

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES AND RECORDS
FOR 1948.

N. BLACKWELL WOOD.

The weather during 1948 adversely affected many species of butterflies and moths, and the long spells of dull and wet weather in the summer and early autumn were probably a main reason for the paucity of records. Conditions were still unsatisfactory for organised Field Days, particularly in the earlier part of the year when, during the brilliant spring, pleasure motoring was banned and public transport overcrowded.

The least wanted butterflies—the large and small whites — were much less plentiful than usual in both broods, but especially in the second brood.

Some other common insects have become much less plentiful during the last few years, whilst several comparative newcomers to the County list have increased in numbers. The former includes the Gold Tail moth which at one time, not many years ago, was something of a pest and the larvae in some years denuded miles of hawthorn hedges. During recent years I have nowhere seen hawthorn materially affected by these larvae. The Antler moth has also been comparatively scarce on the moors during recent years, although in some other counties there were reports of its appearance in large numbers.

Of the insects becoming more plentiful, the three outstanding species are the Wall, Holly Blue and Brimstone butterflies.

I noticed several Holly Blues flying in the garden at Allestree quite early for the first brood, and species continued there with only a very slight interval till

the second brood was over. There must have been considerable numbers breeding in the locality.

Mr. H. M. Leach, who has been interested in butterflies for a lifetime, mentions these same three butterflies as having recently established themselves in his home district at Youlgrave. His first record of the Brimstone is for 1944 when he found a female in his garden, and another specimen was reported to him in the village. In 1945 he observed a male in the garden, and since then others have been reported from the neighbourhood. Mr. Leach saw his first local Wall butterfly in Bradford Dale in 1947 and in 1948, several were captured in the same district.

Mr. Leach first saw the Holly Blue at Youlgrave in 1946 in his garden. In 1947 he saw one several times, and, in 1948, several were in his garden day after day throughout May, all males.

Some further interesting Youlgrave records sent by Mr. Leach include the Dark Green Fritillary which has occurred for several years past, and in one afternoon alone, in 1948, six were captured in Bradford Dale, and many more seen. In 1947 three Clouded Yellows were observed by Mr. Leach and at least a dozen more caught in the Youlgrave district; and, finally, he mentions a very battered Silver Washed Fritillary that visited his garden 20 years ago.

A very rare Derbyshire visitant, the Silver Striped Hawk moth, is reported by Mr. C. P. Robinson who captured this insect in almost perfect condition in his garden at Chesterfield on the 16th of December. I am not aware of any recent record. The last records being near Chesterfield in 1891 and 1906, and previously a single specimen at Eckington and one at Matlock in 1860.

Dr. J. W. O. Holmes reports a somewhat rare Derbyshire moth, the Sprawler, taken in October at Langley Mill.

Mr. A. E. Hale has sent me a note of an albino variety of the small Tortoiseshell found by Mr. L. Holme.

The following notes are from records of Messrs. C. E. Brown, Camden Clarke, D. C. Hulme, A. R. S. Proctor and myself, all referred to under initials:—

Small Tortoiseshell (*urticae*). March 14th, Six N.E. Derbyshire (C.E.B.); March 15th-17th at Duffield (A.R.S.P.); common late March, April and early May; first seen March 14th, Littleover, scarce July, August and September (D.C.H.).

Painted Lady (*cardui*). One at Milton August 29th (D.C.H.).

Red Admiral (*atalanta*). August 28, Duffield (D.C.H.); Darley Park, mid December (N.B.W.).

Peacock (*io*). March 14th, N.E. Derbyshire (C.E.B.); April 24th Ingleby, May 29th Lode Mill, 16th Walton, 18th Findern, August 22nd Stenson, 29th Milton, Ingleby, Barrow and Littleover, and September 18th Littleover (D.C.H.); fairly common Allestree during August (N.B.W.).

Comma (*c-album*). May 13th, Littleover (C.E.B.); September 9th, Branston (C.C.).

Wall (*megaera*). Many reports for Derby district and plentiful in S. Derbyshire. Records dating from mid May to September 5th.

Meadow Brown (*ianira*). Reported "not plentiful" (D.C.H.); but abundant at Allestree (N.B.W.).

Small Heath (*pamphilus*). Stenson, June 26th (D.C.H.).

Holly Blue (*argiolus*). May 18th Findern, 22nd Mickleover, June 26th Stenson, August 22nd Findern (D.C.H.).

Large Skipper (*sylvanus*). Foremark June 10th, at Stenson June 26th, and three at Milton June 3rd (D.C.H.).

MOTHS.

Cinnabar (*C. jacobaeae*). At Stenson June 5th, and two 26th (D.C.H.).

Feathered Gothic (*C. popularis*). At Littleover Sept. 1st (D.C.H.).

Brown Line Bright Eye (*L. conigera*). Littleover, August 6th (D.C.H.).

Chimney Sweeper (*O. atrata*). Common at Findern and Stenson in June. First seen on June 12th at Findern, Milton and Foremark (D.C.H.).

Barred Straw (*L. pyraliata*). Foremark, July 10th (D.C.H.).

Swallow Tail (*O. sambucaria*). Littleover, July 9th (D.C.H.).

BEEES.

Buff Tailed Humble Bee (*B. terrestris*). First seen March 23rd at Littleover (D.C.H.).

Red Tailed Humble Bee (*B. lapidarius*). First seen April 10th, Foremark (D.C.H.).

Small Earth Humble Bee (*B. lucorum*). First seen July 10th, Littleover (D.C.H.).

BEEETLES.

Fourteen Spot Ladybird (*C.14 punctata*). Three at Littleover May 15th, Two at Lullington 16th, and one Littleover 30th and June 3rd (D.C.H.).