

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES AND RECORDS
FOR 1949.

N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

An exceptionally mild winter was followed by a wonderful summer with long spells of hot dry weather, and in parts of the county drought seriously affected the food plants of many insects and may cause some of our commoner insects to become somewhat scarce for a year or two.

In the early part of the year, many insects appeared in swarms and gardens suffered accordingly. Later, unusually large numbers of Ladybirds of several varieties put in a welcome appearance and the scorching off of herbage during three months of partial drought conditions helped to restore the balance.

During the year, Large, Small and Green-Veined Whites appeared in fewer than normal numbers, and, judging by my own observations, parasitic attacks on the larvæ have taken greatly increasing toll during the last two or three years.

Several records of considerable importance and interest have occurred and these include the following:—

Silver-Striped Hawk Moth (*C. celerio*). A fine specimen was taken in a garden in Franchise Street, Derby, on October 29th, and shown me by Mr. Camden Clarke to whom it was sent.

Striped Hawk (*D. livornica*). A specimen in fine condition was shown me by Mr. T. Neville who took it on September 4th, at Burton, only a slight distance over the county boundary. Both these insects are exceptionally rare and are of considerable interest if found anywhere in Great Britain.

The Speckled Wood Butterfly (*P. egeria*). A specimen

is recorded by Dr. J. W. O. Holmes from Langley Mill. I think this may quite likely follow the record of the Wall (*megæra*) which in the last few years has firmly established itself over a considerable area of the county. As its favourite haunts are narrow shady lanes or wood rides and borders it may well be established in the county and have been unnoticed in recent years whilst travel difficulties have so limited Entomological excursions.

Grizzled Skipper (*H. malvæ*). I discovered a colony of this insect near Farnah Green (Belper area) on June 7th, and as far I am aware this is a new locality for this insect. It is also recorded by Dr. Holmes as having appeared in numbers at Heanor.

The following notes include some interesting items of distribution and dates, and are referred to under the initials of the contributors, Messrs. H. M. Leach, Camden Clarke, C. E. Brown, A. Wilson, D. C. Hulme, Repton Field Club, Dr. J. W. O. Holmes, and the writer:—

Clouded Yellow (*edusa*). Ten at Stenson Fields, August 6th (A.W.); one taken alive in an engine shed at Darley Dale on May 7th (H.M.L.); flying on Parsons Hill, Repton, September 8th (R.F.C.); several at Youlgreave during the summer and one at Bakewell, October 21st (H.M.L.); one at Littleover, October 24th (C.E.B.); one at Stanton-by-Bridge, September 1st (C.E.B.); one at Stenson Fields, August 28th (D.C.H.).

Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*). Not as common as usual (D.C.H and N.B.W.).

Brimstone (*G. rhamni*). One taken Askew Hill, Repton, July 24th, and another male seen same place September 25th (both R.F.C.).

Painted Lady (*P. cardui*). Frequent in September and October at Repton (R.F.C.); one at Littleover, June 16th, three at Rolleston-on-Dove, June 18th, one at Littleover, September 6th, one at Littleover, October 31st

(all C.E.B.); fourteen between June 18th and September 11th at Marston-on-Dove, Littleover and Findern (D.C.H.).

Red Admiral (*P. atalanta*). Generally plentiful, recorded from Littleover, Normanton, Stenson and Ingleby, fifteen between September 4th and October 19th (D.C.H.); Littleover, September 6th, October 1st, 4th, 8th, 24th and 31st (C.E.B.); Allestree, a number late September and throughout October (N.B.W.); common Repton in September and October (R.F.C.).

Small Tortoiseshell (*V. urticae*). At least normal in numbers and in some places abundant.

Peacock (*V. io*). Ingleby April 24th, Wolfscote Dale May 14th, Ingleby May 22nd, Littleover August 6th and 13th (all D.C.H.); Littleover, April 13th and September 6th (C.E.B.).

Comma (*P. c-album*). Several in garden of Latham House, last record October 10th (R.F.C.); one newly emerged at Repton Shrubs (A.W.).

Speckled Wood (*P. egeria*). Recorded from Langley Mill (J.W.O.H.).

Wall (*P. megæra*). General in Littleover area between May 21st and October 2nd. Records show increase of 15 per cent. over 1948 (D.C.H.). Records from other parts of the county show continued or increasing numbers.

Meadow Brown (*E. ianira*). Between June 18th and August 13th, and abundant early July, 104 on July 2nd and fifty-four on July 9th on six-mile walk, Littleover, Findern and Stenson (D.C.H.).

Small Heath (*C. pamphilus*). Two Nabs Dale, July 26th, and two Stanton Moor, August 21st (D.C.H.).

Dark Green Fritillary (*A. aglaia*). Common in Dove-dale but on Staffordshire side of river, July 16th (A.W.).

Holly Blue (*C. argiolus*). Colony at Youlgreave (H.M.L.); Chaddesden, May 15th (A.W.); one, August

13th, at Findern (D.C.H.); few at Allestree (N.B.W.).

Common Blue (*L. icarus*). Normal appearances from June to September.

Green Hair Streak (*C. rubi*). Twelve at Dovedale, May 14th (D.C.H.).

Small Copper (*C. phlæas*). Not as common as previous year at Findern and Stenson (D.C.H.); ditto Allestree (N.B.W.).

Dingy Skipper (*T. tages*). One male at Stenson, June 5th (D.C.H.).

Grizzled Skipper (*H. malvæ*). Colony at Farnah Green, June 7th (N.B.W.); colony at Heanor (J.W.O.H.).

Small Skipper (*A. thaumas*). Plentiful at Heanor (J.W.O.H.).

Large Skipper (*A. sylvanus*). Six between June 15th and July 12th at Littleover, Findern, Marston-on-Dove and Radbourne (D.C.H.).

MOTHS.

Mother Shipton (*E. mi*). Stenson, June 5th (D.C.H.).

Chimney Sweeper (*O. atrata*). June 11th-July 9th, Littleover (D.C.H.).

Swallow-tailed Moth (*O. sambucaria*). Common at Allestree during season (N.B.W.); one at Repton, October 16th (R.F.C.).

Herald (*S. libatrix*). October, Repton (R.F.C.).

Five-Spot Burnet (*Z. trifolii*). eight, July 2nd, twelve, July 9th (Stenson (D.C.H.)).

Oak Eggar (*L. quercus*). Female at Findern, July 9th (D.C.H.).

Oak Beauty (*A. strataria*). Chevin, March 18th (A.W.).

Beaded Chestnut (*A. lychnidis*). Two, Littleover, September 29th (D.C.H.).

Drinker (*C. potatoria*). Larvæ, Repton, June 4th (R.F.C.).

Red Underwing (*C. nupta*). Repton, September 23rd (R.F.C.).

Humming Bird Hawk Moth (*M. stellatarum*). Little-over, September 21st (C.E.B.).

Silver-Striped Hawk (*C. celerio*). One, Derby, October 21st (C.C.).