

Great Crested Grebe, *Colymbus c. cristatus* L.—Mr. W. Shipton reports one as seen by him on Chapel Reservoir on August 30th, and again on September 6th. Although these fine birds have now established themselves on many of the ponds and lakes of middle and southern Derbyshire, they are still by no means common visitors to the extreme north of the county.

The Derby Museum has acquired a male Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* (Gunner), which was shot on the Trent not far from Derby in 1905, and brought to Mr. A. S. Hutchinson.

Among those who have contributed to this record may be mentioned Messrs. J. Atkinson, C. Bradbury, L. F. Coxon, J. Drury, G. H. Dutton, E. Grindey, G. Griffin, J. Green, C. G. Harrold, Captain M. Henderson, Messrs. W. Shipton, W. Storrs-Fox, E. H. Tomlinson, the Rev. W. M. Tomlinson, Messrs. C. H. Wells, R. Watkin, and other members of the Midland Railway Natural History Society.

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## NOTES ON COLLECTING LEPIDOPTERA AT REPTON, 1914.

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By H. C. HAYWARD.

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THREE circumstances have tended to produce greater entomological energy with me this year: firstly, the presence of a colleague interested in the same pursuits;

secondly, the stimulus of the newly-formed Derbyshire Entomological Society; and, thirdly, the fortunate accident of rather more leisure time in the early evenings. The result has been that in the months of May to July far more attention than in former years has been paid to the local woods, particularly in the direction of dusking, sugar, and larva-hunting; and also that light has been employed to a considerable extent for the first time. The results obtained, however, have hardly been commensurate with the energy expended, and the year can hardly be called a good one here; sugar in particular has been a conspicuous failure. But if there has been a scarcity of the better species normally to be found, some interesting captures have been made. Larva-hunting in the shrubs in May produced the usual Noctuid larvæ, *Glareosa*, as always, predominating, and to such an extent that out of upwards of two hundred larvæ taken on May 12th in a couple of hours by four searchers, about eighty were of this species. Larvæ of *Flavicornis* were also taken freely towards the end of May by searching young birches at night; the comparatively recent planting of a quantity of young birch in the wood has no doubt caused an increase in the numbers of this species, which I have never observed here as an imago, and only once previously in the larval stage. Dusking in the wood in June produced the most interesting species of the year; on June 11th a fine specimen of *Liturata* var *Nigrofulvata* was taken, quite as richly coloured as the Delamere Forest examples. *Liturata* is always very scarce in the wood, but I hear from Mr. Hill, of Little Eaton, that at Breadsall Moor, where it is common, he has once taken an example of this variety in recent years, and it is to be hoped that, like other melanic forms, it may establish itself here. Two specimens of *Rusina Tenebrosa* were also taken at dusk. The species has been recorded for Derbyshire, though only casually, but I have not come across it before. *Bajularia* occurred flying at dusk as early as June 24th; the few specimens of this species that I have previously taken here

have all been found in the last week of July or first week of August. *H. Velleda* was astonishingly abundant, and it was interesting to find that besides the constant variety *Gallicus*, which was common, a form occurred with narrow, pointed, and semi-transparent forewings, similar to that reported from the neighbourhood of Glasgow. *Rurea* was also very common at dusk, flying or settled on the grass-stems, *var. Alopecurus* considerably outnumbering the typical form. Sugar produced nothing, except a few *Batis* on one or two evenings only, and, later on, *Nebulosa*. Even on apparently ideal evenings it proved entirely unattractive, though such sugar-loving species as *Festiva* were flying at dusk in numbers near the sugared trees. The regular use of light did not add much to our local records, but two species were taken which I had not personally seen here before, though both have been recorded, *A. Virgularia* and *E. Fraxinata*. Among other insects of interest that occurred at light were *Jacobaea* and *Moneta*. I have to record one species hitherto unnoticed in Derbyshire, namely, *H. Serena*, of which a worn specimen was taken on July 10th flying by day about flowering thistles. The species is very scarce in the Midland Counties generally, though it has been recorded for Nottinghamshire, and becomes common as the East Coast is approached. Another scarce species taken was *Pruinata*, previously recorded from this locality, but not, I think, elsewhere in Derbyshire. On April 13th I took a fine example of *T. Crepuscularia* (*Biundularia*) on a tree-trunk. Without entering upon the lengthy and complicated questions of nomenclature or specific rank that this species inevitably entails, it may be said that the early race (*Bistortata*) has not been observed here, and that the species emerges here in very late May at the earliest, and is usually not out until well into June. The question may be raised whether this isolated specimen is evidence of the occurrence here of the parallel race or species *Bistortata*, or whether it is merely a chance early emergence of the June race, a belief to which I incline.

On June 6th, at a field-meeting of the Derbyshire Entomological Society at Breadsall, a number of larvæ of *Viminalis* were beaten from sallows. A considerable number of these had the ground colour deep black, the usual white lines being thus brilliantly accentuated. This abnormality of colour appears to be unrecorded, though a variant from the usual pale glaucous green to an olive or brownish green has been observed. All the black specimens proved to be ichneumoned, but many of the normal forms were also infested, and apparently by the same parasite.

In July I took in my own garden two or three specimens of a melanic form of some *Eupithecia*, which I cannot identify with certainty, but believe to be *Assimilata*. The specimens are rather small, sooty-coloured, and entirely without markings, except for the veins and discoidal spot, which stand out in deeper black, but have the median area of the forewings rather strongly flushed with a rich brown, being thus differentiated from *Albipunctata* var *Angelicata*, which they otherwise closely resemble.

In October larvæ of *E. Trisignaria* have been obtained in company with *Albipunctata*, and a few *Papilionaria* before hibernation, and at night from bramble in Repton Shrubs larvæ of *Dersa* in some numbers. In the case of this latter species, the curious fact has been observed that in no less than three instances two larvæ have combined in captivity to form a joint cocoon in the fibre provided for them. Similar instances are rare, but have been observed in the case of *S. Pavonia* and *D. Vinula*.

In November, on visiting the woods in search of *Boreata* and varieties of *Aurantiaria* and *Defoliaria*, I have been interested to observe a number of specimens of *Satellititia*, a scarce species here, feeding on the overripe rose-haws in company with *Vaccinii* and *Spadicea*.

The capture of two specimens of Camberwell Beauties (*V. Antiopa*) at Aston-on-Trent in July, and of a third

specimen taken in the garden at Edge Hill, Duffield, in mid-September, is noted by Messrs. R. Watkin and L. Coxon. All three specimens are now in the possession of the Midland Railway Natural History Society.