18 APRIL 1944.

21 APRIL 1944.

25 APRIL 1944.

that showed no further activity) gave:

South half <u>lawn</u> :	145	<u>edge</u> :	3:	Total: 148
North half lawn:	194	<u>edge</u> :	7	201
	339		10	349

18 APRIL 1944. OXFORD.

Repeated the 10 April census of *Andrena armata* craters on main Museum lawn, in fine weather. A few had been trodden on or levelled by rain, but I counted all except two from last time that had not been re-cratered.

S. half, main lawn	114	
N. half, main lawn	70	
Round edge of main lawn (Outside iron boundary)	22	nearly all in the N. half
<hr/>		
	206	
<hr/>		

Most of the lawn ones are on the side nearest the main outer road. I think there is no confusion with worm-casts. Of course it is circumstantial assumption that they are all *armata*.

21 APRIL 1944. OXFORD.

Notes on snakes, lizards, frogs, toads:

L.S.V. Venables says he found a grass snake near Binsey with a huge toad inside it.

B.W. Tucker says grass snakes seldom eat mammals, but mostly eat both frogs and toads, and that after a fairly decent meal they vomit their food animal if disturbed or caught, so that the prey can be identified. He also says blindworms are scarce on the Berkshire side of the Thames loop.

Sir R. Livingstone saw a blindworm today on the cowslip-covered railway embankment at Hampton Gay. Wilson says blindworms can often be seen on the banks of the River Evenlode (lower stretch, fishing).

There are sometimes numerous toads, in the garden of the Baden-Powells, Stone End, Hinksey Hill, which is close to Bagley Wood, but half a mile from the river system.

25 APRIL 1944. OXFORD.

Andrena crater census on main Museum lawn (ignoring some – not many – holes

(cont. opposite)

that showed no further activity) gave:

South half <u>lawn</u> :	145 <u>edge</u> :	3:	Total: 148
North half lawn:	194 <u>edge</u> :	7	201
<hr/>			
	339	10	349
<hr/>			

{reverse side}

25 APRIL 1944.

25 APRIL 1944. OXFORD ***

Andrena census... The lawn was mown today for the first time this spring – immediately after my count. It would have been difficult to go on with the counts if the grass had grown much longer. There are a good many craters (not counted) in the edge of the bare earth of the bed between the lawn and the outer road.

At 6 p.m. (D.S.T.) many bees (all *armata* ♀) were cruising over the mowed lawn, on which most of the holes were filled up, and all craters flattened out. No males to be seen, and neither sex at this hour on the pink double cherry, whose flowers a cool breeze was ruffling. I counted c. 35 bees in sight at once, and many more were crawling on the ground, some quietly digging at closed holes, and one with yellow pollen loads on the hind legs.

{reverse side}

2 MAY 1944.

10 MAY 1944.

2 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

Repeated the (4th) *Andrena armata* sensors on the front Museum lawn: detailed figures accidentally lost, but total c. 74, with a majority in the N. half, and including <10 in the N. drive, none in the S. drive edge.

Besides these, a small colony of 7 was missing until today: they were in some bare soil under the end of the fire-pipe. No *Adrena* seen today (which was cool and windy) or yesterday (warm), but one sluggish on the ground, with no pollen. The double cherry finished flowering a day or so ago. There is no other suitable source within sight of the lawn. Where are the bees? Where do they go? Today most of the crater mounds were quite small: a number of open holes with no loose soil are present and were not counted.

There is no doubt that the greatest density of holes is in that part which gets shade from the afternoon sun from the trees by the road. There is less human tramping here too.... Last weekend the Home Guard did a dummy bomb-throwing on the lawn which may have destroyed some bee homes.

“Activity” is also very low now in the *Andrena* colonies in front of 98c. N.B. Here also there is partial shade. I think this may operate in preventing soil from baking too hard for excavation.

10 MAY 1944. BAGLEY.

Took 8 students of the advanced zoology class to Bottom Copse in Bagley Wood, to collect animals under logs, in the sycamore (oak) mercury wood and adjoining open valley. The badgers seem

{reverse side}

10 MAY 1944.

C.E. field det.

10 MAY 1944. BAGLEY***

active, and there is a well-marked path from their buries to the stream below. The narrow paths through the dense dog's mercury are very conspicuous.

In the dry ride on the way through Spring Corpse saw a Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Argynnis euphrosyne*) flying and settling.

Hermaeophaga damage to mercury leaves already pronounced.

{reverse side}

12 MAY 1944.

14 MAY 1944.

267 *Cetonia aurata* L., the large brilliant metallic green rose beetle. (The other, duller, species, is not recorded for Oxfordshire V.C.H.: *C. cuprea*). Its larva is distinguished from *Melolontha* by having rows of reddish-brown hairs; and a chitinous brown spot on each side of prothorax segments.

268 Kept in Tullgren funnel (no light or heat) covered with another, all closed in. "Emergences" as below:

Porcellio scaber (R.B. Freeman det.)

1 *Gnathocerus cornutus* F. (C.E. det.) a small oblong shining brown Tenebrionid beetle, with lines of punctuations down the elytra. N. Joy says "under bark, chiefly elm", and Oxon. V.C.H. gives Oxford and Summertown as the known Oxon. localities!!

Small beetle larva *Loricula elegantula* (Bärensprung) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956 = 1 nymphal lichen bug

Scolytus destructor Ol. Specimens rather smaller than normal.
12 adult (2 pupa skins)

1 *Anobium punctatum* (Degeer)

1 *Rhinosimus planirostris* (Fab.) C.E. det. 1952.

10.9.1944:

C.E. 268A. Specimens of **elm** leaves.

268B. Sections of pollard shoots, showing inner brown ring in the wood, due to elm disease fungus.

12 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

R.B. Freeman brought me five species of woodlice that are characteristically garden rather than wild ones in Oxford, collected today in St. John's College garden: 266

Trichoniscus roseus Koch. Bright pink.

Porcellio dilatatus Brandt. The only *P.* that is flattened-extended like *Oniscus*, but *P.* has 2 j., *O.* has 3 j, flagellum, and *P.* has tubercles on back.

Porcellio laevis Latreille, fairly large, lovely orange elongate small spots in rosettes, on back.

Porcellionides (= *Metotoptonorthus*) *pruinus* Brandt. Rather long hind legs, white-marked ant.

Armadillidium speyeri

14 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

In the Leslies' garden, 9 Chadlington Road, there are numbers of huge beetle larvae in their compost heap of grass + leaves + adco. 267
They lie curled into a



, but occasionally take heart and uncurl with strong biting jaws. The body is white and translucent swollen grey at the hind end. They may be the large green rose-beetle, which does occur in this garden.

Some of their small pollarded elms have been dying, perhaps of elm disease, as dead ends of gnarled branches show bark-beetle galleries. I sawed off 18 in. of this at c. 10 ft. up to keep for emergencies. On the sycamore at 98c aphids are beginning their fast increase. There are partly green ones, wingless; but mostly black, winged ones in groups 268

{reverse side}

14 MAY 1944.

16 MAY 1944.

14 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

By which are large numbers of yellow-green young, probably born viviparously. During the last week house sparrows have hunted constantly for insect life among the leaves – (to feed their young in the ivy on the back of the house, I think). Yesterday two blue tits also.

16 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

Analysis of the Oxfordshire V.C.H. (article by O.W. Richards) shows the enormous importance to ♀ and queen *Bombus* of the flowers of *Lamium album*, the white dead nettle: *terrestris*, *lucorum*, *lapidarius*, *pratense*, *ruderalis*, *hortorum*, *subterraneum*, *ruderalis*, *sylvarum*, *agrarium*, *humilis* – the 11 species that are not extremely rare. Druce (Flora of Berkshire) and Anne Pratt mention its importance for bumble-bees. Yet Tansley hardly mentions it in our natural vegetation, as it is a plant of hedgerow bottoms and field edges and waste places! Other important flowers for ♀ and queen of many *Bombus* in our district are ground ivy, bluebell, hawthorn, clover, hedge wound-wort (*Stachys sylvatica*): comfrey for *ruderalis*, *sylvarum* and *agrarium* and *pratense*: also early sallow for some queens. ♂ go chiefly on thistles about July onwards.

A.G. Tansley says (letter 24.5.44) he knows no natural community in G.B. to which *Lamium album* belongs. (Costés “Flore de la France” gives “haies et chemins”, as its habitat). Admits that there are too many such species, and that “alien” is only used for species of which we know the recent history.

A.R. Clapham says (17.6.44) he has found *L. album* in lists of montane, rather open forests in S.E. Europe e.g. Caucasus, but not in C. & W. European community lists: it was therefore presumably introduced after man made suitable niches. Its habit of flowering nearly all winter, but finishing by June, suggests it is a Tertiary relict used to an equable climate (cf. also ivy flowers in autumn – another bee food!)

Hegi's “Flora von Mittel-Europa” says it is on man-made habitats, and it is unknown when it first came there. Distribution from “Europe to Himalaya, Korea, Japan. Introduced to N. America where it is widespread and may be found even {in} natural habitat like stream ravines or on trees (pollard willows, black poplars etc.). In submontane or montane zones in Europe, often damp meadows, with *Urtica dioica*, *Galeopsis* species *Mentha longifolia* etc.

{reverse side}

21 MAY 1944.

270A On May 26 and some later dates collected thrush-smashed shells of this species on C.C.C. garden path – eaten by **song-thrush** that had visited the garden this summer.

Helix aspersa Müll

21 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

Collected two large brown snails in the frame at C.C.C. garden.

270

Lime-tree begins to get ready for flowering, just as the sycamore flowers go over – there is not quite an overlap. Lime gives closer leaf-cover for birds than elm (wych), ash or sycamore.

270A

21 MAY 1944. OXFORD***

A large shining brown pupa found under a box of chrysanthemums in the peat moss of C.C.C. garden frame, was bred out to be the large yellow-underwing moth (*Triphaena* or *Graphiphora pronuba* L.), det. by E.B. Ford (not kept). This species, a/c to Meyrick (c. 1927) lives on *Rumex*, *Taraxacum*, *Brassica*, etc.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 2.

22 May 1944 - 13 October 1945.

C.E. 270 C-525.

Red ticks³ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles⁴ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means top flat or garden 98c Banbury Road.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

³ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

⁴ Edited to A or OO

{Nothing on front side of sheet}

{reverse side}

22 MAY 1944. COMBE.

22 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

24 MAY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD.

28 MAY 1944. OXFORD

271 2 *Galerucella nymphaeae* (L.) var. *sagittariae* (Gyllenhal) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

272 *Phyllobius virideaeris* (Laicharting) P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

30 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

22 MAY 1944. COMBE.

C.H. Wilson of C.C.C., who fishes on the Evenlode, gave me a fine fresh specimen of a chubb (*Squalius cephalus* (L.)) from the Evenlode at Combe. At this season it is all silvery, and lacks the beautiful red-browns of the winter, but the fins have some colour. It weighed 1065 g. The gut was crammed with animal food fragments, including large mayflies. 270C n.k.

22 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

A serious infestation of clothes moths (*Tineola bisselliella* Hummel) in our coat and dress wardrobe in the hall. Practically no larvae, but scores of pupae had hatched simultaneously and I killed over 70 moths. Specimens kept of the moths, and the empty pupae cases projecting from cocoons spun from the woollens of different colours; and of these silken larval tubes. They badly destroyed a tweed skirt (wool); a velvet dress (silk), and one or two other garments including dress trousers (wool) and another wool-tweedish coat. It was at the back, where little air circulates. 270 B

24 MAY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD.

A vast number of *Hermaeophaga mercurialis* can be swept by the net, and the mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) in Bottom Copse sycamore-oak-ash wood is already heavily perforated.

28 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

Walked by the canal. There are very few *Galerucella* on the water docks this summer – only one or two adults, and six egg patches seen on six clumps. 271
The counts of eggs on five patches were 20, 20, 22, 22, 25, Aug. 22. The dock leaves are almost undamaged – quite different from last year's destruction. A small emerald green weevil was seen sparsely on the leaves of several clumps. 272

30 MAY 1944. OXFORD.

Harry Thompson brought a jumping zebra-spider with fly prey, that he caught outside the B.A.P. animal house, on the wire-gauze door. n.k. 273A

Fly – ♀ *Musca domestica* L. B. Macpherson det. 1954.

{reverse side}

18 JUNE 1944. OXFORD.

275 2 queen *Lasius niger* (L.) M.C. Brian det. 1960.

18 JUNE 1944. OXFORD.

Walked by the canal: hot after much cold winds. No *Galerucella* seen on water dock leaves, which show little trace of rusty "erosion", though some large pieces eaten or pecked out. One leaf had a green cuckoo-spit bug in white foam. It seems as if last year's beetle outbreak prevented these water docks from flowering, which they are beginning to do lushly this year. In the axils of the flower buds and among the buds are black aphids, attended by small black ants. 274 275

{reverse side}

18 JUNE 1944. OXFORD.

Chorthippus

277. 3 *Aldrovandiella* {= *Thripomorpha*} *coxendix* (Verrall) L.W. Grensted det. 1953.

12-14 JUNE 1944 (YES!!). FIFIELD, OXON.

278 *Porcellio pictus* Brandt & Ratzeburg. Det. by R.B. Freeman 1944, who says this is one of their chief habitats.

279 *Clausilia rugosa* Drap. (1 is rather shorter & wider. Confirmed by L.W. Grensted).

Helix aspersa Müll. Young. Active after rain coming down to feed on ground. (n.k.)

Trichia striolata (C. Pfeiffer).

280 *Helix aspersa* (n.k.) adult & young

Trichia striolata (C. Pfeiffer).

Oxychilus cellarius (Müll.) L.W. Grensted det.

281 *Porcellionides* (*Metotoponorthus*) *pruinosis* Brandt. R.B.F. det.

18 JUNE 1944. OXFORD****

At one or two local stretches on the canal bank, at the Aristotle Lane part, young grasshoppers were jumping in the grass, which varies from 6 in. to 2 ft. and is interspersed with herbs. 276

On a patch of nettles and other plants at one place on the bank were swarms of small black flies. 277

12-14 JUNE 1944 (YES!!). FIFIELD, OXON.

Stayed at a house which has a loose dry-stone Cotswold limestone wall, enclosing vegetable and flower garden, and an orchard with long grass and vegetable beds.

On the dry-stone orchard wall, at 3 ft., and a flat stones, were woodlice – very active pale yellowish leggy ones, superficially like *Philoscia*. 278 (12th)

In the same situation were numerous small snails. 279 (12th)

In plant rubbish at the base of the wall were huge numbers of snails and woodlice, of which only a selection taken: 280 (13th)

Under stones among orchard grass, were various snails and many woodlice, of which a selection made: 281 (13th) 282 (14th)

C.E. 282. Under a board *Cochlicopa lubrica* (Müll.) (See over) 283 (14th)
Trichia striolata (C. Pfeiffer) young L.W. Grinstead det. n.k.
T. hispida (L.). y. – very dense hooked hairs. L.W. Grinstead det.

C.E. 283: *Porcellionides pruinosus* Brandt. Elongate, blue-grey. R.B. Freeman det. 1944.
Trichoniscus roseus Koch. Bright pink.

{reverse side of page 6}

12-14 JUNE 1944. OXFORD.

- 285 Small specimen of *Chrysopa ventralis* Curtis. This one 25 mm span, Killington giving 24-34, 30 average 2nd antenna joint not dark. Wing veins not as *carnea* (see C.E. 214). Separate from other small ones by dark spots between antennae, and dark spots at base of wing costa and annulated palpi. Easy one! K. gives deciduous (also pine) woods and hedges, but does not cite orchards. Larva carries debris, winters, pupates in May and emerges in a week or two. Winter larvae may die of *Penicillium* mould. Has parasite. Europe Siberia Mediterranean. One of common species in south G.B., also wide-spread, but little Scotland. He gives Oxon.
- 284 *Chrysopa septempunctata* Wesmael. Wings spread 34 mm (the range is given as 28-40). 2nd antenna joints not dark. Wing veins not as *carnea*. Resembles *ventralis* in dark spot between antennae but has none at base of wing costa. It is very green and stays so when dry; no prominent abdominal marks. Wing margin almost straight (though with a faint suggestion of excision like *flava*, not mentioned by K., but shown in his picture: *flava* is also large, but fades yellow when dried, and has not the black head spot. It is yellow-green rather than deep). Characteristic of gardens and orchards: fruit trees, roses, beans, etc., also hedges, woods-haw, elm, lime, oak. Some pre-pupae make summer brood, others overwinter. Larvae that hatch first eat unhatched eggs in same brood! Central England (not Scotland). Probably Holarctic and India and Indo-China.

12-14 JUNE 1944. FIFIELD ***

On plum trees, which had aphids on under sides of leaves, were a large *Chrysopa* (collected on 12th) and a smaller species (collected on 14th). 284

A viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara* Jacquin) lives in the dry stone-wall by the orchard, where C.E. 278-9 were taken. Once he was on the ground among the long grass, and once he lurked about in the holes in the wall at 2-3 ft., waiting with flickering tongue and sleek lined body. Dorothy Prewitt says the villagers kill lizards. There was one here 2 years ago. 285

{reverse side}

4 JULY 1944. OXFORD (HINKSEY HILL & BAGLEY WOOD)

4 JULY 1944. OXFORD (HINKSEY HILL & BAGLEY WOOD).

Staying at 'Stone End', Hinksey Hill, with Bagley Wood just at the back. In the morning walked round Spring Copse and Bottom Copse. White admirals (*Limenitis camilla* (L.)), very common in the woodland rides, mainly where there are bramble patches in flower. They often sail up quite high, thirty feet or so, among the trees. They are very typical of oak wood areas, for it is there that most of the brambles come.

In the edge of Spring Copse, a round clearing has just been made by felling birch trees, which are common in the oak woods just here. At 11 a.m. in the warm sun, many butterflies were flying and settling: white admirals, meadow

{reverse side}

4 JULY 1944.

4 JULY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD

browns (*Maniola jurtina* (L.)), speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*), large skippers (*Ochlodes venata*), and a silver-washed fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*), the last identified in the field by its longer, more pointed fore-wings, and the complete line of silver across the hind under-wing. Also a *Pieris brassicae* in the p.m.

(E.B. Ford (1.9.44) says the speckled wood was formerly absent from Bagley: it is one of the species that is having a come back, and it started later than the white admiral. It has only come back to Bagley in the last few years, not being mentioned in Bretherton's list in ASHMOLEAN PROCEEDINGS.)

In the afternoon, I went out to the Wood again. In the edge of Spring Copse, in coppiced oak-wood, an *Aedes* attacked me. 287

In a ride in the same area, among high oaks with large overgrown hazels, coppiced ash, and some birches, a large patch of flowering brambles in the sun at the edge of the ride attracted fritillary and a white admiral, the latter to the flowers; and a large skipper to the bramble leaves to bask.

A longicorn, *Leptura maculata* Poda ♂ (cf. C.E. 286) flew to a bramble flower and settled. 288

Meadow browns ♂ and ♀, were not going to the flowers, but flirting and settling on the grasses close by (foxtail, *Holcus*, etc.). A red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) sunning on an ask at 10 ft. I also looked at some sycamores in Hangman's Bottom (for notes see B).

A jay, a green woodpecker and a greater spotted wood-pecker visit Stone End garden, which is not being used much at present.

Under logs in the oakwood (see above) were snails:

<i>Clausilia rugosa</i> Drap.	n.k.
<i>Marpessa laminata</i> (Montagu)	n.k.
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i> (Müll)	n.k.
<i>Oxychilus</i> (medium large species)	n.k.
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müll) (white lip)	n.k.
<i>C. nemoralis</i> (L.) (dark lip)	n.k.
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müll)	n.k.

{reverse side}

5 JULY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD etc.

Probably *Chorthippus parallelus* Zett.

6 JULY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD etc.

Chorthippus bicolor Charp. ♂ Went red all over in 70% alcohol.

5 JULY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD etc.

At 7 ft. on *Quercus robur*, under bark on a rotting branch was:

<i>Limax marginatus</i> Müller	n.k
<i>Clausilia rugosa</i> Drap.	n.k

In the garden of a house just above 'Stone End', at the edge of Bagley Wood, there is an open rough (thin grassy) area, just scythed as poor hay, where marbled whites are flying and settling on the yellow composites among the still uncut grass. These butterflies (*Satyrus (Agapetes) galathea*) do not ever come in exactly similar orchard grass in Stone End garden. The soil of both is on Plateau Gravel (i.e. non-calcareous). With them, in the grass were large numbers of (? immature) *Chorthippus* grasshoppers, of a green and fawn colour. (n.k)

A ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperanthus* (L.)) settled on the leaf of bramble in ride through oak wood in Spring copse.

6 JULY 1944. BAGLEY WOOD etc.

Walked in Bottom Copse and collected some leaf-hoppers on sycamore, also a snail under oak log (see notes in B.....)

In the thin grass orchard (young trees) at 'Stone End', on a plateau gravel soil, one grasshopper with brilliant red tip to abdomen. 289

{reverse side}

14 JULY 1944. OXFORD.

301 *Apis mellifica* L. the wing veins (see Step, 1932) and hind leg structures seem clear; but one really needs to confirm by microscopic examination of the labial palpi on the proboscis, and of the maxillary palpi!

Identified by N.V. Polunin as *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill) Swingle,:

"Your tree is indeed the Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle, which is widely cultivated in temperate regions and which, in and around its native tracts of Western China, is said to be specially planted as the host of a kind of silkworm producing a coarse silk inferior to that of the common silkworm. *Ailanthus* belongs to the Simarubaceae, the *Quassia* family which is mainly tropical and related to Rutaceae (the Rues) and, perhaps less closely, to Meliceae (the Mahoganys {sic})."

See my letter to "Nature" about bees on *Ailanthus*, 20.1.45, Vol. 155, p. 81, and correspondence in same number on p. 640, Vol. 154, (CL 22A p.23) p. 206, Vol. 155.

23 JULY 1944. OXFORD.

28 JULY 1944. COMPTON, BERKS.

14 JULY 1944. OXFORD.

At dawn, while fire-guarding, I woke in my room at the Museum, to hear a high insect hum in the tall trees outside, like the continuous whine of a turbine or dynamo. This was caused by thousands of hive bees (of which I took four later in the day, 5.30 pm. D.B.S.T.) visiting the flowers of the trees. 301

The tree is an *Ailanthus*, and has panicles of obscure green, small-petalled ♂ flowers, which give off a rather musky strong scent. N.V. Polunin says this smell mostly comes from fly-pollinated flowers like Umbellifers; and the small petals and open flowers also suggest this. 302

Yet only bees (all hive apparently), and a few orange 2-spot ladybirds were present.

23 JULY 1944. OXFORD.

House sparrows feeding among the leaves of **lime tree** at 98 Banbury Road. One clearly seen to pull off a fruit with the bract, and then eat the fruit.

14 JULY 1944. COMPTON, BERKS.

Half-a-dozen small meadow-browns (*Maniola tithonus*) as well as larger ones (*M. jurtina*) on flowers of *Centaurea*, *Scabiosa* etc. on rough grassy waste of Mayfield Farm (calcareous, chalk system).

Large patch of the purple-veined slender-stalked and -leaved *Linaria repens*, on Ilsley Down, growing at the edge of the Ridgeway chalk track. Druce (Flora of Berkshire) records it also from this part of the county. It is local in G.B. 303

{reverse side}

30 JULY 1944. OXFORD.

8 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

15 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

Some *Lemna major* on the canal at Hythe Bridge.

30 JULY 1944. OXFORD.

Spotted flycatcher feeding a single fledged young, 25-30 ft. up on our pine tree, in the evening.

8 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

The small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) is a member of the University Parks grassland: saw two flying in copulation. Also *Chorthippus parallelus* abundant and singing at 1 ft. high grass by the allotment. n.k.

15 AUGUST, 1944. OXFORD.

This summer, with the hot stagnant character of the water, caused by cumulative, unusual drought, the River Cherwell has become covered with great patches, and whole solid stretches from bank to bank, of duckweed, which at the Rollers is all *Lemna minor*. J.S. Watson says this duckweed outbreak is going on also as high up the river as Steeple Aston. I suppose it has developed from the side ditches.

Today J.S. Watson and J.S. Perry brought in a live grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) found swimming in the River Cherwell at the central bridge in the Parks. As this is almost in the "Spalding Reserve = Dudley Buxton Reserve", which lies (recently created) on the far side of the river from Parson's Pleasure, we agreed that the snake should be returned near there. It

{ reverse side }

15 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

21 AUGUST 1944.

BINSEY.

BAGLEY WOOD.

R. EVENLODE.

HAMPTON POYLE.

Skin in B.A.P.

15 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

measured c. 30 in. and weighed c. 160 g.

21 AUGUST 1944.

BINSEY. L.S.V. Venables is watching hornets (*Vespa crabro*) making a nest in a fallen willow in the farmyard, and has got several nest records around the village for previous years. (See CN 202/3/1 – p. 1).

BAGLEY WOOD. H.G. Champion this summer found four wasp nests (*Vespula* species) dug up by badgers (saw footmarks; nest opened up and destroyed) by the edge of a path behind his house, in West Wood.

R. EVENLODE. C.H. Wilson met a man who had been catching crayfish, reported abundant, somewhere in the river near Combe, this month.

This river is also covered from bank to bank, the long stretches with duckweed (*Lemna minor*) this summer, and flowing very little and shallow.

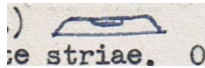
It was dredged several feet in 1940 by the Thames Conservancy Board, – the first time for many years, as far up at least as Long Handborough. The mud was dumped along the banks.

HAMPTON POYLE. Today Mary Laurie trapped a water shrew (*Neomys fodiens bicolor*) in a corn-field here, not very near the Cherwell. It was not very contrasty coloured, but had pale tufts inside the ears. The ciliate hairs on the feet and making a keel under the tail are characteristic. It was about the size of an ordinary house mouse.

{reverse side shown as page 26A}

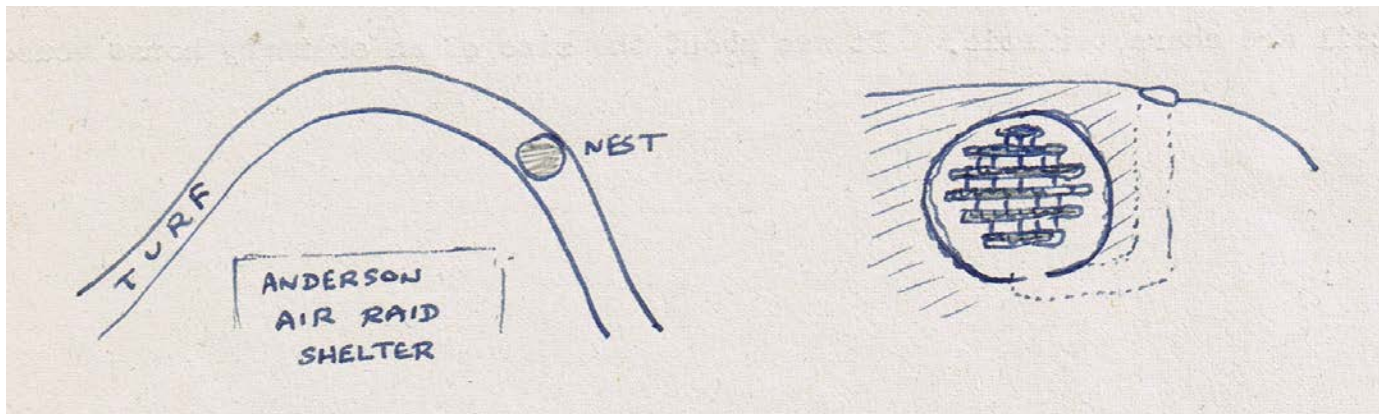
26 AUGUST 1944.

311 ♀ *Noterus clavicornis* Degeer (= *sparsus* Marsh). c. 4.5 mm. Very glassy, greeny-brown elytra with vague lines of huge punct. Thorax yellow-brown. Elytra broadest in front. A Dytiscid with 5-joint front tarsi (therefore not Hydroporine); scutellum hidden (therefore not Dytiscine); ant. joint 5-10 short & squat, not thin. (very much so in ♂) therefore not Laccophiline (*Laccophilus*-otherwise deceptively like). Therefore a Noterine: *Noterus* only genus, and species: *clavicornis* the only one recorded in Oxon. VCH; *crassicornis* is smaller, with small punct. on elytra.



Planorbis vortex (L.) 4.5 mm. Y. hom. colour. Flat one side. Rather thin smooth shell. Minute striae. Oblique mouth.

27 AUGUST 1944



26 AUGUST 1944. WOLVERCOTE.

Stopped by the railway bridge at Wolvercote, where the lake (full of water-lilies, moorhens and coots) has its overflow outlet onto Port Meadow. It seems as if this lake is spring fed. It does not connect with the river system or canal, but flows out by a shallow stream that has a blind branch, and this seems to end in a ditch by the railway. The outlet is cattle trampled, with characteristic diatom – mud bottom with *Elodea*; and some large clumps of *Sparganium erectum* round which was flying an *Aeshna grandis* L., and a small *Aeshna* species.

The edge of this outlet has the grass turf trampled into the water, and in the shallow (two or three inch) in lets and pools so made were a small brown water beetle, 311 very active when alarmed, a small Cladoceran (n.k.), and a small *Planorbis*; also *Limnaea pereger* (n.k.) 312

26 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

At 9.40 p.m. (D.B.S.T.) dusk, I put Cymag cyanide powder down a wasp nest in our garden. There were still a few wasps not gone in. They had been attacking wall plums a lot and often entering the flats. Mrs. Moir was stung by a wasp in the garden and said it was slight compared to the ones she was used to in Scotland.

27 AUGUST 1944. OXFORD.

Dug out the wasp nest at 9 a.m. All the wasps were dead except one or two that had crawled under the stone I placed over the whole. It was roughly circular c. 8 – 9 in., entrances as shown across, made of soft fragile papier mâché.

{reverse side}

27 AUGUST 1944.

313A Brown, setose, clavicorn. 1 *Cryptophagus pubescens* Sturm A.A. Allen det. 1952. G.E. Woodroffe confirmed 1954.

Vespula germanica (Fab.) 1 presented to James for Agricultural College, Cirencester.

27 AUGUST 1944*****

I left the next {sic = nest) exposed all day to let the HCN clear off and then examined it at the Museum. In it I counted (including also a few under the stones and outside the nest underground)

1 Queen

1094 workers {altogether + Q.} weighed 125 grams = 1 *Rattus rattus*!

0 males

1394 Pupae with "silk" covers to their cells (some were wasps ready to emerge, others soft white bodies)

At least 1000, probably over 2000 larvae at various stages from minute to full-grown.

A number of empty cells.

In the six plates of one-layer of cells each, the pupae were, from top to bottom, 27, 267, 406, 356, 338, 0.

Also in the nest several small brown inquiline beetles (1 k.)

313A

No Diptera seen.

I have kept specimens of

- a) Outside paper cover, showing crescentic-laid small-scale architectural pattern of *Vespa vulgaris* and *germanica*. 313
- b) Practically complete 6 combs containing pupae and larvae (in 50% alcohol)
- c) Pupae
- d) Larvae
- e) Queen and several worker wasps

{reverse side}

8 SEPTEMBER 1944.

Chrysopa carnea Phillips

8 SEPTEMBER 1944. OXFORD.

Sat in New College garden by one of the great alcoves of the old City Wall, where thick wall shrubs and creepers give lovely cover for small birds. It was cool, with squalls of rain between sunny patches. Robins seemed to be assuming unseasonable attitudes of courtship, though in a perfunctory way. One ate an earthworm drowned on the path. Several blackbirds and thrushes (song) were feeding in a *Pyracantha*, on the berries, which dropped down from time to time near me, as I sat gazing up at the speckled breasts of the thrushes above me. 314B

On the white horse-chestnut leaves I collected a green lacewing; and observed egg cocoons on the spider *Theridion pallens* that also comes on oak and sycamore. 314
There were ladybirds, and many small yellowish ? Jassid bugs. There is probably a general deciduous predator fauna, with special herbivores.

{reverse side}

314A 10 SEPT. Very old bit of decayed pollard elm from 12 ft. up. Leslie's garden, 9 Chadlington road, Oxford. Same tree as C.E. 268. Kept in funnel.

Porcellio

Small Carabid, flat, dark 4 yellow spots on elytra: *Dromius 4-notatus* Panz.
Larva in case.

313-317 all *Chrysopa carnea* Phillips.

12 SEPTEMBER 1944.

Chrysopa carnea Phillips

13 SEPTEMBER 1944.

Chrysopa carnea Phillips both plum and pear

14 SEPTEMBER 1944

Chrysopa carnea Phillips

323 Pressed leaf kept. Breeding out failed, = *Lithocolletis coryli* von Nicelli. This is figured by Imms 'Insect Natural History.' The only other hazel species of these moths given by Meyrick is *L. nicellii* which mines under side.

9 SEPTEMBER 1944. OXFORD.

In C.C.C. garden, a (this year's young?) spotted flycatcher lay dying by the greenhouse, with blood from its beak. It must have dashed against the glass. It died in a few minutes. [314A]

This reminds me that I twice found dead song-thrushes in past years (late autumn) by the traffic-mirror at the corner of the drive through the Museum block. One time there were two, which must have made the same mistake at the same time.

In the garden, 293 Woodstock Road, I collected a green lacewing off an apple tree leaf, two off a Siberian crab leaf.

315

316

And one (probably stray off the fruit trees) on a *Catalpa* leaf.

317

12 SEPTEMBER 1944. FIFIELD, OXON.

Spent 12th – 15th at house on Cotswolds. The plum trees have fair number of small green lacewings on the leaves, of which I collected two. The cherry trees have none. [318]

13 SEPTEMBER 1944. Ditto.

Collected four more green lacewings off plums, [319] and one off pear tree. [320]

14 SEPTEMBER 1944. Ditto.

The hazel hedge at the top of the garden has no lacewings to speak of – one green one found. On the hazel also many yellow flying leafhoppers. [321]

The leaves have a mining larva (1-4 on a leaf, not very many infested) that makes a white papery patch on the upper surface – some kept to breed out. [323]

(Also saw a different curling zig-zag narrow mine – all emerged). n.k.

{reverse side}

14 SEPTEMBER 1944.

Headwater of Fifield branch of Hazelford Brook, a tributary of R. Windrush, which it joins above Burford. This part lies in Workmen Bottom, at the north edge of Tangley Woods.

Chrysopa carnea Phillips

325 *Hydrobia jenkinsi* Smith. Watched them alive under binocular microscope. The shell is black, the body dark above (even dark line on tentacles) and grey-white below. The tentacles are delicate thin and grey. The operculum looks odd carried on the top of the foot! *Ancylastrum fluviatile* (Müll.). 3 kept (in alcohol). All small –? young.

327 Very young *Oxychilus* species. L.W. Grensted det. n.k.

15 SEPTEMBER 1944

14 SEPTEMBER 1944. FIFIELD, OXON***

Near the main Burford-Stow-on-the-Wold road a little stream runs in a secret grassy valley by the edge of an oak-ash-hazel wood (Tangle Woods), on the margin of which I shook one green lacewing from hazel leaf, 324
and saw (very few) more in the big hazels inside the wood. Saw the same **leaf-miner** as C.E. 323 (n.k.)

The stream is 4-7 ft. across, less than 18 in. deep, with stones at a few places, and muddy clay bottom – presumably calcareous. It runs a bit turbid, but limpets were very abundant on stones, and *Hydrobia jenkinsi* swarmed under stones and on the mud bottom. 325

One crayfish seen, and some caught here by the Prewetts the other day. *Gammarus pulex* fairly abundant, with some red ? gregarine parasites. One queen ant on a stone in the stream not kept or recorded.

One small snail collected under a log in the wood, and I saw *Goniodiscus rotundatus*. Under loose bark of a willow stump by the stream at about 5 feet were *Limax maximus* and *Clausilia rugosa*. 327

On the stream pools *Velia currens* were common: one *Gyrinus* was seen, but no *Gerris*.

15 SEPTEMBER 1944. FIFIELD, OXON.

Collected another *Chrysopa carnea* Phillips on hazel leaf in the garden; 328
and observed a spider on another leaf, that had caught a small green-bottle fly, also some *Theridion pallens* egg cocoons.

Under a board in the garden were *Arion ater* (black) and *Limax maximus* and *Helix aspersa*.

Ivy flowers just opening on the garden wall attract large crowds of blue-bottles, green-bottles, and other fairly large Muscids, also *Eristalis*, but no bees or wasps.

There were many harvestmen in this garden: at least two kinds on the hazel, others under boards – including

{reverse side}

15 SEPTEMBER 1944.

18 SEPTEMBER 1944.

15 SEPTEMBER 1944. FIFIELD OXON. ***

Nemastoma lugubre; on the wall a small bodied one with immensely long thin legs an inch or so long.

The snail fauna appears very limited, judging by my collecting this time and last – confined to turning over boards and stones, and surface observations, no sorting out of grass roots etc.: the two *Trichia*; *Cochlicopa*; *Helix aspersa* (only); *Oxychilus* species; *Clausilia rugosa*; and several slugs. This village is old but isolated in arable and pasture land, with no old woods very near. Field boundaries are hedge bank or Cotswold walls, and it is all calcareous.

18 SEPTEMBER 1944. COMBE.

C.H. Wilson took me with him while he fished on the Evenlode above Combe. We took the Diesel train to Combe Halt, visited Combe Sawmill, run for the Duke of Marlborough's Estate, walked along the railway and spent the afternoon along the deep loop of the river that has Westbury Farm for its "hub". Here steep oak-ash-hazel wood hangs on the limestone (oolite) escarpment to the west bank, while fields and pollard willows flank the other. The bank is rather crumbly gravel, the river often some feet below.

This year the water has been lower than any year since 1926 (according to the man who acts as waterman to the Red Spinners' Club). It is continuous but flow is imperceptible except where the contour is suddenly steep enough to make a shallow riffle. In many places duckweed {sic = duckweed} (*Lemna minor*) has filled the edges of the "pools" among the rushes. Except in the riffles, submerged vegetation and seemed rather scarce or starved, and the whole water rather opaque and stagnant.

I think there has been an ecological disaster through the reduction of oxygen in the water. Wilson had no bite in four hours float-fishing for perch etc. And I collected extremely few species, and in most cases individuals either, in three hours pond netting from the bank. In general, this

{reverse side}

18 SEPTEMBER 1944.

Beetles. 5 *Brychius elevatus* P₃ [Halipid]. "Local, chiefly in running water." (Joy). Bayswater Bridge: Cherwell (Oxon V.C.H.). Remarkable raised hump ridge on third elytral stria. Long thin legs.

1 *Laccophilus minutus* L. (*obscurus* P).

1 *Helmis maugaei* Bed. (= *aenea*). Neither these, nor the Welsh (C.E. 164, 186) or Lambourn (C.E. 242) specimens have much trace of bronze on the black elytra: more a purple sheen in the sun

18 SEPTEMBER 1944. COMBE***

covered the shallow water among *Lemna* and *Typha-Sparganium erectum* etc.; the muddy or gravelly bottom down to two feet; submerged vegetation such as *Ranunculus*, *Nymphaea*, etc.; marsh vegetation in the water e.g. *Myosotis*; bank, mostly among submerged willow roots; also a few stones were examined. The general list for all except the last was:

329

Theodoxus fluviatilis (L.) rather common, dark eye at base of slender tentacle, purple marks on light body, mosaic shell.

Hydrobia jenkinsi Smith. Extremely abundant – the commonest mollusc, except possible {sic} *Sphaerium*.

Bithynia tentaculata (L.) common

Valvata piscinalis (Müll.) common

Limnaea pereger (Müll.) Several only, all adult

Planorbis albus (Müll.) Two only! L.W. Grensted det.

Ancylastrum fluviatile (Müll.) One small specimen.

Sphaerium corneum (L.) common

No *Gammarus* or *Asellus* by netting!! Saw several young *Gammarus* under a stone.

Various Entomostraca seen. n.k.

Gerris lacustris (L.) ♂. 7 seen, 2 kept (alcohol) on surface in near bank among sheltered “rush-swamp.”

Aphelochirus aestivalis (= *montandoni*) Fab. 1 in swift riffle. (See note under 11 Feb. 1945)

Corixa striata (L.) ♀♀ Three only. A. Macfadyen det. 1947.

Three small water beetle types. “*Laccophilus*”, “*Haliphus*” = *Brychius*; and “black crawler” (last in swift riffle) – one of the clavicorn *Helmidae*.

{reverse side}

18 SEPTEMBER 1944.

P.A. Trotman says the large branching sponge is common on the barges in the Thames below Folly Bridge, and he brought some good specimens in today (4 Oct.) from the Cherwell in Mesopotamia. The small knob sponge, he says, is common on pollard willow roots in the draining ditches by Willow Walk, Port Meadow. The former, according to M. Burton is certainly *Ephydatia fluviatilis* (L.)

18 SEPTEMBER 1944. COMBE ****

Evenlode, general netting list, continued:

329

Long thin <u>dragonfly nymph</u>	Few. <i>Agrion</i> species probably splendens
Other small ditto.	Few.
Mayfly nymphs.	Few.
Small thin; longitudinal vegetation case <u>caddis</u> larvae.	Few.
Small looping <i>Simulium</i> larvae (in swift riffle). Fairly common. One kept. Hard to name, because anal gills not extended.	
White large planarian. <i>Dendrocoelum lacteum</i>	n.k.
Freshwater sponge. 1 small colony. It had a small larva of some sort wandering over it. May be either <i>E. fluviatilis</i> or <i>Spongilla lacustris</i>	

One miraculous haul in a tangle of fine willow roots at the bank, produced a large number of bivalves, all *Sphaerium*, one or two operculates (n.k.) and three caddis larvae with cases made of willow rootlets. *Sphaerium corneum* (L.) 330

This great paucity, especially of operculates and bivalves, was quite remarkable. Also there were no flying insects in the air or to be beaten from the willows, nothing dancing over the water.

No water voles seen. But Wilson saw a kingfisher. He also saw a weasel that he had heard crunching the bones of a pheasant probably killed by a fox (its smell not far off). Moorhens. Also a mixed party of long-tailed tit family, marsh or willow tit, and great and blue tits in the wood.

{ reverse side }

18 SEPTEMBER 1944.

18 SEPTEMBER 1944. COMBE***

The mill has been out of action all summer, on account of low water. But the pool below the mill is full of minnows. A kingfisher reported to have nested and to fish in the mill area, this year.

Before the War the Duke's keepers were shooting **herons** at 5s. each (from whom?).

Vast numbers of *Chorthippus* are on the dry grassy-herbaceous railway banks up here. There seem to be hardly any in the grasslands of the river bottom e.g. long-grass rich field, short pasture, long-grass at river banks.

The pollard willows have many epiphytes: a hazel, a hawthorn, ivy, polypody ferns. Some have a hazel bush below, on the river side, the way the tree leans.

I saw no *Phragmites* swamp.

{reverse side}

30 SEPTEMBER 1944.

30 SEPTEMBER 1944. WOLVERCOTE.

The two big ponds by the railway, between Upper Wolvercote and Wolvercote, might make first-rate nature sanctuary for student teaching and research. They are old gravel pits I think – the bottom seems gravelly – used to make the road embankment over the railway, which should be easily datable. It is rather an advanced stage after perhaps more than fifty years, of the lake at Cassington. On the railway bank flanking one side are pollard willows; on the road bankment big black poplars; on the west side the backs of a street of houses, with grassy margin between.

The lakes or ponds may be quite shallow, as water-lilies seem to root all over. There is an inner zone of *Typha* (or at one place *Phragmites*), an outer zone near the shore of large *Carex*. The shallow water under the poplars is full of fallen twigs and branches; and aquatic moss grows sparsely on the bottom, and hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) was floating.

There are (I remember always were) many **coots**, active all over – which also suggests shallowness. (This little depth would lower any drowning danger for students). Casual collecting showed at the shallow edge under the poplars: *Asellus* (not *Gammarus*), dragonfly nymphs, *Pisidium*, *Planorbis*, leaches {sic = leeches}, *Dendrocoelum lacteum*, a small beetle; while the surface had myriads of *Gyrinus* and some *Gerris*. Evidently the ponds are not polluted, and they presumably get fed by springs, as there is no inlet stream.

It is the only local site for *Segmentina nitida* (a snail); and *Pisidium obtusale* (cf. Oxon. VCH); not yet seen by me.

A **moorhen** with two young was active at the outlet stream across the road.

On the elder-scrubby bank under the poplars I found an adult bank-vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*) under a stone.

{ reverse side }

5 OCTOBER 1944.

5 OCTOBER 1944. OXFORD.

Mosquitoes. Except for a few recently of all three usual species, there have been practically no mosquitoes in the house this summer. The swarm of males outside has maintained itself, though rather thinly. The dry weather up to July may have thinned the numbers.

At dusk on 27 August I noticed a large number of mosquitoes "roosting" on plum trees against the garden wall, but unfortunately took no specimens.

{reverse side}

7 NOVEMBER 1944.

11 FEBRUARY 1945.

7 NOVEMBER 1944. BAGLEY WOOD.

Atkinson, of the archaeological section of the Ashmolean Museum, says there is little sign of ancient clearing of woodland in Bagley e.g. on air photos; there is evidence of one small ? Roman clearing, but nothing else till Radley, where there are bronze age burial mounds.

This supports the record of *Limax cinereoniger* for the wood (by Ellis); for Boycott notes that it (sometimes with *L. tennella*) are a precise indicator of primaeval woodland, also that it and *L. maximus* do not occur together. It looks as if *L. c.* is competed out by *L. m.* as a newcomer, and that Bagley was in the last stage of this process? *L. maximus* is common in the wood.

11 FEBRUARY 1945. OXFORD.

W. Thorpe was over from Cambridge last week, searching for *Aphelochirus* {sic = *Aphelocheirus*} *aestivalis*. He says it is common in Eastern European rivers such as Volga and Don, but very patchy in Britain and he has only defined five areas where it occurs. The Cherwell-Evenlode is one, and there is another in East Anglia. He found it this time in the

{reverse side}

11 FEBRUARY 1945.

11 FEBRUARY 1945. OXFORD ****

R. Evenlode by the road bridge above Fawler. He wants live specimens to study their respiration. He says they usually occur in fast riffles.

C.H. Wilson says he has found blindworms (*Anguis fragilis*) and viviparous lizards (*Lacerta vivipara*) on the grassy railway embankment above Combe station; the former are abundant and he introduced several to his garden at Headington, where one survived 2-3 years in an outdoor rockery.

Yesterday I picked up a decayed dead redwing (*Turdus musicus*) in the garden of Corpus – evidently driven in during the bitter and exceptional frosts and snow of January.

{reverse side}

27 MARCH 1945.

27 MARCH 1945. TUBNEY WOODS.

In company with Monica Shorten and her grey squirrel boys. The triangle of conifers has been felled during the war, also patches and many individual trees in the part between the two main roads. Some factory buildings too. Wood is beautiful but ecologically an extremely complex mixture of conifer, deciduous, cut-over and glade, on sand.

Studied a large *Formica rufa* L. nest by a row of Douglas firs, but in open, on and under a large pine stump. Great activity in warm sun but cool very strong wind (buffered at ground level), air temperature in shade 13.5-4.5 °C, 2-3.30 p.m.

Some raiding going on, in a long column over 30 yds. long, mainly on ground. But very low percentage carrying preys back. About as many were carrying live *rufa* back, though no sign of rival nest in vicinity. One was carrying a live ant which itself had a dead prey! (). Little building, though one or two birch catkins being hauled by more than one ant. Preys included: 378

- A. Dead ants. (2 specimens) one is *Formica rufa* L. 1 queen A.J. Pontin det. 1954 n.k.
- B. Three larvae of two sorts.
- C. Three larvae of two sorts.
- D. Larger larva carried by 2 ants.
- E. Large Noctuid caterpillar attacked by scores of ants, several of which bit into it. (Died of wounds). Pale thin dorsal line, buff base, 2 dash lines of dark either side, and two medium buff lines on sides.
- F. "House-fly"
- G. Small winged insect.

{reverse side}

27 MARCH 1945.

1 *Aphidecta obliterata* L. N. Joy says "common near fir-trees". This ladybird is easy to tell by the M on its thorax.

1 *Coccinella 10-punctata* L. var.

1 *Exochomus quadripustulatus* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

1 *Lygus rugulipennis* Popp. (= *pubescens*) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956.

12 APRIL 1945.

27 MARCH 1945. TUBNEY WOODS, BERKS****

Also beat some Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*) and got several ladybirds and a bug. 379

12 APRIL 1945. NORTH OXON.

James Fisher took me in his car, to see **rook nests** census methods in the Blenheim Park – Glympton Bartons-Tackley area, or on that dry clean limestone Upland between the Evenlode and Cherwell Valleys, with intermediate small valleys of the R. Dorn and R. Glyme.

There is a curious blank patch that includes the whole of Blenheim Park, that has no rookeries, though they suddenly start to be dense north of it, at Kiddington and Glympton, and north-east at the Bartons and Tackley.

Explored the south part of Blenheim Park for the first time. There are some very ancient, nearly finished and very large-trunked oaks (*Q. robur*) scattered in the “elm savannah”, which might date from the original hunting park of Henry I?

In this area are also three shallow reservoir ponds, one quite newish with only *Chara* on the bottom; and the third with well-developed pondweeds at the surface. The Lake outlet is a quiet flowing wide ponded stream with great variety of water-plants, suitable (by the lower bridge) for class work.

Grey squirrels frequent in the Park and elsewhere. On the lake I saw **tufted duck**, **mallard**, **coot**, two pairs of **dabchicks** in song courting, about 4 **great crested grebe** while J.F. saw a **pochard**.

The Windrush, Evenlode, Glyme, Dorn all flow more or less west to east off the Lower Oolite plateau, turning south afterwards to run into the Oxford clay (or its superficial coverings). Parts

{ reverse side }

12 APRIL 1945.

Small tortoiseshells (*Aglais urticae*) in a rick-yard, near nettles, Tackley.

Coccinella (*Calvia*) *14-punctata* L.

14 APRIL 1945.

12 APRIL 1945. NORTH OXON****

of the Dorn and Glyme run through pasture, and so have little marsh vegetation because of the grazing, and on the whole rather muddy undeveloped benthos. Indeed the L.U.S. shows their valleys almost the whole way as strips of green set in overwhelming arable brown of the limestone plateaus. These include Great Oolite (e.g. at Bartons), Forest Marble (partly Blenheim) and Cornbrash; but the general result seems much the same: dry bedded yellowish-weathered limestones, often in thinnish or brashy laminae, bright brown soil, arable land, or, in parks like Blenheim or Barton Abbey, developing tussocky grassland with much *Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Microtus* populations, and in spite of the shallow soil many moles.

J.F. saw several fallow deer running wild in the fields outside Glympton Park.

Under (lime-) stones at Tackley were *Marpessa laminata*, *Clausilia rugosa*, *Goniodiscus rotundata*, *Trichia* species, *Oxychilus* species (medium large). n.k.
380
These were in wood, mixed deciduous-pine etc., in which I found a *Coccinella* on underside of tender green newly opened sycamore leaf, though no aphids yet visible.

OXFORD. 14 APRIL 1945.

P.H. Leslie says a great spotted woodpecker (*Dryobates major*) has been frequenting his garden in Chadlington Road, N. Oxford. It pecks the bark of the **pollard elms** that are dying of elm disease (see 14.5.1944); and also takes away **almond** fruits (last year's remaining among the flowers) places them in various niches across the road in another garden, and cracks them open to get the kernel. Specimen of cracked shells shows only minute beak damage at join! 381

{reverse side}

15 APRIL 1945.

3 *Agriotes*

1 *Coccinella bipunctata* L.

15 APRIL 1945. OXFORD.

In C.C.C. garden a number of small thin brown click-beetles were running about on the bare ground of the lawn under trees: perhaps just emerged. n.k.

Several 2-spot brown (smallish) ladybirds in leaf-bracts or leaf-buds of expanding sycamore (flowers just coming out) at 98c. 383
Some young aphids already under leaves.

{reverse side}

7 MAY 1945.

7 MAY 1945. OXFORD.

House sparrows busy collecting insects from under sides of **sycamore** leaves by the house, and journeying away with them (to their young). They must get aphids chiefly, as they collected so many and quickly from a few leaves.

{reverse side}

9 JUNE 1945.

23 *Phytomyza atricornis* Mg. (2 k.) and 5 Braconids

15 JUNE 1945.

9 JUNE 1945. OXFORD.

Leaves of Oxford ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*) under trees of front garden, 98c, badly mined by an Agromyzid fly. Kept to breed out, with pressed specimens of mined leaves containing pupae.

411

411A

15 JUNE 1945. OXFORD.

Youngish **song-thrush** opening a *Helix aspersa* Müll. on the front path of 98c. Also several recent smashed shells. n.k.

{reverse side}

17 JUNE 1945.

1 ♂ *Ischnura elegans* Van der Lind.

1 ♀ (separate catch) ditto, just emerged, colours not fully developed

(= *G. nymphaeae* (L.) by inference)

414A ♂ ♀ *Donacia simplex* Fab.

B ditto. 9 n.k.)

♂ ♀ *Haltica lythri* Aub. C.E. det.

17 JUNE 1945. OXFORD.

Walked along the canal from Aristotle Lane to the bridge by St. Edward's School grounds. Warm sun.

1 ♂ *Agrion splendens* (Harris). Many small demoiselle dragonflies with rather short wings, blue faster ♀ often linked with lilac more sluggish ♂. Two ♂♂ k. 413
No mayflies, and caddies or *Sialis* seen.

Several perch among swarms of various-size fish. (including very young)

Rumex hydrolapatham by the canal margin growing well ready to flower on tall spikes, most of the plants without any stage of *Galerucella* but several at the N. end quite well colonised by egg-masses and mostly youngish larvae. No adults seen.

On *Sparganium erectum* (marsh) were a few pairing *Donacia* of which two couples were taken. 414A, B

The *Epilobium hirsutum* was full grown but not yet in flower. Some plants had very small green-blue beetles in cop., and one had black larvae decimating leaves, 415
probably of this species. Some yellow egg masses near the leaf bases. 415A
Succinea (2 black, 1 amber) taken on *Rumex hydrolapatham*. n.k.

In the tall alluvial grass association by the tow path, conspicuous for *Dactylis glomerata* and *Arrhenatherum elatior*, were numerous *Theba cantiana* (Montagu) at one point, walking on the grass (even up to flowers of *Dactylis* at 2 ft.) and herbs. The bodies are graceful, pale brown. 417

24 JUNE 1945. BLENHEIM PARK.

Drove to Woodstock on a close oven day; with dream-like panorama across Blenheim Lake. The Lake was very dried, several feet perhaps below its older level, and has acres of *Hippuris*. The entering R. Glyme has a lovely channel partly full of

{reverse side, see also addition to page 106}

24 JUNE 1945.

30 JUNE 1945

3 JULY 1945

24 JUNE 1945. BLENHEIM PARK***

yellow **water lilies** in flower. The shallow muddy edge of this channel had water-cress and other plants, among and on the stems and leaves of which were abundant *Hydrobia jenkinsi* Smith and *Planorbis vortex* (L.) 418AB

The grassy slopes on the east side of the Lake have calcicole flowers: *Plantago media*, *Helianthemum*, *Briza*, *Brachypodium pinnatum*, and others less so.

30 JUNE 1945.

Noticed **two** *Theridion pallens* egg cocoons on a sycamore leaf in the garden: the first time I have ever found more than 1 per leaf. Aphids were abundant.

3 JULY 1945.

Walked by the Canal between Aristotle Lane and Walton "Street" bridge. The *Phragmites* in a ditch by the tow path had a large population of slender emerald green aphids, living in colonies both on upper and under sides of the leaves. The pollard willows are thoroughly infested with red *Pontania* galls on the leaves. Kept some to breed out. Failed.

There were also some small blue-green chrysomelids beetles eating the leaves.

Ischnura elegans very abundant, some flying paired. Also saw, close by, one *Platycnemis pennipes*, and 1 or 2 bright blue demoiselles.

Rumex hydrolapatham with little leaf damage, and all flowering freely. On *Phragmites* I saw an *Arianta arbustorum* 3½ ft. up, and *Cepaea* and *Theba cantiana* at lower levels.

5 JULY 1945. WYTHAM WOODS etc.

On the way did brief collecting at the big Wolvercote (railway) Lake, where I found on decaying yellow water-lily leaves: 420

young *Limnaea stagnalis* (L.) L.W. Grensted det. A

L. pereger (Müll.) L.W. Grensted det. B

Planorbis albus Müll. L.W. Grensted det. C

{Continuation to page 106 is glued attachment to reverse side of page 102.}

5 JULY 1945. WYTHAM etc.

Asellus on log. Many *Gyrinus* and some *Gerris*, one of the latter with red mite (? larval Hydrachnid) on it. *Succinea pfeifferi* (Rossm.) On *Sparganium* leaf tips, 2½ ft. 424

1 Swan + 1 cygnet, 2 coot, 1 moorhen.

There is a great deal of **yellow water-lily** (*Nymphaea lutea*), some *Phragmites*, and much marsh *Typha*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Carex*.

{reverse side}

8 JULY 1945.

438A Each of these green or purplish green swollen galls is 5-6 mm spherical, and contain one larva, pupa or perfect adult of a small brown weevil. A very heavily infested stem (collected 21.7.45) had the following numbers of galls (total number of seed capsules on each side: 6/6, 0/7, 3/11, 10/10, 5/18, 6/6, 3/16, 9/11, 10/11, 1/14 (omits several incompletely developed shoots in flowers). Very rough because not always clear which of normal seeds are ripe: tendency for distal parts, beyond galls to abort. Total: 53/100 = 50% !! It is *Gymnetron villosulum* Gyll. N. Joy gives *V. anagallis* and says it is very local. It is not listed in Oxon VC H. There is an allied species *G. beccabungae* (quite different size and colour) (– given in Oxon VCH as *G. veronica*) that comes on *V. beccabunga* and *Scrophularia aquatica*. The free-living weevils have the taxonomic colours, but the adult taken from the gall lacks the black inner stripe on elytra and most of the blackness of the legs

439H. 1 *Stenus boops* Ljungh,

1 *S. incrassatus* Erichson P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

Another small-crawling-beetle. *Heterocercus marginatus* (F) 439K

In the river meadow, a *Haematopota pluvialis* (L.) ♀ bit me on the face. C.Elton det.

1953 440

8 JULY 1945 CASSINGTON OXON.

Went to the bank of the R. Evenlode, where the by-pass crosses it at Cassington. Hot sun, calm. The river had shrunk a bit leaving some feet of bare damp sticky mud, partly covered with a felt of stranded green filamentous alga.

There was no visible current. The channel partly filled with arrow-head, and *Apium* in flower, etc. with much yellow water-lily (*Nymphaea lutea*), on the water side of leaves of which were :

6 <i>Physa fontinalis</i> . L.	A
5 <i>Limnaea pereger</i> (Müll.)	B
1 <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> (L.)	C
6 Limpets: <i>Ancylastrum fluviatile</i> (Müll.)	D
1 A small <i>Planorbis</i>	E

Flying by the reed-swamp (*Scirpus lacustris*, *Sparganium erectum*, etc.) was a ♂ *Enallagma cyathigerum* Charp. 437

On *Veronica anagallis* on damp muddy margin, in flower, were two weevils, ♂♀ in cop. 438

Pea galls on *V. a.* kept to see what happened. 438A

On the damp mud margin which had a number of small holes in it, were: 439

A Saldid bug, running fast and taking to wings, several seen, one collected *Saldula saltatoria* (L.) E.S. Brown det. 1948 A

Dolichopodid flies, two sizes, one of smaller collected, larger one could not be caught, even with net, as they fly very close to ground and are very swift. 1 *Dolichops ungulatus* (L.) ♀ det. K.G.V. Smith B

Running spider with yellow and dark cross-striped legs C

2 *Elaphrus riparius* L. (several more seen) D

1 small 4-spotted beetle *Bembidion gensi* Kuester var. *illigeria* Netolitsky P.J. Osborne det. 1955. F

2 smaller ditto: *Bembidion astulatum* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1955. E

1 *Stenus bipunctatus* Erichson (yellow 2-spot) is = *comma* Lecomte C.E. det. 1950 G

2 smaller ditto, black. H

1 Crane-fly (several seen) (n.k.)

{ reverse side }

8 JULY 1945.

14 JULY 1945.

(This area is in Oxon. though Hell Coppice not far across the road is in Bucks.)

Small skipper, *Adopoea sylvestris*

1 ♂ 1 ♀ *Chorthippus parallelus* (Zett.).

8 JULY 1945. CASSINGTON****

On the river meadow, close to the bank, some *Heracleum sphondylium* umbels in seed had clusters of *Helicella virgata* (da Costa). Of 8 collected, 5 were dark-banded, 3 light marked.

441

14 JULY 1945. nr. HELL COPPICE (OXON.)

Drove to Hell Coppice past Stanton St. John, and visited fields just across the road from the wood. This is an oat-field with a rough grassy-thorny corner and margin between it and the road hedge. On the edge of the oats were a few plants of Fluellin (*Linaria spuria*), ovate crimped leaves and yellow flowers with purple dark lip, found by Joy.

442A

In the marginal grass was *Vicia tetrasperma* – slender vetch with tiny long-stalked pale blue flowers. Druce makes both these local. There was also meadow barley (*Hordeum nodosum*).^C

Beautiful clumps of *Centaureium umbellatum*.

This sunny, flowery Eden was full of butterflies: *Satyrus galathea*, *Maniola jurtina* and *tithonus*, *Aphantopus hyperanthus*, *Pieris brassicae*, and (a couple collected) n.k. These are nearly all grass feeders. No blues, small coppers, or orange-tips seen. The *Satyrus* were visiting meadow thistle flowers.

Also some grasshoppers in the marginal grass which averaged a foot or so high (foliage). 444

Studied the oats, which were in fruit, but had some very bad almost bare patches. *Chorthippus bicolor* Charp. on the brown and leaping, flying and clinging to stems in the oat field. 445

Large discrete colonies of black, and green, (unwinged) aphids on oat panicle heads. Adult and larval *Coccinella 7-punctata* devouring them. 446 A B

{reverse side}

14 JULY 1945.

2 emerged adult *C. 7-punctata* (one kept, with pupa case).

1 Produced 5 small parasites that pupated 18 July, outside the pupa in tube. 2 flies emerged, the other 3 failed.

These Phorids may either be scavengers or true parasites. One presented to Hope Department. Confirmed by J.E. Collins and L.W. Grensted 1946 as Phorid, *Phalacrotophora fasciata* (Fallen). Known as a common *Coccinella* parasite.

OXFORD.

447 *Tegenaria atrica* (C.L. Koch) ♂ n.k.

14 JULY 1945.

448 D. *Armadillidium vulgare* Latr.

14 JULY 1945. HELL COPPICE.

Many *C. 7-punctata* pupae seen, (say 10 in. or less) on various leaves, 446C
including oat, and on plants on field margin. Orange marks conspicuous. One of them had an
odd vertical hinged jerk. One larva just immobilised, also on leaves. (One active larva eating
a ? moth larva).

There were a small number of flies dead of fungus, on oat heads. (n.k.)

A pretty small spider whose globular body has a white and dark skeleton mark, 446D
was accumulating aphids, and flies in a little mess of web by which it lurked on the oat heads.

OXFORD.

A large *Tegenaria* in bathroom at 98c. 447 n.k.

Saw a holly blue in front garden (*Lycaenopsis argiolus*), also one in a London suburb
yesterday.

16 JULY 1945. WOODEATON.

Drove to a roadside strip of beech-mixed wood by cornfields, on the way between
Woodeaton and Islip.

Beechwood. Full of *Brachypodium* (? *sylvaticum*). Has a few conifers and hornbeams, etc.
under limestone slabs from the stone wall, lying on ground among dead leaves, I collected: 448

1 *Notiophilus rufipes* Curtis. (Likes beech leaves. cf. N. Joy) accidentally destroyed A
Another small Carabid *Trechus quadritriatus* (Schrank) P.J. Osborne det. 1955. W.W.
Murdoch confirm 1962 B
Larger small Carabid *Calathus picens* (Marsham). M.J. Davies det. 1954. C
Large grey pill woodlice. (*Oniscus asellus* and *Porcellio* also seen; also *Trichia striolata*). D

{reverse side}

16 JULY 1945.

450A *Melthinus balteatus* Suffrian P.J. Osborne det. 1956

450B young ♀ *Meconema thalassinum* Degeer (wings and elytra not fully developed)

452B. *Leucania pallens* L. E.B. Ford det. (Feeds on grasses, – especially *Deschampsia
caespitosa*, a/c to the Ent. Log Book.) Belongs to a group of grass and reed feeding
Noctuids, many of which bore in stems of reeds, reedmace, reedgrass etc. This species
comes both in woods and fields.

452F *Harpalus aeneus* (F.). C.E. det. 1951

G *Rhopalotomus ater* (L.). Extraordinary clubbed middle joint on antennae (Butler:
long grass, nettles, flowers of e.g. *Spiraea*, *Heracleum*.)

16 JULY 1945. WOODEATON***

Song-thrush (not seen) had smashed a good many *Cepaea* on these stones: all (at least 8) being *nemoralis* (L.)

449

On under side of leaves of small hornbeam at 4-5 ft. were:

450

A small soft-elytra beetle with yellow spot on each elytron.

A

A moderately large pure green long-horned grass-hopper, with immense sickle-shaped ovipositor.

B

A cocoon of *Theridion pallens*

(n.k.)

I caught a *Maniola tithonus* on bramble flowers of hedge scrub by field.

n.k.

A large wheatfield in green ear (with much *Convolvulus*; and next to an oats field) was interesting. Sweeping with the net produced an *Adopoea sylvestris* that had been sheltering from the strong west wind. n.k. Also a whitish fat moth.

B

A *tithonus* also seen resting on wheat stem (n.k.)

Thin delicate grasshopper noises were heard. The only one found was a young *Chorthippus*.

452C

By sweeping also a small green bug, and a small brown froghopper.

452 D E

On the ground among the wheat I took a small metallic Carabid, and a shining black bug

F G

{reverse side}

17-18 JULY 1945.

453D *Musca domestica* L. B. Macpherson det. 1954

453E 1 ♀ *Borkhausenia pseudospretella* Staint.

18 JULY 1945.

17-18 JULY 1945. OXFORD.

Catherine (Elton) got badly mosquito bitten (in the night, as proved by bites on face, neck and arms only, and other circumstantial evidence). One eyelid closed up completely for a bit, and one arm bite had a yellow centre in the lump. (They went down pretty well within 30 hours). Robert and we had no bites; but C. has a low electric light on all night. There were no mosquitoes in the house (visible) in the morning (9 a.m.) or at night until I opened dining room curtain and window with light on, when one *Culex* was caught (11.30 p.m., dark). This has every appearance of being *C. molestus** Forskål; light brown, no knees white, little dark on belly. It had no blood in. 453A

I searched C.'s bedroom thoroughly with a torch at 11.45 p.m. No *Culex*. At 1.30 a.m. I repeated, and caught two highly active *Culex pipiens* L., one of which (kept) was gorged with blood. In the morning, no *Culex* there. Catherine apparently not bitten further, so was this *Culex* full of bird blood? B

Collected also, at 11.30 p.m. two kinds of "house fly", a small and a medium; n.k. 453 two small moths of a kind that has been rather abundant in the house lately (spots on brown wings). D E

18 JULY 1945. OXFORD.

Collected a moderate-sized spider from bedroom roof, 98c. 454

*presence of this species unlikely and not confirmed by examination of large series of *pipiens* from flat. C.E. 1953

{reverse side}

21 JULY 1945.

= *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* L. confirmed J.H. Burnet 1950, E.F. Warburg 1962.

All *Gymnetron villosulus* Gyll. (See C.E. 438)

457A Moth: 1 *Hydrocampa nymphaeata* L. and 2 dark brown caddis-flies L.W. Grensted det. 1948.

Leptocerus ♀ (probably *cinereus* Curtis, but not certainly detailed)

459A *Loricera pilicornis* (Fab.) C.E. det. 1950.

B *Philonthus concinnus* (Gravenhorst) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

C *Saldula saltatoria* (L.) E.S. Brown det. 1948.

D *Bembidion articulatum* (Panzer). P.J. Osborne det. 1955

21 JULY 1945. CASSINGTON.

Visited the R. Evenlode at Cassington, exactly the same spot as on 8 July. The river was full of water, almost choked with weeds (which seemed to have escaped the Drainage Scheme), but leaving several feet of damp sticky brown mud in places.

Arrow-head was in flower this time. No *Galerucella* seen.

A patch of *Veronica anagallis* in flower at the old place yielded a rich crop of weevil galls. Specimens (with a few small galls) pressed. One very fine stalk covered with pea-like galls on lateral branches, kept to breed out specimens.

Also took 3 of the other kind of weevil, with golden-sides to thorax, all "in cop." at once

455

456

Sweeping the grass bank overhanging river gave a specimen of the water moth; while one of its pupae in leaf-case was found underside of a *Nymphaea lutea* leaf; where I also collected

457A

B

Valvata piscinalis (Müll.)

Planorbis

Hydrobia jenkinsi Smith.

A beetle *Laccobius striatulus* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956

458A

B

(n.k.)

C

On the wet or cracked dryish mud margin, besides *Elaphrus riparius*, larger flies, and several smaller ones, two different *Stenus* (n.k.), I saw (and collected)

A **smallish purplish Carabid** (drier mud)

A **smallish Staph** (drier mud)

Saldid bug (wet mud)

Tiny Carabid with yellow-spotted elytra (ditto.)

Small active fly (ditto.)

Crane fly (ditto.) = *Tipula couckeii* Tonnoir ♂ L.W. Grensted det. 1947
{reverse side}

459A

B

C

D

n.k.

F

22 JULY 1945.

Failed

23 JULY.

463 1 ♂ *Borkhausenia pseudopretella* Staint

25 JULY.

26 JULY.

28 JULY.

30 JULY.

Failed to emerge

22 JULY 1945. OXFORD.

Found source of recent clothes-moth invasion in 98c, in large uncleaned "hair-cord" carpet, left in the "ghost-hole" loft last year. On the outside were some hatched pupa cases, and a medium spider, apparently young ♀ of a large *Teegenaria*, that had some wings of the common clothes-moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) in its web-lair, and one beetle elytron, probably *Tenebrio molitor*. 460

Inside the folded carpet were numerous large clothes-moth larvae busy eating the fabric, scattered, not gregarious, also some about half the size. Collected some larvae to breed out (and two in alcohol). When I put them on a piece of carpet in a tin, found when I opened it that they had nearly all moved under it – an adaptation for reaching a place with protection and higher dampness. I think it is the carpet-moth and the same as C.E. 453E. 461

23 JULY. OXFORD.

1 ♀ *Anopheles maculipennis* on roof in Catherine's room, with some blood in. 462
C. has had no more bad bites since 17th. Also one ♂ carpet moth. 463

25 JULY. OXFORD.

During this month chafers have frequently flown about at dusk round the top of the pine at 98. Today one entered the kitchen. It is *Amphimallus solstitialis* L. 464

26 JULY. OXFORD.

Collected (11 p.m.) a *Theobaldia annulata* ♀ and a *Culex pipiens* ♀ in the flat, also a dead fungussed fly on the ceiling. *Musca domestica* L. B. Macpherson det. 1954. 465

28 JULY. OXFORD.

1 ♀ *Anopheles maculipennis* and 1 ♀ *Culex pipiens* in the flat. n.k.

30 JULY. OXFORD.

The Museum (D.C.A.) pond that has very slow flowing water has a growth of immense *Iris pseudacorus* leaves, which have on a few leaves a mining larva (one as pupa) that makes very long narrow white mines on one

{reverse side}

30 JULY 1945. OXFORD.

2 *Hydrocampa nymphaeata* L. (killed in ammonia) One lost after setting.

2 AUGUST5 AUGUST

30 JULY 1945. OXFORD.

surface of the leaf, usually the under side of a bending one. Kept to breed out.

On an iris leaf and on the side of the pond were 2 of the marbled water moths that make cases under water-lily leaves. One had 3 eggs extruded on the abdomen. 467

2 AUGUST, EAST END.

Drove to the Roman villa at East End, by the R. Evenlode. In Sturt Wood, the steep hanging oak-ash-hazel would fern, on limestone, I saw *Arianta arbustorum* under logs, and a shell of *Pomatias elegans* on the ground. There was lots of dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade, and some tall *Campanula trachelium*.

Saw an *Aeshna grandis* flying down Parks Road at 7-8 ft. in the morning.

5 AUGUST SUNDAY, WITTENHAM CLUMPS (DORCHESTER), BERKS.

Drove to the clumps and had picnic on the lower one, in the beech wood.

The great surrounding ditch was heavily grown with tall thistles – spear (*Cirsium lanceolatum*), field (*C. arvense*), also many huge-woolly-headed *C. eriophorum* which Druce says are confined to the chalk and oolite –; and nettles. Much bare chalk-flint soil with rabbit buries. Down in this

{ reverse side }

5 AUGUST 1945.

A flock of linnets on the thistles.

468C *Sermyla halensis* (L.) ♂♀ (cf. C.E. 749C)

5 AUGUST 1945, WITTENHAM CLUMPS***

protected hollow, out of the powerful cool convection breeze that had started under the cloudy-sunny sky, the thickets of nettles and seeding thistle flowers, with some tall ragworts, supported a flashing host of butterflies: peacocks (*Nymphalis io*), which settled on nettles; walls (*Pararge megara*), meadow browns (*Maniola jurtina*), gatekeepers (*M. tithonus*), tortoiseshells (*Aglais urticae*), large whites (*Pieris brassicae*). The browns settled much on the grass as well. Several blues (*Polyommatus icarus*) and a brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) flew past. An entomologist, Phillips, here said he had seen several painted ladies (*Vanessa cardui*) today.

The field thistles in some places had very large numbers of *Coccinella 7-punctata* on them.

The grass in the great ditch bottom was heavily **rabbit-grazed**. It varied from almost bare turf, through foot or so high tussocks, to the mixed nettle beds.

Chorthippus bicolor Charp. (1 ♂, 1 young ♀ – wings very short) 468A
& *C. parallelus* Zett. (3 ♀, 2 young) were abundant. As usual I got the impression, hard to prove, that the latter preferred barer turf and the former the longer grass. B

On the grass-cum-*Rumex*, *Nepeta*, etc. was a brilliant Chrysomelid with swollen abdomen, metallic green elytra and pale brown thorax, got by sweeping. C

On bare turf near warren were two shells of *Helicella virgata* (da Costa). 469
L.W. Grensted det. 1947.

The steep ditch slope had many small chalk flowers in the grass (the field round the clumps are now both under the plough, so the ditch is a flower sanctuary): *Cirsium acaule*, *Campanula glomerata*, *Lotus corniculatus*; and not in flower *Poterium sanguisorba*. *C. acaule* is a calcicole.

{reverse side}

7 AUGUST 1945.

2 ♂ *Cataclysta lemnata* L. (Lives on *Lemna* – =? *trisulca* here). one lost after setting.

Its clear deep yellow flowers are like *Mimulus* or snapdragon or toadflax, and sit far apart on brownish-red stems, only the top flower out now.

7 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

Went to the Botanic Garden. The water-lily house is not so hot as it used to be, but vegetation is very rank. The foreign *Physa* snails were walking out on the upper surface of the water lily leaves. Some very small Chironomid flies about. Several kinds of spiders web-making on vegetation.

The *Papyrus* has (as in previous years) colonies of white Coccids in the leaf axils. n.k. Kept some free-moving ♂ (white mealy, shaped like woodlice) and a sedentary ♀, in alcohol; also a leaf axil with ♀ (which lives in tuft of white fluff) dry, as recommended by B. M. handbook. Also a small shining dark spider running on *Papyrus* stem. 470B

Saw no small black ants, which in previous years were ascending to farm the Coccids.

9 AUGUST. WOLVERCOTE, OXON.

Went to the canal at Wolvercote, (just north of the Railway Bridge at Wolvercote Lake). There is an old railway pond between the Railway and the Canal, now "succeeded" into a *Typha-Phragmites* marsh. Now there is no water above the surface of the deep wet squelchy rotting vegetation, smelling a good deal of H₂S, but the firm enough to walk wetly on in rubber boots. Walking, or thrusting, between the dense stands of *Typha latifolia* up to one's head, is very strange and interesting, because of the pronounced character of the damp foetid air, the fluttering away of numerous small white (brown brocaded) moths 471 that do not rise above the catstails, the stiff brown fruiting spikes of the *Typha*, and the very beautiful and unusual solitary stems of flowering bladderwort, whose normally floating leafy stems now creep in a damp mat on the damp ground. This is *Urticularia vulgaris*, which 472

{reverse side}

9 AUGUST 1945.

Punch-carded as A/B1 & C1 (O-W)/2-3

473G *Philydrus testaceus* F.

J *Agabus sturmii* Gyll. (Recorded for Wolvercote in Oxon. VC H.)

Punch-carded as A-T/B1 & C1 (O-W)

474A 1 *Bembidion fumigatum* (Duftschmid). (Rather southern, listed as rare by N. Joy. Not listed in either Oxon. or Berks. V.C.H.). Confirmed A.A. Allen 1967.

B *Tachyusa* species probably *atra* (Gravenhorst). P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

9 AUGUST 1945. WOLVERCOTE****

Druce says is local in Ox. and Berks. He cites H. Boswell 1864 for its occurrence in "small ponds by railside above Wolvercote, abundant", and Purton's 'Midland Flora' 1817-21 for "Wolvercote Ponds". The marsh must be a late succession stage, with bladderwort as its last stand. Yet it is flowering well. There are also patches of *Callitriche* and *Lemna trisulca* growing as marsh plants.

Under the bladderwort live miserably the remnants of a rich pond fauna, with some wet ground invaders: 473

Empty young (and adult not kept) shells of <i>Planorbis corneus</i>	A n.k.
Many <i>Planorbis</i>	B
A few <i>P.</i>	C
4 <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> (L.) young and adult. More seen.	D
1 <i>Limnaea truncatula</i>	E
2 <i>Sphaerium corneum</i> (L.)	F
1 Water beetle	
1 Water beetle <i>Cercyon marinus</i> Thomson. P.J. Osborne det. 1956	H
1 Water beetle	J
<i>Dendrocoelum lacteum</i> small specimens but abundant	n.k.
<i>Asellus aquaticus</i> small specimens but abundant	n.k.
<i>Gammarus pulex</i> small specimens but abundant	n.k.
Red <i>Chironomus</i> larva	n.k.

On the surface rotting vegetation except were: 474

1 small <i>Bembidion</i> (under bladderwort)	A
1 small <u>staph.</u> (under bladderwort)	B
1 small speckled whitish "ladybird" <i>Anisosticta 19-punctata</i> L.	C
2 <i>Succinea pfeifferi</i> (Rossmüller) {reverse side}	D

9 AUGUST 1945.

Chilacis typhae (Perris). 5 specimens, of which 3 given to Hope Department because it has no Oxon. specimens, though there are some collected by J.J. Walker at Frilford, Berks. Though not in Oxon. VC H. It is mentioned by Bedwell (1945) for Oxon.


No *Galerucella* or stages on strong flowering *Rumex hydrolapathum* at the margins.

1 *Donacia marginata* Hoppe

Larvae nearly all dead and shrunk after 48 hours. Only 2 live larvae presented, plus one pupa.

Chrysolina (Chrysomela) polita L.

9 AUGUST 1945. WOLVERCOTE.

The seed heads of *Typha latifolia* had a lot of small brown bugs, usually one or two pairs on the head, mostly in copulation  tail to tail, some singly with heads buried in the brown fur of the head. The males were quick to disengage and run away when disturbed. I did not see any on the leaves or stems. 475

A certain amount of tall *Sparganium erectum* is mixed with the *Typha*, mostly near the edges, also a tall *Carex*. It is easy to tell the bur-reed leaves, as they are yellowish-green and have a strongly keeled midrib below; while the cat-tail has glaucous green leaves, very smooth on both sides. On an *S. erectum* leaf was a brilliant metallic bronze *Donacia*: no others were seen. 476

The northern half of this marsh is pure *Phragmites* ten feet high, flowering. I made no special notes, except of a small green aphid being common on its leaves. n.k.

By the Canal is an overflow concrete weir, where the water runs powerfully, but in a smooth very shallow layer only an inch or two deep. There is much green filamentous algae, and among it many *Simulium* larvae (no adults flying). n.k. They survived alive 18 hours in closed tubes, but full of alga. Horses in field near and cattle and horses on Port Meadow.

The exit ditch of this weir has a marsh of tall *Glyceria aquatica*, resting on which were two small narrow dun caddis flies. 478

On flowering gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) on the canal margin was a large ornate brown *Chrysomela*. 479

Reaching in the tangled vegetation to retrieve the beetle, I happened on a vast water-vole midden of empty canal Mollusca. There were several hundred *Vivipara*, nearly all of 480

{ reverse side }


9 AUGUST 1945.

6 or 7 *Anodonta anatina* (L.) *One adult, rest smaller and more delicate and greener. All showed right-handed attack.

101 *Viviparus viviparus* (L.) and 15 opercula – of course many more not collected. Adult and younger, no very young ones.

9 AUGUST 1945. WOLVERCOTE****

which had the peristome or more bitten off. Many brown 'chitinous' opercula lay about. There were also two sorts of mussel shells, but only a few of these, bitten open on one side. The runways were full of these remains of feasting, some three feet from the water edge. On a stone by the water were (reliable) pellets of water vole:

green, blunted-ended , like huge *Microtus* dung. This and the type of mussel damage, ties in the earlier find of shells as water vole work. 480

{reverse side}

11 AUGUST 1945.

11 AUGUST 1945. WITTENHAM CLUMPS.

Today was sunny and warm in the sheltered fosse, but very windy out of it. Two *Vanessa cardui* were flying about on the ploughed field above, in the sun and strongish breeze.

An old shell of *Pomatias elegans* was picked up in the beech wood.

Green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) rose from the grass turf. There are some field ant hills about here.

{reverse side}

13 AUGUST 1945.

One shell of *fasciatus* had four egg cases of a leech (*Herpobdella* species) in a row on one of the shells {sic} whorls. They were blackish-brown, and one prised off was empty, and had an opening at one end.

15 AUGUST 1945.

Muscina stabulans (Fallén) B. Macpherson det. 1952. L.W. Grensted confirm 1953.

Musca domestica L. ♂ B. Macpherson det. 1954

Musca domestica L. ♀ B. Macpherson det. 1954

13 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

The lake in Worcester College Gardens has a pair of **swans** with 6 (1944) cygnets. They crop the grass of the cricket ground like geese.

There are both species of *Viviparus* crawling on the vertical stone sides of the lake: *viviparus* (L.) and *fasciatus* (Müll). Saw and examined in the hand one of the former (n. k.) and about 6 of the latter (2 kept, very large, dirty). 486

Also saw a small **perch**.

15 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

Collected three house-flies that were bothering me in the flat 6 p.m. 488

{reverse side}

19 AUGUST 1945.

Notonecta maculata Fab. (2 set, 7 in alcohol) Macan says this species is common in South England, lays eggs on solids (not in water plant stems like the 3 other species) and is therefore common in concrete-lined ponds. I noticed that they keep upside down by effort, for dead ones float right-side up.

20 AUGUST 1945.

22 AUGUST 1945.

24 AUGUST 1945

19 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

The static water tank at C.C.C. was nearly emptied by the fire pump a few weeks ago. The bottom few inches of water had a dense population of *Notonecta*, now adult, which I have watched a growing up this year from young resulting from colonisation last year. 490

I have seen no *Asellus* at all in the tank since at least February. There are no *Corethra chaoborus* larvae either this summer, although there was a great crop of adults in the spring. Possibly the *Notonecta* have cleaned them out. Some *Lemna minor* arrived this summer, presumably on birds' feet.

20 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

Collected a huge ♂ *Tegenaria atrica* (Koch) in my room at the Museum. n.k. 491

22 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

1 ♀ *Anopheles maculipennis* and 1 ♀ *Culex pipiens* in the flat (n.k.). A few *Culex* swarming outside the windows.

24 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

Ditto but ♂ *Tegenaria parietina* Fourcy. 492 Another ditto 30.8.45. 492A

{reverse side}

25 AUGUST 1945.

(Same place as 9 August 1945.)

497 B Listed as A-T/O-W o-acid ? Are others the same

25 AUGUST 1945. WOLVERCOTE.

Visited the *Typha-latifolia-Phragmites* swamp between the canal and the railway. It had six or more inches of water in some parts – incidentally, only in those parts was there a really good flowering of *Typha*. Some snails etc. on floating *Lemna trisulca*. *Urticularia* no longer visible – reduced to winter buds? Someone had smashed about a good deal, apparently opening some *Typha* stems. The ones with wainscot-moth larval holes and frass in were all empty: one had some? parasite cocoons, empty. The same in the only stem-borer I found in *Phragmites*.

Collected some insects on the wet marsh mud, at a point where it was not submerged, but had patches of *Callitriche* and much rotting reedmace.

On or among the mud and debris:

497

1 *Bembidion* n.k.

Small brown beetle *Cyphon variabilis* (Thunberg) P.J. Osborne det. 1956. [B]

Two kinds of small long-winged Homoptera *Kelisia fasciata* Kirchbaum – macropterous ♀ W.E. China det. 1957. (= *K. scotti* (Scott)). C D lost

3 *Hydrometra stagnorum* L. 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀

[E]

On lower *Typha* stems:

1 *Stenus pubescens* Stephens P.J. Osborne det. 1956. [F]

1 small brown beetle *Cyphon phragmiteticola* Nyholm D.K. Kevan det. 1963 [G]

1 small bug *Chartoscirta* species (nymph) probably *cincta* Herrich-Schaeffer). E.S. Brown det. 1948 [H]

There were a number of duckweed moths, *Cataclysta lemnata*, flying about among the *Typha*. They seemed most abundant in the *Callitriche* areas rather than the *Lemna* areas. But none in the tall *Phragmites* bed, where there is *Callitriche* but no *Lemna*.

Collected *Simulium* larvae from the fast shallow water of the canal overflow weir 498 (same as C.E. 477)

{reverse side}

25 AUGUST 1945.

9 had the left valve mostly destroyed, 5 on the right, and 8 were nibbled more or less equally from behind or round the hinder margins. 3 of the last were hardly smashed open at all and 1 had only very minor nibbles.

25 AUGUST 1945. WOLVERCOTE.

At the same stretch of bank as C.E. 480, found many more scattered middens of *Arvicola*. They seem to haul ashore at any convenient spot, and although the midden I found on 9 August was much the largest, smaller ones occurred (some with definite *Arvicola* dung) for at least 30 yards along, under the dense vegetation of gypsywort, willowherb, fleabane, loosestrife, *Juncus* etc. The middens contained: 499

20+ *Anodonta anatina*, small and large. (Collected all I could see)

20 *Viviparus viviparus*, more than mussels. (Collected only a few, because they included some quite young shells.)

1 *Sphaerium*

Also saw *Juncus* cut into lengths. But the green of their dung must come mostly from water plants?

26 AUGUST. OXFORD.

Walked along the usual stretch of canal, from Polstead Road to the grounds of St. Edward's School. Saw a ♂ ? *Sympetrum striolatum* (wings clear, thorax not-scarlet except by wing bases abdomen red all along). Not caught. Also saw *Ischnura elegans* and *Agrion splendens*.

On the banks, but not in the water edge, are now in flower: *Mentha aquatica*, *Stachys palustris*, *Lycopus europaeus*, etc. Specimens taken of all three (the *Lycopus* being *Cassida*-damaged, see over)

500

{reverse side}

25 AUGUST 1945.

503 *Solenius continuus* (Fab.) ♂. O.W. Richards det. 1945.

504 ♀ *Chorthippus albomarginatus* (Degeer). Apparently the second record for Oxon.
(Right elytron mounted dry)

26 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD CANAL***

Some *Lycopus europaeus* were heavily eaten by some insect, but at first I could see nothing; then suddenly saw dozens of the flat green protective-coloured tortoise-beetles (*Cassida viridus* L.) on the upper leaf surfaces. Then found some black pupae attached under leaves, and one larva, which carried a cast skin on the two curved bristle groups that stick up on the hind part of the abdomen. Kept specimens of all three stages; also a cast larval skin attached to the underside of a leaf. 501

The pupae had not got cast skins on them. These adult beetles are really black-bodied, but have huge white flange-like extensions of the thorax (concealing the head) and the elytra (almost concealing the legs, which are light yellowish brown). They are quite active walkers, and with their splayed reindeer-like tarsi, can climb vertical glass. N. Joy gives food-plant as "usually *Mentha*", but I did not notice *Mentha* attacked, though did not look very carefully.

Also on *Lycopus*, took

502

A *Chrysolina* (*Chrysomela*) *polita* L. A

A small brown Carabid beetle *Bradycellus harpalinus* (Serville) M.J. Davies det. 1954 B

A tiny speckled bug with red legs. *Anthocoris nemorum* (L.) C

On fls. of an umbellifer *Angelica sylvestris* took a small yellow & black wasp. 503

Chorthippus bicolor noticed common in the short grass by the path. Also took one other grasshopper. 504

{reverse side shown as page 152A}

27-28 AUGUST 1945.

29 AUGUST 1945.

On 29 August 6 *Theobaldia annulata* invaded the house, and I found one at 8.30 p.m. actually "attacking", not actually biting, C. asleep in bed. 30-31 she had a dozen more bad face and shoulder bites. Probably the brute starts to bite but is disturbed by her stirring, and starts on another place. On 31 August Joy killed two that were almost certainly *T.a.*, and one of them (in C.'s room) was gorged with blood. They do not always at rest in the sort of conspicuous roof or wall places that *C. pipiens* does, but may hide in the folds of curtains etc.

1 SEPTEMBER 1945.

2 SEPTEMBER 1945.

Under logs in the wood, noticed casually *Marpessa laminata*, *Oxychilus cellarius*, *Goniodiscus rotundatus* (n.k.).

505B *Chrysolina (Chrysomela) polita* L.

Rather large darkish *Trichia hispida* (L.) 2 adults, 2 young

506A,B 2 *Chrysopa carnea* Stephen 1 pres. to James, for Agricultural College, Cirencester.

C 1 *Hemerobius marginatus* Stephen. This species has odd-shaped wings. It is mainly northern, and is a new county record. (C.E. provided det.) [Presented to Hope Dept.]

D 1 *Camptobrochis lutescens* (Schilling) (as *Deraeocoris* L. (Schilling)) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956

27-28 AUGUST 1945. OXFORD.

Two *Theobaldia annulata* ♀, one gorge with blood, found in Catherine's bedroom, and C. has had three face bites, milder than last time.

I collected 1 *A. maculipennis* and two *C. pipiens* ♀♀ in the house.

(Also 1 ♀ *A. mac.* on 3 September.)
3 ♀ *C. pip.* On 2 September)

29 AUGUST.

Identified for R.B. Freeman a small handsome brown lacewing. *Micromus variegatus*, from a swift's crop at Radley, Berks. (last year coll.)

1 SEPTEMBER 1945. OXFORD.

Catherine's bites are only just clearing up. No more Theobaldias, but several *Culex*, apparently *pipiens*, in the flat (n.k.). On the whole, it seems that all bites of C. in this flat are to be attributed to *T. annulata*. She is more vulnerable through having had light on all night, which lights and heats the room; also her door is open so the room acts as a P3 for mosquitoes.

2 SEPTEMBER 1945. LEAFIELD.

Went to Wychwood Forest at a spot near Leaffield, not far from "Maple Hill" on the map. It is calcareous wood (oak, ash, sycamore, maple, hazel etc.) with spindle, elder, clematis (on margin), etc. The soil has a good deal of clayey gravel with small stones like Plateau Gravel, but very shallow over limestone. There is a carpet of dog's mercury, locally devoured by *Hermaeophaga mercurialis*. A *Chrysomela* and a good many snails were sitting on the upper side of mercury top leaves. 505

A	B	C
---	---	---

Beating sycamore branches produced 2 green lacewings a *Hemerobius*, also a small shining dark brown bug. 506

A	B	C	D
---	---	---	---

{reverse side shown on page 154A}

2 SEPTEMBER 1945.

- 507 All *Melanostoma scalare* F. L.W. Grensted det. 1946. He agrees there were no visible fungi on the flies. 8 specimens, 7 kept.

“On 2 September 1945 I collected eight specimens of the Syrphid fly *Melanostoma scalare* (Fab.) which were sitting or hanging dead on the flower spikes of the grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, at the edge of a glade of *Brachypodium* grassland in the mixed deciduous (oak-ash-sycamore) area of Wychwood Forest near Leafield, Oxfordshire. There were a few other specimens seen, no doubt of the same species. The flies were not impaled on awns; nor was any external sign of fungus to be seen on their bodies. So the cause of mortality is unknown. I wish to thank Prof. L.W. Grensted for kindly identifying the specimens.”

Charles Elton
14.2.46

Published in *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 82: 147 (1946).

L.W.G. in a note in the *E.M.M.* (1946) 82: 277 cites evidence that death was probably due to unemerged fungus.

- 510 *Nepa cinerea* L.
- 511 *Tettigonia* (*Tettigoniella* Kl. & H.) *viridis* (L.)
“common in marshy places with grass.”

5-12 SEPTEMBER

2 SEPTEMBER 1945. LEAFIELD ****

There was an opening of grassland, mainly *Brachypodium pinnatum*, rabbit-grazed but in full flower at the woodland edge. n.k.

On the flower heads were a lot of small black syrphids flies sitting dead, of which I collected all I could see. 507A

Flowers in this *Brachypodium* area were obviously calcicole, and the whole thing closely resembled Wytham hill top: 508

Gentiana amarella L. E.F. Warburg det. 1958 specimens kept

Clinopodium vulgare L. W.J.L. Sladen det. 1955 specimens kept

Cirsium acaule

Briza ? media

Linum catharticum

Helianthemum chamaecistus

Euphrasia officinalis agg.

Prunella vulgaris

Senecio jacobaea

Oddly to say, there were no grasshoppers.

A nest-hill of *Acanthomyops* had winged forms just below the surface. 509

2 queen *Lasius flavus* (Fab.) O.W. Richards det. 1952.

Looked also at The Stream below North Leigh where it crosses the road by a huge limestone quarry. Among watercress in the water was a *Nepa*. 510

Gammarus pulex pairs very abundant under a stone (n.k.). On the leaves of the watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) was a beautiful emerald green large Cercopid bug. 511

On damp mud stream margin a small running and flying dark bug with light speckles. *Saldula saltatoria* (L.) E.S. Brown det. 1948. 512

5-12 SEPTEMBER. OXFORD.

5 ♀ *Culex pipiens* and 1 ♀ *Anopheles maculipennis* in the flat. n.k.

{reverse side}

16 SEPTEMBER 1945.

513 *Caecilius flavidus* (Steph.) B.M. Hobby det. 1947.

16 SEPTEMBER 1945. KIRKLINGTON

Drove to the ash-oak-sycamore-maple wood called "The Bushes", on Akeman Street just north of Kirklington. A very beautiful wood with much graceful underwood, and the usual carpet of dog's mercury etc.

On a sycamore leaf, under side, two winged Psocids, small yellow (1 k.). 513

Under a rotten maple log's bark, 1 *Ena obscura* (Müll) 514

Under top slabs of dry 6 ft. limestone park wall (with horse-chestnuts and other trees hanging over in places) were: 515

Porcellio scaber Latr. Large colonies A

Pyramidula ruprestris (Drap.) abundant active B

A brown spider, ♂ ♂ ♀, also frequent C

Large yellow collembolan with dark rings on it, out on exposed surface (rainy day, in showers) D

This whole community must be built up on lichens, which *P. ruprestris* certainly eats; also perhaps on wind-blown plant stuff, leaves from the trees, and visiting insects.

{reverse side}

13 OCTOBER 1945.

13 OCTOBER 1945. WITNEY, OXON.

Under flat limestone of a low (2 ft.) wall by roadside between Witney and Hailey
(Oxon.) huge numbers of *Pyramidula ruprestris* (Drap.)

525

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 3.

31 January 1946 - 16 October 1946.

C.E. 533-693.

Red ticks⁵ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles⁶ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means top flat or garden 98c Banbury Road.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

⁵ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

⁶ Edited to A or OO

31 JANUARY 1946. OXFORD.

1 adult ♀ *Tegenaria atrica* (Koch) running at night in bedroom of 98c and taking
refuge in gas-fire place. 533 n.k.

{reverse side}

29 MARCH 1946.

(+ pretty completely and messily. Noted 1947.)

**Anthoxanthum*

B. *Feronia madida* (Fab.) R. Miller det. 1951.

D. *Poecilus cupreus* (L.) (Joy) = *Feronia cupreus* (L.) (Kl. & H.)
1 k. (Det. confirmed from M.J. Davies' key 1952)

551 F Specimens lost. Next day the whole nest of some hundreds with their larvae
had moved away. The lack of disturbance (I replaced the branch) makes it
unlikely the ants were eaten.

29 MARCH 1946. HELL COPPICE (BUCKS.)

Magdalen College has sold all of Held Coppice except a dozen acres or so near the road, and the sold part has been completely cut over for all large trees. There is left an open hazel coppice with a few young oaks and a good many birches. The College also sold Waterperry Wood for the same purpose – I have not seen how far these are felled.* Holly Wood and Stanton Great Wood seem untouched; but Stow Wood seems to have been felled.

Today drove, 3 – 5.30 p.m. G.M.T., to Hell Coppice, and visited the cut-over area (lying just behind the road belt that is still under Magdalen). The ground is moss-bramble-grass tussocks (not *Deschampsia caespitosa*) and wood anemones (in flower) and a few primroses; and larger patches, especially along old cart roads, of *Juncus* and often standing pools with alga in.

On the old cut oak stumps were a good many split hazel nuts, with indications of having been opened by a bird's beak. Great spotted woodpecker heard calling. 550

Under big axed chips of dry oak wood lying on the mossy grass tussocky* ground I found many woodland animals. 551

<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	n.k.
<i>Philoscia muscorum</i>	n.k.
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	n.k.
<i>Helix nemoralis</i> (shell)	n.k.
<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i> (had very strong garlic smell)	n.k.

1 Large <i>Carabus nemoralis</i> Meuller	Bronze (Trs. to H.N. Southern owl pellet check collection)	A
1 Black, red-legged <i>Pterostichus</i>		B
1 <i>Notiophilus palustris</i> (Duftschmid) ♂	D.K. Kevan det. 1950	C
2 green bronze Carabids		D
2 nests of <i>Myrmica</i> 2 queens <i>M. ruginodis</i> Nylander	A.J. Pontin det. 1954	n.k.

Under a large hollow bark of a rotting oak branch 4 in. thick, on the ground, a large *Myrmica* nest

2 Peacocks (*Vanessa io*) seen.

{reverse side}

30 MARCH 1946.

†Oxford Clay

*Noted by us

552 C *Poecilus cupreus* (L.) = *Feronia cupreus* (L.) n.k.

30 MARCH 1946. HELL COPPICE (BUCKS.)

Visited it just before dusk (6.30-7.30 p.m. S.T.)

Collected in the damp areas of the felled wood, which are evidently an indication of the type of oak wood, though most of the *Juncus* strips and temporary pools are in the cart ruts made by the timber tractors. But they show that only a slight drop of a few inches is enough to turn the oak ground association to bog. The soil is a very sticky light brownish clay. † Tansley (page 282), however, classes this vegetation as drier type (though this can have soil water very near the surface), with *Anemone d.* and *Festuca rubra/Anthoxanthum odoratum*/moss*/Luzula pilosa*/Viola riviniana/Carex sylvatica/Ajuga reptans*. The grass tussocks seen yesterday were *Anthoxanthum*, as I saw dead flowers. Possibly the surface water is able to accumulate more now that the canopy is gone? Opposed to this is the occurrence of track pools in the uncut section, with algae and *Callitriche* in!

On the damp clay-mud along the *Juncus*-grass track; running actively:

552

Small green-metallic *Bembidion* abundant. 2 *B. lampros* (Herbst) R. Miller det. 1952
1 k.

Also a 4-yellow spotted *Bembidion quadrimaculatum* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

2 of the large green metallic Carabids with bright yellow-brown basal joints of dark antennae (as 551 D), under chippings in same habitat.

{ reverse side }

30 MARCH 1946.

553 *Saldula saltatoria* (L.) E.S. Brown det. 1948.

31 MARCH 1946.

4 APRIL 1946.

30 MARCH 1946. HELL COPPICE (BUCKS.)***

On an open muddy track without much vegetation were several stagnant pools a few in. deep, containing algae and dead leaves.

On the wet mud margin were:

553

A Saldid bug, which flew easily and could also alight and walk on water surface

Several small brown metallic "*Bembidion*", (n.k.)

On the surface was a *Gerris* (n.k.) and a drowning long-rostrum grey weevil (evidently flew in).

554

Ceuthorhynchus pleurostigma (Marsham). (A well-known *Brassica* pest e.g. makes larval galls on cabbage roots, and adults eat leaves!).

In the pools were an *Agabus* (not caught) and several *Hydroporus* (1 k.) *H. planus* (Fab.).

P.J. Osborne det. 1956

555

These pools were definitely situated well inside the cut-over wood ecosystem.

31 MARCH 1946. OXFORD.

A comma butterfly (*Polygonia c-album*) in the front garden, in the hot sun (the last few days have been the hottest for the end of March for some time).

4 APRIL 1946 . OXFORD.

1 medium-dark spider in bath at 98c.

555A

{reverse side}

13 APRIL 1946.

558 ♀ *T. atricha* (Koch) W.S. Bristowe det. 1946. n.k.

13 & 14 APRIL 1946.

15 APRIL 1946.

17 APRIL 1946.

562A. *Agonum* (*Anchomenus*) *ruficornis* (*albipes*) (Goeze)

562 B. emerged from pupa 2.4.46, and was a very large *Sialis lutaria*.

13 APRIL 1946. OXFORD (98c)

1 large *Tegenaria* ♀ not placeable either as *perietina* or *atrica* (= in latter) 558

13 & 14 APRIL 1946.

Saw several holly blues (*Lycaenopsis argiolus*) flying in North Oxford, and on 15th, one in Worcester College Gardens. All flying about vigorously.

15 APRIL. OXFORD.

In Worcester College Gardens, found *Hydrometra stagnorum* on stones by the lake (n.k.). Also collected one "*Anchomenus albipes*", and an alder-fly larva by margin, both under stones, latter having begun to make a mud cell for pupation. 562

Two *Viviparus viviparus* seen, on side, under water, one with leech eggs on it. A

Also (563) leaves of holly from 98c garden with white splodge-shaped mines, with larvae in. Kept to breed out. 4 small flies emerged in April and early May. Agromyzidae: *Phytomyza ilicis* Curtis (2 k/4). L.W. Grensted det. 1947. V.C.H. Oxon. Says: "Everywhere its host plant (holly) is found." B

17 APRIL 1946. OXFORD.

♂ Orange-tip butterfly (*Euchlōe cardamines*) in front garden of 98c. Also 293 Woodstock Road, 20.4.46.

{reverse side}

16 APRIL 1946.

Probably *Eucrangonyx*, North American.

Got some more specimens, adult ♀, very dark blue and carrying eggs in brood pouch. These had no sense organs on antenna 2. One seen in copulation. But they don't seem to stay on long.

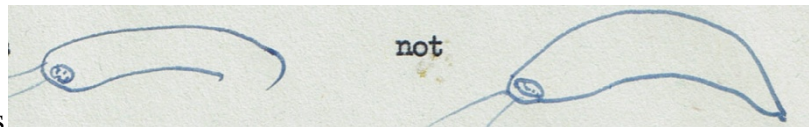
16 APRIL 1946. HINKSEY HILL, OXFORD.

Today I was astounded to find a population of a new and strange shrimp, an Amphipod, 564 living in the tiny 4-5 ft. square concrete pond in the Baden Powells' garden on Hinksey Hill. This pond was started by me in 1937, and I have kept a casual check on its fauna every year since. It is about 15 in. deep, full of water-plants: some marshy plants, also frogbit, yellow water-lily and *Aponogeton*. The shrimps were walking on the sides. Two were collected. The animal is c. 4 mm body length, very gracefully and delicately made with a straight dorsal line (unlike *Gammarus*), blueish-green, with longish antennae and long pereopods. It can swim well, often cruising upside down, and is capable of jumping forward when alarmed and can put on tremendous bursts of speed, like a prawn. It never lies or walks on its side. Neither had any sign of brood-pouch eggs or young. The most remarkable thing is that the second antennae have what looks like supplementary gills on each of the more distal joints



, though they may only be peculiar sense-organs!

These shrimps resemble no European or North American amphipods that I can trace yet, though their 1 and 2 antennae seem to be more or less Gammarid. The extra branch on antenna 1 third joint has 2 not 3 joints (latter in *Gammarus*). There is an extra basal joint on antenna 2, as in *Gammarus*.



The shape of the body is as in *Gammarus*. There are well pigmented eyes.

Where have they come from? Probably introduced on water plants.

{reverse side}

16 APRIL 1946.

16 APRIL 1946. HINKSEY HILL, OXFORD***

P.A. Trotman tells me that before the War fish culturists and aquarists were being sold dried shrimp eggs (some, but not all being *Artemia*) for stocking fresh water with small crustacea suitable for popular tropical fish etc. The shrimp might be getting around this way.

Consulted with George Crawford and Malcolm Spooner, who both confirmed *EUCRANGONYX GRACILIS* (Smith). The latter says that the ♂ is much smaller than ♀ and can easily be confused with young unless you know that the ♂ carries these sense organs ("aesthafasci") on the 2nd antennae. He has found it in West Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. It occurs both in artificial ponds and in canals. Reid has recorded it from Harrow (Linnean Society key to Gammaridae), and Crawford from Lea Bridge (London water works) in *Nature* (1937), 139:327.

The best general description of structure seems to be by A.L. Weckel (1907). "The fresh-water Amphipoda of North America." *Proceedings U.S. National Museum* 32:25-58. Pages 32-3.

C.R. Shoemaker (1933), *American Museum Novitates* 598:1-24 has better pictures of the uropod and telson (page 17, Fig. 9).

My specimens have fewer joints on the flagellum of the 1st antenna, and the telson is split ½ way, not 1/3 of the way down. Both Spooner and Crawford agree we need a better description of the species. (Their letters, see CN 202/3/1-6)

I have since (May) found populations of this shrimp in the stock ponds of the Department of Zoology, which explains the occurrence at Stone End, because I took a piece of yellow water lily from the stock ponds and planted it in the Stone End pond in 1937. P.A. Trotman has known of "strange *Gammarus*" in these ponds for several years. All sorts of stuff is put into them from time to time. See O.E.S. 105

{reverse side}

20 APRIL 1946.

Collected 4 opened *Helix aspersa* shells from the front garden of 293 Woodstock Road, eaten by song-thrush. C.E.567.

Two more from back garden 293, on 4 May. (567 A).

21 APRIL 1946.

565 A *Bembidion dentellum* (Thunberg) P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

B *Bembidion articulatum* (Panzer). P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

20 APRIL 1946. OXFORD.

Spent an hour trying without success to net a **holly blue** in 293 front garden. 567
 There were several about all the time, but they mostly sported or chased in the next-door garden in sun over ivy, or settling on leaves of a cherry laurel. The flight is fast and erratic, mostly at shrub height i.e. 5-15 ft. I saw one again on 21st a.m. D. Lack tells me several followed his bicycle because it had a blue luggage label on it.

21 APRIL 1946. ODDINGTON, OXON. Afternoon.

Drove in the Otmoor district and stopped a few minutes by a shallow, almost stagnant stream (it looks stagnant but map shows it is a stream), at the point marked "195.5 B.M." near Oddington. This stream runs into the River Ray. It had mud bottom and was full of luxuriant floating and growing *Glyceria*.

On the marginal mud (damp), which had been flooded a little time back were: 565

3 species of *Bembidion*, various sizes (1 each)

1 *B. biguttatum* (Fab.) C.E. det. 1952

Succinea pfeifferi Rossm. Dark blackish purple bodies. 3 k. (& the jaw of a fourth mounted in Dufaur, rather distorted by medium and n.k. Quite characteristic shape)

Limnaea palustris (Müller), here & among the *Glyceria* in water. Abundant

Limnaea truncatula (Müller)

A	B
C	D
E	F

{reverse side}

21 APRIL 1946.

21 APRIL 1946. ODDINGTON, OXON.***

Among the *Glyceria*, under water there were also:

566

Planorbis spirorbis (L.) Very abundant

A

Limnaea pereger (Müller)

B

Noticed several **magpies** in fields on the outer fringe of the Otmoor area.

{reverse side}

12 MAY 1946.

591 2 ♂, 1 ♀ *Ephemera vulgata* L.

Sphaerium corneum (L.)

12 MAY 1946. TUBNEY WOODS, BERKS.

Went to Mrs. Ormerod's house at Tubney Warren Farm, on the sand, with much of a tiny pink *Geranium* flowering in the lawn, *G. molle*.

Walter Ormerod took me over to the fish-ponds on the outskirts of the Wood – a chain of five very secluded large ponds, stocked with **trout** and a few **rainbow trout** (non-breeding) and fed by a spring stream. I also saw a stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) and a group of very ornamental gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*). He says there are bullheads too.

Some smallish dark mayflies out.

591

In the outlets stream a mass of *Sphaerium corneum* shells. I also saw shells of *Limnaea stagnalis* (n.k.) and a small ♂ demoiselle dragon-fly.

592

On the upper pond were three common sandpipers (*Tringa hypoleucos*) flitting and settling, evidently passage migrants (I hear today was a good wader migrants day on one of the sewage farms near Oxford).

He reports Duke of Burgundy fritillary in the Wood this year and last (*Hamearis lucina*).

{reverse side}

9 JUNE 1946.

Salix fragilis, E.W. Jones and J.P.M. Brenan det. 1946.

16 JUNE 1946.

604 *Anobium punctatum* (Degeer), the common furniture beetle, which causes heavy infestations mainly in sapwood, and therefore not so much in well seasoned wood. It destroys wicker and plywood furniture. Also comes wild in posts and dead trees etc. Takes 2 years to mature. No certain cure: paraffin best.

9 JUNE 1946. BABLOCK HYTHE, OXON.

Went to "The Chequers", 4-5 p.m. On a pollard willow (leaves and catkins k.) by the Thames margin were: 603A

Many blue chrysomelids ♂ ♀, eating leaves

1 ♂, 1 ♀ *Plagiodera versicolora* (Laicharting) B

A small brown Halticid beetle on leaf shoot 1 *Chalcoides plutus* (Latreille) C

A 2-spot brown ladybird 1 *Adalia bipunctata* (L.) D

Green aphids (n.k.)

16 JUNE 1946. OXFORD.

One of our large old basket chairs, made of 3/8-1/2 in. willow has a heavy infestation with a brown wood beetle, which is emerging in large numbers. Though fully winged, the beetles were mainly walking on the carpet, or lying dead. They are of two sizes and resembled the ones caught on our dining room roof in 604 There seems to be all adults, which lie in galleries that almost eat out the inside wood either side of the central pith, and which come out through small holes in the outside (these withies have mostly no bark left). Quite 50-70 beetles seen, and there are many more in still. Tomorrow the chair will have to be burned in the garden. Specimens of the damage have been kept.

{reverse side}

22 JUNE 1946.

Also one or two *Platycnemis pennipes*. N.B. *Agrion* was the dragonfly whose nymphs survived the drought conditions in 1944. They have increased in numbers in absence of competition or enemies?

22 JUNE 1946.

Drove to East End, and visited the oolite quarry and walked along the R. Evenlode near Ashford Bridge. Today the summer warmth broke at last through the clouds, and the valley with its hanging oak-ash woods swam and sparkled in the quiet sunshine. Searched for Roman snails in the quarry, but found none. Under slab there were a lot of snails:

Trichia hispida, *Goniodiscus rotundatus*, *Theba cantiana* (also abundant on vegetation), *Oxychilus cellarius*. n.k.

On the limestone top between here and East End there is much *Bromus erectus* and some rock rose by the roadside.

The river below is flanked on one side by pasture with buttercups and thistles, and the banks of the river have a riot of comfrey in flower, and marsh plants, amongst which were more splashy-dark-winged green male (and some female) *Agrion splendens* than I had ever seen: a score in one patch alone. n.k.

The males fly with their beautiful dark wings fully displayed when they chase a female, which goes in a more darting way without the wings spread so wide (she has no dark splash of green on how wings).

A few rather small *Ephemera vulgata* L. ♂ (1 k.) were sitting on the stonework of the bridge (1 k.) 616

Today a dazzling large metallic green rose chafer (*Cetonia aurata*) found its way into the flat at 98c. Another was seen outside window (n. k.) 617

{ reverse side }

23 JUNE 1946.

On *Rosa* flowers in hayfield hedge, a very brilliantly coloured (“wasp”) yellow and black Syrphid fly (n. k.)

23 JUNE 1946. Near Hell Coppice, but in Oxon.

Drove in the country round Studley and Stanton St John, and stopped in a huge hay-field half cut, and flanked by low hedges with scattered oaks and ashes in them.

An ash tree by the road had a “wild” bees’ nest of *Apis mellifica* in a pool a foot from the ground in the trunk – not very many bees.

On this trunk of ash was an old empty immature shell of *Ena obscura* (n.k.) and a zebra spider, 1 ♂ *Salticus singulatus* (Panzer) E. Duffey det. 1962 closely matching the grey lichen, 5 ft. up. 618

Also here, 3-5 ft., on an oak near, were many larvae of *Luffia ferchaultella* (Stephens), the little Tineid moth that has larvae in cases made of *Pleurococcus*-lichen closely resembling its parent surroundings. It can be seen in the lab. to eat the lichen on the bark actively. This is a purely parthogenetic species with a wingless ♀ and no male. It may be a form of *L. lapidella* Goeze which has a wing ♂, but has not been found on the British mainland, though common on rock lichens in Channel Islands and Europe. In alcohol, the rest to mature. (K. and H. treat *ferchaultella* as synonymous with *lapidella*).

Bromus erectus and rock rose grow on the road banks by Stow Wood, near Elsfield.

{reverse side}

18 JULY 1946.

21 JULY 1946

18 JULY 1946. OXFORD.

A.J. Cain showed me some live *Sparganophilus thamesis*, an aquatic earthworm that lives in the mud at the roots of marsh vegetation in the Thames and Cherwell. It is red and actively spiral, and has a brilliant blue metallic dorsal stripe. The family is Nearctic and this, the only European species is confined to the Thames basin!!

He also showed me a ♀ leech, *Protolepsis tessellata* caught locally; it is this species that infests the nasal cavities of water birds.

21 JULY 1946. APPLETON, BERKS.

Drove to Appleton Common, a thick deciduous wood of oak, ash, etc. near the Thames. In a felled patch **honeysuckle** (probably suppressed before) was flowering vigorously

Took a burnet moth, 5-spotted, on grass in ride in wood (said to be fairly normal for this species: *Zygaena trifolii* (Esper) var. *orobae*, by E.B. Ford who det. it) which has 6 spots! = ♀

654

The moth laid circa 63 yellow eggs on the cork of the tube it was in.

{reverse side}

22 JULY 1946.

22 JULY 1946. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON. 11.15 a.m.-5 p.m. (Single S.T.)

With E.W. Jones, walked all round the Forest to see if it deserved to be a National Nature Reserve. Went in at the Leafield (south) side and round Hawksnest Copse, Patch Hill, Evenden Copse, Slatepits Copse and Maple Hill, with a detour to the heath on Stag's Plain to the north. Did not visit Cornbury Park on the woods between it and Evenden Copse, nor the lower pools by the south side of the Park. It was muggy hot, sunny-cloudy.

The whole area divided naturally into three habitats: Wood, grass and flowing water.

Woodland. The 'Ancient Forest' was probably certain patches of wood (the 'copses' named on the map?) set in common land with scrub. Jones says it was 'disafforested' (i.e. all enclosed) about mid 19th century, and the red deer killed off officially about the same time. It probably had fellings sometime. Now it is rather uniform messy wood (with a few special patches of planted hazel coppice or trees) consisting of very tall old hawthorns, elders, hazels, a very high proportion of maple trees, and a tree population that hardly closes canopy above large stretches – poor oak, ash, sycamore that Jones thinks would be very expensive to make any good for timber production. There are huge areas of solid *Mercurialis* or bracken carpet – a dull groundfloor, yet with scattered other species like twayblade and violet. Its interest would be in dynamic changes in an obviously natural wood in which no forestry to speak of is or is likely to be practised.

{reverse side}

22 JULY 1946.

† *Carex diversicolor (flacca)* E.W. Jones det. 1946.

22 JULY 1946. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

According to J.C. Cox (1905) 'The royal forests of England' most of the good trees had been exploited by the end of the eighteenth century. In 1792 there were only 173 oaks fit for the navy. The forest then carried 1000 fallow deer, of which only 103 a year were officially killed. He says the red deer was extinct by 1782, but Aplin (cf. Elton in Oxon. V.C.H.) says mid-nineteenth century. Human and deer pressure (?possibly earlier "wild" boar pressure too ?) may account for the present poor state. There was also considerable pasturing. Cox also mentions thorn, maple, ash, holly, ivy being cut for winter deer browse.

We saw some deer footprints, probably fallow wandering from Cornbury Park.

There is a conspicuous scarcity of honeysuckle (no white admirals seen), holly, usual chalk scrub things like guelder rose; but some spindle.

Grassland.

The valley bottoms and partly the sides have a beautiful *Brachypodium pinnatum* grassland with associated sub-communities e.g. on shorter turf and scree ground. Rock rose, *Orchis pyramidalis*, **cathartic flax**, *Gentiana amarella* (in bud), *Atropa belladonna*, houndstongue, *Carex*, *Briza*, **ragwort** etc. 655C yes

Some **marbled whites** on the *Brachypodium* areas. Large numbers of **silver-wash fritillaries** ♂♂ (a few ♀) flying and settling on ragwort and tall thistle flowers.

Many **meadow browns**. 655D yes

{reverse side}

22 JULY 1946.

Trombidiform mite. V. Todd det. 1946.

Also one seen in scrub-wood edge at the spring called 'Cyder Well', which is the head water of the northern stream branch.

657A *Trichoniscus pusillus* Brandt. R.B. Freeman det. 1946.

22 JULY 1946. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

Collected the same small red "harvestman" on *B. pinnatum* grass as I found in Scotland on the moors (C.E. 632). 655A

On the "Old Quarries" (just south of 'Grand Vista' and on the *pinnatum*/scrub slope above one of the pools on the main stream) I found a colony of *Helix pomatia* -4 seen (1 k.) of which three were among grass tussocks under scrub and the other under a log. They are about as awe-inspiring as Sequoias to meet! 656B

Flowing water.

Springs seem to arise in the middle to lower strata. By one very damp cryptogamic spring (south of the 'Old Quarries' stream pool) I found several very small woodlice. And in the spring water under limestone plates were *Gammarus pulex* (n.k.) and a large "Polycentropid" caddis larva. 657 A B

Met L.W. Grensted who swept a tiny black caddis (*Beraea*) from vegetation by Cyder Well.

The streams are dammed up to make extensive shallow pools, with good developing vegetation, and *Donacias* on *Sparganium*.

The whole area would be excellent for studying community dynamics.

{ reverse side }

5 AUGUST 1946.

18 AUGUST 1946.

5 AUGUST 1946. OXFORD.

A *Tenebrio molitor* flew in to the hall light at 98c, towards midnight (n.k.)

18 AUGUST 1946. OXFORD.

A score of adult *Cetonia aurata* were crawling exclusively on *Gloxinia* flowers in the Leslie's {sic = Leslie's} garden at 9 Chadlington Road. (n.k.)

{reverse side}

15 SEPTEMBER 1946.

16 OCTOBER 1946.

15 SEPTEMBER 1946. OXFORD.

A green *Chrysopa carnea* (pink glint on wings) was among kitchen buckets at 98c.
n.k.

16 OCTOBER 1946. OXFORD.

1 ♀ *Culex pipiens* L. settled on a blob of rather solid cream on the side of a milk jug at 98c. The milk had been boiled and there was a skin of cream on the milk itself. The mosquito seemed to have its proboscis on or in the blob. (Milk visiting noted by Marshall (1938 page 247) – only to milk with cream on) 693

specimen destroyed by accident after being confirmed.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 4.

17 March 1947-6 May 1948.

C.E. 694-831 B.

Red ticks⁷ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles⁸ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means top flat or garden 98c Banbury Road.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

⁷ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

⁸ Edited to A or OO

17 MARCH 1947. OXFORD.

Last night a tremendous gale, turning at times into wind squalls of hurricane force, tore across the home counties. It brought down one or two tall Lombardy poplars across Magdalen Bridge; and an elm in Rose Lane that seriously injured a car driver; over a dozen elms in Christ Church Walk; single trees in many gardens, mostly conifers like pine and tall 'cypresses'. Many roads were blocked in the country round. On the Corpus estate at Temple Guiting, Gloucestershire a small wood of large beeches was stricken flat, as Bursar James said.

From Wednesday last week to today (Monday) there have swiftly risen the greatest Thames floods in recent history, overtopping the engineers' safety limit based on 1894 high floods. The Abingdon Road, part of the railway line itself, Botley Road, Wolvercote are underwater (see press air photos in CN 201/4/1). Yesterday I drove along the by-pass to Eynsham, and noted the floods in the fields along part of both sides: in one 'lake' of a field, five pairs of **coot** were swimming by the hedges, in a marshy marginal field were **starlings**, **lapwings** and **black-headed gulls**, and along the flood margin a cock **reed bunting** flew in the road hedge.

The floods result from the final thawing of unusually deep snows (with rain too) that have paralysed activities in much of the country during the last seven weeks or so. With them earlier on went the coldest February frosts for 100 years, so that nearly everyone had burst pipes. The cold, and the snow sealing food supplies, are said to have slain large numbers of small birds. **Rabbits** have girdled many trees and shrubs e.g. at Temple Guiting, and apparently in Wytham.

{ reverse side }

4 MAY 1947.

4 MAY 1947. BABLOCK HYTHE, OXON.

Went to the Chequers Inn. The village here was completely flooded, but now the river has fallen to reasonable level. On the muddy bank, where sparse coarse tufts of grass struggle, *Succinea pfeifferi* Rossmassl. was abundant. Four kept. (Ellis points out that this is confined to near the banks, and *S. putris* replaces it on the flooded meadows). 694

{reverse side}

11 MAY 1947.

11 MAY 1947. OXFORD.

The **sycamore** in the front garden is fully expanded in very fresh leaf and long flower racemes. The under sides of the leaves have only empty skins of aphids, and the animals are all sitting on the stalks of the flower racemes. They are mostly large emerald green winged forms, with a few young wingless.

On 17 May there were many green wingless aphids on the flowers and a few on the underside of leaves, but very few winged left (one or 2 flower racemes searched). Slide preparations of both kinds from flowers. Also a black *Meligethes* common on flowers. *M. aeneus* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956. (1 k.) 705A B

{reverse side}

18 MAY 1947.

706C. (Sericosomatidae) *Notidobia ciliaris* (L.) L.W.Grensted det. 1947. Mainly noted as a river species.

18 MAY 1947. TUBNEY.

Went to the Ormerods for the afternoon, at Tubney Warren House, and with Walter Omerod walked over to the fish pools at the edge of Tubney Wood. A few

Ephemera vulgaris were flying. The day was warm but very wet. *Gerris lacustris*

(L.) (1 ♂ k.) occur on the shallow pools near the banks.

706A

These large ponds are set among trees, but not overhung. A spring stream runs through. The stream above has in it *Gammarus*, *Helodes* larvae, and *Nemoura* nymphs among the dead leaves.

A small crimson demoiselle *Pyrrosoma nymphula* on marginal vegetation

(Sulzer) 1 ♂

706B

Took 2 specimens of a medium-small dark black caddis, very abundant on the marginal fringe of *Carex* ?.

706C

On the sedges also a web spider of the 'Epeira' sort, which had been catching small caddis etc.

706D

On scrub or tree in mixed wood near the stream 1 ♂ *Malachius bipustulatus* (L.) – gorgeous metallic green soldier beetle with orange-tipped elytra, and yellow expanded joints 2-4 on antennae. It also had curious paired red waxy secretion or fungus sticking out from between head and thorax, and from mid abdomen.

707

21 MAY 1947. WOLVERCOTE.

Mary Laurie and I visited Wolvercote Lakes (by Port Meadow) to make a reconnaissance for possible research by her. They are large sheets of water connected by a narrow channel. The water is apparently pure, and marginal and water lily vegetation rich. The north end is connected to a narrow dug-out stretch by the G.W.R. line, which is now being filled with ballast. This

{ reverse side }

21 MAY 1947.

21 MAY 1947. WOLVERCOTE***

stretch lies between the two arms of the canal from Duke's Lock, which insulate the Lakes from the river. The outlet is a ditch on Port Meadow. Air photos (in B.A.P. CN 201/4/1) and information from a railway worker show that the Big Flood of this spring came right across P.M. to the outlet, and also lapped over the north bank (the railway line was nearly under). But this was a historically exceptional level, and normally the fauna must be virtually "isolated" by land.

No coot visible today, but a pair of **swans** nesting in a soggy "island" in the north lake. The water has a lot of *Asellus*, *Corixas*, small leeches, mayfly, and caddis larvae, and snails. Collected some *Planorbis* species, and dead shells of *Sphaerium corneum* (details confirmed by L.W.Grensted). 708A

On marginal marsh plants were some *Ephemera vulgata* and on an *Ishnura elegans*.

The environs are very rubbishy and a spoiled by the attrition of small boys and so on. At the far end more than nine great black poplars had been felled by the Gale, right into the lake.

{reverse side}

1 JUNE 1947.

711 *Plagioderia versicolora* (Laicharting)

3 JUNE 1947

1 JUNE 1947. WATER PERRY WOOD, OXON.

Went to the north edge of this Wood, opposite Hell Coppice. There is a small *Lemna minor* – *Glyceria* pond just outside the wood, fenced from stock, overhung by a deteriorating pollarded willow (*Salix fragilis*) on the leaves of which I took a small shining green metallic Chrysomelid beetle. 711

On a large hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) near by I took some small green Psyllids by beating the leaves. 712

The beetle and other fauna (not kept) seemed not unlike that at Leckford Sheep Drove. Just inside the wood, which is damp-type clay (now cracked with the sun of several days, 85° + heat wave) were a good many small fritillaries flying and visiting bugle flies: one at least was *Argynnis selene* – the smaller pearl-bordered. I also saw a wall (*Pararge megera*).

Two kinds of ? Eristalid flies were hovering and settling on the duckweed-covered pond surface. 1 was a light yellow-brown banded fly. It pushed its abdomen at least once into the water.

3 JUNE. BLADON HEATH, OXON. (Very warm)

Went to the edge of this wood, 5.30 – 8 G.M.T., just near where a little stream rises and crosses a field complex (eventually running, but with no map name, into the Evenlode opposite Wytham). The water rises at junction of Plateau Drift (light soil, hence “heath” – not much left) and Oxford Clay. There is a lovely scrubby field hedge below this age, where still many Drift pebbles can be seen, and the look of it and fauna greatly resemble North Leigh (see 1942). There is a haw,

{reverse side}

3 JUNE 1947.

“Aerial attack by Tachinid fly upon a caterpillar. Charles Elton, Bureau of Animal Population.

On a warm quiet evening about 7 p.m. (Sun Time), June 3rd, 1947, I saw a grey and black fly attacking a thin green moth caterpillar which hung on a thread from a hawthorn about 5 ft. from the ground. The fly hovered and appeared to grapple with the caterpillar and strike at it with its abdomen. When both were placed in a glass tube the fly took only occasional notice of the caterpillar, spending the time mostly massaging the ends of its own abdomen with its hind legs. No eggs had been laid; but after being left with the fly overnight the caterpillar was found with three whitish oval eggs laid on the back and sides of the front region. Dr. B.M. Hobby kindly identified the fly as the Tachinid *Smidtia conspersa* (Meigen). The caterpillar has not been identified. Audcent (1942, *Trans. Soc. Brit. Ent.*, 8 (1): 1-42) cites three species of moth as hosts of this fly: the Agrotids *Orthosia cruda* Schiff., *O. stabilis* Schiff., and the Geometrid *Oporinia dilutata* Schiff. The locality was a mixed hedge in cultivated fields on the Oxford Clay below Bladon Heath, Oxon. It would be interesting to know whether such attempts at aerial oviposition have been observed elsewhere.”

June 12, 1947. Published in *Entomologists Monthly Magazine* (1947) 83:181.

3 JUNE 1947 BLADON HEATH***

hazel, rose, a little spindle and buckthorn, and *Tamus* abundant growing on the scrub. The last, with spindle, was in full flower up with no detectable scent. (*Rhamnus* flowers about over). It, but much more the spindle had attracted all manner of flies and sawflies and Telephorid beetles, especially the large red one that was clumsily cruising in the air, or crawling, everywhere in great numbers in the fields and hedge. I collected one red-bodied sawfly off the spindle flowers.

Tenthredo livida L. R.R. Askew det. 1961

713

While sitting still, I suddenly saw a black-grey Tachinid fly hovering and striking at a thin green Geometrid caterpillar hanging by a long thread from hawthorn about 5 ft. from the ground. Collected both. There were no eggs on the caterpillar then, and the fly did not attack it, but it cleaned its back end vigorously with back legs. But overnight 3 oval white eggs had been laid on the front end, outside skin, on the top and sides:

1 ♀ *Smidtia conspersa* (Meigen) B.M. Hobby det. 1947 larva [A] fly. [B] 714

Talk to one of the Duke's keepers here (1) He witness choking to death of a **heron** which had tried to swallow a large **water-vole**, just before the War on Evenlode at Blenheim (2) no **badger**

{ reverse side }

3 JUNE 1947.

3 JUNE 1947 BLADON HEATH***

earth, but there is a visiting badger, in the Wood (3) Young **pheasants** die through being choked by froghopper spittle which they eat.

On scrub near the stream I saw a large *Nemoura* but lost it.

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1947.

17 JUNE 1947.

16 JUNE 1947. OXFORD.

This evening found an active parasitic swift-fly (*Crataerina pallida*) Latreille ♀, 729
running on the floor of my bedroom (2nd floor, 98c). **Swifts** fly very near the
windows, but certainly do not nest* on the house. A strange visitor.

(* Later found to nest in the loft)

17 JUNE, OXFORD.

A battered (European immigrant ?) humming-bird hawk moth (*Macroglossa
stellatarum* (L.)) on the window of our staircase at 98c. People tell me many have
been seen this year. 730

{reverse side}

22 JUNE 1947.

28 JUNE 1947.

22 JUNE, OXFORD.

One *Amphimallus solstitialis* (L.) entered 98c today (n.k.)

The lime tree outside is heavy with flowers, indeed Linton Road is full of the minty-honey smell of lines. With field-glasses I saw hive hive bees and various kinds of *Bombus* visiting.

28 JUNE 1947 OXFORD.

A dot moth (fat Noctuid) – *Melanchra* (*Mamestra*) *persicariae* (L.) entered the B.A.P. from St. Hugh's College Garden today. It has almost black fore wings with a pinkish kidney-shaped mark on the made front edge of each. South says it is common on garden plants like lupin etc.

733

{reverse side}

3 AUGUST 1947.

3 AUGUST 1947. WITTENHAM CLUMPS, BERKS.

Bright sun with cool breeze, 2–4 p.m. G.M.T.

The great ditch or fosse is full of nettles and scrub of bramble or elder etc. on the banks are two kinds of chalk vegetation: tall woolly thistle (*Cirsium eriophorum*), cow-parsnip and hard-head knapweed (with some gall grubs in); and rabbit-grazed chalk-grass with *Asperula cynanchica*, *Poterium sanguisorba*, *Campanula glomerata* etc.

We saw 13 species of butterfly, mostly flying round the thistles and knapweed:

Meadow brown (<i>Maniola jurtina</i>)	frequent
Gatekeeper (<i>M. tithonus</i>)	very abundant
Small heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>)	one
Marbled white (<i>Satyrus galathea</i>)	one
Red admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	one
*Painted lady (<i>V. cardui</i>)	One: <u>quite fresh</u>
Small tortoiseshell (<i>Aglais urticae</i>)	one
Peacock (<i>Nymphalis io</i>)	frequent
A (? common) blue	one
Large white (<i>Pieris brassicae</i>)	frequent
Green-veined white (<i>P. napi</i>)	one
*Clouded yellow (<i>Colias croceus</i>)	3 times
Small skipper (<i>Adopoea sylvestris</i>)	one

Collected on the longer chalk grass (< 1 ft.) a Mirid bug *Notostira erratica* (L.) 748
G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956 and a brown, white-streaked, large Crambid moth A B

{reverse side}

10 AUGUST 1947.

749A *Phalacrus hybridus* Flach. P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

B *Haltica oleracea* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

C 4 *Sermyla halensis* (L.) (Grassland, especially on *Galium*) (2 k.)

10 AUGUST 1947. FAIR MILE, CHOLSEY DOWNS, BERKS.

A blazing sunny afternoon, with variable breeze from the north, along the edge of Fair Mile, which has rather tangled long to bare short chalk grass with a few hawthorns by the fence. 12-3.30 p.m. G.M.T. There is also a huge grass field dominated by *Bromus erectus*, fenced off because of former bombing, but entered by us before realising this. The collecting was all done on tallish, dense grass with *B. erectus* and possibly some other grasses dominant. Noticed other flowers in frequent, either due to trampling/picking or grass domination, probably latter, as flowers were also scarce in the adjoining field, except on short-grass *Festuca* patches.

Noticed *Centaurea* (large and small), *Scabiosa columbaria*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Plantago*, *Briza*, etc. One lovely patch of lilac *Linaria repens*.

B. erectus grassland:

Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), no blues.

Grasshoppers: 1 ♀ 3 ♂ *Chorthippus bicolor* (Charpentier) 749
(Two of the ♂♂ rather small, and elytra perhaps imperfectly developed.
Colour very brown, speckled, turning red in alcohol) H

Beetles:

Small very convex oval black, running on grass, very abundant A
1 small dark metallic green, hopping B
Green, brown-thorax Chrysomelid ♂♀, abundant C

{reverse side}

10 AUGUST 1947.

749D *Aelia acuminata* (L.) – a Pentatomid with distribution in coastal counties, but also on Surrey and Berks/Oxon downs. A grassland form.

G Lesser treble-bar (*Anaitis efformata* (Guenée)). Baron de Worms det. 1947

10 AUGUST 1947. CHOLSEY DOWNS ***

Bugs: 749

Small dark froghoppers, very abundant n.k.

1 Large boat-shaped, humped "froghopper", NO with light-brown streaked colour, and port-hole spiracles. D

Green Coreid bug with dorsal reddish brown marks, and reddish legs. Nymphs. E

Purer Coreid bug nymph, elongate.

Moths:

A few Crambids n.k.

2 Medium Geometrids, light with coloured wave-bands, flying when disturbed. G

Spiders, n.k.

"Roosting" on the top (1-1½ ft.) of old dead ragworts stems on short track grass were a great many *Helicella virgata* (Da Costa) (banded & unbanded) 750 A

and fewer

Theba cantiana (Montagu) B

{ reverse side }

16 AUGUST 1947.

20 AUGUST 1947.

By the quarry on the road junction just east of North Leigh (oolite), a lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) ran across the road.

16 AUGUST 1947. OXFORD.

Several species of moths flew in to light on a warm clear starry night about 9-10 p.m. G.M.T. to 98c:

1 Brimstone (<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i> (L.))	759A
1 <i>Euxoa nigricans</i> (L.)	B

20 AUGUST 1947. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went to the usual entrance on the Leaffield-Finstock Road, and walked down to the confluence of the streams.

Everything was very parched, and the air was terrifically hot, though with a cooling breeze on the upper slopes. We found no *Helix pomatia* abroad.

The bracken had considerably invaded the little glade near the road that we visited on 2.9.45. On bracken below here, but on the Drift-capped area, was 1 ♂ *Leptophyes punctatissima* (on the upper surface of a frond, 3½ ft., in the open). 756

The damp pool on the streamside, with white water-lilies, and also the large joint pond below had many blue demoiselles, probably *Enallagma*, *Limnaea stagnalis* shell.

The *Brachypodium pinnatum* grass slopes above here (which are being invaded by **turkey oaks**) were extremely parched and slippery. There is (though not abundantly) **rock-rose, ploughman's spikenard, St. John's wort** (*perforatum*), birdsfoot trefoil etc. Butterflies were: (c. 11.30 a.m. G.M.T.) 757 A B

Brown argus (*Aricia agestis* (Schiff.)) Several seen. 1 k.
 Common blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) (Rott.) 1 ♀
 Chalkhill blue (*Lysandra coridon* (Poda)) 1 ♂
 (brought home for checking; too damaged to keep)
 Small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)
 Meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*)
 Wall (*Pararge megera*)

Medium brown and white streaked Crambid moth (2 kept) went mouldy

{reverse side}

20 AUGUST 1947.

And a young *Microtus agrestis*

Confirmed by G.D. Hale Carpenter. Presented to Hope Department.
 Published in editorial note by B.M.H. in *Entomologists Monthly Magazine* 84:56 (1948), without revealing exact locality (see across).

Joy found *Planaria alpina* in Cyder Well!!

20 AUGUST 1947. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

(Limestone grassland....)

Larva of pale tussock moth (*Daschyra pudibunda* (L.)), (habitat probably elsewhere), which has four white shaving brush cockades on its back in front, a red one at the tail, and amazing white whiskers all down. It is a hop and free feeder.

Chorthippus parallelus and *bicolor* abundant.

The bottoms of the limestone valleys have some taller flowers like ragwort and, by the stream courses, water mint, and bracken. Here were very many battered silver-washed fritillaries (*Argynnis paphia*), a good many *Maniola jurtina* and small white (*Pieris rapae*); a few gatekeepers (*M. tithonus*), walls (*Pararge megera*), small heaths (*Coenonympha pamphilus*). Several clouded yellows (*Colias croceus*) flying fast; (also seen several times on roadsides near North Leigh and Finstock). One or two tortoiseshells (*Aglais urticae*) and red admirals (*Vanessa atalanta*) – nettles are most abundant in the woods, especially on those lower parts, dog's mercury – *Arum* been common above.

Finally I caught a wood white ♂ (*Leptidea sinapis*); we saw another early on. 758
The caught one was by Cyder Well. There seems to be no Oxon. records at all, and none to speak of within 10 miles of Oxford.*

In a woodland ride on the upper parts (Drift) was a speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*), and on more open parts in this zone, silver-washed fritillaries and green-veined whites (*Pieris napi*).

*Referred to without detailed locality, by B.M. Hobby in note added to one by C.J. Grist on its occurrence in Solihull, Warwickshire July '1942 or 1943'. 1 ♂.
Ent. Mon. Mag. (1948) 84:56.

{reverse side}

20 AUGUST 1947.

Philonthus splendens (Fab.) N. Joy says local. Fowler says general distribution; in dung, rotten fungi, and in winter in moss.

20 AUGUST 1947. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

Growing on margin of the arable field and limestone grass, was a plant of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) in full flower, and several bushy plants in flower and fruit, of deadly nightshade (*Atropa bella-donna*).

On the way back, collected a staphylinid from under (fairly) fresh dead rabbit on grass ride on upper woods, Maple Hill. Shining black, especially smooth on head and thorax, but elytra greenish metallic. 760

{reverse side}

c. 28 AUGUST 1947.

Two leaves pressed, October. C.E. 761 A.

8 SEPTEMBER 1947.

c. 28 AUGUST 1947. 293 WOODSTOCK ROAD, OXFORD.

I noticed that a good many **hive bees** were visiting extra-floral nectaries at the base of the great leaves of the **Catalpa** in the garden, underneath. The nectaries had several tiny holes in a small spongy mass at the angles of the big veins. Howes (1945) "Plants and beekeeping" notes that these nectaries secrete before and during and after the flowering time (American information). 761 A

A few bluebottles also attended.

We also saw a humming-bird hawk-moth on *Phlox*.

8 SEPTEMBER 1947

I saw a **humming-bird hawk-moth** visiting scarlet 'geraniums' at Wolvercote Cemetery.

{reverse side}

21 SEPTEMBER 1947.

767 Juveniles of *Dilta* Strand (genus authority) species (= *Praemachilis* Sylvestri)
2 k. J. Delany det. 1952.

769 *Phytocoris dimidiatus* (Kirschbaum) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956.
(This genus lives mainly on tree-trunks – oak common, but beech not mentioned; one on conifers; one or two on herbage)

21 SEPTEMBER 1947. GROVE WOOD, ASTON ROWANT, OXON.

Drove, to the Chilterns beech woods, which lie on the chalk escarpment and are part of the "N.R. 42" {= Nature Reserve}.

Collected in part of the pure beech half-way down the escarpment, on shallow chalk soil with rather little ground vegetation under the trees, which are youngish, and some arisen from old large stumps. What ground vegetation there was under the canopy was sanicle or ivy or just moss and violets, mainly.

In shallow (1-2 in.) beech litter near the base of the tree were: 766

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 shells of <i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (L.) | A |
| <i>Marpessa laminata</i> (Montagu) Abundant (also seen on lower trunks, under 1 ft.) | B |
| <i>Ena obscura</i> (Müller) Abundant (also seen on lower trunks, under 1 ft.) | C |
| <i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller) | D |
| <i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i> (Müller) not kept | E |
| <i>Retinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud) not kept | F |
| <i>Trichia striolata</i> (Pfeiffer) | G |
| <i>Oxychilus alliarius</i> (Miller). Large one had strong garlic smell. | H |
| L.W.Grensted det. smaller ones, 1947. | |

Among damp leaf-mould-litter by an old beech stump was a group of fawn-brown Thysanura c. 1 cm. or less, that could leap and come down opposite-facing, but mostly ran about. (3 kept) 767

Several small Muscid flies settled rather quietly on one's clothes (1 kept) lost

A grey-speckled Heteropterous bug running over a beech stump. 769

A *Carex* in seed, roadside grass outside wood. 770.

{ reverse side }

2 OCTOBER 1947.

2 OCTOBER 1947. STOW WOOD, ELSFIELD, OXON.

Spent the lunch hour (12-1 p.m. G.M.T.) at the edge of Fox Covert just west of and across the road from Stow Wood. It is a beautiful slope of oaks and ashes and maple and hazel, covered in places with old man's beard – a calcareous hill-top wood. On a hazel was a ♀ *Chrysopa carnea* Stephens. 775

A spring rises above, though I have not investigated it. Some way below, just in from the road, is the finest seepage marsh with *Equisetum telmateia*, *Epilobium hirsutum* and a little *Eupatorium*, that I have seen – I mean the finest horse-tail. All very dry now, with only part damp. In the horsetail ground litter I collected:

{reverse side}

2 OCTOBER 1947.

5 OCTOBER 1947.

Great tits feeding on hawthorns at the edge of the box.

777 A Psocid nymph, Unidentifiable (B.M.H. 1947).

B 2 adult *Graphopsocus cruciatus* (L.) B.M. Hobby det. 1947. (certain)

C 2 adult *Caecilius atricornis* McLachlan B.M. Hobby det. 1947. (almost certain)

D 1 *Lygus cervinus* (Herrick-Schaeffer) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1958.

2 OCTOBER 1947. STOW WOOD****

- 4 fresh shells of *Limnaea truncatula* (Müll.)
 1 large banded brown froghopper *Aphrophora spumaria* (L.)
 2 2-yellow-spotted *Bembidion guttula* (Fab.) C.E. det. 1952.

776A
 B
 C

I saw *Clausilia rugosa* and other snails.

5 OCTOBER 1947. CROWELHILL WOOD, ASTON ROWANT, OXON.

To the chalk escarpment of this and Kingston Wood, in warm sun, cooling suddenly under the clear sky towards evening. (3-5 p.m. G.M.T)

The north-west edge of Crowelhill Wood is on a steep brow, and the slopes are covered with flints, partly in tiny screes. There is a medium-aged beech wood, obviously forest-managed in the past. Below it lies an acre or two of coppiced box, not more than 6 ft. high mostly, and planted in dense rows. From the leaves of this I beat

777

- Wingless fat yellowish Psocids
 Winged Psocid with marbled wings and dark thorax and crown.
 Winged Psocid with monotone brownish colour.
 Winged heteropterous small bug with rather bright green body and brown transparent wings, active to fly.

n.k.

B
 C

D

The Psocids were abundant.

{reverse side}

5 OCTOBER 1947.9 OCTOBER

779A Another (*V. vulgaris* (L.)) ♀ on 12.11.47 in bedroom curtain, sleepy but active.

5 OCTOBER 1947. CROWELHILL WOOD****

On dense mossy chalk turf on the open slope below, dotted with *Lasius flavus* nest mounds, I took two fresh shells of *Helicella itala* (L.) 778

9 OCTOBER. OXFORD (98c).

♀ *Vespula vulgaris* (L.) at rest on kitchen curtain; where it has been for 2 days, apparently hibernating: quite active when put in a tin. 779

4 tortoiseshells (*Aglais urticae* (L.)) have rested in a row for the last week or two on the white ceiling in the dark end of the spareroom. They have been quite still, hibernating. We have always had one or two entering the house like this every autumn, and they not infrequently gravitate to the same dark corner.

{reverse side}

20 APRIL 1947. {sic = ? 1948)

20 APRIL 1947.{sic = ? 1948) N. OXFORD

Saw a holly blue flying in Rawlinson Road.

{reverse side}

3 MAY 1948.

Attagenus pellio (L.)

6 MAY 1948.

6 MAY 1948. OXFORD.

A greenfinch "shelling" and eating wych elm seeds in the garden at 98c, 1 p.m. (G.M.T.)

In the evening (and again on 4th) a black beetle with white spots, in the flat. 829 A B n.k.

6 MAY 1948. WINDSOR FOREST, BERKS.

Drove over and met John Gilmore, Mr. E.H. Savill the Deputy Ranger, and his chief forestry assistant , (who had worked in Glenbranter Forest), to try and choose a National Nature Reserve. Savill is the Deputy Ranger, in charge of some 20,000 acres of Crown Land here and has it in very efficient management. The conception of an NNR here was caused by some error of the NRIC, for although there are many ancient stag oaks left in the Park and the Forest, there is no ancient oak wood at all. And the only oaks are

{reverse side}

6 MAY 1948.

6 MAY 1948. WINDSOR FOREST***

ones planted about 1820, with beeches, – mostly all very poor, and rapidly being almost completely felled to make way for block plantings of conifers (e.g. spruce), beech and chestnut, the two latter partly with larch as a nurse crop. This gives one a real picture of English woodland of the future: blocks traversed by grassy rides, and a few local concessions to amenity. Here the woods were all poor in ground flora and bird life, but grey squirrels said to be abundant: nest only in beech holes etc., not open nests in younger trees. I saw a pearl-bordered fritillary (presumably, from the date *Argynnis euphrosyne* ?), and violets were among the few flowers.

Savill said hornets (*Vespa crabro*) were very abundant round here, and they spoil **ashes** by ring-barking the twigs. The forester said hanging nests of *Vespula* are scarce.

There is a cattle/deer grid at one entrance to the Great Park, but not at the other, as they were told by the Ministry of Transport they were illegal (pre-war). Now the remaining deer are in a closed paddock.

The woods and park are thoroughly kept, and I noticed a good many pheasants. (The B.A.P. has no game records, apparently.)

{ reverse side }

6 MAY 1948.

- 830A ♂ Barred hook-tip *Drepana cultraria* (Fab.) Drepanidae.
A.M. Emmet det. 1949. ♂ has bipectinate antennae. Its {sic = it is} a chalk beechwood beech-eater, scarce near Oxford, though once in Wytham (Bretherton). Flies in sun. Meyrick says on beech.
- B. *Lithocolletis faginella* Zeller. Det. by C.E. from Jacobs' 1945 key (1 k.)
- C. *Phyllobius argentatus* (L.). P.J. Osborne det. 1955.
- D. *Rhynchaenus (Orchestes) fagi* (L.). P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

8 MAY 1948. NETTLEBED WOODS, OXON.

On the way home I stopped for an hour (5-6 p.m. G.M.T.) in Nettlebed Woods (Oxon.) where, close to the Oxford-Henley main road are some plantations or regenerated woods of pure beech, perhaps 35 yrs. old. A few suppressed hollies, a clearing with brambles, and a few fallen logs are the only breaks in this monotony of trees and fungus-ridden leaf-litter. The latter seems very lifeless of animals. On the leaves of beech were the following forms, and apart from them only some parasitic Hymenoptera – no predators of any kind: 830

- | | |
|---|------|
| A felted coccus under leaves (? <i>Cryptococcus fagi</i>). Abundant. | n.k. |
| A brown waved moth flying about in large numbers and settling on leaves. | A |
| A micro moth with brilliant fawn and silver marks on the front wings, on underside of leaf, very abundant. No larval cases visible. | B |
| A? sawfly larva, black, in two leaves stuck. | n.k. |
| A green weevil, on upper sides of leaves. Common. | C |
| A small blackish weevil, common locally. | D |

Leaves, still young and tender, considerably lacerated already.

{ reverse side }

6 MAY 1948.

831B *Anisotomia humeralis* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

8 MAY 1948. NETTLEBED WOODS, OXON****

On the beach {sic = beech!} litter at the foot of a beech tree, a hen pheasant sat close on a clutch of eggs, then suddenly flew, kicking two of them out of the nest.

The comparative paucity of species, the unbalance of animal numbers, and the beauty of the wood, are things for reflection! Charm without variety!!

Two fairly recent (and decayed) beech trees, blown down; one had a small brown beetle walking on the trunk, the other an oval black and red beetle.

831

Cis boleti (Scopoli) A.A. Allen det. 1955

A B

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 5.

12 June 1948-5 August 1949.

C.E. 849-987.

Red ticks⁹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles¹⁰ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means top flat or garden 98c Banbury Road.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

⁹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

¹⁰ Edited to A or 00

12 JUNE 1948. OXFORD.

A swift fly (*Craeterina pallida* Latreille) appeared on my wife's leg after she had looked out of our back bedroom window. 849

Swifts have been flying very close to these windows, and we see their shadows rushing across the curtains against the early morning sun. There are no nests*, so the flies must fly or volplane in of the swifts.

[* But see 2.7.1949]

13 JUNE. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Drove to the Park by the lake, which was still and glassy, with poised reflections of beeches and flowering elders, and v-ripples made by great crested grebe. The air was heavy with warm and damp and the scent of elder flowers. The grassland has abundant *Cynoglossum officinale* in flower – it evidently is avoided by the cattle and rabbits. On the rabbit grazed shorter turf are little societies of a small pink *Geranium* (? *molle*) and hop trefoil and a small *Myosotis*, in flower.

{reverse side}

13 JUNE 1948.

850B. *Sisyra fuscata* (Fab.).

851C *Sinodendron cylindricum* L.

851D *Tillus elongatus* (L.) N. Joy says generally on beech in company with *Ptilinus*!
Also that its larva parasitises wood-borers.

13 JUNE 1948. BLENHEIM PARK.****

I searched a good deal on the living and dead beeches that form the chief groves on the various slopes of the lake. Where they form dense groves the ground is bare beneath, but the grass approaches close – the tall *Brachypodium* etc. with local rabbit-grazed bare patches.

On live beech trunks close to the big bridge and a few yards from the lake I saw numerous winged and unwinged psocids. My impression was I only saw this Psocid abundance {sic} near the lake: it may be that algae are more abundant on the trees there. I took one winged Psocid, and also a very dark winged Neuropteran, probably *Sisyra*. lost 850B

Another of the latter on a dead beech on the bank of the long west inlet. n.k.

I found on the slope of this inlet, in a grove of beech, a standing boll absolutely swarming with wood beetles. The bark was much of it fairly loose. 851

A great many ♂ *Ptilinus pectinicornis* (L.) rushing about on the barkless wood full of little borer holes. (Some were also under loose bark). A

No females were taken here, but one was taken on a similar tree near the main lake, walking on dead bark. B

There were also a good many little black stag-beetles (3 ♀ 1 ♂ taken) under bark, and their holes in the trunk were easy to see and some had beetles deep in. C

A rather hairy dark blue-black beetle twice seen walking on the bark (1 k.) Clerid, predator. D

{reverse side}

13 JUNE 1948.

852. *Melandrya caraboides* (L.). N.Joy says on old oak or willow stumps; Fowler in old willow stumps. There were some willows in this inlet.

13 JUNE 1948. BLENHEIM PARK,****

A few yards away stood a similar standing bole, a dead pine, and it was thick with *Sinodendron* in the wood. The bark was mostly loose enough to pull off in strips. n.k. Under it were woodlice, also some large dead beetles, long and flat, bluish, black, with rather odd striation. (1 k.) 852

There were no *Ptilinus*.

{reverse side}

27 JUNE 1948.

27 JUNE 1948. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

There was a cold west breeze today and sun was intermittent by the north inlet of the lake (3-4.30 p.m., G.M.T.) A good many small dark

{reverse side}

27 JUNE 1948.

863A. *Ctesias serra* (Fab.) ♂. (Fowler says larva and adult under bark of oak, elm, willow etc.)

C *Vespula vulgaris* (L.) queen. C. Elton det. 1950. (all 6 characters)

Large y.u. {= yellow underwing} (*Triphaena pronuba* (L.)) (Grass feeder)

27 JUNE 1948. BLenheim PARK.****

olive metallic green dragonflies were flying weakly near *Scirpus lacustris* etc. or settling on beeches at the brink. Two kept had not developed any blue colour yet, but were ♂ *Ischnura elegans* (Van der Linden), link 32 and 33 mm. They crawl out as nymphs a yard or two and climb up to 5 ft. on large beeches, where their cast skins or partially emerged adults can be seen. 862

The rotten trees (and some other beeches) visited on the 13th were comparatively quiescent in the cold wind, but I saw one or two ♂ *Ptilinus pectinicornis*; and took one small oval black beetle new to me, that has odd-shaped 3-jointed ends to antennae: 863 A
probably a fungus-eater in wood galleries, as it was looking inside one. Also got another *Melandrya caraboides* (L.), alive, under the same dead pine tree bark as before. B

Small *Vespula* were collecting wood (scraping) on the leeward side of dead beeches i.e. on the bare barkless parts bored by *Ptilinus*. Kept one, which is *germanica* or *vulgaris*. C

Do **coot** eat the roots of *Scirpus lacustris*? A good many green stems were wind-blown to the shore though the swamp is out of reach: I saw coot rootling in this inlet last time.

Many yellow underwing moths arose from the grassy lake slope 864
(*Brachypodium*, (*Dactylis*) (*Arrhenatherum*) between beeches, flying fast and settling on grass or tree.

{reverse side}

1 AUGUST 1948.

1 AUGUST 1948. OXFORD etc.

The parasite fauna of bark-beetles in ash logs is emerging in my experiments: it is colossal!

ASHFORD BRIDGE, OXON

On a very warm but not sunny day except in patches, went to the Evenlode here, and to the limestone quarry a few hundred yards above.

3-5.15 p.m. (G.M.T.).

By the river edge is a tall tangle of riparian plants; including figwort (*Scrophularia aquatica*) or 'water betony' in flower which were being visited by wasps (*Vespula*). 885

The lane verge up to the quarry is calcareous (over Oolite) and rather shaded by the steep woods. On it I collected in flower: 886

Wood melick (*Melica uniflora*) A

A small very common umbellifer B

Purple bush vetch *Vicia cracca* L. W.J.L. Sladen det. 1955 C

In the dense shady ash-oak-hazel wood between the road and the river *Campanula trachelium* 887

In the limestone quarry: 888

Clematis vitalba on hawthorn B

The *Clematis* canopy round here is terrific: thick stems like tropical lianas, and flowering nearly to the top of oaks!.

{ reverse side }

1 AUGUST 1948.

1 AUGUST 1948. ASHFORD BRIDGE ****

Saw a **marbled white** oolite grass verge above here, and **small skipper**, **meadow brown**, and **comma** on quarry flowers.

OXFORD.

At 9 p.m. (G.M.T.) dark, I picked up a very large **hedgehog** in Banbury Road outside St. Hugh's College garden, and transferred it in my cap and released it in the back garden of 98. It snuffled and grunted quietly and then trundled into the shelter of a marrow patch.

{reverse side}

22 AUGUST 1948.

29 AUGUST 1948.

Staphylinus (Ocypus) olans Müller.

22 AUGUST 1948. WITTENHAM CLUMPS.

Picnic there with the family and Thomas Park. I kept a very luxuriant **carline thistle** growing in a stubble field margin below the gorse. 911

29 AUGUST 1948. WESTON ON THE GREEN, OXON.

To wood called Black Leys, near Weston. The name may refer to some peatiness now or formerly in the soil, since Druce refers to "Western peat-pits" as locality for some bog plants, and I believe rare beetles came there too. It was 3-4 p.m. (G.M.T.). The wood is oak-birch with some larch and other scattered trees, and there is very high thick hazel coppice. In the rides I saw **speckled wood**, **meadow browns**, **silver-washed fritillary**, **green-veined white** and **small copper**. Under an old birch log in a cut-over clearing was a huge black rove-beetle.

{reverse side}

5 SEPTEMBER 1948.

5 SEPTEMBER 1948. BLENHEIM PARK.

Went to the Lake banks below the entrance gate. Noticed the bur marigold (*Bidens tripartita*), the marsh stitchwort (*Myosoton aquaticum*) and water forget-me-not growing (in flower) in the muddy and partly cow-trodden edge of the Lake.

The grass slopes have definite calcophile elements: *Cirsium acaulis*, *Scabiosa columbaria* (which is curiously absent from Wytham), *Cynoglossum*, etc.

I saw small very active slender grey-brown froghoppers which were excessively abundant on the grass. n.k.

{reverse side}

9 SEPTEMBER 1948.10 SEPTEMBER 1948.

3 SEPTEMBER 1948. OXFORD.

Today Miss D. Venour brought in some *Stellaria aquatica* in flower from edge of the ditch between the Rubbish dump allotment and Port Meadow. 928

10 SEPTEMBER 1948. OXFORD.

Miss Venour saw a great flock of **gold-finches** and **linnets** on the bristles on Port Meadow.

{reverse side}

26 SEPTEMBER 1948.

26 SEPTEMBER 1948. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

2.30-4.30 p.m. (G.M.T.), the day being warm with a breeze. We went down to the lily pond by the quarry, and sitting on the grassy slope near could gaze at a valley filled with green canopy of oak, ash, sycamore, maple and hazel. Only the maples had yellowed a little.

Collected some *Atropa belladonna*, with sepals from which I removed the fruits, which are hopeless to press. It was in a clump at the edge of arable fields at the top of the lily pond grass slope. 936

There is little life in this pond, but I saw shells of *Limnaea stagnalis*.

Rabbits seemed very active in the wood – damage to limestone grassland and to spindle; and some seen everywhere.

The small stream feeding the south west valley has *Gammarus pulex* in it.

{reverse side}

5 OCTOBER 1948.

5 OCTOBER 1948. OXFORD.

As usual, several tortoiseshell butterflies (*Aglais urticae* (L.)) have come into the house to hibernate, which they do by clinging to the wall in a dark place near the roof (though often on white wall) and closing their wings.

938

{reverse side}

30 JANUARY 1949.

30 JANUARY 1949. BLENHEIM PARK.

Walked round the top end of the Lake. The houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) seeds stick like burrs to one's clothes, as one walks over the grass. 945

All the areas within the ambit of the lake where Peter Larkin cleaned out the **moles** last year are heavily re-occupied!

{reverse side}

10 APRIL 1949.

10 APRIL 1949. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.

The (residual) coppice was sheeted with **wood anemones**, there were a good many **primroses**, also **celandines**, wild or barren strawberry in flower, and folded scrolls of **twayblade** in bud.

{reverse side}

15 MAY 1949.

15 MAY 1949. MUSWELL HILL, IN OXON. (Bucks boundary is at crest).

(1-4 p.m. G.M.T.) in the deep-banked lane across the 600 ft. shoulder of this hill, which seems to rise from a clay base up to a capping of non-calcareous drift, at the junction of which are seepage springs.

{reverse side}

15 MAY 1949.

965 ♂ ♀ *Empis opaca* Meigen with *Dilophus febrilis* (L.) B.M. Hobby det. 1949.

15 MAY 1949. MUSWELL HILL, IN OXON.****

A pasture field hedge was swarming with different flies, including **empids** collecting preys, and a pair of *Scatophagas* also. I took a pair of empids with prey that were flying and settling on pasture grass 10 ft. from the hedge. 965

In the lane a hen blackbird was on a nest in dense bramble-rose scrub; two eggs. And in partly shaded lush grass, stitchwort etc. on the bank were a thick colony of effulgent green metallic beetles, mating and devouring the long narrow leaves of a dock. This is *Gastroidea viridula* (Degeer) (2 in copulation k.) 966

The groups of long oval orange yellow eggs under the leaf were conspicuous, and I kept some damage leaves, too A

{ reverse side }

12 JUNE 1949.

12 JUNE 1949. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Yesterday went to the far side of the Lake. Great crested grebe seem about everywhere. The water is very low and has in falling exposed a gravelly mud zone, which the cattle visit. The upper part of the Lake is this year almost covered with a huge *Hippuris* swamp that leaves little open water. Below the bridge the lake still lies uninvaded except for a tiny patch of marsh in the centre that I have only just noticed this year.

Today I went to the same spot on the lake shore, between the bridge and the "inlet" or bayou from the lower lake. There was one large and a small plant of *Atropa belladonna* in full flower on the lake bank. Its leaves were partly perforated by a very small black and brown flea-beetle (2 k.) = *Epitrix atropae* Foudras. 978 A
This is local (like its host-plant) and attached to henbane and deadly night-shade. Oxon V.C.H. does not give this locality, but mentions Wychwood Forest. Some damaged leaves. B

On *Solanum dulcamara* leaves was a yellow and dark striped flea-beetle looking like O.E.S. 185A, but n.k.

On *Scrophularia aquatica* here were some *Cionus scrophulariae* (L.) – 2 k. – C
which had also damage leaves (samples kept). The beetles looked just like bird droppings, and they fall off easily when touched. D

{reverse side}

12 JUNE 1949.

979A 2 *Longitarsus exoletus* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

979C *Rhopalotomus ater* (L.) C.E. det. 1950.

D *Nymphula (Hydrocampa) stagnata* (Donovan).

980

A 1 *Bembidion articulatum* (Panzer). P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

B 1 *Stenus boops* Ljungh P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

14 JUNE 1949.

12 JUNE 1949. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.****

We then went over to "Elder Inlet". There were some very fine plants of rocket (*Reseda lutea*) growing on the *Brachypodium* grass slope.

Cynoglossum officinale (in flower) is very abundant in many parts of the Park. At the Inlet, on the limestone grassland, it was infested with a rather "large" flea-beetle of the genus *Longitarsus*, which had perforated leaves a bit. (2 beetles and some leaves kept) 979 A, B

Among the *Brachypodium pinnatum* was a black heteropteran bug with antennae very fine and at the tips but bulging in the middle (1 k.). C

A few small moths flying and settling in *Brachypodium* at the inlet edge: very gay dark brown and white, with arcs and blobs of white. D

On the bare damp lake margin I collected a *Bembidium* and a small all-black *Stenus* under a stone. Near there was a patch of brookweed (*Samolus valerandi*) in flower of which I took a very small bit, as its localities are very few in Oxon., and Blenheim is not mentioned by Druce. 980 A, B C

14 JUNE. OXFORD.

One ♀ *Craeterina pallida* (Latreille) on drying clothes that had been at the bathroom open window. None of us had been near swift nests, and although swifts fly around us in numbers they do not nest* on the house. n.k.

Another in our back bedroom on the 15th. n.k.

(* But see 2.7.1949).

{reverse side}

2 JULY 1949.

3 JULY 1949.

2 JULY 1949. OXFORD.

This evening Joy noticed that swifts were very busy flying round the gable above our bedroom at 98c, and that one bird perched in the top angle. I went up into the loft and found a nest with two young swifts alive and partly naked, in a crack between the bricks in the gable. An active *Craeterina pallida* was running on the edge of the nest, and at least a dozen pupae were lying on the "floor" underneath. 985

This seems to account for our invasions of swift flies. The nesting must have gone on for some years? I remember when I explored the loft during the War in 1940 there were piles of dead hay at some points. Today I noticed a lot stuffed in at the sides of the nest hole.

3 JULY 1949. MUSWELL HILL, IN OXON.

Went in hot dry weather (but with a merciful south breeze atop) to the same spot as 15 May.

Saw a marbled white (*Satyrus galathea* (L.)) and many **meadow-browns** (*Maniola jurtina* (L.)) on the main thistly sheep-grazed field north-east of the lane. This hill top is non-calcareous and has a sort of clayey drift (?) thin over a reddish-brown ironstone-like rock.

Took a *Rumex* from the shady lane-side, quite skeletonised, no doubt by *Gastroidea viridula* (See C.E. 966). 986

{reverse side}

16 JULY 1949.

16 JULY 1949. COMBE, OXON.

Joy Elton and Joan Thornton today found a colony of milk vetch or 'wild Licorice' (*Astragalus glycyphyllus*) on the grassy roadside by the bridge over the Evenlode between Long Handborough and Combe. Kept a small piece of flowers, pods and the large ovate pinnatum leaves. Druce records it from North Leigh, Combe, Stonesfield, Wychwood, etc. and 'local'; also from Wytham, where I remember seeing some several years ago by the Singing Way on the south hill. The flowers are dirty yellow; the pods are longitudinally divided. 987

{reverse side}

5 AUGUST 1949.

5 AUGUST 1949. OXFORD.

Holly blue in St. Hugh's Huts interspace.

Fine large Crimson Underwing flew into kitchen to light, at 98c, 9.30 p.m. (G.M.T.)

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 6.

17 November 1949-19 August 1951.

C.E. 1013-1062.

Red ticks¹¹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles¹² round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

¹¹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

¹² Edited to A or 00

17 NOVEMBER 1949. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

With Col. W. Manley of the Nature Conservancy, walked round the N.N.R. part in pouring rain. The autumn colours were terrific, plangent. Especially the golden tawny beeches, which blazed like fireworks. The maples also brilliantly yellow. There was little change to be noticed in the treatment of the forest. A fair slice by the road, of Lankridge Copse is felled and being replanted, though no younger trees visible. Cockshoothill Copse has also been felled. But these are probably during or since the War, not this year. There is a small area also on the south of Maple Hill which has had all the lower storey cleared and only standards left wide-spaced. Ash coppice springing again, several feet.

Evenden Copse has rather more beeches and hazel than the average of the Wood, and it looks biologically good. Also plenty of sloe.

Saw the *Planaria alpina* at Cyder Well, where they were on gravelly sand and under stones in a small pool made by damming the tiny spring, which today was running in spate. Also at Worts Well*, on the other head water. All dark coloured.

At the old quarry by "Newhill Pond" we searched under stones for live *Helix pomatia* L. but none found. On the surface were four complete fairly fresh-

{reverse side}

17 NOVEMBER 1949.

3 whole, 3 gnawed kept.

{on 'reverse' side of separate sheet}

17 NOVEMBER 1949.

*One brought home was *Polycelis cornuta*. For Cyder Well cf. 24.10.50.

17 NOVEMBER 1949. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

looking empty shells, and three which had been almost nibbled away and one a little. Two of the fresh ones had a small amount of smelly brown liquid in which might have been decomposed snail. Was there a special mortality e.g. from the drought.

On an open top some kind of **buzzard** ("*Buteo*") flew away.

At the edge of the woodland thick, in a dry valley above Cyder Well, a grey **sparrowhawk** rose from among the bracken, and there was a fresh headless **wood-pigeon** half-plucked.

{ reverse side }

21 DECEMBER 1949.

21 DECEMBER 1949. ASTON ROWANT etc., OXON.

Drove with Col. Manley to the group of woods selected by Watt and Tansley for a N.N.R. to show beechwood types and downland seres. It was a keen sunny cloudless day, frost still silvering the abundant woolly moss of the downland north slope below Kingston Wood. The vale and plain, with low humps of Dorchester Clumps and the Oxford ring, were diamond clear and lovely lying below this sharp chalk slope of escarpment.

There is about a mile of chalk grass slope, real chalk grass grazed by sheep, from Beacon to Bald Hill. The sheep are a piebald brown and dirty white, woolly close coats, sharp short curved horns – possibly Soay. They looked UnEnglish, at any rate not modern and streamlined. But the grass is true *Festuca*, no bedevilment by *Bromus erectus* or *Brachypodium*. In places was rock-rose; many a yellow ant-hills. Scattered are banks and odd corners with large junipers and other scrub and small trees. But only on Beacon is there a large-scale scrub sere. Below is a rich plough land on the flat vale, and creeping up the valley or

{reverse side}

21 DECEMBER 1949.

21 DECEMBER 1949. ASTON ROWANT etc., OXON.*****

corrie reentrants. There are grass ley fields on the top of Beacon Hill, near the terrace road; and at the top of Bald Hill had been ploughed but seemed rather poor and probably shaking down to weeds and patches of thyme.

All this stretch would be very good reserve. It would have to be run by helping the farmer (of ? Hill Farm below) to keep the sheep on, and by maintaining some of the great rabbit warrens that scar the hillside.

Hailey Wood, close above here is middle-aged (or less) healthy plateau beech wood, with plenty of bramble, *Deschampsia caespitosa*, woodruff, and even occasional gorse bush or ? cowheat. Regenerating. Ancient stumps of old cut big trees. Rather uniform and not very attractive to public because of the powerful brambles.

Aston Wood and Grove Wood (though labelled 'Aston Wood') have National Trust notices on them. They look brambly to bare beech, according to slope and there are patches of denser mixed low trees in places.

Kingston and Crowellhill Woods form a uniform mile stretch of two clear types (a) Plateau beech with bramble, woodruff, large ferns, and little else, except in glades and edges. (b) On steep slopes, very shallow soil with almost pure beech humus – no sanicle or dog's mercury, except a little of the latter in a ravine. Dull ecologically, as there are no logs even. But some lovely driftways slouching down to the narrow down below, knee-deep in leaves. In Crowellhill Wood made trees (mostly larger, though none are large) are marked with white felling symbols. There is box below both woods.

22 MARCH 1950. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

[Peter Crowcroft reports finding shells (which I saw) of *Helix pomatia* in the open part of the very old oak forest in the west side of Blenheim Park. A year or two ago B.M. Hobby brought in live ones from somewhere in the Park.

(On 3 May P.C. found live snails.)]

{reverse side}

c. 10 APRIL 1950.

16 APRIL 1950.

c. 10 APRIL 1950. OXFORD.

I saw the **cat** at 57 Park Town eating a light salad of the leaves of **red valerian** growing on The Terrace. One had always heard that they are attracted to valerian.

About this time the Oxford Canal by Wolvercote was practically empty for a day or so, which must have been quite a jolt for the animal life.

16 APRIL 1950. MUSWELL HILL, in OXON.

Afternoon. **Moschatel** was in flower on the shaded banks of the deep lane up the hill. The side flowers have four, and the fifth, top, flower has five petals.

A fine cock wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) was flirting its wings about some fairly new rabbit burrows in the bright brown shaley earth of the top pasture, where some bullocks grazed.

I collected some of the cow-pat insects – life was not very rampant in them yet, no fly larvae being seen: 1013

Several “Scatophaga” on fresh dung. Kept one = *Scopeuma stercorarium*. (L.) ♀. A

(On 21 June 1953 I found several with fly prey, on umbellifer in the lane nearby).

{ reverse side }

16 APRIL 1950.

- 1013C *Aphodius constans* Duftschmid P.J. Osborne det. 1955.
 1013E *Tachinus rufipes* Degeer P.J. Osborne det. 1956
 1013G *T. marginellus* Fab. P.J. Osborne det. 1956

16 APRIL 1950. MUSWELL HILL***

<u>Dungbeetles</u> (in medium old, wettish dung) Bright brown elytra, stout.	1013 B
♂ <i>Aphodius fimetarius</i> (L.)	C
Very small 'Cercyons' 1 <i>Cercyon melanocephalus</i> (L.). P.J. Osborne det. 1956.	D
Staphylinid	E
Larva	failed
Smaller staph.	G

{ reverse side }

29 APRIL 1950.

29 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

A long and exciting round in pouring rain, with Richard Miller, W.H. Pearsall, and Verona Conway, J.D. Ovington and G.N. Sale (the last three from the Nature Conservancy). Learned a lot of plant and soil ecology. We went down the path (from west of Gospel Oak) to the lake dams, up to Cyder Well and on to the road, back down the long ride, Hazel Light, that runs north of the big field and near the Park Boundary, down to the sawmill and the great quarry, passed the lower end of the centre pond, up to Devil's Pool Bottom and the haw scrub by the sewage outfit, and variously over the south plateau back to the cars.

11.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. (G.M.T.).

The plateau woods on the main "reserve block" i.e. west of the Park ecotone, Pearsall says are primitive untouched wood, except where there has been any obvious local coppicing or modern treatment. The soil is unzoned

{reverse side}

29 APRIL 1950.

A. By 30 May a tiny ? wasp with a thin waist had emerged.

♂ *Rhopalum* (*Physosceles*) *clavipes* (L.) O.W. Richards det. 1950.

E. Emerged c. 12 May. Fly. The other failed.

♀ *Lonchaea* ?*zetterstedti* Becker. K.G.V. Smith det. 1958. "Need ♂ to clinch, but pretty sure." Specimen presented to Hope Department.

29 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

shallow brown earth, over great oolite limestone mainly, usually < 1 ft. The unzoned character is typical of established deciduous wood on such soils. I saw little trace of important Plateau Drift layer over the limestone, at most it was a few pebbles, and possible colluvial clay. The springs evidently come out where the Great Oolite meets the "Fuller's Earth" clay below. W.H.P. thought the rather sterile greenish gray bottom of the upper pond, with only *Chara*, was washed down Fuller's Earth.

On this oolite surface plateau and much of the slopes the canopy – mostly of low trees like huge haws, with variable large tree groups – is thick enough to exclude bracken and grass, and there is a monotonous cover of *Mercurialis* dominant, with much very luxuriant moss of several different species. C.E. 1017 see pages 23-24

There is a fine lot of dead and dying wood about, markedly abundant in comparison with a few clear and "managed" patches in the Forest.

Inside a dead hawthorn small branch [field layer], a nest of small wasp ? Kept for emergence. 1019 A

Under loose bark of old but not yet rotted beech log by the sawmill, a shining brown moth pupa. Kept for emergence. Failed

Under loose mossy bark of beech log in the oak-ash-sycamore + beech woods,

Tipulid pupa kept for emergence C:

Two small bright brown fly pupae kept for emergence E

{reverse side}

29 APRIL 1950.

K. *Hemerobius humulinus* C.A. Elbourn det. 1963

29 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

Glorious sights were flowering colonies of *Lathraea squamata* covering as much as a square yard, seen along the main ride beside the Park (on wych elm, sycamore) and some were on the south plateau (on beech and hazel*). * 1 kept 1019 F

There are two common woodland violets, seen e.g. here: *Viola riviniana*, with long whitish spur that has a groove on the end; G

and *V. sylvestris* var. *nemoralis*, with an all-blue slender spur. H

V. hirta occurs usually in open, unshaded spots. (W.H.P.) These woodland violets seem only scattered sparsely.

In one quite large area, we stumbled on great societies of meadow saffron (*Colchicum autumnale*) whose strong strap-shaped leaves grew both in open bracken spots and in the more open-canopied woodland itself. They are chiefly near Devil's Pool Bottom, Five Oak Copse and Hawknest Copse.

We saw only one orchid – an *Orchis maculata*, of great size, in flower bud.

There are some **Norway maples** and birches here and there.

Miller took a small weevil from outside a hawthorn trunk in the wood. I caught the only insects seen flying today – a Hemerobiid lacewing. (Lost) K

The most impressive feature of this wet day was the site of hundreds of *Helix pomatia* sailing about in full rig almost everywhere we walked, though

{reverse side}

29 APRIL 1950.

We saw two large snails in copulation with a third queuing up.

Withy Bottom

29 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

of course quite patchily. But they were abroad both in the open limestone grass and in the rides in the heart of the woodland. Their main habitat is woodland edge or ride, where there is grass. We must have actually seen over 150.* (Miller thought 1000). There must be thousands in the Forest. The two things of note were the great activity in this wet day; and the very wide distribution.

With them on the paths near the upper stream and lake were many *Arion ater*: all were the brown variety.

The *Helix* were seen apparently eating *Nepeta*, possibly *Mercurialis*, in one case had certainly a rabbit dung pellet on an anthill. All except two *Helix* were of large size. Only a few empty shells were found. 1019

Helicella itala occurs in the limestone grassland above the upper lily pond.

On one of the lower ponds (just above the Park) were *Gerris lacustris* (L). (2 ♂ kept)

On *Juncus inflexus* on the stream margin were a good many *Coleophora* species kept to emerge. n.k. Besides these miracles and details: the wood was a dissolving, rolling, rioting scenery of young misty greens and twiggy browns.

{reverse side}

29 APRIL 1950.29 APRIL 1950.

A. was certainly *Apion ulicis* (Forster) cf. C.E. 1017 F

29 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

W.H.P. and Ovington found an interesting patch of natural pure **oak** wood on the more clayey limestone soil, on the west slope of the valley above Cyder Well. The trees were close enough to be natural canopy, and there were a few young oaks coming up. Here were bluebell, ground ivy, mercury, anemone, bugle, *Euphorbia*, male fern and primrose.

30 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST.

Today the rain kept off and we continued our rounds of the Forest, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (G.M.T.). We went up to the Plateau Drifted area at Stag's Plain, where the soil is almost all solid gravel of travelled and partly striated pebbles, mostly quartzite. There is quite a wide area of rabbit-grazed "siliceous" fine grassland, composed of *Aira flexuosa* etc., with *Calluna* and with patches of **gorse**. Another bit is regressed woodland with bracken; while there is a nice untidy wood at the north end, with beeches etc., on fine rich soil. And a small dewpond. I spoke to a keeper here, a very intelligent person, who had been 18 years on the Forest and only once seen what he thought was an adder. But slowworms occur. 1016

From the flowering gorse I beat numerous small grey weevils, and one slightly larger one. Lost.

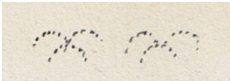
{reverse side}

30 APRIL 1950.

C These are *Pyrochroa serraticornis* (Scopoli).
3 became adult (n.k.). Some pupae eaten by the larvae!

E ♀ *Ichneumon gracilentus* Wesmael. R.D. Eady (British Museum) det. 1951.

30 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

The grassy he is clearly marked  on the part of the 6 in. map due west of the woods actually named "Stag's Plain". Just north-east is marked a "gravel pit", and north north west "Smallstones Farm."

From here we went on to the north-west corner of Slatepits Copse, presumably so called because the shaly, flaky easily ploughed Forest Marble limestone that forms much of the best arable outside the Forest (which is on a sort of plateau core of Great Oolite), but here penetrates under the woodland. An outer strip has been largely cleared or drastically thinned. Further in there is some fine timber of planted **turkey oak**. At the base of a small **wych elm** was *Lathraea* in flower.

In the turkey oak wood, Miller and I broke up a very ancient rotten beech log with no bark on. It contained a score or so of larvae, turning-immobile larvae, and white pupae (that wriggled like men bound hand and foot), living in cavities of red soft wood (a piece kept). Some put in alcohol, the rest kept with wood frass from the log, alive. 1020 C

There were also three *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.) larvae and an ichneumonid. Alc. D E

{ reverse side }

30 APRIL 1950.

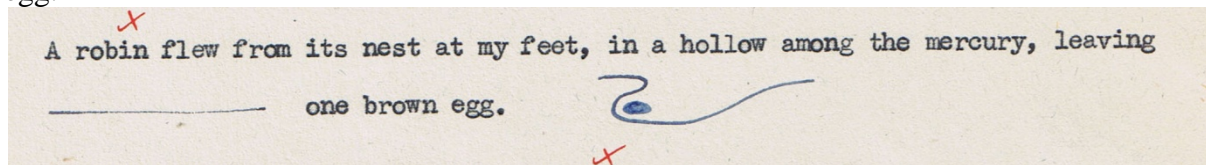
1020 G *Apion apricans* Herbst. P.J. Osborne det. 1955

30 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

From the gate west of Gospel Oak, we traversed the west end of the Forest past near the place marked "Long Barrows", through Slatepits Copse, sharp east down the cross ride to "Churchill", down to Wort's Well and back via '422'.

Somewhere around Hatching or Maple Hill we stopped in a fine flat place with acres of mercury and moss under the usual but here fairly open hazel-hawthorn-maple-ash-sycamore-oak mixture.

A **robin** flew from its nest at my feet, in a hollow among the mercury, leaving one brown egg.



Sweeping mercury gave a good many *Hermaeophaga mercurialis* and 1020
 1 *Barynotus moerens*, also a good n.k.
 many *Apion*. etc. F, G
 And two *Orthelia cornicina* (Fab.) in copulation B. Macpherson det. 1954 K
 1 largish Tipulid ♂ *Tipula flavolineata* Meigen C. Elton det. 1950.

Beating sycamore gave aphids and many small ladybirds.

Also a *Chrysopa* and a *Hemerobius* ♀ *C. carnea* Stephens C.A. Elbourn det. 1963. lost N

{reverse side}

30 APRIL 1950.

1020S 2 ♂♂ (one not kept), 1 ♀ *Simulium variegatum* Meigen. K.G.V. Smith det. 1958

30 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

At the base of a coppiced hazel, under rotting wood Miller found a mouse nest and from the litter at its edge a bright brown small beetle pupa. Failed 1020

In the south-east quadrant of Slatepits Copse is a fine hazel coppice with oak and ash standards (thin), cut quite recently and rabbit fenced (like one by 'Hazlewood Light' in the north). There was a group of about a dozen *Orchis macula* (the early purple, with dark spreading flowers and strap-like blotched leaves) inside this wire. In the long east-west ride here the **grey squirrels** (?) had been nipping off the **beech** male catkins (with young leaves at the downy soft crinkled stage). R

Also a cloud of *Simulium* of a gaily coloured species; not biting. These may have come from the spring streams – W.H.P. noticed some larvae at the Cyder Well yesterday. S

On the south side of the Southwest quadrant of Slatepits Copse is some good natural looking oakwood, with a large amount of *Colchicum*. The ground plants are much more interesting here, with anemone, primrose,

{ reverse side }

30 APRIL 1950.

3 MAY 1950.

30 APRIL 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

strawberry, bluebell, ground ivy, honeysuckle, violet, valerian, etc. It seems possible that the oak areas occur on the 'Fullers Earth' clay zone of the dry valleys. There is violent sycamore regeneration in places. The soil is a deep greyish rich loam, unzoned, with fat earthworms.

There is a nice open grass turf place on a gentle slope just south of the word 'Churchill', rather like Rough Common, but with traces of having been more wooded (e.g. mercury patches). *Viola hirta* here.

Today we only saw two **Roman snails** out, both immobile! The ground covered was different but habitats the same. One overlap that had 20-25 yesterday had 1 today.

Today I saw a **speckled wood** and two **brimstones** (American 'sulphur').

3 MAY 1950. COTHILL, BERKS.

Spent the day tracking down the owners of the bits of land around the Ruskin Reserve, and also walked over and made general vegetation notes on these small land units, which are summarised in a note to the Nature Conservancy. The field and wood unit numbers used are from the O.S. 1933 edition 25 in. map VI. 13.

{reverse side}

3 MAY 1950.

B *N. dubitans* Morton D.E. Kimmins det. 1951. Confirmed H.B.N. Hynes 1960 (see letter 30.6.60)

H. Two small bright brown fly pupae, also under this birch bark. Failed

5 MAY 1950. COTHILL****

4 and 10 are rushy fields on peat, with what looks like *Juncus inflexus* and *submodosus*, that have had a mild burn and some grazing. I swept a large number of tiny grey (adult ♂ and ♀) spiders, with stripy markings, off these rushes. They were most abundant in parts of 4 (“Bessels Meadow”).

1017 A

In the coppiced alder-hazel-birch wood 8 (on a peaty slope) I swept a *Nemoura dubitans* ♀ that had come from the neighbouring brook. B

By the base of a coppiced alder a pheasant left its nest, with 7 eggs.

In the same wood, on the upper side, is a large fallen birch with bark peeling loose. Under this bark, besides *Porcellio scaber*, *Lithobius* etc. were two kinds of tiny beetles and a bug, and a dead (old; n.k.) ♀ wasp.

2 *Sylvanus unidentatus* (Olivier). Tiny very flat long bright reddish-brown, and active cover. Confirmed A.A. Allen 1962

Another small elongate flattish beetle. *Bitoma crenata* (Fab.) det. C. Elton 1953

2 very small dark downy Heteroptera (1 k.) *Xylocoris cursitans* (Fallén) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956.

C

D

E

This log was a year old or more, I think.

Above here where the peat changes to a pure sand cap, is about 9 acres of wild gorse (*U. europaeus*) in full flower among pasture grass, with numerous *Apion ulicis* (Forster); these look grey and are active, and are easily got by sweeping the flowers. Under the binocular they are an almost iridescent greenish grey covered with pale yellow scales that extend to the legs, and the front legs are yellow.

2 k. F

{reverse side}

3 MAY 1950.

6 MAY 1950.

5 MAY 1950. COTHILL****

Parsonage Moor (33) is a fantastic mosaic of peaty communities. I only note (1) that *Schoenus nigricans* is very common; it is a scarce fen species. Its full flowering height seems to be about 2 ft. or more. Now this year's flower spikes are a foot or less, so far. 1017 G
(2) that was a patch of *Aquilegia* in flower bud growing out on the open moor, on or among *Molinia* tussocks! Clapham has noted the queer mixture of peat and limestone species on this moor.

6 MAY. OXFORD.

This morning, in a rather monotonous interview with Beazley of Carter Jones the land agents, I got agreement in principle that the main part of Wychwood Forest will be treated as a nature reserve, though various details remain to be hammered out.

{reverse side}

7 MAY 1950.

5 MAY 1950. COTHILL, BERKS

Another eventful interview. This was with Mr. Norman D'Arcy of the Manor House, who not only offered every possible help in keeping Cothill area as a nature reserve but actually cancelled the drainage operations that were going to start on Bessels Meadow tomorrow! E.B. Ford came with me.

{reverse side}

28 MAY 1950.

1021A 1 *Feronia strenua* (Panzer). M.J. Davies det. 1954.

28 MAY 1950. MIDDLETON STONEY, OXON.

Drove to Weston-on-the-Green, Middleton Park outskirts, and Rousham.

At the South-west corner of Middleton Park where it abuts the road, and just south of "The Downs", there is a wood of large beeches that has sanicle, dog's mercury, wild strawberry, and *Brachypodium sylvaticum*. Under loose bark of a fallen (fairly fresh – year or two) beech I took a small black carabid. Swept from the herbage (50 yd. from small brook of clear water coming from the Park), a ♀ *Nemoura variegata* Olivier. 1021 A B

In long grass at the edge of this wood and a corn-field, on a low bank, a very neat tiny nest of grass lined with hair, containing 5 small eggs, brownish with rich chocolate red-brown dots. A lark-like bird flew off, and I think it was a tree pipit (*Anthus trivialis*). By the roadside here a huge plant of *Tragopogon pratensis*, which is rather local, according to Oxon. Flora.

{reverse side}

8 AUGUST 1950.

8 AUGUST 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST.

In the afternoon Cyril Diver and I called on the owner, Oliver Watney, and his two estate agents, Beazley and Priestley, to discuss the making of a nature reserve. We drove over much of the Forest in a Land Rover, which even ploughed through 4-5 ft. bracken. Some of the rides are very grown up with it at this time of year.

{reverse side}

1 OCTOBER 1950.

*actually seen there on a flying visit in the summer.

- B. *Licinus depressus* (Paykull) This is a very local chalk and limestone species and Wychwood Forest is its only known Oxon. station!

1 OCTOBER 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Drove there in the afternoon to look for flowering *Colchicum autumnale* in Slatepits Copse. We found a few, and one plant had four stems. But the number in flower was far less than the plants we saw in leaf during the survey expedition in April. The flowers have delicate stems and petals, and are not nearly as stout as the ones that grow in gardens: but the species usually grows in less shady habitats. Here there is bracken and a good canopy.

There was one plant of *Atropa belladonna* in fruit by a tiny quarry slope at the junction of Fiveash Bottom and the N/S ride between Hatching Hill and Maple Hill. This was almost completely defoliated and I kept two of the remaining upper stem leaves that were nearly skeletonized, evidently by the flea-beetle *Epitrix atropae* Foudras* 1048 A

I also took a ground-beetle under a stone there. B

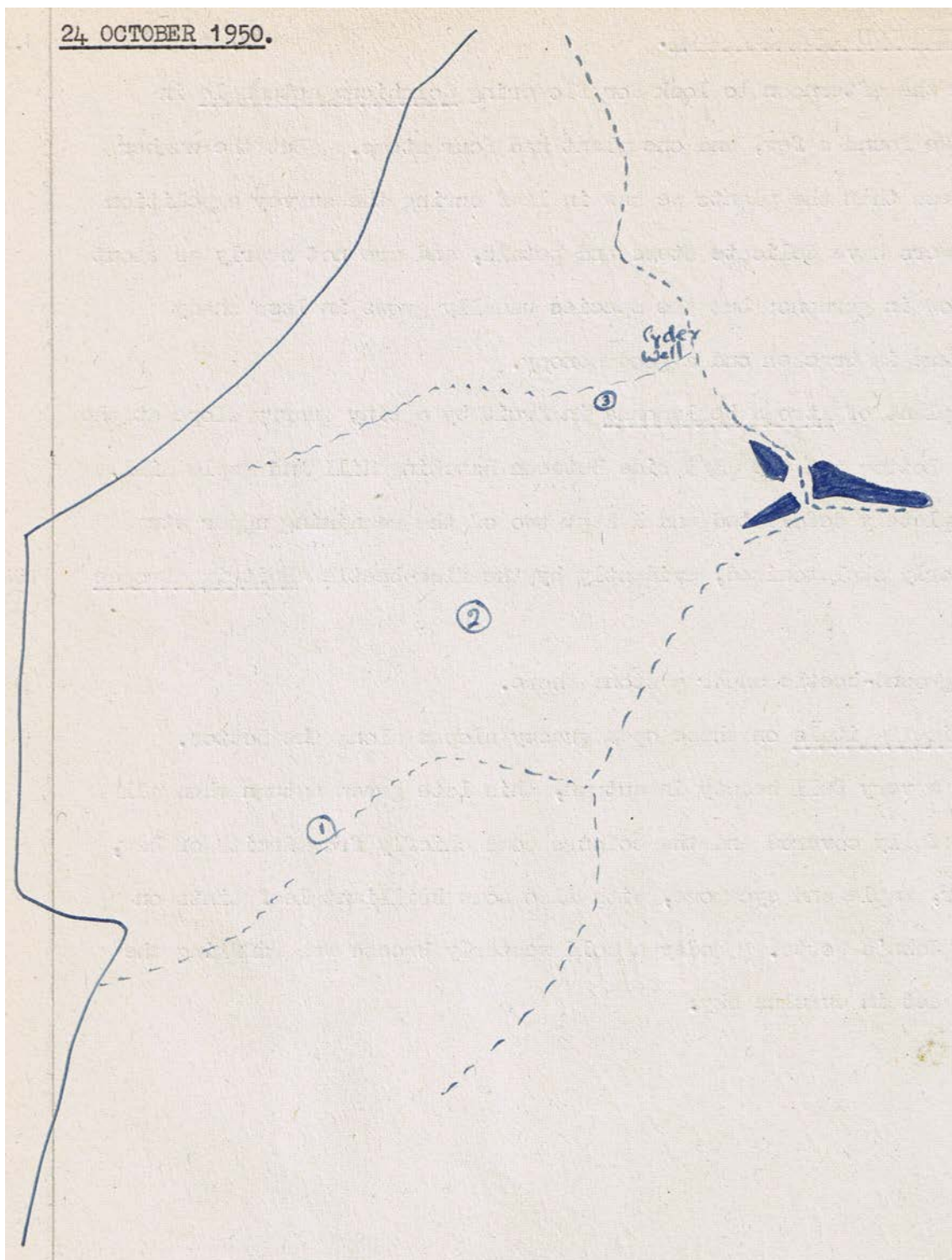
There were *Helicella itala* on these open grassy slopes along the Bottom.

The Forest has a very full beauty in autumn, this late green autumn when all the trees are still fully covered and the colours come chiefly from fruits of haw, rose, spindle, elder, maple and sycamore, with also some brilliant leaf tints on the spindle and St. John's Worts. Today a cold westerly breeze was ruffling the trees in a full sun set in cumulus sky.

{reverse side}

24 OCTOBER 1950.

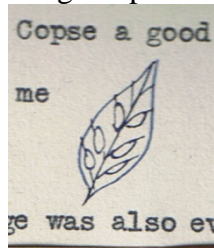
{Map is on following page 52 R}



24 OCTOBER 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Walked round the centre part (see map tracing) with Aryan Macfadyen and Christian Overgaard Nielsen, 11.15 a.m.-3.30 p.m. (G.M.T.). The day was almost still, so that one could hear every movement of the numerous woodpigeons through the trees, the clop of an axe, the bustling squeaks of blue tits – or nothing. The sun came through later in a distilled misty way. There was a litter of new-fallen **sycamore** leaves, **maple** and **hawthorn** had fallen a good deal, but much remained on the **maple** and **ash** and **oak** to give a rich modulation of various colours, with **spindle** and a few **haw berries** in profusion. The **dog's mercury** and other herbs were still green.

In the Slatepits Copse a good patch of *Mercurialis perennis* had a form of conspicuous



damage new to me: ge was also ev symmetrical yellowish-white erosion of the leaf in patches along. I saw it again near Cyder Well, where some *Hermaeophaga* damage was also evident, though nowhere was it bad, and in some areas quite absent. 1049 A

{reverse side}

24 OCTOBER 1950.

B 1 *Feronia nigrita* (Fab.). M.J. Davies det. 1954.

24 OCTOBER 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST,*****

Just as we climbed up to the oak-scrub wood in Slatepits Copse, two **hares** ran away (within 100 yards of fields across from the wood margin), a tawny owl rocketed out of a low tree, and a pheasant exploded off the ground.

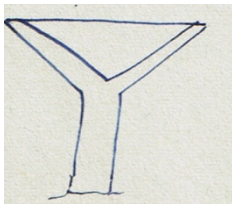
After a glance at the Hazel Coppice, where the ground vegetation is markedly luxuriant within the rabbit wire and under the almost absent tree canopy, we dropped down to point (1), where I again found a *Licinus depressus* (Paykull) under a piece of limestone in the open, also a small black 'pterostichus'. There were many mullein rosettes on this broken limestone scar of old quarry, and under them a good many *Tachyporus*. 1049 B

From the mossy bog of Worts Well we struck north to the open grassy area at point (2). This is a curious place, a mixture of the appearance of calcareous grassland (some rock rose, *Brachypodium*, houndstongue) with non-calcareous (a *Peltigera*-like lichen, absence of most interesting calcicoles). But the ground is made of small bits of limestone with a thin fine soil



above. Here was a fascinating white crinkly fungus about 2 in. high growing in the grass – *Helvella crispa* (fide O. Nielsen).

About in the oak-ash-sycamore-maple-haw woods in various parts are straight-line (? why) colonies of a very large whitish toadstool with white gills, and shaped like an umbrella blown inside out. Some had white mycetophilid fly grubs in.



{reverse side}

- C *Phlaeothrips ulmi* (Fab.). (put under *Hoplothrips*) G.D. Morison det. 1951. See full note by him on habits (fungivorous) in CN 202/3/2-12. 4 slides (1 ♂, 1 macropterous and 2 micropterous ♀♀)
- D Presumably *Polyxenus lagurus* (L.) (C.O.N. det.)
- E *Ceroplatus* (? *testaceus* Dalman) E.W. Fager det. 1954.
- F *Amara familiaris* (Duftschmid) ♂ M.J. Davies det. 1953.

24 OCTOBER 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

From here we pushed through rather thick woods, with the universal high hawthorns, to the dry valley and above Cyder Well where a spring starts but soon peters out. We lodged for lunch under a huge maple (with thick fruiting moss on the trunk) set among oaks and haw, at point (3). Here a fallow deer path, fretted with many hooves, runs down obliquely, perhaps to the spring.

There are was a very great number of fallen hawthorn trunks or trunklets (from old ? coppiced or cut stumps), mostly old and moss-covered and decayed. We (C. Overgaard Nielsen & C.E.) searched under loose and fertile bark of these and found a lot of life of which we noted:

Porcellio scaber, *Lithobius*, etc.

and we kept:

1049

Colony of black shining tubular thrips, looking like small staph beetles, with their pink active nymphs hard by.

C

Tiny woolly active millipedes, *Polyxenus* (usually known from litter). C.O.N. collected.

D

A strange long black fly larva with "flowing" movements like a worm, and leaving a slime trail, with a brown questing head. C.O.N. collected.

E

A small *Amara* C.O.N. collected.

F

Rather peculiar thin strap-like branching dark brown strands, perhaps fungal hyphae under the bark, but looking much more like seaweed!

G

{reverse side}

24 OCTOBER 1950.

Also a *Phosphuga atrata*

and under bark of hawthorn: *Oxychilus alliaris*
Goniodiscus rotundatus
Ena obscura
Marpessa laminata

1049 M *Lesteva longelytrata* (Goeze) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

N *Atheta* sp. P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

24 OCTOBER 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

In the rotten wood of one haw log was a full-grown *Melanotus rufipes* larva, and in that of a leaning one (the only one pecked by woodpeckers) a lot of *Sinodendron* larvae.

The most captivating sight of the day: a large unidentified deciduous log on the ground, thickly blanketed with moss and partly coated with greyish-brown fruiting foliaceous lichen (*Peltigera*), and with little finger like whitish fungi, (*Xylaria*, *fide* Nielsen). A lush meadow of cryptogams.

Then Cyder Well, from which I brought home several *Planaria alpina*, from under stones. Many *Gammarus pulex*. In these "head-waters" i.e. between the spring and the path, a matter of 15 feet of very cold water full of small limestone bits, we took: 1049

A Helmid beetle C.O.N. collected.

H

Helmis maugaei Bedel. C. Elton det. 1950.

Another small beetle (lost)

n.k.

2 ovate beetle larvae

J

A stonefly nymphs.

n.k.

1 caddis larva of a web-type, from a thin case made partly of tiny pebbles, on a stone.

K

4 very small smoky caddis fly adults with gold hairs on wings, sheltering under margin stones.

L

In the stone-moss margin zone two different small staph beetles

M N

{ reverse side }

24 OCTOBER 1950.

24 OCTOBER 1950. WYCHWOOD FOREST****

Along the grassy-mossy ride (Fiveash Bottom) grow little clubbed monolithic black fungi (*Geoglossum* 1 *vide* Nielsen).

The view into the heart of the Wychwood Valleys, that one gets from the top of the limestone grass above the water-lily pond, is full of entrancing levels and colours of foliage. The canopy is so solid that one does not see at first glance that most of it is high scrub and not big trees.

I took two insects from under dead rabbits on a grass path through the woods:

1049 P

A large fly *Alloeostylus simplex* (Wiedemann) B. Macpherson det. 1952 (Presented to Hope Department).

A very parti-coloured staph. *Philonthus marginatus* (Fab.)

n.k.

{ reverse side }

DECEMBER 1950.

DECEMBER, 1950. OXFORD.

I have started to learn some mosses, with aid of a very decrepit copy of Dixon lent by Eustace Jones. Our garden has only one moss abundant and fruiting: *Tortula muralis* Hedw., which grows on the top cracks of the brickwall mostly. We also have some patches of what is probably *Camptothecium sericeum*, introduced to the shade bed, from a loose stone wall at Wychwood Forest this winter.

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1950. {sic ? = 1951}

16 JUNE 1950. {sic ? = 1951} ASHFORD BRIDGE, OXON.

The River Evenlode has evidently been dredged and the banks cut a bit, a year or two since, June 1946, but there are now great thickets of comfrey, nettles and *Angelica*. As before the great concentration of *Agrion splendens* was around the tall riparian vegetation at the far end of the field from the road Bridge. ♂ and ♀ were abundant, and mating was going on. Fish were rising to devour the mayflies. The evening was serene and bathed in sunshine and laced with the songs of turtle doves and warblers.

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1951.

12.30-3.30 p.m. (G.M.T.)

A. *Festuca ovina* L. E. Duffey det. 1952.

Empis tessellata Fab. B.M. Hobby det. 1951.
pale-legged form (one presented to Hope Department)

17 JUNE 1951. KINGSTON WOOD, OXON.

Spent the afternoon on the lower edge of this almost pure escarpment beech wood, which at 700-600 ft. gives on to a charming stretch of very rabbit-grazed chalk turf. There is a great **box** thicket on one part of the wood margin. In the shelter between this and the Lower Shaw wood of beeches beneath, the turf seemed full of insect life. Rock rose was in flower, and other smaller flowers like thyme, **squinancywort**, **cathartic flax**, speedwell and a small pale lilac spiked veronica, salad burnet, a small quaking grass. Fine grass (only a few bits allowed by rabbits to flower) and moss make up a dense mat in the best parts, with the small herbs equally abundant in it. I kept one flowering grass.*A few gentian plants were growing in the part shelter of the lower edge of the box thicket. 1051 A

One spot, an (old?) warren, had an elder bush, nettles, white bryony, bittersweet, and several fine flowering clumps of *Atropa belladonna*, on which the specific flea-beetle *Epitrix atropae* Foudras, was well on the way to defoliate the leaves, which were full of holes. (1 k.)

B

On flowering wild **thyme** I took two large brown *Empis* feeding.

C

Phyllopertha horticola (L.) were flying and crawling about: although the adults eat trees and shrubs, the larvae (Danmarks Fauna) are eaters of roots of grasses and cereals, which they often damage. Do they help (like

D

{reverse side}

17 JUNE 1951.

17 JUNE 1951. KINGSTON WOOD, OXON.****

voles and rabbits) to reduce grass competition against herbs?

1051

On the turf and flying in the sun, I also caught a *Cantharis rustica* Fallén and a redder one, *C. livida* L. (the common one on roadside hogweed etc.)

E
F

There are a good many ant mounds that have rabbit pellets on them.

In the wood below there grows a good deal of dog's mercury. I found a decayed dead **badger**, with maggots and beetles in it. It was quite a grown-up animal.

The road banks on the steep lane that cuts north down between Kingston and Grove Woods has flinty chalk banks covered with vegetation – there was **woodruff** and tall **sanicle** in flower, **whitebeam**, **wayfaring** tree and maple.

The rock rose turf slope described above gives a vast and green view running to the Cotswolds and the hills of Northamptonshire. It faces north-west. Small heaths (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and a few **cinnabar moths** flew on it. In the warm and sheltered part were a good many **grizzled skippers** (*Pyrgus malvae*), keeping close to the ground. Some looked rather worn and were brownish, others were bright and fresh grey-black. One of their food-plants, wild strawberry, was abundant and flowering, even a few in early fruit. I also saw what I think was a brown argus. There were one or two tiny young green grasshoppers.

{reverse side}

24 JUNE 1951.

24 JUNE 1951. WHITEHILL WOOD, ASHFORD BRIDGE, OXON.

Walked through most of this wood to note it for conservation. It is a hanging wood, primarily of oak and ash (not sycamore to speak of) clinging to a very steep slope of slidy shaly limestone that falls from the road to the river brink. There is more than half a mile of it, in an arc. The trees are not close together and all between is dominated by high overgrown coppiced hazels up to 20 ft. or more. Old rotting stumps of ash are frequent, on one of which grew some huge yellow bracket fungi with small insects in attendance. Few fallen logs – perhaps the village takes them for fuel. Under one by the river strip I saw two bank voles. There is a little hawthorn, one or two wych elms and crab.

The plant carpet has much moss in it, including *Thuidium tamariscinum*. It is mainly a thin dog's mercury, rather dwarf. The light is poor under the dense canopy (mostly of hazel), which has few breaks in it. Except for ivy locally, no other plants were common about the flora was nevertheless rather good and contains some Oxfordshire rarities. The wood needs management by cutting or thinning the coppice to enable regeneration of trees to get going. Many ash seedlings are beginning, but I saw

{reverse side}

24 JUNE 1951.

24 JUNE 1951. WHITEHILL WOOD, OXON.****

Little sign of further growths:

The following plants occur:

1052

Viola species

Melandrium dioicum

Anemone nemorosa

Conopodium majus Flower (single stems, sporadic)

A

Hedera helix

Asperula odorata fruit, a few late flowers

B

Arctium sp. (more open places).

Primula vulgaris

Lathraea squamaria (not seen by me but abundant on tree roots a month or two ago, flowers, by C. Overgaard Nielsen).

Sanicula europaea flowers sporadic

Galeobdolon luteum flowers mainly over.

Mercurialis perennis

Neottia nidus-avis (one seen by C.O.N.)

Listera ovata Locally flowering, in full flower

Orchis mascula Locally flowering, scattered. Flowers over.

Allium ursinum. Fruit. One large society 20 yd across, and other smaller groups.

C

Scilla non-scripta. Fruit.

(*Gagea* not seen: used to be at north east end of river path. Not there now.)

Arum maculatum.

Small *Carex* species sporadic

No grass! No enchanter's nightshade, or St. John's Wort

{ reverse side }

6 JULY 1951.

6 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.

Went out with B.M. Hobby (11.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. G.M.T.) on a very hot sunny day to see if the **black hairstreak** was still there; in particular to look if it was on 10 acres that the Forestry Commission want to acquire. This part was still untouched, very thick oak-ash-hazel wood full of flowering anemone, when the family and I visited it in April 1949. All timber had been ripped out since, leaving a very

{reverse side}

6 JULY 1951.

6 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

Untidy mess of brash and broken scrub, with only small trees scattered among high
Deschampsia caespitosa, bramble, hazel etc. 1055

We saw about a dozen *Strymon pruni* (L.) of which B.M.H. took two for certain: [A] one for O.E.S. and one for the Hope Department. But one should not in future mistake the black dots that border the inner part of the brown line on the under hind wing (a line in the brown hairstreak which also eats blackthorn, but was not seen by us). *Pruni* flies fast and mostly above 4 ft. about certain high and pure blackthorn masses, – each of the three loci was a high sheltered clump with an enclave of protected ground carrying younger shoots, (on which collectors actually find the caterpillars by beating in April-May). They were notably absent from long straight stretches of hedge.

Pruni has here its third general station in Britain (otherwise, loci in Northants. and Huntingdonshire – cf. Monkswood). I recommended to the Nature Conservancy that we should not oppose acquisition, but asked for a road-belt of “amenities + insect” blackthorn, and that we should try to secure that some parts of these woods devastated by felling during the war should be kept “wild” – though a glorious community system at this stage, they will grow again to full canopy.

{reverse side}

6 JULY 1951.

C Small chalcids emerged July-August 11

D ♂ *Dolichopus brevipennis* Mg.

E ♂ *Poecilobothrus nobilitatus* (L.)

6 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

B.M.H. ascertained that other entomologists (cf. Emmett) have seen several dozen *pruni* in this area this year (Hell Coppice, and Waterperry Wood) and also found them in Holly Wood (near Stanton St. John.). B.M.H. used to find them in the main ride (A) before the wood was felled. But we proved today that trees are not a necessity, as the two Hell Coppice loci were just 10-20 ft. blackthorn. The butterfly was first found here in 1916. 1055

Inside the 10-acres I collected a lot of **primrose** leaves with active mines of an Agromyzid fly – kept to breed out, and some specimens pressed. It was in partly scrub-shaded 1-year cut oak-ash-hazel. B C

We lunched by the shaded pond on the edge of Waterperry Wood in Oxon., where numerous Dytiscid beetles and Corixids play, and metallic Dolichopodid flies flit and settle on the *Glyceria* marsh grass and the water surface. Tabanids about (*Tabanus*, *Chrysopa caecutiens*, *Haematopota*), all attacking. D, E

We wandered on the war-time cut, between 10-Acres and some planted larch, 12.30-1.30 p.m. G.M.T. The following were got by sweeping tall and short vegetation in the rides and “glades” – *Deschampsia caespitosa*, meadowsweet, bramble, etc., flanked by much young birch and hazel:

1 *Argyresthia brockeëlla* (Huebner)

Lovely brocaded micro-moths. F

{reverse side}

6 JULY 1951.

We also swept a caterpillar that was covered with dusty brown stuff that made it look like a hazel or birch brown catkin. B.M.H. makes it out to be the scalloped hook-tip (*Drepana lacertinaria*) whose food is birch.

6 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.*****

Longicorns: 1 *Strangalia (Leptura) melanura* (L.). Has been recorded from here in Oxon. V.C.H. 1055 G

1 *Saperda populnea* (L.). B.M.H. collected said to belong to birch and poplar. Oxon. V.C.H. records it from Stanton St. John. H

2 *Chrysopa perla* (L.), beaten from birch-hazel. Many were also seen flying in some spots. C.E. det. 1952. J

Sitting on ground (but it is an oak feeder, with a caterpillar that puts oak bud fragments on itself) in a ride was a blotched emerald moth (*Comibaenia (Euchloris) pustulata* (Hufnagel) – B.M.H. det. A lovely brilliant green with rusty marks.

A white admiral (*Limenitis camilla* (L.)) flying, B.M.H. collected. There is a lot of fine honeysuckle foaming in yellow or pinkish flowers. L

We also saw **grizzled** and **large skippers** in a ride, **large whites**, **meadow brown**, and B.M.H. a **purple emperor** (*Apatura iris*) low-flying among the scrubby trees – which include its food, **sallow**.

Little pools have even got larger *Alisma* plants established, hosts of Dolichopodids, water beetles, and *Gerris*.

{reverse side}

6 JULY 1951.

9 JULY 1951.

6 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

The whole place swarms with a variety of exciting and beautiful insects, and was of a Hollybush hot-humid-alive atmosphere. The very neglect of the wood's state made this millrace of life seem more for force and complexity.

9 JULY. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.

With Joy Elton, Rick Miller, C.O. Nielsen and Eric Duffey, on a very hot morning with rain showers by the afternoon 9-11.30 a.m. (G.M.T.). Again the ground was full of active life; and I learned much from the other ecologists. C.O.N. and I decided that much of the open, tractor smashed driveway, and a certain amount of the path and glade vegetation had a somewhat acid facies: *Holcus*, **tormentil**, a little gorse, (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), etc. Perhaps from the surface leaching of this heavy alkaline Oxford Clay – whose characteristic plants are, however, far from calcophile, Druce (“Flora of Bucks”) saying that blackthorn and *D. caespitosa* are common. Except for a little **maple** and **dogwood**, there is absence of calcophile scrub (*Viburnum*, spindle, whitebeam tree) and all the roses except very few also the *Rubus* are white. The latter is partly *R. caesius*, the dewberry. There is especially a small white rose with small leaves, and mostly green spines set at a distance on the stems, that builds nice bush thickets 4-5 ft. high. 1056 A

{reverse side}

9 JULY 1951.

*1 eye-band. (3 looked at, 2 kept of which one has some traces of black polish on ‘forehead’).

D, E both *T. bisignatus* Jaennike, but one has the pollinose stuff mostly rubbed off triangle. B.M. Hobby det. 1951.

** 3 eye-bands.

No wasps, hornets, bumble-bees, carabids (except small *Bembidion* by pond in Hell Coppice), seen

9 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

The oaks growing up again, less than 15 ft., are nearly all coppice from the stumps left some 8 yrs. ago. Birch is about the commonest small tree and then hazel. Ash is common, coppice I think. There is no sycamore at all.

Men were cutting down the last patch of oaks on the Ten Acres.

The tractor ride. This wide, open lane between 10 acres and the older cutpart east is interesting. The dyer's greenwood (*Genista tinctoria*) is not uncommon in large flower clumps. 1056 B

That are several shallow pools in the clay with active aquatic and marginal insects. At one a ♀ *Libellula depressa* L. was hawking apparently for the white-wing-tipped Dolichopodid flies on the wet mud.

Near and radiating from these pools (also a bit in the inner rides) were very numerous Tabanids, especially *Tabanus bromius** L. ♀♀ of which about 15 were counted on me at one time, 1 kept C

1 *T. bisignatus* ♀, and 1 like *T. micans*** but with reddish tibiae. D

The last two, blacker, ones were by the pools and attacked with a louder heavy buzz, rather clumsily. n. k. Cleggs (1 *Haematopota pluvialis* (L.). det. C.E.) and deer flies *Chrysops caecutiens* (L.) nearly everywhere but not excessively abundant. (No midges, mosquitoes, or *Hydrotaea* at all, in this wood, or in Waterperry Wood, though a few *H.* in a field between.)

{reverse side}

9 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE

F = *C. lepidocarpa* agg. (Part of the "flava" group) E.F. Warburg det. 1959.

J. *Zygaena trifolii* (Esper). E.B. Ford det. 1951.

From K = *Z. trifolii* ?? Emerged apparently a smallish Tachinid fly larva that pupated in the tray and emerged later in July. = ♂ *Eumea hortulara* (Meigen) K.G.V. Smith det. 1958.

L. *Z. trifolii* (Esper) probably. C.E. provided det. 1952.

N* *Vicia tetrasperma* C.E. det. W.J.L. Sladen confirmed 1955.

9 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

The tractor ride. (cont.).

1056

The only Cantharid beetles found anywhere in either wood, were two small species swept from a marshy open spot with high *Juncus*, and also *Carex flava* agg. (seed):

F

1 *Rhagonycha testacea* (L.)

G

1 *Cantharis fulvicollis* Fab.

H

Brilliant clownish 5-spot burnets were about, and one was kept, also a pupa case set in its 'paper bag' on a dead stem (flowering) of *Deschampsia caespitosa* (E.J.E. collected), and another with a pupa inside, from a tall rush stem (R. Miller collected)

J

K

L

Paths and spaces in the wood: rich vegetation with *D. caespitosa* and smaller grasses like *Holcus* (no cocksfoot, false-oat, *Molinia*) and *Agrostis* and sweet vernal grass (*Anthoxanthum*); *Carduus palustris* – 4-5 ft. high; bramble and dewberry; very small flowers of which I brought back *Stellaria graminea**

M*

Galium palustre,

L*

the smooth tare *Vicia tetrasperma*.

N*

A lot of spiders do various contrivances: E.D. showed me *Pisaura* in the grass stems, with young; and *Theridion notatum* with its delicate criss-crossing girder style between the bramble stems. And I swept and {sic} the fat, dark, short-legged Salticid.

Other insects swept were:

Thistle longicorns, *Agapanthia villoscoviridescens* (Degeer) – the only thistle is the abundant *palustris* and there is no *Heracleum*.

M

{reverse side}

R. *Cryptocephalus labiatus* (L.)

Waterperry wood is Oxon. and we walked there 12.30-1.30 p.m. (G.M.T.)

9 JULY 1951 HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

Rides etc..... Swept:

1056

♂♀ *Strangalia melanura* (L.) which copulated in tube.

P

E. Duffey gave me a wonderful Membracid bug sitting among flower clusters of marsh thistle, 3-4 ft. *Centrotus cornutus* (L.). C.E. det.

Q

The leaves of birch-hazel etc. seemed to have a lot of aphids and many *Chrysopa perla*, but few weevils. Miller took an extraordinary long-necked square orange weevil on birch; and I picked a small dark blue-black Chrysomelid that overnight ate some of its birch leaf in the tube.

R

Young *Leptophyes punctatissima* (Bosc.) were not uncommon in sweepings from the low trees. .

n.k.

We kept a psychid moth larva from a birch leaf (C.O.N. collected),
and in Waterperry Wood a peculiar bent larva, also on upper side of a birch leaf.

T

U

Strangalia maculata (Poda) was common and seen by Joy and myself eating the pollen of a pink rose, by others also on 'bramble' flowers, and generally sitting on bramble and other leaves. I took one off a birch leaf.

V*

There are only old stumps, no logs about, so probably none of these four longicorns uses dead wood. In Waterperry Wood that are a

{reverse side}

9 JULY 1951.

W* This beetle ate the middle out of the aspen leaf left in its tube overnight.

X Common white wave (*Cabera pusaria* (L.)) C. Elton det. 1951.

Y sawfly *Tenthredo viridis* L. R.R. Askew det. 1961 (as *Rhogogaster v.* (L.))

1057A *Chalcoides fulvicornis* (Fab.) C. Elton provided det. 1954

9 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

Certain number of aspens (*Populus tremula*) and C.O.N. took a *Saperda populnea* (L.) ♀ actually ovipositing on a ½ in. twig of the living tree; a few inches from here was the bulbous gall the larvae makes {sic} in the twig – we saw several of these. 1056 W W*

Further notes on Waterperry Wood, Oxon.:

It is more densely grown than Hell Coppice, perhaps out a year or two sooner, and many paths choked with scrub and briar. I kept a triple-lined white wave moth caught flying near birch,

and a large green sawfly (R. Miller)

– there was a big fat green larva of sawfly on birch that might be this species, also seen in Hell Coppice.

X
Y

On a dead St. John's Wort flower head in the path, c. 15 in., Joy found a moth *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), beautifully posed as a crumpled dead leaf. Z

A small chrysomelid beetle had been eating bits out of the leaves of a willow (*Salix ? atrocinerea*). I took two golden *Chalcoides fulvicornis* (Fab.) which during the night made similar leaf damage in their tube. 1057 A

Pond in Hell Coppice. A round pond about 20 ft. broad had many insects, and a powder-blue ♂ *Libellula depressa* L. as well as the *Enallagma* seen on 6th.

{reverse side}

9 JULY 1951.

C. ♀ *Hemerobius atrifrons* McLachlan. C.E. provided det. 1951. A larch species.

9 JULY 1951. HELL COPPICE, BUCKS.****

Butterflies: Between us we saw:

Abundant Meadow browns	H.C.	W.P.W. {= Hell Coppice; Waterperry Wood}
1 Speckled wood	H.C.	
1 Ringlet		W.P.W.
Abundant Marbled whites	H.C.	W.P.W.
Large whites	H.C.	W.P.W.
1 Red Admiral	H.C.	
frequent White admirals	H.C.	W.P.W.
1 Silver-washed fritillary		W.P.W.
1 Black hairstreak (Miller collected & I inspected it, inside the north-west side of W. P. W).		
Large skippers	H.C.	
Grizzled skippers	H.C.	

With the purple emperor last week this makes 12 species. Over half the British butterflies have been recorded from Hell Coppice (B.M.H.).

Larches.

A little into Hell Coppice there is some much neglected larch planted, not more than 8 yrs. old. There is a lot of fluffy 'aphid' on it and I beat some *Hemerobius* off (none seen on deciduous trees). 1057 C

Field between H.C. & W.P.W. On the grass margin peculiar 2½ ft. high bluish-glaucous "couch-grass" with little in the way of awns. D

= *Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv. Glaucous form. W.J.L. Sladen det. 1952.

{reverse side}

15 JULY 1951.

1058 C. 2 *Empis livida* L. B. Macpherson det. 1952 (1 kept)

15 JULY 1951. WITTENHAM CLUMPS, BERKS.

In the afternoon (3-5 p.m. G.M.T.). It was a still warm day with a haze softening all distant hills, but an embracing view. The top field is mostly flints in chalky brown earth, with a good many rounded quartzite pebbles that must be from the plateau drift remnants:

The fosse was rich with chalk plants: in flower were **squinancywort**, *Campanula glomerata*, *Pastinaca*, large **red knapweed**, *Bromus erectus*, *Arrhenatherum elatior*, *Scabiosa columbaria*, *Cirsium eriophorum* (bud), ragwort, **meadow pea**, *Lotus*, etc. A few **harebells**.

The only abundant butterfly, which was flying and resting in scores, was the **marbled white**. It affects the foot or two high long grassy chalk meadow, especially of the lower fosse slopes. A few **meadow-browns**, one **large white**. No others.

On the *C. eriophorum* leaf was the ermine-spotted moth, *Myelois cribrumella* (Huebner) which comes on the same plant at Wytham. It folds its wings in a narrow Crambid fashion.

The *Pastinaca* flowers swarmed with *Rhagozycha fulva* (Scopoli), all apparently the same species and nearly all in close copulation (2 kept).

A similar pair from *Heracleum*, which is a less common plant here. I noticed old ones only on **ragwort** and none on Scabious.

But there were a great many large slender flies sucking *S. columbaria* flowers.

I also preserved the stem of *Campanula glomerata*, in flower. Here they grow about a foot high.

1058 A ♂♀

B ♂♀

C

n.k.

{reverse side}

5 AUGUST 1951.

5 AUGUST 1951. DRAGON HILL, WHITEHORSE HILL, ETC. UFFINGTON BERKS.

Dragon Hill has an official notice that it (and by implication the White Horse) are Ancient Monuments under the Office of Works. The whole steep complex escarpment, except for oat-grown floor of the cirque called 'The Manger', is pure chalk grassland with no close-grazed turf, no sheep, and hardly any rabbit traces. It is

{reverse side}

5 AUGUST 1951.

and *Blackstonia perfoliata*

A 3 *Zygaena filipendulae* (L.) E.B. Ford det. 1951. (2 kept)

15 AUGUST 1951.

5 AUGUST 1951. UFFINGTON AREA, BERKS****

Dominated, as regards height of flowers, by *Bromus erectus*, though this scarcely yet keeps down a very beautiful and varied flora that includes harebell, *Campanula glomerata*, larger knapweed, kidney vetch (some large patches), *Lotus*, *Scabiosa columbaria*, a legume with close pinnate leaves and pods an inch long finished flowering – ? *Astragalus*, pignut, wild carrot, carline and *acaulis* thistles, cathartic flax, quaking grass, etc. *Brachypodium* seemed – from the yellowness of leaves, to be invading some steep slopes – they are extremely steep.

Burnet moths (four kept) were very frequent under the heads of the large knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*) on Dragon Hill; and were seen elsewhere in similar position: it was too windy and cold for them to fly. 1060 A

I caught a flying ♂ chalkhill blue (*Lysandra coridon* (Poda)). B

The top flat grassland above the Horse itself may have been ploughed and reverted: it has a lot of small or grasses, ragwort etc.

15 AUGUST. HELL COPPICE REGION, OXON & BUCKS.

Drove and walked with Rick Miller and G.N. Sale (the Nature Conservancy's forestry officer) to look at these woods as a whole. Blackwater Wood and Little Stanton Wood, Oxon., are small and much visited by picnic parties from cars, but have not been felled, and the first contains some nice

{reverse side}

15 AUGUST 1951.

1061 A *Palomena prasina* (L.) (2 nymphs) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956 not kept

B* *Ypsolophus parenthesesellus* (L.) (= *costellus*) G. Varley det. 1951.

C 3 *Anthronomus rubi* (Herbst) var. *brunneipennis* Curtis. P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

D *Oedemera lurida* (Marsham) C.E. provided details 1951.

E 3 ♂ immature *Evarcha arcuata* (Clerck). E. Duffey det. 1951. (2 kept)
Very hairy, with sharp bows of white on grey and black.

F *Pemphredon lugubris* (Fab.) ♀. O.W. Richards det. 1952.

15 AUGUST. HELL COPPICE REGION****

tall marshy glades. Clay.

11-12 p.m. (G.M.T.)

We skirted round the south edge of Studley Wood, Oxon. along a cut hay-field. There was a narrow ditch in the open, with meadowsweet, *Lycopus* etc. among which were many shield bugs, rather oval green nymphs of several ages, that quickly lost colour after death. We swept these in the rides also, of Oakley, Shabbington, York's and Waterperry Woods. 1061A

The wood is very thick and gloomy, but the dominant oaks are mostly poor and not close canopy. There is a great deal of blackthorn under them, and scattered birch. It is the usual run-down game wood on clay: it felt dull inside, though we did not explore more than the edge. I took a caddis-like moth on the blackthorn inside. B*

A little *Calamagrostis epigeios* grows on the margin, and I kept a small reddish orange round spider: *Aranea cucurbitina* L. immature E. Duffey det. 1951 B

Oakley Woods, Bucks. 12.30-1.30 p.m. (G.M.T.) must have been clear-felled about the same time as Hell Coppice (say 8 yrs), and is in a very similar state except that the oak itself seemed more dominant than the coppice, and there was less birch. There are some very nice rides and spaces, with *Deschampsia caespitosa* (dead) flowers up to 5 ft. high. Sweeping in rides produced a lot of *Apion* (3 kept), an *Oedemera*, three Salticid spiders, and some *Tettigoniella viridis* (L.). Disturbed from a birch, a long black ? log-living wasp. **Betony** is common in this wood. C
D
E
F

{reverse side}

15 AUGUST 1951.1061G Pebble hook-tip (*Drepana falcatoria* (L.)) (Mainly eats birch)H 1 *Rhopalotomus ater* (L.) (As *Capsusa*) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956.J. *Conops flavipes* L. L.W. Grensted det. 1952.

K. C.E. det. 1952 1 ♂ 1 ♀.

L. Confirmed by W.J.L. Sladen 1952.

A marshy clearing had meadowsweet, *J. conglomeratus* and a 4 ft. *Peucedanum* whose leaves were blotch-mined, not more than one per leaflet. Leaf mine S* failed.

Tettigoniella viridis occurred here.

15 AUGUST. HELL COPPICE REGION etc . ****

Oakley Wood*** A medium brown moth with sharply curved wing-tips was disturbed from scrub. (There is no beech here). 1061 G

From here one comes out into a sudden very long narrow strip of oats, and the wood has a pleasant scrubby grassy dry edge, still clay.

Shabbington Woods, Bucks. This is also similar to Hell Coppice and Waterperry, and has more birch than the part of Oakley Wood we went through. It has been felled. There are some quite large glade areas, now covered with very high damp *Juncus conglomeratus* (with many *Coleophora* larvae on the flower heads), meadowsweet, grass etc. On the patch of this *Juncus* I swept an orange-wing-tipped heteropteran; H
and on ragwort flowers 2 ft., a wasp-coloured Conopid fly. J

Two kinds of *Tettigoniella viridis* (L.) (σ^7 kept), σ^7 is large emerald green, the σ^7 smaller with darker hemilytra, and yellower thorax, were very abundant K
and seemed to be especially walking about on *Juncus articulatus* L. in a damp mixed *Juncus* patch at the cross-ride. L

There were some small trees of service (*Sorbus torminalis*), which had a bit of leaf mite gall or fungus. The service is rare in O.B.B. M

York's Wood, Bucks. is in the same state as Waterperry Wood, but there are some markedly damp spots, and some thick young birch stands that have already reduced the field layer to nothing much. A few planted conifers.

{reverse side}

15 AUGUST 1951.

15 AUGUST. HELL COPPICE REGION ****

South-west edge of Oakley Wood, Bucks. This is a rather thick flourishing oak coppice up 20 ft. Sweeping the branches 5 to 8 ft. gave: 1061

Broad small micro-moths.	N
Ditto.	
Grey homopteran	Q
Orange delicate heteropteran 1 <i>Phylus palliceps</i> Fieber. G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956	R

We took a brief look at Hell Coppice and Waterperry Wood. Saw no hairstreaks.

The whole area, with its essentially neutral to slightly calcareous Oxford Clay, lies in a sort of flattish basin, and we all agreed it felt like bits of one uniform type of oak woodland (*robur*). The B.M. sawfly man, R.B. Benson, told me this week that there are similar areas further north along the Bucks border, which have black hairstreaks, (and also wood white butterflies), and he thinks all this was formally one forest.

Today we saw the following butterflies – it was rather a cool sunless day:

Peacocks	Small skippers
Large & small whites	Small heath (York's Wood)
Walls (abundant)	Silver-washed fritillary (one)
Speckled woods	? <i>A-aglaja</i> (1, Oakley Wood – field margin)
Ringlets (few, old)	Meadow browns
Comma (1, edge field by Oakley Wood)	Gatekeepers

No marbled whites, white admirals hair-streaks.

{reverse side}

19 AUGUST 1951.

1062 B ♂ *Platycheirus timeo* (Harris) K.G.V. Smith det. 1958. As *Platycheirus petlatus* (Meigen)

C *Tenthredo scrophulariae* L. R.R. Askew det. 1961

19 AUGUST 1951. CHIMNEY, OXON.

Drove to Bablock Hythe, Newbridge and Chimney. We visited the field by the Great Brook at Chimney, where Joy and I saw very small green-winged *Orchis*, **cowslips**, and **adderstongue fern** growing in the drying pasture about 1939, and about which she wrote one of her published poems. The grass had obviously been ploughed and reseeded and "improved" and interesting plants had vanished. But this hay pasture (with little aftermath this year) had an unusual amount of low *Lotus* flowering.

By the Big Brook itself, about 4-4.30 p.m. (G.M.T.) there are steep banks down to the cut, – as it is, a sort of flood overflow in a Thames loop –, covered with luxuriant vegetation. The channel, muddy with a very sluggish flow, was almost full of thick *Sparganium* and had swans and moorhens. On the bank was flowering *Peucedanum*, *Scrophularia aquatica*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, bittersweet, grasses etc.

The figwort was nearly at the end of its flowering, but a number of queen *Vespula* 1062
were making brief visits to the honey. One caught was queen *V. sylvestris* (Scopoli) A
and the others all looked very similar in colour, the abdomens being more slender than those
of *vulgaris* or *germanica*. A good many Syrphid flies were also visiting the flowers, of which
I caught one. B

Sitting on a convolvulus leaf twined among the figwort was an insect very like a wasp, that
turned out to be a sawfly. *Cionus scrophulariae** on the leaves**, which were partly
skeletonized in places. D**

(* = n.k.)

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 7.

24 October 1951-2 August 1953.

C.E. 1076-1117.

Red ticks¹³ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles¹⁴ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

¹³ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

¹⁴ Edited to A or 00

24 OCTOBER 1951. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Spent the day on the north part of the "Nature Reserve" (10.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. G.M.T.), with Rick Miller and Eric Duffey. Yesterday there had been a cold dry north wind over Oxford, with 15 degrees of frost the night before. Today the ground was frozen in some places not reached by sun, but the air remained dead calm all day under blue sky, and the rolling levels of woodland were quite still. There were a few sounds not made by us. This late autumn even the sycamores and chestnuts (sweet and occasional horse), and

{reverse side}

24 OCTOBER 1951.

24 OCTOBER 1951. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

Norway maples have only partly dropped their leaves. The last have every kind of intense yellow, green with yellow veins, crimson and orange, vivid splashes on the clay soil. The **dog's mercury** (the most widespread herb under canopy all over the Forest) was still green, and not yet brittle. It had local but not much heavy perforation by *Hermaeophaga*. The special glow in woodland roof is **maple**, brown and yellow. At this time the extreme abundance here of this rather modest tree is very evident to the eye, and some of the trees are very large for maples. Bracken is bronze. **Rabbits** abound, and explain the close sward of the paths, and the comparative scarcity of really dense *Brachypodium* grass, so that many other plants can live on the limestone grassland.

There is a particularly large number of (planted) **Norway maples** near the "Long Barrows" marked on the map for Slatepits Copse.

Many well-grown **sycamores** in all areas we saw, were heavily **rabbit**-barked (of old, not new) at the base, some dead standing or fallen. Most of the numerous fallen trunks are of large old **hawthorns**, and as one sees a certain number of these also standing almost or quite dead (usually with a dense fur of grey lichens on), it seems that they are not all just windthrown live trees – though the soil is shallow indeed. Most of these trunks that strew the thin oak-ash-sycamore-hawthorn-maple woods are very hard, though old, and keep their bark. Softening to a biocoenotically "ripe" condition seems rather capricious. Some such good hawthorn logs

{reverse side}

24 OCTOBER 1951.

Under thick moss on such a log, a small fast-running fly (*Megaselia*) (1076 F)* not determinable, n.k.

1076 A 3 ♀ *Ichneumon gracilentus* Wesmael J.F. Perkins det. 1952
 1 ♀ *I. confusorius* Gravenhorst J.F. Perkins det. 1952
 1 ♀ *I. minutorius* Desvignes J.F. Perkins det. 1952
 presented to British Museum (Natural History)

1076 D 1 ♀ *Ichneumon suspiciosus* Wesmael J.F. Perkins det. 1952

24 OCTOBER 1951. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

were searched by Miller and me on a spot between Slatepits Copse and Churchill Copse (about 1 in. south of the C in WYCHWOOD on the O.S. 6 in. map). In soft rotten wood were:

<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	n.k. R.M. det. 1951	hibernating	
<i>Cychnus rostratus</i>	n.k. R.M. det. 1951	hibernating	
♀ <i>Vespula sylvestris</i>	n.k. R.M. det. 1951	hibernating	
♀ <i>V. rufa</i>	n.k. R.M. det. 1951	hibernating	
5 Ichneumonids (<u>active</u>)		hibernating	1076 A
Staphylinid <i>Baptolinus affinis</i> (Paykull)	C.E. det. 1951		B n.k.
Spiders: <i>Amaurobius atropos</i>	E. Duffey det. 1951		n.k.
<i>Ciniflo fenestralis</i> (Stroem)	E. Duffey det. 1951		n.k.
<i>Oniscus asellus</i> L. & <i>Porcellio scaber</i>	C.E. det. 1951		n.k.
Moth pupa			failed
<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i> (Miller)	R.M. det. 1951		n.k.
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	C.E. det. 1951	also under bark, with	
<i>Marpessa laminata</i> (Montagu)	C.E. det. 1951		n.k.
<i>Melanotus rufipes</i> (Herbst)	Large & small larvae	C.E. & R.M. det.	n.k.
<i>Athous villosus</i> (Geoffroy in Fourcroy)	larvae	C.E. det.	n.k.
Earthworms etc.			
Under a log I found <i>Ena obscura</i> (Draparnaud) and <i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (L.)			

In similar but less good logs in oak-sycamore-haw wood on the west side of Evenden Copse Miller found *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.) larvae D
and a parasitic ichneumon and a moth pupa; and I *Melanotus rufipes* adult failed

{reverse side}

24 OCTOBER 1951.

Fomes ferruginosus (Schrad. ex Fr.) Masee. Kew Herbarium det. 1951

1078 C 2 *Stenus clavicornis* (Scopoli) P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

This upper spring contains also a multitude of
Hydrobia jenkini Smith*; and both *P. alpina* and
Polycelis cornuta (confirmed in lab.)

24 OCTOBER 1951. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

In Evenden Copse I collected a brownish tough fungus with a velvet surface that coated the side of a fallen branch of deciduous tree, in the mixed deciduous wood that has a lot of oak. n. kept.

In the limestone grass slope bordering Newhill Plain I found an empty shell of the highly calcicole *Cecilioides acicula* (Müller), that occurs on "the Dell" at Wytham. Under an old dry elder log on this grass (*Brachypodium pinnatum* etc.) was a *Dromius linearis* (Olivier). 1078 n.k. B

2 *Stenus* (cf. *rogeri*) C

We looked at Cyder Well and its sources. There is a springhead a few hundred yards up (due West, marked "Spring" on the 6 in. map), hidden by bracken from the path, with a tiny pool of rather stagnant water leading to a trickle of water among small bits of oolite. Under scrub shade. The stream stones have *Planaria alpina* and *Gammarus pulex*. D n.k.

Cyder Well produced *P. alpina* and *Gammarus*, also 4 very ovate beetle larvae under stones, some *Helmis* (Presumably *maugei*) 1079A
several adult tiny smoky caddis in moss and under a margin stone, and some very small adult Ephemeroidea under a margin stone. C E

{ reverse side }

24 OCTOBER 1951.

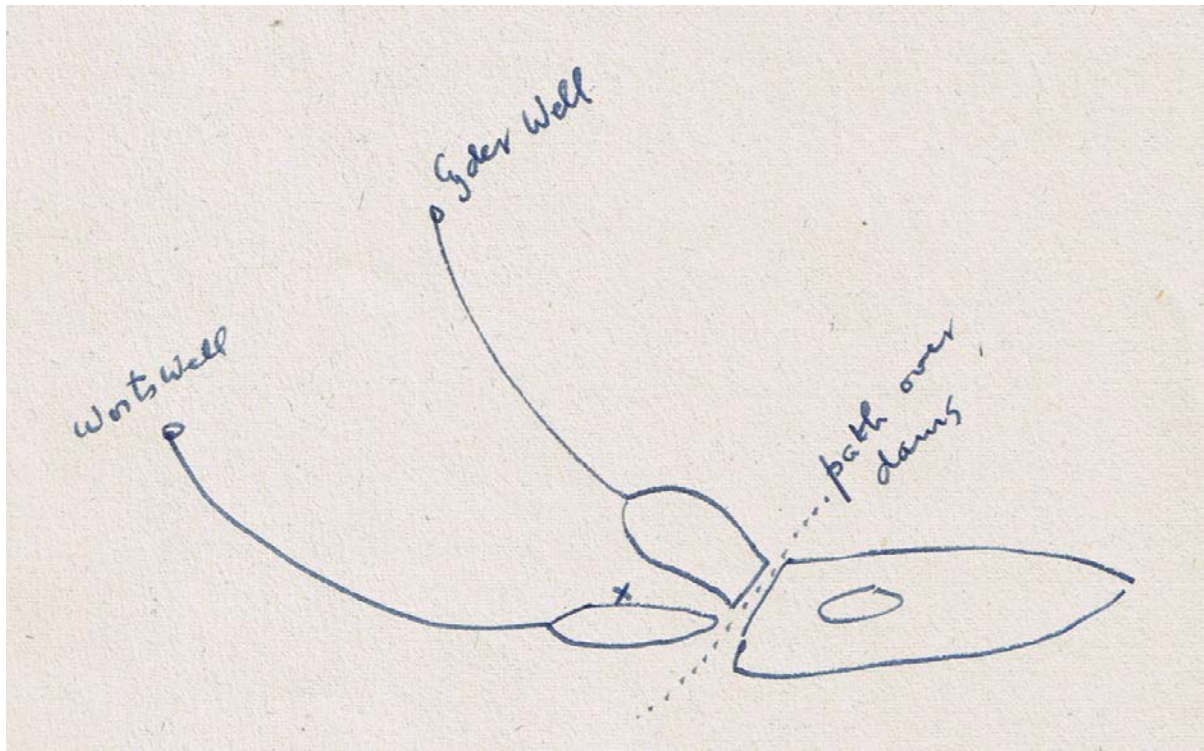
24 OCTOBER 1951. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

We saw one horned adult (**fallow**) deer – white rump in Slatepits Copse, near the forest edge. Tracks of deer are much more numerous everywhere now. Pheasants not very abundant. Magpies.

No Roman snails (*Helix pomatia*) abroad. Indeed the frost seems to have stopped most invertebrate life above the surface, except for fungus gnats dancing or drifting, and a few Tachinids sitting about, and one moth. Toadstools scarce on the ground; a few on logs and stumps.

{reverse side}

24 JANUARY 1952.



This is the dammed stream from Wort's Well, a good way below it.

24 JANUARY 1952. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

Joined H.N. Southern and Rick Miller who was staying at Minster Lovell, for a walk in the Forest, where they have some small mammal traps set out.

There had been a succession of frosts deep enough to make the soft surface treacherous. It was cold and sunless and flakes of snow fell in the afternoon. Life seemed indrawn and at a low ebb, except for rabbits, three **fallow deer**, and a few birds.

Logs gave poor harvest of animals, although in a fairly white-punky damp beech log by Evenden Copse there were well-grown larvae of *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.) and a fly, in galleries in the wood; 1081 A
and we noted *Melanotus rufipes* larvae in the same log. n.k.

By the quarry where the two valleys from Wort's and Cyder Wells meet, there were a dozen empty shells of *Helix pomatia* L., several gnawed by a rodent.

There is a strong flowing spring that gushes out at the bottom bank of the Wort's Well pond by the old quarry – marked on the 6 in. map. It has a rich moss-liverwort garden around the spring head. *Hydrobia jenkinsi*, *Gammarus pulex* and *Planaria alpina* abound under stones. The planarian was confirmed in the lab. This is a third locality for it in the Forest.

We saw the two *Helleborus foetidus* colonies that Southern had discovered, one close to Cyder Well, the other in the wood south-west of Grand Vista. (Next day they found a lot more in that triangle of woods, that has the big quarries in it) The pale green buds and shining

{reverse side}

24 JANUARY 1952.

{2 unnumbered type-written pages glued to file-paper here}

22-25.1.1952. Wychwood Forest (Notes by H.N. Southern & R.S. Miller).

1. Although Silphid beetles *Phosphuga atrata* (det. R.S.M.) seem to be very abundant in Wytham Woods at this time of year, hibernating or sheltering under bark, none were seen in the logs examined in Wychwood. This in addition to the log fauna being extremely poor generally.
2. None of the larger carabids were seen in logs etc.; not even *Cychrus* (det. R.S.M.) which was apparently common in these areas earlier in the winter (see notes of C.E. of previous trip to Wychwood).
3. A possible explanation for the paucity of log fauna is, and also the absence of animals under stones, is the fact that a heavy ground frost was evident every day. Although there was some sun on the last day, it did not reach into the valleys nor did it seem to penetrate the woodlands sufficiently to melt the frost that was present. Consequently, almost every stone had frost under it, and the same was true under the bark of logs or under the logs themselves.

If this was the reason however, it meant that the animals, including some larger forms which shelter under stones or hibernate in logs, must have gone into the ground to some depth. There seemed to be no other places for shelter.

{2nd page}

22-25.1.1952. Wychwood Forest (Notes by H.N. Southern & R.S. Miller).

1. 2 lines of Longworth traps, each with 12 points, 2 traps to a point, and 35 yds. between points. (i) was in Slatepits Copse along the 500 ft. contour above 5-ash Bottom (little ground vegetation except occasional patches of thin bracken); (ii) was along Withy Bottom in fairly dense bracken by the stream side. Results: (i) (a.m. only) 4 *Apodemus sylvaticus*; (ii) p.m. *Clethrionomys glareolus* 3, *Microtus agrestis* 1, *Sorex araneus* 2; a.m. *Clethrionomys glareolus* 8, *Microtus agrestis* 1, *Apodemus sylvaticus* 3, *Sorex araneus* 4.
2. Great abundance of **rabbits** noted. Corpses all over and c. 30 seen during one night drive from Leafield to Ranger's Lodge and back. Complete and very fresh ring barking of compact group of **elms** in Churchill Copse. Head Keeper (Mr. Wiltshire, Ranger's Lodge) attributed this to trapping of vermin.
3. Two **hares** seen in middle of woods.
4. Abundant traces of **fallow deer** (3 seen one day). Puzzled at first by absence of **spindle**, then trees found all along Withy Bottom, but eaten to stumps c. 1 ft. high by deer.
5. Dense scrub area outside Devil's Pool Bottom has large roost of **field-fares** and **redwings**.
6. **Tawny owl** pellets found on margin of Norway spruces in Cranehill Copse and remains of 1 bird and 1 Norway rat.
7. **Barn owl** roost in yew tree on slope north of Newhill Pond had many pellets below. One or two examined had *Microtus* skulls in.
8. Distribution of *Helleborus foetidus* and *Scolopendrium* marked on map.

H.N. Southern.

24 JANUARY 1952. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

dark leaves are very handsome, and even conspicuous against the winter brown forest floor.

At one spot in or near Evenden Copse, the **rabbits** had done heavy ring-barking of small **elms**. **Spindle** is held down by **deer** and **rabbits**. **Grey squirrels** had stripped various bark too.

There are six keepers and six foresters at work, and I noticed more vermin hanging on trees than ever before.

On Maple Hill extensive cutting and thinning of the woods continues, but the aim would seem to be to try natural regeneration of ash from seed parents, and presumably the usual coppice growth too. This opening up, though in sharp contrast to the scrub aspect of the untouched wood, will certainly improve the flower carpet and give variety to the Forest as a whole. With this thinning, all scrub goes – temporarily.

The number of ancient dead moss-covered **hawthorns** lying prostrate in many parts of the “Reserve Area” again struck me very sharply, also the comparative sterility and hardness of most of the trunks. I begin to think that these trees come from the lichen-covered, grey-plum-coloured standing hawthorns that one notices in any middle distance view of the canopy at this time of year i.e. they are dying on their feet, en masse.

{reverse side}

22 MAY 1952.

ASHTON ROWANT WOODS etc. 22 MAY 1952.

Drove with Rick and Jane Miller to look at beech woods and chalk grassland. It was quite clear and very hot in the sun, though there was damp even at midday on turf shaded by the trees.

Watlington Hill, Oxon. This shoulder of open down with clumps of hawthorn and other scrub here and there, is a National Trust property and lies just above the Icknield Way, c. 600 feet. The turf, where not abraded to the flinty chalk, is very bare and does not seem highly flowered just now. We saw **cinnabar moths**, **dingy** and **grizzled skippers**, **small heaths** and one **large white**. A small flowering **whitebeam** had many visiting insects on the flowers; *Bombus*, *Empis*, small flies and beetles. This hill is presumably kept to chalk grass by trampling and a few rabbits: no sheep. There is no invasion of *Brachypodium*. c. 10 a.m. GMT.

Hailey Wood (near Aston Rowant) Oxon. This is on the top of the hill, flat ground with plenty of quite good middle-aged beeches mixed with oak, ash and sycamore. There is plenty of regeneration of **beech** and **ash**, and some **oak**. The field layer is nearly continuous, and tends to form irregular societies, as of woodruff (in flower), bramble, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Holcus*, and *Deschampsia caespitosa*; but there is much mixing. *Arctium lappus*; *Ajuga*, *Galeobdolon* (the last two in flower)

In a very old and mouldy oak log, damp and friable, lying in dampness of these field layer herbs, we found: c. 10.45 am GMT.

{reverse side}

22 MAY 1952.

- B. *Agathidium nigrinum* Sturm. C.E. det. 1953. Checked again 1967 by C.E. From leg 1 joints, 1 ♂, 1 ♀
- D *Borborillus nitidifrons* Duda L.W. Grensted det. 1952. (See letter 23.6.52: apparently new to Oxon.)

There is box scrub between the beech wood and the part we collected on.

22 MAY 1952. ASHTON ROWANT WOODS etc. ****

1 ♂, 1 ♀ <i>Denticollis linearis</i> (L.)	(n.k.)	1090
Several <i>Scaphidium 4-maculatum</i> Olivier		A
2 small fungus beetles		B
1 <i>Feronia madida</i> (Fab.)		C
1 <i>Baptolinus affinis</i> (Paykull)	(n.k.)	
1 small fly		D
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	(n.k.)	

On the herb layer 2 ft. was a pale fawn Hemerobiid with streaked wings. 1 ♂ *Eumicromus paganus* (L.) C.A. Elbourn det. 1963 E

On some very low-growing half-grown **sycamore** leaves from coppice, 2½ ft., were numerous yellow-green grubs (? moth) that had skeletonised the tender leaves. Kept a skeletonised leaf; and the larvae to breed through. Failed

Kingston Wood, Oxon. This is looking undisturbed, after apparently local thinning. A cuckoo and a great spotted woodpecker (one or two dead standing boles, no old rotten wood). It is mostly bare beneath, and the chief plant is sanicle. It is on the barest flinty-chalk soil of the escarpment.

Chalk grass slope on upper is escarpment below K. Wood. Here we spent most of the day, 11.30 a.m.-3 p.m. GMT. The turf is not being invaded by *Brachypodium*, and varies from a soft springy texture – with thyme or moss or grass, to absolutely bare chalk pit. Rabbit action: no sheep here.

{ reverse side }

22 MAY 1952.

22 MAY 1952. ASHTON ROWANT WOODS etc. ****

The sun's heat is almost unbearable in this open turf, except in so far as wind cools one's skin. But a foot away under shade, especially of the beeches, it is very cool, even cold within the trees. We saw

1091

Cantharis rustica Fallén a few (n.k.)
 1 Glowworm (*Lampyris noctiluca* (L.)) larva 'walking out' [A]
 no *Phyllopertha*, or Crambid moths.
Meligethes aeneus (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956. (1 swept) [B]
 Small green weevil frequent
 Small staphs. (? *Oxytelus*) abundant running on vegetation. 2 *Oxytelus inustus*
 Gravenhorst P.J. Osborne det. 1956. [C]
 Grizzled (*Pyrgus malvae* (L.)) and dingy skippers (*Erynnis tages* (L.)) common, also some **small heaths**, and a **wall**.

Green hairstreaks (*Callophrys rubi* (L.)) were about, flying within a foot or two of the ground, and visiting the flowers of wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*) on which, by approaching very near, one could see the butterfly probing with a hair-thin proboscis.

Swept a small grey moth with dark bands, and folded like this:

A pale green fairly large sawfly, and also a black yellow-banded one. *Tenthredo temula* Scopoli. R.R. Askew det. 1961 n.k. [F]
Cinnabar moths.
Lycosa were very abundant running on the turf, and 4 kept were all *L. pullata* (Cl.) 2 ♂, 2 ♀ (1 with eggs) [G]
 A small jumping spider (a grass species) ♀ *Helophanus flavipes* C.L.K. E. Duffey det. 1952 [H]

{ reverse side }

22 MAY 1952.

J 2 from bare ground were *T. vittata* (Zetterstedt) C. Elton det. 1952.

22 MAY 1952. ASHTON ROWANT WOODS etc. ****

Shells of *Helicella itala* and *Pomatia elegans*

1091

Tetrix vittata were on the short turf in one spot near quite bare ground, a hollow abutting on the box scrub, where they were also (in tremendous sun-glare) J

On this bare spot 2 *Cicindela campestris* L. were in copulation (the only one seen): and several small bees were flitting:

1 ♀ *Halictus leucopus* (Kirby). I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960
2 red-bodied bees

K
L

The *Atropa belladonna* by a rabbit bury was just opening flowers, and also had the flea-beetle *Epitrix atropae* Foudras perforating the leaves a bit. n.k.

(I took some photos from here)

Chalk field on the base of this escarpment. (2.45-3 pm. GMT.)

This area is rather like the one above but is being extensively invaded by short *Brachypodium pinnatum*. I noticed *Linum catharticum* and short *Polygala* and two small *Veronicas* (all flowering) in the chalk turf, and many carline thistle plants.

“**Green hairstreak, small heath, grizzled and dingy skippers.** *Pomatia elegans* (alive) at the base of *Rumex acetosella*. *Helix aspersa* fresh shells, in one of which was a large hard puparium of a fly (kept to breed out). M
failed to emerge, but puparium kept. A *Notiophilus* running on turf.” (*vide* R. Miller)

Took a photo of the *Brachypodium pinnatum* invasion

1 *Melolontha melolontha* L. hanging on hawthorn in this field, scrub height. N

{reverse side}

23 JUNE 1952.

23 JUNE 1952. 61 PARK TOWN, OXFORD.

At 10 p.m. GMT I found an adult *Reduvius personatus* (L.) engaged in sucking remnants of rum tea and sugar in a teacup, top floor c. 35 ft. of this house. 1094
It had presumably flown in to light. I have not seen any stages of this bug in the house since coming 2½ years ago. Another flew in to light, 11 p.m.-midnight GMT on 27 June. (n.k.)

{reverse side}

11 JULY 1952.

The only interesting plants were a lot of fine *Cirsium eriophorum* in flower bud, standing in the turf – immune to the cattle.

A.W. Boyd det. 1952

11 JULY 1952. NORTH OXON. TOUR.

Went round places listed by the N.R.I.C. ten years ago as possible S.S.I., in company with A.W. Boyd. It was cloudy-sunny.

Weston on the Green. Walked through very rough pasture fields, soil is dry as a rock, to look at the "Stonepit Hills" about 1 mile NNW of the village. The field containing the pits (in Stonebrash or Forest Marble evidently) were quite dull grazing, and hardly any rock was exposed. Meaningless as an S.S.I. but there is a very good marsh or fen, growing on a distinctly peat soil that flanks the Gallos (*sic*) Brook, that comes down from Middleton Park and eventually joins the Ray. The six-inch map marks it as "Peat Pits", with 2 springs as well is the stream. It might once have been a valley bog like Cothill. Now it is filled with an 8 ft. high *Phragmites* bed in places, into which one could walk some yards till water stopped one. Mixed in were plants like *Lycopus* (4 ft.!) *Galium*, *Epilobium hirsutum* etc. Parts were lower ordinary marsh with a lot of meadow sweet in flower, and hemp agrimony. I caught a green variety of the July Highflyer moth (*Hydriomena furcata* Thunberg), 1 ft. in the reeds. There were at least half a dozen reed warblers (singing; *fide* Boyd) – this may be a valuable centre, as so much of the river populations have been destroyed by clearing away reed swamp.

Some of the pasture is very neglected and rioting with flowering thistles. A good deal of narrower marsh and woodland strip needs further investigation: the whole stream zone between Middleton Park and Weston on the Green is interesting-looking and quite out of ordinary reach.

Sambucus ebulus, reported from this area by the N.R.I.C. was not noticed.

{reverse side}

11 JULY 1952.

11 JULY 1952. NORTH OXON. TOUR.****

On the road verge, among the grass not long cut, c. 1 mile of Middleton Stoney on the road to Ardley, I found a scattered colony of the beautiful and very local *Salvia pratensis* in flower. The flowers are intense blue, with a long projecting style. 1096 Druce ('Flora Oxfordshire') notes it was recorded by Sibthorpe 1794 between Middleton and Ardley! Its main centre is Oxon. is more into the Cotswolds, and it is hardly native at all in Berks.

Ardley Wood. This abuts on Ardley Village, which lies on the main road from Weston on the Green to Brackley. It is smaller than marked on the six-inch map (revised 1920), and the present shape on the 1-inch (revised 1930) is correct, except that a large slice of the south part has been clear-felled not long ago. The missing bit is a limestone quarry, cut nearly back to the line, and apparently disused. The quarry is uninteresting, I think, though it might develop.

The wood is oak-elm with dense hazel coppice, except where some hazel has been cut clear and possibly trees thinned too. The dense parts seem overgrown and rather dull. The coppiced part and ride edges have *Campanula trachelium*, Centaury (tall), in flower (noted in Druce's Flora), but N.R.I.C. and Druce reported columbine and green hellebore were not seen. A lot of woodspurge and creeping jenny. Many ringlets flying, 1-3 ft. The clear-felled part is now dense tufted aira, rose bushes, bramble etc., with wayfaring trees etc. The wood is really rather ordinary, quite nice, not outstanding ecologically and not an S.S.I. But it has not been spoiled by closeness to the village. It is unfenced and quite accessible from the road.

{ reverse side }

11 JULY 1952.

E. *Carex sylvatica* Huds. in flower. W.J.L. Sladen det. 1952.

♂ *Volucella pellucens* (L.) C.E. det.

B. *Lygris* (= *Eustroma*) *testata* (L.) C.E. confirmed 1952.

C. *Rivula sericealis* (Scopoli) C.E. confirmed 1952.

Metrocampa margaritaria L.

11 JULY 1952. NORTH OXON. TOUR.****

Worton Wood. Although a good small road runs right through this wood, it is in a very out-of-the-way spot in very rural setting about 1½ miles north of Middle Barton and a mile north-east of Sandford St. Martin. We explored the west half chiefly, and looked into the east half. Much of the soil is sand, which seems to carry birch wood (e.g. south-east corner) or planted conifers, say 20-30 yr. (e.g. south-west corner). The rest has a good deal of clay and on this ash is the chief tree, with some oak, elm, etc. and a lot of hazel undergrowth. Parts were obviously being thinned and cleared, but leaving ash and oak. Other bits are very neglected and one had a floor covering of ivy, that was also up the spindly crowded ash stems.

The flora has a very great deal of fern. The only one I checked was male **fern**, but *Dryopteris oreopteris* (mountain buckler), locally very rare, was reported by N.R.I.C., though we did not see this for certain, nor columbine, nor (probably introduced) *Daphne mezereum*. Much enchanter's nightshade and sanicle.

Twayblade (*ovata*) (flowers over) and **Orchis fuchsii**. *Carex*.

1097 E

Many **ringlets** flying 1-3 ft. in rides and glades of ash-oak wood.

Also seen were **meadow brown**, **gatekeeper** (1 or 2), 1 **comma** and 1 **white admiral**. In a sunny glade in the same area was a *Volucella* (2 seen) that hovered at 7-8 ft., over bramble, grass layer and returned to the same spot repeatedly.

1097 A

Moths disturbed at the ride edge (wood/grass):

1 Chevron ("*Lygris testata*"), 1-5 ft. A.W. Boyd det. 1952

1 Straw dot ("*Rivula sericealis*"), 1-2 ft. A.W. Boyd det. 1952

1 Light emerald ("*Metrocampa margaritaria*") c. 5 ft. A.W. Boyd det. '52 n.k.

B
C

* * * *

Very few beetles from sweeping at this season, in any of these areas.

{reverse side}

12 JULY 1952.

12 JULY 1952. OUT WOOD, OXON. 3-5.15 p.m. GMT.

With A.W. Boyd visited this very remotely placed bit of wood on the Ditchley Estate. It is about 1 mile south of Over Kiddington. All the area marked on the 1919 revised 6 in. map is still woodland. On it is marked a triangular bit in the south-east corner that has conifer + deciduous. This has been clear-felled a good time ago, and very old stumps and small branches show the original trees, some of which were pine. It is springing up from coppiced stumps to thin scattered very bad oak, sycamore, beech, ash, maple and there is scattered scrub (haw, hazel, elder, etc.).

The main wood that the through ride divides is oak-ash with mostly thick high hazel coppice and a poor ground flora. But there are some patches of birch and willow, especially on the west side that we did not penetrate and which would repay more visiting.

Along the edge of the through ride were *Campanula trachelium* and *Circaea* in flower, dog's mercury, primrose, a little *Orchis fuschii*, wayfaring tree, a good many *Epipactis* (helleborine) in flower bud – probably the broad-leaved. (At the north end is an empty house and garden in disrepair, near which are a lime and a cherry (wild). The N.R.I.C. report gives *Colchicum* (not seen) and “many orchids”, also “nearby *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* and *Anagallis femina* (the blue subspecies)” The ground seems to be rubbly limestone weathering to a bright brown soil – probably Forest Marble. Grim's Ditch crosses the north end of the wood and the farm just north again is Grimsdyke Farm, with another bit of the Ditch west of it. In the narrow wood strip between the Farm and Outwood, wood melick was in flower.

A lot of moths were disturbed from the edge of the wood/ride as we walked along. The number was quite striking – from geometrids to micros.

{reverse side}

12 JULY 1952.

Argyresthia curvella (L.) (= *nitidella*). C. Elton det. 1952.

Eats *Vicia* and *Lathyrus*.

Ancylis badiana (Schiffermueller) (= *lundana* F.) C. Elton det. 1952.

Eats hawthorn.

J. *Sterrha* (= *Acidalia*, *Ptychopoda*) *biselata* (= *bisetata*) (Hufnagel)
C. Elton prov. det. 1952.

F. *Polygala* indeterminate (W.J.L. Sladen, 1952).

G. *Empis livida* L. B.K. Macpherson det. 1954.
with *Tortrix viridana* (L.). det. C.E. 1954. 1 lot kept

12 JULY 1952. OUT WOOD, OXON.****

We kept (mostly flying disturbed or beaten, 1-6 ft.)

1098

1 big *Boarmia* (on oak trunk, 4 ft.) very rubbed.

n.k.

1 micro, *Argyresthia* (near cherry, lime etc.)

B

1 micro, dark shield on base of wings, ? *Ancyliis lundana*

C

1 small brown reticulate *Cacoecia xylosteana* (L.)

D

A.W. Boyd det. C.E. confirmed 1952

small waves ? *Acidalia (Sterrha)*

J

Also **ringlets** flying at 1-3 ft.

The felled Triangle was more exciting, with a great mass of flowers: rosebay, **marjoram**, *Hypericum perforatum*, selfheal, bramble, eyebright, ragworts, grasses, centaury, etc.

F

Some blue milkwort in flower, and one solid plant of milk vetch (*Astragalus glycyphyllos*), of which I kept a spray of leaves and green pods.

E

(For its occurrence at Combe and Wytham, see C.E. 5. page 75). Boyd spotted 3 different instances of a smallish Empid or Asilid fly

G

cruising 1-3 ft. over this field layer and between scrub and young trees, each carrying a conspicuous white moth, apparently a dead *Tortrix* with most of the scales missing

H

and in one case battered wings. All 3 collected by me with their "prey". They were not just disturbed by us, but were cruising and occasionally settling.

The stumps had numerous ants nesting, and woodlice (*Porcellio scaber*); under the loose bark of one, 10 in. up, was a viviparous lizard (*Lacerta vivipara* Jacquin) curled up a few inches from a small *Myrmica* nest. It froze until touched, and then ran swiftly under the stump; under this bark.

{reverse side}

12 JULY 1952.

K. *Pyrausta purpuralis* (L.) C.Elton det. 1952.

C 2 *Plagiodera versicolora* (Laicharting) C.Elton det. 1952, confirmed P.J. Osborne 1956.

Pupae emerged as same species. 'Danmarks Fauna' notes its feeding habits as here.

12 JULY 1952. OUT WOOD, OXON. ****

also were 1 *Phosphuga atrata*, 1 *Feronia madida*, and 1 *Abax parallelopedus*. These stumps and branches are very dry and friable. One had a strong-smelling *Oxychilus alliaris*.

I think this is possibly the nearest lizard locality to Oxford.

1 small moth, beaten from scattered mixed deciduous scrub/tree <6 ft. had yellow marks on purplish brown ground. 1098 K

20 JULY. BABLOCK HYTHE, OXON.

Went in punt down the Thames for half a mile from the Ferry. The banks, especially on the Oxon. side were thick with tall flowers – purple and yellow loosestrife, a tall ragwort, hairy willow-herb, meadow sweet; also some lesser skullcap etc. The narrow marsh zone at the base of the steep bank had *Glyceria*, *Sparganium ramosum* (= *erectum*) in flower etc. There were patches of *Polygonum* amphibium* floating-leaved, just coming into flower. 1099A*

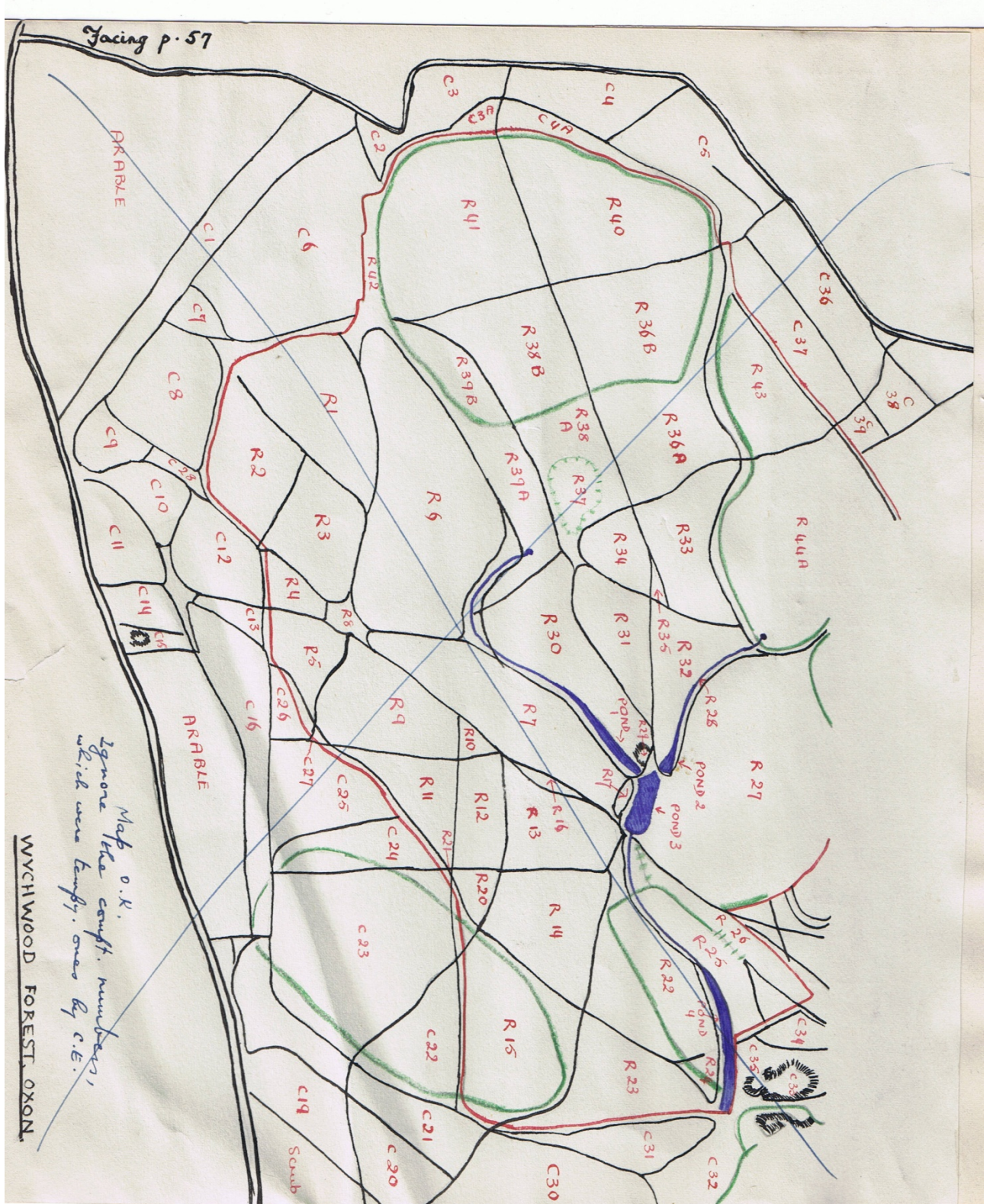
On the Berks. bank, where a good many willows (apparently *Salix fragilis*) grow out over the river, numerous bluish-green metallic Chrysomelid beetles were on the pendant leaves 2-3 ft. above the water. Took specimens of damaged leaves, pupae stuck on upper side of such leaves (therefore larvae did the skeletonizing); and adults, whose damage was different, by eating holes and bits out of the leaf. B
C

25 JULY. 61 PARK TOWN OXFORD.

Saw a humming-bird hawk moth visiting pink *Phlox* flowers (2 ft.) in garden. (*Macroglossa stellatarum* (L.)).

{ reverse side is shown as page 45A }

{Map glued to reverse side of page 45}



26 NOVEMBER 1952. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

With Brenda Macpherson went to try the habitat coding system as a method of quick ecological reconnaissance. The notes on this were made as an elementary exercise in describing parts of the area by compartments. Faunal notes below.

At the end of the day a heavy blizzard of wet snow swept from the east. (Compartment numbers refer to standard 6 in. map 1951, with N.C. red and compartment numbers).

In Compartment 25 the upper part above the brow of the valley containing the stream from Wort's Well is fairly clear of ground vegetation above a foot, and is originally a plantation. Two tawny owls flew out from any Ivy-covered small elm, when disturbed. 4 **fallow deer** moved across lower down where cover gets denser. **Grey squirrel** dreys

{reverse side}

26 NOVEMBER 1952.

26 NOVEMBER 1952. WYCHWOOD FOREST ****

are numerous all over the Forest. Here they were down to 15 ft. in small trees.

In Compartment 25 we looked at several dead **hawthorn** trunks. From today's and previous experience in the Forest, although fallen haw trunks are extremely common throughout the high-scrub areas i.e. most of the central Reserve Area, they are mostly very hard, with little loose bark. If soft they are usually quite poor in DD/WOOD fauna. In Compartment 25 trunks were found.

1107

One or two small larval *Denticollis linearis* (L.) 1 k.

A

In a decayed small beech trunk, rather dry butt touchwood, were

1 adult <i>Melanotus rufipes</i> with pupal skin near	n.k.
<i>Sinodendron cylindricum</i> galleries and some elytral remains	n.k.
And under bark of it 1 <i>Ena obscura</i> , with epiphragm across mouth.	n.k.

At the lake quarry (near Newhill Pond), a dozen or more empty shells of *Helix pomatia* lay about, including several young ones. A few were rodent gnawed, the rest complete and clean, but recent. One seemed to have 3½ years growth, if the rings mean this.

{reverse side}

26 NOVEMBER 1952.

26 NOVEMBER 1952. WYCHWOOD FOREST ****

On a woodland slope, where the edge had been felled and cleared at the south-west corner of Compartment 5, a lot more *H. pomatia* shells lay, also two apparently live ones with the mouth filled by a solid white epiphragm: they were only just in pockets of the soil, quite visible, but mouth downwards. B. Macpherson collected. 1 k in alcohol. 1107 B

Examined the decayed excrescence of a large living ash trunk (east part of Compartment 12). This was a wide zone of soft dampish touchwood 1-6 ft. 1108

2 <i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>	C.E. det.	n.k.
2 <i>Oxychilus alliarius</i> (5-6 ft. up. Strong garlic smell).	C.E. det.	A
1 young <i>Oniscus asellus</i>	C.E. det.	B
Several <i>Porcellio scaber</i>	C.E. det.	n.k.
Several small palish millipedes		C
1 spider <i>Ciniflo fenestralis</i> (Stroem) E. Duffey det. 1952		D
Several medium-sized <i>Melanotus rufipes</i> larvae	C.E. det.	E
1 <i>Baptolinus affinis</i> B. Macpherson collected	C.E. det.	F
Remains of ♂ <i>Sinodendron cylindricum</i> & many old galleries	C.E. det.	n.k.
Several Mycetophilid fly larvae. Kept in frass to breed out.		FAILED
2 large <i>Tipula</i> larvae Kept in frass to breed out.		FAILED
1 small black running fly, <i>Megaselia</i>		J
♂ <i>M. ciliata</i> (Zetterstedt). C.N. Colyer det. 1959		

{reverse side}

4 APRIL 1953.

4 APRIL 1953. OXFORD.

During the last week **starlings** have been busy collecting the thin wiry petioles of last year's flowers on the **laburnum**.

They tweak them off and carry away one or two at a time.

{reverse side}

10 MAY 1953.

10 MAY 1953. MILL WOOD, nr. COMBE & LONG HANDBOROUGH OXON.

Went in the afternoon to this steep hanging wood, with quarry exposures, that faces Combe Mill, across the River Evenlode. There is a big quarry in the Oolite, near the road down from Handborough. Beyond is a fringe of wood on the escarpment and along the river, and between

{reverse side}

10 MAY 1953.

10 MAY 1953. MILL WOOD, COMBE****

the two a steep slope, partly scree, and partly limestone grass being fairly rapidly colonised by thorn scrub. There were several early purple orchids in flower on the grass, and cowslips abundant. The scree of flat limestones, some with beautiful brachiopods in, had many large and colonies under stones (*Myrmica*), and I saw also some *Ena obscura* under stones.

The wood beyond runs clear down from the escarpment to the river and is a calcareous oak-ash-maple wood with dense hazel under coppice abutting on arable fields above and joining the river below. Bluebell, primrose, ivy, dog's mercury and **woodruff**. The last has one of its local north/central Oxon. stations here.

10 JUNE. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Visited (with G.J. Bourke, the Nature Conservancy's Land Agent) Newhill Plain *via* the entrance west of Gospel Oak, in the middle of a fine hot day. Where the path down from the entrance joins the stream from Wort's Well in Withy Bottom, a dozen orchids were flowering in the damp turf by the stream edge. They were pink rather than purple, too late anyway to be purples, short – length of *morio*, flowers in moderately dense spike, largish without long spurs, and the spikes not pointed. Straight unspotted leaves. 1113

Between here and the ponds a *Melandrya caraboides* (L.) fresh and dark blue, alighted on my hand, (at 3 ft.!), path in oak-ash-maple-hawthorn wood in Hawksnest Copse. 11 a.m. GMT. A

We lunched on the verge of Newhill Plain, overlooking the forest valley and skylines, which are still undisturbed by any management, except the removal of hawthorns fallen across paths. Took a large click-beetle that can jump 3 in. that was on a grass stem, 9 in., in the *Brachypodium* grass slope in sun. *Athous hirtus* (Herbst) 11.30 a.m. GMT. B

{reverse side}

10 JUNE 1953.

10 JUNE 1953. WYCHWOOD FOREST ****

Returned by Hawksnest Copse and agreed that the first silvicultural job within the Reserve ought to be the thinning of the patches of planted trees (beech, etc.) which Bourke guessed were planted just after the First World War. Also agreed that Turkey Oak needs checking on the slopes of Newhill Plain. The latter has been reseeded to grass and has some pheasant coops on it. Mr. Beazley, in an interview in the afternoon said the land there is too poor for arable farming.

We looked in at Five Ashes Bottom for a minute. Bourke said that the dying of ashes near the entrance could be due to their roots having grown down to the standing water table. There was some *Colchicum* in leaf in the oak wood here, and one or two very small seedlings oaks, but no bigger ones.

{reverse side}

27 JUNE 1953.

{ Upper half of this page has been neatly cut away. }

1 JULY. ENSLOW OXON.

Took lunch to the big limestone quarry that forms an appendix to the cement works and lies near the bend in the River Cherwell, northwest of the "Rock of Gibraltar" Inn. The quarry flora is not interesting, but on the field that tops it, on soil that is shallow gravel over limestone, was a good deal of scarlet, and blue, pimpernel growing. It was a bit dwarfed, on a trackway in this hayfield. Also there was the little purple-flowered "*Campanula*" *hybrida* with its relatively long seed capsules and calyx.

Anagallis arvensis

A. foemina (or *A. a. f.* in Clapham *et al.* who make it a subspecies)

Specularia (*Campanula*) *hybrida*

1117 A
B
C

{ reverse side }

2 AUGUST 1953.

26 JULY 1953. WHITEHILL ROAD, ASHFORD BRIDGE, OXON.

Visited the small oolite quarry opposite this wood (across the road). The west part of the steep wood (see 24.6.1951) has been completely clear-felled, except for half a dozen seed-bearer oak, ash and wych-elm, and is in a devastated state. Provided soil erosion does not do it in there will, however, be heavy regrowth of coppice and probably ash and elm regeneration. There are also some hazels and maples by the quarry, to supply natural seed. The larger trees seem to have been ripped out of the rest of the wood (not studied in detail) but clearance not done yet. In the long run the wood will be more interesting, though the felling leaves the river valley bare at present.

Staphylinus olens seen several times under slab limestones in the almost bare open quarry. Also *Abax* and *Armadillidium vulgare*. Now I have seen these three also in the Enslow quarry (1.7.53), under 'Birdlip Woods' limestone (in the woods, 27.6.53), and also *Staphylinus* and the woodlouse get into jam-jar traps very commonly on 'The Bowling Alley', Wytham. Brought home live *S. o.* and *Arm.* to see if former preys on latter (which unlike *Philoscia*, J. Brereton and P. Crowcroft find is disliked by shrews).

2 AUGUST 1953. MARCHAM, BERKS.

Drove to the neighbourhood of the brackish spring marsh. As far as one can see from the road, these pasture fields have in no way be "improved" and are very rough-grazed and rushy. Did not go to the marsh itself.

A bloody-nosed beetle (*Timarcha tenebricosa* (Fab.)) walking on path, towards roadside meadows strip, opposite Sheepstead House, c. 5 p.m. GMT. R.A. Elton observed. C.E. det. n.k.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 8.

7 October 1953-2 July 1954.

C.E. 1139-1177.

Red ticks¹⁵ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles¹⁶ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

¹⁵ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

¹⁶ Edited to A or 00

7 OCTOBER 1953. BLENHEIM PARK OXON.

With Dr. Fager, explored the old oak forest on the south-west side 2.30-3.45 pm GMT. There is a large area, in which the chief trees are quite old oaks, some dying, most distorted or reduced in parts, and dense high bracken filling the spaces between.

Most of the fallen oak in the open was dry and untunnelled by the wood borers. One old tree with bracken and nettles and elder around had a fallen dead branch attached and under the canopy area. In the cambial layer under tough bark $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick were a good many lump-headed longicorn larvae, which had galleries not going below the superficial wood, though this was reddish-brown very tough stuff. Fager found a small moth larva in punky white rotten wood of a branch at circa 8 ft., also an *Athous villosus* larva in reddish rotten base of same branch at circa 9 ft.

1139 A

{on the facing page}

7 OCTOBER 1953.

1139 A 4 larval *Phymatodes testaceum* (L.). E.A.J. Duffy (*sic* = ? Duffey) det. 1954. 4-5 ft. up

{reverse side}

7 OCTOBER 1953.26 OCTOBER 1953.

7 OCTOBER 1953. BLENHEIM PARK ***

Under loose bark of a standing dead ash, 3 ft. I found an *Agonum assimile* (Paykull) (= *Anchomenus angusticolle*). This is a regular under-bark and tree-root carabid, and the largest of its genus, black mainly. 1139 B

There are many **rabbits** in this decaying mediaeval forest, elder is the only shrub, and no young oaks anywhere except a few that must have been specially reared.

On the quite dead beech branch at 8 ft. was a beautiful colony of tufted white parasol-like fungi, with curve stems, adnate gills, grooved under stem, and slimy pileus. These are *Armillaria mucida*, (attached to dead beech).

A huge naked gnarled old dead oak trunk, mostly very dry, nevertheless had queen bumblebees hibernating under old fungus and frass, also 2 Ichneumons in reddish decay zone in the hollow inside (1 kept) 1139 C

♀ *Ichneumon gracilentus* Wesmael J.L. Perkins det. 1960.

26 OCTOBER 1953 . WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Met G.N. Sale (Conservancy), G.B. Ryle, G.W. Backhouse, D. Grant (Forestry Commission) to try and plan a joint nature reserve on 190 acres of this cut oak coppice.

{reverse side}

19 MARCH 1954.

The slopes and valleys west of the road also have beech wood, though not marked green on the map.

19 MARCH 1954. HOWE WOOD, OXON.

Went with E.W. Fager to this pure beech wood on the chalk, about 2 miles south-south-west of Watlington, which I had visited on 7th. It is open, from the steep main road, and belongs to the National Trust. It runs for nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ mile along the crest and steep northern slope of flinty chalk (probably the top is clay with flints, as bramble begins to make a field layer in places). The slope we worked on is mostly pure beech raw humus and there are only occasional holly and yew, or *Arum*, *Asperula odorata*, *Mercurialis*, etc. plants. Local moss patches. Trees of say 40 years, making a fairly close canopy, often poor trees and twisted, some with serious old rabbit damage at the base, very green with lichen and *Pleurococcus*, and with some grey squirrel dreys high up.

Logs of all ages are scattered about, though not thickly. We worked on these between 11 and 2.30 GMT, the day mild and very humid after recent heavy rains.

Log A. About a foot thick, and long, fallen trunk. Wood still hard and undissectable. Bark mostly close-fitting, but separable with the knife, and phloem apparently gone. A little, but not much visible fungus hyphae under it. Bark not yet mossy on outside. It represents a stage between the new fungussy cracked bark of the beech branch W.E.C. 151.

{reverse side}

19 MARCH 1954.

*Tottenham, 1954, says there are two species.

19 MARCH 1954. HOWE WOOD, OXON.***

and the ancient rotten barkless boles of the same area (Brogden's Belt).

It was very damp under this bark. On an area stripped by Fager there were the following beetles, named by C.E. unless mentioned. (Collected E.W.F.) 1144

- | | |
|---|------|
| Staph. ♂ <i>Boletochara obliqua</i> Erichson | A |
| Staph. small 'Oxytelus' = <i>Phloeonomus pusillus</i> (Gravenhorst) var. <i>punctipennis</i> Thompson P.J. Osborne det. 1956 | B |
| 2 <i>Trypodendron domesticum</i> (L.) 1 ♂ kept | C |
| This 'bark-beetle' unlike most of them, bores straight through the bark into the wood where it lives in a vertical tunnel. There were a few holes of this sort both in the bark and the wood. | |
| 2 <i>Rhinosimus ruficollis</i> (L.) | n.k. |
| 2 <i>R. planirostris</i> (Fab.) | n.k. |
| 2 <i>Rhizophagus bipustulatus</i> (Fab.) confirmed P.J. Osborne 1955. | D |
| 1 <i>R. nitidulus</i> (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1955. | E |
| 1 <i>R. dispar</i> (Paykull). P.J. Osborne det. 1955. | F |
| 1 <i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i> Stephens A.A. Allan det. 1954 | G |
| 1 staph. | H |
| 1 <i>Phosphuga atrata</i> (L.) | n.k. |

The wood being still undecayed, there were no *Sinodendron* or *Melanotus*.

Other animals included a yellow Geophilid millipede, *Lithobius*, *Porcellio scaber* (Latreille), slugs, snails, earthworms, mites, collembola.

{ reverse side }

19 MARCH 1954.

A confirmed as *Polystictus versicolor*

B. 1 Speckled-winged, banded abdomen, fungus fly emerged 27th, another 5 April, = *Ditomyia fasciata* (Meigen). L.W. Grensted confirmed B. Macpherson det. 1955.

1146

A	2 <i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i> Stephens (1 k.)	A.A. Allan det. 1954
C	1 <i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i> Stephens	A.A. Allan det. 1954
B	1 <i>Cerylon fagi</i> Brisont	A.A. Allan det. 1954

19 MARCH 1954. HOWE WOOD, OXON.***

This community, of at least 20 species fits in with the sequence that beech logs do not normally have a full-scale bark-beetle phloem-eating invasion, but develop an under bark fungus stage, though such entrances as cracks and perhaps holes of insects like *Trypodendron*.

On this same log, mostly at the other end, was a heavy growth of *Polystictus*, 1145 A
leathery, grey-green, and apparently fully developed. In it was a colony of fly pupae (yellowish) and larvae (white) of which pupae and larvae were kept to breed out –
each in a tube, corked, with a bit of fungus. B

Log B. This was similar in size but not all touching the ground, and it was much drier though with plenty of moss on the bark. The phloem was apparently gone and there was little fungus visible except some old "*Polyporus*" brackets. The only beetles under the bark were at these 2 species collected by C.E. of *Cerylon* not scarce; and *Phosphuga atrata* (L.) (n.k.) 1146 A-C

Older logs. These were in all stages of white or red rot or both. But though a fair number were searched, only one *Melanotus (rufipes)* (Herbst) larva and one cast skin were found. *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.) n.k.

{reverse side}

19 MARCH 1954.

This larva of *Denticollis linearis* (L.) was found twice, in separate logs, by E.W.F.

19 MARCH 1954. HOWE WOOD, OXON.***

larvae, (no pupae), were very abundant, and one adult was found. In one log they were equally in the white-rotting wood they usually come in, and in the cheesy red wood that is the normal *Melanotus* habitat, though none were seen.

Large tipulid larvae, probably *T. flavolineata* Meigen, were also very numerous in old rotting white wood. Some were large, other smaller. A few of each were kept in closed jars with mixture of their own milieu and "Fager's Flakes". 1147

Cychrus caraboides (L.) was found in a log and under one (neither kept). No other Carabids were found hibernating, nor any Hymenoptera at all. The latter could be due to the flowerlessness of the woods?

In various new and old logs the following molluscs occurred:

n.k.

1 *Retinella nitidula*

Oxychilus alliarius (Miller)

Goniodiscus rotundatus (Müller)

a few *Marpessa laminata* (Montagu)

{reverse side}

19 MARCH 1954.

19 MARCH 1954. HOWE WOOD, OXON.***

This bare wood, almost a monoculture of **beech**, with fungi as well, is generally like the system Bukhovskii describes in the Crimea.

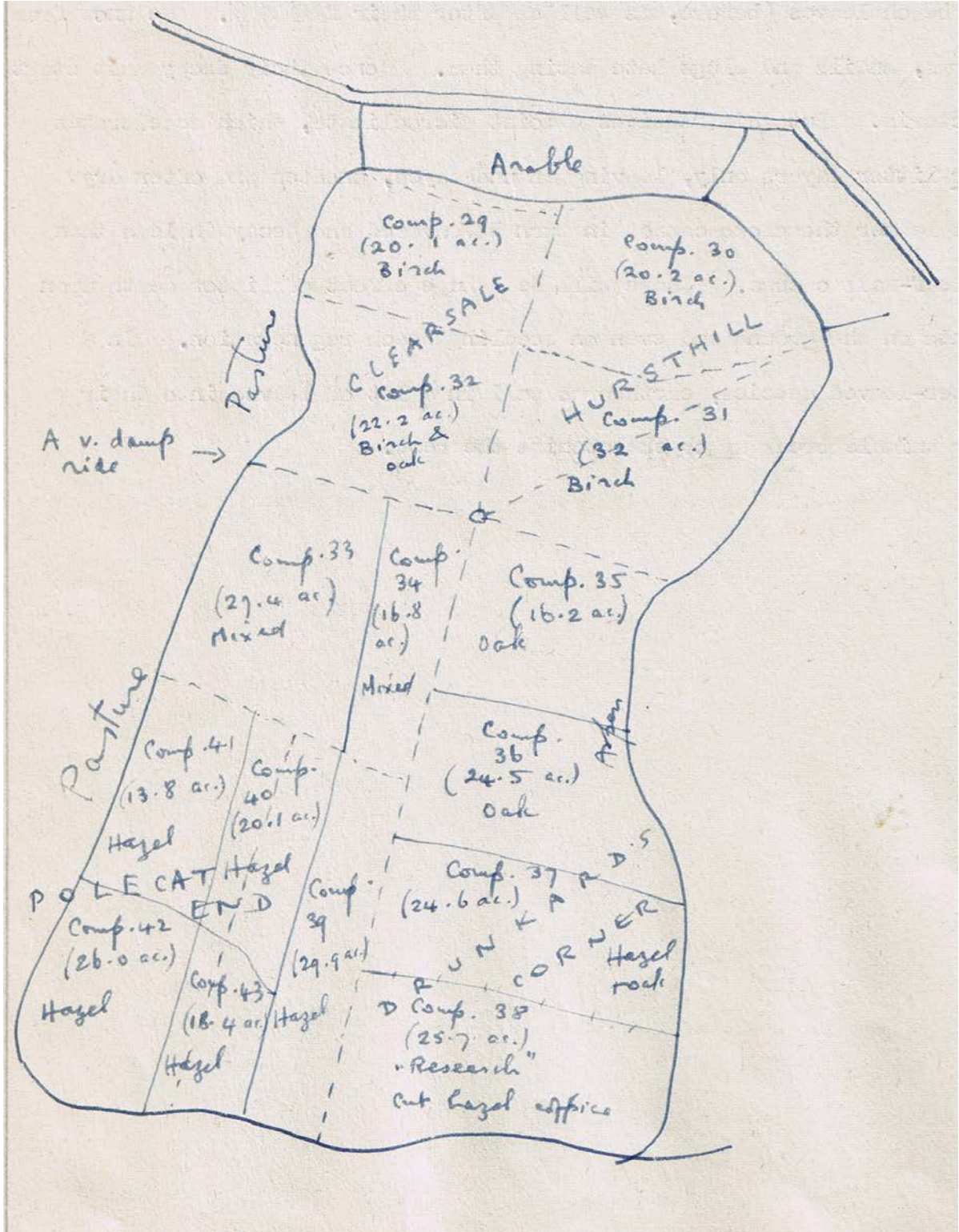
One can guess that the key to this monopoly is the presence of perhaps the high tannin content of beech leaves (before, as well as after their fall?). We know from Lindquist that worms, snails and slugs hate eating them. Hence their decay must start with fungi and bacteria. But this requires a moist microclimate, which accelerates decay in the lower litter layers only, leaving an undecayed, uneaten and often dry upper layer. The latter therefore cannot in turn be covered and decay in less than a year, when new leaf-fall occurs. There will be a huge effect of litter depth upon the growth of plants on the ground and even on seedling beech regeneration. In a mixed wood of softer-leaved species, earthworms pool in a lot of leaves into their burrows, and other animals break up or skeletonised the rest.

{reverse side shown as p. 29A }

19 MARCH 1954.

6 in. map. Red is Forestry Commission plans, so far only much in practice in 37 and 38. Nature Conservancy Forestry Commission. part is 195 acres west of Central Ride (my name).

Rough copy



19 MAY 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Walked round most of the rides in the West half, 1.30-4.30 p.m. G.M.T., with E.W. Fager. Nearly all is dense scrub or wood, but there seemed to be patches of quite old scrub with scattered poor oaks, and aspen clumps older than the wartime cutting years. Presumably some was not worth taking and remained undisturbed.

Our idea of the main dominant types fits the Forestry Commission map notes given me by D. Grant, the District Officer: Top 2/5 much birch, Mid 1/5 mixed, Lower 2/5 much hazel. In 37 and 38 where F.C. has completely cleared some 50 acres, there is a quite open part at the bottom corner with hazel coppice stools that have sent up the first shoots (1953) and a smaller area with this winter's bare stools. The hazel is densely grouped. Aspen and oak coming up again between, and some service and birch. The soil is incompletely recolonised by plants (after the scattered or even bag round stage visible under dense hazel canopy across in 39). There are bluebells, anemone, strawberry, violet, primrose etc. and a great many clumps of flowering grass (*Anthoxanthem* {sic = ? *Anthoxanthum*} *odoratum*†); also honeysuckle.

Nowhere is this 1½ year hazel stage more than 6 ft. There was abundant insect life on the hazel shoots (now at a non-branching stage), all herbivores – no enemies

†W.J.L. Sladen confirmed

{reverse side}

19 MAY 1954.

1158 A. *Haltica brevicollis* Foudras. C.Elton and M.J. Davies det. 1954. (using ♂ aedeagus and Danmarks Fauna).

1158 D 2 *Polydrusus cervinus* (L.). P.J. Osborne det. 1955.

19 MAY 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

or parasites seen. I took specimens of:

1158

Abundant blue-green large jumping Chrysomelid, probably the one laying oval orange eggs in clusters on undersides of the leaves and even on top of stems. Two in copulation. A

Fairly abundant bronze, smaller, ditto, not seen in copulation. Two det. one kept. (They must have come off the young aspens). *Chalcoides aurea* (Geoffroy in Fourcroy) B

Two small elaterids (visitors) on leaves. n.k.

Two pink-brown weevils D

Fager looked at life under bark of a stack of cut oak boughs (3-5 ft. 3-6 inches diameter – still sappy) in this area. There were mites and a *Rhizophagus*.

The West woods have the following species that strike one now:

Dominant or most frequent trees: oak, birch, aspen, ash.

Some service, crab, maple, elm.

No sycamore, hornbeam, beech, lime, conifers.

Dominant scrub: blackthorn, hazel; Much honeysuckle

Some rose, (probably dogwood, privet, buckthorn) willow

Rather little bramble or bracken

No elder, spindle, viburnum.

No Rabbits apparently. This could be due to the damp hard clay, or some other factor.

{reverse side}

19 MAY 1954.

19 MAY 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

Ground flora (apart from damp patches):

primrose, anemone, lesser celandine, bluebell, greater stitchwort, strawberry, violet. Early purple orchids (a few). *Potentilla erecta* and grasses and small carices in rides etc.

Marked absence or scarcity of dog's mercury, Arum, figwort.

Damp patches fairly common in the rides and a few surviving openings, grading from damp with bugle, to large *Juncus* etc. with things like marsh thistle, to actual pools, or very small, with alga, *Lemna minor*, *Callitriche* or *Alisma*. *Gerris* on latter habitat.

Some *Arctium* species (= ?*vulgare*) leaves in a ride were being devoured by green caterpillars of the plume moth *Alucita galactodactyla* (Schiffermueller).

There are some open grassy patches that don't show much invasion of scrub. E.W.F. suggests that they are a relic of the felling activity during the War. Much *Deschampsia caespitosa*.

A rough list of habitat components gave 52/127, in terms of B.A.P. Community Lists. This is about half of that for W A.

{reverse side}

19 MAY 1954.

19 MAY 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

1 grey squirrel and frequent dreys seen.

1 hare in boundary meadow.

1 turtle-dove in 39.

Several pearl-bordered fritillaries flying or settling in rides (*Argynnis euprosyne* (L.)) settled on a plant at 18 in. 1 ♂ kept,

1159

1 queen *Lasius niger* (L.) I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1961 is the common ant in these woods, e.g. a large colony in a fallen dry dead birch at the edge of ride in thick scrub/coppice (2 k.). Also seen in a very old large deciduous stump inside thick scrub/coppice near a ride. And in some other DD/wood items.

1160

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1954.

See also 19 May 1954.

12.30-3 p.m. GMT.

Note: all these 'Edge' records should be entered as 'Scrub Edge' of coppice woodland cut-over c. 12 years ago.

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Further reconnaissance of the west half, but entirely alone and adjacent to Centre Ride; a look at blackthorn hedges on the way from the road; and a few minutes in the cut hazel area in Comp. 38 (Forestry Commission). Insect and spider life were at top pressure and complexity, and whatever future smashing of the habitat takes place, one can still feel that this place is far richer than Wytham or even Bagley. (For previous visits at this season, 1951 see C.E. 6 pp. 71-80, 85-87). It gives extraordinary natural history value.

Confirmed that dogwood is fairly common (now in flower) – there were no *Grammoptera* on it, or seen anywhere else; also privet occurs. The roses are flowering high up in the scrub e.g. up to ten feet in overgrown blackthorn hedges along the road. Honeysuckle in flower on edges of rides, non-flowering plants abundant in low field layer inside oak etc. scrub of Compartment 32.

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1954.

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

Flowers noted especially were:

A few *Orchis fuschii* in damp 'edge' field layer – mainly along rides.

Melampyrum pratense abundant on edge and inside the oak etc. of Compartment 32, where also the leaves of betony are abundant. The cow wheat is not listed for Waterperry by Druce (1886), who calls it 'local but not common' in Oxon. Nor does he give it for Hell Coppice in Bucks. Flora.

Valeriana officinalis on edge of wood and plough, border of 3 ft. new ditch.

Potentilla erecta, with *Holcus* etc., locally in rides and blades, where dry (see C.E. 6 p. 75), and surface probably leached. On one such place at the north end of Centre Ride, some young oaks 1-2 ft. were coming up from seed among the grass.

Cirsium palustre, mainly in flower buds still. This is the only common thistle in the rides. It is stout hollow stem and dark red flowers are striking. On it I saw the membracid bug *Centrotus cornutus* (L.) – one on stem, two swept from mixed damp ride vegetation. n.k. At the north end of Centre Ride, but not elsewhere, I found on thistle (*C. p.*) a ♂ and a ♀ of the magnificent thistle longicorn, *Agapanthia villosoviridescens* (Degeer). 1174 A
The beetle has a remarkable power of sticking onto the plant, finger and glass, and several people heard it squeak when touched (but it was above my range).

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1954.

(Geoffroy in Fourcroy)

E *Meligethes atratus* (Oliver {sic = Olivier}). P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

1174 D Nitidulid *Cychramus luteus* (Fab.) (A flower visitor that according to Danmarks Fauna also goes to honey-fungus on old stumps.)

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

The **marsh thistle** flowers are also visited, later, by bees, Conopid flies etc., and Clapham *et al.* say also Lepidoptera. It is one of the species that glade management should especially help.

On Comp. 38 there were some rather odd things. The young **aspen** coppice shoots, some 3-5-6 ft., were dying badly, though not severely attacked by insects. I saw single specimens of *Chalcoides aurea* on them (see C.E. 19.5.54). Kept some of these beetles also from aspen (field layer) in the dense mixed oak-ash-birch of the uncut (scrub coppice) wood. n.k. 1174 B

The mature twigs ½-1 in. thick of aspens in this thick wood have serious old gall scars of *Saperda populnea* (L.), of which two examples kept. No beetles seen. C

Strangalia melanura (L.) was seen, one on stem of *Cirsium palustre* in damp ride, n.k. two others in flowers of *Orchis fuschii* in similar spots. Also a beetle like 1175 B. No *Strangalia maculata* were about. E

Beating the flowers of dogwood (4-5 ft.) in a glade produced a *Cassida*-like brown flat clavicorn. D

The dense patches of grass and rush and other plants in parts of Centre Ride, especially rich in the upper birch parts (and in some of the side rides) produce a riotous community of small beetles, flies, bugs, spiders etc.

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1954.

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON. ***

I only kept one or two from this cornucopia:

1175

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 click-beetle | A |
| 2 small black clavicorns <i>Meligethes atratus</i> (Olivier) P.J. Osborne det. 1956 | B |
| 1 small bug (het.) <i>Cymus melanocephalus</i> Fieber. G.G.E. Scudder det. 1956 | C |
| 2 medium, brown moths with several white marks on, that feign dead | D |
| 1 white geometrid with a dark wavy band, seen several times flying on the scrub edge within field layer height. | E |

Butterflies scarce (in rides): **common blue, speckled wood**, perhaps one or two 'browns'.

There are quite definite pools in Centre Ride by Compartment 34 – shallow and a few yards long. One had two *Typha* plants, and a lot of water *Glyceria* (in flower) and *Juncus*. Much damp mud.

There are few **rabbits**, noted from fresh dung and one scene, in the region of Comp. 32. Also the slot of an artiodactyl (? deer).

Birch everywhere has a colossal plague of flying green aphids.

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1954.

4-5 ft. up
12.45 p.m. GMT

1176 1 *Semidalis aleyrodiformis* (Stephens)

2 JULY.

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON. ***

No **black hairstreaks** were seen in the patches of sheltered blackthorn. The **blackthorn** by the road at one re-entrant was very badly damaged by insects, the buds being destroyed and leaves curled. I found a few moth pupae. But the infestation is mainly a leaf-curling aphid, – perhaps already much devoured by predators such as ladybirds and larvae, Syrphid larvae, spiders, other beetles (cf. a *Dromius* on a curled leaf). The only lacewings seen anywhere today were on the blackthorn thicket at the north-west corner of Clearsale edge. These were very abundant mealywinged “*Coniopteryx*”, that flew when beaten out but returned instantly to the thick thorn cover. 1176

On 19 May I said no *Myrmica* were seen. I swept one or two in the rides today. n.k.

2 JULY. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Joy and I pegged out (with orange-topped 4 ft. canes) the Centre Ride in 100 yard lengths. We used a linen 50 yd. tape. The error seemed to be less than 1%. The total length is 1725-1735 yd. i.e. just under a mile. The track is very rough with ruts and horses' (? Hunt) hooves, and in places damp or with small pools.

It seemed warm and we worked 2 p.m.-4.45 p.m. GMT.

The draining outside the north side of the Wood goes down 3-4 ft. below the surface

{reverse side}

2 JULY 1954.

1177 A *Antherophagus pallens* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1950. oak-hazel, coppiced, scrub stage, glade

1177 B 1 ♀ *Tabanus bisignatus* Jaennike

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON. ***

of the wood. It cuts down into stiff grey Oxford Clay full of massive Jurassic oyster shells (*Gryphaea*), a few of which are also on the new ploughed surface. At the centre of this north edge the bottom is clay, but it seems overlaid with something more like soil mixed with clay and ? gravel, and this occupies the ditch bottom even at 3 feet. along towards the north-west corner. There may be some local superficial lighter deposit that explains the birch dominance in the upper part of the wood.

Took four photos, of various rides etc.

At the very bottom of Compartment 39 there is some white poplar.

Flowers noted fresh today were one **lesser skullcap**, centaury in bud, and several species of Carices in Centre Ride.

In ride-glade areas were several *Chrysopa perla* on high field layer, a large white butterfly on marsh thistle flowers (but no *Agapanthia* seen), a small brown clavicorn from flowers of *Orchis fuschii* with two pollinia on its elytra, *Tabanus* attacking me, and a huge yellow-orange dark speckled moth that flew among hazel edge at 12 ft.

1177 A B C

= orange moth ♀ (*Angeronia prunaria* (L.))

Collected *Melampyrum pratense* from ride edge. There is a little *Dactylis*

D

{reverse side}

2 JULY 1954.

1177 E 1 ♀ Emerged 19 August. *Croesus latipes* (de Villaret) C.E. det. 1954. (Imms notes that *C. septentrionalis*, a fairly near species has bright green and orange aposematic and nauseous larvae, whereas Berland notes that *latipes* differs in having bright black ones. Adults have enormous hind 1st tarsal joints, quite different in the two species)

1 emerged 20 August n.k.

1 ♀ emerged 21 August

29 JUNE 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON. ***

Saw one **black hairstreak** flying and resting on dense blackthorn hedge at the entrance of the field to north-west.

On some young birch at the top of Centre Ride c. 3 ft. were several shining black conspicuous sawfly caterpillars. Kept on birch stuck in damp sawdust, they pupated (3) in the sawdust.

1177 E

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 9.

19 October 1954-8 December 1955.

C.E. 1180-1223.

Red ticks¹⁷ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles¹⁸ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

¹⁷ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

¹⁸ Edited to A or 00

18 JULY 1954. UPPER HEYFORD, OXON.

During a drive I took some very luxuriant bugloss (*Lycopsis arvensis*) from a cornfield on limestone.

1180

24 JULY. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Walked down the Centre Ride with Mr. D. Grant, the Forestry Commission's District Officer, a very intelligent and friendly Scot. This was perhaps as good a deal as one would be likely to have from any Forestry Commission official, when trying to hybridise conservation of early and mid seral stages with the hard-shelled timber-growing policy of the Commission. The situation comes down to this: they have agreed to leave about 10 acres (<0.1% of Bernwood Forest) as "glade" units: to be sited where the Conservancy wishes within the west half of Waterperry Wood. This has, I think, being done (1) to meet a scientific case for faunal richness (2) to be quit of pressure from the Nature Conservancy. Since the present silviculture will seek to crowd out all lower seral stages and keep them crowded out (since forests are cut before ecological maturity and natural glade formation will be usually prevented), the only conservation advantages we shall get in this area (and *pari passu* in others) are:

- (1) The 10 acres, to be managed as we ask.
- (2) Any natural wood that it happens to pay them to keep e.g. the birch at the top – for 20 years or so.
- (3) Any future natural regeneration that they think will pay or can be made to agree not to pay.

{reverse side}

24 JULY 1954.

24 JULY 1954. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

- (4) The results of any mistakes they make so that some trees do not grow well – quite likely here!

One effect of this is that the scenario of woodland around our glades will be outside our control. It may very likely be oak-spruce – and some of the “spruce nurse” is cut at 60 years. In other places birch-oak. But he even mentioned horse chestnut and *Thuja* as possibilities. The fact is, although oak is the main aim, they will shove in at any stage in the forest plan any species that they think useful, so that very unnatural mixtures will result.

Modifying this situation in a normal managed forest would be that there would always be some glade field layer and even a little scrub, in areas of uneven age. But here it is nearly all one age. That’s partly why the earlier cut spruce is needed, to bring in money before the oak matures.

Add (5) Rich containing canopy fauna on oak-birch and (-aspen)-spruce.

9, page 10

For clean-up on Waterperry

see 26 April 1955.

{reverse side}

19 SEPTEMBER 1954.

19 SEPTEMBER 1954. HOWE WOOD, OXON.***

To the Chilterns. This almost pure beech wood (see 19.3.54) has a fine crop of toadstools, chiefly on the beech-leaf carpet of humus. I managed to name

Laccaria laccata var *amethystina*

abundant

Clavaria pistilliata (one, 4 in.)

Lycoperdon pyriforme, a few scattered; and two great colonies on rotten stumps

From several toadstools growing on the litter under beech I collected staphylinid beetles:

1192

1 Larger brown and black *Lordithon humulatus* (L.). C. Elton det. 1955

A

1 Small monocoloured *Atheta* species C.E. Tottenham det. 1956.

B

1 *Autalia impressa* (Olivier) C.E. det. 1954 & confirm. P.J. Osborne 1957

C

1 Small monocoloured *Atheta* species C.E. Tottenham det. 1956.

D

1 *Proteinus brachypterus* P.J. Osborne det. 1956.

E

3 Small black & brown, in between gills of a non-decaying toadstool 3

Gyrophaena affinis Sahlberg C.E. Tottenham det. 1956.

F

Growth of external *Polystictus* on logs was sparse. Is it a winter form?

{reverse side}

13 OCTOBER 1954.

13 OCTOBER 1954. WYCHWOOD FOREST.

With E.W. Fager, entered at Fiveash Bottom, cut up to the Slatepits Copse avenue, came down to the main ponds, up to Cyder Well, across the road to near Worts Well, and back. Saw many deer tracks; and 3 **fallow deer** in Slatepits Copse. Several dead myxo, two dying, also several quite alive **rabbits**. Southern says the disease started in Wychwood about August. No **squirrels** seen. No *Helix pomatia* out, probably too late in season, though it was warm and damp. Three rodent-gnawed adult shells at the ponds quarry.

We examined especially three rotten logs; though a great deal lies around, much of it is hard and sterile of animals:

{reverse side}

13 OCTOBER 1954.

B. Emerged last week of February 1955 in lab. NOT kept. Rosebay willow herb is widespread in the glades.

X a superficial layer about ½ in. deep. Also occurred in similar where no bark.

B. Pupa Failed and went mouldy.

13 OCTOBER 1954. WYCHWOOD FOREST.***

(1) Fairly large rotten oak branch leaning from tree to ground.

1193

queen *Vespula vulgaris* (L.) hibernating in rotten wood n.k.

Large dark chrysalis of elephant hawk moth (*Deilephila elpenor* (L.)), and the bark. Kept to breed out. Checked but n.k.

Huge numbers of large *Tipula flavolineata* Mg. larvae in white-rotted wood between bark and hard core.

(2) Rotten hawthorn trunks at same spot south-west of Cyder Well, examined with Overgaard Nielsen on 24.10.1950.

(a) In one log Fager found larvae of Mycetophilid fly, probably the 'candyfloss fly'. (See below). Identical with 1194 A.

(b) In another, lying on ground, damp, white-rotted (below bark which was still on it) to punky stuff with harder white core, and in ash-sycamore-maple-hawthorn-*Mercurialis* wood:

1194

Two larvae of ? *Ceroplatus*, index under ? *C. testaceus* like the one above, kept to breed through, in Fager's artificial wood-fungus medium. Their structure agrees with larvae of this genus (E.W. Fager).

A

Close by them, also near the rotten wood surface was a 'candy-floss' pupa (exactly like Wytham ones (W 559 B) which bred out as the very rare *Ceroplatus testaceus* Dalman.) Kept for emergence.

{reverse side}

13 OCTOBER 1954.

1194 H

Longicorn larva in superficial wood under bark, deciduous log in the same habitat as rest of 1194. E.W.F. collected.

Phymatodes testaceus (L.) E.A.J. Duffy det. 1954.

13 OCTOBER 1954. WYCHWOOD FOREST.***

(2) (b) ***

Other animals in the candy-floss bog, in rotten zone under the bark were:

1194

Oniscus asellus L. (No *Porcellio scaber* seen in any logs today). Abundant n.k.
 Earthworms. 3 examined by E.W.Fager 1954 were *Bimastus tenuis* (Eisen) abundant n.k.
 1 *Glomeris marginata* (Villers) n.k.
 1 orange thin long Geophilid *Scolioplanes acuminatus* (Leach) E.W.F. det. 1954 kept by him
 1 *Lithobius crassipes* Koch n.k.
 Large *Lithobius*
 1 *Oxychilus alliarius* (Miller) n.k.
 1 *Goniodiscus rotundatus* (Müller) n.k.
 1 brown adult *Arion ater* (L.); and a big cluster of large eggs in crack n.k.
Podura (Tomocerus) minor (Lubbock) abundant E.W.F. det. 1954 n.k.
 Parasitid mites
 1 y. { = ? yellow, ? young } *Melanotus rufipes* (Herbst) n.k.
 1 ichneumon ♀ *Ichneumon gracilentus* Wesmael J.L. Perkins det. 1960 F

In the core of the hardwood was a brown-frass gallery with an elaterid larva and a fat grey millipede

1 *Denticollis linearis* (L.) larva E.W.F. det. 1954 n.k.
 1 ♀ *Cylindriulus punctatus* (Leach) G

{reverse side}

13 OCTOBER 1954.

1196 E.W. Jones det. 1954

- A. Fruiting bog species that also comes on unusually damp logs (E.W.J.) *Mnium pseudopunctatum* B. & S. (= *subglobosum* B. & S.) Dominant
- B. Non-fruiting *Brachythecium rutabulum* (Hedw.) B. & S.
- C. Liverwort *Lophocolea heterophylla* (Schrad.) Dum.

13 OCTOBER 1954. WYCHWOOD FOREST.***

- (3) Fallen dead branch of hazel, c. 6 in. diameter. A little rotten bark left on sides and below. Red rotten wood. Churchill Copse.

Under bark in rotten wood were

1195

7 small (3 mm. long) 'candyfloss' fly pupae, all empty.

The usual community, with 1 *Melanotus rufipes* adult & a larva in red-rot wood.

In a rotten stump (hazel or hawthorn) E.W.F. took a hibernating *Carabus violaceus* L., and a good many *Melanotus* adults and larvae. Churchill Copse. C.E. n.k.

At the area (2) I visited the very old dead trunk, which is under tree canopy and some bracken cover, that had the cryptogam garden on 24.10.1950. 1196

Today it was thick covered with a fruiting moss that has a wide leaf, another non-fruiting feathery one, a liverwort, a fruiting lichen (non-*Peltigera*), and several small light brown toadstools. n.k. D

{reverse side}

26 APRIL 1955.

26 APRIL 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

G. Sale from the Conservancy, and D. Grant (with a research officer, G.D. Miller) of the Forestry Commission met me to settle the muddle that has arisen about this "Joint Reserve" – caused by poor intercommunication, too rigid silvicultural method, and the sabotage of Comps. 33, 34, 40, 41, 43, 39 for a huge experimental destruction of hazel coppice, already planned and partly begun. We were offered the rest of the wood as consolation (omitting areas in Comp. 37 & 38 already cleared). This was settled along the lines given on the next page. As it happens, we get by this settlement a larger proportion of more naturally managed forest, and rather little of the spruce-nursed oak (which now occupies the whole of a large desert clearance in Hell Coppice).

{reverse side}

26 APRIL 1955

26 APRIL 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

- (1) Comp. 29 and 30 were to have been kept as birch (+ oak) for 20 years and then converted to oak. Agreed to keep birch-oak in perpetuity. Will be thinned 4 years hence, meanwhile untouched.
- (2) But will keep open the old footpath ride inside the edge at north end of 29.
- (3) Future main access road will be from the concrete "road", continued to the wood and probably going down the diagonal ride in 31 leading to the main "cross-roads". This will be 'metalled' and continue down Centre Ride. So the part of Centre Ride from the cross-roads to the north central gate can remain unmetalled – also all side rides.
- (4) Birch will be cut and used for turnery when it is still fairly young e.g. 3-4 in. diameter, and perhaps <30 feet. This will keep the birch in a young seral stage.
- (5) These two Comp. are already so thick (hazel, oak and so on being there too) as to exclude most ground flora except some spring anemones etc.
- (6) Miller stated that this upper zone is on the alluvium (it can be seen 3-4 feet over the basic Oxford Clay, in the ditch. In the east of 30 there is a large open space where a huge **badger** town has been made in Corallian rubble (not coral), among bramble and primroses and bluebells. There are probably other such patches, and ploughing in the field north of the wood turns up large lumps of ? Calcareous Grit.

{ reverse side }

26 APRIL 1955

- (7) Main species of which good examples wanted are: hazel, blackthorn, willow, dogwood, rose, bramble, honeysuckle, – also a bit of privet.

26 APRIL 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

- (2) Comps. 31 and 32 also contain much birch but also dominant oak coppice, with *Melampyrum pratense* coming in. These would also be naturally managed.
- (3) Comps. 35, 36, a narrow strip at the top of 33-34, and a bit of 37 have oak with aspen, hazel etc. and are to be led eventually into oak (except for an arc of aspen in the east edge of 35-36), partly by natural thinning, aided by limited patch-clearing and planting oak-spruce. No action in (2) or (3) for 4 years.
- (4) About 15-20 acres of tall hazel coppice at the south end of 39 to be counted as reserved, and cut in rotation. It contains several patches of grown aspens that the Forestry Commission research men are measuring. Rotation to start next winter.
- (5) The experimental hazel clearance areas will by about 10 years ago over to oak-spruce, also a residual zone on the west edges of 41 and 42. Temporarily they provide extra glade.
- (6) Rides to be cut 10 ft. wide. 10 acres of glades to be sited in 10 spots upon side rides. A zone additional to this outside each, to set back future tree canopy from shading the glades too much.
- (7) Service and other selected species to be preserved by detailed planning later.
- (8) Dead wood that would otherwise be burned to be left lying. (There are still trunks lying from the 12+ year cutting).

{reverse side}

26 APRIL 1955

emerged May 1 ♂ *Aedes cantanus* (Meigen) K.G.V. Smith det. 1958 "pale rings on hind tarsi 1/3 of tarsal length. In *annulipes* 1/2."

26 APRIL 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

Miller mentioned that part of their experiments is to find what compacting heavy vehicles do to this heavy clay. Thinks tracked ones are less than wheeled. Bad compacting may last many years (cf. still strong traces from war-time activities during clear-felling).

He also said *Saperda populnea* damage affects aspen growth and is a long-standing British problem.

I spoke to an intelligent forest workman who was planting spruce seedlings in Hell Coppice. The arrangement there is 3 lines spruce, 2 lines oak. (The result would look rather like the stripes on the Oxford Concise Atlas). Myxomatosis has swept over most of Bernwood Forest, especially the northern part; but Waterperry Wood has escaped – he has seen no diseased **rabbits**, and there are and always have been a good many living there.

I collected 4 from a thick population of mosquito larvae in a small shaded water hollow near the badger area. They were surface-hanging, but wriggle down when one's hand comes down near or the water is disturbed – presumably to avoid predaceous flies etc. 1199

Primroses very abundant, *Anemone nemorosa* widespread, and soon bluebells.

{ reverse side }

26 APRIL 1955

1200

B. *Epiphragma ocellaris* (L.) Emerged 7 May.

1201 *Daedalea quercina* Pers. J.L. Harley det. 1955.

29 APRIL 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Reconnoitred Comp. 30 mainly. Confirmed that the ride that leads to the badger clearing will not be in the line of the proposed metalled road.

There are a good many very old cut logs that are still hard in the middle, presumably some 12-years old – oak and birch.

A group of six-foot 5-6 inch birch stems lies in heavy oak-birch-hazel coppice scrub shade, in Comp. 32. Very old, with bark still on loose but complete. Under the bark a great deal of brown frass, with some *Oniscus*, earthworms, black millipedes, young *Limax marginatus*; adult *Goniodiscus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus alliarius*. 1200

One very large Tipulid larva and a smaller fly pupa, kept alive. Failed. Wood is still hard! B

Many old large **oak stumps** in dense shade have a lot of 'Polyporus' growing on the edge of the cut surface and on the sides. Kept one – they all look quite alike – 4½ x 3¼ in., grey concentric on top, quite dry pale brown gills. 1201

Collected a few more mosquito larvae, as C.E. 1199

{reverse side}

♀ *Megachile willughliella* (Kirby) I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960

16 JULY 1955. WYCHWOOD FOREST.

Note from H.N. Southern.

“With C. and H. Southwick, in an evening walk entering by Withy Bottom, walking down to the lakes and back due westwards to join the road ¼ mile south of head-keeper’s house, we noticed 5-6 large *Helix pomatia* lying in the middle of the path, apparently recently dead and with no signs of their having been tackled by any predator.”

(One possible cause might be 2-3 weeks very dry weather, as molluscs sometimes run out of slime for locomotion). C.E.

28 JULY 1955. OXFORD.

I watched a leaf-cutting bee at work on our single shrub of *Azelea* (now *Rhododendron*) *lutea*, in a sheltered spot (half sun) in the garden at 61 Park Town. A large stocky bee, it was visiting from at least 40 yd. away, regularly. 1203A
It arrived very quietly and instantly got to work, although it would sometimes sample one or two leaves before deciding finally. Then it cut a piece out (see pressed leaves) about the size of a shilling, at great speed, rolling the cut part up and making off with the piece within 30 sec. of the start, carrying it flat. A lot had been cut out of these soft leaves. B

{reverse side}

4 SEPTEMBER 1955.

4 SEPTEMBER 1955. OXFORD.

The garden is practically burnt up by this sustained drought, Azalea and Viburnum and Phlox shrivelled, but yellow Rudbeckia and tobacco flowers and Japanese anemones battling on fairly well. There was a toad in the garden in late July.

{reverse side}

30 OCTOBER 1955.

Rob collected one *Boletus* with yellow gills and cracked cap = *B. chrysenteron* J.L. Harley, det. 1955. It is a mycorrhiza {sic = mycorrhiza} species. When fully cracked shows pink between.

1216

A & B *Trametes rubescens* Fr. J.L. Harley, det. 1955.

1217 A. *Armillaria mellea* Quel. J.L. Harley, det. 1955.

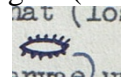
B. Between these clumps of honey-fungus were a few small white puffballs, *Lycoperdon pyriforme* Schaeff. (the only puffball that grows on logs). J.L. Harley, det. 1955. In the *Armillaria* I took one beetle (*Pocadius ferrugineus*) which breeds mainly in the *Lycoperdon*.

Records on all this in K.P.S. notes of her work, so need not be punch-carded from mine.

30 OCTOBER 1955. HOWE WOOD, OXON.

Drove with K. Paviour-Smith to this pure beech wood on the chalk, and worked almost solely at the fungus fauna on the long dead beech log from which E.W. Fager and I stripped much of the bark on 19 March 1954, called Log A. The wood was now decayed and soft enough for a machete to stick in with a blow. There was no *Polystictus*. At the middle there was a moss mat, in capsule (green). At one half a lot of hard hemispherical flat Polypores were growing on the side, some of which (separate group) had white fresh tube gills. 1216 A B

At the other end were two big clumps of honey-fungus, with wavy brown caps about 3-4 in. across, and greyish-yellow adnate gills half an inch deep, up to 5 in. stalks of rather stringy flesh. The very decayed squashy ones had some white fly larvae (n.k.) and one adult fungus gnat (lost). Most was part-decayed and this had a rich fauna of tiny whitish fly larvae



up in the gill clefts, about 12 seen, all except one pair being alone in their cleft (does the ♀ lay one egg there?), and all were up near the yellow underside of the cap. Kept to breed by K.P.S. All following given to K.P.S.: several kinds of staphylinids (including tiny light brown one that turns its tail over its head): 2 kinds of *Rhizophagus*, a *Pocadius*, another clavicorn, many Collembola, and two kinds of slug (one of each). 1217 A

{reverse side}

16 NOVEMBER 1955.

16 NOVEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Visited in order to mark out sites for glades (scallops in rides), and settled Nos. 1-8. The description of these will be summarised when the whole survey is done.

The top path in Comp. 29 has been opened up to about 5-6 ft. width, as arranged with the Commission. The cross rides lower down need some attention, especially the west end of the one between 29 and 32. Rose grows out especially, in many rides and is lethal to push through!

I found a very clear **badger** footmark in the wet clay of the centre ride, by Comp. 29; also slots of (**fallow**) deer. The woodland scrub and coppice is now very thick. In it I noted blue tit, wren and robin.

A good many old oak stumps (from the war-time clear-felling > 12 years) have large

{reverse side}

16 NOVEMBER 1955.

Major habitat: "dense oak-birch-hazel coppice, cut-over c. 13 years ago, on damp clay."

1218

A 3 *Gyrophana strictula* Erichson C.E. Tottenham det. 1956. (1 k.)

B 2 *Gyrophana strictula* Erichson C.E. Tottenham det. 1956. (1 k.)

1219 *Stereum hirsutum* Pers. J.L. Harley det. 1955

16 NOVEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD ***

fresh (1955) brackets of fungus (*Daedalia quercina*) growing on the flat tops and around the sides say 3-12 in. (for filing data, count as Ground Zone). Several brought back were banged into the tray and then put in a large creamery tin with muslin top and exit tube below. The fresh examination produced the following animals: 1218

Scores of very small black staphs with yellowish legs and less-black elytra. A
 A large number of these held that abdomen is so tightly back over the body that they
 looked this shape to the naked eye i.e. really. Kept some B

of these separate, though they may not be different species.

1 *Tachyporus chrysomelinus* (L.) (the fungus was partly in very near contact with the ground litter). C
 1 other staph. *Bolitochara obliqua* Erichson. C.E. Tottenham det. 1956. D
 Collembola E
 Mites F

No other large bracket fungi were seen, though dead birch branches lying had a small yellow-orange leathery fungus on it (i.e. on 1-2 in. diameter whitish-red-rotted branch. n.k.)

{Lower half of page neatly cut away}

{reverse side}

16 NOVEMBER 1955.

1218 J Note by A. Macfadyen: "The genus was invented by Sellnick (1941), having originally been *Sejus*, then *Lasioseius* (Berl. 1916). Hull says: "Whitfield – on a decaying log, abundant."

Baker and Wharton say: "These mites live in rotting wood." It is not mentioned by Vitzthun or Hughes.

16 NOVEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD ***

After about a week practically nothing emerged from *Daedalis* except 1 small *Lithobius*. I found the fungi getting slightly mouldy, so I took them out and banged them in a tray again, which produced 1218

More small staphs. In some numbers

Small *Lithobius* (2 including the one above) 1 *L. crassipes* Koch (adult ♀) H

1 *L. lapidicola* Meinart (immature) M. Lloyd det. 1959

Abundant slow-moving bright brown mite *Aceosejus muricatus* (C.L.K.)

G.O. Evans det. 1955

Collembola

added to E

Other mites

added to F

Nothing more came into the exit tube by 2 December. But in the week 3-8 December there was a sudden mass exit of smaller staphs. and mites, with the drying up of the fungus. Ended the extraction on 14 December as no more animals were issuing out.

{reverse side}

8 DECEMBER 1955.

8 DECEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Finished marking the glades (see map across), total 10 at 1 acre each, to be cut soon. Got a tremendous shock at finding the Commission had broken their agreement for the second time, by completely razing the wood along the north part of Comps. 33 and 34, – this being part of the agreed reserve not to be touched for four years. Thus about ¼ mile of good ride is no use for glades. Put out markers for Glades 9 and 10 in the cross-rides between Comps. 31 & 35, to the east.

In Comp. 29, close to the future Glade 1, a **woodcock** flew up from among the dense hazel coppice and young birch (more than 15 ft. high). This is near the edge of the wood.

{reverse side}

8 DECEMBER 1955.

8 DECEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON***

The great cleared area of Comps. 37 and 38 seems to have had its regenerating hazel coppice checked and is (within view from the centre ride) planted with spruce. A flock of a dozen **goldfinches** was feeding on the dead flower heads of **marsh thistle**, which is abundant, and possibly also on burdock.

The major part of Comp. 33 is entirely razed.

Visited the hazel coppice that is part of our reserve (an isolated area) at the south-east corner of Comp. 39. It is still untouched! Decided rotation cutting should not be started until winter 1956-57.

Daedalia quercina, large fresh-growing colonies are scattered right through the wood on ancient oak-stumps shaded by coppice canopy. To see whether its apparently limited though abundant fauna is universal, I took the following 4 samples, all from large old stumps, beat them in a tray, collected a good sample of fauna for later examination, and handed three of the residual lots over to K.P.S. for detailed study, keeping one good bracket for a dry specimen:

{reverse side}

8 DECEMBER 1955.

1220 A 2 *Gyrophaena strictula* Erichson C.E. Tottenham det. 1956 (1 k.)

1221 A 1 as **1220 A.**

1222 A 2 as **1220 A.** (1 k.)

8 DECEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD***

1 very large fresh bracket of a group, thick hazel coppice and young birch (more than 15 ft.),
Comp. 39, south margin of wood. Small staph. abundant and some brown mites. Bracket kept
for specimen (C.E. 1220). 1220 A-

Group of small (< 3 in.) fresh brackets, in thick oak-aspen-hazel > 15 ft. near centre ride,
Comp. 35 (centre of wood). 1221 A-

A few small staphs. No mites?

Single fairly large fresh bracket, no others on stump or within at least 25 yd., birch-
blackthorn > 15 ft., upper cross-path, Comp. 29. 1222 A -

Small staphs. Very abundant. Some brown mites. 1

larger beetle larva

B

{reverse side}

8 DECEMBER 1955.

1223 A 2 *Gyrophana strictula* Erichson C.E. Tottenham det. 1956 (1 k.)

8 DECEMBER 1955. WATERPERRY WOOD***

Sample of fresh bracket, stump in birch and hazel > 15 ft., eastern north-south ride in
Comp. 31. 1223

Staphs abundant ? no brown mites.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 10.

12 January 1956-30 September 1956.

C.E. 1224-1275.

Red ticks¹⁹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles²⁰ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

¹⁹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

²⁰ Edited to A or 00

12 JANUARY 1956. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Spent the day 11.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m. GMT finishing work on the ten glades, chiefly red-tagging individuals or patches of scrub to be left when the areas are cut this spring. The descriptions of each so far (very rough) are now given below. For previous visits etc. see 16 November and 8 December 1955.

K. Paviour-Smith came with me to look at fungus faunas, especially of the *Daedalia quercina*, which still is undoubtedly almost the sole and very abundant large bracket fungus in this wood. There are practically no standing dead birches, though a little old white bracket fungus was seen on some quite old lying logs of birch inside thick coppice. A beautiful frilly orange encrusting fungus was found on coppice hazel stems not far from Glade 10.

A fair number of old bird nests are visible in the coppice, mostly at about 6-10 ft. There are also a few old woodpigeon nests, 10-15 ft., and some grey **squirrel dreys** at various heights. The only birds seen were a few **robins**. A **badger** footmark was seen at the entrance of one of the earths in Glade 4, also evidence of active earthworking in parts of this rubbly soil.

Glade 1. Near Northwest entrance to path, Comp. 29. To be mainly on south side, between two small oaks as limits. There is a lot of mix scrub with some grassy spaces between, also a fair amount of bramble patches. Tagged 4 rose (3 south, 1 north), one small hazel (north), 1 small haw (north) with honeysuckle on it (also tagged). There is a good deal of birch and hazel, some oak. It is a dry type on the alluvium probably.

{Reverse side of the facing page}

X = *Tremella misenterica* Retz. J.L. Harley det. 1956.

And a black leathery globiose one on aspen:

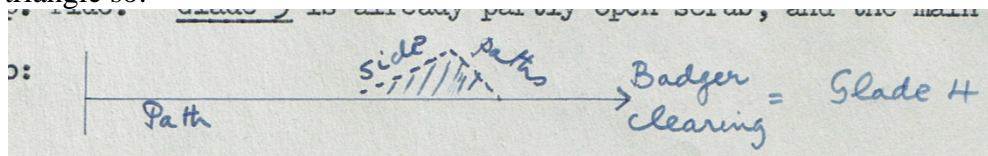
Exidia glandulosa Fr, J.L. Harley det. 1956.

12 JANUARY 1956. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

Glade 2. In Middle of top path of Comp. 29, quite near the northern edge of the wood. There is birch-hazel-oak-blackthorn, and some small open bits with *Deschampsia caespitosa*. It is non-marshy. Glade to be both sides of the path. Much blackthorn to be managed here as a hairstreak site, if possible. (There were black hair streaks by the tall blackthorn just outside the north-west corner of the wood in 1951). Tagged: 5 labels on a blackthorn belt north of path, to be kept as a belt. North of this the trees (oak, birch) and blackthorn hedge to be kept as they are, for shelter. For labels on blackthorn ditto south of path. Also 1 rose clump and 1 small haw with a big old honeysuckle on it (labelled too). At extreme south part also 1 blackthorn and 1 rose.

There is a great deal of honeysuckle climbing on the scrub along this northern path.

Glades 3 and 4 are on a small path in Comp. 30 that will have to be kept open as it is not a Comp. ride. Glade 3 is already partly open scrub, and the main part forms a triangle so:



There is a very good mixture of scrub species, including dogwood and willow. The ground is wet clay, and pools form in the paths which sometimes last long enough for woodland mosquitoes to breed. Tagged: 4 willow clumps, 4 dogwood, 1 blackthorn, 1 rose. There is also birch, hazel and oak.

Glade 4. Needs no treatment. There is an open space of more than an acre, on the Corallian rubble limestone that here survives over the clay. The badger town is extensive and mounded with the subterranean works. Wide cover of strong bramble and rosebay willow-herb. In spring there is the finest show of primroses in the wood, also bluebells.

{reverse side}

12 JANUARY 1956.

2 *Coccinella septempunctata* L.

scrub zone

12 JANUARY 1956. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

Glade 4 *** There are a few small scattered hawthorns, birch and blackthorn that should be left. Otherwise it is quite open. The margin of the wood is close to the east boundary of this space.

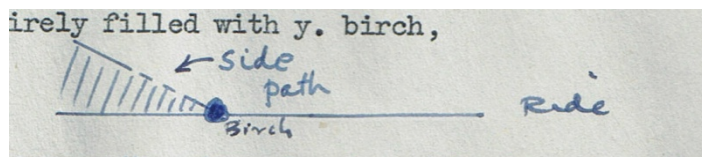
Glade 5. On ride between Comps 29/32, nearest Centre Ride. Comparatively dry type of mainly oak-birch-hazel, small and dense. Clear nearly everything both sides of the path. There is some *Melampyrum pratense*, *Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Angelica*, marsh thistle, bramble, a *Luzula*, *Dactylis*. But it is not as damp as 5 and 6. There are some tall sallows with rosettes of dead leaves forming a gall at the end of some twigs. Under these were ladybirds hibernating (2 k. for naming). n.k.

Tagged: 3 sallow, 1 blackthorn, on south side.

Glade 6. Centre ride between Comps. 29/32. Thickly grown up, like 5, but damper: *Juncus* (tall), but no large *Carex*, *Deschampsia*, marsh thistle, bramble, rose. Clear both sides of path.

Tagged: 3 rose clumps, 2 large haw (east and west of stake, north side), 1 large sallow (south side).

Glade 7. West end of ride between Comps. 29/32. Damper than 6, with much large *Carex*, but mainly thick birch, sallow, etc. *Angelica*, meadow sweet, marsh thistle, *Deschampsia*, some bramble. Almost entirely filled with young birch, and one large one so:



Glade to be cut in triangle between paths, towards edge of Wood. Tagged: 2 rose clumps, 4 large sallow clumps. Piles of old logs on ground to be left.

Glade 8. Just east of Centre Ride, cross ride between Comps. 30/31. Only moderately damp. Much birch and some sallow, some oak, ash, aspen. Blackthorn, hazel rose, etc. Bramble, *Deschampsia*, marsh thistle, *Juncus*, no large *Carex*. To be cleared

{reverse side}

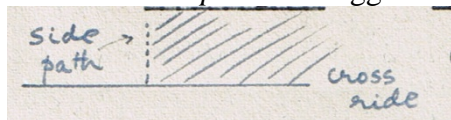
12 JANUARY 1956.

12 JANUARY 1956. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.***

Glade 8.*** both sides of path. Tagged: 2 willow, 1 blackthorn, 1 rose.

Glade 9. Half way along cross ride between Comps. 31/35. Birch scrub, thick, up to 15 ft., coppiced hazel and oaks, a little bramble, willow, dogwood, ash, haw, rose.

Grassy bits have *Deschampsia* etc. Tagged: 1 willow, 1 large haw, 1 dogwood, 3 rose



clumps.

Clear north of ride.

Glade 10. 11 yd west of coppiced sweet chestnuts, on east part of cross ride between Comps. 31/35, and 21 yd. west of path going north off this ride. 1 young sycamore (the only one seen in Wood so far). Hazel-oak-birch, very thick. There is less birch than in 9. To be cleared both sides of ride. There is a dry ditch and bank inside the south side. Ground vegetation moderately damp. Tagged: 1 small willow clump, 2 haws (1 large, 1 small), on south side.

3 FEBRUARY. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

In the middle of the coldest spell of weather since 1947, met Archibald, the Conservancy's forestry expert, and Keeper, the Commission's forester i/c Bernwood Forest. We only looked at Glades 1 and 2 as samples to discuss plans for management, Archibald having marked on outer line for Glade 1. It was agreed that as the Conservancy's funds were short and skilled forestry labour scarce, the following should be done:

(1) Clear only the centre half-acre of any glade this time. This would also give me a chance to flag-mark further items on the outer belt before cutting, and in some cases to consider the need for an actual shelter belt

{reverse side}

3 FEBRUARY 1956.

3 FEBRUARY 1956. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

in case forestry clearance is locally drastic outside the glade.

(2) Supply a priority list of glades, not all of which may be done this year, as they may cost £30-40 to do each. This is as follows:

Glade 4 (Badgers) – only demarcation.

Glade 1, then 2 and 3 and 8.

Then 9, 10, 5, 6, 7 in that order.

Notes from Keeper:

- (a) Some **rabbits** surviving in central and south sections of this wood. Foxes common, and the hunt goes through (messes up rides) and will dig out if fox goes to ground.
- (b) When they “accept” an area for birch management, they would not bother to keep any birch less than in acre blocks i.e. scattered ones or clumps go.
- (c) there is a lurking desire in him to encourage conifers like Lawson’s cypress!
- (d) confirms my hunch that the whole area is a frost hollow, and says they have already had frost damage on young trees planted on what I would call devastated areas. He therefore would consider planting along “racks” or alleys cut through the coppice, leaving some of the latter for shelter.
- (e) the main reason for geometrical and simplified line planning is to be able to (1) give the simple instructions to labourers (2) find the stuff on the ground. Natural group planting e.g. according to soil patches or for more natural-looking woodland is therefore not popular.

{reverse side}

25 MAY 1956.

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went to the Nature Reserve, with Tom Huxley and Kitty Paviour-Smith, 11.15 a.m. to 5 p.m. It was warm and often sunny. There had been rain the day before, which had broken several weeks of drought, but it did not rain during our visit.

We met the Conservancy's part-time warden, an elderly country gentleman who lives at Ramsden. He was wearing a green and yellow arm band, was amiable, and asked me whether I was an artist and if this was my first visit. In a way, a historic event for me. I had been steadily working on Government committees to promote a Conservancy since 1945, with a previous more episodic experience on the committee of the British Ecological Society, and before that of interesting John Dower in the biological scientific aspects of the National Park movement. I also had the fun of doing the basic reconnaissance of Wychwood, and opening the Conservancy's negotiations with the owner's agent. And here it was – an unblemished square mile of historic scrubby hunting forest, with about 45 Habitat Components, watched over by the representative of the Lord President of the Privy Council (Mr. Daish of Ramsden), and being roamed over by a nicely behaved party of girls from Wychwood School, Oxford and three ecologists, not to speak of a feral population of **fallow deer**, whose paths down the dog's mercury under the trees increase yearly. Today with the canopy either very fresh or still half out (oak and ash) it was looking more like a forest than most places left in Britain.

{ reverse side }

25 MAY 1956.

Alchemilla vestita

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Went to the small quarry area south of the big W of WHICHWOOD {sic} on the map (O.S. 6 in. 1919 – 20), to look for *Licinus depressus* under stones but found none, though there was much other life. The complete absence of **rabbits** since myxo has made Five Ash Bottom grass slopes and this 'quarry' more shaggy with grass, but so far the superficial changes are not very great.

In the ride between Hatching Hill and Maple Hill there is rich grass, mostly not *Brachypodium* and on one damp spot not dried after rain was an active *Helix pomatia*. The only other active one seen today was in a similar spot in Five-ash Bottom, below the 'Long Barrows' on the map. We also found one with its operculum tightly closed (? alive).

In these rides a prostrate small-leaved *Alchemilla* was in full flower. It has very stout tap roots. This specimen was about between Hatching and Maple Hills on the map, on trodden ride. 1243 C (Yes)

One saw the sharp contrast between the drastically thinned and rabbit-fenced margin under forestry, and the thick canopy of hawthorn-maple-hazel with oak and ash which still remains on the Hatching Hill area with an almost uniform layer of **dog's mercury** such as covers the greater part of the woodland. This part is outside the Reserve and it is to be hoped that at any rate the lower slope on the south side of Five-ash Bottom will not be drastically thinned or planted. In it was a large **grey squirrel**

{ reverse side }

25 MAY 1956.

After 2 days the small ridges opened and showed a white inside.

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

nest (in hawthorn at c. 20 ft.) out of which ran two old and one 1956 young that took refuge in another drey.

In the south-west quadrant of Slatepits Copse (Comp. 8) there was *Colchicum* in leaf, some with large green seed capsules containing apparently unripe green seeds. The capsule has formed at the base of the autumn flowers and in spring is raised up a few inches when the leaves grow. In this area the yellow **dead nettle** was abundant.

Where the canopy was a bit more open, though not a glade, a dense society of **nettle** may develop. Where it is very thick sycamore saplings and oak canopy in one spot, there is no *Mercurialis*, only a litter of 1955 (+ ?) oak leaves. The **sycamore** leaves had gone, but numerous black leathery patches, or chains of patches in bits of leaf skeleton, of the sycamore fungus (*Rhytisma*) remained and eaten by animals. n.k.
T.H. says these produce spores if kept in moist conditions in the lab, and their failure to do so here this spring might influence colonization of the new foliage (dry spring). Much of the **sycamore** in the woods is heavily attacked by moth caterpillars, both fat green or yellowish ones and geometrids. The damage is already considerable. The slow output on the **oaks** may indicate the same thing going on. But bunches of tip foliage nipped by **squirrels** and lying on the ground did not show leaf damage.

{ reverse side }

25 MAY 1956.

In oak-ash-sycamore-maple-haw wood.

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Moles appear active in many parts of the thick woodland, though not markedly abundant (castings of earth).

In the north-east quadrant of Slatepits Copse (Comp. 9), not far from the cross of main rides, we looked at the soil under dog's mercury or moss, in the woodland. It was rather dry. The first digging to about 5 in. showed typical unstratified clayey 'brown earth' soil. A little way off, however, the surface layer was greyish-black crumbly soil (which the moles had been working in). What is this dark soil?

About here a Carabid, *Nebria brevicollis* (Fab.). P.J. Osborne det. 1956, was under the moss, on brown soil. 1243 B

Between Slatepits and Churchill Copses stands a large live ash, of which we looked not very carefully at two features:

(a) A very dry old dead branch leading to the ground. The surface bark was moss-covered and loose and the frass below very dry: but in it at 2-4 ft. were 1243

1 adult millipede <i>Polyxenus lagurus</i> (L.)		A	
a fly pupa	failed		n.k.
Iulid millipedes			n.k.
Collembola			n.k.

(b) The north side of the trunk, field layer to ground, had a very large rotting damp wood exposed in a scar forming c. 1/3 of the trunk. It was full of white and yellow fungus. A large tin-full kept for lab emergence (from 1-3 ft.): 1244

small moth pupa			failed
-----------------	--	--	--------

{ reverse side }

25 MAY 1956.

D *Limonia* (*Dicranomyia*) *decem-maculata* Loew. E. Taylor det. 1956
(1 ♂ & 4 ♀♀ presented to Hope Department, which had no specimens; rest – 1 ♂ & 3 ♀♀ kept). Most of these have y. {= ? young} pale mites hanging on, mainly grouped on end of abdomen, and on genitalia; one or two on rest of abdomen, and one also had them on the legs and front of body – this one kept. A. Macfadyen examined them 1956: they are hypopi (species indeterminate) of super-cohort Acarididae.

H 20 *Podura* (*Tomocerus*) *minor* (Lubbock). A. Macfadyen det. 1956.

H* also several smaller ones.

11 *Podura* (*Tomocerus*) *minor* (Lubbock) n.k. A. Macfadyen det. 1956.

8 *Isotoma* (as *Vertagopus*) *cinerea* (Nicolet) k. A. Macfadyen det. 1956.

P 11 *Podura* (*Tomocerus*) *minor* (Lubbock) n.k. A. Macfadyen det. 1956.

Q 5 *Podura* (*Tomocerus*) *minor* (Lubbock) n.k. A. Macfadyen det. 1956.

3 *Isotoma* (as *Vertagopus*) *cinerea* (Nicolet) k. A. Macfadyen det. 1956

1 *Mydonius albocinctus* (Templeton) (as *Entomobiya albocincta*) n.k.

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

(b) cont.***

rotten wood from live ash trunk***	1244
Iulid millipedes, including young ones	B
Woodlice <i>Oniscus asellus</i> L. (not very large ones)	C
Speckled small Tipulid flies emerged	D
2 ♀ on 29.5	1 ♀ on 20.6
3 on 29.5 (1♂, 2♀)	1 ♀ on 6.7
1♂ on 13.6	1 ♀ on 2.6 (YES)
1 <i>Baptolinus affinis</i> (Paykull)	E
Small ? fungus that emerged 18 June. ♂ <i>Sciophila lutea</i> Macquart. K.G.V. Smith det. 1958	F
Some very Sciarid flies. Emerged 21-22 June	n.k.
Very small speckled moth	G

About July we fitted a dark and an ordinary tube under the creamery tin containing this stuff, as I had observed many large Collembola inside that were not emerging into light. The dark one produced almost nil. 3-7 October a large number of the large Collembola and some smaller ones suddenly emerged into the light tube!

Also a small elaterid larva 1 small larva *Melanotus rufipes* (Herbst)

On 12 October a dark and very fast running staphylinid (*Conosomus*) emerged into light tube. 1 *Conosomus testaceus* (Fab.). P.J. Osborne det. 1957

Other (alcoholic) material from main collection in glass tube:

1 larval <i>Denticollis linearis</i> (L.)	M
1 small spider	N
Large Collembola (like 1244 H)	P
Small Collembola (like 1244 H)	Q
Mites 1 ♀ <i>Paragamusus ?runcatellus</i> Berl. A. Macfadyen det. 1956.	R
1 <i>Oppia clavipectinata</i> (Mich.) A. Macfadyen det. 1956.	
1 <i>Oribella castanea</i> (Herm.) A. Macfadyen det. 1956.	

{ reverse side }

25 MAY 1956.

Also one or two red wingless predatory bugs = *Nabis apterus* n.k.

- 1246 A. *Donacia simplex* Fab. P.J. Osborne det. 1956
 B. *Plateumaris sericea* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956
 C. *Galerucella nymphaeae* (L.) var. *sagittariae* (Gyllenhal) P.J. Osborne det. 1956

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

I beat various white **hawthorns** in flower along the main ride in Churchill Copse (near the word CHURCHILL on map), 2-6 ft. layer. The *Crataegus* is laxer and has larger and sparser flowers than non-woodland *monogyna*, but seems more spiny and with more cut leaves than typical *oxyacanthoides*: oak-ash-maple-hawthorn wood. 1245

1 small bee ♂ *Nomada flavoguttata* (Kirby). I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960. A

Beetles:

3 *Meligethes*: *M. aeneus* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1956 B

2 *Anaspis maculata* Geoffroy in Fourcroy P.J. Osborne det. 1956 C

1 *Grammoptera ruficornis* (Fab.) D

Moth:

Several *Micropteryx* ? *calthella* (also seen on *Mercurialis* flowers) n.k.

We went down to the 2 upper ponds + Newhill Pond. One has the impression of much more aquatic plant and animal life than a few years ago. Thus sticklebacks, red water-mites, and alder-fly (*Sialis*), many mayflies (*Ephemera danica* Mueller), dancing in air, case-caddis larvae, *Hydrometra* (on the water surface) were seen. The first pond on the stream from Wort's Well has still a thick *Chara* growth on the bottom, but also a large amount of the submerged form of mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*).

Newhill Pond has some *Typha* and *Alisma* at the edge, also fine *Caltha palustris* in flower in the marshy edge. On petals of the flowers were two kinds of 'Donacia', and on the *Caltha* leaf and adult *Galerucella*. There were flies on the *Caltha* flowers but practically no small beetles. 1246 A, B, C

{ reverse side }

25 MAY 1956.

Oak-ash-maple wood

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

The grass slopes below Newhill Plain most urgently require a management plan to deal with (a) self-sown young turkey oaks (b) self-sown young hawthorns (c) thickening of vegetation in absence of rabbits. One thinks e.g. of the chalk-hill blue butterfly, dependent upon *Hippocrepis*, and in one of its nearest stations to Oxford. *Atropa belladonna* was seen here. The view of the forest from here is quite overwhelming, and can remain so if forestry geometry can be held in check. **Maples** were in young leaf and full flower. **Sycamore** in leaf, some in flower. **Ashes** show almost bare and oaks only starting. **Hawthorn** in leaf, but the very numerous old trees seem not flower much – there is no sight of white blossom from here, except near the ponds. **Beech** in leaf.

Visited Cyder Well, which was running well. There is a distinct danger of unintended damage to the head spring and its surrounding bog below, from picnic parties – in this case Wychwood School's evidently customary annual outing by permission of the owner.

On the 'wood margin' of Slatepits Copse and Fiveash Bottom, I beat flowering maple 2-6 ft.:
All P.J. Osborne det. 1956. 1247

A good many flies		n.k.
<u>Beetles.</u> 2 <i>Meligethes</i> : 1 <i>M. aeneus</i> (Fab.), 1 <i>M. viridescens</i> (Fab.)		A
4 <i>Epuraea melanocephala</i> (Marsham)		B
1 <i>Epuraea aestiva</i> (L.)	2 k.	C
1 Lathridiid : <i>Corticarina fuscula</i> (Gyllenhal)		D
1 grey Cantharid, small elytra yellow-tipped		
<i>Malthodes marginatus</i> (Latreille)		E
1 very small piceous staph., elytra not completely covering pointed black body.		
<i>Eusphalerum sorbi</i> (Gyllenhal)		F

{reverse side}

25 MAY 1956.

25 MAY 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Butterflies seen today were:

Pearl-bordered fritillary (*Argynnis euphrosyne*), several times in grass rides of mixed deciduous wood, also on Newhill Plain steep *Brachypodium* grass slopes. (One verified in hand).

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), a few in same habitats.

There was a notable complete absence of toadstools and bracket-fungi, except one very old anonymous structure on a stump.

{ reverse side }

24 JUNE 1956.

24 JUNE 1956. KINGSTON WOOD OXON.

Mainly on the chalk grass strip below this wood and not far from and above the new radar station, 12.30-3.30 p.m. GMT.

In the pure beech wood itself were small groups and scattered individual bird's-nest orchids (*Neottia nidus-avis*) on the beech litter; and quite a number though individually scattered singly not very near together, of white helleborines, also in full flower (*Cephalanthera damasonium*). Several of the latter were growing in the chalk grass just below, but only a few yards from the beeches, and one in apparently bare flinty chalk in an exposed place in the box thicket, a few yards from the beech edge.

One large old cut beech stump in the pure mature wood on chalk with flints had a small growth of dry leathery *Polystictus* on it (kept for K. Paviour-Smith to examine). No more and no other fungi noticed.

The escarpment wood has virtually no vascular plants under the canopy, but where it opens a bit there is dense growth of rosebay willowherb.

Towards the cap of the hill the ground becomes perceptibly damper (clay with flints), and there is bramble, buckler ferns, broad-leaved willow-herb (*Epilobium montanum**) in flower, and a great deal of well-grown **wood sorrel** (a benefit from no rabbits). *1254

There were some plants of *Atropa belladonna* inside the wood and by an old rabbit warren outside. The flowers were in bud.

The chalk grass shows obvious effects of the disappearance of rabbits, of which there are no signs at all. Although the nice turf flowers like squinancy wort, *Veronica officinalis* and others, salad burnet,

{reverse side}

24 JUNE 1956.

A. *Koeleria gracilis* Pers. E.F. Warburg det. 1958.

B. *Arenaria serphyllifolia* L. E.F. Warburg det. 1958.

24 JUNE 1956. KINGSTON WOOD, OXON.

wild thyme, rock rose, small forget-me-not and so on are still flowering there in some quantity, and the turf when examined is full of leaves of other species as well; there has been quite undoubtedly a thickening of the grassy turf at the expense of the flowers, especially rock rose at the easterly end just beyond the radar station. There are a number of grass and flowers, chiefly tall *Festuca*, and less of another that may be *Koeleria gracilis* (the anthers of the close spikes look lilac). Very small clumps or individual small plants of *Brachypodium* here and there, not abundant it has in no sense become a meadow, but the turf is luxuriantly thick. 1255 A

At the beech edge above, odd tree seedlings grow in the grass or bare spots, chiefly ash. Elsewhere in the wood there was a lot of ash seedling on tracks, one or two oaks, very few beech. Below there is a very strong seral ash fringe coming up above the beech belt that flanks the road between here and Grove Wood. I collected a small flowery *Arenaria* growing on a bare part of the chalk grass belt, also some *Briza media* flower from the turf. B C

The Radar Station occupies the ground just below this marginal grass strip. It is painted green all over the huts and masts and is almost invisible from the main road. There is one tall mast that looks vaguely like something at the South Bank Exhibition and not unpleasant; at least twenty more short masts and a power line; and more than four huts or engine sheds from which a mild chugging can be heard. Granted an over-riding necessity, not a bad job, though the down is not what it was. But with no rabbits it will grow to beech wood anyway.

{ reverse side }

24 JUNE 1956.

24 JUNE 1956. KINGSTON WOOD, OXON.

I saw one dingy skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*) on the grass in the seral ash scrub margin, and some common heaths (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) on the chalk grass turf, flying in the field or ground layers and settling.

In the box plantation there are several young whitebeams growing up.

{ reverse side }

14 JULY 1956.

14 JULY 1956. BERNWOOD FOREST (THE PARTS IN BUCKS.).

Tramped for 5 hours in heavy rain and thick vegetation, with M.J. Goddard, an electronics physicist who lives at East Isley and has mapped the blackthorn habitats this year in order to enable a plan to be drawn up for conserving the black hairstreak (*Strymon pruni*). He has made a complete chart of blackthorn on rides and woodland outer edges, of the whole forest (including Waterperry Wood, Oxon. as well), using five grades of development, and the two highest being best for the species (i.e. high > 10 ft., and also a bit sheltered – they are said to egg-lay on high twigs and certainly fly high). He also marked in actual records of those seen in this year's flying season of a week or two (or three), now nearly over. We saw none today, owing to no sun, and the pouring rain: yet in the rides and edges we saw marbled whites, a few white admirals, meadow browns; at one place small heaths and small skippers (edge, outside); ringlets.

The Forestry Commission seems to have acquired the long narrow grassy field between Oakley and Shabbington Woods, as there is a small spruce nursery at one point. This fallow field has a lot of yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus*) in flower of which I kept specimens; 1258 A also of *Melampyrum pratense* flowering vigourously in a ride through birch-hazel-sallows scrub coppice at the south-east 'peninsula' of Shabbington Wood. B

Just where Shabbington and Oakley Woods join, a procession of queen *Formica rufa* L. n.k. was crossing a pole bridge over the drain, in shade near the scrub-coppice of oak-birch-blackthorn etc. Around these woods the soil varies a great deal, mainly yellow clay, but there are sandier

{ reverse side }

14 JULY 1956.

14 JULY 1956. BERNWOOD FOREST (BUCKS. PART).

or alluvial bits, and on the high central ride between Shabbington and Yorks there is an area of limestone rubble.

Cirsium palustre is universally common in the rides and edges of fields (pasture) outside, and I saw no longicorns on them. White roses were also abundantly flowering. There is still a lot of "edge" habitat all over the Forest, but the whole thing may be much 'damped down' into dull wood again in another quarter century.

Fallow deer tracks in Oakley Wood; Goddard saw one in Shabbington Wood the other day. We saw no **rabbits**, nor signs. The grass is everywhere very lush, and there is a lot of flowers like meadowsweet, angelica (beginning), thistle, centaury, St. Johnswort (*hirsutum*), rosebay, yellow and white bedstraws, *Vicia tetrasperma*, *Genista tinctoria*, honeysuckle, etc.

Much of the farm land has huge well-grown hedges of blackthorn, and I do not think the hairstreak is in immediate danger.

{ reverse side }

23 SEPTEMBER 1956.

23 SEPTEMBER 1956. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Walked by the lake. In the wide marshy (not submerged) mud was a good deal of *Stellaria palustris* in flower.

1273

{ reverse side }

30 SEPTEMBER 1956.

1275

A 2 *Proteinus brachypterus* (1 kept) (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1957.

B 1 *Meligethes viridescens* (Fab.) n.k. (accidental) P.J. Osborne det. 1957.

E. 3 small staphs 'emerged' in the first week. 2 *Oxypoda* species P.J. Osborne det. 1957.

C 2 small *Mycetophila* emerged 12 Oct. *M. lineola* Meigen 2 ♀♀ K.G.V. Smith det. 1956. (1 presented to Hope Department)

F 2 Mycetophilids emerged ♂ 15 October & ♀ 21 October; 2 more ♀♀ 18 & 19 October *Rhymosia domestica* (Meigen) 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀ K.G.V. Smith det. 1956. (2 ♀♀ presented to Hope Department)

C. *Clyocybe nebularis* Quel. J.L. Harley det. 1956.

Ramsbottom (1953) says this toadstool has a parasitic mycelium growing on it (I saw patches on these ones) that itself turns into a toadstool later: *Volvaria loveiana*.

G. 2 *Oxypoda alternans* (Gravenhorst) "emerged" 18 October. P.M. Hammond det. 1969 (Brit. Mus. N.H.)

30 SEPTEMBER 1956. HOWE WOOD, OXON.

Pure beechwood on chalk with flints. The canopy is mostly dense, but white-marked trees indicate that some thinning is intended. Few fungi were starting to grow – some smaller obscure toadstools on the beech litter, and one large fresh colony of *Lycoperdon pyriforme* Schaeff. on a very old beech stump. Several old mature colonies full of yellowish dusty spores were on other old beech stumps and on a rotten beech log. On the fresh white firm-fleshed puff-balls of the first colony I collected three beetles walking on the outsides – none seen on the old ones: 2 *Proteinus* and 1 small black clavicorn. No other fungus beetles were seen, in toadstools or under beech bark of logs. 1275 A, B.

There had evidently been a fungus outburst on the litter in the wet period (of August and up to about September 7th). Since then the weather has been mostly fine and dry. There were no other dead wood micro-fungi, however. But a large number of elderly or middle-aged toadstools, not in a wet-rotted state. The most conspicuous were small groups, or even 20 ft. lines of very solid flat-funnel shaped ones, light greyish brown, white to yellowish gills, and stout stringy stems. They were evidently associated with roots, yet come up easily by hand. Kept a large one c. 5 in. diameter for naming, also a tin of smaller ones to breed out any fauna. D C E F G

Chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius* Fr.) were also abundant, and there were also purple *Laccaria laccata* Quel. A scattering of other unknown (to me) brown, grey, whitish species. No boleti. North of here, on the west slope of Watlington Park can be seen in the distance a striking yew wood with a sprinkling of **whitebeam**.

OXFORD. OCTOBER 1956.

During the first week of the month I saw a green woodpecker in Park Town Jungle. It rose from the road, where mast lay under a copper beech. A hen **bullfinch** hung about in the Jungle for a day or two, in a large patch of wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), of which it was apparently eating the seeds, though these are rough and adapted for animal carriage.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 11.

21 October 1956-16 April 1958.

C.E. 1289-1325.

Red ticks²¹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles²² round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

²¹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

²² Edited to A or 00

21 OCTOBER 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Walked from Five Ash Bottom to the hazel coppice in Slatepits Copse and round through Churchill Copse and back. Noticed three things especially:

- (1) There has been comparatively little leaf fall yet, though some **horse chestnut**, **sycamore**, **Norway maple** and **ash** have begun to drop. There are very fine autumn colours on horse chestnut, maple and Norway spruce. **Maple** in all the hedges in this district is flaming yellow and brown and occasionally red.
- (2) There are innumerable **fallow deer** tracks everywhere we walked, not just sporadic but making clearly define deer paths criss-crossing inside the woodland. These tracks are far more numerous than I have ever seen them. There is no dung to be seen, however! And what do the deer eat? I saw one jump away in Churchill Copse, near the grassy area.
- (3) Macrofungi are almost completely absent – I do not ever remember seeing many in these woods, either on the ground or on trees. One explanation could be that squirrels and deer have consumed them regularly before they could form spores. Their absence from hawthorn, which is the commonest fallen dead wood, suggested the following theory. The **hawthorns** are usually clothed all over with grey lichens when they reach the dying stage (? old age, as Pearsall suggested). Does the fungal part of the lichen remove all nitrogen before the trees blow down? This could be tested by Ovington. The fauna of fallen hawthorn here is poor, and this is partly because the trunks stay hard and undecayed for very long time, although they are damp and under canopy. It is true that

{ reverse side }

21 OCTOBER 1956.

21 OCTOBER 1956. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

they usually lie exposed above the field layer, which is mainly dog's mercury only, and so may possibly get heat-sterilised, but this is unlikely. Some very old logs get covered thickly with moss and then display small toadstools, lichens like *Peltigera*, etc. (cf. C.E. 6. page 54). I saw literally one fungus today – a thin orange growth on the end of an old log.

{reverse side}

21 MAY 1957.

21 MAY 1957. OXFORD. BOTANIC GARDENS.

This morning two **swallows** were visiting a wet gravel-sand puddle that was nearly dry, just outside the front door of the B.A.P., from which they could be watched a few feet away. The colours were brilliant and they seem to have no feet! They were collecting mud in their beaks and flying off with it, having also usually some dry bents: one arrived with a stem in its beak. Mick Southern says their mortar is made from grass + mud, while the house-martin only uses mud.

{reverse side}

2 JUNE 1957.

2 JUNE 1957. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

With Robert Elton, drove on a warm sunny afternoon to the flat farm country all around this village, also Standlake and Hardwick. There is an enormous amount of gravel-digging, past and present, especially in all the country centred on 'The Devil's Quoits' (marked on 1 in. O.S., but not discovered).


One big quarry complex with lakes in it had a sand-martin population. A smaller old (pre-War) quarry system is very delightful, with thin grassy-flowery cover, small heaths and common blues and cinnabar moths flying low over it. This was sheltered ground, as willows were thick round small ponds and marshes, scattered over the variable T/2 + T/3 of the dry slopes of old gravel. One pond had dense *Myriophyllum* and a very small-flowered white crowfoot in flower. A *Tetrix* with the *subulata* shape leaped from the bare edge into the water but I did not catch it. One marsh is *Typha latifolia*. In another large pond (> 1 acre) there was *T.l.* marsh in which we saw a ♀ **reed bunting**, also a **blue tit** foraging on old seed heads of reed-mace, etc.

{reverse side}

9 JUNE 1957.

9 JUNE 1957. ENSTONE, OXON.



Drove here via Charlbury. At a spot by the  south of the wood marked as Henley Knapp (a mile or two south of Enstone) was a large clump of the very rare *Salvia pratensis*, in full flower on the grass verge.

Collected a freshly emerged piece of aspen (*Populus tremula*) on the roadside edge of Kings Wood (north of Stonesfield, Oxon).

1289

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1957.

16 JUNE 1957. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

On the very hottest day this year, went for a picnic. Many **house-martins** flying over the Lake by the big bridge. On the calcareous grassland near the Lake, but dry, between Rosamond's Well and the Inlet, two substantial colonies of deadly nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) and of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), both in full flower.

{ reverse side }

22 SEPTEMBER 1957.

20 SEPTEMBER 1957. OXFORD.

A large ranunculus moth caught by Rob in the house: (*Antitype flavicincta* (Schiffermueller)). L.R. Cole det. 1958. = C.E. 1312.

22 SEPTEMBER. WOLVERCOTE (OXON.) & GODSTOW (BERKS.).

Over a small pond in Port Meadow by the railway bridge to Wolvercote we saw a **kingfisher**, brilliant blue, hovering before diving and flying off. It was hovering still, like a kestrel or enormous humming-bird – there was no suitable perch near. A heron came down by the Thames (bathing place) edge. Lapwings on Port Meadow.

OAKLEY WOOD, BUCKS.

In the afternoon, with Robert, walked down the cart-track between this coppice-oak wood and bare ploughed land. The ground is

22 SEPTEMBER 1957. OAKLEY WOOD, BUCKS.***

yellow clay. There is a lot of *Scabiosa succisa* among the T/2 + T/3 mixture, and several **red admirals** were visiting the flowers, a worker *Bombus lapidarius*, and large numbers of stout brown drone-flies. On a damp part of the track, the seed heads of *Juncus inflexus* were covered with larvae of *Coleophora* (? *glaucicolella*, the only one given for *inflexus*). In nature their larval time is September-May.

29 SEPTEMBER. OXFORD.

Went to the Botanic Gardens with Rob (Elton), to look for **nuthatches**. Heard them only; saw **goldfinches** on the teasel heads, and a great many **blackbirds** after fallen fruit of *Sorbus* etc. 6.15-7.30 a.m., and soaking rain!

4 OCTOBER 1957. OTMOOR, OXON.

Drove round Otmoor on a fine afternoon. On the hedge by a stubble field (and near a group of pollard willows) near Charlton on Otmoor were a score or so of tree sparrows (*Passer montanus*). These are local, and are known to like nesting in pollard willows.

{reverse side}

6 OCTOBER 1957.12 OCTOBER

6 OCTOBER 1957. OXFORD.

A **nuthatch** visited our garden about 7.30 am. GMT., apparently in company with a flock of tits.

CHARLBURY AREA, OXON.

In the afternoon I drove here. Near Fawler we saw a **tawny owl** flying fast across fields in broad daylight.

1313

Near Fawler I collected from a clover field specimens of sainfoin (*Onobrychis sativa* = *viciifolia*) and a small one of sun spurge (*Euphorbia helioscopia*).

A, B

In the margin of a field of root-crop at Charlbury, I collected a much larger specimen of sun spurge (though there was still bigger ones); also scarlet poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), and charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*).

C, D

12 OCTOBER. HOWE WOOD, Nr. WATLINGTON, OXON.

Drove with Dr. and Mrs. Monte Lloyd, to look at this beech wood. It has been thinned a bit and there is a very marked increase in field and ground layer plants over what was mainly bare leaf litter over the chalk and flints when Fager and I went there in 1954, or even when I saw it last year: bramble, woodruff and in places **wild hop** (ground trailer stems). The more open glades have many more things as well. Few toadstool; the amount of dead wood very small except for old stump, on which *Lycoperdon pyriforme* occurred. The only abundant ground toadstool was *Clytocybe nebularis* Quel. (as last year, but named by me. It had some of the parasitic mycelia sheets

{reverse side}

12 OCTOBER 1957.

The specimens were, as last year, "elderly or middle-aged, not in a well-rotted stage". There was some slug damage. The wood was rather dry, not a wet autumn on the whole.

D* 1 *Oxypoda alternans* (Gravenhorst). P.M. Hammond det. 1969 (British Museum, N.H.)

12 OCTOBER 1957. HOWE WOOD, OXON.***

on its gills). These big greyish brown toadstools were growing in a huge curve that looked like part of a fairy ring but on pure beech litter. Others were in groups or lines. Took six to breed out fly larvae.

1314

Beetles:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9 <i>Proteinus brachypterus</i> (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1958 (1 kept) | A |
| 2 <i>Lordithon trinotatus</i> (Erichson) P.J. Osborne det. 1958 (1 kept) | B |
| 2 large dark red-legged 2 <i>Quedius lateralis</i> Gravenhorst. P.J. Osborne det. 1958 | C |
| 3 small brown staphs with dark head, thorax and band on abdomen <i>Aleocharinae</i>
P.J. Osborne det. 1958 | D |

Collembola:

E

Mites:

F

Flies: The fungi in a day or two got completely swathed in the epiphytic "mould" and the tin had to be emptied away. Fly larvae present.

{ reverse side }

13 OCTOBER 1957.

13 OCTOBER 1957. BOTANIC GARDEN, OXFORD.

Robert (Elton) and I went here at 7.30-8.45 a.m. GMT getting in by key on Sunday morning, with no one else there at all. But the birds, especially **blackbirds** in scores, eating fruit of various *Sorbus*. **Song-thrushes** and one or two blackbirds eating **yew** berries. This Eden is completely free from dogs, cats, wild mammal predators and raptorial birds, also human enemies; the cover is tremendous (flower beds, wall creepers, wall crannies, shrubberies, trees including old ones), food of fruit and seed and long fauna rich just now especially. This 50 yards from the most talked-of traffic crush in Britain! The river too.

In an hour and a half of not the most bird-haunted month in inland Britain, we saw 15 species in the garden.

Nuthatch (heard a lot behind cover); blue, great, coal and long-tits; robins; blackbirds, song-thrushes; hedge sparrow; starlings; chaffinches, sparrow (scarce); town pigeon (scarce); wood pigeon; wren.

And flying over were crow, jackdaw and magpie.

BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

In the afternoon walked round the Lake. The surface was absolutely still, not like glass but polished silver, with entire reflections of the yellow and tawny and fox-coloured beeches, and later a copper winter sun reflected as well. On this mirror floated a large number of **coot**, some **moorhens** and **dabchicks**, a few **swans**, **mallard** in some local groups (also flying), and more than eight **great-crested grebe**. We also noticed a **tree-**

{reverse side}

13 OCTOBER 195720 OCTOBER 195723 OCTOBER

BLLENHEIM PARK, OXON. 13 OCTOBER 1957. ***

creeper working a line of Lombardy poplars (in the grass of the Lake), from field layer to high canopy.

20 OCTOBER 1957. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Went out with Rob (Elton) at 9.45-10.45 a.m. GMT., to look for birds, and took 5 habitat photos, mainly of the lake margin types. A large flock of **mallard** by the island, one or two **tufted duck** males with some females.

Drove (in rain) in the afternoon by lanes to Finstock, Fawler and East End. Collected a piece of a huge plant of *Geranium rotundifolium* in flower, among rank roadside grass near North Leigh. 1315

The whole hillside between Ashford Bridge and the "Roman" quarry has been almost completely clear felled, though the part just round and above the quarry is still dense. It looks appallingly bare.

23 OCTOBER. WYCHWOOD FOREST OXON.

Walked round with Dr. Frank Pitelka, Dr. Monte Lloyd and Dr. R. MacArthur, to look at habitats. The route was Five Ash Bottom, Slatepits Copse, valley above and down to Cyder Well, Newhill Pond and grass slopes, Withy Bottom. Some **sycamore**, **ash**, **hawthorn** leaf fall begun, **oaks** and **dog's mercury** green. Many **fallow deer** tracks.

{ reverse side }

23 OCTOBER 1957

1317 Log was in oak-ash-hawthorn woodland.

23 OCTOBER 1957. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON. ***

One **buzzard**, around the wood by Newhill Plain. At the old quarry rubble here I kept three old shells of *Helix pomatia* (old, young, and old rodent-gnawed). 1316

We examined an old rotten fallen oak trunk with some mossy loose bark in places. 1317

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1 hibernating ♀ <i>Bombus hortorum</i> (L.) in rotten butt wood | A |
| 1 ♀ <i>Vespula rufa</i> (L.) F. Pitelka collected. | B |
| 2 <i>Cychrus caraboides</i> (L.) under bark | n.k. |
| 1 <i>Baptolinus affinis</i> (Paykull) in rotten wood | n.k. |
| 1 black elaterid larva in rotten wood <i>Denticollis linearis</i> (L.) | n.k. |
| 2 small brown pupae in frass under bark M. Lloyd collected | D |
| 1 ♀ <i>Forficula auricularia</i> L. in frass under bark M. Lloyd collected | |
| <i>Oxychilus alliarius</i> (Miller) under bark | n.k. |
| <i>Retinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud) under bark | n.k. |
| <i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i> (Müller) M. Lloyd collected | n.k. |
| <i>Limax maximus</i> L. (1 half-grown, <u>small</u> spots F. Pitelka collected on mantle) under bark | n.k. |
| <i>Oniscus asellus</i> L. abundant under bark | n.k. |

27 OCTOBER 1957. OXFORD.

A **nuthatch** visits the bird table in our garden.

{reverse side}

24 NOVEMBER 1957

In December , walked round this central part with Frank Pitelka, who later on trapped *Microtus* etc. in these plantations.

24 NOVEMBER 1957. BAGLEY WOODS, BERKS.

Walked round much of the Wood with Robert (Elton), seeing no-one else this Sunday morning, about 10.45-12.30 a.m. GMT. It was fine but cold. In Milestone Piece a large tit flock was visiting field layer to canopy in a spruce and larch wood, and neighbouring deciduous (mainly) oak mature plantation: **blue**, **great**, a dozen **coal**, a **goldcrest**. We walked to the centre of the Wood, where there is a flourishing nursery (including two kinds of bamboo!). Round by Colley's Ladder, the **badger** colony (occupied) by the Culvert near Bottom Copse, and back by Cow Hall Bottom. In a natural oak wood east of the Nursery, we saw 10 **long-tailed tits** going through the bare canopy, and in the upper twigs was also a **lesser-spotted woodpecker** hunting for food.

The main parts of the wood was still a broad mixture, or mosaic of (a) natural deciduous, mainly oak-mixed wood (b) blocks of almost all entirely monoculture maturing planted conifers e.g. lawson's cypress, larch, spruce, and various unusual species. All this has been left fairly untidy and has much edging scrub like wayfaring tree, and a good many tree trunks lie rotting where they fell. It produces a pleasanter, richer, more varied impression than Wytham. But the Modern Idea is also at work. A winding large opening of some acres in the centre, clear felled mostly, has new young plantations, mostly low enough to allow "vole ground" with *Deschampsia caespitosa* etc.

We heard and saw jays and crows, no pheasants.

{reverse side}

5 JANUARY 1958.

5 JANUARY 1958. S OMERTON, OXON.

Drove with Catherine and Rob Elton along the east side of the Cherwell Valley to Somerton, and back through the Astons. Part of the river valley flats near here is a S.S.S.I. because winter flocks of water-fowl rest there, including wild geese. It is away from any roads, though the railway goes through. We saw some swans of some kind in the distance. Where the Cherwell crosses the road at Somerton, among open floodplain grass fields, it is not very wide, though still in the category of A / C 3. A **kingfisher** flew past close, and settled first on some river-side reeds, and then on the grass bank.

{reverse side}

8 JANUARY 1958.

8 JANUARY 1958. OXFORD.

In the last weeks a party of **greenfinches** has haunted the middle (Crescent) garden; while our garden and the Jungle have had one or two **bullfinches**. A single **nuthatch** comes to our bird table at intervals. **Goldcrests** appeared one day in the garden pine tree, where 0, 1 or 2 **tawny owls** roost variably.

{reverse side}

19 JANUARY 1958.

30 JANUARY 1958

2 FEBRUARY 1958

19 JANUARY 1958. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Went out early, 7.45-9.50 a.m. GMT, with Rob (Elton) mainly to look for waterfowl on Blenheim Park Lake. Nearly all were crowded into the shallower part above the Bridge: hundreds of ♂♀ mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), scores of ♂♀ tufted duck (*Athya fuligula*), and a dozen or so wigeon (*Anas penelope*). Apparently no teal or shoveler. There were also a lot of moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) and coot (*Fulica atra*); and a few mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), and dabchicks (*Podiceps ruficollis*) and a great-crested grebe (*P. cristatus*). In the high canopy of beech trees on the lake slopes was a flock of stock-doves (*Columba oenas*). It was a rather cold morning, with a pale sun struggling through grey silken clouds.

30 JANUARY. OXFORD.

This morning there was dense fog over a lot of England, and visibility was low in Park Town, 1-200 yards. About 8 a.m. Rob pointed out a flock of at least hundred **starlings** settled in a tree in a neighbouring garden, chattering loudly. They stayed around there for a bit and then moved to another place within earshot. It was about half an hour before they moved away. I think they had got lost in the fog, as we have never seen such an assembly here before. (See cutting, across).

2 FEBRUARY. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

Went down with Rob by Aristotle Lane to the Meadow by the allotment. From here across to Medley and some distance northwards, there is an extensive flood, all now unfrozen though it

{ reverse side }

2 FEBRUARY 1958.

2 FEBRUARY 1958. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD***

was being skated over. 8 a.m.-9.15 a.m.

There were some 30 mute **swans**, mainly grown-ups, swimming idly or occasionally flying round. A small flock (or two) of **black-headed gulls**. Big **lapwing** flocks (hundreds) on the marshy ground of the flooded pasture. They seem to be resting rather than feeding, and were indeed unlikely to be disturbed except by an occasional horse. About 9 a lot of the lapwings flew off, presumably to their feeding grounds. Among them, once seen flying (a separate flock perhaps thirty, looking light brown in flight) was a flock of **golden plover**, later seen settled in a marshy spit, with lapwings (which gave a size index). Although rather far away, we had no doubt it was this species.

Three **herons** resting on the distant margin of grass between the flood and the River.

One **pieb wagtail** was on the near grass edge of the flood. Also on the grass at the edge of a ditch between the Meadow and the allotments were several (I think 3 ♂, 1 ♀) **reed buntings**, which also went into the thick lower branches of pollard willows at the edge of the ditch, occasionally roaming above 6 feet. These willows all have the small tufted gall caused by a gall-mite spread in recent decades (Gilbert-Carter).

16 FEBRUARY 1958. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

Went to the same place, by the allotments beyond Aristotle Lane, as on 2 February, with Rob, 7.45-8.45 a.m. GMT. It was a delicious morning, fresh, little wind, warm for winter, and with gleaming scenery in the sun. The flood still stretches from the allotments to the River at and above Medley.

A large number of **mute swans** included many more cygnets of 1957 than before. A flock of **widgeon**, perhaps 30 or 50, flew and settled and flew. Also two flocks of **black-headed gulls**. One presumes that the wildfowl that come here do so to roost, as there is nothing to eat but grass, and even the swans do not seem to be feeding much.

A **heron**, a flock of **golden plover**, and a number of **lapwings**, were on the marshy meadow at the far (river and main Meadow) sides.

Reed buntings and **pied wagtails** as before, on grass bank by the flood.

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On the 14th, the only birds visiting food in our garden, there being only one crust of bread left, on the path, about 1.30 p.m. GMT, were a **starling** and a **greenfinch** (the latter a rare visitor to the garden). The greenfinch was entirely unafraid of the starling, squaring up to it firmly and not being attacked at all, though it is a good deal smaller bird. The two settled down to deal with opposite ends of the same crust. The only other bird that we have seen stand up to the starling is the

{reverse side}

[14 FEBRUARY 1958.]

23 FEBRUARY

[14 FEBRUARY 1958]. OXFORD.***

cock blackbird, and these two species feed but at a foot or more away, in armed neutrality. Even the nuthatch is dominated by the starling, at the bird table.

23 FEBRUARY, GLYMPTON, OXON.

Drove round this part and back by Charlbury and Woodstock.

The landscape has a lot of colour from fresh ploughed limestone soils, and the distance was very clear. Some hedges are still well laid, others just topped to 4-5 ft. But in many places they are just going to ruin. In this part there is an enormous amount of **ash** in the hedges, some of which have in places degenerated into thin coppiced ash. There is in some places still a fair amount of thick untamed wooded or scrubby hedge of some thickness. In this, and in the woods, there is richer showing of **hazel catkins** than I have ever seen.

We stopped by a small beech wood that had a six-foot mortared stone wall, on top of which was a mat of moss. Along this was shuffling a **nuthatch**, picking off some small items as it went along.

{reverse side}

2 MARCH 1958.

2 MARCH 1958. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

It was rather misty, but calm and quite warm, when Rob and I went down by Aristotle Lane at 7.45-8.45 a.m. GMT. (Sunday). There was a huge sheet of water from the allotments to nearly the River, though confined to the extreme south end of the Meadow. It qualified for the heading of "lake (temporary)". On a very rough calculation, if this water is about 400 x 1100 sq. yards (measured from the O.S. 1 in. shape) = about 100 acres, it lies just to the margin between D 1 and E 1. I have established a new punch-card hole to take care of "temporary" in the case of A or (in this case) its inverse, A – T.

We saw 2 ♂, 1 ♀ **pochard** (*Aythya ferina*) close to; over 40 **mute swans**; Rob spotted three **Bewick's swans** (*Cygnus bewickii*), also close to, and later we saw three more with them. They are small, beautifully stream-lined birds, and like the mutes were feeding on the grass under water. A large flock of duck on the far bank marsh was an identifiable except for one ♂ **shoveler** (*Spatula clypeata*). A flock of **black-headed gulls** on the water. In the dense marsh between the railway and the canal, a

{reverse side}

2 MARCH 1958.

2 MARCH 1958. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

coot was swimming in a pond-like patch of sedgy water.

{reverse side}

9 MARCH 1958.

9 MARCH 1958. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

Went out with Dr. Frank Pitelka and Rob early to look for birds. It was sunny and fine, with only a gentle north wind, but penetratingly cold, and there was thin ice on pools.

PORT MEADOW 7.45-8.50 a.m. G.M.T.

The flood lake is all gone, except for a marshy look. Yesterday evening there was a freak blizzard for an hour that dropped half an inch of wet snow, still partly on the trees. The only wildfowl left were **mute swans** over by the river, and one cygnet out on the "marsh", between the allotments and Medley.

A big flock of several hundred or more **lapwings** was settled on the marshy grass far out. Near to us in the same habitat were some **pieb wagtails**, and some kind of larks or pipits. We then saw nine **snipe**, three of which settled for a minute on the Meadow. They were common snipe (*Capella gallinago*), we were sure, from size and also habitat. Two **carrion crows** were also out on the meadow.

GODSTOW. 8.25-8.50 p.m. G.M.T.

We saw several **redwings** in pasture by Wolvercote river bathing place; and **song thrushes** in pasture by the river, by Godstow nunnery. Anglers common, in spite of the cold. Walked past the Lock for a short way, and saw a **kingfisher** flying over Port Meadow near the river; and two **redshanks** (whose legs were seen clearly by Pitelka, while we both heard the note and saw white on the wings). This is near the earliest period for return of redshanks, which breed by the Thames. **Rooks** building in bare elms at the Trout Inn.

{reverse side}

14 MARCH 1958.

14 MARCH 1958. FAWLEY & GARFORD, BERKS.

Drove to Shefford Woodlands in the afternoon to see Frank Darling. Near Fawley, on a huge open ploughed chalk field in the downs, was a pair of red-legged partridges (*Alectoris rufa*).

On the way back, about 6 p.m. – not quite dusk, a little owl (*Athene noctua*) near Garford. It was hovering at 10 feet over the main road, then flew down and settled on a pasture field.

{reverse side}

16 MARCH 1958.

21 MARCH

28 MARCH

16 MARCH 1958. GARFORD etc., BERKS.

Drove, with Rob, to look for the **little owl** I saw two days ago. We flushed one a few hundred yards away from the previous spot. This was among old pollard willows by the River Ock, a small river running here (just west of Garford) between muddy pasture (flooded recently) and plough land. The owl kept to the river margin and fields close to it, flying in low woodpecker looping style or patching on the willow at less than 10 ft.

From here across to Charney Bassett there are few or receding hedges, and huge fields, mostly plough. On one bare ploughed field near C.B. were several common gulls (*Larus canus*), close enough to see all detail, one **black-headed gull** with full chocolate head, some brilliant green **lapwings**. Huge flocks of **wood pigeons** and many parties of **rooks** on plough and pasture; and we were seldom out of sight of some rookery in the tall hedgerow elms.

21 MARCH 1958. OXFORD.

Today Robert saw a **great spotted woodpecker** on trees by the Dragon School playground, behind our house. It was on the move. There has for some years been a small centre for this species in gardens along Chadlington Road, a few hundred yards north, but this is the first one seen here by us.

28 MARCH. OXFORD.

A hen blackbird is making a nest in the *Pyracanthus* on the back of the house, at 8 ft. A song-thrush is building on the end of a holly branch in the Jungle.

{reverse side}

6 APRIL 1958.

6 APRIL 1958. STANTON HARCOURT AREA, OXON.

Drove in the morning 10.30 a.m-12 noon G.M.T., with Rob, to Witney via Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt, the latter stretch of 4 miles along a narrow unfrequented lane in rather untidy damp farm country above the R. Windrush.

From being much pastured, the country around S.H. has many quite good hedges, a lot of elms and a lot of rookeries. A flock of a dozen **fieldfares** (*Turdus pilaris*) near Eynsham, with **starlings** on close-grazed pasture. Over a

{ reverse side }

6 APRIL 1958.13 APRIL

1322 Bark on it; has some black knob fungi about the size of a sheep dropping or smaller. Centre wood highly burrowed and red-rotting, outer ¼ in. under bark white rotted. Some collembola noted.

1 *Porcellio scaber* Latreille running on log, inside tin. Nothing more except very small flies (n.k.) 25 April
Demobilised experiment 3 June.

On this hazel, fungus, *Hypoxylon fuscus* (Pers.) Fr. K.Paviour-Smith det.; confirmed J.L. Harley 1958.

6 APRIL 1958. STANTON HARCOURT AREA ***

large gravel-pit lake with some vertical sand-clay cliffs, were flying **swallows**, **house martins** and **sand martins**, the first seen by us this year. This lake must be well over 25 acres.

13 APRIL. BAGLEY WOOD, BERKS.

Went out with Rob, 7.45-9.15 a.m. G.M.T., by Milestone Piece, Faringdon Gap, Watery Brake Gate Piece (mostly open young plantings) the Culvert and back by Cow Hall Bottom. Almost in the exact centre of the Wood we saw a **great spotted woodpecker** in the high canopy of a flowering bare ash, close to a tall dying ash with several old woodpecker nest holes. This was the edge of a tall thick ash-oak etc. wood, and open recent cleared ground. Heard green woodpecker. About 10 ft. up an evergreen conifer in a ride in a mixture woods in Milestone Piece two **goldcrests** cavorted wildly among the twigs, and the gold crest flashed out brightly. The morning was dull and cold, but not very windy, the culmination of many days of persistent cold: practically no birdsong, little activity, – one green and yellow warbler only, in young 5-6 ft. larch in open patch. Rob saw a fox.

Near the culvert I took some bits of damp rotting hazel, the top 1-2 feet, at 6-8 ft., of a 5 inch diameter dead coppice stem, to keep in the lab.

WYCHWOOD FOREST OXON. 3.30-5 p.m. G.M.T. 13 April 1958

In the afternoon, cold wind but warm sun, visited the north valley of the Nature Reserve, in Evenden Copse. In the grassy valley between the thick wooded slopes of oak-ash-maple with high scrub of hawthorn, and edge also with much elder and blackthorn, it was sheltered and there were many primroses in.

{reverse side}

13 APRIL 1958.

(I find jays and weasels can, under the Management Agreement, be killed.)

C.E. 1324

*c. 5 p.m. G.M.T., daylight.

(I found scores of empty mature (? 3 year old) shells of *Helix pomatia* along the woodland edge of Evenden Bottom. Kept a few in case any animals still in them as parasites or shelterers – but they are not fresh shells and cleaned of bodies. By 16 May nothing emerged and material was thrown away.)

13 APRIL 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON. ***

the wood and also in the grass of the valley. Also at the woodland edge, in grass, some violets (including *V. riviniana*) beginning to flower.

Some **pheasants** about in the wood, the valley and surrounding outer field. Also some signs of keepers' work, including a keeper's tree with two fresh **weasels** and a **jay**. It seemed (pointless to kill weasels in an area where (close by) oak is regenerating slightly; and) tactless to exhibit a keeper's gibbet in a Nature Reserve, whether the species are official pests or not.

In the thorn scrub at the woodland edge in this valley we saw tits, one of which was pretty certainly a **willow tit** (seen close and clear, and heard by my son Rob); also **blue, great and long-tailed**; and a **tree creeper** in the wood.

In the thick tangled wood not far from the road, a **barn-owl** sailed*() through at scrub canopy level. Up here there are wild hammocks of clematis on the maples and high scrub under-story. (It was spotted by Robert, and the first he had ever seen.)

Cyber Well was running more abundantly and faster than I have ever seen it, and pullulating with life – *Gammarus*, planarians, caddis, mayfly nymphs and one *Agabus*. Under a piece of asbestos in the woodland edge I found a litter snail, *Columella edentula*. 1323

(From dense oak-ash-maple-hawthorn-hazel wood at the north end of Evenden Copse, I took two 2 in. diameter bits of rotting maple branch off a living tree, with cracked bark and lichen on, height 8 ft., to keep in lab. The wood is red and hard and apparently unburrowed.

This maple produced nothing, up to 16 May, when experiment ended)

{reverse side}

13 APRIL 1958.

16 APRIL.

13 APRIL 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

(On land being ploughed today between Woodstock and Charlbury there were **rooks**, and both **common** and **lesser black-backed gulls**.)

16 APRIL. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON.

Visited Glades 1-8 (not time for 9-10), with Rob, 10 a.m.-12 noon G.M.T. Weather fine but cold and with a north wind. Still very little bird song. A large **magpie** domed nest of twigs in high canopy of a deciduous tree in the surviving tree-scrub shelter belt at west end of Hell Coppice, with magpie about.

The main coppice wood, now above 15 feet and everywhere (in the Reserve) become very thick and in many places impenetrable. Notably, the vernal flowers like **anemone** and **primrose** are disappearing, at any rate as flowers, though in places and at margins abundant several years ago. But in Glade 3 there is a great outburst of vernal flowers, which will probably increase for a few years – **primrose**, **celandine**, **anemone**, also leaves of *Arum*. But the drier Glades 5 and 6 have hardly any.

All these eight glades are now open in the centre half acre or so, having either been cut in early 1956 (Archibald, of the Nature Conservancy, sent me a report on their condition on 25 July 1956, in which it is noted that Glades 9 and 10 had the same clearance); or were already open spaces – Glade 4. The openings are quite impressive – half an acre is

{reverse side}

16 APRIL 1958.

16 APRIL 1958. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON ***

much more than one expects! There is strong growth of coppiced trees and scrub stumps after the 1956 cutting, varying from 3-7 feet, mostly up to 5-6. Except in Glade 3, one can get about among the coppice, though this is difficult when there is wild rose or dense blackthorn thicket. The badger glade (4) has a lot of very tough bramble thicket that makes parts quite impenetrable.

All the cleared glades had the brush burned *in situ*, and the bonfire sites are easily identified by large circles of *Fumaria hygrometrica* 7 feet or more across, sometimes mixed with small clumps of grass etc. Would it be worth marking these sites with special stakes to see whether their vegetation differs from the rest during late succession?

Small bracket fungi are fairly common in the glades, especially noticeable on the burned stumps of tree or shrub on these bonfire sites. Elsewhere, but growing actively both in glades and wood, *Daedalia quercina* is still common on the original old oak stumps.

Birds were very scarce, or at any rate mostly invisible: Rob heard and saw a **chiff-chaff** in thick canopy of birch-oak wood edge in Glade 1, and there were **long-tailed tits** in Glade 4, and 5 edge. 1 **bullfinch** on main ride wood edge.

{ reverse side }

16 APRIL 1958.

16 APRIL 1958. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON ***

Glade 1. Here and elsewhere all my tagged scrub had been carefully left but the tags are almost weathered away and all colourless. Young coppice up to 6 ft. Several youngish birches and a young oak left in the glade.

Glade 2. Much more marshy. (All the glades have some old filled drains through them). Resembles 1 otherwise. A bad gap has been cut through the hedge on the north that lets wind in. This must regenerate. It was probably done while putting the new rabbit wire round the outside of the wood.

Glade 3. Probably more than ½ acre cleared. A good deal of sallow regenerating, some already in catkin. Coppice up to 6 feet. One big ♀ sallow left, also several young oaks etc. Big onrush of vernal flowers. This has the densest vegetation, with very close thorn, including rose and blackthorn. It is also very wet and has dead *Angelica sylvestris* stems over 7 ft. high.

Glade 4. **Badger** earths show much excavation in the rock-rubble, probably badger, not rabbit. Surrounding wood is almost pure birch. Northeast part has thorn scrub, mainly blackthorn (it is not quite in flower in the wood yet). **Primroses** far less

{ reverse side }

16 APRIL 1958.

16 APRIL 1958. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON ***

abundant in flower than 2-3 years ago. Dense bramble and rosebay willowherb over much of area.

Glade 5 (nearest centre ride).

This is a quite dry glade, except for a small east-west drain with a little water and *Juncus*. 4 nice **service** trees, 20-25 ft. – leaves still whole and undecomposed on ground. One 30-40 ft. oak: this had no leaves, but some in the glade edge had nearly all dead leaves on. 3 tagged 10-20 ft. sallows.

Coppice up to 3-5 ft. Much grass.

Glades 6. Much as 5, but no service in the open Glade, and more young oaks. A tall, tags sallow had died.

Glade 7. (outer, west end of cross ride). Entirely cut in a wedge between the paths, to the edge, except that a grove of young oaks had been left on the outer third. These have enough canopy to produce bare litter areas partly below. The rest is thorn scrub with some rose, up to 7 ft. The east side is marshy, with *Carex*. There is a large pile of old barkless oak logs in the scrub area, very sterile looking at present. Three tagged sallows kept, but one is dead and another sickly. Very few vernal flowers in 5-7.

{reverse side}

16 APRIL 1958.

16 APRIL 1958. WATERPERRY WOOD, OXON ***

Glade 8. Coppice of thorn and birds already up to 7 ft. Much *Deschampsia caespitosa* tussock. Neither very dry nor very wet. Big group of sallow-birch (up to 5 ft.), with rose, whitethorn, and blackthorn) left. 1 large multiple coppice ash 20-30 ft., and a group of young birches about the same height.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 12.

17 April 1958- 26 October 1958.

C.E. 1326-1385.

Red ticks²³ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles²⁴ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

²³ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

²⁴ Edited to A or 00

17 APRIL 1958. HORDLEY, OXON.

With Rob, visited Bruce Campbell's house in Hordley, where, together with his son David, we set up a line of mist-nets on the river marsh by the Glyme, to try and catch snipe for ringing. 5.30-7.30 (nearly dusk) G.M.T. About 30 **common snipe** flew off, but did not return to the nets, though we "drove" the marsh here and also a hundred yards up the River Dorn, a ten-foot brook that joins the Glyme here. This marsh, on the land of Hordley Farm lies east of the river, which has several meander branches, and below a steep valley side of arable and pasture where **partridge** and **lapwings** breed. The marsh is temporary, normally winter, drying out a good deal by now. But this year it is still very wet, either marsh or actual patches of shallow swamp, with thin brown mud over sticky black mud into which one can sink a foot or more, and the surface criss-crossed with snipe and other footmarks. Do they search for tipulid larvae? The habitat looks rather uninhabitable. The main marsh has *Glyceria maxima*, with a great deal of meadowsweet. The former seems cattle grazed, the latter is only a few inches high but in summer grows into a dense marsh meadow. There is a good deal of marsh marigold in flower. There are other marsh or swamp variants, *Carex*, *Phragmites*, etc. Saw **moorhen**, **coot**. A **moorhen** nest in a *Carex* clump, with about 7 eggs. Close by

{reverse side}

17 APRIL 1958.

19 APRIL

17 APRIL 1958. HORDLEY, OXON.***

(a very marginal habitat for it), a grass-lined **lapwing** nest with no eggs, in a meadow-sweet clump. Campbell says **coot** only stay to breed when the marsh stays wet in the spring: if not, the coot probably go to Blenheim Lake.

The River Glyme, certainly = C 3 in places, has much pollard willow and thorn scrub at the edges. **Mallard** about, which B.C. says nest in the pollards; while a **long-tail tit**'s nest at 6 ft. was in A – T thorn scrub. Saw a **barn owl** perching at c. 6 feet and flying at river edge at 6.30 p.m.: a pair nests regularly in the chimney of the house here. Some boys told me **crayfish** are now common in the River.

19 APRIL. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

I gave this permanent Number to the large pit on the south side of the Northern by-pass at Cassington, and west of and adjacent to the large one owned by the Oxford Angling and Preservation Society ("Marlborough Pool", which I will call No. 2). Visit it with Rob, 10-11.15 a.m. G.M.T. It has an active concrete mixing unit at the lane end, and some rubble and lime-rubble tipping, but is otherwise open and fairly undisturbed. There are six main habitats:

(1) Perhaps 40 acres of water, at any rate more than half the pit. Water clear and much alga (perhaps also plants like *Apium*, not prominent just now).

{reverse side}

19 APRIL 1958.

19 APRIL 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.***

- (1) *** At least 30 **coot** (some nests beginning, one in *Phragmites* swamp near shore was made of *Typha* stem, though *Typha* not abundant here as the reed is); two pairs and one individual **mute swan**; two **moorhens**; several pairs of **mallard**.
- (2) Small gravel islands out in the lake, no doubt a very important refuge for the nesting wildfowl. Some have small willow and thorn scrub. A **pieb wagtail** on the bare shore of one.
- (3) *Phragmites* (with a little *Typha latifolia*, but no *Scirpus lacustris* or *Sparganium* or *Glyceria*) reed-swamp, extending actually onto fairly wide patches of the drier ground. Here a pair of **reed-buntings**, and the **coot's** nest.
- (4) A-T, as above, also bare sand/gravel shore.
- (5) Extensive higher shelf of gravel on east side, with what is now mainly T/2 with acres of **coltsfoot** in flower (fully open). Also a lot of what looked like dead stems of blue fleabane about 10 in. high. A pair of **partridges**; a **hare**; a **goldfinch** (on last-year's broken common thistle, 1 ft.).
- (6) The old cut face, broken to slopes in places, but mostly forming a sheltering high bank with low cliffs after 10 ft. at the top in places. No sand-martins here. But a **kingfisher** flew out in front of Rob from a hole, of which there were 4 close together at the base of 2 ft. of top soil just above its junction with the sand/gravel. Another flew over the open water to willow-scrub island. There are also the lake next to this, and on the west

{ reverse side }

19 APRIL 1958.

(This one T/2 is however almost all seasonal before summer makes it T/3 or mixed T/2 + T/3)

19 APRIL 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.***

(6) *** quite close, is the river Evenlode, with a fine old mill and torrent mill-waterfall into the pool below, from which the river (which appears to have been dug out recently) goes on to the Thames opposite Wytham North Hill.

Probably No. 1 has no fish in, except for the mobile kingfishers, there are no fish-eating birds, nor any recorded as regular by the O.O.S. Report. Conversely, on Marlborough Pool (No. 2) we saw no birds at all – except one pair of **great crested grebe**. There are, however, good reed beds along the margin now (cf. blank in 1942) which may attract e.g. reed warblers (some are recorded breeding 1956) and see *infra* 7.6.58.

In the air were **lapwings** which sometimes settled on islets in No. 2.

This is a rich and attractive place, and (from records in the Bird Report) good for some breeding birds and a number of rare passage migrants. It also has one of the most extensive T/2 around Oxford.

We saw, fairly close, standing and making brief flights a pair of curlews. They were in a pasture field on the south side of the Northern Bypass, and adjoining it but mainly screened by a high hawthorn hedge, just about the A 40 printed on the 1 in. O.S. (1946). (Curlews are known to have become breeders in this neighbourhood in the last few years). This is only ¼ mile outside Wytham! Calcareous alluvial T/2.

{reverse side}

19 APRIL 1958.

20 APRIL 1958.

19 APRIL 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.***

Today was the first warm day, after weeks of cold and mostly rainless "halting spring". The first **brimstone** butterfly appeared in Park Town, Oxford, and on the T/2 banks of the Pit were a **brimstone**, a **peacock**, and on a nettle patch a ♂♀ **tortoiseshell** courting.

20 APRIL. Same place. (With Rob). 6.30 – 8.00 a.m. G.M.T. (Summer-time began this morning).

For the first hour it was clear and sunny, cool, then clouded over. All this time the **coltsfoot** flowers were shut and partly nodding, so that no pollinating insects could be collected and presumably were not there.

Today about ten youngish **mute swans** were being driven away to one end by an old territorial male. Four **moorhens**, a few **mallard** pairs and a lot of **coot**. No **kingfishers** seen.

Rob saw a **redshank**, and we heard them too, near the lake edge. 6 **sand martins** on telephone wires by lane. In hedgerows around here were ♂♀ linnet, willow wrens (probably), etc.

We met M.H. Rowntree, who has watched these pits very extensively. He said: a pair of **yellow wagtails** now; **little ringed plover** (*Charadrius dubius*) has recently nested on the T/2 shelf, one seen in March, not since; **willow wrens** singing this morning; **reed warblers** do nest in Pit 2 (Marlborough Pool); **redshanks** mainly nest on islets; **yellow wagtail** nests on the dry shelf; **golden plover** flock now (still) on Pixey Mead.

On the way back we saw the two **curlews** (and heard them) in a pasture field between the by-pass and King's Lock, and they flew into the fields the other side near Pixey Mead. A **heron** rose from Thames edge where

{reverse side}

20 APRIL 1958.

21 APRIL

20 APRIL 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL & GODSTOW etc.***

the river is nearest the by-pass.

We drove back by Godstow, Wytham and Botley. On new-ploughed field between the last two places (east of Marleywood Plantation) was a cock **wheatear**, spotted by Rob, in full dress: a passage migrant. This was in Berks. Bird Report notes that the wheatear is frequent on passage at end of April and beginning of May, and that some are probably Greenland race.

21 APRIL. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

It was warm and sunny when Rob and I went here 2.30-4 p.m. G.M.T., though distinctly warmer below the shelter of the gravel cliffs than in the breeze above it. **Coltsfoot** flowers were fully out, but had only small numbers of insects visiting them. I collected the following from a coltsfoot flower, which except for some very agile flies I missed, are representative of this species I saw: 1326

Hymenoptera:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 queen hive bees, with yellow pollen loads | A |
| 3 small bees 1 ♂ <i>Andrena armata</i> (Gmelin in L.) I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960. | B |
| 1 ♂ <i>Andrena jacobi</i> Perkins. I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960. | C |
| 1 ♂ <i>Nomada xanthosticta</i> (Kirby), a parasite, small, yellow, striped. I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960. Kept by British Museum | E |
| 1 ♂ <i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i> (Fab.) I.H.H. Yarrow det. 1960. | D |

{reverse side}

21 APRIL 1958.

21 APRIL 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, ***

Flies:

1326

1 Muscid with blue and black tessellated abdomen ♂ *Pollenia rudis* (Fab.). K.G.V. Smith det. 1958

1 smallish Empid ♂ *Rhamphomyia sulcata* (Meigen) K.G.V. Smith det. 1958

1 v. small ♀ *Scopeuma stercorarium* (L.) K.G.V. Smith det. 1958 as *S. stercoraria*

F
G
H

Beetles:

1 *Galerucella lineola* (Fab.), on flowers near water's edge. P.J. Osborne det. 1958. J

2 kept of an aggregation of black Nitidulids on flowers on top of gravel bank, near hedge. K

1 *Meligethes picipes* Sturm . P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

1 *M. ? pedicularius* (Gyllenhal) . P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

Collected some A-T beetles on damp margin of liverwort, small grasses etc. nearly covering the gravel

1327

1 *Loricera pilicornis* (Fab.) C.E. det.

1 *Elaphrus riparius* (L.) C.E. det.

1 kept (of three small *Bembidion* all alike) *B. articulatum* (Panzer) C.E. det.

A
B
C

The birds were rather similar to the two previous days'. We saw one **kingfisher** come out of a hole on the west bank near the tip and settle at the water's edge before flying off. Another flew over the lake. One later flew back to this bank, which had a new shallow hole as well as ones seen before.

{ reverse side }

21 APRIL 1958.

1 MAY 1958.

21 APRIL 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, ***

A pair of **redshanks** on the islands and flying around. Today two **black-headed gulls** in full plumage. **Swallows**, **house martins** and **sand martins** in small numbers flying over the lake. Several **reed buntings** among marsh vegetation at the edge. One **yellow wagtail** on a small island near the south shore. **Willow wrens** singing in the hawthorn hedges (which have ash etc. trees as well). About a dozen **mallard** swimming flying and sitting on islands.

1 MAY 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, Oxon.

With Rob, visited the area 6-7.20 a.m. G.M.T. Warm, morning mist over much of the countryside, but none here. The **coltsfoot** flowers entirely closed, though full sun from a cloudless sky. Water like glass. The birds were mainly as on earlier visits: **coot** (abundant), **moorhens** (few), **mallard** (less than 10 pairs), **reed buntings** (several, both east & west side swamp and marsh), a **yellow wagtail** (around the dry ground of the shelf, perching on 5-6 foot willows, tropically brilliant yellow), **swans** (now only one pair, based on the north-west corner), **kingfisher** (flying from cliff near tip, northwest), **sand martins** (10 or so on telephone wires just across the road from pit). But several **sedge warblers** had arrived and were active, perching, flying and singing: near *Typha* swamp edge and on A-T willow and thorn scrub on bank, 3 on southwest side; 1 also on reeds and scrub on east side. A **heron** at the edge. Four (possibly)

{reverse side}

1 MAY 1958.

* H.N. Southern, consulted later, agreed that these could well be greenshanks. And see note on page 18.

1 MAY 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, ***

greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) flew up from island and over Marlborough Pool: dark grey above, certainly redshanks type but a bit larger, no white on wings, note could have been either*. Subsequently saw a real **redshank** settled on an island, and noted it smaller, brown above.

Goldfinches again on the dry T/2-T/3 gravel pit top margin.

One pair of **swans**, one of **great crested grebe**, no reed warblers, on Marlborough Pool (Pit No. 2).

Pied wagtails on mud (dredged) bank of the River Evenlode below the Mill. The grass pasture field adjoining the River has **cowslips** and **cuckoo flowers** (*Cardamine pratensis*) in flower on the higher bits.

Two pairs of **partridges**, one on the grassy pit top southwest, the other on the dry T/2-T/3 gravel shelf southeast. Both seen in these areas previously.

1 MAY 1958. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

This afternoon was the warmest this year, I think. We (Rob and I) looked for birds on the lake 1.45-2.45 p.m. G.M.T. Water still as a mirror, beeches half in leaf, also hawthorn scrub. The commonest birds are **coot**; there are also **mallard**, **moorhens** and **swans**, and there were about 4 pairs of **pochard** (*Athya ferina*) diving far out in the weedy shallows above the bridge, also some paired **tufted ducks**. The ducks and most of the coot are always in this upper stretch. There was a pair of **dabchick**. Below the bridge that

{ reverse side }

1 MAY 1958.

1 MAY 1958. BLENHEIM PARK. ***

water is almost deserted except for a very few **coot** and **moorhen** in the shallows, and several pairs of **great crested grebe**. The grebe usually fish well out in the open weed-free water. But we saw one very near, only a few yards out; (and another close in to the island, above).

Pied wagtails at the lake edge, and sitting on trees (up to 10 ft. zone) just above on the banks. **House martins** were flying over the lake, and one pair at least is making a nest of the bridge. **Grass snake** in scrub-grass, edge of beech trees, slope near Lake, by Bridge.

{ reverse side }

4 MAY 1958.

4 MAY 1958. R. CHERWELL, ENSLOW (ROCK OF GIBRALTAR).

c. 3.45-4.15 p.m. G.M.T. Rob and I spent some time on the bridge over the river and flood plain. (I took 3 photos). We saw **pie**d and **grey wagtails**; also (in 50-20 ft. blackthorn-hawthorn-elder scrub on island) two pairs of **bullfinches** – one drinking at river edge –, also one or two **sedge warblers** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) in thick edge (A-T scrub).

{reverse side}

4 MAY 1958.

4 MAY 1958. R. CHERWELL, ENSLOW***

Swallows and **house martins** flying over the river and flood meadows, which are cattle-grazed.

{ reverse side }

19 MAY 1958.

C. *Cerastium arvense* L. E.F. Warburg det. 1958.

* Some kept in water fruited and proved to be this species.

19 MAY 1958. STANTON HARCOURT AREA, OXON.

Drove round to look at gravel pits in this area, with Rob, 2.45-4.30 p.m. G.M.T. Cool, with strong wind. First visited the series of pits by the Stanton Harcourt-Standlake road (that Rob and I went to 2.6.1957). They are much more extensive than we realised, and show all stages from the new active workings further from the road, with big barren pools, a large pool almost surrounded by sallows, and small pools and *Typha* marshes mostly also with willow scrub round. **Reed buntings** occur here. The dry gravel mounds and slopes have grass and flowers mostly below a foot. Among this small forget-me-nots and *Cerastium** 1330 C and daisies (*Bellis*) were in one place a good many pale lilac minute-flowered *Valerianella locusta*, not yet in fruit* 1330 B

A **heron** flew up. Two **goldfinches** flew over. One **rabbit**.

At Standlake there is a gravel pit lake with access forbidden, rather bare, with **swans** and **coot**.

{reverse side}

19 MAY 1958.

19 MAY 1958. STANTON HARCOURT AREA ***

Between Standlake and Hardwick there is a group of very large old gravel pits in various stages of reclamation for crops: sallow-*Typha* marshes with mounds; uprooted scrub and level ground; and planted ground, flat in the shelter of high banks. The banks should remain of some interest, as they are not plantable.

On the road from Hardwick to (and fairly near) Stanton St. John one passes two large gravel pit lakes. One (in operation) looks barren and with no vegetation, but a number of sand martins (and some swallows) were flying over the water, and we saw a few **sand-martins** emerge from holes on the near cliffside.

There is another very large pit lake close to Stanton St. John. Here were **coot** and two **dabchicks**. Close by a **hare** (which we had previously seen running along the road) reappeared and sat very still in a field gap very close to the car, before running off.

All this area is closely farmed and has little woodland, though there are a good many hedges in which often grow large elms and ashes. In the hedges we saw **yellow-hammers** and a pair of **linnets**. **Skylarks** abound in the growing corn fields.

{ reverse side }

23 MAY 1958.

23 MAY 1958. OXFORD BOTANIC GARDENS.

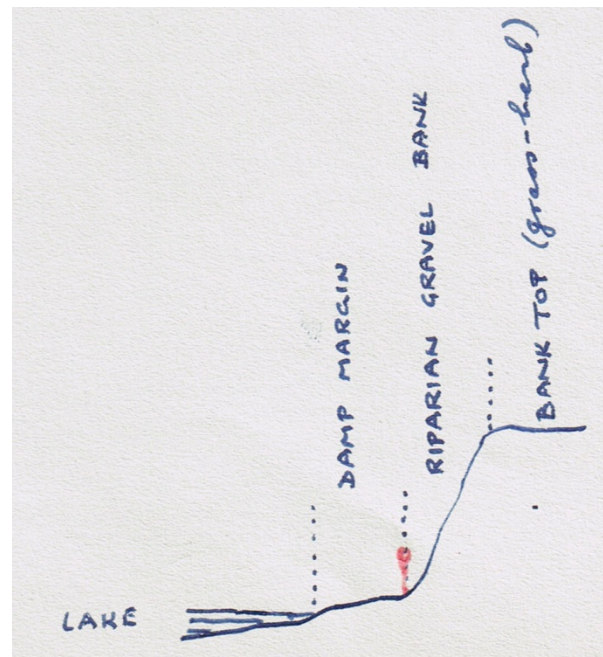
Arriving at 8 a.m. G.M.T. (before anyone was active in the Garden) I saw a good deal going on in the north-west corner visible from my room. Two **wood pigeons** were busy on the lawn grass between the taxonomic beds, steadily picking something that must have been daisies or daisy flower buds (*Bellis perennis*), as these are the only and very numerous lawn flower. A **song-thrush** was feeding a young one on a fig branch against the wall. A **blackbird** flew to a nest in a wall rose. Two **linnets** flew across to another wall-shrub, a broomlike *Colletia* ("anchor plant", South America, a very spiny member of the buckthorn family*). I found a bird sitting tight on a nest at 5-6 ft. One could see the white edge tail feathers.

Perrins confirmed, and said linnets often escort one another to the nest. Yesterday I watched two **starling** parents feeding their young in a hole in the rather open crutch of a still leafless tree at c. 30 ft.

* in nature the linnet frequently nests in thorny scrub

{reverse side}


25 MAY 1958.



25 MAY 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

With Rob, 6.45-8.10 a.m. G.M.T., fairly warm and fine, cumulus clouds, sun in and out, not much wind. No one else there. **Heron** flew round but did not land. No **kingfishers** – four holes in cliff by tipping (which continues, with a limey sludge), but apparently not being used. Water birds the usual **coots**, **moorhens**, **mallard**, **swans**; but a dozen extra drake mallard seemed to be around, and there was a drake **teal**. **Redshanks** on islets, and flying, showing conspicuous white on the wings that make the May 1st greenshanks (with no white on wings) a certainty in our minds. Several **yellow wagtails** on the dry east slope and south-east corner. One **pieb wagtails** near road, on telephone wire. One **reed bunting** seen by Rob, one **goldfinch**; pair of **sedge warblers** or more on west side, possibly using better *Typha* marsh of an islet. Pair of **partridges**.

On the south-west edge I found for good flowering plants of the early marsh orchid (*Orchis latifolia*) about 13-14 in. high. There is no doubt about the species, as the one specimen I took had (1) turned over tips on two of the tall light green leaves (2) long, partly coloured

bracts (3) thick hollow stem (4) back turned sides of lip (5)  loop marks on lip. They grew at the base of a riparian cliff bank a few feet from water and with roots near water table.

1331

{reverse side}

25 MAY 1958.

We saw half-a-dozen **moorhen** chicks in long grass above the river by the mill: black, with red beaks and blue foreheads.

25 MAY 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1***

The colour was rather pale pink and flowers were not all out yet at the top of the spike. I would judge these are the only plants on the pit, as we made a circuit of all other likely spots, except of course the islands, which do not look very suitable.

The top of the west bank has grown up in one stretch to dense nettle and cow parsley (in flower *Anthriscus* = *Chaerophyllum sylvestris*), 2-3 ft. high.

From the road we saw six hawks soaring in circles high up that could not have been anything else but **common buzzards**, and looked like them. Can these be refugees from last year's vole scarcity?

A **turtle dove** soaring gently and perching in an ash tree and on telephone wire in a farm lane.

BLLENHEIM PARK LAKE, OXON.

With Rob and others, 2.15- c. 5 p.m. G.M.T. Fine with cool wind, but sun. Ducks not abundant, and only on upper part: **mallard** and **tufted duck**. On both upper and lower parts **coot**, **moorhens**, **swans**, **great crested grebe**. A pair of grebe were feeding four grey stripey woolly young ones out near the weeds not far from the island. Saw one bring them a fish, but it appeared to lay it in the water not feed it. Up the elder inlet two lots of **dabchicks** whinnying in the reed-swamp, while a pair of **great crested** did their ceremonial face-to-face on meeting.

{reverse side}

25 MAY 1958.

25 MAY 1958. BLENHEIM PARK LAKE, OXON.***

Collected a few insects on the ground zone of the lake margin, by the elder inlet: 1332

2 small <i>Stenus</i> running on damp limestone gravel	A
A small black fly running on damp limestone gravel	B
2 <i>Bembidion</i> running on damp limestone gravel	C
2 small black flies sitting on leaves of an aquatic <i>Veronica</i> (not brooklime) in water.	D

{reverse side}

5 JUNE 1958.

5 JUNE 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went, with David Eccles and Ian Efford to examine the stream system and upper ponds, 10 a.m.-3.45 p.m. G.M.T. Warm, part overcast, part sun. Entering at Five Ashes Bottom, we found at the bottom of this valley with lush grass and very few signs of **rabbits** (none seen). One or two *Helix pomatia* moving on the damp grass. **Small heath** butterflies. Several silver-y moths (*Plusia gamma*) migrants, flying and settling, especially on patches where old dry bracken litter was mixed with grass. (**Bracken fronds** in the wood are a foot or two up in places, but the fronds curled, not yet open). The Forest looks very fresh and beautiful at this date, with **whitethorn** still in flower though going over, other trees in fresh leaf

{reverse side}

5 JUNE 1958.

- B *Carex hirta* L. E.F. Warburg det. 1959.
- C. *Cratoneuron commutatum* (Hedw.) Roth var. *commutatum* A.R. Perry det. 1962
- D The flowers are a fair size but so delicate that my specimen lost the white petals. This *Linum catharticum* L.! E.F. Warburg det. 1958 (says is more common in logs in north)

5 JUNE 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

The "Licinus Quarry" is very much grown up with grass and herbs since the rabbits died but there is a small zone of stone limestone rubble still exposed.

Worts Well. (Photos).

Spent an hour 10.15-11.15 a.m. G.M.T. collecting here.

(FULL NOTES WILL BE JOINTLY ASSEMBLED LATER, FOR REPORT ON TODAY FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY). CN 202/3/2 – page 36. Data with C.E. specimen are indexed in my own notes here, and some not in the CN notes

The small head springs (temperature 9.5 °C) lie in a small sloping bog, bordered by more steeply sloping *Brachypodium* etc. grassland with scattered scrub of mainly elder and hawthorn. They are not shaded or filled with dead leaves, and although situated in an opening far in the wood, lie on the "non-woodland" side of "woodland edge", not in "woodland" (i.e. close canopy). However, structurally it is simplest to classify the whole of Worts Well and most of its streams down to Newhill Pond as "woodland edge", and keep "non-woodland" for a really open meadow and moor. The stream is all unshaded down to the junction with the ride from Gospel Oak, though the woodland edge of the ride is very close. All in Comp. 14.

The bog has large amounts of *Carex flacca*, and one less common but with flower stems about the same height <10 in. mixed with moss that becomes an almost pure micro-bank of the stream in places. 1337 A B

Other plants are mint, marsh thistle, coltsfoot, *Festuca ovina*, bugle (in flower), a very delicate "sandwort" (in flower), *Briza media* (small, in flower bud, a few spotted orchids (one grazed). C D

{reverse side}

5 JUNE 1958.

- E. ♂ *Tarentula pulverulenta* (Clerck). E. Duffey det. 1959. "*T.p.* may be found in a wide range of different habitats. I have taken it in woodlands, grasslands, hedgerows, sand dunes, and even on Orford Beach. In really dry places such as Breckland heaths, it is replaced by *T. barbipes*. Both occur together on the Bowling Alley (Wytham)."

5 JUNE 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

Lycosa were running on the moss edge (A-T) and one was kept.

1337 E

Pearl-bordered fritillaries (*Argynnis euphrosyne*) were flying low, and one visited an *Ajuga* flower (in ground zone). One **dingy skipper** (*Erynnis tages*) was also seen. There are no bare mud margins to these springs, nor to the stream from them: all is thickly vegetated though in the actual head springs nothing grows in the water except the moss and mint and these form and A-T, as it is scarcely practicable to treat them as reedswamp a few inches high!

The spring and bog-stream fauna at the head here includes *Gammarus pulex*; *Planaria alpina*, *Polycelis cornuta*, *Helodes* larvae; no molluscs; a few or no mayflies; small caddis; gordian worms; etc. Many adult *Simulium* that swarmed about us, mainly at 0-3 ft., as they did in some parts of the wood.

Fifty yards below, after the stream turns the corner onto the flatter slope of the Bottom, its character is rather different – a meander through low boggy channels that contain a lot of *Apium* leaves. There is a patch of *Juncus inflexus*, whereas at the head bog there was one of *J. "effusus"* type. Here several gordian worms were found.

On a piece of dead bracken, c. 1 ft., by this stream bog Efford found a *Tetragnatha* with a webby structure and holding a stray (dead) ♀ *T. extensa* (L.). E. Duffey det. 1959.

1338

{ reverse side }

5 JUNE 1958.

♂♀ *S. lutaria* (L.)

5 JUNE 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

Ephemera vulgata L. I.E. Efford det. 1958. (from Newhill Ponds presumably). n.k.

In the stream bog or grassy wet bog extending from it grew quite a lot of marsh orchids – confirmed by a single flower of one just opening, all the rest still in bud. This one was clearly *Orchis praetermissa*. There are a lot at the junction with Gospel Oak ride, where I formerly noted a “marsh orchid” flowering. They are very vulnerable to trampling just now, as indeed are all these bogs.

Newhill Pond (Upper, South, non-water-lily).

Thick growth of rather alga-covered *Chara*, some *Hippuris*, floating conferva mats some dead and dying, no reedswamp. This refers to the lower end by the dam, only. Many water-mites, swimming, mostly dull or speckled *Piona*. Sticklebacks (apparently 3-spined), adults and very young.

I kept a grey aquatic fly pupa that was on the *Jungermannia* mat above the exit sluice. Failed

Newhill Pond (Upper, North, water-lily).

Thick growth of *Elodea canadensis*, *Myriophyllum*, waterlily, some water crowfoot. Two small areas of *Scirpus lacustris* on which were dragonflies (*Ischnura elegans*) and a pair in copulation. *Sialis*.* One or two large fish jumping.

1340 A*

{reverse side}

5 JUNE 1958.

1340 B. *Deronectes depressus* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

C. *Lycosa amentata* (Clerck) ♀. E. Duffey det. 1959.

5 JUNE 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

I collected an *Ilybius fuliginosus* (n.k.), and a small **marble beetle**.

1340

A Lycosid ♀ with egg sac was running on the dam wall and on the water surface.

Where a shaded cool stream runs out from under the path, into the large pond below, I found an adult *Helodes*, which was on the muddy edge. *H. minuta* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1958. 1341

Shaded stream, Evenden Bottom. About 100 yd. below Cyder Well, its outlet stream, which runs for a few yards in the open and has a luxuriant low boggy edge and is full of *Apium*, runs down at a rather fast pace and a fairly thick canopy of ash, oak, hazel, maple, elder, etc. in a ravine. The bed is calcareous sand, rather clean in the centre, but covered with large limestone pebbles that have a calcareous encrustation, on which are numerous small caddis pupae made of large grit grains. The stream is very shallow, about 5 ft. wide. *Gammarus*, but no dead leaves (except skeletons). Planarians abundant. When I moved a mass of twig debris that had been dammed up by the fall of a small branch, many shrimps were revealed, and perhaps a hundred black planarians, which immediately began to move in a column upstream (named by D.H. Eccles: *Polycelis cornuta*).

{reverse side}

5 JUNE 1958.

A. 1 *Helodes minuta* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

B. 1 *H. marginata* (Fab.) P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

C. 1 *Prosternon tessellatum* (L.) P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

(This elaterid comes "in marshy places" (Fowler), appears local, and Wychwood Forest is one of the three locations in Oxon. V.C.H., there being none nearer Oxford. Berks V.C.H. gives Tubney, and two distant locations. Berks. V.C.H. gives only Burnham Beeches. Continental ecology seems very confused, but adults can damage young conifers, and occur in scrub, also have been found predatory. Larval life unknown.)

D. ♀ *Tipula unca* Wiedemann K.G.V. Smith det. 1958.

7 JUNE

5 JUNE 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

I found a *Nemoura* adult on *Jungermannia* mat at this stream edge; and by sweeping A-T nettles + dog's mercury caught two kinds of *Helodes*, also a grey-black elaterid and a medium-sized tipulid.

1342

A-B C D

Cyder Well. Collecting done by D.H.E. and I.E. here and in the open stream just below. I swept 2 adult *Nemoura* (small, dark) from nettles at the spring head, and I.E. found another.

7 JUNE. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT NO.1, OXON.

Went out with Rob, 6.45-8 a.m. G.M.T. Fine at first, then cloudy, cooling down. The water birds were as usual (**coot, moorhen, swan, mallard, redshank**; plus visiting **kingfisher** flying off) but for a flock of about 20 **mallard** that flew away. Saw one, possibly two, pairs of **redshanks**. A **heron** flying beyond, down to the Thames flat opposite Wytham. **Yellow wagtails** (probably two territories), **sedge warblers, reed-buntings, whitethroat**, on the east side, near water mainly. **Skylarks** on the dry shelf. **Sand martins** and **swallows** over the water. **Cuckoo** flew by. **Turtle dove** on large ash in farm lane.

On Marlborough Pool we saw no **great crested grebe** today; but in a *Phragmites* reed patch near the south-west corner, we had an excellent view of a **reed warbler**.

{ reverse side }

7 JUNE 1958.

1343. The horsetails, both green sterile and green fruiting stems, are *Equisetum palustre*; though the stems of these have 10, not 8 outer-ring holes, all the other characters are right.

8 JUNE 1958.

7 JUNE 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT NO.1, OXON.***

The *Myriophyllum* is now visible and makes a large red patch in the south-west (rather sheltered) corner of the lake and a little in other places.

The vegetation on the gravel shelf is growing up dramatically, up to 2 ft., or so in places: field thistle,? spear thistle, grasses, docks, etc.; with ox-eyed daisies, white campion, yellow trefoils (hop mainly and horsetails)* in flower. A huge clump of ragged robin flowers on an islet. On the south gravel top and the field beyond are a great quantity of yellow "hawkweed" in flower and a little in seed. 1343*

8 JUNE. OXFORD TO CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA, GLOS.

Drove here for the day, with Rob and others. At Bibury some riparian owner had a remarkable group of tame waterfowl lazing on the grassy edge of the R. Coln: a Canada goose, several barnacle geese, two scaup, several shelduck, and a foreign duck with yellow bill and green, white and black head.

On the thick and luxuriant limestone lane verge meadow near Fossbridge, Glos., which contained large amounts of meadow cranesbill and tall grasses, there was a lot of *Heracleum sphondylium* just starting to grow up, with some flower buds already in sheath, but all less than 2 ft. high, mostly less than 1½. All along one side of the road for at least 100 yd. the leaves of the hogweed were being heavily attacked and some well on to being skeletonised by numerous small chrysomelid beetle larvae.

{reverse side}

8 JUNE 1958.

Failed to breed through. Larvae kept in alcohol. Det. by E.A.J. Duffy 1958 as *Chrysolina* (*Chrysomela*) probably *oricalcia* (Mueller). "This species feeds exclusively on *Heracleum sphondylium* but unfortunately the larva has apparently never been described and there are no named larvae of this species in the British Museum collection.) (Letter from W.J. Hall, 29.9.1958).

This blue beetle is close to the coastal *C. haemoptera* (which I have found on cliff grass in Cornwall, where it eats plantain). It is recorded in Oxon. V.C.H. from Summertown, Shotover, Caversham and near Islip. See also 3.7.1958 for probably larvae at Stanton St. John. Fowler records it from Barnwood, Glos.

8 JUNE 1958. CHEDWORTH, GLOS.***

On the opposite side of the lane (about 1 2/3 car width) hardly any hogweed was attacked badly, though some beetle larvae occurred: the vegetation on the two verges looked similar.

Kept living material to breed out and pressed specimens of leaf damage.

1344 A B

At Buckland, Berks., Rob (and I) watched a **nuthatch** feeding on some partly dying small English elms at the edge of a thick yew wood by the road, low and high canopy. The trees had plenty of foliage, but some dead branches.

All the way, *via* Appleton, Buckland, Faringdon, Lechlade, the "Colnes", Chedworth, back by Northleach, Burford, Witney, the road verges were rich and unsprayed; cutting the swath by the road had recently been done in many places, leaving a generous uncut meadow behind it – the swath was seldom more than 4 ft. ***Anthriscus*** still in flower, and **hawthorn**.

{reverse side}

15 JUNE 1958.

15 JUNE 1958. OXFORD.

About ten days ago I found a moth pupa in the lawn turf in the garden, while weeding *Plantago major*. Put with slightly damp earth in a flower-pot indoors, it emerged today, as a heart and dart moth, of a dark brown form (*Agrotis exclamationis* (L.)). This species feeds among other things on plantains. 1346

{ reverse side }

21 JUNE 1958.

15 JUNE 1958. OXFORD, S. BYPASS.

Among various road-meadow grasses near South Hinksey, that I was naming, was *Festuca arundinacea* in flower.

The two abundant grasses on the Park Town Jungle road edge and Dragon Lane are *Bromus sterilis* and *Poa trivialis*.

1347 A, B

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1958.

29 JUNE 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

Visited, with Rob, on a glassy still day, sunny, warm, 6.45-7.55 a.m. G.M.T. All the vegetation on the shelf and much of the gravel bank tops had grown up into a rich meadow of coarse grasses and herbs, many in flower. But on the shelf there are also large areas of lower vegetation, mainly the large white clover, *Trifolium hybridum*, in flower. *Typha latifolia* in full leaf in the reedswamp, and flower buds. **Coltsfoot**, now mostly hidden by field layer of other plants, in full leaf.

20-30 **coot**, with some young ones; a few **moorhens**; one or two **mallard** only; at least one pair of **redshanks** – one flying with alarm note unlike usual note; 2 **herons** resting on islands, not feeding, one flew off; 2 **pied wagtails** on islands; 1 **sedge warbler**; several **swans**. **House martins**, but not commonly.

2 **goldfinches** eating seeds of sow thistle on gravel meadow. **Turtle dove** with one young on power wire.

MUSWELL HILL, OXON.

In afternoon, drove via Oakley and Brill, to the ash-tree lane here. All the way from Oxford the roadside meadows are mainly dominated by *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Dactylis glomerata*, with some *Lolium perenne* and a smaller grasses. Rose and elder in flower in hedges.

{reverse side}

2 JULY 1958.3 JULY 1958.

2 JULY 1958. OXFORD.

Saw a swallowtailed moth (*Ourapteryx sambucaria* (L.)) in the garden in the afternoon. It was disturbed from rest on the leaves of a pear tree at about 5½ feet. This species is said to breed chiefly on ivy and frequent gardens and woodland edge.

3 JULY. STANTON ST. JOHN, OXON.

All the roadsides (except a few short stretches) between Oxford and Hell Coppice have been mowed in a fairly wide but not complete strip that usually leaves a luxuriant rank meadow strip behind the mown part. On the latter the drying hay still lies in swaths. There have been torrential rains over England during the last week, and all June was wet and rather sunless. The roadside grass, and also at the edge of cornfields, especially on this Oxford Clay, is unusually tall and rank e.g. Timothy grass 2-3 feet high. I collected the following flowering grasses between Stanton St. John and Hell Coppice.:

Roadside, Holly Wood.

1352

Arrhenatherum elatius

A

Helictotrichon pubescens

n.k.

a small-flower but tall wild barley. *Hordeum secalinum* (= *nodosum*) E.F. Warburg det. 1959

C

also hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) leaves, stem portion and flowers with unripe seeds. Common in roadside around here, 5-6 ft.

D

Saw a few **Chrysomelid** larvae (? *Chrysolina oricalcia*) attacking *Heracleum* leaves, similar to the Chedworth lot 8.6.1958. Very limited, but not much hogweed just here.

{ reverse side }

3 JULY 1958.6 JULY 1958.

A. *Agrostis stolonifera* (L.) E.F. Warburg det. 1959.

3 JULY 1958. STANTON ST. JOHN, OXON.***

Margin of wheat field outside Holly Wood:

1353

Wheat in green state (*Triticum aestivum*)

Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)

Poa trivialis L. E.F. Warburg det. 1959.

A
B
C

Roadside meadow, partly shaded, near Hell Coppice (in Oxon.)

1354

Festuca gigantea very large plants

Hairy brome (*Bromus ramosus*)

A
B

Lolium perenne and *Dactylis glomerata* are also very common along all these roadsides, but *Bromus erectus* and *Brachypodium pinnatum* are quite absent.

6 JULY. GRAVEL PITS, STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

Visited the gravel pits between Stanton Harcourt and Standlake, 3-4.15 p.m. G.M.T. warm but mainly overcast. There are distinct zones in the old workings:

- (1) flat area of T/2 with low herbs and overly rather scattered fine grasses. I took a photo of such a dry flat with the main flowers white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and *Lotus corniculatus*, and also a fine *Agrostis**; 1355 A
 but the composition varies very much from place to place: e.g. basil-thyme (*Acinos arvensis*) about 2-3 in. high occurs, B
 yellow stone-crop in flower (*Sedum acre*), C
Ranunculus repens flower and fruit, hop trefoil etc. D

{ reverse side }

6 JULY 1958.

1355 H flower *Galium mollugo* 1-1 ½ ft.

A. *Agrostis stolonifera* (L.). ("could possibly be *A. gigantea*, since no stolons present in specimen.") E.F. Warburg det. 1959.

6 JULY 1958. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.***

- (2) Some of the gravel is bare and very loose and subject to human erosion, especially on the lower cliff slopes. I found two patches of *Ononis repens* (no spines) in flower. 1355 [E]
- (3) The field layer is mainly grassland of a not very calcareous facies e.g. no quaking grass, *Brachypodium pinnatum* or *Bromus erectus*. The dominants are *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Trisetum flavescens*, *Holcus mollis*, and there are a few other species like *Cynosurus cristatus* and a tall *Agrostis*. [F]
I did not see *Festuca rubra* or *Helictotrichon*. The *Holcus* is not in extensive mats, but mostly small single plants. [H]
At the edge of this, and also in very open mixed T/2 and T/3 banks near a pond, were a dozen **bee orchids** in flower.
- (4) Sallow scrub of forms of leaf varying from *caprea* to *atrocinerea*. I saw one very unstable bit of bad gravel being directly colonised by *caprea* plants a foot or two high. It grows thickly round the edges of ponds.
- (5) The ponds have chiefly *Typha*, apparently a rather small form of *latifolia*, for the flower I collected had male and female parts without a gap, and no ♀ bracteole. There is much less *Scirpus lacustris*. Two **swans** on the main pond. **Sedge warblers**. **Moorhens**. [G]

We saw **small heaths** on the T/2 and T/3, and **marbled whites** and **meadow browns** on the T/3.

{reverse side}

11 JULY 1958.

1356

A & B n.k. Galleriid (*Aphomia sociella* (L.)). L.R.Cole det. 1958.

12 JULY

1357

A & B n.k. Yellow shell (*Euphyia bilineata* (L.)). L.R.Cole det. 1958.

11 JULY 1958. OXFORD.

A galleriid moth flew into the nursery at evening, probably *Aphomia sociella*. 1356 A
Outside the back window, two others were flying slowly round in circles, a rather weak flight, about 8 ft. from the ground, of which one was kept. The spot is a very sheltered angle at the back of the house, where a heavy growth of *Vitis* hangs down. B

12 JULY. OXFORD.

Rob and I put out some sugar for moths, in the garden. It was fairly warm, slightly windy overcast evening, after rain, 8.45-9.45 p.m. G.M.T., dusk and early (not black) dark. None came to sugar. Took 1357

2 brown waves A B

1 "*Aphomia*", the same spot as yesterday, n.k.

1 small magpie moth (*Eurrhynx hortulata* (L.)) C

1 white plume (*Alucita pentadactyla* (L.)), which is said to live on small convolvulus, and this is common round the gravelly edge of the Jungle, and elsewhere. n.k.

Later, c. 9.45 Rob noticed (and I confirmed) that vast numbers of *Helix aspersa* were out on the road several feet from the Jungle. The numbers were in thousands. Next morning, they were not there. This "outbreak" may be related to my throwing out some of the snails from the garden to the Jungle several years ago.

{ reverse side }

19 JULY 1958.

19 JULY 1958. HELL COPPICE, YORK'S AND SHABBINGTON WOODS, BUCKS.

Went with Marcus Goddard to look at two black hairstreak/blackthorn sites which need planning further. The roadway made by the Forestry Commission runs from where the road bends first through H.C. and then on through York Wood and Shabbington Wood. It is a wide roughly metalled track to take tractors over the wet clay. When I saw it in 1956 it look very raw, but now it is growing up to have a rather gorgeous lane-edge of tall grasses (mainly flowering *Deschampsia caespitosa* with *Dactylis glomerata* and *Holcus*, but not *Arrhenatherum*), *Epilobium angustifolium*, marsh thistles etc. The woods in Comps. 23, 24, 10, 9, 8 seemed to be thinned and kept, not clear-felled. Part of them is post-War plantings by St. John's College, – a curious mixture of conifers like larch, with sweet chestnut, and the native coppice trees. It is this thinning that has caused the damage to the dense **blackthorn** thickets of sites 2 (= CG) and 3 (= CV) that border the long field south of Oakley Wood. This field, now a thick meadow, has been planted with spruce about a year old, so that the present edge of Shabbington/York's Woods that forms the south edge of this field, will no longer be an open edge in ten years time. In 1956-57 this edge had **black hairstreaks**, and the best part was CG and CV, which has had both its outer high blackthorn edge cut down, but also all the inner scrub (mainly rose and blackthorn), leaving a thinned wood of young oaks etc. Goddard suggests that a glade or a very wide

{reverse side}

19 JULY 1958.

19 JULY 1958. HELL COPPICE, etc.***

ride should be cut inside, leaving a 15 foot strip of blackthorn to grow up again. This, of course, means a direct sacrifice of a certain number of trees. It would involve giving up from forestry and area of an acre or two.

The **blackthorn** edge to Comp. 9 i.e. continuing south-west from here, is still high and uncut, and Goddard thinks it should also now be included similarly as a belt/glade reserve, since this area is one of the best haunts of the hairstreak, which are now deprived of Reserves 1 and 2.

We also looked at a small glade (12 A) in Comp. 23, at the junction of paths br and bs. This was not included in my summarized proposals of August 1956, and I had not seen it before. It is an extremely sheltered spot in the heart of a birch-hazel wood, with some good **blackthorn**, not more than 10 ft. high. One ♂ **black hairstreak** on a blackthorn spray at 5½ ft. Here there were also **silver-washed fritillaries** and **white admirals**, species also common in the main trackway and some side paths. The setting aside of this glade (itself less than ¼ acre) would involve keeping open the access paths, which look as if they are growing up. The latter would, however, be ecologically very valuable in themselves. Goddard caught (and released) a dark green fritillary (*Argynnis aglaia*), in the main track. (York's Wood)

{ reverse side }

19 JULY 1958.

19 JULY 1958. HELL COPPICE, etc.***

We saw a **fallow doe** and fawn on the edge of York's Wood.

I have not got exact details of the forestry plans, but general observation suggests that some fairly solid blocks of deciduous or mixed wood other than the Waterperry Wood "Reserve" are not being clear-felled but accepted for thinning management; while some very large areas, e.g. in Shabbington and Waterperry Woods, have been almost completely erased, and replanted with spruce-oak etc. The end result will probably be the same – a very shady dense and ecologically dull oak forest of rather even age that will again be largely felled. Meanwhile there are some good rides and edge-formations in the first category, and hundreds of acres of open planted land with (only very temporary) field-type vegetation, some but not all of which has affinities with the more sheltered ride and glade vegetation. But the first thing to go by the board in both kinds of forestry is high thick **blackthorn**, unless specifically protected and excepted. It is clear that (on the Commission's land at any rate) the **black hairstreak** might die out unless an adequate series of refuges can be kept going. At present this plan seems to be achieving its object; yet Sites 2 and 3 were ranked by Goddard as second in importance to the "Peninsula" (Site 1) and yet have been cut. We obviously cannot afford to let this happen again. All sites ought to be marked properly on the ground and not just on a map, for the guidance of the constantly changing forestry staff.

{reverse side}

19 JULY 1958.

1357 D. Small black Cantharid beetle. *Cantharis fulvicollis* Fab. P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

1 *Tettigoniella viridis* (L.) not kept

F Small chrysomelid *Crepidodera transversa* (Marsham) P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

G Dolichopodid fly. ♀ *Dolichopus festivus* Haliday. K.G.V. Smith det. 1958.

H 2 short-winged grass bugs *Leptopterna dolabrata* (L.). G.G.E. Scudder det. 1960.

J 3 narrow full-winged grass bugs *Megaloceraea linearis* (Fuessly) G.G.E. Scudder det. 1960 (as *M. recticornis* Fallén).

21 JULY 1958. HELL COPPICE, YORK'S AND SHABBINGTON WOODS, BUCKS.

Walked, with Rob, down the main trackway, 12.30-2 p.m. G.M.T., more wind than on 19th, but warm and sunny after heavy showers. The butterflies noticed were **meadow brown**, **small heath**, **ringlet**, **marble white**, **small skipper**, **common blue**, **silver-washed fritillary** and **white admiral**. The last two were only where there was woodland each side i.e. in shelter: the fritillaries were settling on the numerous marsh thistles (say 5-7 ft.) which are enormous this wet year, grown (like some teasels) to 7 or 8 ft. The white admirals were settling on the white flowers and leaves of bramble at 1-2 ft., but racing up into the scrub edge when alarmed. The marbled whites were mainly in the non-woody ground between Hell Coppice and York's Wood, and in larger grassy glades. N.B. There is no *Brachypodium* here. The other species were both in the main ride grass edge and in the open part, except the one common blue, seen only in the open.

Swept the mixture of *Deschampsia*, *Holcus*, *Dactylis*, common *Juncus* etc. at about 1-2 ft., in the woodland edge track, and kept some insects; 1357 D-J
besides these there were large numbers of red soldier beetles (n.k.).

{ reverse side }

26 JULY 1958.29 JULY

1358 G. Collected a pale brown moth from grass (ground zone) in ride not far from the lower Worts Well spring.

= **Bright-line brown-eye** (*Leucania conigera* (Schiffermueller), a grass-feeder.
A.J. Pontin det. 1958.

26 JULY 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went out on a wet windy morning with Ian Efford, to see his insect/water mite emergence traps along the stream below Worts Well, at Cyder Well and below it. This is in order to find out the chironomid fly hosts of two rare species taken on 5 June.

The glades and rides are very lush and have a rich field layer of tall grasses and many flowers including marsh thistle, ragwort, marsh valerian, birdsfoot trefoil, and a white *Galium*, wild parsnip and *Hypericum perforatum* and *hirsutum*.

We saw no *Helix pomatia* in spite of the wet conditions. There was an *Anacamptis pyramidalis* in flower near Newhill Pond.

29 JULY. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went out again with Ian Efford, to take up his traps, which got a good catch not only of flies, but also caddis flies. Also Leslie Bachelier and Rob. Warm and damp with some sun but no rain. 2-3.30 p.m. G.M.T. Bachelier explored the oak-ash-maple-hawthorn-*Mercurialis* woods in and around Comp. 21, and saw two **fallow deer** and the footmark of a **badger**. Rob and I noted butterflies in the glade-rides, and kept a **silver-washed fritillary** (*Argynnis paphia* (L.)). This species was frequent sitting on tall flowers of marsh thistle, 4-5 ft. 1358 A

In the rides were also **meadow browns** and **ringlets**, a few **gatekeepers**, **large** and **small cabbage whites**, and some restless **silver-Y moths**. The two browns fly among or settle on ground or low field layer. There is some wild violet in the grassy rides, which may be where the fritillaries lay their eggs.

At this stream from Worts Well, where the ride from Gospel Oak joins it, there is a lot of marsh-growing *Scrophularia aquatica* in flower, attended by wasps (*Vespula*).

{reverse side}

29 JULY 1958.

C. *Necrophorus investigator* Zetterstedt
P.J. Osborne det. 1958.

1359. B **Riband wave** (*Sterrhia aversata* (L.))
L.R. Cole det. 1958.

26 JULY 1958. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

No *Helix pomatia* seen, but one empty shell on the green ride down from Gospel Oak.

Saw a **kingfisher** flash up from Upper Newhill Pond, North, into the Woods. This is the first I ever saw in the Forest.

In the green ride near the junction of Worts Well Stream and Gospel Oak, was an orange and black *Necrophorus*, walking.

In the stream A-T bog here was an abundant sedge in flower = *Blysmus compressus*, of which Druce says in Oxon. Flora: "By a stream in Wychwood Forest. T. Westcombe, about 1840. After an interval of forty-five years the Author again met with this species in marshy places in Wychwood Forest growing close to *Bartramia*" (a moss). Written in 1886. He only gives a few other, rather casual, records and notes it as "Very local and rare" in Oxon.

Sweeping *Apium nodiflorum* and water mint growing in the stream (filling the channel about a foot or two wide) in the open just below Cyder Well, I took a green *Cassida* of medium-size, *Cassida viridis* L. P.J. Osborne det. 1958, and an adult smoky small *Nemoura*.

OXFORD.

Rob caught in the garden moths, about dusk, named by A.J. Pontin (1958) as:

Polychrisia (Plusia) moneta (Fab.). An exotic invader which appeared within the last 40 years. (Larvae recorded on *Aconitum* and *Delphinium*)

{ reverse side }

30 JULY 1958.

30 JULY 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

Went out with Rob, 6.30-7.45 a.m. G.M.T., interval between showers. The bird picture was about the same as usual, with **swans, moorhens, coot, mallard**; at least two **redshanks** and group of **lapwings** on islands; also a **dabchick** with young, which we have not seen here before. No **yellow wagtails** or **sedge warblers** seen. **Sand martins** still about. **Kingfisher** flying by River Evenlode below the Mill. **Pied wagtails** in lane, hedge-sheltered with rain puddles, also on island. A lot of green algal scum on the south edge of the lake.

One **grizzled skipper** on hedge (hawthorn etc.) in the sheltered lane, 2-3 ft., found by Rob, det. by C.E.

{reverse side}

24 AUGUST 1958.

26 AUGUST

*(Must really have been dabchicks in some stage of moult)

24 AUGUST 1958. OXFORD.

One silver-Y moth (*Plusia gamma* (L.)) in the house.

1373

26 AUGUST. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Looked for birds on the Lake, with Rob, 10-11.55 a.m. G.M.T., water mostly calm and edges very weed and alga-covered. A lot of **coot** (with young) and **mallard**, some **tufted duck** and **moorhens**, a few **swans** (one with a family of 4 cygnets). Several **great crested grebe**, one especially clearly seen with its growing brood of four grey and white young. Also **dabchick** (in good vivid chestnut and dark), also with young which are dark grey and white, mottled on cheeks and neck. Besides these we saw four other grebe that it seemed could be black-necked *Podiceps nigricollis = caspicus**). One was among a group of coot near the bank, diving rather short dives, not particularly shy. Its crown and back of neck were dark, perhaps black, back dark, front of throat dark, side feathers light and pale brown, barely white. A white streak (or long tuft) of white down each side of the head and upper neck. Two more were seen, one also with a female or young of dark grey and white. We thought of black-necked grebe, and they were seen near a dabchick in good chestnut colour, with its young, and looked very different. But this species is very rare round Oxford, and we have not seen an authentic one ever. (These must really have been dabchick in some stage of moult)

In the lake-side trees at the head of the lake were (1) a flock of **goldfinches** (2) at least 6 lesser **whitethroats** (*Sylvia curruca*), which were hawking actively from high canopy level. Their colours were clear, with dark eye patches or streak.

{reverse side}

31 AUGUST 1958.

P.H. Leslie found a nesting pair of **curlews** in this area this year. Much of the hilly farm land is pasture with hedges, with little corn.

1 SEPTEMBER.

2 SEPTEMBER

31 AUGUST 1958. CHILTON-WADDESdon AREA, BUCKS.

I drove on these small but exciting hills west of Brill, on a sunny day. All this area is at present rather dull botanically, as all the road verges have been cut and most of the summer flowers like *Heracleum* over. But here and there one sees a great stretch of native larger bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), which has smaller flowers and leaves than the introduced *C. sylvestris*. It grows and binds the low hedges and also the 3-4 ft. jungles of *Arrhenatherum* and *Epilobium hirsutum* (both now in seed) at the back of the roadside. 1374

OXFORD. At dusk a silver-Y (*Plusia gamma*) visiting white tobacco flowers (*Nicotiana*) in the garden.

2 SEPTEMBER. OXFORD.

A fairly warm quiet evening with thin cloud over part of sky, dry. Several moths observed in the garden: 1376

AT DUSK (c. 7.45 p.m. G.M.T.): flying 1-3 ft.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1 Setaceous Hebrew character (<i>Amathes</i> ("Noctua") <i>c-nigrum</i> (L.)) | A |
| 1 small geometrid | n.k. |
| 1 silver-Y (<i>Plusia gamma</i>). One also flew into lighted room at dark (8.15). | n.k. |

{ reverse side }

2 SEPTEMBER 1958.6 SEPTEMBER.7 SEPTEMBER

2 SEPTEMBER 1958. OXFORD.

AFTER DARK, in garden, 1-3 ft.:

1 **brimstone moth** (*Opisthograptis luteolata* (L.)) 8.20 p.m. (G.M.T.) n.k.

7 SEPTEMBER. CHIPPING NORTON, OXON.

Drove to Chastleton Manor. On the way I collected late flowers (pink and white striped, though pure white colony also nearby of lesser convolvulus (*Convolvulus arvensis*) 1376 from roadside waste spot with some disturbed ground; near Chipping Norton. Some flocks of several hundred **lapwings** on farm-land here.

The harvest is very late this year and much corn is still uncut.

{reverse side}

12 SEPTEMBER 1958.

12 SEPTEMBER 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

With Rob, 5.45-7 a.m. G.M.T., heavy mist over distance and on Wytham Hill, but clear over the water, though no sun. Several **hedge sparrows** were apparently on the move, it being unusual to see them both on the ground and on telephone wires at c. 15 ft. (= top of "scrub canopy"). On the rubbish tipping side (tipping is

{reverse side}

12 SEPTEMBER 1958.14 SEPTEMBER

12 SEPTEMBER 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.***

going on steadily) opposite the bank where we thought **kingfishers** had been looking for nest sites this spring, we had a very close view of two perching and flying around. They did not dive at all, and seemed to be just playing. They would settle in a willow bush, on bare ground, and on tall *Typha* flower stems, or just make short flights over the water. The lighter blue of the back was very clear. A beautiful display. There were no passage migrants except possibly one redshank-sized wader, not clearly observed. One young **heron** walking in the water and “pointing”, and once seem to catch something like a small fish. A flock of over a dozen **mallard** that later flew away. Two **swans** with two cygnets; **moorhens** and **coot**. One **lapwing** on an island.

14 SEPTEMBER. BLENHEIM PARK LAKE, OXON.

Rob and I went out through a countryside heavily clothed in mist, 6.30 a.m. and left at about 8. At first one could only see the edge of the water with a lot of **mallard** feeding presumably undisturbed at night all round the marshes. They partly splashed and flew further out towards their day stations. Also **coot** and **moorhen** and **swan** and **dabchicks**. Later on, we waited at the head of the lake, the sun came thinly through under a pale alto-cumulus zenith. Here we saw a few diving ducks, not identified owing to the bad light; also a **kingfisher** on a fence post at the water's edge. Later on

{reverse side}

14 SEPTEMBER 1958.

14 SEPTEMBER 1958. BLENHEIM PARK LAKE***

I saw two **kingfishers** flying past the island. These are the first kingfishers we have seen at Blenheim. From the bridge we could see several young and one adult **great crested grebe**. The **house martins** have gone.

On **ragwort** seeds (the plants were on the grassland near the lake, mixed with seeding spear and common thistles, were 2-3 ft. high and still with some flowers) were some old and young **goldfinches**.

By mid-morning the sun came through very hot (10° F. above seasonal average, according to the Met. News) and disposed of all but distant mist. Drove, with Rob and others, to the country

at Ipsden (OXON.):

This is very open fine chalk farmland, with rolling curves and a few woods. Much chicory was in flower in the root-crop field edges.

Large fields of corn standing unreaped, though some combines were working this Sunday. Large flocks of finches flew over and settled in a tall hawthorn hedge: **greenfinches** and **linnets**. There were old and young of both species, and one old greenfinch was feeding a grown young!

Between Ipsden and Crowmarsh we saw what we decided was a **stone curlew** (*Burhinus oedicephalus*) flying low onto a large field with grass and stubble. It appeared to settle, but Rob walked it up and saw nothing, which is consistent with it having squatted, and no hawk would do this. It was brown, and had some conspicuous white in flight. This was 3-4 miles from its former HQ in the area, at Swyncombe Down.

{reverse side}

14 SEPTEMBER 1958.

16 SEPTEMBER.

19 SEPTEMBER

14 SEPTEMBER 1958. IPSDEN, OXON.

There is a good, in place heavy, **hawthorn berry** crop all round this autumn.

16 SEPTEMBER. OXFORD.

A large ranunculus moth in the house. (*Antitype flavicineta* (Schiffermueller). L.R. Cole det. 1958. 1379)

19 SEPTEMBER. SWYNCOMBE, OXON.

Drove to this downland area (on the edge of the Chilterns) with Dr. Harold Gall and Rob, to look for stone curlews. It was raining a bit and rather cool and windy. On a bare arable field covered with numerous flints on the brown soil (presumably a plateau clay-with-flints), there was a big flock of **lapwings**. We stopped to watch because Rob saw a stone curlew flying. There were two **stone curlews** standing, some way off, which did not fly away, though they ran a short way. Rob got within 20 yd. behind a hedge and could see close detail. This was 4.15 p.m. G.M.T, the field two miles south-east of Swyncombe Downs (the top of which is now grey bare arable, though bits of rough down survive on the slopes before more arable begins again), near the figure 681 on the O.S. map, main road Cookley Green-Nettlebed. The birds were well camouflaged.

On the cornfields in this area we noted among the stubble (i.e. between the long swathes of straw) many **wood pigeons**, some **common partridge coveys**, and one or two **carrion crows**.

OXFORD.

9.30 p.m. G.M.T. a **silver-Y moth** (*Plusia gamma*) flying in to light; pouring rain. n.k.

{reverse side}

21 SEPTEMBER 1958.

21 SEPTEMBER 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

With Rob, 6.15 7.45 a.m. There was still a layer of low mist along the Thames channel, though the two gravel pits and all the upper air were sunny most of the time, with little wind. A dozen **swallows** were on the telegraph wires by the road, and a few flying low over the water. On the small island both **pieb** and **grey wagtails** were at the bare waters edge. Right out in the middle two **snipe** ditto, clearly seen in the sun and when they flew zig-zag off. Also one **common sandpiper**, identified for us by M.H. Rowntree, who had seen it also yesterday. He said there is still one redshank left behind. Today we saw two **meadow pipits**, arriving on migration here. We twice saw **kingfishers** (two were on the far side; one came very near us at the south-east corner, hovering for a moment in the sun). There were two herons, one half submerged fishing apparently. These two fish-eating birds seem more regularly here than in the spring; Rowntree says a pair of **dabchicks** have also been here all summer. Perhaps some kind of small fish like sticklebacks have begun to increase. There are no anglers. Today we saw two men with guns and a dog, scouting the marshes; Rowntree says local gunners shoot **mallard** in the evening. We saw no ducks or coot today, but the **swan** family and a few **moorhens** were there. **Bullfinches** in the lane hedge by Marlborough Pool.

{ reverse side }

28 SEPTEMBER 1958.

28 SEPTEMBER 1958. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Made a very early morning visit with Rob to look for migrant waders. This did not produce what we hoped, but the place is interesting, as it is the only large old-fashioned sewage farm round Oxford. Almost dark when we started, there was a crimson dawn when we arrived at this rather melancholy spot, where we explored from 5.45-7.45 a.m. G.M.T. There are about a dozen very unequal-sized pools, all more than an acre and one or two much larger. Only two had any expanse of exposed sludge, and here we saw three **snipe** and four **grey wagtails** and some young **pieb wagtails**. There is no true aquatic vegetation, except one large clump of *Typha latifolia*. The vegetation consists of highly luxuriant grass (apparently **cocksfoot**), tall *Polygonum persicaria* in flower often in dense pure stands, **nettle**, large docks (not *hydro-lapathum*), etc. and a good deal of (riparian) *Malva sylvestris*. Round the wet sewage are fields with *Juncus inflexus* and grass, and ditches (dry and wet) have a well-regulated pollard willow series. The odd things are the absence of true aquatics and marsh plants, and the often submerged terrestrial vegetation. Goodness knows how

{reverse side}

28 SEPTEMBER 1958.

28 SEPTEMBER 1958. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

to classify it! It is essentially

A/D 1 (Polluted) (Temporary)

but the A-T and “temporary reed-swamp” are of land plants; or the A-T is organic muddy sludge. The smell is only strong where the fairly new material (apparently already partly processed ?) flows out from a pipe.

Moorhens were numerous among the riparian and swamp vegetation. A few **mallard** were being shot at. **Hérons** flew over, but probably to the Thames nearby. In a densely thick-covered ditch by a hedge between the sewage area and a heavy grass-weed field, we heard the creaking note of what was almost certainly a **water rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*). Collected *Erigeron canadensis* in flower and seed from a waste patch here. 1385

{reverse side}

12 OCTOBER 1958.

26 OCTOBER

12 OCTOBER 1958. PORT MEADOW OXON.

At 7.15-8.15 a.m. G.M.T. Rob and I went to Port Meadow by Aristotle Lane. It was absolutely calm and sunny, and a sheet of shallow water remained from the subsiding floods. On it were a good many **mute swans**, and a **moorhen**, and 1 ♂ 2 ♀ pochard (*Athya ferina*). At the edge stood two young **herons**. **Goldfinches** were flocking in wet grass far out. One **redshank** flew across. **Pied wagtails** about. Dozens of anglers along the Thames bank. Many **lapwings** on the marshy central part.

26 OCTOBER. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

7.40-8.45 a.m. G.M.T., with Rob. It was not cold, dead calm, after a misty night. Very little bird life visible, though we watched a **common snipe** walking on A-T sludgy mud in a muddy flat not directly by water. When seen it skulked in thick grass, then came out again and eventually flew off. We saw one or two snipe in other marshy spots, one by a large pool of several acres. Several **grey wagtails** flew over; several **reed buntings** in the tall marshy vegetation that has *persicaria* etc. in seed; **moorhens** in swamp and edge of big pools. Two **swans**. By the edge of the wide Thames stretch below Abingdon a **heron** stood.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 13.

30 November 1958- 7 August 1959.

C.E. 1393-1411.

Red ticks²⁵ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles²⁶ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

²⁵ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

²⁶ Edited to A or 00

30 NOVEMBER 1958. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Cold but clear morning, with wet but not frosty vegetation, no sun. With Harold Gall and Rob, 7.15-8.30 a.m. G.M.T. At first the lake, though rather full of water, appeared almost devoid of water birds – only one or two **moorhens** and **coot**, several **mallard** flying, a family of **swans**. Then a single duck with large beak flew down, a male **shoveler** in eclipse (white patch on wing clear, and large bill); also two more mallard swimming. In the marsh and reedswamp of *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Typha* etc. a few young or female **reed buntings**.

As we pushed through the *Phragmites* bed that extends onto dry land of the eastern shelf, several **common snipe** got up from the islands near, and as we showed ourselves more, a great many more from all over the swampy islanded north end of the lake – whizzing up, flying over in parties. Certainly more than 50, probably well over 70.

There was a **kingfisher** perched about 6 ft. (on some bit of willow?) on an island in the north-west corner, that flew and settled on a large patch of rubbish and thence dived and brought out a small fish. Some big flocks of **lapwings** over.

16 DECEMBER. ENSLOW, OXON.

With Rob, drove round a very damp and misty countryside north of Oxford. The weather has been so wet the last two months that the ground is everywhere soggy, muddy and is in places flooded. Thames and Cherwell brimful and very turbid. At Enslow Bridge over the Cherwell we saw a

{ reverse side }

16 DECEMBER 1958.25 & 26 DEC.30 DEC.

16 DECEMBER 1958. ENSLOW, OXON.

kingfisher. It perched on an ash branch above the river. About 20-30 **moorhens** feeding in the flood-swampy coarse grass of meadows near the river, running often to cover when they saw us.

25 & 26 DEC. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

The south end is very swampy after the continual rains in November and December, that have kept all local rivers brimming, turbid, fast, often overflowing. Little real open water, only shallow pools with a lot of grass tussock showing. Yesterday Rob and I saw a **shelduck**, and five **shoveler** (2 ♂ 3 ♀ or young) in a pool far out. Today we saw two **shelduck**, and one or two smaller ducks unidentifiable in the drizzle and distance; several **black-headed gulls** and a big **peewit** flock. Two men wandering round with guns.

30 DEC. OXFORD.

This morning a **tree-creeper** was hunting on the trunk and branches of the further pear tree. This bird is uncommon in our garden. No nuthatch has visited us this year. Of course, the weather has continued extremely mild and wet, not more than two or three frosts. Two **tawny owls**, one large and one small, have been roosting in the pine for several weeks now. Early in December a **bulfinch** visited the Jungle.

{reverse side}

4 JANUARY 1959.

9 JANUARY.

4 JANUARY 1959. FINSTOCK, OXON.

While I drove on the road between Wychwood Forest and Finstock (just north of "Mount Skippitt" on 1 in. O.S. Map), great clouds of **starlings** were coming down to roost. There were many thousands, and most of them settled in large areas of thorn scrub (hawthorn mainly), others in farm and hedge trees away from the road itself. This place has some cottages right in the middle. The birds flew in great wheeling swarms like locusts, very fast, and kept taking off again in parties. The noise of their wings and voices was like the insistent roll of the sea. On one big pasture field, half of it was black with settled birds that rose suddenly in one huge flock. It was quite light, a sunny afternoon, and about 4.25 p.m. G.M.T. But it began to be dusk by 4.45, on my way home. Official sunset, 3 Jan., was 4.04.

9 JANUARY. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

At about 7.30 a.m. G.M.T. Rob and I went down by Aristotle Lane, and found the lower part of the Meadow flooded nearly up to the trackway and to the base of the allotment hedge. The water was open and here there was little but a few mute swans. Inshore and on pools and ditches there was a thin ice. It was very cold with a slight breeze from the north. Sunrise brought better light, but we could not see very well. On the shallows and grassy swamp at the north-east end were a few **widgeon, black-headed gulls, lapwings**, and some other waders about snipe size.

{ reverse side }

10 JANUARY 1959.15 JANUARY.

10 JANUARY 1959. OXFORD.

All rivers are brimming to overflowing: on Thursday the Thames below and at Maidenhead reported to be at the top of its banks. Today the Cherwell was full, and the fields opposite the Dragon School field heavily flooded and partly ice-covered. Rob saw one or two **common snipe** on an unsnowy patch of frozen mud by pollard willows at the bathing bank. We also noted a **green woodpecker** in the riparian and black poplars (tops pollarded fairly high).

15 JANUARY. BERNWOOD FOREST, OXON. & BUCKS.

Today the severe hoar frost and ice of the last few days ameliorated a bit; but as one passed Stanton St. John over into the great frost basin where this forest lies, the vegetation was still encrusted with white crystals, and the paths ice-bound or with ice that just broke under the feet over cart-track pools. One of the foresters I was with says the low temperatures of the clay soil here badly delay spring growth in young trees.

I went with four Nature Conservancy men: E.B. Worthington, J.H. Hemsley and his assistant, Woodman, and J.F. Archibald; and four Forestry Commission men: S.R. Payne and J.L. Davidson and his assistant J.T. Stoakley (from Cambridge), and the local forester, Keeler. A full report about our inspection of Waterperry Wood, Oxon. glades (Nos. 2, 3 and 8, as samples), and certain blackthorn sites in Shabbington Wood, Bucks., will come to my files from the N.C.

In Shabbington Wood there were some very interesting operational tests of planting under thinned coppice canopy e.g. young Norway spruces 6-8 in. high in fairly bare litter under hazel-oak-etc. coppice stands, in which the thinnings

{reverse side}

15 JANUARY 1959.18 JANUARY.

15 JANUARY 1959. BERNWOOD FOREST***

about two years ago still lay on the ground and were beginning to rot (most of this stuff less than 2 in. diameter). In this particular wood scattered primrose plants, vestiges of honeysuckle, and small bramble plants suggested an interesting outburst of woodland plants to come. The object of this new method is to repress the enormous growth of grass etc. (e.g. *Deschampsia caespitosa*) that follows clear felling, suppresses young tree growth, and creates a costly and laborious weeding problem. The old coppice will be cut after about 7 years from the start and the oak-spruce then can take charge. They are even leaving scrub-coppice to grow in rows between the young trees on the former clear-felled areas. The effect of this new policy is to allow a more continuous existence of woodland and woodland glade habitats. But some areas that were not thinned enough had disease (? fungal) in the young trees. The exact balance of treatment is still being studied.

Along the Oakley Wood edge of the big field between it and Shabbington/York Woods, a **barn owl** was flying in daylight, c. 3.30 p.m. G.M.T.

A little *Calamagrostis epigeios* grows here and there in Shabbington Wood.

18 JANUARY. FINSTOCK, OXON.

Drove out to see the **starling** roost at dusk. Sunset was at 4.24 p.m. G.M.T. We were there by 4.0, and the first small flocks were already arriving. The whole lot had come by 4.30; though it was still quite light, the afternoon was dull and overcast. Several

{ reverse side }

18 JANUARY 1959.25 JANUARY.

18 JANUARY 1959. FINSTOCK, OXON ***

enormous clouds of birds flew in from the south, between 4.20 and 4.30. The whole routine was much more precise and orderly than last time (4 January), and the birds settled quickly around sunset and stayed put. There was no sun and no wind.

25 JANUARY. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

The winter has been fairly mild and wildfowl not abundant inland, but the last few days got freezing again, and there are tremendous floods – over the banks of the Cherwell at the Parks, and the whole of Port Meadow except a few islands and swampy stretches. It was impossible to get down beyond Aristotle Lane, so Rob and I went in the car to Waltonwell Road, through the allotments to the usual place, and walked as far as the outer fields go. Ground hard, all vegetation at ground level, and allotment crops hoar-frosted. On these frozen far rough grass fields there was a flock of **starlings**, and a small party of **fieldfares**. It was after dawn (7.45-8.45 a.m. G.M.T.), and the red globe of the sun had two colossal sunspots on it that one could safely examine through field-glasses. Dead calm, with Binsey poplars reflected in the huge lake, under an open sky; but practically no waterfowl! One or two ducks too far out to identify, also two small flocks flew over. A few **mute swans**, including several young.

One **pied wagtail** at the water edge. Many **black-headed gulls**, near the river or flying, some with, some without chocolate heads. A flock of **lapwings** in the middle on a marshy “island”

{reverse side}

1 MARCH 1959.

1 MARCH 1959. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

The first really warm spell this year, with sun and no wind to speak of. With Rob visited the northern part of the Park and walk round the Lake, by the Bridge. 11-12.30 in the morning, GMT.

There are a great many fine old trees north of the Lake, especially beeches and sycamores. The only sign of culling were some big common elms not far from the Monument. These had much hollow wood in places, with masses of brown frass.

Treecreeper on large sycamores. Many **moles**

{reverse side}

1 MARCH 1959.

15 MARCH.

1 MARCH 1959. BLENHEIM PARK ***

at work in grassland near the Monument. **Missel** {sic} and **song thrushes** out on grass, few. One hare.

On the calm lake there were the usual **coot**, **moorhens**, **swans**, a few **mallard** and **dabchicks**, a good few **tufted duck** and **widgeon**; south of the Bridge, a dozen or more **great crested grebe** in a flock.

15 MARCH. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out for an hour between heavy showers when it was fine but with a cold wind; with Rob, 7.45-8.45 a.m. G.M.T. Pit fairly full of water. The usual few **mute swans**, **moorhens**, **mallard**, a good many **coot**, also about a dozen **teal** (of both sexes); the ducks were restless and flying easily. Rob heard and then saw one **redshank** flying. This is a fairly early date for arrival. At the north end, not far from the cement depot, a cloud of **common snipe** rose from the scrub-covered islands. There were at least 70. This is where we saw large numbers on 30 November 1958. Several **reed-buntings**, including a pair, were around the small **sallows** (just coming into pussy flowers) on the east side of the lake, (where they are usually found among the high summer meadow of the gravel shelf), the reeds and *Typha*, and the **sallows**. We don't see them on the west side, where the vegetation is different.

In the road hedge were a **bullfinch** and several **greenfinches**.

Coltsfoot in flower on the banks.

{reverse side}

15 MARCH 1959.

15 MARCH 1959. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

With Rob and others, visited the Lake, in the afternoon, with sun but keen north breeze. A lot of duck on the Lake, mainly nesting at the north-east end: mainly **tufted duck** and **widgeon** of both sexes. Also some **mallard**, **moorhens**, **mute swans**, a lot of **coot**, one or two **dabchick** and **great crested grebe**.

At the edge of the river Glyme, where it comes in under a stone bridge and runs a hundred yards towards the lake, part of the bank is flattish damp cattle-grazed grasses (T/2 in A-T a river, say C/3). It is rather shaded by willows and other trees. Here there was a **pied wagtail** and a small ♀ **grey wagtail**, the latter with very brilliant yellow hind under-parts and rump.

23 MARCH. WOODSTOCK, OXON.

Harold Gall drove Joy and me to Slape Wood, on the main road just beyond the turn to Charlbury, and beyond Woodstock, opposite a huge limestone quarry. Although the outside, and the trees, of the wood look very uninteresting, there is an enormous population of *Helleborus viridis* in flower mixed with *Arum*, dog's mercury and nettles. The word 'Slape' evidently is the Old English 'slaep' that means a slippery and miry slope, for the wood goes down fairly steeply to the R. Glyme. It is mainly a very far overgrown hazel coppice mixed with maple and elder, and with only a few oak and ash trees. Could it be an abandoned clear-felling? The hellebores are very ornamental, and abundant, considering it is a very scarce plant locally,

{ reverse side }

23 MARCH 1959.

24 MARCH

28 MARCH

23 MARCH 1959. WOODSTOCK, OXON.

– there is a Woodstock early nineteenth century record in Druce's "Flora".

I think its survival may have been helped by (a) its very early flowering, well before the bluebell season (there are a few bluebells) (b) the green flowers would not attract the ordinary person (c) the nettles would discourage summer visitors from the road.

24 MARCH – OXFORD.

There have been two **tawny owls** in the pine over our garden all winter, and certainly until a week ago. In the last two days only the smaller owl remains.

28 MARCH. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out at 7.15-8.40 a.m. G.M.T. with Harold Gall and Rob. It was a cool brilliant spring morning, no cloud, slight cold breeze but warm in shelter. Coltsfoot flowers were fully out on the sheltered banks of the lake, still bowed in sleep in exposed places. Large 6 in. fat flower spikes of *Equisetum telmateia* on the gravel meadow slope, not far from the water (which is still pretty full). Many willows ♂ and ♀ in catkin, up to field layer or scrub heights.

On the water with two pairs of **shoveler**; a few **mallard**, **swans**, **moorhen** and at least 10-15 **coot**. **Snipe** (perhaps 30 seen) on the islands; **redshanks** heard but not seen. One **kingfisher** on the northwest steep bank haunted by them last year; sat on a shrub, also hovered for a bit opposite the gravel cliff face. Several pairs of and individual **reed buntings** on the A-T belt, but no **sedge warblers** or **yellow wagtails** yet.

{reverse side}

28 MARCH 1959.

28 MARCH 1959. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, ***

The west and north-west and south hedge belt with its trees (i.e. T/5 (Deciduous) (Edge)) had a good many passerines, as well as a **green woodpecker**. We saw **bullfinches**, **greenfinches**, ♀ **linnets**, **great tits**, and one or two **chiffchaffs** (last determined by Gall hearing song, and then we all saw close a bird that had dark legs and rather greyish, not bright, upper parts; and no willow warbler notes were heard).

On the mill house-building two **tree sparrows** were sitting. We have not seen this species before. **House sparrows** also.

Although no **heron** visited the lake, we could see the tall deciduous trees on the skyline of Wytham Woods, half a dozen huge nests, on at least one of which a heron was standing.

Skylarks on the grass fields, and the gravel shelf, and on the latter a few **goldfinches** among the 2-3 ft. dock seed spikes.

On the way here we saw a **curlew** pair in the same field as last year – south of the bypass, a field or two west of the path to King's Lock. They flew over to the fields on the north side.

So in about an hour today (counting some common species not mentioned) we saw 27 species of birds, roughly dividable as follows: A: 5½. A-T: 3½. T/5 (Edge); 7 (magpie +). T/2: 1½. T/3 (i.e. pasture, arable, etc.): 7½ (starling, crow, rook, woodpigeon, partridge, pied wagtail +). DOM: 2. I have split the kingfisher and skylark each into two halves.

{ reverse side }

6 APRIL 1959.

7 APRIL

6 APRIL 1959. BAGLEY WOOD, BERKS.

Went in the morning, 10.45-noon a.m., with Rob, and walked round by Milestone Piece, the Nursery and the Culvert. At the last place we looked at the **badger** earths and they seemed very little inhabited compared with former days, and some holes had obviously been stopped. Has rabbit decreased cause this or is it estate policy, with the growth of fenced plantations? The scarcity of rabbits is suggested by the very large quantities of wood-sorrel leaves and flowers in some parts of the woodland floor.

We saw a pair of **long-tailed tits** feeding in high deciduous trees of mixed woodland edge canopy. At low field layer height in the ride edge here was a **speckled wood butterfly**.

Collected flowers and leaves of *Luzula pilosa* in an open compartment, apparently clear-felled 1957-58, planted with mixed very young conifers, and carpeted with flowering wood anemones.

1393

7 APRIL. OXFORD.

A fine herald moth (*Scoliopteryx libatrix* (L.)) was found in the house by Rob. (this is a hibernator, feeds on *Salix*, and adult visits ivy blossom.)

1394

{reverse side}

6 MAY 1959.27 MAY

6 MAY 1959. OXFORD.

The smaller **tawny owl** still roosts fairly regularly in the pine tree. Southern suggests that it is the male which has a female sitting on a nest elsewhere.

A ♂ **wren** (heard singing) has during the last week also been building a nest of dead leaves etc. in a tangle of *Clematis montana* in the larch-spruce pergola at the back of the house. The small domed nest is by the top of one of the posts at the height of ft., and quite well concealed. Though the bird has been mostly working at times when people are not very active, but once or twice when it has been working close to me when I was in the garden. No ♀ has been noticed yet.

27 MAY. MARCHAM-STANTON HARCOURT, BERKS./OXON.

Went out, with Rob, to see the English countryside after Denmark, and to collect water plants for our Pond. The land is very dry after mostly drought for over 3 weeks, and some corn crops look rather yellow-green. *Chrysolina polita* adults were seen in two places on the water-mint in stream-edge near Newbridge. At the gravel pit between Standlake and Stanton St. John *Orchis latifolia* was in flower at edge of ponds and also one (very small) on drier soil. The former were c. 1 ft. and pink.

{ reverse side }

28 JUNE 1959.

28 JUNE 1959. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out with Rob, 6.30-7.20 a.m. GMT, and found the water rather low, with a lot of wide wet mud margins to the reed-swamp and islands. Though very shallow, the water does keep most of the islands separate. On them were one or two **redshanks** on the bare mud shores and flying. In the water only a few **coot** and **mallard**. There was a family of **reed-buntings** in the low (field layer) willows and coarse meadow of the gravel shelf; and **sedge warblers** churring in a patch of *Phragmites* and willow (field layer) at the water-edge of the shelf. No **kingfishers** or **snipe** seen. A nesting **mute swan**. More than 20 **sand-martins** were flying round the west bank, but not using any holes, I think.

{ reverse side }

4 JULY 1959.

4 JULY 1959. OXFORD.

A **holly blue** in the garden.

4 JULY. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Rob and I went from Gospel Oak down to Newhill Ponds. Although we waited before starting until early evening, it was scorchingly hot, 70° ++. 4.45-6.15 p.m. GMT. The rides were empty of butterflies, except for **meadow browns** and **green-veined whites**. A clearly trampled **fallow deer** path crosses the Worts Well stream below the orchid area. The latter has many seeding *Orchis latifolia* in the marshy edge.

We collected a bit in Newhill Pond (Upper, South), and saw numerous **3-spined sticklebacks**. But there is no plankton to speak of, certainly

{reverse side}

4 JULY 1959.

8 JULY

1403 Willow beauty (*Cleora rhomboidaria* (Schifferrmueller)).
(= *Boarmia gemmaria*.) G.C. Varley det. 1959.

4 JULY 1959. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

no water-fleas visible. Indeed this pond has always seemed very poor and I have associated this with the greenish-grey muddy bottom of ? Fuller's Earth, and possibly the great abundance of *Chara*. But *Hippuris* and water crowfoot also occur, and some floating masses of filamentous algae (mainly *Spirogyra*, among which and on the water plants is a great variety of diatoms). *Limnaea pereger*, a species of mayfly nymph, a small *Planorbis*, and many water mites and chironomid larvae are the chief obvious animals. What do these sticklebacks eat?

The microscopic animal life is poor in species e.g. among the algae and the diatom flora a few rotifers, nematodes, ciliates, and a lot of small ostracods. (? diatom → ostracod → fish.)

The Upper North Pond has many demoiselle dragonflies and richer vegetation. The banks of all three ponds have been mowed and cut broadly, and the *Scirpus lacustris* in the Upper North also cut down (? why).

8 JULY. OXFORD.

Large dark moth at dusk in garden.

1403

13 JULY. OXFORD.

The **wrens** had built a nest (by the ♂ presumably) in our *Clematis montana* pergola, have now a family of young being fed. The bird is quite silent and elusive on its frequent visits, but when I looked in she gave a sharp clack-note of alarm from the bushes near. (see page 30).

15 JULY:

Wren family left nest today – 2 seen.

{reverse side}

18 JULY 1959.22 JULY

18 JULY 1959. OXFORD.

After dark, but with full moon, beat trees in garden and caught two moths (beaten from c. 7-8 ft.): 1404

Small emerald (*Hemistola* (= *Geometra*) *immaculata* (Thunberg) (= *vernaria*). [A]
This species breeds on *Clematis vitalba*, and may perhaps have come on *C. montana*.

A small **brown dark-waved** one. [B]
Yellow shell (*Euphyia bilineata* (L.)). G.C. Varley det. 1959

22 JULY. OXFORD.

Two moths in the house. 1405

Small warm brown one Common rustic (*Celaena secalis* (L.)) G.C. Varley det. 1959 [A]

Tiger moth (*Arctia caja* (L.)) – flying to light just after dark. R.A. Elton collected [B]

{ reverse side }

26 JULY 1959.3 AUGUST.

A was the flame shoulder (*Ochropleura plecta* (L.)) (see C.E. 1412 G)

26 JULY 1959. OXFORD.

Two moths in the garden at early dark (C. & R.A. Elton collected):

1408

1 Magpie (*Abraxas grossulariata* (L.)).

A

1 *Notarcha ruralis* (Scopoli). A relatively big pyraustid, fawn and white pattern with mauve sheen, that lives on nettle.

B

3 AUGUST. OXFORD.

Just after dark I collected two small moths in the garden:

1409

Low among plants 1-2 ft. when at rest, it is a remarkable oblong shape, brown-purple with light brown shoulders. While in this closed shape it ran rapidly.

Lost

{ reverse side }

7 AUGUST 1959.

Small square spot (*Diarsia rubi* (Vieweg)).
G.C. Varley det. 1959

7 AUGUST 1959. OXFORD.

No moths in the garden at dusk or early dark. But a moth flew into light on the top floor at 9.30 p.m. GMT.

1411

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 14.

12 September 1959-16 June 1960.

C.E. 1424-1462.

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Circles²⁸ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

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Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

²⁷ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

²⁸ Edited to A or 00

12 SEPTEMBER 1959. BERNWOOD FOREST, BUCKS.

Went out on a very hot day (the long drought continuing, ground hard and deeply cracked, larches wilting badly and many of this seasons planted spruces dying), with Marcus Goddard and his boy, and the forester B. Keller. We marked boundaries of the outstanding **blackthorn** reserves in Shabbington Wood, etc. Last July some **purple emperors** were caught e.g. in York's Wood, and this now joins the hairstreaks as a species of conservation interest. It breeds on willow, which is still common in many places.

We saw fresh **commas** and **red admirals** (the latter, G. said, being offspring of this year's immigrants from Europe). Also one ♀ **brown hairstreak** on the edge of York's Wood (mixed oak-larch with much blackthorn, hazel and other scrub).

The forester stated that much of the surface soil is leached and rather acid and poor in calcium. This fits the wide occurrence of flowering **devil's-bit scabious** in the open grassy rides and glades. We saw this widely on the acid ground of the Cairngorms, and at

{reverse side}

12 SEPTEMBER 1959.

12 SEPTEMBER 1959. BERNWOOD FOREST, BUCKS.***

Wytham it occurs on parts of Radbrook Common, where the sands probably get leached.

On these scabious flowers (*Succisa pratensis*), were a good many large syrphid flies of which I caught two.

1424

♂ *Tubifera pertinax* (Scopoli). (As *Eristalis p.*) K.G.V. Smith det. 1960.

♀ *T. tenax* (L.). (As *Eristalis t.*) K.G.V. Smith det. 1960.

A
B

Keeler also said that a **buzzard** had been around lately in Waterperry Wood (Oxon.); that ground-nesting wasps had been very abundant this year and the Waterperry Wood **badgers** dig up many nests, within 1/3 mile of their colony; that *Microtus* periodically becomes abundant on the open grassy clear-felled replanted parts of the Forest; and that very young planted **spruce** etc. get nibbled and killed inside the coppice-oak wood – not sure whether by *Clethrionomys* or *Apodemus*.

{ reverse side }

20 SEPTEMBER 1959.

21 SEPTEMBER.

20 SEPTEMBER 1959. SWYNCOMBE HILL, OXON.

Robert and I drove about the Chiltern foothills. The terrific unbroken drought continues under a warm anti-cyclone belt. At the far side of a huge bare ploughed chalk-flint field on the north side of the road from Swyncombe House i.e. at the base of Swyncombe Hill, we saw several **stone curlews**, standing or moving slightly.

21 SEPTEMBER. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Rob and I went to look for water-fowl, 6.30-7.30 a.m. GMT. Calm, some dew on the grass in spite of drought, which has shrunk the upper part of the lake to an unprecedented extent, leaving bare damp mud, and horsetails growing away from the water line, and the shallow water very weedy and algal. The River Glyme was, however, running in all right.

There was nothing unusual on the water – many **mallard, moorhens, coot**; rather more **teal**, perhaps, than we have seen before; **swans, dabchicks** and old and young **great-crested grebe**. The margins were much more interesting: by the upper lake edge, **heron**, two **grey** and one **piebald wagtails**. And on bare mud by the inflow channel, Rob

{reverse side}

21 SEPTEMBER 1959.

21 SEPTEMBER 1959. BLENHEIM PARK.***

saw a **common snipe**. Then we suddenly had a very clear sight of two **water-rails** (*Rallus aquaticus*) walking and running on the bare wet muddy exposed bottom of what had been a channel into the inflow river, flanked by a dense water meadow-grass. They probed the mud a bit, and in appearance and manner were more wader-like than moorhen or coot-like. We had never seen this species before.

Three **goldfinches** flew up from the thistles onto the trees, on the grassland or “savannah”.

{reverse side}

25 OCTOBER 1959

*which broke during this month, though there have not been any really long spells of rain and the ground is mostly brick hard below an inch or two.

Pond 1 (a/c Probitts) dried up, and has only a small trickle in the middle, but by 5 November was starting to fill again.

25 OCTOBER 1959. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out with Rob on a Sunday morning, 7.30-8.50 a.m. GMT. It was fine, with a cool breeze. The lake is grievously shrunk with the long drought*, and another bird-watcher there said it had been worse than we saw today. The south-west corner, by the Mill, was quite dry, and we walked across the damp mud of the bottom, by the 7-foot high standards of *Typha* with huge bone-hard flower-heads. The remaining small sheets of water must be very shallow – for the first time the **coot** had gone, and there were no **mallard**, only several **teal**. Over 20 **moorhens**, concentrated at the south end, and a **mute swan** family. On the islands a few **snipe** flew off. 4 or 5 **herons** (including one of this year's young) on the mud flats, and one **grey wagtail** and a small flock of **lapwings**.

The nettles on the west bank are 5 ft high. In the tree-and-hawthorn hedge were **chaffinches** and **greenfinches**.

In the afternoon drove to Watlington and Howe Wood. There is a fine **yew wood** with **whitebeams** on the west side of the National Trust part of Watlington Hill. Generally speaking this is a very mild late season and most trees are still covered with leaves showing only the beginning of autumn yellows. **Lime** and **horse chestnut** and **poplars** dropping.

{ reverse side }

27 OCTOBER 1959

20 DECEMBER 1959. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out in a gap while rain lifted, 7.45-8.30 a.m. GMT, with Rob, and found two things that had much reduced the bird interest (1) the water is still very low (2) two young overdressed shooters with large Labrador dogs were wading about, baiting for duck, and shooting at (probably) a moorhen that was killed and left. We had hoped to see the party of bearded tits that was watched by several Oxford E.G.I. ornithologists a week ago, here and at Marlborough Pool, but they must have moved on. A few **mallard** circling over; **swans** and **moorhen**; no **coot**.

{ reverse side }

11 JANUARY 1960

11 JANUARY 1960. OXFORD.

Since about November two **tawny owls**, one large and one smaller, have roosted (as they did last winter) in the pine tree. When two of the lower-middle branches were sawn off by timbermen two days ago, the owls were disturbed and flew away in daylight and have not returned. There is plenty of top canopy still left. In the last few weeks **goldcrests** have been foraging there several times, and **coal tits** often. There was a **treecreeper** on the trunk last week. For the last few days a flock of **bullfinches** has been hunting among the twigs and buds of an apple tree in the next-door garden.

The last three days have brought in the first rather cold weather this winter, though only a sprinkling of frosty snow.

31 JANUARY 1960. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

There was a vast quiet lake here, covering several hundred acres and reaching far in the direction of Godstow, when Rob and I went (wading in a few inches of flood at one spot) by Aristotle Lane, 7.50-8.45 a.m. GMT. But except for a lot of **mute swans**, mostly over on the River side of the flood, there were very few waterfowl at all, and no waders except **lapwings** – though

{reverse side}

31 JANUARY 1960

31 JANUARY 1960. PORT MEADOW ***

the farther edges were not all visible enough to be sure. Several **herons** towards the Thames. Then a flock of a dozen **teal** flew down, and with them a brilliant drake **shoveller**. Today was mild with south-west breeze. This winter has been mostly mild, so that waterfowl have not apparently been driven inland much. But it has rained torrentially and a great deal of England now has serious floods – the Thames at Old Windsor is reported to be 5 ft. above normal. The Cherwell is overflowing the fields from the Dragon School.

We also saw a flock of about ten **tree sparrows**, with some **chaffinches** of both sexes, in the low canopy of pollard willows between the allotments and the wide ditch flanking the Meadow. We have once seen tree sparrows at this spot before. One **piebald wagtail** at the flood edge. There were also some **great** and **blue tits** in the low canopy of these willows. **Blackheaded gulls** and **jackdaws** were feeding at the new face of the City Rubbish dump (being Sunday today).

21 FEBRUARY 1960. STANDLAKE – STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

Went a drive in the afternoon. Fairly mild, with a thin sun and little wind. There were about 50 or so **fieldfares**, in brilliant plumage, in the large pasture between Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt – an area we have seen them in previous years.

The grown-up gravel-pit between Stanton and Stanton Harcourt has been a good deal disturbed by re-working and earth-tipping round the central sallow-and-swan pool.

On the big roadside gravel-pit just west of Stanton Harcourt, a large mixed flock of ♂♀ **tufted duck** and ♂♀ **pochard**, ♂♂ in brilliant colour, mostly resting or asleep, – only one or two diving. The pit across the road had a flock of **coot** only, most resting on the far edge.

{reverse side}

26 FEBRUARY 196028 FEBRUARY

26 FEBRUARY 1960. STOW WOOD, OXON.

Went with S.W. Hurry to verify some mollusc trapping points recorded by Mark Williamson six years before. It was possible to allot two of the four to "scrub in deciduous woodland edge", by comparing his marked air photo with the ground. The area was once a fine oak wood with hazel coppice, now much has been replanted with various rather poor tree crops, including conifers, sweet chestnut and oak. It is mainly Calcareous Grit sand, with thin bands of coral limestone near the surface in places. There is still much habitat variety, but in very protean and rather artificial patches. It is probably much more attractive in summer. The area is strictly wired off by its owners, Brasenose College. Some of the surviving hazel coppice is rather fine, though presumably it will all go.

28 FEBRUARY. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Walked round the Lake in warm afternoon sun. The water brimming to the highest edge, and River Glyme unusually swollen. Perhaps for this reason (feeding depth) only one swan. But a lot of **tufted duck** ♂♀, partly flying restlessly, several pairs of **widgeon**, one pair of **pochard**, no **mallard** except one duck associating with small white domestic ducks, a flock of about a dozen **dabchicks**, a pair of **great-crested grebe**, many **coot** and a few **moorhens**. All this on the water below the bridge; below, we could only see a lot of coot – and fishermen. **Pied wagtail** at lake margin. **Tree-creeper** high on trunk of

26 FEBRUARY 1960. B LENHEIM PARK, OXON.***

high sycamores among park trees forming a grove. 2 **long-tailed tits** in scrub-tree canopy (planted deciduous) by lake.

At 3.30 p.m., in quite broad daylight, we watched a small bat flittering about in the margin of the tall sycamores and beeches and over the grass slopes, around 10-30 ft. up. This is unusual.

{reverse side}

4 MARCH 1960

4 MARCH 1960. OXFORD.

At dawn this morning, when a very thin light was coming, I observed the two **tawny owls** sitting side-by-side on a branch about halfway up the pine. They were “conversing” quietly. Then first one, then the other, flew up to their separate sleeping perches in the canopy and were silent.

{reverse side}

5 MARCH 1960

c. 20 MARCH

5 MARCH 1960. OXFORD.

As a result of two days sudden warmth a ♀ *Theobaldia annulata* was active in the house: it bit me on the wrist and caused a moderate reaction-lump.

c. 20 MARCH. OXFORD.

Goldcrest, coal tit, in pine tree in garden.

{reverse side}

26 MARCH 1960

26 MARCH 1960. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

We watched the same flock of **tufted duck** and **pochard** on the big gravel pit lake, that we saw on 21 February. With them was a brilliantly coloured ♂ red-crested **pochard** (*Netta rufina*).

David Lack says this probably was a wild migrant: although formerly a very scarce vagrant inland (coming from Southern Europe), in the last two years there has been a sudden scattered influx at this season.

{ reverse side }

10 APRIL 1960

10 APRIL 1960. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Up with Rob, 7-8 p.m. GMT (start of Summer Time). Rather strong west wind, damp but not raining then. Water fairly full again but few birds – a few **mute swans** and **coot**, less than 6 **mallard** (♂♂, ♀), 6-10 **sand martins**, 1 **snipe**; 1 **linnet** (in hedge). We did not see any **curlews** in the fields by the Northern by-pass.

In the afternoon, collected flowers and young leaf of **butter-bur** by the spring-flush, roadside, Stanton St. John, Oxon. 1438

{reverse side}

15 APRIL 1960

15 APRIL 1960. OXFORD.

The one **tawny owl** that still roosts in the pine tree has been mobbed by **blackbirds** for several days running. A pair of **chaffinches** frequents the garden, and a pair of **robins** has been nest-building in the large creeper-vine on trellis on our wall i.e. at about 5-6 ft. In the Jungle a **song-thrush** is already feeding young in a nest 8 ft. up in a thick holly tree. **Coal tits** constantly forage in our pine tree.

{ reverse side }

17 APRIL 1960

17 APRIL 1960. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

It was cool with slight easterly breeze when Rob, Hugo Kerr and I visited the Lake, 6.40-7.40 a.m. GMT – very heavy dew or frost on grass, after clear night. Sunny.

There were 10-20 **tufted duck** in pairs or small groups (both above and below the Bridge), a pair of **pochard**, a few **mallard**, a **heron**, some **mute swans**, a good many **coot** (partly group, with individual fights), a few **moorhens**, one or two pairs of **dabchicks** (courtship “whinny” heard), some **great-crested grebe** pairs – one had a nest mound among a thin reedswamp, off Rosamond’s Well, below the Bridge, others swimming out in the Lake. On the Lake margin a **pieb wagtail**. No **house martins** at the Bridge yet.

On land we saw a **lesser-spotted wood-pecker** in the high canopy of a park deciduous tree, and heard a **greater-spotted** and saw it fly off from large beeches.

{ reverse side }

1 MAY 1960

8 MAY

1 MAY 1960. OXFORD.

First moth coming to light (9 p.m. G.M.T.). A small 'carpet'.

n.k.

8 MAY. OXFORD.

A brimstone moth (*Opisthograptis luteolata*) in the garden, flying at 10.30 a.m. G.M.T. n.k.
This year a rather tame pair of **chaffinches** spends a lot of time on the ground (path & lawn).
One **owl** still roosts in the pine, and is sometimes mobbed by blackbird etc. at dusk.

{reverse side}

3 JUNE 1960

1458 C *Sialis lutaria* egg mass kept (dry) and new-hatched larva from them (alcohol)

D Also a number of *Trichogramma* emerged from the eggs.

3 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Visited the Newhill Ponds and grass slopes above, 10.30 a.m.-1 p.m. G.M.T. The two upper ponds have young and old **three-spined sticklebacks**, and some larger fish were jumping in the North Pond. Some adult *Sialis lutaria* at the margin of both ponds, mainly sitting on *Juncus inflexus* tussocks right at the edge: I found large cylindrical masses of their oxygen-cylinder-shaped minute eggs (looking, as Ken Marsland remarked "just like a file"), near the live and dead tips of the rushes. 1458 Yes C D

There were no alder-flies on the *Scirpus lacustris*. Demoiselle dragon-flies at both ponds, mating including *Ischnura elegans*, *Enallagma cyathigerum*, and one red one. The South Pond has a very abundant mayfly nymph (not *Ephemera*) in the *Chara* mat on the bottom.

On a place by the Ponds the thick blackthorn has been cut and on the site are **mulleins**, **rocket** (in flower), burdock, houndstongue, etc.

The grassland slopes are not only being invaded by Turkey oak, but now very rapidly by an outbreak of small hawthorns up to about 2 ft. This must be tackled. I saw one patch of horseshoe vetch in flower (*Hippocrepis comosa*), and several fast-flying blues of a rather pale colour that may have been **chalk-hill blues**. Patches of *Lotus* also in flower. Newhill Plain, a large stretch of flattish land, has reverted to a pleasant meadow of mostly natural species, including *Bromus*

{reverse side}

3 JUNE 1960

3 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

erectus, and patches of **yellow rattle***, mouse-ear hawkweed, *Lotus* and marguerites, all in flower and mostly in separate society patches. The structure at the moment is a thin T/3 with patches of T/2. 1457

Among the woodland rides there are in many places great drifts of crosswort (*Galium cruciata*) whose flowers have a strong honey-sweet smell. These rides appear to be less mowed within the reserve than in the afforested outer belt.

Orchis lateralis abundant and coming into flower by the stream from Worts Well, also *Blysmus* and small Carices in flower.

The **hawthorn** was nearly over flowering, and the **elder** not yet out much.

Dog's mercury under the oak-ash-hawthorn-maple wood was perforated by *Hermaeophaga mercurialis*, and some patches, of which I took specimens (these were under a lime-tree at the woodland ride edge) as badly as I have ever seen, and the flower or fruit spikes had been stripped clean. 1458 A

In another place I collected some unattacked plants with fruits. B

{ reverse side }

9 JUNE 1960

9 JUNE 1960. OXFORD.

During the last week a cock **bullfinch** has several times visited the garden pond. Other more regular drinkers are **blackbirds** (which try to bathe also), **robin**, **hedgesparrow** and **chaffinch**.

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1960

Mites collected by I.E. Efford at Wort's Well, Wychwood Forest on 16th June 1960.

{Not underlined in original so shown in Roman type.}

**Bandakia concreta* Thor 1913.

**Ljania bipapillata* Thor 1898 ♀♀ had eggs.

**Atractides* species nymphs.

Feltria minuta Koenike 1892 ♂♂♀♀

Feltria romijni Besseling 1930 ♂♂♀♀ and nymphs.

(*Sperchon*) species nymphs (probably *Sprechonopsis verrucosa*)

**Protzia eximia* (Protz 1896) 1♀ with eggs.

A-Thienemanna schermeri Viets 1920 (no previous published record for Britain but it has been found in similar seepage springs in the Late District.)

*Collected on 5th June 1958 also.

16 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST NATURE RESERVE, OXON.

An excellent walk round with Kitty Paviour-Smith, Stephen Hurry and Ian Efford, 9.45 a.m.- 3 p.m. G.M.T., warm, cloudy in the morning, sunny later, no rain, but grass soaking from rain in night. One active *Helix pomatia* in damp grass in Five Ashes Bottom (beyond the *Licinus* quarry – which is greatly growing over with low vegetation). We went in this way, down to Worts Well (where Efford collected some water-mite material), Newhill Ponds, up Newhill Plain slopes to Cyder Well, up the big valley west of Evenden Copse, into the oak patch, diagonally across Lankridge Copse to the head stream of Cyder Well valley, into Lankridge Copse new plantings, back across the woods to Slatepits Copse and the hazel coppice by the + rides, across these woods to the *Colchicum*-oak patch and back to Five Ashes gates.

There are many *Orchis lateralis* in full flower in the bog at the edge of the stream from Worts Well, which we photographed in colour. There was one group of 13 flower spikes close together. Lower down, also near Cyder Well, a few *Orchis fuschii* were in flower.

Management of stream and bog areas:

- (1) The head boggy ground at Worts Well has been fairly seriously trampled, as if by a class or picnic. It is highly vulnerable. I think parties should be asked to keep off it.
- (2) Orchids have evidently not been harmed by visitors.

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16 JUNE 1960

16 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

- (3) Two years ago the stream immediately below Cyder Well was absolutely full of a fine stand of water plants – *Mentha aquatica* and *Apium nodiflorum*. The latter has been mostly removed completely, the stream bed appears to have been artificially widened, and now runs over bare limestone slates. Why on earth was this done and on whose orders?
- (4) Cyder Well is otherwise fairly used to occasional parties and even picnics, and it would be wise to continue this concession, which I think the owner and general tradition accept as normal.

Newhill Ponds. A **heron** flew away – perhaps the fish in the Upper Pond attracted it. I have never seen one before, though once a kingfisher.

In the semicircular stream trough that receives water from the Upper Pond before going into the Lower one, S.W.H. found a growth of *Batrachospermum* on the stone walls.

On the scrub edge (hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, young turkey oaks) on this slope above the Ponds, I kept a specimen of *Chrysopa perla* (L.) ♂ (n.k. imperfect) 1460

The grass slopes above, between the Ponds and Newhill Plain, have a good many very large clumps of *Hippocrepis comosa* in full flower, and we saw (and colour-photographed) another fine one on the way up to Cyder

{ reverse side }

16 JUNE 1960

16 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Well; but no blues today. Also some scattered plants of *Atropa bella-donna*, in flower, and some with perforated leaves by (*Epitrix atropae*, though no beetles seen).

The *Brachypodium* is mostly not dense enough to keep a number of limestone plants from flowering, at any rate locally e.g. *Lotus*, *Hippocrepis*, *Hieracium pilosella*, wild thyme, *Linum catharticum*, *Galium pumilum*, etc. And there are a good many grasses, including *Briza media*, *Cynosurus cristatus* and *Koeleria gracilis*. All this fine community is gravely threatened by the rapidly accelerating invasion of turkey oak and hawthorn. The latter could be controlled by one man working for a week or so, and it would not need to be done every year. But it ought to be started next winter as a very urgent priority. The Turkey oaks are a rather bigger job.

We search the quarry by the ponds for *Helix pomatia* but found none. I saw an adult dark-coloured snake move rapidly into the bramble-bracken on the ancient quarry rubble – which was very hot in the sun. It could have been an **adder** or a grass snake. (The newspapers report a big increase in adders in various parts of England this year, after last year's drought summer).

There is an enormous area of wood with pure or almost pure *Mercurialis* field layer – solid sheets of it for hundreds of yards. Attack by *Hermaeophaga* is quite

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1960

16 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

local in small patches, and not severe where it occurs. A good many plants have scalloped-edge damage on a small scale, presumably by the weevil *Barynotus moerens*. But this too is localised. A small sprinkling of *Circaea lutetiana* (but seldom in pure societies) occurs along the *Mercurialis* in many places. Nettle is common but mostly in local solid patches.

There are a lot of young **ash** and **hawthorn** less than 1 ft. or even less than 6 in. But little sign of young ash saplings and we saw no oak, though young sycamore sapling patches occur in the sycamore areas.

As usual bracket fungi were notably scarce. K. Paviour-Smith agreed with me that, as on former occasions, they were markedly scarce in the Forest. She only saw individual colonies of the following today:

Daldinia concentrica. On very dead fallen ash branch. Under a thick canopy. Slatepits Copse.

Polystictus versicolor on dead fallen large ash trunk. In slight opening in the canopy, but with mainly *Mercurialis*. Slatepits Copse.

Stereum hirsutum. On fallen oak branch, under thick canopy, Lankridge Copse.

Ganoderma applanatum. One young fresh bracket 10-15 ft. on live (but ill-looking) large beech trunk, heavy canopy though in main ride, near hazel plantation, Slatepits Copse cross.

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1960

16 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

In one area of high scrub canopy (30 ft. or more, hazel-hawthorn-maple, but no standard trees near) was a single 6 in. diameter very rotten hazel bole 5 ft. high. Took home the parts 2-4 ft. Mostly bark-covered but I broke it up in the field, most bits retaining bark. 1461 A

1 black millipede, found in sorting *Tachypodiulus niger* (Leach). M. Lloyd det. 1960
Several large *Oniscus asellus* and one large *Porcellio scaber* found in sorting. n.k.
1 large larval *Melanotus rufipes* found in sorting n.k.
1 *Sciara* (large), found on sorting. Active runner ♂ *Sciara longiventris* Zetterstedt.
K.G.V. Smith det. 1960. (= *caudata* Walker in K. & H.) C

Plenty of collembola, but these put back in the two tins of wood. Latter is rather dry, much galleried, has external bark holes about *Grynobius* size, also some minute pin-holes.

{reverse side}

16 JUNE 1960

16 JUNE 1960. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

I collected some goosefoot which was growing in solitary rosettes of flower spikes in the T/2 grass ride near Worts Well (< 1 foot); and some ? water-cress in flower from the stream just below Worts Well (which is "forest ride edge"). 1462 A B

In the main grass (T 3) ride edge of the Lankridge Copse, in young conifer planting (i.e. outside the reserve) we found one plant of columbine in flower (*Aquilegia vulgaris*). The rest of the space between the young trees, and much of the ride edges is a solid mass of *Chamaenerium*, rose-bay willow-herb, about 2-3 ft., not quite in flower, and infested by a very large number of cuckoo-spits. This may well have suppressed the rest of the columbines, which used to be reported abundant here.

Took a few habitat and flower photos, both colour and black and white.

One of the most striking differences between Wytham and Wychwood is the comparative absence of bramble from the woodland field layer and even woodland edge of Wychwood. In a long interior traverse today we saw one patch, which was *Rubus caesius*.

OXFORD.

Two (♂♀) *Reduvius personatus* (L.) flew into lighted bedroom after dark.

1462 C

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 15.

25 June 1960-9 February 1961.

C.E. 1466-1510.

Red ticks²⁹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles³⁰ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

²⁹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

³⁰ Edited to A or 00

25 JUNE 1960. STANTON ST. JOHN & WOODPERRY, OXON.

In the afternoon, 1.30-4 p.m. G.M.T., made a round of three oak woods with the owner Colonel John Thomson (of Woodperry House, Stanton St. John), and Marcus Goddard and Peter Martin. The last is the leader of a group of four young Oxford townsman who are helping with the survey and conservation of the black hairstreak etc. in the Bernwood Forest area. Colonel Thomson, (who is a Curator

{reverse side}

25 JUNE 1960

25 JUNE 1960. STANTON ST. JOHN etc. ***

of the University Chest and Vice-Chairman of the Oxford Preservation Trust) has lived all his life at Woodperry House, and had shooting over various neighbouring woods, but has only recently acquired Holly Wood from New College, and Blackwater Wood from a timber-yard owner. We also visited Stanton Little Wood (opposite Blackwater), but not Stanton Great Wood, which are also his. His object in purchasing was to keep the two woods fairly unchanged, also for shooting there. He has a keeper.

Holly Wood. This is oak-standards and hazel coppice, with some ash etc., on heavy wet Oxford Clay. There is a remarkable amount of **wild rose** at the ride edges inside the wood. The flora is rather of coarser plants, including a good deal of *Cirsium palustris* in flower, some luxuriant patches of *Orchis fuschii* adorn the marshy rides. **Honeysuckle** common. There is not much **blackthorn** thicket right in the wood, the **hazel** coppice being very dominant under the trees, and exploited still for local use. We saw several **white admirals** (a honey-suckle species). I did not find *Agapanthia*, the marsh-thistle longicorn, but saw one other longicorn (1 specimen), *Strangalia maculata* (Poda) on a field layer ride flower.

On the western margin of the wood is a wonderful high-scrub hedged green wet track or lane, which apparently belongs to Colonel Thomson, though the field hedge may be partly the farmer's affair (a friend of his). We saw perhaps a dozen **black hairstreaks** on the high blackthorn, mostly

{ reverse side }

25 JUNE 1960

25 JUNE 1960. STANTON ST. JOHN etc. ***

above 5-6 feet. There is very good scrub and shelter, and especially good blackthorn in the centre bit. The owner offered to keep high scrub, and when some clearances needed (the track is closing over a bit), not to do it all at once. On the wood side there are oaks above the scrub, and the youngish oaks are also growing in the hedge. It would be a good thing if the latter could be felled for timber when they get large eventually. There is a lot of **privet** in this lane, flowering both at field layer and scrub height, also wild rose and other scrub such as willow. One **black hairstreak** was noted on **privet flowers**, a habit Goddard has also seen in Monk's Wood. They do not often seem to visit anything but privet for nectar, though it is not present and certainly not abundant in all parts of Bernwood Forest where the butterfly occurs. The far inner parts of this Wood has some mixed conifer-deciduous that may be cut out.

Stanton Little Wood. This is even wetter clay, and we splashed along the rides in places. It is also oak with hazel and ash, but more varied under-scrub and bramble. There is willow, maple, privet, dogwood, hawthorn, rose. The rides have much marsh thistle in flower but I saw no signs of *Agapanthia*. The chief blackthorn occurs, and abundantly, on the outer dense scrub edge of the wood, and needs further exploration for the hairstreaks. I saw one *Strangalia maculata* on a field layer flower in a ride.

{ reverse side }

25 JUNE 1960

1466 B ♀ *Tephritis miliaria* Schrank. K.G.V. Smith det. 1960.

25 JUNE 1960. STANTON ST. JOHN etc. ***

Stanton Little Wood*** I collected one of three wasp parasite flies, *Volucella pellucens* (L.), on privet flowers (at 3 ft.) in a rather dense path edge in this oak wood.

1466 A
B

Also a Trypetid at c. 4 ft. on a marsh-thistle flower in a glade.

Blackwater Wood. This must have been similar but has had a good deal more public picnicking and blackberrying. The owner has cleared and planted 6 acres with oak, spruce, Douglas fir, larch, cypress etc., leaving some temporary canopy for weed suppression. The rest is very dense and rather dull scrub (hazel, blackthorn etc.) and scattered oak and ash standards. I do not think this wood will be any good for nature reserve plans. Holly Wood is far the best, and very hard to get into. It seems imperative not to advertise its merits. With the possible exception of Brasenose Wood on Shotover Hill, the lane by Holly Wood is the western known limit of the black hair-streak in Britain.

We went on to tea with Colonel and Mrs. Thomson at Woodperry House, which is built on the site of the village of Woodperry, whose inhabitants perished in the Black Death. From this slight hill one sees a panorama of the various woods, with Brill and Muswell Hill beyond. There are two springs. One feeds a shaded pond and is submerged. The other has dried up in the past but now emerges on the hill-slope. The owner says the springs got very low in this area, but since local houses got Oxford main supply, their volume has increased again.

Part of the large garden lawn has been let back into thin meadow, in which were two spontaneous **bee orchids** in flower.

{reverse side}

25 JUNE 1960

28 JUNE 1960. BERNWOOD FOREST, BUCKS./OXON.

Went round all the blackthorn reserves with Marcus Goddard (and his boy Alan), 9 a.m.-3 p.m. G.M.T. Very hot with sun and cloud most of the day, though once out of the shelter of the wood a cool breeze made things different. (All specimens and records from Bucks.). Goddard's notes on reserves and butterflies on file elsewhere. We only saw two **black hairstreaks** today. We saw one on the big hedge on Jericho Farm (No. 11), and I one (♂) on the only flowering privet at 3 ft. on woodland edge a few yards outside the ruined cottage reserve (no. 13). Both these fortunately were the first records at all for these two reserves, which had been chosen for habitat suitability. M.G. thinks the reason we saw so few may be the end of their flying period and a rather early season.

The airfield reserve (No. 7) has good thick willow, hawthorn, blackthorn scrub up to 15 ft. or a little over. I beat two weevils from *Salix caprea* by concrete track edge, at 6-8 ft.

2 *Dorytomus taeniatus* (Fab.) Mark Robinson det. 1980

1469 A

In the scrub peninsula (No. 1), which is very dense mixed scrub and young oak coppice etc. grown now about 15 ft. in many places, I took a large *Chrysopa* on hazel at 2-3 ft. (glade edge). ♀ *C. vittata* Wesm. C.A. Elbourn det. 1963.

B

28 JUNE 1960. BERNWOOD FOREST ***

There is a lot of wild rose in flower, but I did not see a single longicorn on it – or anywhere else, though we walked for 5-6 hours. This differs very much from my experience in 1951, and may be explained by the disappearance of suitable D/D WOOD, which may have been abandoned after the war-time fellings. I am therefore glad that the glade cutting in Waterperry Wood (where we went to No. 1 and No. 2) is leaving good piles of small birch and oak trunks lying around.

All along the outside of Shabbington (coppiced oak) Wood edge into blackthorn reserves 2-3, is a fine deep meadow of *Deschampsia caespitosa* and other grasses, and a great deal of meadowsweet in flower. Sweeping this at 1-3 ft. (T/5 (Deciduous) (Edge)/3 onto open field T/3) produced a number of flies, of which I kept four: 1470

Long fly with banana-shaped body swollen behind, and strong heavily clawed and spined legs. Asilid, *Leptogaster cylindrica* (Degeer) K.G.V. Smith det. 1960 A

Small black-barred winged Otitid, ♀ *Herina lugubris* (Meigen) K.G.V. Smith det. 1960 B

Small smoky winged Sapromyzid ♂ *Minettia longipennis* (Fab.) = Lauxaniid K.G.V. Smith det. 1960 C

Green metallic Dolichopodid ♂ *Dolichopus festivus* Haliday K.G.V. Smith det. 1960 D

Also a weevil (*Cionus scrophularias* (L.)). There was *Scrophularia* {sic = *Scrophularia*} *nodosa* near. Not kept E

{ reverse side }

28 JUNE 196010 JULY

28 JUNE 1960. BERNWOOD FOREST ***

The usual butterflies were out in the rides: **meadow-browns** extremely abundant; also common were **white admirals**, **large** and **small skippers**, **marbled whites**, and a few very fresh **commas** and **silver-washed fritillaries**.

On the grass and scrub slope of the ditch along reserves, 4, 5, 6, a great deal of dyer's greenwood (*Genista tinctoria*) was flowering luxuriantly.

10 JULY. NORTHWEST OXON.

Drove to the high-lying farm country lying between Bloxham and the head valleys of the Stour and Swere, which often come over 6-700 ft. and have some curiously-shaped "Chinese" hills. There is evidently calcareous soil over much of this area, for *Geranium pratense* is very abundant on the roadsides. Also what looked like ironstone and sands on hill caps.

{reverse side}

17 JULY 1960

17 JULY 1960. OXFORD.

During the last two weeks I have seen holly blues (*Celastrina argiolus* (L.)) flying about Park Town Jungle, several at a time, mostly on the sunny side and between 1 and 10 ft., occasionally settling on holly. Today there was one in the garden. On the 14th collected one from the Jungle. I have never seen more than a stray one in Park Town before. They seem to have colonised this year.

1474

{reverse side}

26 JULY 1960

26 JULY 1960. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1., OXON.

Rob and I visited it on a warm sunny morning, 6.15-7.15 p.m. {sic = a.m.?} G.M.T. Met M.H. Rowntree, who was trying to mist-net warblers in the lane hedge for ringing. On his advice we went to the south-west bank, and fortunately saw a green sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) flying up and over to the islands. Its size and dark colour and long white rump were very clear in the sun as it flew. He told us a couple had been about for a week, passage migrants, and he heard one today. He also mentioned that about 6 pairs of **reed warblers** had nested in the reed bed on the east side. We saw one **reed warbler** (with a wasp in its beak), foraging in the goat sallows and crack willows on the bank at the south-west corner, up to scrub canopy height. Had a very close sight of it. It is here (where there is *Typha* but no *Phragmites*) that we formerly saw sedge warblers. Three **herons** came down. In the water were many fish, including small ones, also I am sure one **perch**; and on the shore a dead **roach** pierced through the head as by a beak, but otherwise intact. No **kingfishers**. Rowntree said no **yellow wagtails** this year.

{reverse side}

26 JULY 196031 JULY

26 JULY 1960. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT ***

On the water were several **mallard** (a large flock flew over), several **swans**, and some **moorhens**, including one with 4 swimming chicks.

On the gravel islands, which have low willow bushes, a small flock of **lapwings** and one or two **common snipe** rested, and one or two **mallard** and moorhen.

The lake is very shallow and much of it choked with water weed, mostly *Myriophyllum*. Noticed a good deal of *Alisma plantago* in flower at the edges.

The banks and the flat part are a dense high meadow of coarse herbs, rusty red with seeding dock, and with many species, including locally some *Ballota nigra*, and (on a "ballast heap" large **evening primrose** in flower). Flying about over were **swallows**, **sand-martins** and **swifts**.

31 JULY. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Rob and I went here early on a sunny clear morning, 5.45-7 a.m. G.M.T., the morning thin mist still rising off the swan-littered Thames. Sewage still arriving, and the big pools (see C.E. 12 page 81) rather full, and glassy still. **Mallard** about, flying in small groups or ones and twos, lurking in the dense riparian vegetation, and one or two on the water. Plenty of **moorhens** in the riparian vegetation or exposed mud, including

{reverse side}

31 JULY 1960

31 JULY 1960. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM ***

brownish grown young ones. **Gray** {sic} and **pie'd wagtails** frequent on the wet mud margins or small "islands" of mud. With them were small numbers of waders, also **swallows** and **sand martins** flying over in numbers feeding, – altogether a fairly animated scene. Three **herons** came down, and a **kestrel** was hunting about but not hovering much in the still air. The calm and mostly open (not sewage-covered) waters, bird-visited sludge on the edges and islands, dense riparian zone often ending on water without mud edge, are very characteristic of this place. A **sedge warbler** lurked in the docks.

The waders were seen as follows. Several **common snipe** resting or flying. **Lapwings** also resting on the sludge. One **green sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*) clearly seen in flight and settled. Half-a-dozen **common sandpipers** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) – size, colour and conspicuous re-entrant white on side of shoulder. Half-a-dozen **dunlins** (*Calidris alpina*), recognized from size, wing streak, white-sided rump-tail, follow-my-leader flight, and (in one case) black belly patch.

{reverse side}

26 AUGUST 1960

11 SEPTEMBER

12 SEPTEMBER. OXFORD. p. 39

Collected a "soup" of a small water-flea, a *Ceriodaphnia*, that is swarming in the Pond, *Daphnia* being now relatively few. They are pink, and some forming winter eggs. Most had large colonies of *Vorticella* epizoa on the antennae!

1494 *Ceriodaphnia reticulata* (Jurine) J.P. Harding det. 1960

26 AUGUST 1960. OXFORD.

At dusk, 8 p.m. G.M.T., saw and caught a silver-Y moth (*Plusia gamma*) on red valerian flowers on Park Town Terrace. Rather damp rainy evening, just clearing.

11 SEPTEMBER. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

The early morning was warm and calm, with thick mist in the Oxford Valley, but only thin vapour clearing off the sewage lakes and pools under the sun, when we (Rob and I) went out 6.15-7.15 a.m. G.M.T. Numerous small birds were in the hedges; and there were half-a-dozen **sedge-warblers** (including a young of the year) feeding in the tall field-layer of seeding docks by one of the big pools. Near here also a female **reed-bunting**. This pool has two **teal**, two **dabchicks** and some **moorhens** and **coot**. A **kingfisher** flew over, also some **common snipe** and several other largish waders. Flocks of **lapwings** flying; and a **heron** which settled by another pool: also two **swans** in flight.

By the sludgy margin between the dense riparian vegetation and water of the very big pool farthest down the lane, we saw a **common snipe** standing in the sun, very clear to be watched, and a **common sandpiper**.

1493 A-C

The pools were rather full today, and not much sludgy margin was exposed for waders.

As we were leaving we spoke to a telescope-carrying ornithologist named Leclerc who had seen a **ruff** this morning.

11 SEPTEMBER HOWE WOOD, OXON.

Drove here in the afternoon. Thinning the beech wood in the last several years, though not at all drastic, has increased the field layer vegetation in many places that were formerly bare. I collected some **creeping ivy** off a chalk-flint bank under the trees, some seed capsules of *Campanula trachelium* and some highly damaged leaves of **guelder rose** from 1 ft. sprouts on the beech wood edge ground zone, on which one adult *Galerucella viburni* was seen.

{reverse side}

13 SEPTEMBER 1960

13 SEPTEMBER 1960. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Rob and I visited the place on a very clear warm sunny morning, 6.15-7.25 a.m. G.M.T., and though we saw no unusual species there was a great movement and activity. **Common snipe** were everywhere, mostly in the secluded mud-sludge patches among vegetation on or near the edges of pools, also in a temporarily empty sludge pool. We saw 20-30. The only other waders were a **lapwing** or two on the mud.

Big flocks of **greenfinches** were down in the dock and persicaria, and flying up to the pollard willows when disturbed. Some **sedge warblers** again in the docks at water's edge, several **reed buntings** (young and old); and a flock of **house sparrows** sitting on one of the sewage brick inlets.

Grey and **pied wagtails** on a temporarily drained long pool.

On one large pool there were a **dabchick**, several **coot**, and **moorhen**, the last two, especially moorhens (old and yearlings) being seen elsewhere on the water or lurking in thick vegetation.

One **heron** resting.

We looked at mud tracks on the cartway and lane, with the aid of Chard's book, and found **badger** and stoat and dog; a cat was seen out hunting.

I kept specimens (in seed) of the big dock that is one of the riparian dominants.

Rumex obtusifolius

1496

{reverse side}

13 SEPTEMBER 1960

In a large rough field crammed with tall seeding thistles, Rob saw three **goldfinches**.

18 SEPTEMBER 1960. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Rob and I went here 6.15-7 a.m. G.M.T. on a calm fine morning. **Swans** in ones to threes or so were flying to the river, and perhaps go at night to feed on fields or marshes? They always seem to be resting on the river, not feeding, in early morning. (I have seen them grazing like geese on Worcester College playing field, near the lake).

Two **teal** flew up from one of the large pools, all of which were rather full today so practically no mud was exposed, except on the long pool behind the lane hedge. Except for one or two **common snipe** and several **lapwings**, we saw no waders that were near, only a few flying in the distance. **Coot** and **moorhens** and a **dabchick** as usual, swimming, and moorhens bustling in the high riparian herbage, in which **reed-buntings**, **sedge-warblers** and **greenfinches** were seen. A few **swallows** flying. Three **herons**. As we were leaving five **tufted duck** circled round, flying fast, but we did not see them settle. Soon after came two men (one with a gun) and a spaniel.

{ reverse side }

18 SEPTEMBER 196025 SEPTEMBER

27 SEPTEMBER from p. 43 continued...

1498 insects are seeking nectar. The *Convolvulus* was very heavily perforated by some (Chrysomelid ?) beetle, but the holes were brown-aged by now and

Von Marolaun states that there is a thin film of nectar over the central 'dome' of the flowers.

18 SEPTEMBER 1960. OXFORD.

All morning, in the calm, warm sun, two **red admirals** have been playing and running in the garden, partly on the ground, and visiting rotten pears lying there and apparently feeding busily.

Last week two **treecreepers** visited the trunk of the pine tree, ascending it several times.

25 SEPTEMBER. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Visited Five-Ash Bottom and the woods across the valley above Cyder Well, with Rob, in the afternoon. Innumerable **fallow deer** paths and foot-marks (of which Rob took plaster casts). Tracks of **grey squirrel** in mud round a rain-puddle in a ride. Huge **acorn** crop. *Colchicum* in flower among bracken at ride edge in upper part of Cyder Well valley, near Lankridge Copse edge.

27 SEPTEMBER. CUMNOR HILL, BERKS.

9-9.40 a.m. G.M.T. Went up to Monte Lloyd's old farm house near the top of the Cumnor slope facing Wytham Woods, to see the **ivy** flowering on an old wall bounding his garden. In the last day or two he collected a rich assortment of flies (see O.E.S. 412, 414), including a large number of green-bottle *Orthellia* (explained by cow-pats round the farm), also numerous wasps. At night he caught a few flies, chiefly delicate soft-bodied ones, including ♂ mosquitoes as well as some moths (see O.E.S. 413, 415). The day flies are mostly flying strong, often metallic Calliphorids, Tachinids and Muscids.

This morning he made another collection, with more attention to wasps and *Calliphora* (see O.E.S. 416). Here are a few conclusions and notes on the situation there. The ivy is in all flowering stages, bud, anthers, and flowers with anthers gone. The great majority of insects were actively visiting the anthered flowers. Others sat on the shining ivy leaves (here unusually narrow and elongate). These leaves have a strong smell, but flies were also sitting on the leaves of *Convolvulus sepium*, which was growing intermingled with the ivy. It is not clear how the enormous attractiveness of these autumn ivy flowers is "powered", but presumably nearly all these [SEE ACROSS {copied from reverse of previous page}] insects are seeking nectar. The *Convolvulus* was very heavily perforated by some (Chrysomelid ?) beetle, but the holes were brown-aged by now and

1498

{ reverse side }

27 SEPTEMBER 1960

18 SEPTEMBER 1960. CUMNOR HILL***

no beetles were present.

The wasps were entirely flower hunting, and paid no attention either to the other insects or to us. Moths get a bit drunk and comatose on the flowers at night, yet none are seen by day.

{ reverse side }

2 OCTOBER 1960

5 OCTOBER

2 OCTOBER 1960. ASHFORD BRIDGE, OXON.

Drove round the North Leigh-Chadlington-Spelsbury area. There is almost no leaf fall yet, and little autumn colour except on limes and dogwood and guelder rose.

We stayed around Ashford Bridge until dusk began, hoping to see **water-bats**, which were abundant there before the War. They have either disappeared or gone into winter quarters – no insect life to speak of over water of the River Evenlode, which was in spate and very turbid. Two **cygnets** and two **dabchicks** and a **water-vole** in the water, the latter carried by the current and the dabchicks at first sitting on the bank.

5 OCTOBER. OXFORD.

Found a large **toad** hibernating under a garden rubbish heap at the end of our garden, 6 ft. from the pond.

{reverse side}

16 OCTOBER 1960

16 OCTOBER 1960. ISLIP, OXON.

Collected *Sonchus asper* in flower and fruit, from a weedy root field.

1510

{reverse side}

6 NOVEMBER 1960

6 NOVEMBER 1960. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Visited the Park and walked round the lake in the afternoon with Rob *et al.* It was a quiet misty day with a north light air and fine-weather sky. There is a practically standard community of water-birds, which only varies by the occasional addition of a few other species of duck. Today it was **mute swan, mallard, tufted duck** (some diving), **moorhen, coot, dabchick, great-crested grebe**. The addition was four **teal**. The River Glyme was in violent flood and the Lake quite full. (All Oxford rivers have been in flood the last week or two, the alluvial valleys flooded, including Port Meadow, but there are now signs of cessation). Saw 3 or 4 **nuthatches** in beech and some deodars.

{ reverse side }

11 DECEMBER 1960

11 DECEMBER 1960. STANTON HARCOURT.

With Rob, drove round here and Hardwick and Standlake, in the afternoon, cold with a faint winter sunshine. On all three gravel pit lakes just west of Stanton Harcourt there were (altogether) scores of ♂ ♀ **tufted duck**. The two lakes south of the road had also a lot of **coot**, and the one nearest the village had some **pochard** as well. Two **dabchick**, separately.

A flock of **fieldfares** in a large grass field near Hardwick, flying into the hedges (which are full of berries).

{ reverse side }

18 DECEMBER 19603 JANUARY 1961

11 DECEMBER 1960. GODSTOW, OXON.

When I walked before breakfast from Godstow to Binsey Poplars, along the Thames towpath 7.45-8.45 a.m. G.M.T. It was very misty and the light poor, so that a **heron** standing on the river bank could only be spotted by its reflection in the water. Between us we saw two (or three ?) **kingfishers**, one sitting on the concrete wall-top of Godstow Lock. A **wren** was foraging in the low T/3 scrub on the river bank. Various finches in parties in the hawthorn open scrub in the field near the river: **house sparrow**, **chaffinch** etc. Flock of **redwings** also in these trees and in pasture beyond.

3 JANUARY 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out in a poor dawn light and a little rain and cold wind, 8-8.45 a.m. G.M.T., with Rob. Little bird life active – a small flock of about 10 **coot**, several **moorhens**, no swans, a small flying group of duck (? mallard). **Heron** flying over. When the sun rose yellowish over Wytham Hill, the light got much better. We watched three **bullfinches** and a **fieldfare** in the hawthorns of the lane hedge, among the abundant crimson haws that are so abundant this year.

{reverse side}

13 JANUARY, 1961

15 JANUARY 1961. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

Rob and I went down at dawn on a very clear sunny day, 7.45-8.30 a.m. G.M.T. There was a shallow, quiet sheet of water opposite Aristotle Lane and across nearly to Medley. A flock of **pintail** (*Anas acuta*) ♂ and ♀, at least 20, rose and circled round a goodish bit, and there were also a few **widgeon**. Large flocks of **lapwings** and **black-headed gulls** on the marshy grass north of the water. **Mute swans** in numbers but no Bewicks: – a Guardian 'Country Diary' in the following week mentioned grey geese and Bewick's swans in the north Cherwell valley, and that the latter had resorted to a gravel pit near Oxford, which could have been the Cassington No. 1, where we noticed an unusual group of swans in the distance, today from the road.

In the afternoon we drove round Stanton Harcourt etc., but saw nothing but flocks of **coot** on the gravel pits between there and Hardwick.

{ reverse side }

6 FEBRUARY 1961

9 February

6 FEBRUARY 1961. PORT MEADOW, OXON.

Rob and I went down by Aristotle Lane, 10.30-10.50 a.m. G.M.T. In the early morning it had been too drizzly to be worth going out, but now it was overcast but clear, and there was a strong south-west breeze. The flood at the Medley end is extensive but not very deep, and carried a good many **mute swans**. There was a flock of perhaps 40 duck, including some **pintail** whose ♂♂ were at any rate easily recognizable at this long distance. 1 **pieb wagtail** on the near marshy edge.

9 FEBRUARY. OXFORD.

Two **long-tailed tits** on pear trees in the garden – a very rare event. Still no tawny owls at all roosting this winter, though I have heard calls at night in Park Town.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 16.

26 February 1961-1 October 1961.

C.E. 1522-1548.

Red ticks³¹ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles³² round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

³¹ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

³² Edited to A or 00

26 FEBRUARY 1961. GODSTOW, OXON.

Visited the River at 7.15-8.15 a.m. GMT, with Rob and Brian Ghelardi. It was fine and not very cold, but windy. Anglers were already arriving and we saw no **kingfishers**. A **piebald wagtail** was running on swampy grass edge of the main Thames. A **green woodpecker** alighted on the grass where scattered hawthorns grow, on the way to Binsey poplars. It was picking things from the grass. There are a few **yellow ant** mounds at this spot. The river was very muddy and up to Flood Mark on the Lock and had submerged a bit of the towpath. But Port Meadow had no lake. Yesterday there were some terrific squalls of rain that went on after dark.

This is an exceptionally mild winter and many plants in Oxford are very early.

5 MARCH. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

On the way we stopped at the big gravel pits outside Stanton Harcourt on the way to Hardwick. A dozen ♂ ♀ **tufted duck** on the larger lake, which has a good deal of alga-covered benthic plants in the shallower water at the edge. A few **coot** on the smaller pits across the road. The farm-house here has a huge **mistletoe** plant on a large tree – a rare sight in this part of the country.

{reverse side of page 1}

10 MARCH 1961.

Fungi seen in Wychwood Forest by K. Paviour-Smith on 10 March, 1961.

1. *Ganoderma applanatum* living on beeches, one in Slatepits Copse and the other in the Evenden Copse beech avenue.
2. *Polystictus versicolor*, mostly grown this winter.
 - a. On dead standing oak bole. Tree festooned with this fungus growing from 0-20 ft. from the ground. Evenden Copse.
 - b. Also on several fallen ash logs.

The *Polystictus* was surprisingly free from Ciidae though Tinea larval damage was seen on some.

3. *Auricularia auriculo-judae* dried-up, on elders.
4. *Tremella mesenterica* on dead hazel at 1½ ft.
5. Several species of *Stereum*, including *Stereum hirsutum*, mostly on hazel.
6. *Coprinus* species probably *micaceus*, on and around a mossy very ancient hawthorn log. The substrate could probably be classed as soil.
7. Gill fungus, dried-up, ? *Paxillus* species at c. 10-12 ft. from ground on dead branch of turkey oak. Hillside above track to Cyder Well.
8. Old puffball stalk in grass at Newland's Hill.
9. *Daldinia concentrica* on several dead standing and fallen ashes, also on one dead maple.
10. *Reticularia lycoperdon* (Myxomycete) in Evenden Copse:
 - a. Fresh and white but drying outside, on hazel.
 - b. Another at 5 ft. from ground on hazel. Brown spore mass forming inside white skin.
 - c. Another, still white, at c. 15 ft. from ground on oak.

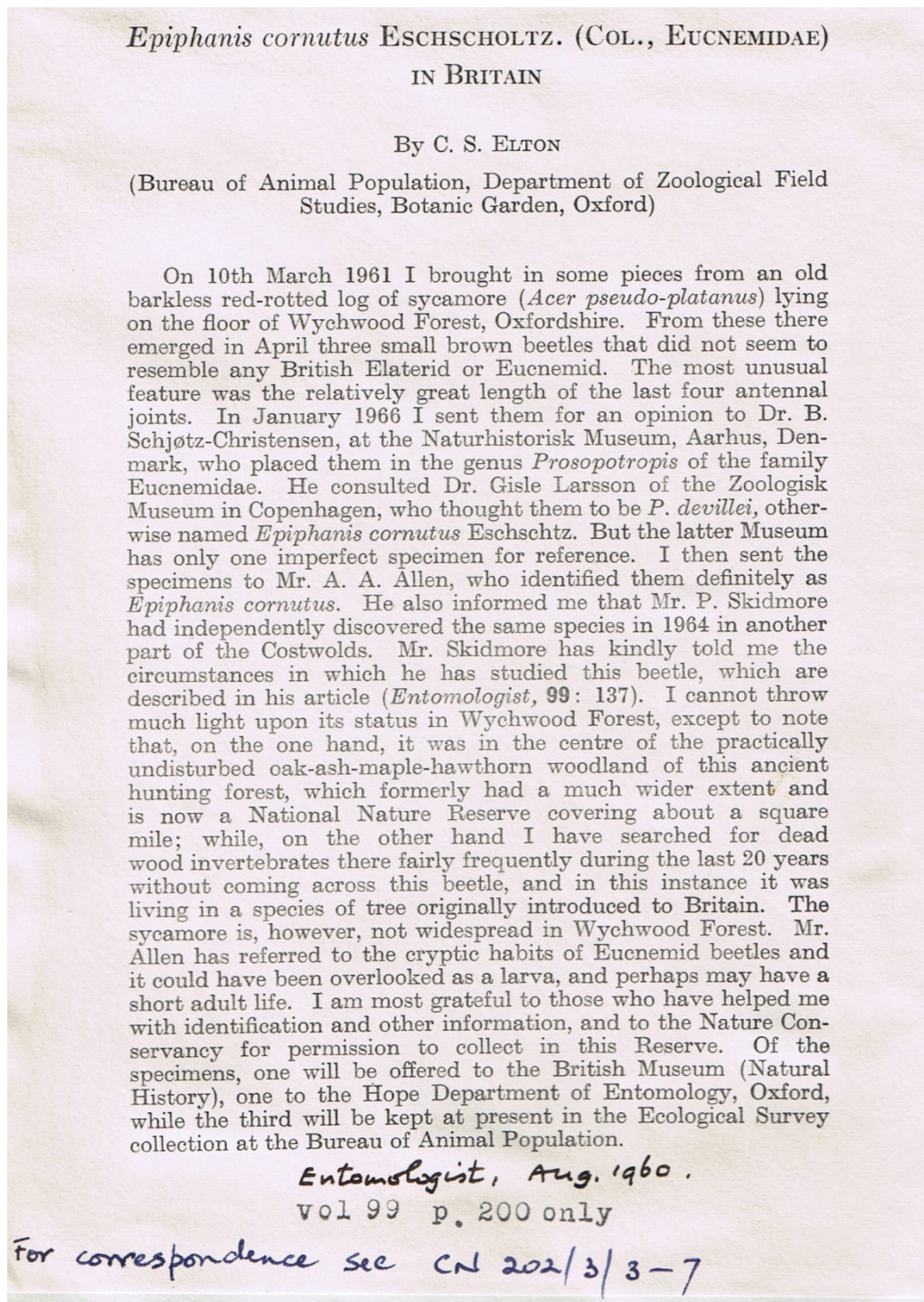
10 MARCH 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Walked round the northern half of the Nature Reserve from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. GMT, stopping 1.15-1.45 by the slope above Newhill Ponds. With H.N. Southern, Kitty Paviour-Smith, Miss Julia Laptain (Regional Officer, S.) and Mr. D.C. Ungley (Conservancy's new Warden-Naturalist for Wychwood, Cothill, Waterperry, Aston Rowant & Beacon Hill). It was warm, dry and sunny. Woods still bare mainly, **elder** and **spindle** and some **hawthorn** half in leaf. **Dog's mercury** and *Colchicum* sprouting an inch or two, *Arum* in leaf, also **ground ivy**. A few **primrose** and **violet** flowers. Near Cyder Well a fine patch of *Helleborus foetidus* in full flower and some young seedling spreading: in a small open grassy patch at scallop in scrub/wood edge.

{reverse side of page 2}

10 MARCH 1961

1522 3 Eucnemid beetles emerged. For details see paper {pasted below}:



10 MARCH 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Near the south edge of Slatepits Copse was a large **badger** lavatory, fresh dug with a *Scatophaga* (= *Scopeuma*) on it. H.N.S. says there is a badger near here.

In north-east quadrant of Slatepits Copse is a lot of dead wood on the forest floor, but mostly < 1 foot in diameter. I took fragments from the centre of an old red-rotted barkless sycamore log, which I was able to kick open. 1522

On the outside of this damp log were some curious Mycetophilid fly larvae, like tiny drops of greenish slime dung. Kept by K.P.-S. to breed out (failed). I tinned the material after searching it roughly in the lab, but without breaking up the large bits. {*Typed into margin:*} Demobilised 7 August. No more emerged to tube.

Looked into the thick (and apparently unmanaged) woods on the North of Newhill Plain, which are outside the Nature Reserve. There are some fine beeches here and there is a good deal of fallen wood, including one very large beech. {*Typed into margin:*} Some Collembola there (n.k.)

Evenden Copse shows less current signs of violent mammal damage than a few years ago. But small **spindle** bushes, which are not uncommon in "edge" places, are universally **deer-browsed**. On the west slope above the upper valley of Evenden Bottom the gamekeepers have this year extensively underplanted with *Cotoneaster* and snowberry!!

{reverse side}

10 MARCH 1961

10 MARCH 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Cyder Well was running with the unusual force. *Planaria alpina* under a stone.

The scrub invasion of the Newhill Plain slopes was shown and discussed. Also the problem of spreading turkey oaks.

Shells (only) of *Helix pomatia* seen in various parts of woodland edge, including the north-east edge by Newhill Plain.

{reverse side}

28 MARCH 1961

2 APRIL

28 MARCH 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PITS, OXON.

6.40-8 a.m. GMT, with Ray and Brian Ghelardi and Rob. Fine but with cold wind, sun coming out. The water in Gravel Pit No. 1 is normal, and today there was a considerable bustle of water-birds: in a score or so of **coot**, some **moorhens**, two **mute swans**, four **teal**, pairs or more of **mallard** coming or going. No **kingfishers**, but a **heron** flew over on its way to Wytham Hill. Several **common snipe** and three **redshanks**, the latter flying about a lot. A cock **reed-bunting** on marginal willows (T/3 height), but no warblers or yellow wagtails yet. Two **pieb wagtails** up by the concrete-mixing entrance-track, near which we also saw two **goldfinches** and T/3 shrub on the waste banks. On the broad gravel shelf were a pair of **partridges** and a **skylark** singing low in the air.

On Marlborough Pool there were 4 **great crested grebe**, among which some scuffles seem to be happening: a pair of **mallard** and one or two **coot**.

2 APRIL. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PITS, OXON.

6.15-7 a.m. GMT., with Rob. Cloudy but not very cold. On the way we saw a pair of **curlews** in the pasture field by the bypass, which has the path to King's Lock (the easternmost point we have seen them on this breeding area). They were rather restless and one had flown over from the north side of the bypass. We also heard at least one more in the offing. A pair of **magpies** sitting on the road hedge near here.

At Gravel Pit No. 1 there was a good deal going on. On the water a pair of **mute swans**, **mallard** (half a dozen drakes, the ducks must be sitting), 4 **teal** flying round,

{reverse side}

2 APRIL 196110 APRIL 1961

2 APRIL 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PITS, OXON.

some **coot** and **moorhens**. A **redshank** seen clearly in flight, and half a dozen **common snipe**. Later a **heron** came down, and another was seen flying over. As we stood by the hedge gap between the Pit and Cassington Mill (on the River Evenlode) a **kingfisher** flew close over our head from the direction of the Mill. No **yellow wagtails** or any warblers yet, but two tired-looking **sand martins** on farm telephone wire. A cock **reed bunting** on scrub willow. Rob noticed a bird alight on one of the islands that, rather surprisingly turned out to be a **green woodpecker** in transit. Other birds seen in the hedge-row round were **greenfinches**, **linnets**, **house sparrows** and **blackbirds**, – and a **piebald wagtail** in a tree.

Willow scrub is very widespread on the islands and some of the shallows, and on the banks. The **goat sallow** ♂ catkins are over, and some willow is in full catkin. The **coltsfoot** flowers are now turning to seed.

10 APRIL. OXFORD.

A **treecreeper** in the garden laburnum. The **starlings** have two nests as usual in the eaves {sic = eaves} (through defective soffits) of houses on Park Town Terrace (no longer in ours, which are starling-proof). They use a lot of dead flower stalks from our large laburnum, which are like wires 6 in. long; also dead stalks with pods from *Robinia* in the Jungle. A **wood-pigeon** has a nest in the pine tree, and I have seen **house sparrows** collect fallen down feathers for their nests!

{reverse side}

19 APRIL 1961

19 APRIL 1961. ABINGTON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Went out with Rob on a fine morning, 5.45-6.45 a.m. GMT. The pools south of the lane are dry; and may be on the way towards reclamation? No birds there. Elsewhere on the large pools were a few **swans** (a large herd feeding also on the riverside grass at Abingdon), two

{reverse side}

19 APRIL 1961

30 APRIL

19 APRIL 1961. ABINGTON SEWAGE FARM.

mallard, two (♂ ♀) **shoveler**, a dozen or so **coot**, a few **moorhens** (mainly A-T), and a few starlings. At the muddy edges, 2 **herons** (and 2 flying), 1 **redshank** heard and seen, and 1 **reeve** = ♀ ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). Identification of latter based on silent flight and no broad white "redshank" wing, short beak, red legs, colour of upper plumage, absence of any black breast, etc. On low A-T vegetation was ♂ **sedge warbler**, also flying up to pollarded willows which had new sprouts "like reeds"; ♂ **reed bunting**. A pair of **partridges** in field vegetation, and 1 **pheasant**. **Cuckoo** on dead tree. **Snipe** watched swooping and wheeling fairly high over a field.

30 APRIL. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

With Rob; and Ray and Brian Gherlardi, 6.30-7.45 a.m. GMT. Fine and warm, but misty in distance. One pair of mute swans has an island nest and owns the whole lake. Some **coot** and **moorhen**, and two drake **mallard**. Several **herons** flying over. No waders. In the marginal low sallow and willow, and not yet growing **Typha** we saw and heard **sedge warblers** at 2 places, and in *Phragmites* etc. one **reed warbler**. No wagtails. One or two **reed buntings**. Another **sedge warbler** singing and lurking on top of the lane hedge. Two **cuckoos**, apparently ♂ and ♀ flew over the south field, one calling. In the sheltered hedged waste at the northwest, 4 **bullfinches**, 2 **linnets** and 2 **goldfinches**, and in <4 ft. vegetation and scrub at south-east corner 2 **hedge sparrows**.

{reverse side}

14 MAY 1961

14 MAY 1961. NORTH-WEST OXON.

Robert drove me a 70 mile round that took in Great Tew, Compton Wynyates, and Wychwood Forest.

Although most foliage is now dense and oaks mostly in leaf, the **ashes** are still bare to half in leaf, a fact which stands out in this ashy country.

The hedge parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) is in full bloom and in great roadside belts, **hawthorn** flowers almost over.

We lunched in a pasture field near Wigginton and a small brook that is an upper tributary of the River Swere. It was ungrazed and grown to nearly a foot with dense buttercups (*R. repens*) in flower, in the grass, and also *Cardamine pratensis* in flower and fruit. Dampish clay in ridge and furrow. 1531 A B

In Wychwood Forest we walked from the north gate to Cyder Well, and *via* Newhill Ponds to Newhill Plain and back up “Evenden Valley”. **Cuckoos** and **nightingales** were singing, the latter in thick scrub of woodland edge. On a keeper’s gibbet were jays, magpie, grey squirrel, weasel, stoat. Great preparations for pheasant pens on the north-west corner of the grassy Newhill Lane, not far from where the great beech avenue debouches. Cyder Well was running very full and fast. The open stretch of spring just below has *Apium* and water mint coming back a bit.

Big sheets of garlic (*Allium ursinum*) in flower among *Mercurialis* under dense canopy near the North Gate – detectable some way off by smell.

{ reverse side }

8 JUNE 1961

8 JUNE 1961 WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went out 12.20-3 p.m. G.M.T., with Max Nicholson, J.F.D. Fraser (Conservation Officer, England), J.D. Ovington, and Miss J. Laptain. Still rather dry everywhere as little rain in last month, but one or two heavy showers later. Walked from Five Ash Bottom to Wort's Well and through woods to Newhill Ponds, up to Cyder Well and back through the woods.

All the young **bracken** c. 2 ft. high has been killed by frosts in the valley bottoms, and occasionally up the sides, also young 6-8 ft. **ashes** with leaves killed (in open edge).

Bullfinch in broad scrub edge.

One large *Helix pomatia* with shell pecked open by some large bird, bits of fresh flesh left.

One **hare** in heart of Churchill Copse.

Managed to put across the beauty as well as the ecological character to these Conservancy people.

Elder just going over flowering.

{ reverse side }

11 JUNE 1961

14 JUNE

11 JUNE 1961 CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT, No. 1, OXON.

Out with Rob on a cold morning, 6-7.15 a.m. G.M.T. There was a cool wind keeping many small birds under cover, which turned to heavy rain as we left.

Three **herons** rose from one shallow among the willow bars, and there was a fourth elsewhere. One pair of **swans**, one or two of **mallard**, **coot** (including a grown young looking almost like a grebe, with white cheeks and neck and a brown crown), **moorhen**. Sound of **red-shanks** (and in distant fields, **curlew**). Many **reed buntings** both on the edge of the water and in the gravel flat shelf. No yellow wagtails. **Sedge warblers** singing hard in sedge-reed-scrub cover. On a telegraph wire over our heads a willow warbler sang. **Swifts** and **sand martins**.

14 JUNE. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went out very early, 5-8.15 a.m. GMT, on a very fine cloudless day with heavy dew on the open and ride grass. With H.N. Southern, K. Paviour-Smith, and Lim Boo Liat (from Malaya, great expert on reptile and mammal life of their forests).

On the way via Wilcote we saw a little owl and a turtle dove, and then and later on the lanes north side of the Forest, young and old **hares** and one **rabbit** plus one dead rabbit on road.

{reverse side}

14 JUNE 1961

14 JUNE 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Entering by Five Ash Bottom we struck up at once through the woods towards Newhill Ponds. Looked at the open grass area in Churchill Copse and found several fine **song-thrush** anvils with broken *Cepaea nemoralis* shells in the open grass, one being where a square yard of turf had been removed and stands exposed, the others by odd stones in the grass. Two plants of blue *Aquilegia* in flower among the grass, which has a little **rock-rose** and *Lotus corniculatus*, but is not a rich calcareous grass community like Newhill slopes. A good many hawthorn bushes, and some incipient invasion by small ones.

Moorhens and a young **mallard** at Newhill Ponds. No dragonflies or stone-flies seen.

Walked up *via* the grass slopes to Cyder Well, noting *Lotus* and *Hippocrepis*, *Linum catharticum*, *Poterium*, rock-rose, *Koeleria gracilis* and *Briza media* in flower, and *Brachypodium pinnatum* just in flower bud. Here young (<6 ft.) **Turkey oaks** on lower slopes had, like the bracken, been blasted by frost.

Walked across the road back to Five Ash Bottom, noting several instances of fresh **sycamore** bark-stripping by **grey squirrels** (strips strewn on ground).

{ reverse side }

14 JUNE 1961

16 JUNE

17 JUNE

14 JUNE 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Also much past damage causing distortion or even a partial “pollarding” of trees still mostly alive. There are some quite large **Turkey oaks** inside Churchill Copse.

We saw no (fallow) **deer**, though many tracks, and no squirrels. **Garden warbler** and **blackcap** were singing in the edge of Five Ash Bottom (near the Reserve sign).

In Slatepits Copse, just west of the main cross-ride (about below “p” of the name on 6 in. map) we discovered a spring seepage not previously known to us. It has evidently been dug out a bit in the far past (? for the deer), starts c. 40 yd north of the ride, and tapers out about 50 yd south of it, all under dense shade. At present there is no visible spring or flow of stream, and only a wide expanse of very wet mud and very shallow puddles, with many Diptera in attendance. Ecologically, this is an important place for wet mud-living forms. Lost

16 JUNE. OXFORD.

A fresh ermine or muslin moth () on the outside of lit window, ground floor.

17 JUNE. BERNWOOD FOREST ETC.

Went out in the morning, a rather dull sky and some wind, with the annual “black hairstreak team” – Marcus Goddard, and D.C. Ungley (Warden-Naturalist, Nature Conservancy), Peter Martin and a friend of his, John Woodward.

Holly Wood, Oxon. We were horrified to find the scrub on the west side of the lane by the

{reverse side}

17 JUNE 1961

17 JUNE 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST etc.***

Holly Wood *** west margin being cut down, and then burned and roots machined out. The garrulous old man doing the cutting said the farmer was going to cut and lay his hedge also next winter. 2/3 of the job had been done, and except for a few young oaks the West side of the lane there is just flat bare earth.



Thus there will no longer be protection for the **black hairstreaks** that live on the woodland edge blackthorn unless

- a) The hedge grows high again
 - b) The inner blackthorn is allowed to recover. But (i) most has been removed except on extreme edge of ditch here and there
- (ii) ditch maintenance may cause same thing again.

The woodland edge is still a nice unharmed mixture of oak, ash, blackthorn, hazel, dogwood, rose, willow, hawthorn etc.

{ reverse side }

17 JUNE 1961

1533. *C. taraxacifolia* Thuill Mark Robinson det. 1979.

14 JUNE 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST ***

Waterperry Wood, Oxon. Some hand hormone-spraying has killed a number of birch etc. on part of it and these look ugly, though the effect is not much different from selective felling. Ungley says the glades are all right. Some spruce was planted on one bit of non-glade, by mistake, but some of these went wrong by hormone drip off the higher trees!

Hell Coppice, Bucks. A very large number of **spruces** up to 8 yr. old were killed by May frost this year – said to be up to 25%, which one can well believe from the appearance of the plantation. This whole area is in a great frost basin.

York's Wood, Bucks. Visited Blackthorn Site No. 10, which seems quite healthy. But No. 12 has suffered badly from aerial hormone spray last year. Although the low-cut blackthorn escaped as it was covered to protect it, some of the older, and all the birch and hazel in the rest of this small patch are dead or half dead. The whole wood around here looks awful.

We saw no butterflies so far. The others went on to do the other sites.

On the mega-verge of the road below Stanton St. John I collected some *Crepis taraxacifolia* in flower.

1533

{reverse side}

18 JUNE 1961

19 JUNE

18 JUNE 1961. OXFORD.

The single-flowered **wild cherry** in The Jungle is enormously infested with a black leaf aphid that is shrivelling leaf growth and depositing much honey-dew on vegetation beneath. A good many lady-bird larvae at work. This evening we saw two young house sparrows and two young green-finches busy feeding among the leaves, stopping now and then to wipe their beaks on the twigs. (By 10 July apparently more or less clear of pest).

19 JUNE. OXFORD.

A **goldcrest** foraging in the pine canopy over the garden, noon GMT, at about 25-30 ft.

{reverse side}

7 JULY 1961

10 JULY

Small angle-shades (*Euplexia lucipara* (L.))

11 JULY

7 JULY 1961. OXFORD.

Large yellow underwing (*Triphaena pronuba* (L.)) in the house at night. n.k.

10 JULY. OXFORD.

Medium sized noctuid moth with dark purple band on buff, in-house at night. 1544

11 JULY. OXFORD.

In morning watched a young **song-thrush** of this year winkling out a *Helix aspersa* from The Jungle. It held the snail in its beak and beat it on the stone-paved path, but seemed unable to hit hard enough to smash the shell, though it eventually pulled the snail out bit by bit.

{reverse side}

17 JULY 1961

18 JULY

17 JULY 1961. OXFORD.

Went out to the Dragon School and the River Cherwell at dusk c. 8.30-8.55 p.m. G.M.T., and saw a great deal of life. The field is deserted because of the boys being indoors, and there is no one on the river out of term at this hour. It was quite overcast but not cold.

Rob saw a **water-vole**, and we also saw two **moor-hens** in the river swamp edge. Four **mallard** came down onto the cricket pitch. A **tawny owl** flew to a hawthorn tree standing out in the field, and then up into a big willow. A **noctule bat** was flying over the top of and around tall elms. etc. at the field edge with Chadlington Road, perhaps at 60 to 70 ft. Two **pipistrelles** by buildings at field edge, at about 10-20 ft. We saw a large object moving in the River that looked like a water-vole's nose and whiskers, but which proved to be a largish moth in the water. It "swam" vigorously with its wings in a fairly straight line over 10 ft. towards the edge where we picked it out, and it flew away a short distance onto the grass!! It was probably a silver-Y (*Plusia gamma*).

18 JULY. OXFORD.

Rob found a mealworm beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*) flown in at night. I saw one also about 2 weeks ago. We used to get them in the flat, 98 Banbury Road.

{reverse side}

31 JULY 1961

31 JULY 1961. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Rob, with Martin Fell, went by themselves here, 5.45-6.45 a.m. G.M.T. The farthest huge pool is now empty and partly prompted up with cabbages. A **green sandpiper flying** about. 5 **common snipe** got up. 3 **herons** flying about. **Sedge warbler** and **pied wagtails**. Many **lapwings** on A-T. A group of 15 **moorhens** (adults and young)

{reverse side}

6 AUGUST 1961

6 AUGUST 1961. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

With Rob, 5.30-7.45 a.m. G.M.T. Cool, but sunny part of the time. The place seemed teeming with birds, especially **wagtails** on the exposed sludge: all **three species**, in various plumages – the **pied**, the **grey** and a few **yellow**. **Sedge warblers** in the docks etc. in A-T, also house-sparrows, chaffinches, and one young **reed warbler**. Out on the sludge flats were also **starlings**, a young **blackbird**, **pheasants**, **moorhens**, and **lapwings**. Also some eclipse-plumage **black-headed gulls**. We saw two greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*), and Rob saw 3 **common sandpipers** on the sludge. The greenshanks had a “redshank” note but different in emphasis, were largish, when standing had light head and neck, greyish, while flying looked long and pointed, darkish grey above with white rump to far forward on back, and white below. Could not see leg colour. Four **herons** and 3 **teal** got up. In hedges: wren, house sparrows, and 3 greenfinches. 2 **kestrels**.

{ reverse side }

6 AUGUST 1961

6 AUGUST 1961. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM ***

Collected some penny cress (*Thlaspi arvense*) with flowers and green fruits, from the grassy cart track of the farm at the edge of the sewage area.

1548

{reverse side}

13 AUGUST 1961

21 AUGUST

6 AUGUST 1961. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Rob went here alone very early morning, 4.40-4.45 a.m. G.M.T. Fine. He saw on the central big pool which had a good deal more exposed sludge than usual: 4 **ruffs** (♂), 2 **greenshanks**, 2 **green sandpipers**, 2 **common sandpipers**, about 20 **snipe** (walking in the water). 5 **red-legged partridges** on the newly empty and planted far big pool. **Sedge warblers**, and **pie** and **grey wagtails**. One **kestrel**.

21 AUGUST. ditto.

Rob and I went out at 5.25-6.30 a.m. G.M.T., some heavy showers, but in a finer interval we saw a **green sandpiper** fly up, and on extensive mud sludge of the central pool a dozen or more **snipe**, a **ruff** or reeve (*Philomachus pugnax*), a few **lapwings**, and **some black-headed gulls**, and several **moorhens**. Two **teal** on the water. During a gleam of sun we had exceptionally good views of snipe feeding, also of the ruff

{reverse side}

21 AUGUST 1961

6 AUGUST 1961. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM ***

tripping along gracefully and its pink neck showing clearly. In A-T vegetation of ponds we saw a young **yellow wagtail**, and on mud flats some **pie**d **wagtails**. Two **kestrels**. The odd **wood-pigeon** and some **starlings** visiting mud. One **heron** flying.

{reverse side}

18 SEPTEMBER 1961

18 SEPTEMBER 1961. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

With Rob, 5.45-6.45 a.m. G.M.T., rather misty. Everything very quiet and uneventful. Several **snipe**, many **moorhens** on exposed sludge, 2 **herons** and one young **yellow wagtail** and some **reed buntings**. Bigger ponds rather full.

{reverse side}

24 SEPTEMBER 1961

24 SEPTEMBER 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

Rob and I visited this at 7.-7.45 a.m. G.M.T. A fine day. The lake is very low indeed, with large stretches of exposed mud and gravel, on which a few **snipe** were standing, and **moorhens**. Most of the islands now have willow of scrub height. Two or three **kingfishers** were on one, sitting in the scrub or on the ground, but not seen to feed, although the thickly weedy water has small fish rising. One **swan**. One **green sandpiper** flying; a few **swallows** still. **Reed buntings** in the scrub edge and A-T vegetation. Four **herons** rose. On Marlborough Pool were anglers, **swan** and cygnet, one **great-crested grebe** and a few **coot**.

{reverse side}

1 OCTOBER. 1961

1 OCTOBER 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

Rob and I were here soon after sunrise, c. 6-7 a.m. G.M.T. It was fine and the sun came through silky clouds gradually. Lake still extremely dry with extensive bottom exposed round the willow-scrub islands. There is almost a complete land connection across the north-west corner, and about 6 we saw a **fox** move stealthily over and disappear in the island willows. Many old and young **moorhens**,

{ reverse side }

1 OCTOBER. 1961

1 OCTOBER 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1 ***

1 **swan**, 5 **teal**, one or two **snipe**, half-a-dozen **herons**. Also three small waders of sand-piper size, white below, greyish above, not named. A lot of **wagtails**, some certainly **pied**, flying over and a few on mud-flats. 5 "town" **pigeons** of diverse colour settled on the mud, and a good many **lapwings**. Also a **kestrel** rose from there (? from a kill) and another hovering over the main gravel dry shelf.

On Marlborough Pool a **swan** and a **great-crested grebe**.

Rob drove me to Howe Wood in the late afternoon. No beech leaf-fall yet. Few toadstools on the rather open thinned wood, and much spread of T/2 (woodruff, wood-sorrel) and T/3 (raspberry, bramble, young burdock, etc. etc.) going on. This was almost bare litter a few years ago (when Fager and I visited, I think).

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 17.

29 October 1961-11 April 1963.

C.E. 1559-1590.

Red ticks³³ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles³⁴ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

³³ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

³⁴ Edited to A or 00

29 OCTOBER 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Walked down to Cyder Well, up the Cyder Well Valley to junction with Lankridge Copse and back by the upper path through the wood, where there is a large grove of Norway maples. Little leaf-fall yet in this incredibly late autumn.

In the patch of oak near the head of

{ reverse side }

29 OCTOBER 1961

29 OCTOBER 1961. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON****

Evenden Valley, was a dead small oak bole c. 20 ft. high, with a scatter all the way up of a small old brown bracket fungus. Here quite under oak shaded and shelter. Some of the fungus tops green with *Pleurococcus*. Det. as *Polystictus versicolor* by K. Paviour-Smith who probably worked the same tree before (see C.E. 10 March 1961). 1559

The keepers' gibbets are widespread in this valley and disgusting: grey squirrels, weasels, brown rats, jays, magpies etc. Pheasants abundant in this part of the Forest. Many fallow deer tracks: one deer seen by Rob.

{ reverse side }

11 NOVEMBER 1961

11 NOVEMBER 1961. CORNBURY PARK & WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Max Nicholson and I visited the owner Mr. Oliver Watney. We drove through the Park, which has hundreds of magnificent oaks, sycamores, beeches etc. well spaced and with fallow deer on the grass. A great lime avenue runs at an angle to an even greater beech one. We walked round Newhill Plain and by the upper three ponds. Max Nicholson saw a **goshawk** (*Accipiter gentilis*) flying over with wood pigeons, but I missed seeing this.

Mr. Watney told me the following things:

- (1) Newhill (a corruption of New Well) Plain is being used only for hay, which is of poor quality, and there is no intention of ploughing and re-seeding for pasture, as it is not fenced for the cattle. (At present there is quite a rich mixture of limestone meadow plant species).
- (2) Ragwort has become a pest in the Park since the war-time army occupation disturbed the ground. He fears it may poison stock or indirectly through hay. (We pointed out that the most effective control of ragwort is by plant competition, and abundance may imply overgrazing).
- (3) Upper Newhill Pond South is warmer than U.N.P. North (the water-lily one), as it may remain open when the other freezes. (This could be because the stream from Worts Well runs a long way and partly in open woodland "edge", while that from Cyder Well runs a

{ reverse side }

11 NOVEMBER 1961.

11 NOVEMBER 1961. CORNBURY PARK etc. ***

shorter distance and mostly in dense tree shade. On the other hand there is a cold spring entering the South Pond from near the old quarry, and this is cold enough to contain *Planaria alpina*.)

- (4) He, like me, noticed that the south pond is ecologically very poor, perhaps from different chemical composition. He has no chemical analyses of these waters.
- (5) The springs are running unusually low at present, but he does not remember that they ever dried up.
- (6) He agreed in principle (a) to control scrub and Turkey oaks on Newhill Plain slopes, or allow Nature Conservancy to organise it (b) to abolish keepers' gibbets (c) to consider keeping broad-leaved forest on the non-reserve slope of Five Ash Bottom (d) that there is unity of purpose about keeping the Forest "as it is", though this implies some encouragement of selective natural regeneration ± planting (not conifers or exotics) – he wants oak, not ash particularly.
- (7) Gave some bag records of **grey squirrels** (whole estate), c. 3260 since May 1961! This after a poking out campaign in spring. (I did not mention probability of a good many surviving in old park tree holes; but told him evidence from M.A.F.F. research on wide movements of this species and reinvasions.)

{reverse side}

11 NOVEMBER 1961.

12 NOVEMBER

18 NOVEMBER

11 NOVEMBER 1961. CORNBURY PARK etc.

- (8) **Rabbits** still fairly low in numbers, with deaths from myxo going on. **Hares** have increased.
- (9) **Kingfisher** not infrequent at Newhill Upper Ponds.

On the Newhill slopes there is still much tussock and **yellow-ant**-mounded grass, though Turkey oaks and hawthorn scrub menaces most of it. A **green woodpecker** flew up from it.

12 NOVEMBER. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No., 1, OXON.

Rob went there by himself, 7.20-8 a.m. GMT. The lake has a bit more water now. He saw at least a dozen **teal** (more than we have seen previously). On Marlborough Pool two pairs of **tufted duck**, also a new record. On an adjacent pasture field a flock of **redwings**.

18 NOVEMBER. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

During a drive round these parts, we saw 34 **tufted duck** ♂ ♀ on the big gravel pit lake between Hardwick and Stanton Harcourt, which has active working now at one end; and on the very large gravel pit Lake close to Stanton Harcourt some **mute swans** and over 100 **coot**.

This is an extremely slow and late autumn and much foliage remains on many trees, especially on **oak** and **elm**, also on **blackthorn** scrub.

{ reverse side }

19 NOVEMBER 1961.

19 NOVEMBER 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No., 1, OXON.

Went out with Rob early, 7.30-8.50 a.m. G.M.T. The weather was warm for this date, dead calm but cloudy. The lake and islands and marshes were brilliant with yellow-tawny willow scrub autumn tints, and very full and active with birds; also much more full of water than on 1 October, though no means deep yet. One fish jumped. But anglers never come here (only to the deep Marlborough Pool next door, where today we saw a **great crested grebe**, three ♀ or immature **tufted duck**, and 5 **black-headed gulls** which also flew over No. 1).

The water birds were **moorhens**, two **swan** families (♂♀, 2 young still piebald and making practice flights; 1 adult, 1 young), more than 12 **teal**, 1 ♀ **pintail**, ♂♀ **mallard**.

On the gravel-mud margins 1 **heron**, **snipe** (several seen flying, not *in situ*), large flock of **lapwings**, 1 **piebald wagtail**, several **robins** (also in and under willow scrub islands), a few **starlings**.

On willow scrub (mostly <10 ft., much <6 ft.) were a willow or marsh tit, **blue tits**, **hedge sparrow**, **reed bunting**, 5 **long-tailed tits**, etc. On the dry up meadow area and waste T/2 and T/3 near the works, bullfinches, linnets, house sparrows.

We found tracks of almost certainly a **fox** across the islands and shallows where we actually saw a fox before.

{ reverse side }

10 DECEMBER 1961.

10 DECEMBER 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No., 1, OXON.

With Rob, 7.45-8.30 a.m. G.M.T., cloudy, mild, spots of rain. There had been recent heavy rains and the lake is much fuller than last time, when it was already improving. On the Evenlode below the mill were ♂♀ and 1 young **swan**, while one old one was patrolling the gravel pit. A few **moorhens**, **common snipe**, **lapwings**, 3 **mallard**, several **black-headed gulls**. One **heron**. Small birds in the willow or other scrub of edge or islands included 2 **bullfinches**, 2 **long-tail tits**, a **blue tit**, a ? **marsh tit**, **robin**. Two **carrion crows** flying about among the islands, which are also visited by **starling**, **song thrush** and **blackbird**. **Wren** on T/3 edge of lake.

On Marlborough Pool only 2 **coot**.

{reverse side}

24 DECEMBER 1961.26 DECEMBER

10 DECEMBER 1961. OXFORD.

Hard frost today, with bright sun. The hoar frost encrustations disappeared about the 21st. In the garden, coming to food, were house sparrows, starlings, robin, blue tit, hedge sparrow, blackbird ♂ (able to fight off one starling but not a commando of 3-9). Hanging round the pond, where we broke thick ice today, was a ♀ bullfinch, and ♂♀ chaffinch.

26 DECEMBER . CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No., 1, OXON.

Rob and I went out here at dawn, a fine morning with only gentle wind and a red sunrise over Wytham Hill. But very cold (at home 24 °F and down to 20° during the night), and the clear-felled scars on the north side of the Hill showed clearly with white frost. The lake (also Marlborough Pool) was frozen quite hard – heavy stones bounced. No water-fowl visible at all, as there is no open water. One **snipe** about. A pair of **wrens** active in vegetation near the south-eastern edge, on the Shelf. The mill race was running freely and had frozen into

{reverse side}

24 DECEMBER 1961.28-29 DECEMBER30 DECEMBER-1 JANUARY 19624-5 JANUARY.

26 DECEMBER 1961. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT ***

wild icy shapes on marginal vegetation. Here the open water down part of the Evenlode had attracted a **moorhen**, three **mallard**. A magpie in elms by the farm house.

28-29 DECEMBER. OXFORD.

The cold has got colder still, and on night of 27/28 Oxford officially registered 16 °F. Our own thermometer hanging on the east side of the house, in some shelter from wall shrub but about 10 ft. up, showed 17°. Today (29th) the temperature is 30° (at 10 a.m.) and it is raining slightly onto an inch or two of snow that fell in the night. But calm.

30 DECEMBER-1 JANUARY 1962. OXFORD.

At the weekend over 6 in. of snow fell, drifting deeper in places, and has stayed frozen – are temperature this evening below 26°F. This is part of an almost national blizzard, cold and chaos. The “*Oxford Mail*” for 28.12.61 noted:

Abingdon Aerodrome early in the day had 11.7 °F., lowest December temperature since records began in 1939.

Swinford Pumping Station (Eynsham), with 30 years records had 9 °F. last night.

Radcliffe Observatory recorded 16° last night = coldest December night ever, since records began in 1881. Also the coldest night since 2.2.56, which was 15.9 °F.

4-5 JANUARY. OXFORD.

Sudden thaw and by the 8th nearly all snow gone and weather milder but stormy.

{ reverse side }

7 JANUARY 196211 JANUARY

7 JANUARY 1962. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

Rob and I were here 8.5-8.50 a.m. G.M.T., soon after dawn. Much ice on the lake still except where the River Glyme has kept a broad open lake above and a little below the bridge. On the water were **mute swans**, **moorhens**, **coot**, hundreds of duck – mostly **mallard** and **tufted**, some **pochard**, several **widgeon** and 3 ♂ **shoveler**. One **heron**. One **snipe**. Two **tree sparrows** on high willows by the marsh edge. Some dead ducks and 2 **swans**, floating or stuck in ice.

11 JANUARY. OXFORD.

A ♂ **bullfinch** was eating Japanese honeysuckle berries, exposed late by the great winter day blowing the plant back off the wall.

{reverse side}

14 JANUARY 1962

14 JANUARY 1962. PORT MEADOW, OXON.

At 8-8.20 a.m. G.M.T. (with Rob) there was a mainly clear sky, a rosy dawn finishing, a very cold west wind, and Port Meadow a huge lake extending far towards Wolvercote (Medley tow-path submerged) but not covering the causeway at Aristotle Lane end, though the water was up to the hedge outside the rubbish dump, where masses of flotsam flood refuse was accumulated in the water. The only water birds were **black-headed gulls**, **mute swans**, and two small flocks of **pochard** far out in the lake (*fide* C. Perrins, who was mist-nesting birds nearby). These floods arose from

{reverse side}

14 JANUARY 1962.4 FEBRUARY10 & 11 FEBRUARY

14 JANUARY 1962. PORT MEADOW***

the melting of snows last week. On our drive to Tring we saw heavy flooding along the river Thame Valley; and Cherwell floods can be seen from the back of our house, opposite the Dragon School field.

4 FEBRUARY. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Rob and I were out here 7.45-8.30 a.m. G.M.T. It was calm and cold. Soon after we got there there was a wonderful red sun-rise with pink and crimson clouds, whose reflection in the still greenish water was almost orange. The lake was rather full again, but had few water birds, perhaps because of several anglers (we have never seen any on this pool before). Two pairs of **teal** flying up and around; several **moorhens**; 2 **swans**; several **snipe** flying up from the islands; cock **reed bunting** and one or two others on willow scrub at edge, along the shelf. Nothing on Marlborough Pool today.

10 & 11 FEBRUARY. OXFORD.

On the 10th a ♀ and 2 ♂ **bullfinches** visited the garden; they searched the far pear tree in a rather desultory way, and came down to the pond to drink. It is mainly since we made the pond in 1959 that bullfinches have visited the garden, though possibly numbers have also been going up in the district. They and **blackbirds** are the chief pond drinkers, and blackbirds also bathe. **House sparrows** drink to a lesser degree.

{reverse side}

25 MARCH 1962.

25 MARCH 1962. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Rob and I visited the Farm, 6.5-6.45 a.m. G.M.T. The sky was clear and air very cold and all the countryside under a heavy night frost (28 °F. at Park Town on our return, and a few degrees less in the night). Some pools and flats were frozen, others warmed by decomposition. The north side of the lane had been ploughed in part but the big lake area in the west, we visited dry and cloud, had sewage pouring into it.

Some **moorhens** were group on the ground, but some were roosting in a large elder. A flock of some 10 **herons** rose up from an open pool, and there were some **swans** about, including one sitting solidly as if for nesting. About six **redshanks**, a few **snipe**, and a flock of **lapwings**. A pair of **mallard** flew over. Small birds on the vegetation near pools included wren and probably a reed bunting; on mud-flats several **chaffinches**, but no wagtails. A pair of larks over dry ploughed sewage area. Several **black-headed gulls** on pool.

The nicest bird to see was a **barn-owl** which was hunting low over the parts nearest the farm buildings, occasionally stooping quite suddenly to the ground. Rob saw it before dusk here about a week ago (also redshanks then). It was hunting in full day-light.

{reverse side}

8 APRIL 1962.

8 APRIL 1962. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

In the morning drove past the big gravel pit pools near here. They were being whipped into quite rough water by a cold west wind. On the smaller one one or two **coot**. On the larger, two pairs of **tufted duck** and two pairs of **pochard**.

The **coltsfoot** is in flower on the banks of Cassington Gravel Pit No. 1.

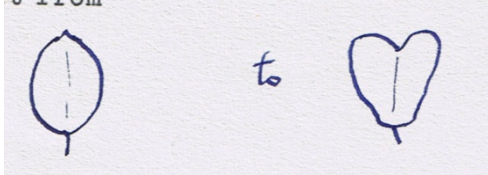
A late cold spring, hedges faintly green in a few places, **common elms** coming into flower.

{reverse side}

25 APRIL 1962.

25 APRIL 1962. OXFORD.

The c. 4 ft. solid **box** hedge along Park Town Jungle, which I clip annually, has in places a fairly high infestation of insect leaf miner which blisters the leaf below and also distorts it from



It is especially abundant on the rather dying bush of considerable size opposite our house, which has been sprouting more poorly than the others for several years and is getting thin below. We noticed this first because **blue tits** in the past few weeks have often spent long periods picking out the insects – several times four blue tits at once, working closely together, and once two **coal tits** as well. I kept some mines to breed out the ? fly, and specimens of the tit-opened ones. 1562

The small pond in our garden has now a dense population of small *Cyclops* including many egg-bearing ♀s, also young *Daphnia pulex* and a few adults, and some *Chaoborus* larvae. Kept sample of Entomostraca. 1563

The *Cyclops* are mainly *C. strenuus* Fischer of which 6 ♂, 6 ♀ kept, det. by C.A. Elbourn 1962.

{ reverse side }

6 MAY 1962.

6 MAY 1962. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No.1, OXON.

Rob and I went out in lashing rain that soon lifted, and stayed an hour, 5-6 a.m. G.M.T. There was a female **shelduck**, a most unusual visitor. A few ♂ **mallard**; ♂♀ **tufted duck**; two **mute swans**; some **coot** and **moorhens**; a **heron**; one or two pairs of **redshanks**, a pair of **lapwings**. **Swifts** and **swallows** over the lake. Some **sedge warblers** in the riparian willow canopy (T/3 and T/4). **Reed buntings**.

Water rather low after long dry spell.

On Marlborough Pool four **great crested grebe**.

{reverse side}

8 JULY, 1962

8 JULY 1962. BAGLEY WOOD, BERKS.

Went out with Rob at 5.30-6.30 a.m. GMT to look for possible crossbills, but saw few birds of any kind. One notices that the mature woods of larch and other conifers, some of which have very tall trees of 50 years or more, not in very thick canopy but with long straight stems, still show a very barren field layer, mainly bracken, growing on the thick needle litter; whereas deciduous plantations are more varied.

{reverse side}

22 JULY, 1962

22 JULY 1962. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Drove, with Lord Hurcomb, to join a party of 16 Nature Conservancy staff and committee members, which assembled by Waterman's Lodge Gate and walked through the Forest out onto Newhill Plain, and thence down to the Lower Newhill Pond, and back *via* Cyder Well and Evenden Valley. Among the party were Max Nicholson, Professor Roy Clapham, Lord Hurcomb, Colonel Ian Grant (of Rothiemurchus) and Professor Pearsall.

Bracket fungi. A fine colony of *Ganoderma applanatum* all up a broken-off large beech bole, 6-10 ft. high, in a glade by the John Evelyn beech avenue north of Newhill Plain.

In woodland edge at the head of Upper Newhill Pond (North), a broken off bole of a large maple, 6-8 ft. high, had many fresh brackets of pale brown *Polyporus* ? *squamosus* with scaly upper surface, all the way up.

Both these are unusual incidents to see in the fungus-scarce Forest.

Fallow deer. One in woods near Waterman's Lodge gate, where **wood-pigeons** are nesting c. 20 ft. up in the dense high hawthorn.

Newhill Plain. The hay crop is very thin this year and not so far mown. Huge patches of last year's yellow rattle "pods" still there. Much *Potentilla reptans* and thin enough vegetation for a good many other low plants. Many scattered *Orchis pyramidalis* in flower.

Slopes of Newhill Plain. The transformation here is complete (for the moment). Italian workmen of the estate have this spring cut

{reverse side}

22 JULY, 1962

22 JULY 1962. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

down and burned all the **Turkey oak** and **hawthorn** thickets and most of the obvious young scattered thorns. These are starting to sprout again in places, and Miss Laptain proposes to get the stumps painted individually with herbicide. The immediate effect is a large area of limestone meadow with scattered large yellow ant-hills; and owing to an accidental fire started by the workmen that was almost only surface burn, and the long drought, the meadow was thin and low. We noticed flowers of squinancy wort (*Asperula cynanchica*), salad burnet, quaking grass, etc. Did not see any *Hippocrepis*.

Lowest Newhill Pond near the Quarry. This is very long and is the largest pond within the nature reserve, its dam marking a boundary line. The dam is broken so that the water level is a foot or two below its high mark (at times it is said to flood over). Most of the pond (roughly lower $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$) is packed with a solid growth of *Potamogeton perfoliatus* (fide R. Clapham), with a little *P. natans*. The *perfoliatus* has many badly damaged leaves (up to complete destruction of tissue) with mines containing fly larvae (? *Cricotopus*).

Cyder Well. Owing to some tragic miscarriage of instructions, the old scrub of hawthorn, elder and maple around the spring has been "clear-felled", with great loss of beauty at this corner, and microclimatic protection of the spring head.

{ reverse side }

22 JULY, 1962

22 JULY 1962. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

Upper Evenden Valley. A large section of this i.e. the valley grass bottom + wooded sides, is temporarily closed off with fox-proof wire-netting, to protect a number of ugly pens and pheasant-huts, where adolescent pheasants are being groomed for later slaughter. I was told this had been done previously.

{reverse side}

30 JULY, 1962

1 AUGUST

2 AUGUST

3 AUGUST

30 JULY 1962. OXFORD.

A **holly blue** flying in the garden. Next day, one also in the Jungle, Park Town.

1 AUGUST, OXFORD.

A huge **toad**, very fresh brown and yellow, on bank by the Pond.

A rather large long-winged noctuid moth in the house, with dark variegated markings on upper and lower wings. 1581

2 AUGUST, OXFORD.

Small "shell" moth in house. Jagged dark band down fore and hind wings. n.k.

3 AUGUST. FAIR MILE, CHOLSEY, BERKS.

Walked along for two miles from the Fair Mile and westwards, with Rob, 11.30 a.m.-2.30 p.m. G.M.T.

As we sat in the car about noon G.M.T. various finches came down to a pool from the scrub hedges on either side of the chalk track at the entrance to Fair Mile. They did not leave entirely when the car was driven within a few yards (as with lions in an African park). We could see all the brilliance of their colours. There was a pair of

{reverse side}

3 AUGUST 1962

19 AUGUST

3 AUGUST 1962. FAIR MILE, CHOLSEY****

bullfinches, a pair of **yellowhammers**, and half a dozen **linnets** (♂, ♀, young) – bathing and drinking. Also a **chaffinch**. This was a rain pool across the lane, in a dip of the track, and evidently the only standing water round here. A family of **kestrels** was hovering near by over the steep grass down, scrub and conifer wood edge.

The wide strip along Fair Mile is only moderately flattened along certain tracks, and there is extensive not very dense *Bromus erectus* meadow (not *Brachypodium*) with various flowers in it. There are some that do not occur or are very rare on the WW limestone grass: kidney vetch, large knapweed, lamb's-tail, *Scabiosa columbaria*, wild carrot. On Lourbury Hill, where there is a triangulation point at ft., dropwort was in flower in a thick sward.

19 AUGUST. BUCKS. & OXON.

I collected the following roadside flowers during a drive round Brill and Otmoor.

In roadside hedge ditch margin near Brill, (Bucks.)

Epilobium hirsutum L.

1583 A

On almost bare ground with scattered T/2 to low T/3 plants, by deciduous woodland roadside edge, Holly Wood (Oxon.), Stanton St. John

A very prickly *Picris* = *P. echioides* L. E.F. Warburg det. 1962
Chenopodium album L. E.F. Warburg det. 1962

B
C

{ reverse side }

5 SEPTEMBER 1962

6 OCTOBER 1962

5 SEPTEMBER 1962. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Rob and I went out here 5.45-7 a.m. G.M.T. on a fine morning after very heavy rains. The lake was extremely low, and we were able to walk about on parts of the bottom and among the willow islands. Both on the islands and much of the south margin willow (*Salix fragilis*) and some sallows (*S. caprea*) are now at scrub height and mask the centre of the lake – good for wildfowl and bad for observers.

A few **common snipe**, a **greenshank** (rose close with clear note), and **green sandpiper**, a possible wood sandpiper (like legs, grey head), a lot of **lapwings**, one or two young **herons** (one capsising high in the air after a gust of wind), **moorhens**. A small flock of **teal**. Young **yellow wagtails** on A-T mud. **Reed warblers** fossicking in willow at all heights in the centre. At the northwest dry bank corner, a ♂ **bullfinch** with 1 young one (black tail, white rump, but front end indecipherable e.g. like young linnet) eating seeds on a **sow-thistle** on T/2/T/3 ground.

6 OCTOBER 1962. OXFORD.

While cutting the summer's growth of matted grass from around the further pear tree I came on a huge **toad** (as large as you ever see) esconced in a shallow earth excavation between tussocks, its back level with the surface. I moved it to a new hibernation place in loose earth by the garden wall under yellow jasmine, and piled pine needles on it. This is evidently one survivor of the two seen last year, attracted by the pond, though they have not bred in it.

{reverse side}

7 OCTOBER 196217 OCTOBER

7 OCTOBER 1962. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Rob and I went out soon after dawn, 6.15-7 a.m. G.M.T., on a calm, rather misty warm day. There was extremely little land or water bird life to be seen or heard, this season rather falling between the autumn and winter visitors. A few **moorhens**, several that flying, one **snipe**, 2 **mute swans**, a **lapwing** or two; and in the willows a **reed-bunting**, a **robin**, etc. On the hedge bank above the rubbish tip north-west corner, was apparently a **fox** earth. It was opposite here that we once saw a fox visiting the islands. Two anglers fishing (and weed-grapnelling) at the south-west side: a few small fish rising. Water very shallow, though islands no longer joined: is it possible that the dense thickets of T/3 and T/4 willow transpire away a lot of water?

17 OCTOBER. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Went out in mist which cleared by mid-day to warm, calm, cloudless sun. With me Professor Francis C. Evans, and C.A. Elbourn. Entered by Five Ash Bottom about 10 a.m. G.M.T. and returned about 2 p.m. G.M.T.

A **hare** ran over the open patch near the Reserve sign. (Formerly the grass slope here was alive with rabbits, now none to be seen, and grass much thickened). Struck across to the hazel coppice by Slatepits/Churchill Copses. Leaf fall begun, but mainly *Rhytisma*-spotted **sycamore**, with some **ash** and **hawthorn**. **Oaks** in leaf, some seen at ride edge north of this has many acorns. **Ash**, heavy key crop. **Maple** turning colour, not very vivid. **Beech** turning, also **hazel**, still in leaf. **Spindle** leaves red or fallen fruit closed still. **Dog's mercury** in full leaf.

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17 OCTOBER 1962

1587. Rough sorting by slicing the cheesy brown wood and breaking it up produced the following animals. Residue kept in emergence tin. "C.E. & C.A. Elbourn collected"

<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	n.k.
<i>Oniscus asellus</i>	n.k.
2 <i>Lithobius variegatus</i> (1 large, 1 small)	
1 large <i>L. ? forficatus</i> - no variegation while alive	
small iulids	
small bright brown geophilids	
small beetle larvae	
1 large <i>Melanotus</i> larva	
1 other elaterid larva (kept alive): dried 4.11.62	
1 small grey slug.	
1 <i>Baptolinus affinis</i> (Paykull) "emerged" 10.11.62	n.k.
Many collembola (left in tin). See below	
3 large <i>Ceratoplatus testaceus</i> Dalman larva in transparent tube (1 tube 1½ in. long) (kept alive with other 2 from field).	
An Ichneumon <i>Myriarthridea ?lineator</i> (Schioedte) J.F. Perkins det. 1966 emerged from a pupa derived from these <i>Ceratoplatus</i> larvae.	

After several months in the lab. and no more "emerged", the wood debris was extracted by C.A.E. in the Bowl Extractor and produced quite a crop of animals that had remained or developed inside the tin:

9 adult <i>Oniscus asellus</i>	n.k.
1 bright brown geophilid	n.k.
1 <i>Lithobius</i>	n.k.
1 Iulid	n.k.
1 small Tipulid larva	n.k.
Many Collembola 16 <i>Podura minor</i> (Lubbock). Mostly adult	n.k.
small beetle larvae	n.k.
small earthworms, various ages,	n.k.
mites	n.k.

17 OCTOBER 1962. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

In Churchill Copse, broke up parts of a very old fallen large hawthorn, situated among ash, maple and hawthorn wood + *Mercurialis* – not very dense canopy. Wood mostly dark brown (“red rot”) and soft enough to kick apart, much old gallery, with *Melanotus* larvae here and there. Saw a *Porcellio scaber*, iulids, *Goniodiscus rotundatus*, earthworms, many Collembola.

Also two greyish larvae of *Ceroplatus ? testaceus*, with waves of movement in the body. Kept alive. Brought back a large cheesy lump. 1587

The ride between Slatepits and Lankridge Copses has been widened several yards on the south side, by mowing bracken, exposing quite a lot of *Colchicum* in flower (opposite the edge of Lankridge conifers on the north).

Cyder Well running fast, but Pond below very shrunken, only half full with exposed mud. The South Pond also a bit reduced. The bare cut area round Cyder Well has no recovery of vegetation yet. *Hellebore* patch safe. Walked along the top of Newhill grass slope, which has some new growth on cut turkey oak stumps, otherwise looks clear of scrub and plenty of grass etc. On one large *Lasius flavus* mound a dense crowd of flies (*Polietes lardarius*) crowding on fresh **rabbit** dung. At 11.45 p.m. {sic = a.m.} G.M.T. I collected a ♂ ♀ of this species flying in copulation in sun and settling on *Brachypodium pinnatum* at c. 10 in. This grass is having a few late flowers, which may be unusual. 1588

{reverse side}

17 OCTOBER 1962

♀ *V. germanica* (Fab.)

Clavaria cinerea Pers. (det. Hora, 1962)

17 OCTOBER 1962. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

Then walked across Newhill Plain to the end of the great beech avenue, where a **brimstone butterfly** was flying at field layer height. There is scrub just outside. The Plain does not seem to have been mown this year, as there are 18 in. rose stems, and large patches of dead herb flower stems e.g. *Hypericum perforatum*.

Walked to the end of the big pond on the lower limit of the Reserve, on which were 2 mallard on middle pond and a moorhen on lower. Very dense weed growth of *Potamogeton natans* and *perfoliatus*; *Typha latifolia* in flower at upper end.

From here along the boundary ride by Patch Hill. The boundaries of the Reserve are not all easy to know, and we walked by mistake into the exploited woodland of Five Oak Copse. Near here was a large fallen beech (2-3 year fallen?) with bark cracking and loosening, in an oak-ash-beech-etc. glade. Under one bit F.C.E. found three hibernating ♀ *Vespula*, of which one collected (it "came alive" quickly but was sluggish). 1589

In a dampish grass ride in this mixed deciduous the wood C.A.E. found a colony of a greyish-lilac fungus c. 4-5 in. high, growing like a branching coral.

Five Oak Copse has been heavily thinned but otherwise is left natural, and will be quite pleasant.

From here to Hawksnest Copse (in the Nature Reserve). Noticed seedlings of **common maple**, also of **Norway maple** which is frequent in this area. Everywhere in the whole forest one sees very small **ashes** waiting to grow, but seldom over 1 ft.

{reverse side}

17 OCTOBER 1962

17 OCTOBER 1962. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.***

Here we met two Nature Conservancy men making a nylon-net fence to exclude deer from a large clear plot in which some planting will be done. This is the fourth to be set up. The men were Murray and Keir, from Ovington's unit at Monks Wood.

Down to Withy Bottom, where F.C.E. caught an *Aphodius* flying in the warm damp air c. 6 ft., at 1.50 p.m. G.M.T. This is rather a long way from anything but possibly rabbit and deer dung. 1590

{reverse side}

9 DECEMBER 1963

9 DECEMBER 1963. BLENHEIM PARK, OXON.

With Rob, walked round the lake in the afternoon in a cold wind. After a week of fog and intense crystallised hoar frost the weather opened up again with gales from the south. Today it was north-north-west.

Large numbers of **coot** and **duck**, a few **dabchicks**, 1 young **great crested grebe**, a few **moorhens** and swans. Six kinds of duck: mostly **mallard** and **tufted**, rest **teal**, **shoveler**, **pochard** and **widgeon**.

16 DECEMBER. STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

Went out soon after dawn with Rob, at c. 8 a.m. G.M.T. visited the gravel pits here. The weather was bitterly cold. **Coot** and several **tufted duck** on ones near the village, further on a small flock of **pochard** and the sand-martin pit.

{ reverse side }

5 JANUARY 1963.

5 JANUARY 1963. OXFORD etc.

From just before Christmas to now there has been one of the worst blizzards of cold and then heavy light snow (i.e. deep but very light) since 1881. It lay a foot or more deep in Oxford and the persistent east winds drifted it deeper. At one time most roads out of the area were blocked, and many isolated villages cut off.

In the garden large numbers of **starlings** than usual visited for food, as well as house sparrows and one or two song thrushes, blackbirds, hedge sparrow, chaffinches, a wren. On fat hung up in a cage for tits, were blue, great and coal tits, also a regular greenfinch. When a lid was put on to keep off the starlings, the greenfinch quickly learned to cling to the side.

Chris Perrins reports **blue** and **great tits** numerous in Wytham, feeding on **beech** mast on the ground.

Bruce Campbell had a **collared dove** at Hordley for a bit, just before the blizzard. He says it haunts Domestic habitats.

{ reverse side }

5 JANUARY 1963.

The OXFORD TIMES, FRIDAY, January 25.

Since the week-end between 20 and 25 degrees of frost have been recorded each night at the Radcliffe Meteorological Station.

On Tuesday the temperature dropped to 6 degrees Fahrenheit, while at Wolvercote 1 degree Fahrenheit was recorded – 31 degrees of frost; and colder than the worst night of 1947.

FREEZING BELOW GROUND

Readings taken at West Oxfordshire Technical College, Witney, showed that the temperature two feet below the ground on Wednesday was 32 degrees F. – freezing point. On Tuesday the lowest air minimum at Witney was 5 degrees F.

Banbury too had its coldest night for more than 30 years on Tuesday, when 30 degrees of frost were recorded at the corporation water works.

18 FEBRUARY

5 JANUARY 1963. OXFORD ***

Saw a **tree-sparrow** on a pear-tree in the garden. Although we only have the Dragon School and its field between us and the pollard willows of the Cherwell fields where this species might be expected, this is the first we have seen. Dr. Potter reported a little time ago having them visit his garden at the north end of this Terrace.

18 FEBRUARY. OXFORD.

There has been continual cold and snows ever since Christmas – one of the worst winters of modern times in Britain. The snow is slowly evaporating, or in a few days of thaw, trickling away. Soil has been deep frozen generally, but M. Smyth recently found small rodents breeding freely under the snow in Marley Wood, where remains of a very large acorn fall still persist. There has been extensive destruction of bird life in the country, though a hard core of birds continues to visit our garden for food: starlings, house sparrows, chaffinches, hedge sparrows, robin, songthrush, blackbird. On coconuts, blue tits. Wren seen yesterday. Garden pond frozen solid.

{ reverse side }

11 MARCH 1963.

11 MARCH 1963. OXFORD.

The complete thaw, with temperatures over 50° F. and sometimes up to 60°, and several days with sun or rain, began a week ago, about the 5th. Now all frozen snow and ice has gone except in a few sheltered spots, as under some woods, against walls etc. We drove in the Cotswold yesterday, where all was clear, though most residual drifts of boundaries were in the Chadlington-Charlbury region. But few birds were seen in the field. Rooks nesting.

{ reverse side }

11 APRIL 1963.

11 APRIL 1963. OXFORD.

The green lizard, which appeared for a day or two last summer, was again seen today in the garden. Seen again on 23rd.

OXFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(EXCLUDING WYTHAM AREA)

GENERAL FIELD NOTES BY C.S. ELTON.

Book 18.

29 June 1963-

C.E. 1647-

Red ticks³⁵ mean ready to be indexed. Crossed red ticks mean indexed.

Circles³⁶ round the code-numbers for specimens mean they have been named, or were named as far as practicable.

Where not otherwise annotated, all species determinations are by C.E. in the year the specimen was collected.

Unless otherwise mentioned, "Oxford" means 61 Park Town.

"n.k." = specimen not kept

'Rob' is my son Robert.

³⁵ Shown as **bold** in edited version.

³⁶ Edited to A or 00

29 JUNE 1963. BERNWOOD FOREST, BUCKS.

In heavy rain, with vegetation dripping, went out to see the blackthorn reserves, with Marcus Goddard, D.C. Ungley (the Nature Conservancy Warden-Naturalist), P. Martin, C.A. Elbourn. C.A.E. and I stayed only for the morning round 9.30-12.30 a.m. G.M.T.

We were mainly on and in the edges of Shabbington, York and Oakley Woods. Saw Reserves 10, 12, 2, 3, 9, 13. The woods are a shocking sight after hormone-killing of the trees. Gaunt dead trunks by the thousand, a moss carpet below with large new *Holcus* tussocks scattered, and 1-2 ft. spruces. No butterflies: rain stopped play.

{reverse side}

29 JUNE 1963.

29 JUNE 1963. BERNWOOD FOREST***

At the edge of a deep meadow on wet Oxford Clay outside Shabbington Wood there was abundance of meadow barley (*Hordeum secalinum*).

{ reverse side }

26 JULY 1963.

26 JULY 1963. ENSLOW, OXON.

Enslow limestone quarry at midday. It is apparently finished, there is already a small amount of rubbish tipping, but the main walls are exposed in shelves, and on the top is one of the most charming limestone flowery meadows I have ever seen. The grasses are *Arrhenatherum* and *Bromus erectus*, and flowers include much tall field scabious, greater knapweed, *Pastinaca*, ragwort, plus some lucerne and other species. On less tall dense parts or on rather bare shelves were stemless thistles, eyebright, *Erigeron acris*, mouse-ear hawkweed, etc.; with *Melilotus officinalis* and *M. alba*, which I collected. 1647 A, B

{reverse side}

26 JULY 1963.

26 JULY 1963. ENSLOW****

Butterflies in the tall meadow were **marbled whites**, meadow browns, large skipper, a large white and several small whites, and tortoiseshells. A burnet moth.

On two sides were large fields of barley, at the edge of which was a rich weed flora, with much scarlet pimpernel (I did not see the blue species, once found by me here). 1647 D
I collected fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) (in flower and green fruit) with its odd hanging bracts below the umbel; dwarf spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*) and a heartsease, (*Viola arvensis* Mur) – E.F. Warburg det. 1964. C E

{reverse side}

17 AUGUST 1963.

A dead branch lichen sample (B) named by Miss Ursula K. Duncan as *Parmelia physodes* (L.) Ach. = *Hypogymnia physodes* (L.) Wats. Occurs throughout Britain on every kind of substratum – bark, rock, soil. Specimen det. was n.k. D. Kempson tested with our Geiger counter on 28 August and was unable to detect any emission above the normal background.

(rotten hawthorn)
nothing emerged in 7 weeks!
Demobilised.

17 AUGUST 1963. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Visited the Five Ash Bottom – Cyder Well – Ponds – Worts Well area, 11.45 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. G.M.T., with Rob, in order to get some lichen-covered **hawthorn** branches. 1652

The latter were obtained from three spots some way apart, on the ash-oak-maple-hawthorn wood edge, one from dead wood on a live tree, the others from dead wood on fallen dead trees. A B (= x2)

Branches less than 1½ in. diameter, with grey foliose lichens and some interspersed smooth crusts. There do not seem to be obvious large areas of alga even on the young trees. No psocids flew or were beaten off any trees. Does this lichen collect radio-active fall-out??

The day was not very hot, but damp after rains and flies (*Hydrotaea irritans* presumed) very bad.

I also collected part of a crumbling red + white rotted old fallen hawthorn trunk lying in *Mercurialis* and the canopy of ash-maple-haw.

The rides in Five Ash Bottom etc. are dense with *Pastinaca* on whose flowers are very few insect; also *Hypericum perforatum* in flower. The T/2 centre grass track in Five Ash Bottom has dense

{ reverse side }

17 AUGUST 1963.

17 AUGUST 1963. WYCHWOOD FOREST***

flowering red *Bartsia*.

The grass slopes below Newhill Plain are in excellent state, and the new growth on turkey oak stumps has just been cut. Round the cut-bare ground round Cyder Well, some elder is recovering.

{reverse side}

22 SEPTEMBER 1963.

23 SEPTEMBER

22 SEPTEMBER 1963 OXFORD.

Kept 5 large mosquito larvae and 1 smaller lighter-coloured one, from my garden concrete, shaded, pond, which is rather full of decomposing duckweed etc. though still with a dense *Daphnia pulex* population.

1661

By 28-30 September 5 large ones emerged as

2 ♂ 3 ♀ *Theobaldia annulata*
Pupal skins kept in alcohol.

In the latter half of this month an immense increase in *Vorticella*, coating root-hairs of frogbit etc. – visible as grey fluff to naked eye.

23 SEPTEMBER. WYCHWOOD FOREST, OXON.

Walked, with R.S. Miller and C.H.S. Watts, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., from the north entrance to Newhill Plain and beech avenue, down to Newhill Ponds, including the one at the bottom of the Reserve, back up Withy Bottom and through Churchill Copse to Cyder Well and by the pheasantry to the road. It was completely still, not a leaf moving all day, countryside rather misty, the woods hardly turning colour yet. Some very sparse fall of **ash** and **sycamore** leaves. Noticed some enormous sycamore leaves, and other evidence of the wet growing season for vegetation.

A huge colony of a fawn *Polyporus* on the surface roots of a large live beech by the north entrance: some individual clumps of foot wide. Later we found a small tuft of a different *Polyporus* on the base of a live oak on the bank of the lowest Pond.

Ganoderma on one beech at avenue end (near reserve boundary).

Grey squirrels, young and old, seen frequently. **Pheasants** very common in north section. **Mole runs** frequent in woods and grass rides. 4 **rabbits** seen.

{ reverse side }

23 SEPTEMBER 1963.

* C.H.S.W. collected

23 SEPTEMBER 1963 WYCHWOOD FOREST***

Many **fallow deer** paths through the woodland dog's mercury, and fresh tracks, but no dung seen. A keeper (who has only been here for 6 months) recently saw a much smaller deer, with two short horns and face rather steep angle, which could only have been a **muntjac**.

The Newhill Plain grass slope has developed a nice grass-herb state, the young hawthorn and coppicing Turkey oaks having been slashed again this summer.

We saw no live *Helix pomatia* (ground damp but sunny day), no recent shells, and only two old ones.

A flock of titmice in the oak-ash-birch-maple-hawthorn – long-tailed, blue, great.

Upper Newhill Pond (North). Now full as usual. One *Ilybius fuliginosus*. ` 1658 C
Watts collected water beetles here and there. A very young **crayfish** c. ¾ in. long among weeds – turns red and opaque in alcohol. Water mites, ostracods, no daphnids, *Limnaea pereger*, etc.

Upper Newhill Pond (South). *Chara*-covered with glaucous mud as usual.

Connecting shaded stream from these to Lower Hill Pond (R.S.M. & C.E.): many *Ancylastrum fluviatile* and *Hydrobia jenkinsi* (labelled not carded), also *Planaria alpina*. Limpets on edge of flat stones, *Hydrobia* under them. 1658 A, B

{ reverse side }

23 SEPTEMBER 1963.

23 SEPTEMBER 1963 WYCHWOOD FOREST***

Moorhen on wooded island in Lower Newhill Pond. We walked down to the big Lowest Pond on the Reserve, which is full of *Potamogeton natans* and *perfoliatus*. The former had some caterpillars (*Nymphula* probably) under the leaves in a flat shelter made from a cut piece of leaf. Among the weed were young *Asellus*, young and adult *Limnaea stagnalis*, *L. pereger*, *Planorbis complanatus*, a half-grown crayfish, and on bottom some *Sphaerium corneum*.

On a grassy-brackeney bank near the pool R.S.M. saw a grown **grass-snake**, and a frog. Several dragonflies cruising at A-T and over the water, a *Sympetrum* with red body – two flying in copulation. Large dragonfly nymph in weeds.

On this bank a black nitidulid beetle frequent on some *Cirsium arvense* flowers, at 2½ -3 ft. (2 kept). 1659

Cyder Well is completely exposed, but the *Planarian alpina* very abundant, both light and black specimens. Also *Helodes* larvae abundant.

We looked at some rotting hawthorn logs on the Mercurialis-covered forest floor in Churchill Copse (between Withy Bottom and Cyder Well). The woods are the usual high hawthorn-maple with oak and ash and local sycamore. At one patch youngish sycamores > 30 ft. high had replaced dying and dead hawthorn. Everywhere young **ashes** abundant <1 ft., waiting among the *Mercurialis*

{ reverse side }

23 SEPTEMBER 1963.

23 SEPTEMBER 1963 WYCHWOOD FOREST***

for a break in canopy to allow growth. But most of the plants of low or high field layer height have been badly browsed by deer: this seems general.

In red-rotted cheesy wood of hawthorn logs mostly less than 1-1½ ft. diameter and with their close bark mostly still on (some mossy) we found the following, collected by me unless mentioned: 1660

1 <i>Scaphinius quadrimaculatum</i> Olivier	C.H.S.W. collected	A n.k. B
<i>Oniscus asellus</i> c.		
1 ♂ <i>Sinodendron cylindricum</i> (L.)	Very fresh.	
<i>Melanotus rufipes</i> larvae (large and small)	C.H.S.W. collected.	
<i>Goniodiscus rotundatus</i>		n.k.
<i>Marpessa laminata</i>	C.H.S.W. collected.	
<i>Oxychilus alliaris</i>		
Hibernating: 1 ♀ <i>Vespula rufa</i> (L.)	(sluggish) R.S.M. collected	D
1 <i>Loricera pilicornis</i> (Fab.)	(active) C.H.S.W. collected.	C
1 <i>Carabus violaceus</i> (L.)	(sluggish) R.S.M. collected.	n.k.


None of the animals were abundant and the general impression left was of a rather sterile habitat though as there is a tremendous lot of fallen hawthorn, the fauna will form a respectable quote. Although the logs often have a surface covering of white fungal growth on the protracted under sides, one sees little microscopic sign of fungus in the red-rotted wood, and never any macro-fungi on the logs, only occasional small toadstools or finger-like fungi on very old moss-coated ones.

{ reverse side }

23 SEPTEMBER 1963.

29 SEPTEMBER 1963. HOWE WOOD, OXON.

Middle of the day here, with Rob and Rick Miller. It had been wet, but was now warm and fine. The beeches have hardly turned colour yet some (a few) leaves are down. This pine beech wood, with a minor mixture of ash, and a few yews and tall whitebeams, was thinned several years ago, so that what was bare litter over chalk-with-flints now has much ground cover, including woodruff, wood splurge, rosebay and other willow-herbs, sparse low bramble, etc. The wet summer has produced an abundant crop of smaller toadstools on the ground, and large colonies of *Hypholomma* on old large stumps (bigger trees than are there now), with some

Polystictus, much moss, and in latter a tiny  fungus an inch high seen on mossy logs also in Wychwood – white with black tips.

A fallen small beech, very rotted, had left a shattered stump that was in the white-rotted state, rather fibrous, that one usually sees in oak logs. It had evidently stood some time as a dead bole. In the stump R.M. found great numbers of *Melanotus rufipes* larvae of various sizes up to adult, and two fresh adults, by one of which the pupal skin was found. This species is usually in red-rotted wood. The only other insect was one *Baptolinus affinis* adult.

Much yellow corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) in flower in arable field between Stadhampton and Chalgrove.

{ reverse side }

7 OCTOBER 1963.

7 OCTOBER 1963 BAGLEY WOOD, BERKS.

Rob took me out at 2 p.m. G.M.T. to look for some **crossbills** that he and two friends saw here yesterday. We went to a grove of very tall larches in Cow Hall Bottom, and after a few minutes a flock flew in. We were able to watch about 12 preening (not feeding) at the very top of a c. 70 ft. larch, in clear light. Females with several brilliant males with red breasts and rumps. There were several more about. Their chirping note could be heard. This wood, in which we did the "Bagley mouse work" in 1925-28, was then a larch monoculture with close canopy, planted about the end of the last century, and having a bare litter floor, and (I think) patches of moss only. It now has a deep springy litter plus a patchy field layer of bramble and a few other plants, and many 1-2 ft. seedlings of some conifer (? larch), as well as scattered small sweet chestnut, and rhododendron. Some large ferns. No conspicuous fungi. The canopy is not at all dense, and the trees immensely thin and telegraph-poll-like.

{ reverse side }

20 OCTOBER 1963.27 OCTOBER5 NOVEMBER

* det. K. Paviour-Smith

20 OCTOBER 1963 ISLIP, OXON.

With Rob, stopped here during a drive, to see two **collared doves** (*Streptopelia decaocto*), which have spent the summer here and probably bred. We had a close view of one flying over the road. Mostly they seem to perch rather high on trees or on house tops. The habitat here is village orchard, garden of large house, trees, close to River Ray. This is a S.E. European invader now colonising domestic habitats.

OXFORD.

A ♀ **blackbird** is steadily consuming berries of *Cotoneaster frigida* in The Jungle. This surprised me as usually berries on this shrub last the winter and are not raided early.

27 OCTOBER. LONGWORTH/HINTON WALDRIST, BERKS.

In this area, there are large amounts of **corn marigold** (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) in flower in root-crop and other arable fields – rather sandy soils. One field has much poppy as well. The leaves are still on the **elms**, few yellow yet, also on **oaks**. **Beeches** and willows falling. Hedges green with **maple** yellow and **dogwood** purple.

5 NOVEMBER. HOWE WOOD, OXON.

Rick Miller and I went here in the afternoon, c. 3 p.m. G.M.T., but very heavy rain reduced visit to about 15 minutes. The ground toadstools had gone, though in this very open autumn there has as yet been no frost. Beech trees mostly bare, but some have part of canopy in autumn colour. R.S.M. collected some late-rotted *Polystictus versicolor* from an old beech stump, which contained an adult *Octotemnus glabriculus* and a number of white fly larvae (kept to breed out). We examined a 10-12 ft. 1662

{ reverse side }

5 NOVEMBER 1963.

All 1663 are to be labelled “.R.S. Miller collected” and are det. C.E. unless otherwise stated.

5 NOVEMBER 1963. HOWE WOOD, OXON.****

very old dead beech bole standing in a thin gap in the pure beech wood canopy, on chalk. The part facing prevailing winds was damper than the hard barkless zone on the south-east side, the latter full of old *Ptilinus* holes.

The centre of the rain-facing side was exposed and consisted of rather dry wood below the surface. The original outer wood, which had ancient bark fragments in places, was very hard and could not be cut. Inside the friable core were unusually large numbers of Phorid flies, *Megaselia* of several species, large and small. We brought home bags of this material from 2-6 ft., which on first sorting produce the following animals, the residue being kept for emergence. It was noticeable that material still containing *Megaselia* produced practically none in the emergence tube after several days i.e. they shun the light. 1663

<i>Megaselia</i> species	A
1 <i>Sciara</i>	B
1 adult <i>Oniscus asellus</i>	n.k.
2 small <i>Lithobius</i>	C
1 young spider	n.k.
A few collembola and mites	n.k.
1 very young <i>Melanotus rufipes</i> larva	n.k.
1 small ? elaterid larva	D
7 hibernating (beech-leaf mining) weevils <i>Rhynchaenus fagi</i>	n.k.
1 <i>Baptolinus affinis</i>	n.k.
1 very small staphylinid	E

{reverse side}

5 NOVEMBER 1963.

5 NOVEMBER 1963. HOWE WOOD, OXON.****

Beech bole core rotten wood kept for emergence:

1663

(demobilised end December).

{reverse side}

7 FEBRUARY 1964

7 FEBRUARY 1964. ISLIP, OXON.

Saw two collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) sitting on a television roof-top aerial in the same area we saw them in October last.

{reverse side}

12 & 13 MARCH 1964

12 & 13 MARCH 1964. PIXEY MEAD, WOLVERCOTE, OXON.

Visited this huge grass pasture (at present in a dry T/2 state) which is now out by the Wytham 2-lane bypass, with D.A. Kempson, for him to photograph **mole-hills**, which is made easy by the elevation of the road embankment above the Mead. At this time there are great

{ reverse side }

12 & 13 MARCH 1964

12 & 13 MARCH 1964. PIXEY MEAD ***

extents of ordinary **molehills** among which, at what usually look like territorial intervals, stand much larger mounds of brownish earth. Photographed three groups of molehills, A, B, C.

On 13th went out with C.A. Elbourn and dug up the three mounds, which are at the centre of these areas. They have a lot of loose friable soil but in the central shallow dome are large lumps of clay aggregated – much larger than a mole could shift. The ditch nearby has intense iron bacteria staining, and possible the iron salts precipitate the clay in lumps. The mounds were c. 2-3 ft. across and around the foot high.

A. Measured mound of soil very roughly, using a 10 litre tin; the mound = <95 L. One dry grass nest central just projecting above ground level, another wet one below, based on clay surface at 9 in. No young.

B. <110 L. One dry grass nest all above surface, central, a damp one below, clay at 6 in. No young.

C. < 95 L. One grass nest projecting just above surface, dry. No second nest. No young.

The long spell of dry weather, broken recently by little rain, has allowed the molehills to accumulate without being washed down. A neighbouring field with cattle (there were none here) had already had its molehills scattered and trampled a good deal.

{reverse side}

13 MARCH 1964

13 MARCH 1964. PIXEY MEAD ***

Saw and heard a **redshank** (probably 2) in distance by Thames side of Pixey Mead towards King's Weir.

26 MARCH. PORT MEADOW, OXFORD.

Went down with Rob about 9 a.m. G.M.T. to look for wildfowl he had seen earlier this morning. Big floods covering perhaps 20-100 acres. From Aristotle Lane side we saw in the distance

3-4 **Bewick's swans**
a score of **mute swans** + cygnets
2 **shelduck**
1 ♂ **shoveler**
some **black-headed gulls**

10 APRIL. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1, OXON.

Went out with Rob, 6.30-7.30 a.m. (G.M.T.) on a sunny calm day. Only a few passerine birds were about, including a **swallow** and a pair of **linnets**, also a dozen or more warblers – probably including willow, but they were exploring restlessly often near the ground or in low willow, and silently. I saw (close to) a water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) flew up from the thick *Typha* and willow and over to a small willow scrub island in the lake. There were a **mute swan** pair nesting, two **coot** displaying before a third, **moorhens**, several teal, one or two **mallard** pairs, a **snipe** flying but no herons.

{reverse side}

10 APRIL 1964

10 APRIL 1964. CASSINGTON GRAVEL PIT No. 1***

The gravel shelf on the east side, which is nowadays dense coarse meadow in summer had been completely burned over, leaving not even a T/2 cover except where surviving tussocks of *Holcus* were sprouting green, or patches of turf near the edge had escaped. The whole area (5-10 acres?) was completely criss-crossed with exposed surface runways of voles (*Microtus*), of which one only was seen running to a patch of cover. Also remains of a burned **hedgehog**. It must have been a complete peak before the cover went this winter.

{reverse side}

9 MAY 1964

9 MAY 1964. COMBE HALT, OXON.

I spent an hour 12.30-1.30 p.m. G.M.T. in the car by the bridge over the River Evenlode near Combe Halt i.e. between Long Handborough and Combe. It was sunny with a cold breeze. The huge hay-fields by the river were golden with dense dandelion flowers and a good many cuckoo flowers (*Cardamine pratense*). A few blackbirds and a pair of goldfinches flew down into them occasionally. The chief activity was by the river, which is fairly fast, with a few riffles over shallow rock ledges of the limestone, and in the clear not very deep water were thick dark green waving tresses of crowfoot. One **mute swan** was feeding. The rather steep banks have occasional flat muddy places where cattle can come down, and here a cock chaffinch settled. A pair of **moorhens** seemed to be thinking of nesting near some as yet ungrown bur-reed or the lake. Near here a cock **grey wagtail** in gorgeous yellow and grey was running on the margin and taking dazzling turns of flight to hawk for insects

{reverse side}

9 MAY 1964

9 MAY 1964. COMBE HALT***

over the water, its long tail flicking and fanning. A **water-vole** launched from the tunnelled clay banks and swam downstream. In the pollard willows on the nearside was a pair of **tree sparrows** that also flew down to the grass bank. Across the river a robin was sedentary around a group of old big **pollard willows**. The pollards have all kinds of epiphytes, including ivy, wild rose, nettle, and hawthorn, – one of the haw very large.

Outside this Eden but out of sight and sound men were tidying the earth with machinery, widening roads and covering verges with earth from ditching.

{ reverse side }

23 MAY 1964

23 MAY 1964. HOWE WOOD, OXON.

The thinning of this chalk beech wood several years ago has made a remarkable difference to the flora. Much that was bare litter is now covered by extensive low bramble or societies of **woodruff** (in flower) etc. Saw some large groups of *Arum* in flower – in Wytham they are quickly destroyed by some animal, though the plants are abundant. Three stems of *Neottia* in flower bud on open litter – the only ones seen. A good deal of *Veronica montana* in flower on paths.

{reverse side}

1 JULY 1964

1 JULY 1964. OXFORD.

At night there was much activity by flying insects. It was warm, calm and naturally dark with no moon. In the last two or three years inverted conical electric lamps have been put in the Dragon Lane, which give off a white strong light. Tonight swarms of very small flies etc. and some moths were visiting or flying near the one opposite our garden. No small insects came to

{ reverse side }

1 JULY 1964

Note.

In period 2-18 July: More swallow-tailed moths seen; also a large ranunculus (*Antitype flavicinata*); a small wave-like moth (C.E. 1670 D); and heart and dart

(*Agrostis exclamationis*).

1 JULY 1964. OXFORD****

the weaker yellow electric lamps in Park Town e.g. along the Terrace and by the Jungle. Occasional moths only have fluttered to them. Tonight half a dozen medium or yellow moths were doing so, and I caught 3 swallow-tailed moths (*Ourapteryx sambucaria*) – a pale ghost yellow-white with veins of deeper colour across. They were seen at both types of lamp, flying very fast. Ivy is said to be the main food of larvae, but also eats hawthorn etc. 1 k. 1670

A

Also a white plume moth (*Alucita pentadactyla* (L)). Feeds on *Convolvulus sepium* and a white ermine (*Spilosoma lubricipeda = menthastris*). 1670 B C

A summer chafer (*Amphimallon solstitialis*) had flown into a top room. n.k.

Robins, after destruction of an earlier nest, have young in another a few feet from the first, at 10 in. in thick climbing “vine” on the wall. They seem to find abundant food to ferry to several young, including small green caterpillars from neighbouring gardens. In the last few weeks we have had a good many carpet moths in the house, probably from a starling nest under next door eaves {sic = eaves}. A pair of carrion crows haunts this area, sitting

{reverse side}

1 JULY 1964

{Scrap of paper clipped to quarto sheet}

Note. 19 July. Opposite page 68.

Did you want this note type here, or do you want it put opposite page 70 – i.e. July 19th?

1 JULY 1964. OXFORD***

on chimneys and television aerials and one once seen carrying an object the size of a young passerine. The scarcity of tit-mice this summer as opposed to winter is striking. But some young blue tits are in the Jungle canopy.

{reverse side}

4 JULY 1964

5 JULY

4 JULY 1964. OXFORD.

The young **blue tits** (2-3) in the Jungle in the last few days are concentrating on two **laburnums** that have a heavy infestation of mines in the leaves. These could only be searched for by very small light birds. The bigger laburnum in our garden (the large flowers and long raceme species) is extremely heavily mined this year, exceptionally so but with a striking vertical zonation. The lowest leaves are so heavily mined as to appear almost white (this foliage starts above about 20 ft.), moderately in the mid-zone and hardly at all at the top, which reaches about ft. There are two forms of mine, one a round blotch, the other narrow along the leaf edge.

5 JULY. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Went here with Rob on a quiet Sunday morning 6.15-7.30 a.m. G.M.T.; warm, dry and clear sun. The nearer complex that we formerly visited is now mostly abandoned and dry, except the big pool on the right (west) as one arrives. We walked to a big one further West that I had not previously seen. It had one big pool and one at the moment more A-T mud. On the former were 3 dunlins (having over-wintered ?), on the latter 3 **little ringed plovers** (*Charadrius dubius*) – 2 adults and 1 grown young –, determined by size, slender shape and absence of wing-bar in flight, also probability as it is being an inland breeder in this region.

Others we saw were several **redshank**; and **lapwings**, **coot**, **moorhen**, 2 **herons**, **mallard**, **teal**, 1 ♂ **tufted duck**, **mute swans** (2 on old pool),

{reverse side}

5 JULY 1964

5 JULY 1964. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM***

young **sedge warblers**; **pied wagtails**; **carriion crows**; **blackheaded gull** and 3 **lesser black-backed** flying

Collected what appear to be young teasel on bank of sewage stream – leaves blunt tipped and smooth but for prickles on base of mid-rib. 1671

5 JULY. FAIR MILE, CHOLSEY BERKS.

In the mid-day and afternoon we walked on the old Iron Age or Neolithic track (which was suffering a modern Iron Age from a motor bike rally, but only at intervals). I stayed near the base and looked at chalk flowers in some thin grassland T/3 + T/2 mixture in two fields. The dry summer has kept a very open vegetation. Flowers were wonderful, many usual chalk species, including **kidney vetch**, *Campanula glomerata*, **pyramidal orchids** (darkish ones), a lot of **dropwort**, etc. Flushed a **skylark** from a nest of dry bents in a tussock: it had 3 grey-brown speckly eggs, with one end dark. In the thinnest field (I think recovering after earlier ploughing) were some plants of basil-thyme (*Acinos arvensis*) with vivid purple blue white-marked flowers up the short wiry stems. 1672

{reverse side}

19 JULY 1964

19 JULY 1964. STANTON HARCOURT – WITNEY, OXON.

Went down the small very rural lane and near the Witney end is a deep farm area with dense hedges and many elms, and much grain. Collected *Equisetum arvense* growing in a dense and flowery wide verge between the lane and the railway, with cocksfoot and false-oat, yellow meadow pea, bush vetch, tare, agrimony, lucerne, hogweed, etc.

1672

2 AUGUST 1964. ENSLOW BRIDGE, OXON.

Visited the big derelict limestone quarry, which was flowery meadows and rocks. The odd thing in this dry period is that smaller plants are stunted, but some larger ones like teasels are 5-6 ft. **Fool's parsley** (*Aethusa*) and **least spurge** at the edge of vast barley field (they were here last year).

One **painted lady butterfly**.

{reverse side}

3 AUGUST 1964

15 AUGUST

3 AUGUST 1964. OXFORD.

Several moths had been caught in the garden in the last fortnight:

1 brimstone (<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>)	n.k.
1 large yellow underwing (<i>Triphaena pronuba</i>)	n.k.
3 others	1675 A B C

15 AUGUST. ABINGDON SEWAGE FARM, BERKS.

Went out on dull cool morning, 7.0-7.45 a.m. G.M.T. No unusual birds today – went to the two large surviving pools to the north, one nearly empty, other full with small islets. One young **sedge warbler**, on richly vegetated ditch with enormous bur-reed etc. **Goldfinches** on common thistles in seed. Many **moorhens** with young (grown), a few **coot**, **teal**, a flock of over 50 **mallard** flying off. **Lapwings** and 2 **snipe**.

{ reverse side }

25 OCTOBER 1964

25 OCTOBER 1964. OXFORD.

A **goldfinch** in the garden (an extremely rare occurrence) spent a long time eating the seeds of the large, tall purple Micklemas {sic = Michaelmas} daisies. It was fairly wasteful, throwing out a good deal as it hastily tucked in. Two house sparrows sat on the wall rose close by and watched, occasionally trying the same thing, but unable to balance or stay put, being too heavy.

The autumn colours after this dry summer are really remarkable, as we saw in the drive round Glympton and Wychwood Forest yesterday.

{ reverse side }

29-30 MARCH 1965

29-30 MARCH 1965. OXFORD.

The pine tree (actually in No. 59 next door) has got rather thin in its canopy, but is still a powerful tree, and this year has a very heavy crop of ripe cones that have hardly begun to fall. During recent drenching rains the cones were tight shut. The last 2-3 days have been cloudless and dry, 28-29th being exceptionally hot. This opened the cones, and the noise could be detected by a good ear. On 29-30th two greenfinches were flopping about in the canopy, extracting the seeds from the open cones. Sometimes they hung upside-down like crossbills. On the 30th half-a-dozen house-sparrows were doing the same thing, but being lighter did not have to be so acrobatic. These pine seeds (Scots pine) have a large thin scale, and sometimes a house-sparrow, even a cock chaffinch, would flutter to try and catch one falling through the air.

On 29th I caught a conifer ladybird, **Aphidecta oblitterata**, below the pine, but not seen here before.