

Some Notes on Collecting Lepidoptera at Repton, 1918,

with some records from other parts of the County.

By H. C. HAYWARD.

THE season of 1918 almost rivalled that of 1917 for the abundance of both imagines and larvae, and it must be rarely that two such prolific years follow one another. The most interesting local record among the butterflies was that of a specimen of *Hesperia Sylvanus* in Repton Shrubs. This is only the second specimen of the species that I have seen here in the course of some fifteen years. Other butterflies that were more in evidence than usual were *P. Icarus*, *P. Phlaeas*, *A. Cardamines* *V. Io* and particularly *E. Janira*, which was quite common in meadows in which it is usually decidedly scarce. Amongst the larger moths the capture of two specimens of *S. Lunaria* at Willington is noteworthy: *T. Populeti* was again abundant in its own special haunts, *D. Falcataria* and *M. Albicillata* were unusually common in the woods, *B. Parthenias* was again observed in small numbers in the Shrubs, and *T. Subtusa* at Willington. Larvae of *O. Potatoria* were found in quite unusual abundance, and some fine series were reared: of recent years this species, formerly noted here as common, has been comparatively scarce. In the late autumn the number of larvae of *P. Bucephala* in osierbeds was quite remarkable, many clumps of the plant being almost entirely stripped of their leaves.

My own attention was again chiefly confined to the Tortrices and specimens of other microlepidoptera were taken for the purpose of recording their occurrence as opportunity offered. It was not to be expected that the neighbourhood would yield many more species new to the county list, after the large number that have been added in the last two years. The additions are however six in number. Of the Tortrices a specimen of *Paedisca Rubiginosana* was taken in Repton Shrubs, adding one more to the list of scarce fir-frequenting species which that incomparable wood has produced. Two other Tortrices new to the list are *Dichrorampha Politana*, which was taken in some numbers about a single large clump of yarrow on the railway banks near Willington Station and *Eupoecilia Dubitana*, of which two specimens were taken in the same spot. Barrett records this pretty little species from Staffordshire, but apparently it is very rare in the Midlands. The three other new records for Derbyshire are *Swammerdamia Combinella*, which had probably been overlooked, and two scarce and local species in *Adela Cuprella* and *Oecophora Augustella*. These last have been identified for me by the Rev. J. W. Metcalfe, F.E.S., who has also very kindly verified a number of other identifications amongst the smaller species. Three species not hitherto recorded from Repton are *Plodia Interpunctella*, of which the capture of two specimens is noted in the county list from Derby; *Antithesia Salicella*, recorded by the late Mr. Hill as very rare at Little Eaton and *Ephippiphora Tetragonana* recorded only from the neighbourhood of Burton, of which a few specimens were taken in the Shrubs. The following insects already recorded from Repton had not previously been taken here by me: *Tortrix Palcana*, *Phoxopteryx Lactana*, *Semasia Woeberiana*, *Catoptria Cana*, *Xanthosetia Hamana*, *Incurvaria Muscalella* and *Nemophora Schwarziella*.

A careful search was made in the Shrubs for *Coccyx Ochsenheimeriana*, of which a single specimen was taken there last year, but without result : slightly more success attended my efforts to secure more of *Retinia Posticana*, two pupae, which were reared, being found after much search, and two imagines beaten from the firs. Other good species taken in some numbers were *Dichrorampha Herbosana* and *Conchylis Straminea*. An attempt was made to obtain ova from females of the various forms of *Paedisca Solandriana* and the presumed new species *P. Sinuana* but without success, but all my observations of these insects this year tend strongly to confirm my opinion of their specific distinctness.

Through various members of the Derbyshire Entomological Society I have received a number of records from different parts of the county. Amongst the most interesting of these are *P. Argiolus* and *S. Lunaria* at Chellaston from Mr. J. Douglas, who also records *M. Liturata* Var, *Nigrofulvata* and *P. Interrogationis* from the neighbourhood of Matlock, the latter being taken freely in restricted spots on the moors. Mr. A. E. W. Morse has sent me a carefully compiled list of insects taken and observed at Darley Dale. Pride of place must be given to his observation of a hibernated specimen of *Vanessa Antiopa* on the 21st of March of this year. Records of hibernated specimens of this species are, I believe, exceedingly rare in this country, and it is unfortunate that the insect was seen only and not captured, but an observer of Mr. Morse's experience is not likely to have been mistaken in the case of so conspicuous an insect. From his list I extract the following as being of particular interest : *N. Dahlii*, of which one specimen only had been recorded from Bakewell, *O. Macilenta* and *G. Obscuraria*, both recorded only from Little Eaton, and *S. Clathrata* noted previously only from Chatsworth Park. Other insects not previously recorded except in the more southern

portions of the county are *L. Salicis*, *A. Sphinx*, *H. Dissimilis*, *T. Gracilis*, *H. Tenebrata* and *Z. Tarsipennalis*, whilst among others of some interest for their comparative scarcity with us or other reasons are *N. Tages*, *Z. Pyrina*, *C. Verbasci*, *P. Interrogationis*, *P. Viridaria*, *E. Alchemillata*, *E. Certata* and *C. Silacea*.
