

occupied by a pair both in 1931 and 1932 (Miss K. Hollick).

Dabchick (*Podiceps v. ruficollis*). Birds still incubating on two nests at Williamthorpe Reservoir on August 27th, a late date (C.B.C.). One picked up alive in the middle of the town of Buxton on October 19th (W.S.).

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*). Mr. Armitage reports this species as breeding at several localities in the Buxton district, especially Chrome Hill, nesting in crevices of the limestone, hollows under grass tufts and rabbit burrows. Also evidently breeding in the Dove valley, north of the Doveholes (E.G.).

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*). A very tame bird on Axe Edge on May 17th (W.S.).

Dunlin (*Calidris a. schinzi*). Noted at Williamthorpe Reservoir on Oct. 21st (C.B.C.).

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*). One seen at Scropton on July 20th (C.B.C.).

Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). A pair again visited Thorpe Cloud for a few days, but were driven off by visitors (E.G.). Captain Wilson informed Mr. Chambers that they had now disappeared from the meadows near the river Dove near Sudbury and were reported to be breeding in Sudbury Park.

It only remains for me to thank those who have contributed to the record: Messrs. J. Armitage, C. B. Chambers, E. Grindey, Dr. H. H. Hollick, Miss K. Hollick, Dr. E. Shipton and Mr. F. Williamson.

SOME NOTES ON LEPIDOPTERA, 1932.

By H. C. HAYWARD, M.A., F.E.S.

Most collectors seem to have found the season of 1932 rather unproductive of insects in various orders, in spite of the very fine weather of the summer months. Probably the wretched summer of 1931 must bear the responsibility for this. Although January and early February were

mild, none of the early species were in evidence in the woods on the few occasions when they were visited. On hedgerows however *Theria ruficapraria* and *Hybernia marginaria* were well out on February 4th. Colder weather followed and the season that at one time promised to be an early one, proved to be quite abnormally late, both for plant and insect life. A cold March and April, followed by an exceptionally wet May—at Repton the rainfall for the month was over seven inches—meant that, when at last the fine weather came, the insects that were about were at least a month later than usual. In Repton Shrubs, for example, specimens of *Eupithecia pusillata* in fairly fresh condition were taken as late as June 18; this species is usually well out in the first week of May and sometimes in April. On a visit to the Shrubs by the Derbyshire Entomological Society on June 4th no *Plemyria hastata*, *Bupalus piniarius* or *Semiothisa liturata* were observed, and, with one exception, the only lepidoptera noted were *Ectropis punctularia* and *E. crepuscularia*, *Hydriomena affinitata*, *Asthena candidata* and *Eupithecia lariciata*, all of them normally early May species. The exception was, however, noteworthy, a specimen of *Lobophora halterata*, of which only two have previously been recorded from Repton, in 1927. The outstanding surprise of the year was the occurrence of a fine specimen of *Deileptenia abietaria* in the Shrubs on July 16th. A single specimen of this species was taken in my garden at Repton in 1911, but though I could not trace any explanation of its presence, I had always supposed that it had been in some way artificially introduced, as the locality is so far removed from its normal range, which does not extend north of Gloucester, and it is an easy and tempting species to rear in captivity. Indeed I have on several occasions done so myself, at Repton, though not in that year. Mr. Meyrick however in his Revised Handbook recorded Derby as a locality, presumably on the strength of that occurrence, and his judgment is

confirmed by this year's capture, which would seem to prove that the species is a native of this district, though probably only in very small numbers. In 1922 I bred for the first time a pure black form of *Eupithecia trisignaria*, almost indistinguishable from the well-known ab. *angelicata* of *E. albipunctata*. Though large numbers of the species have been bred in subsequent years in the hopes of a repetition of this aberration, it had not occurred again until this year, when two black specimens were bred amongst 60 or 70 of the type. I know of no other records of this aberration at present and it is interesting to speculate whether it will increase in number as ab. *angelicata* has undoubtedly done in this neighbourhood. The proportion of ab. *angelicata* to the type when I first bred this species in any numbers, in 1908, was roughly 10 per cent.; in 1923 15 ab. *angelicata* occurred out of 52 moths bred, or nearly 30 per cent. This year I bred only 18 specimens of this insect and of these 9, or 50 per cent., were *angelicata*, a suggestive figure even if one cannot base a secure percentage on so small a number. I have at present about 90 pupae of this insect from wild larvae collected this autumn and it will be interesting to see what proportion of these produce *angelicata*. Unfortunately, though over 100 larvae of *trisignaria* were also collected, I have only 27 pupae of these, the larvae having apparently been attacked by some disease. Normally *albipunctata* is very subject to the attacks of various parasites from which *trisignaria* seems almost totally immune, and this year also the loss of life in *trisignaria* does not appear to be due to any parasite, whereas two or three dozen *albipunctata* larvae were destroyed by a small Chalcid and probably a similar number of pupae will be found to be tenanted by one or more species of hymenopteron when the spring comes. I must apologise for repeating so much of the substance of my notes in this *Journal* for 1924, but the subject of these melanic forms has always interested me.

Some interesting captures of the larger Hawk moths were made at Repton, about half a dozen each of *Deilephila porcellus* and *D. elpenor* having been taken over honeysuckle and the Rev. Canon Shaw reported from Ashbourne a specimen of *Acherontia atropos* in the first week of October. Amongst other insects taken at Repton are *Plusia moneta*, *P. pulchrina* and *P. iota*, and *Melanchria serena*, a species apparently rapidly becoming commoner in the county, whilst *Plusia interrogationis* was again observed on Matlock Moor, where however it was far scarcer than last year. Amongst insects taken at sugar at Repton at the end of the summer term, 1931, and exhibited by M. M. Wilson, a boy at Repton School, in a collection formed since the date of the previous year's exhibition were specimens of *Caradrina matura* and *Euxoa puta*. The former had been recorded previously from Bakewell, Poolsbrook and Barrow-on-Trent, though not from the Repton Area, but the latter is new to Derbyshire and constitutes one of the only two additions to the County List this year. The other is the pretty little Tineid, *Cataplectica fulviguttella*, which must have been over-looked, as it is common enough about angelica and cow parsnip.

Mr. F. R. Larkin, of Derby, has kindly contributed a list of his captures this year, mostly from Normanton, Stenson and Repton Shrubs, from which I take some of the more interesting records. From the Shrubs he records larvae of *Drymonia dictaeoides* and *Notodonta dromedarius*, *Eupithecia pusillata* and *E. indigata*, *Semiothisa liturata* var. *nigrofulvata* and *Graphiphora glareosa*. from Normanton *Ennomos quercinaria*, a scarce species in the County of which the only definite record is from Repton in 1906, though it is mentioned in the Victoria County History List as of occasional occurrence in the South, from Stenson *Rusina tenebrosa* and from Dovedale larvae of *Cucullia verbasci*.