

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES AND RECORDS, 1951-52.

By N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

The past two years have brought in few records of outstanding importance, but the appended lists show that a few people have carefully recorded important data in the form of notes of appearances and dates for many butterflies and moths which help to complete distribution lists.

There is a real need for all observers to put on record any information which may add to these lists, and it is notable that for 1952 we have a very long series of dated appearances for a number of insects observed or taken in North-East Derbyshire. Many years ago the late Mr. S. Hooke worked this area very thoroughly, and since his death there has been a long gap not because the area had nothing interesting to record but because no one was available to do the work. The Repton area, once so well served by Mr. Hayward, has been sadly neglected since he left the district and there now appears to be no local interest. This is particularly disappointing as the local woods were heavily cut into during the last war and no doubt the insect life is very much altered, and well established species have disappeared whilst new species have become established in the area.

It is clear from the dated records appended that most of the appearances are recorded from three areas and are the result of three energetic workers only, and the fact that such important areas as Repton Shrubs have been omitted from these lists does not mean that there is nothing of interest to note but that there is no one at present reporting any entomological information in the area.

One of the most unusual insects reported in 1951 is the Silver Washed Fritillary seen at Youlgrave on July 22nd. We have very few county records of this insect and Mr. Leach tells me that it is the first he has seen in the area during his 35 years' residence at Youlgrave.

The Wall Butterfly still appears in many parts of the county, but reports received for 1951 and 1952 suggest that it has appeared generally in less numbers than in the preceding three or four years, and in some places the early brood was not observed at all in either year. At Allestree it was more plentiful in 1951 than in 1952, and in both years the numbers were less than in 1950.

I have received no report of the Speckled Wood (*P. egeria*) in the county, although it has recently been reported in several districts just outside the county and probably may be established in the Repton or Bretby area. I should be interested to have confirmation of this.

Spasmodic appearances of the White Letter Hairstreak (*T. w-album*) are received from the north of the county, including two in 1952 in Lathkill Dale noted by Mr. E. A. Price, who also reports the Dark Green Fritillary *A. aglaia*) from Lathkill Dale, Monsal Dale and Longstone Edge.

The Green Hairstreak is still to be found at Little Eaton although its original haunts there are long since built over. On the northern fringe of the county it has appeared in numbers in the last year or two and probably increased its range as well.

Although few notes have been received about the occurrence of the Holly Blue (*C. argiolus*), I would say from my own observations that this insect is well established in Derbyshire, and in recent years I have found it in many new localities, often in some numbers.

The unprecedented invasion of the Painted Lady (*V. cardui*) in the early months of 1952, when no less than 482 were reported from different parts of England up to mid-March, brought no unusual reports from Derbyshire and, in fact, Mr. D. C. Hulme informs me he saw one specimen only during 1952 at Littleover on September 18th and that in 1951 he did not see a single one. I saw a single specimen on April 24th at Allestree, and Mr. Johnson recorded some 26 in N.E. Derbyshire between May 10th and August 14th.

In the lists which follow, I am indebted to the following gentlemen who are referred to after their record by their initials: Messrs. D. C. Hulme, M. T. Tanton, H. M.

Leach, J. H. Johnson, A. E. Hale, G. H. Cockerill; also Repton School Field Club and several of my own records.

1951.

April 22nd-Oct 24th. Small Tortoiseshell (*V. urticae*) at Littleover and Findern, in fewer numbers than usual (D.C.H.).

April 24th. Small White (*P. rapae*) at Littleover till Sept. 28th (D.C.H.).

May 14th. Large White (*P. brassicae*) at Littleover till Sept. 10th (D.C.H.).

May 24th. Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*) first at Repton this year (R.S.F.C.).

May 24th. Puss Moth (*C. vinula*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

May 25th. Purple Thorn (*S. tetralunaria*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

June 1st. Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

June 2nd. Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*) common at Littleover (D.C.H.).

June 3rd. Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*) common at Findern (D.C.H.).

June 8th. Herald (*S. libatrix*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Swallow Prominent (*P. tremula*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Buff Tip (*P. bucephala*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

June 14th. Wall (*P. megaera*). First emergence at Repton this year (R.S.F.C.).

June 19th. Elephant Hawk (*C. elpenor*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

June 21st. Large Skipper (*A. sylvanus*). First date this year at Repton (R.S.F.C.).

June 30th. Pale Prominent (*P. palpina*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

June-July. Eyed Hawk (*S. ocellatus*) common at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Poplar Hawk (*S. populi*) common at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

June 15th. Poplar Kitten (*C. bifida*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

July 5th. Lime Hawk (*D. tiliae*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

July 26th. Gold Spot (*P. festucae*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

July 30th. Lappet (*G. quercifolia*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Leopard (*Z. pyrina*) at Drakelowe; Buff Arches (*H. derasa*) at Drakelowe; Large Emerald (*G. papilionaria*) at Drakelowe; Pebble Hook Tip (*D. falcataria*) at Drakelowe; Pale Prominent (*P. palpina*) at Drakelowe; Swallow Tail Moth (*O. sambucaria*) at Drakelowe; Silver Y. (*P. gamma*) at Drakelowe; Peach Blossom (*T. batis*) at Drakelowe.

July 13th. Meadow Brown (*E. ianira*) Common at Littleover and Findern (D.C.H.).

July 15th. Large Skipper (*A. sylvanus*), two at Littleover (D.C.H.).

July 20th. Burnished Brass (*P. chrysitis*) at Littleover (D.C.H.); Garden China Mark (*E. sambucalis*) at Littleover (D.C.H.).

July 22nd. Silver Washed Fritillary (*A. paphia*), one female, at Youlgrave (H.M.L.).

Aug. 1st. Lesser Swallow Prominent (*P. dictaeoides*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Swallow Prominent (*P. tremula*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Buff Arches (*H. derasa*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.); Garden Tiger (*A. caia*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

Aug. 2nd. Lappet (*G. quercifolia*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

Aug. 18th. Wall (*P. megaera*), second brood commencing at Littleover and Findern and common till Sept. 29th (D.C.H.).

Sept. 10th. Silver Y. (*P. gamma*), first date at Littleover for season (D.C.H.).

Sept. 11th. 14 Spot Ladybird at Derby (D.C.H.).

Oct. 6th. Red Admiral (*V. atalanta*), at Littleover (D.C.H.).

Oct. 15th. 14 Spot Ladybird at Littleover (D.C.H.).

Nov. 9th. Angle Shades (*P. meticulosa*) at Drakelowe (M.T.T.).

1952.

Feb. 18th. Early Moth (*H. rupicapraria*) appeared at street lamps in North-East Derbyshire, becoming common by the 23rd (J.H.J.).

Feb. 22nd. Spring Usher (*H. leucophaearia*) on tree trunks in Britten Wood (J.H.J.).

March 9th. Yellow Horned (*P. flavicornis*) at street lamps in North-East Derbyshire (J.H.J.).

March. March Moth (*A. aescularia*), The Chestnut (*C. vaccinii*), Shoulder Stripe (*A. badiata*), Early Thorn (*S. bilunaria*) and Mottled Grey (*M. multistrigaria*) were all common everywhere in N.E. Derbyshire on suitable evenings throughout the month (J.H.J.).

April 7th. Small White (*P. rapae*), male, flying at Allestree (N.B.W.).

April 12th. Peacock (*V. io*) at Swarkeston (A.E.H.).

April 13th. Peacock (*V. io*) at Littleover (D.C.H.).

April 14th. Peacock (*V. io*) at N.E. Derbyshire (J.H.J.).

April 18th. Cinnabar (*H. jacobaeae*), one only at Tupton Wood (J.H.J.).

April 18th. Small White (*P. rapae*), common at Littleover from now till Sept. 24th (D.C.H.).

April 19th. Holly Blue (*L. argiolus*), one, at Turn-ditch (A.E.H.).

April 20th. Buff Tip (*P. bucephala*) at Breadsall (G.H.C.).

April 24th. Painted Lady (*V. cardui*), one, at Allestree (N.B.W.).

April 25th. Garden Carpet (*X. fluctuata*), first appearance, continuous till Sept. 7th in N.E. Derbyshire (J.H.J.).

April. The following in N.E. Derbyshire during the month (all J.H.J.): One Twin Spot Quaker (*T. munda*); two Powdered Quakers (*T. gracilis*); number of Clouded Drab (*T. incerta*); number of Hebrew Character (*T. gothica*); number of Common Quaker (*T. stabilis*).

May 4th. 52 male Emperors (*S. pavonia*) assembled to one female in one hour on Darley Moors (J.H.J.).

May 4th-20th. Green Hairstreak (*T. rubi*), common on Darley Moors (J.H.J.).

May 10th to Aug. 14th. Painted Lady (*V. cardui*), 26 specimens in N.E. Derbyshire (J.H.J.).

May 14th-July 6th. Clouded Magpie (*A. sylvata*), common in Tupton Wood, Hardwick Wood and Langwith Wood (J.H.J.).

May 17th. Holly Blue (*L. argiolus*), several at Allestree (N.B.W.).

May 17th. Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*), common at Allestree (N.B.W.).

May 17th. Large White (*P. brassicae*), first seen this season at Littleover area (D.C.H.).

May 18th-June 3rd. Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*), common Littleover and Findern (D.C.H.).

May 18th. Large Skipper (*A. sylvanus*), one only at Littleover (D.C.H.).

May 24th.

Beautiful Yellow Underwing (*A. myrtilli*), common Beeley (J.H.J.).

Common Heath (*E. atomaria*), abundant Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).

Ruby Tiger (*P. fuliginosa*), one only Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).

Broad Barred White (*H. serena*), 8 at Clay Cross (J.H.J.).

Small Yellow Underwing (*P. tenebrata*), colony flying near food plant at Clay Cross (J.H.J.).

Mother Shipton (*E. mi*), five at Clay Cross (J.H.J.).

Silver Y. (*P. gamma*), one only at Clay Cross (J.H.J.).

May 25th. Light Knot Grass (*A. menyanthidis*), six on Darley Moor (J.H.J.); Oak Eggar (*L. quercus*), eight fully fed larvae on Darley Moor (J.H.J.).

May. Poplar Hawk (*S. populi*), three pairs at Heath School (J.H.J.).

The following were common at light during the month: Chinese Character (*C. glaucata*), Buff Ermine (*S. lubricipeda*), Common Pug (*E. vulgata*), Common Swift (*H. lupulinus*), Brimstone Moth (*O. luteolata*), all in N.E. Derbyshire (all J.H.J.).

June 28th. Cinnabar now common in Tupton Wood (J.H.J.).

The following during the month in N.E. Derbyshire (all by J.H.J.):

Common White Wave (*C. pusaria*), abundant at Clay Cross Company's No. 4 Tip.

Square Spot Rustic (*A. xanthographa*), abundant at light.

Bright Line Brown Eye (*D. oleracea*), abundant at light.

Broom (*C. pisi*), abundant at light.

Marbled Beauty (*B. perla*), abundant at light.

Heart and Dart (*A. exclamationis*), abundant at light.

But only one each of the following:—

Buff Tip (*P. bucephala*).

Puss (*D. vinula*).

Small Angle Shades (*E. lucipara*).

Engrailed (*E. bistortata*).

Flame Shoulder (*O. plecta*).

Sharp Angled Peacock (*E. alternata*), common on Darley Moor (J.H.J.).

Five Spot Burnet (*Z. trifolii*), common on Darley Moor (J.H.J.).

July 5th-Oct. 14th. Red Admiral (*V. atalanta*), common N.E. Derbyshire (J.H.J.).

July 8th. Scorched Carpet (*L. adustata*), one in Langwith Wood (J.H.J.).

August 5th. Old Lady (*M. maura*), two at Wingerworth (J.H.J.).

August 15th. A single sugar bait patch laid at Clay Cross attracted Square Spot Rustic (*A. xanthographa*), 75 specimens; Large Yellow Underwing (*T. pronuba*), 27 specimens; Dark Arches (*A. monoglypha*), 13 specimens; Cirrhia Icterita (*ab. flavescens*), one specimen (J.H.J.).

August 21st.

Golden Rod Brindle (*L. solidaginis*), six, Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).

Grey Chi (*P. chi*), 72 specimens of which 40 were *ab. olivaceae* and three *ab. suffusa*, Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).

July Highflyer (*H. furcata*), abundant Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).

- Northern Spinach (*L. populata*), abundant Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).
- Scarce Silver Y. (*P. interragationis*), rare on Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).
- Grey Rustic (*N. castanea*), rare on Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).
- Vapourer (*O. antiqua*), rare on Beeley Moor (J.H.J.).
- Sept. 14th-Oct. 14th. Red Admiral (*V. atalanta*), common at Littleover (D.C.H.).
- Sept. 13th. Small Copper (*C. phlaeas*), two at Findern, one at Stenson (D.C.H.).
- Sept. 18th. Painted Lady (*V. cardui*), one only, Littleover (D.C.H.).
- Oct. 23rd. Series of the following taken at ivy blossom at Ashover (J.H.J.):—
- Beaded Chestnut (*A. lychnidis*).
 - The Brick (*A. circumscripta*).
 - Yellow Line Quaker (*A. macilentata*).
 - Dark Chestnut (*C. ligula*).
 - Chestnut (*C. vaccinii*).
 - Dark Sword Grass (*A. ypsilon*), few at Ashover (J.H.J.).
- Oct. The following are recorded at street lamps in N.E. Derbyshire during the month (all by J.H.J.):—
- Pink Barred Sallow (*X. flavago*).
 - Feathered Thorn (*C. pennaria*).
 - November Moth (*O. dilutata*).
 - Green Brindled Crescent (*M. oxyacanthae*).
- Nov. 9th. Nest of Large White (*P. brassicae*), larvae feeding in exposed position after frost, at Allestree (N.B.W.).
- Nov. 23rd. December Moth (*P. populi*), at street lamps, N.E. Derbyshire, till hard frost set in on this date (J.H.J.); also Mottled Umber as last (*H. defoliaria*) (J.H.J.).