

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES AND RECORDS
FOR 1947.

N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

The weather of 1947 was noteworthy for a very hard and long winter which was followed by an exceptionally fine and warm summer. Although most of the countryside was under deep snow for a prolonged period there was no indication in the summer that any serious effects obtained in entomology as a result. Doubtless the snow gave protection from the keen frosts that followed it, and shortly after the thaw most of the usual insects appeared, and, as far as I can discover, the numbers of such insects were about normal until well on into the summer when some of the less common insects appeared in greater numbers than usual and two uncommon species invaded the county in considerable numbers; these were the Humming Bird Hawk moth and the Clouded Yellow butterfly, and reports of their appearance came from many parts of Derbyshire.

The Common Blue and the Small Copper butterflies, which were unusually scarce in the previous year, appeared in at least their normal numbers, and late in the season the Small Copper was more abundant than I have ever known it. The Wall and the Holly Blue were again fairly common and well distributed around the Derby area.

A new butterfly can now be added to the county records; it is the Large Heath (*C. tiphon*), and I watched a fresh specimen for a considerable time on the moors near the Goyt Valley a short distance from Buxton on the afternoon of July 27th. In the late Mr. Hayward's "Lepidoptera of Derbyshire" *tiphon* is "said to occur on the moors near the Cat and Fiddle, Buxton, but no definite records are forthcoming." The spot where I

observed this butterfly is no more than a mile from the locality mentioned by Mr. Hayward, and the condition was such as to suggest that it had not flown far and must have bred somewhere very near where it was observed.

Dr. J. W. O. Holmes sends me the following data concerning a colony of the Narrow Bordered Five Spot Burnet which is now well established at Langley Mill. The following enumeration of the colony is interesting and shows that the imagines fly for a period a little more than a month whilst the individual imago lives for about ten days.

June 29th imagines beginning to emerge and
20 counted.

July 1st about 250 counted.

„ 4th „ 310 „

„ 8th „ 580 „

„ 12th „ 700 „

„ 22nd „ 200 „

„ 29th none seen.

Mr. T. W. Ford has discovered a flourishing colony of the Speckled Wood (*P. egeria*), at Tatenhill Woods and another at Dunstall Woods, both on the Staffordshire side of the border. I see no reason why this species should be absent from Derbyshire, especially as on two occasions I have recorded single specimens at Allestree and these were not in consecutive years. It is a ready breeder and there are many parts south of Derby which seem ideal for it. Possibly it is established in some such spot and has not been recorded yet. I am very mindful of the recent arrival as a county insect of the Wall which in the last five years has become a common insect over a wide area in the southern part of the county and is now spreading further into the Peak district. I imagine that a similar establishment of the Speckled Wood may yet be recorded.

It is unfortunate that so many people in Derbyshire completely ignore entomology and very few take the trouble to enquire about any strange insect they may find.

During the past year not a single report has come in from the Museum, although in many other parts of the country people seem so ready to take in anything unusual for their local museum to identify, and, as a result, much useful county or area data can be compiled. Observers and reporters on entomology are far too few in Derbyshire and I feel that with a few more assisting we might be able to add some very interesting records to a county list which looks very thin when compared with the surrounding counties.

Mr. Ford says that both the Humming Bird Hawk and the Clouded Yellow have been common in the south-west of the county it having been a wonderful year for both species.

The following records and dates are compiled from notes sent to me by Messrs. A. M. Holmes, C. E. Brown, T. C. Frost, T. W. Ford, D. C. Hulme and Dr. J. W. O. Holmes, and the initials used against the records are those of the above named or myself:—

Clouded Yellow (*C. croceus*). Aug. 7th, Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.) ; Aug. 8th, Bradley (N.B.W.) ; Aug. 27th, Normanton (T.C.F.); Sept. 5th, Brassington (T.C.F.), and common at Littleover (C.E.B.); Aug. 3rd, three at Findern, Aug. 9th, two at Sinfin, Aug. 24th, one at Findern, Repton, Ingleby and Swarkeston, Aug. 30th, one each at Barrow and Sinfin, Aug. 31st, two at Findern, Sept. 6th, one at Littleover, Sept. 29th, one at Barrow (all by D.C.H.); Oct., Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.).

Brimstone (*G. rhamni*). June 1st, one at Littleover (D.C.H.).

Comma (*P. c-album*). Aug. 7th, Littleover (C.E.B.; T.C.F.); Sept. 13th, two at Littleover (C.E.B.); Sept. 18th, Melbourne (T.W.F.); Sept. 25th, Normanton (T.C.F.).

Painted Lady (*V. cardui*). July 20th, 26 larvae taken at Repton and reared by (A.M.H.); Aug. 15th, imago at Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.); Sept. 28th and Oct. 10th, Allestree (N.B.W.); Oct. 26th, Littleover (C.E.B.); plentiful at Langley Mill in early Oct. (J.W.O.H.).

Small Copper (*L. phlaeas*). Aug. 14th, few at Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.); first week of Oct. abundant at Repton and Allestree, including many var. *Cerulea punctata*.

Large Heath (*C. tiphon*). July 27th, Buxton (N.B.W.).

Holly Blue (*C. argiolus*). May 3rd, Langley Mill, and by May 11th common at Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.); June 24th, 2nd brood at Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.).

Peacock (*N. io*). April 12th, Ingleby (D.C.H.); May 31st, Findern (D.C.H.); Aug. 14th, abundant at Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.).

Green Hairstreak (*T. rubi*). Common Dovedale, first fortnight June (T.W.F.).

Brown Argus (*C. astrarche*). Two at Dovedale first week June (T.W.F.).

Pearl Bordered Fritillary (*A. euphrosyne*). June 7th, female at Repton (A.M.H.).

Wall (*P. megæra*). June 7th, Findern (D.C.H.); Aug. 14th, abundant at Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.); Sept. 2nd, Littleover (D.C.H.).

Satellite (*E. transversa*). March 20th, Repton (A.M.H.).

Pale Brindled Beauty (*P. pedaria*). March 21st, Repton (A.M.H.).

Speckled Yellow (*V. maculata*). May 12th, Dovedale (A.M.H.).

Beautiful Yellow Underwing (*A. myrtilli*). May 26th, Matlock Moor (N.B.W.).

Clouded Magpie (*H. sylvata*). June 27th, Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.).

Red Underwing (*C. nupta*). Aug. 15th, Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.).

Humming Bird Hawk Moth (*M. stellatarum*). Oct. 5th, still flying at Allestree (N.B.W.); and at Langley Mill early Oct. (J.W.O.H.).

Bordered Straw (*H. peltigera*). June 12th, Heanor (J.W.O.H.); this is an exceptional rarity in this part of the country.

RECENT BOOKS CONNECTED WITH DERBYSHIRE.

- TAYLOR, HENRIETTE. Bonnie Prince Charlie. Thomas Nelson & Son Ltd., London, 1947.
- KIRKHAM, NELLIE. Derbyshire. Paul Elek, London, 1947.
- FRASER, WILLIAM. Field Names in South Derbyshire. Norman Adlard & Co. Ltd., Ipswich, 1947. (Obtainable from the author at 73, Main Street, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent).

LIST OF MANUSCRIPTS RECENTLY ADDED TO THE DERBYSHIRE COLLECTION IN THE DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

- 6 charters concerning lands in Chelmorton. 1454-1556.
- 1 charter concerning lands in Kings Sterndale. 1498.
- Deed concerning exchange of lands in Over Haddon and Bakewell. 1564.
- Bond by Laurence Stafford of Botham Hall to Edward Buckstone of Chelmorton. 1576.
- Final agreement between Edward Buckstone, plaintiff, and Laurence Stafford and his wife, deforciant, of lands in Chelmorton. 1576.
- Indenture of feoffment between Humphrey Dakyn of Chelmorton and others in Chelmorton and Flagg. 1580.
- Grant by Edward Buxston, senior, of Chelmorton to William his son, of lands in Chelmorton. 1583.
- Grant by Geo. Robinson of Chelmorton, and Elizabeth his wife, to Edward Buxston of lands in Chelmorton. 1584.
- Marriage settlement of Edward Buxston of Chelmorton and Agnes Robinson. 1584.