

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES AND RECORDS
FOR 1946.

By N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

A season of almost unbroken bad weather and with continued restrictions in travel and food has resulted in very little entomological work being undertaken. Such expeditions as were planned were spoiled or had to be cancelled on account of rain, and many insects were badly battered and damaged very quickly after hatching.

Many very common insects were surprisingly scarce, including the Red Admiral (*P. atalanta*) and the Small Copper (*L. phlæas*), whilst the Small Tortoiseshell (*V. urticae*), though moderately plentiful in some parts of the county, appears to have been almost absent in many other parts where it is common enough most years.

The Oak Eggar (*L. quercus*), which I found unusually abundant in S.W. England, was not so in Derbyshire, and I did not find a single specimen of any stage of its local form *callunæ* in its usual haunts on the Derbyshire moors.

The Holly Blue (*L. argiolus*) is getting well established in Derbyshire and I found several at Allestree on 14th and 16th April. Dr. Holmes also reports it for the first time from Langley Mill on 10th April, with several more seen up to 10th May and again in August. Mr. Camden Clarke found a single specimen near Dale Abbey on 4th August, and it is also recorded from Repton on 8th May and Egginton on 26th July by J. C. Curshaw of the Repton Field Club. The Common Blue (*P. icarus*) was scarcer than I have ever known it, and other local collectors have made similar observations in various parts of the county. On one ground where I have sometimes found it so abundant as to resemble a

blue mist in the bright sunshine, I found a single specimen only this year. The Small Copper (*L. phlæas*) has never been so scarce in my memory, and in many of its haunts not a single specimen was seen this year. Dr. Holmes also comments on its scarcity at Langley Mill and district till the middle of August when a few only were seen.

The Grizzled Skipper (*H. malvæ*) and the Dingy Skipper (*T. tages*) are both reported from Ticknall by Mr. Camden Clarke.

The Wall (*P. megæra*) was again plentiful in many parts of the county and was several times seen in the town area of Derby. It was at Heage on 29th May.

An early Small White (*P. rapæ*) came into my garden on 30th March, and on the same date the March Moth (*A. æscularia*) was plentiful at Allestree. The Early Thorn appeared common at Allestree on and around 26th March. The Feathered Thorn (*H. pennaria*) and the Frosted Orange (*O. ochracia*) were plentiful on the Langley Mill side in September. Dr. Holmes also reports the Orange Sallow (*X. citrigo*) as well as *X. lutea* and *X. gilvago* all at Langley Mill.

I am indebted to the members of the Repton Field Club for the following list of records:—

The following records are supplied by J. C. Curshaw of the R.F.C.

Painted Lady (*V. cardui*). 11th July at Egginton, 30th September and 6th October Repton.

Comma (*P. c-album*). Good specimen. at Repton on 6th October.

Red Admiral (*P. atalanta*). Very few seen.

White Letter Hairstreak (*T. w-album*). Two at Repton Shrubs.

Brimstone (*G. rhamni*). Ragged specimen at Bretby on 7th July.

Small Copper (*L. phlæas*). Very scarce. None seen at Repton.

- Common Blue (*P. icarus*). Single male at Ticknall on 12th May, another 28th September.
- Holly Blue (*L. argiolus*). Worn pair Repton 8th May. Male at Egginton 26th July.
- Orange Tip (*E. cardamines*). Poor year for this species. Male *var hesperides* taken at Dawson's Rocks near Repton Shrubs.
- Grizzled Skipper (*H. malvæ*) and Dingy Skipper (*T. tages*) were plentiful at Ticknall.
- Spring Usher (*H. leucophearia*) at light, 6th February.
- Pale Brindled Beauty (*P. pedaria*) at light, 18th March.
- Dotted Border (*H. marginaria*). Repton 23rd March.
- Small Quaker (*T. pulverulenta*) at light, 29th March.
- Treble Bar (*A. plagiata*). Ticknall Lime Pits 12th May.
- Speckled Yellow (*V. maculata*). 3 specimens at Dove-dale in a woody spot near the river.
- Clouded Border (*L. marginata*). 3 at Dawson's Rocks and one at Repton 26th May.
- Pebble Hook Tip (*D. falcataria*). 2 at Dawson's Rocks, Repton, 26th May.
- Clouded Silver (*B. temerata*). 1 at Repton Shrubs 26th May.
- Water Carpet (*L. suffumata*). 2 at Repton Shrubs 26th May.
- Gold Swift (*H. hecta*). 29th May at Repton.
- Small Yellow Underwing (*H. tenebrata*). Ticknall 9th June.
- Shoulder Striped Wainscot (*L. comma*) at light, 3rd July.
- Flame (*A. putris*), Buff Tip (*P. bucephala*) and Dark Spectacle (*A. triplasia*) at light, at Repton, 8th July.
- Lesser Spotted Pinion (*C. affinis*). Repton, at light, 22nd July.
- Antler (*C. graminis*). Egginton 26th July.
- Flame Shoulder (*N. plecta*) and Tissue (*T. dubitata*) at light, at Repton, on 30th July.

- Red Underwing (*C. nupta*) at light, 28th September and first two weeks October.
- Setaceous Hebrew Character (*N. c-nigrum*). 30th September.
- Feathered Thorn (*H. pennaria*). 1st October and 5th November, at light.
- Frosted Orange (*O. ochracia*) at light, 3rd October.
- Silver Y (*P. gamma*). In good condition, at light, 3rd November.
- Orange Underwing (*B. parthenias*). At Dawson's Rocks and Repton Shrubs.
- Pale Tussock (*D. pudibunda*). 17th May, 1945, at Robin's Wood.

The following records are supplied by A. M. Holmes of R.F.C.

- Painted Lady (*V. cardui*). 1 Ticknall 6th July, 1 Repton 14th July.
- Comma (*P. c-album*). 1 at Ticknall Quarry 12th May.
- Sallow Kitten (*C. furcula*). Pupa dug at Repton, hatched 12th June.
- Pale Prominent (*P. palpina*). Pupa dug at Repton, hatched 7th May.
- Drinker (*P. potatoaria*). Several cocoons from near Crewe's Pond at Ticknall, hatched 2nd-10th July.
- Oak Hook Tip (*D. linaria*). 10th May at Repton.
- Small Yellow Underwing (*H. tenebrata*). Few at Repton and Ticknall in early June.
- Clouded Silver (*B. temerata*). Repton 6th June.
- Speckled Yellow (*V. maculata*). Several seen and caught.