

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES AND RECORDS, 1954.

Compiled by DEREK C. HULME.

1954 was a poor year for students of entomology. There was a marked deficiency in the numbers of Lepidoptera and Odonata. All observers remarked on the few butterflies though Mr. J. H. Johnson reported "moths as usual" at his mercury vapour light trap. The autumn of 1953 produced a plentiful emergence of such species as the Small Tortoiseshell and, following on, the mild winter favoured successful hibernation. Unfortunately the persistent dampness and dullness throughout the summer of 1954 destroyed countless larvae of many species of butterflies, resulting in sparse emergences this autumn. Mr. Camden Clarke has commented on the scarcity of Small Tortoiseshells, the late autumn emergence of the Wall butterfly and the late arrival of Red Admiral immigrants from the continent.

Mr. A. C. Neville suggests that many Odonata nymphs may have been lost in the torrents of water rushing down our streams and rivers (a total of over six inches of rain fell at Derby in the months of May and June). One record which appears to be new to Derbyshire is the occurrence of the Red-eyed Damsel-fly at Sudbury Hall. It was flying quite commonly by the lake in the warm sun of June 5th. *Agrion virgo* is another rather infrequent species, observed at Sudbury on the same day.

The autumn was exceptionally mild though still generally cloudy and wet. My wife collected 38 Large White and a Small White larvae from a single brussels sprout plant on the late date of November 2nd.

Mr. J. F. C. Kent has contributed a number of spider records. As the Derbyshire Entomological Society, following the lead of the Royal Entomological Society, propose to extend their activities to include land Arthropods, I have noted these records and would welcome Arachnida records in subsequent years.

The butterfly list includes *all* species reported from Derbyshire in 1954 whereas the moth records have been selected and include some interesting comparisons with Mr. Johnson's 1953 list.

I am grateful to the following observers for notes and records: Mrs. V. Alford of Borrowash (V.A.), Mr. C. E. Brown of Littleover (C.E.B.), Mr. Camden Clarke of Branston, Mr. T. W. Ford of Tutbury (T.W.F.), Mr. J. H. Johnson of Chesterfield (J.H.J.), Mr. J. F. C. Kent of Matlock (J.F.C.K.), Mrs. M. H. Mills of Matlock (M.H.M.), Mr. A. C. Neville of Horninglow (A.C.N.), Repton School Field Club per Mr. W. A. C. Bullock (R.S.F.C.) and Mr. C. A. Woollacott of Codnor (C.A.W.).

ODONATA.

The following were all recorded at Sudbury on June 5th (A.C.N.):

Demoiselle Agrion (*A. virgo*).

Red-eyed Damsel-fly (*E. naias*).

Common Ischnura (*I. elegans*).

Common Blue Damsel-fly (*E. cyathigerum*).

Large Red Damsel-fly (*P. nymphula*).

Common Coenagrion (*C. puella*).

Brown Aeshna (*A. grandis*). Marston-on-Dove, September 5th (A.C.N.).

LEPIDOPTERA — BUTTERFLIES.

Speckled Wood (*P. aegeria*). No Derbyshire records but recorded from the borders at Tutbury (T.W.F.).

Wall (*P. megara*). Early specimens rare. A few in June at Repton (R.S.F.C.) and one at Littleover on June 27th (D.C.H.). Several at Borrowash between August 28th and September 8th (V.A.). Littleover, September 5th and 18th (D.C.H.). Common at Chesterfield in early October (J.H.J.).

Hedge Brown (*M. tithonus*). Tansley, July 19th (M.H.M.).

Meadow Brown (*M. jurtina*). First seen on July 9th (R.S.F.C.). Plentiful in Borrowash-Ambaston area, July 9th to 13th and on August 28th (V.A.). Numerous at Tansley (M.H.M.).

Small Heath (*C. pamphilus*). Tansley, July 19th (M.H.M.).

Ringlet (*A. hyperanthus*). Tansley, July 19th (M.H.M.).

Red Admiral (*V. atalanta*). Littleover, September 12th, 13th, 20th (2), 21st (2), October 3rd (D.C.H.).

Painted Lady (*V. cardui*). None reported.

Small Tortoiseshell (*A. urticae*). Only twenty seen, never more than two together between March 11th and October 10th (D.C.H.). Repton, April 17th and a few in May (R.S.F.C.). Littleover, April 29th and May 9th (C.E.B.). Scarce at Darley Dale and Matlock (J.F.C.K.). Scarce in April but abundant at Dovedale on May 9th and at Borrowwash on July 21st and last seen on August 28th (V.A.).

Peacock (*N. io*). First seen on April 9th but this species not found again at Littleover until September 18th when one or two were seen infrequently until October 2nd (D.C.H.). Borrowwash, April 10th — not seen again until September 12th at Chatsworth and last observed at Borrowwash on October 28th (V.A.). Littleover, April 29th and May 9th (C.E.B.). One only at Darley Dale, August 31st (J.F.C.K.).

Common Blue (*P. icarus*). Tansley, July 19th (M.H.M.).

Small Copper (*L. phlæas*). Borrowwash (V.A.) and Lumsdale (M.H.M.), June 3rd.

Green Hairstreak (*C. rubi*). Tansley, May 23rd (M.H.M.).

Large White (*P. brassicae*). Castle Donington, April 18th (V.A.). Seen on 14 days between May 29th and October 3rd (D.C.H.).

Small White (*P. rapae*). Repton, April 1st (R.S.F.C.). Flight period — April 10th to October 3rd (D.C.H.).

Green-veined White (*P. napi*). First seen on May 9th at Dovedale (V.A.).

Orange Tip (*A. cardamines*). Dovedale, May 9th (V.A.); Borrowwash, 10th (V.A.); Repton, 11th (R.S.F.C.); Lathkill Dale, 20th (R.S.F.C.); Lumsdale, 30th (J.F.C.K.).

Clouded Yellow (*C. croceus*). "A perfect adult watched at close quarters for a considerable time, by the Trent at Repton", September 6th (R.S.F.C.).

Large Skipper (*O. venata*). A few at Repton in June (R.S.F.C.).

LEPIDOPTERA — MOTHS.

Poplar Hawk (*L. populi*). Repton, June 4th (R.S.F.C.).

Vapourer (*O. antiqua*). Littleover, October 4th (D.C.H.).

Drinker (*P. potato*). Attracted to light, Repton, July 24th (R.S.F.C.).

Pebble Hook-tip (*D. falcataria*). Repton Shrubs, in June (R.S.F.C.).

Muslin (*C. mendica*). Scarcer at Chesterfield. In 1953 ten were obtained but in 1954 only three taken between May 11th and 23rd (J.H.J.).

Grey Dagger (*A. psi*). Decrease at Chesterfield but had a longer flight period. In 1953 forty between June 13th and July 21st; 13 in 1953 between June 3rd and August 16th (J.H.J.).

Coronet (*C. ligustri*). To light, Littleover, July 12th (D.C.H.).

Heart and Dart (*A. exclamatoris*). Considerable reduction at Chesterfield. Only 196 were taken between June 9th and September 8th, 1954, compared with a total of 444 between May 26th and September 6th, 1953 (J.H.J.). Codnor, June 16th (C.A.W.).

Double Square-spot (*A. triangulum*). Lumsdale, September 1st (M.H.M.).

Small Square-spot (*D. rubi*). An increase at Chesterfield. Only 16 specimens in 1953 while 56 were taken between June 5th and September 19th, 1954 (J.H.J.).

Flame (*A. putris*). One at Codnor, June 25th (C.A.W.) and two at Chesterfield, July 10th (J.H.J.).

Lesser Yellow Underwing (*T. comes*). Lumsdale, August 4th (J.F.C.K.).

Large Yellow Underwing (*T. pronuba*). Appeared for the first time on the same date as in 1953 (June 25th) at Chesterfield but much more numerous in 1954 (1,055 against 601) (J.H.J.). First appeared at Codnor on July 9th (C.A.W.); common between July 20th and August 9th at Littleover (D.C.H.); to light, Repton, July 24th and 29th (R.S.F.C.). Last appearance on October 22nd (J.H.J.).

Cabbage Moth (*M. brassicae*). An extraordinary increase at Chesterfield — from 14 in 1953 to 247 in 1954 (J.H.J.).

Dark Brocade (*E. adusta*). Lumsdale, June 25th (M.H.M.).

Merveille du Jour (*G. aprilina*). Several pupae dug up in Tupton Park produced fine moths on September 12th (J.H.J.'s first record of this species). One at Codnor on September 20th (C.A.W.).

Gothic (*P. typica*). Only one was taken in the light trap in 1953 but nine captured between June 25th and September 9th, 1954 (J.H.J.). Codnor, July 10th (C.A.W.).

Hebrew Character (*O. gothica*). More abundant at Chesterfield in 1954 than in 1953. Under the same conditions, 64 were trapped last year compared with 273, between April 8th and June 9th, this year (J.H.J.).

Red-line Quaker (*A. lota*). Lumsdale, October 31st (M.H.M.).

Wormwood Shark (*C. absinthii*). Seven at Chesterfield, between July 14th and August 15th (J.H.J.).

Burnished Brass (*P. chrysitis*). To light, Repton, June 21st (R.S.F.C.); Codnor, July 10th (C.A.W.); Lumsdale, July 12th and numerous the remainder of the month (M.H.M.).

Spectacle (*A. tripartita*). Codnor, July 10th (C.A.W.); Littleover, August 3rd (D.C.H.).

Red Underwing (*C. nupta*). Codnor, October 3rd (C.A.W.).

Garden Carpet (*X. fluctuata*). To light, Repton, May 6th (R.S.F.C.). At Chesterfield 615, many tiny dark specimens, were obtained between May 9th and September 20th (1953's total was 408) (J.H.J.).

Early Thorn (*S. bilunaria*). Only six at Chesterfield in 1954 compared with 30 in 1953 (J.H.J.).

Scalloped Hazel (*G. bidentata*). Codnor, May 8th (C.A.W.); Lumsdale, June 12th (M.H.M.).

Scalloped Oak (*C. elinquaria*). Littleover, August 6th (D.C.H.).

Swallow-tailed (*O. sambucaria*). Codnor, July 10th (C.A.W.); Repton, 11th (R.S.F.C.); Lumsdale, August 25th (M.H.M.).

Early Moth (*T. rupicapraria*). To light, Repton, February 13th (R.S.F.C.).

Peppered (*B. betularia*, ab. *carbonaria*). Increased at Chesterfield, from 51 in 1953 to 121 in 1954, this latter figure including several females. The flight period was also much longer — May 29th to August 13th in 1954 compared with June 7th to July 26th (J.H.J.). At rest on house, Littleover, June 19th (D.C.H.). Lumsdale, July 28th (M.H.M.).

Waved Umber (*H. abruptaria*). Repton, May 11th (R.S.F.C.); Littleover, 15th (D.C.H.).

Pale Oak Beauty (*B. punctinalis*). To light, Littleover, August 3rd (D.C.H.).