



*Ruffs in aggressive display*

*S. Bayliss Smith*

# Nature in Cambridgeshire

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## EDITORIAL

The official aims of European Conservation Year 1970 are 'to agree on policies which will help to conserve and improve the quality of our environment, and to find the best ways to put them into action. Also, to make conservation problems clearer to everyone, so that there will be better support for any measures needed to deal with them'.

The Trust is playing its full part in this movement and members will have received a programme of events which have been arranged to publicise the idea of conservation. It is to be hoped that they will not only support these activities to the full themselves, but also encourage as many of their non-member friends to do so as well.

We are particularly anxious that our great Appeal for £10,000 for the Ouse Washes, which is being inaugurated on April 25 by Peter Scott, will be an outstanding success. We are also hoping to increase our membership extensively during 1970. Although the Trust has achieved much during the first 13 years of its existence, as can be judged by the short history included in this report, with a larger membership we could undertake many other urgent projects.

## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 1969

### Administration

Perhaps the most important event of the year was our successful application for a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust to enable us to pay a reasonable salary to our Secretary. The grant is £500 for the first year, £400 for the second, and £300 for the third—the balance to be made up from our increased membership income. The success of our application was largely due to the selfless efforts of our late Secretary, Robert Payne. The recent rapid expansion of the Trust dates from the time when he began to give, voluntarily at first, so much time to its administration. The membership drive and film evenings which he organised during the winter of 1968/69 were the launching pad from which membership has since rocketed to reach 1,250 at the end of 1969.

It was a sad day when we learnt that he must retire on the grounds of ill-health, although we can still draw on his wise council in the Business Committee. The Trust has been extremely fortunate in securing the services of Mrs Anne Farmer as our new Secretary. Her wide experience of local affairs as a County Councillor and her talent for organising voluntary efforts have already influenced the relationship of the Trust with local

authorities, and have shown themselves in her efficient handling of the Trust's affairs. With her appointment we are confident that we can achieve our target of financial independence in three years, as long as every single member appreciates the importance of persuading as many people as possible to join the Trust now.

### **Finance**

The international importance of our Ouse Washes Reserve has been recognised by the World Wildlife Fund, which has offered us a gift of £800 towards the purchase of more Washland, on the understanding that we ourselves raise five times that amount. For this reason the corner-stone of our activities in 1970 will be the launching of our appeal for £10,000 by Peter Scott after the A.G.M. on 25 April. A valuable annual grant of £150 has also been made by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council on the understanding that all our Reserves will be open to parties of school-children under instruction. This further recognition of the part the Trust is playing in Education is warmly welcome.

### **Reserves**

Although no dramatic acquisitions have been made in 1969, two new reserves have been negotiated, and additions have been made to two others. A management agreement has been made with the South Cambridgeshire R.D.C. for Heydon Chalk Pit, whilst agreement has also been reached with Cambridge City Council and the Caravan Club of Great Britain for a nature trail, open to members only, around the chalk pit on the south side of Lime Kiln Road, Cherry Hinton. The Norwood Road Reserve is being consolidated by the purchase of about an acre of invaluable marshland and open water, and the Fordham Reserve has been greatly enlarged by the completion of a management agreement for 18 acres of wet woodland by the River Snail to the south of the previous small reserve. Negotiations for several other reserves are nearing completion, and it is hoped that it will be possible to add these to our list during 1970.

The Trust now administers 17 reserves covering over 600 acres, varying in size from 1 to 300 acres. During 1969, management committees have been set up for several more of these and we hope that before long each reserve will have its own management committee. Reference is made elsewhere to the excellent work of the University Conservation Corps under John Booth in Hayley Wood and elsewhere. We also welcome the setting up of a Youth Group, open to all between the ages of 14 and 25 under Mr John Smith to assist the Trust in conservation work.

In addition to our own reserves, the Trust is concerned about the future of many other sites in the County, particularly commons, pits, roadside verges and footpaths. Early notification of threats is essential if these are to

be protected, and this can only be done by organised membership throughout the County. In the north, the Isle of Ely Committee has divided the Isle into eight districts and appointed area representatives for each. In the south, the Field Committee now bases its regions on the Village College catchment areas, and we hope that eventually regional groups of members will get together at the Colleges and take over responsibility for the sites in their areas. We are very grateful to the Wardens and Adult Tutors of Village Colleges and Evening Centres who have helped us in so many ways—by acting as hosts to our film evenings, by distributing our membership appeals and, more recently, our programme for 1970.

### **Countryside Advisory Working Party**

Reference was made in the 1968 Report to the setting up of the above committee, largely through the Trust's initiative. During the first year's activities of this body, which now has representatives of 18 different organisations all interested in the preservation of the countryside, the representatives of the Trust have played their full part. The County Council has given its full approval of these activities and have appointed the Deputy Planning Officer, with special responsibilities for the countryside, to serve on the committee.

The Working Party has set up four groups: one to study the siting of Country Parks and Picnic Sites, a second to report on the use of footpaths and bridleways for recreation, a third to consider the importance of hedgerows and verges for agriculture, amenity and conservation, and a fourth to plan a Countryside Exhibition for 1970.

### **European Conservation Year 1970**

This is a year in which it is hoped that every man and woman will think about the future of our environment, and will turn this concern into positive action to improve the quality of the world we live in. It is a time for action by every individual, parish, society and council in this country and every other country in Europe. The Trust has been actively planning for 1970 since the autumn of 1968. A programme of events which involves as many of the people of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely as possible has been published. Already in many villages, the Women's Institute, the local school or college and members of the Trust have joined together to write a Natural History of their Parish. It is hoped that they will find areas which can be set aside and managed by the parish as a Parish Reserve—pits, bridlepaths, ponds or copses are suitable examples.

This is the year in which the Trust must explain to the public the problems of conservation and show them what it is doing to provide for the future of plants and animals in the County, and for their enjoyment by the general public. Members can contribute by offering to help with the many

activities outlined in the programme, and by organising parties or taking friends to visit the Reserves and Exhibitions which will be open in all parts of the County.

The final paragraph must be one of thanks. First to the splendid band of ladies, without whose help the Trust could not survive. Mrs Morley, our part-time secretary, who could hardly do more if she were full-time, has been ably assisted in the office by the voluntary services of Mrs House, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Stirland. Miss Chubb has been responsible for producing many excellent maps for guides and nature trails, and we are specially indebted to her for painting our Reserve Notice Boards. Out of doors in the summer in countless gardens, and indoors in winter surrounded by calendars and Christmas cards, Miss K. Gingell continues her wonderful fund-raising work. We are sorry to record that during the year Mrs Bourne, Miss Doggett and Miss Nevinson have all had to give up their voluntary work for the Trust; we thank them all for their long and tireless service. Secondly, thanks are due to Mr J. Lee for his work as Secretary to the Business Committee for three years. As this committee meets every month, the amount of work which fell on his shoulders was enormous. He remains as our Honorary Land Agent, and has now taken over the secretaryship of the Countryside Advisory Working Party.

### **Reports from Committees:**

#### **Business Committee**

Mr J. V. Lee reports as follows:

During 1969 this committee has chiefly been concerned with the programme for E.C.Y. 1970, and also with preparations for the Ouse Washes Appeal. A number of matters concerned with Trust policy have also been dealt with, such as the submission of an objection on the siting of a third London airport at Nuthampstead to the Roskill Commission, and a review of the advantages and disadvantages of a possible merger of national conservation bodies to be placed before Council. Trust relations with the Cambridge Natural History Society have been strengthened to our mutual benefit.

A regular item of concern has been the re-organisation of committees so as best to meet the requirements of the Trust; changing membership and functions make this necessary, and provide an opportunity for more members to be actively involved.

#### **Education Committee**

Mr D. G. Alexander reports as follows:

The final comment in last year's report was that a young naturalists' organisation should be formed when a suitable leader came forward. It is

pleasing to report that a Young Peoples' Conservation Group is in the process of being formed and that Mr John Smith has undertaken to organise the work parties.

Negotiations have been reopened with the Associated Road Corporation in connection with the disused gravel workings at Bootsbridge, Wimblington. This site would be ideal for an Educational Nature Reserve in the Isle of Ely.

As referred to in the general report, many groups of people have been working hard to produce a record of the natural history of their parish in readiness for E.C.Y. 1970. This project has brought the spirit of E.C.Y. to large numbers of people, and we look forward to the exhibits in parishes during 1970.

The L.E.A. have been busy during the past year in setting up a Field Studies Centre in the old primary school at Upware. A second centre is now being prepared in the old part of Fulbourn primary school, thus providing a convenient base for those schools who visit the Educational Nature Reserve at Fulbourn. In conjunction with the L.E.A. a second edition of the very popular 'Wild Flower Guide' is to be published in 1970.

Many talks, lectures and lecture series have been given up and down the county and the Isle. We are, in fact, very short of speakers who could talk to groups of people about the work of the Trust. Any offers will be gratefully accepted.

### **Field Committee**

Mr C. F. Marshall reports as follows:

The main function of this committee is to act as the eyes and ears of the Trust in matters affecting sites in which it is interested. Local Management Committees have now been set up for all the reserves owned, leased or managed by the Trust, which has relieved this committee of responsibility for the main sites. But there are many other areas of scientific interest which the Trust wishes to conserve. The whole area of the former county of Cambridgeshire is now divided up between Field Committee members, each of whom covers the 'catchment area' of a Village College. They are encouraged to recruit local members to assist them as 'watch dogs', and it is hoped to have at least two watch dog reports on every site each year.

The committee also organises work parties. Three Sunday parties at Hayley Wood and one at Breckland Roughs took place in the first half of the year, and there were four Sunday parties at Hayley Wood in the autumn. Although some Trust members took part, the bulk of the manpower was provided by the University Conservation Corps under John Booth's enthusiastic leadership. Our warm thanks are also due to Mr T. Stakim who has looked after the tools.

### **Technical Committee**

Mr D. Wells reports as follows:

This year brought a large number of sites suggested by members as possible areas of interest to the Trust. All these sites have been seen, but some require to be visited at a different time of the year before making a final decision on future action. It is most encouraging to know that at least one Parish Council is actively considering the creation of a parish nature reserve from one of the sites. Owners of some of the sites have had the relevant interest explained to them, and have agreed to maintain this if at all possible. Advice on the suitable management of a number of areas has been given.

As more areas are set aside for nature conservation so the demand for management expertise increases. The committee are investigating the possibility of initiating small-scale field experiments to help in the formulation of management plans. It is hoped to arrange the first of these on the Devil's Dyke.

### **Isle of Ely Committee**

Mrs H. While reports as follows:

Early in the year Mr K. G. Pratt resigned as Secretary and Mrs Hilary While took over his post. The committee is now affiliated to the March Further Education Centre, which provides us with a room in which to meet and enables us to display notices, etc. We now have 21 members.

Socially we have been active—a sherry party at the Ely home of Mr and Mrs A. C. Hull at which Dr F. H. Perring spoke, a film evening arranged by Mr R. Wilson at the Sir Harry Smith School, Whittlesey, and a most successful wine and cheese party for the Isle members at March, organised by Mrs While, at which Dr Walters gave an interesting talk with slides. Seventy people attended this last meeting in November, and it is hoped to make it an annual event.

With regard to our sites, Bassenhally Pit now has its own printed guide and Norwood Road has produced a folder containing a guide and species lists. Manea clay pit has been confirmed as an official site, and the Great Ouse River Authority has agreed that a Trust notice board should be erected. With regard to Roman Bank, Leverington, earth is no longer being removed, the proposal for erecting overhead cables has been refused, and nothing more has been heard about the erection of a radio mast. A letter of protest was sent to the public meeting in September about the Norfolk County Council's proposals to fill in part of Well Creek.

To help with publicity, the committee now possesses its own set of display boards and a sub-committee is engaged in collecting suitable display material. The committee looks forward to a busy E.C.Y. 1970 and wel-

comes the opening of the Nature Trails at Norwood Road and Roswell Pits, Ely, and the staging of a Countryside Exhibition in March and Wisbech.

### Hayley Wood Committee

Dr Rackham reports as follows:

There have been few new undertakings this year, but the number of visitors, and particularly of teaching parties, continues to increase. For this reason, and to anticipate European Conservation Year, a revised edition of the Nature Trail Guides has been produced and paths have been improved.

In the hot summer of 1969 there were exceptional displays of many flowering plants, especially at the edges of the Wood. Along the abandoned railway were possibly the finest shows in the county of Crested Cow-wheat *Melampyrum cristatum*, *Pimpinella magna*, and Betony *Betonica officinalis*. The Saw-wort, *Serratula tinctoria*, was also found here, the first definite record for the Wood for over a century. This concentration of local and decreasing plants adds to the great botanical importance of this piece of railway.

With the finishing of the seventh coppice plot in record time, a vista now exists along the whole of the N.E. main ride through a series of coppice areas of increasing age. Each plot is not an exact repetition of its predecessor at a year's interval: the weather from year to year produces big differences in growth rates. The dry summer of 1969 was good for young coppice but disastrous for many older trees.

New enterprises included digging another pond, beginning a new management plan, and collecting thousands of acorns in this excellent mast autumn to provide young oaks to be returned to the Wood to replace the trees felled earlier this century or dead from natural causes. Research includes a study of butterflies and further work on the deer for the forthcoming book on the Wood.

We wish to thank the many individuals and organisations who have helped in coppicing and running the Wood, and especially Mr G. McBride, Dr M. Way and the University Conservation Corps.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

There is certainly no lack of variety in the activities of the Trust's financial affairs. In 1968 our resources were largely devoted to the purchase of land in the Ouse Washes. In 1969 the emphasis has been quite different, with a marked increase in expenditure in three directions: (a) the establishment of a full-time system of administration, (b) a successful publicity drive to increase membership and (c) some major management works on our reserves.

On the income side, we have received the first instalment of the Carnegie grant and the annual subscriptions total has gone into four figures for the first time in the Trust's history. We have also been favoured with a welcome 'stay of execution' on the repayment of the £2000 loan.

The detailed accounts and Balance Sheet appear on a separate sheet.

As for 1970, I look forward to being overwhelmed by the response to the Ouse Washes Appeal!

## NATIONAL TRUST

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE WICKEN FEN LOCAL COMMITTEE

### Report for 1968-69

During the year a start has been made with both main capital projects to be financed by the Appeal Fund. The laboratory/lecture room building should be virtually completed by the date of the Annual Meeting, and the project to seal off the Charles Raven Marshland Reserve should have been begun. The Executive Committee has decided that a formal opening of the new building should take place in 1970, when it would be particularly appropriate to the European Conservation Year activities.

As reported by the Warden below, exceptionally wet conditions, which have persisted into the summer of 1969, have meant that management, and even access to the Fen, have been difficult. Although the long-term effect of the continued high water-level on the carr cannot yet be assessed, it seems likely to be very beneficial to the Fen in general in checking the growth and spread of bushes.

The number of registered visitors to the Fen was 12,598 (9335), a further large increase over last year. This figure is made up of 9,072 (6,888) individual visitors and 156 (112) organised parties ranging in size from 6 to 119. (Last year's figures are in brackets).

A newly-formed bird-ringing group, in which Mr M. J. Allen and Mr J. Harvey, both members of the Committee, are taking a leading part, is carrying out regular work on the Fen.

### Warden's Report

Work on the Fen, other than taking the traditional crops, has been directed with two main objectives in view. Firstly, voluntary labour has been used with the clearance of a Fen Vista as the target. The areas to be cleared were not easy as not only was much of the carr mature but also there were areas of brambles. Nevertheless, a quite satisfactory vista has been opened up, and it is now possible to see a stretch of cleared fenland running from Thomson's Drove to Verrall's Drove. Secondly, the efforts of

the permanent staff have been directed at widening the paths (although the main track through St Edmund's Fen was cut back by the boys from H.M.S. *Ganges*). The large increase in visitors, combined with the wet weather, has made the paths very bad indeed—especially as we now get a larger number of winter visitors. If the paths had not been widened they would be impassable.

All work has been extremely difficult because of the high water-level, and this, of course, includes the cutting of sedge, reed and litter. Nothing like the expected crop of sedge was taken as it was impossible to cut and cart the crop from some fields. The actual financial loss incurred by the failure to cut the sedge crop was more than off-set by the increased sale of litter. Very little straw was generally available in 1968 and there was, therefore, an exceptional demand for litter. It is feared that the reed crop for this season will be disappointing, partly due to the unfavourable conditions for the harvest, and partly due to the poorness of the crop itself. The gross sale of produce from the Fen was £1,008, the first time more than £1,000 has been produced.

Some idea as to the wetness of the Fen can be gathered from the fact that *Chara* was plentiful all year in some of the shallow peat diggings, and Water-Crowfoot (*Ranunculus circinatus*) grew throughout the season at the junctions of Gardiner's Drove with Thompson's Drove and Christy's Drove. These areas are normally dry by mid-July.

## CAMBRIDGE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

*President:* Mr W. H. Palmer

*President for Lent Term:* Dr R. Bainbridge

*Senior Secretary:* Mr A. E. Friday (Corpus Christi College)

### Report for 1969

At the six General Meetings held in the Lent and Michaelmas terms the following lectures were given:

Dr H. B. Cott:	The Nile Crocodile
Sir Joseph Hutchinson, C.M.G., Sc.D., F.R.S.:	Land-Use Risks and Opportunities
Prof. M. R. House, Ph.D.:	Continental Drift and the Devonian System
Prof. R. A. Hinde and Miss Y. Spencer-Booth:	Mother/infant relations in Rhesus monkeys
Prof. O. W. Richards, F.R.S.:	Social Wasps in Brazil and Ghana
Dr P. Echlin:	The Biology of Pollen

The Zoological, Botanical, Entomological and Geological sections each held some six meetings during the season. In addition, a new section dealing with Microbiology was launched in the Michaelmas term and got off to a good start. The *Conversazione* and Annual General Meeting were held in the University Zoological Department on 14 March.

Members of the Trust are now entitled to attend the General Meetings of the Society.

Subscriptions: Life Membership: 40/–, Annual: 10/–, (compounding to Life after 4 years), Members of Homerton and Hughes Hall (annual): 5/–, Undergraduates (3 years): 15/–.

Applications to: Mr I. Hepburn, 8 Millington Road, CB3 9HP

(City Secretary)

Mr C. H. Pickup, Downing College (University Secretary)

### FIELD MEETINGS IN 1969

Besides the field meetings held jointly with the Cambridge Natural History Society, there were three joint meetings with the Cambridge Bird Club to more distant sites. They were as follows:

Sunday 18 May Cley salt-marshes, Norfolk

Sunday 8 June Minsmere and Walberswick, Suffolk

Sunday 21 September Norfolk coast

All arrangements for these three excursions were made by the Bird Club, to whom we are most grateful. A smaller number of meetings were organised by the Trust in 1969, but these were very well attended. In 1970 the excursions will take the form of 'open days' on the Trust's Nature Reserves. The 1969 excursions were as follows:

#### **Saturday, 15 February, Welches Dam Washes**

The sight and sound of at least 200 Bewick's Swans and hundreds of Wigeon and Mallard greeted the 35 members who braved the arctic wind as they climbed on to the bank at Welches Dam. Apart from the cold, it was a gloriously fine day with the sun shining down on the vast stretches of ice that covered all the further eastern two-thirds of the washes. But the deeper water flowing down the Old Bedford river and the River Delph had kept open the nearer flood-water in our reserve, and it was on this that it was possible to see a marvellous display of wildfowl. Away in the distance were thousands more Mallard and Wigeon, swimming or standing on the ice, together with more herds of Bewick's and Mute Swans, and a gathering of Greater Black-backed and Herring Gulls. Incidentally it was easy to appreciate how the Mute Swans acquired their name, for the much smaller Bewicks kept up a continuous chatter all the afternoon.

A vast raft of Coot could be seen away to the north, as well as a couple of hundred near the pumping station. Parties of graceful Pintail often flew past, as did the heavy-bodied Tufted Duck and Pochard on fast-beating wings. Other species of duck seen included a pair of Gadwell, which had turned up in unusual numbers on the washes, and a Goldeneye, busy diving in the River Delph. As the party left the hide a solitary Redwing kept the party company on the river bank, while odd Meadow Pipits and a Pied Wagtail settled at the water's edge.

A brief stop at Mepal Causeway gave excellent views of 40-50 Shoveler and about as many Teal, as well as many more Wigeon and Bewick's Swans, while a Ruff flew past some probing Snipe to join a party of Lapwing, forced from their usual arable fields by the frost and snow. Despite such excellent bird-watching the naturalists were glad to return to their heated coach, leaving the birds to their struggle to keep alive in the bitter weather.

### **Sunday 27 April, Knapwell Wood**

Despite showery weather, there was a good turn-out of some 35 members for the official opening of our most recent reserve. Members of the Management Committee, headed by Dr G. Peterken of the Nature Conservancy were present to show people round this interesting site, and Dr Oliver Rackham had prepared an excellent nature trail and a map as an additional aid.

It is a typical boulder-clay wood, but contains an exceptional number of elms growing mainly from suckers. The total area is just over 11 acres, and from various records it is known that the wood has been in existence for at least 850 years. The ground in the drier areas is covered with dog's mercury and bluebells, whereas the wet areas show a splendid display of oxlips. The wet areas predominate, as the party discovered, but apart from a few dense patches of blackthorn scrub, the wood is remarkably open and the carpets of oxlips showed up magnificently in the sunshine. Dr Peterken, as a result of a careful survey, estimates that there must be well over half a million oxlip plants in the whole wood. (See page 29).

A few primrose plants were seen round the edge of the wood, and a number of specimens of the hybrid between these and the oxlips were observed and photographed. Two other interesting features were a number of wild crab-apple trees and a few plants of the narrow-leaved variety of the Common Hogweed.

There was little time to observe the bird life, but the site is obviously a good one for woodland birds—various warblers, finches and wrens being much in evidence.

### **Saturday, 24 May, Hayley Wood**

The large party of members who turned out to visit their oldest nature reserve were rewarded with delightful weather, and the wood was looking

at its best in the sunshine, with the fresh green foliage on the trees. Admittedly the bluebells were nearly over, and the oxlips completely so, but there were many other flowers to admire. Perhaps the Yellow Archangel, which is surprisingly common here, was the most striking wild flower, but the Bugles were very fine and there were plenty of Early Purple Orchids about.

The main party was under the leadership of Mr William Palmer, who knows the wood extremely well. They followed the main Nature Trail which has been laid out to show the chief characteristics of the site to advantage, but the leader had much other information to give them about the botany of the wood and such matters as the effect of coppicing.

A smaller party, whose main interest centred round birds, went off with Mr A. E. Vine, who was able to show them something of the bird population. Inevitably in a wood this had largely to be done by listening to bird song. Amongst the many birds heard, the blackcaps, willow-warblers and chiff-chaffs seemed particularly prominent. The party also obtained a good view of a pair of marsh tits. And just when one member had remarked on the scarcity of cuckoos generally, one started up and continued calling for most of the afternoon.

Although the tracks of the local herd of deer were very noticeable in many parts of the wood, no one obtained a sight of them. But as the total area of the reserve is some 120 acres, it is not difficult to hide in it.

#### **Saturday, 28 June, Annual Orchid Count at Thriplow Meadows**

There was an excellent turn-out of some 25 members on a fine and sunny morning for this annual operation. The count was organised by Mr R. Williams and Mr Speak of the local management committee. There was a splendid display of orchids, and it will be seen that the results still reflect the trends shown in recent years. It is satisfactory to note a complete recovery from the low totals counted in 1965 and 1966. The results are shown below:

	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
Strip I (grazed by horses)	607	1174	1538
Strip II (cut)	124	370	269
Strip III (untouched 'control')	66	245	637
Strip IV (grazed by cows)	1252	1108	1241

It should be pointed out that the original experiment is no longer being carried out.

The local committee opened the Reserve to the general public from noon until 6 p.m. They had signposted a walk through all three meadows and the osier wood. All the meadows showed large numbers of orchids, and visitors were particularly struck by the fantastic number of Twayblade plants in the osier wood.

An interesting exhibition had been arranged in the village school dealing with the conservation work of the Trust, as well as the local interest of the orchid meadows.

#### **Saturday, 4 October, Fungus Foray at Anglesey Abbey**

October is normally the best month of the year for finding fungi, but owing to the exceptional spell of dry weather during the previous five or six weeks and a couple of frosty nights, they were in short supply. This, however, did not deter a record number (over 80) of members turning up at Anglesey Abbey for this popular event. Professor E. J. H. Corner was, as usual, a most entertaining and informative guide, and Dr J. H. Hudson was also there to help with identifications.

Although the number of species seen was not large, it was encouraging to be able to find as many as 25 in these very dry conditions. Undoubtedly the most widespread was the Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*), growing in large clumps round the bases of many trees. This edible species was collected in some quantity by certain enthusiasts for their evening meal. Another edible species was the Shaggy Parasol (*Lepiota rhacodes*) found under some conifers. The dainty Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) was seen occasionally on tree stumps, and, as usual, some very large specimens of the bracket fungus (*Ganoderma applanatum*) were seen attached to the larger trees. Some very ripe puff-balls (*Lycoperdon exciculiiforme*) gave forth clouds of powdery spores on pressing, but the oddest-looking species was the Devil's Fingers (*Xylaria polymorpha*), an evil-looking club-shaped black fungus with white flesh.

Professor Corner was of the opinion that the park would prove a first-rate habitat under more normal autumnal conditions. Despite relatively poor finds, however, the party were well satisfied with the expedition, and a walk in this lovely park with its splendid trees is a pleasure at any time of the year.

### **BOOK REVIEW**

**Nature Conservation in Britain**, by Sir Dudley Stamp.  
Collins' New Naturalist Series No. 39. 36s.

It is just over a quarter of a century since the well-known New Naturalist series was launched. Sir Dudley Stamp was a member of the Editorial Board from the start and contributed no less than four volumes. He completed the present book shortly before his untimely death in 1966, and never saw it in print.

As he rightly pointed out, all the volumes in the series are concerned in one way or another with nature conservation, but it was a happy decision on the part of his fellow editors to entrust the task of writing this general

account of conservation to him. Quite apart from his specialised knowledge of geography and geology, he had the widest interests, covering most branches of natural history. It was not surprising that in 1941 he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scott Committee on Land Utilization in Rural Areas, and did in fact write its Report which first recommended the formation of National Parks and Nature Reserves. He had also served as Director of the first Land Utilization Survey of Britain (1931-33), and was later a member of the English Committee of the Nature Conservancy. He could, in short, have been described as a world authority on the use and abuse of land, but in this book he dealt with those problems peculiar to Britain. It is particularly appropriate that this splendid work should appear in time for European Conservation Year 1970.

What immediately strikes one about the history of the Conservation movement as depicted in these pages is that it has all taken place so recently, and that virtually all positive action has been taken since the end of the Second World War. The Nature Conservancy was not founded until 1949, the National Parks Commission in the same year, and the Council for Nature only in 1958. Local nature reserves started to appear in 1952, but the great burst of activity resulting in the formation of many of the County Naturalists' Trusts and the proliferation of smaller nature reserves did not occur until the early sixties. This activity is, of course, still in full swing and the author was careful to describe his book as an interim progress report.

Sir Dudley throughout has realised the necessity of maintaining a proper balance between the conflicting demands of agriculture, forestry, sport, recreation, building development and natural history on our diminishing countryside. His general attitude was eminently sane, and he continually stressed the importance of the conservationist recognising the necessity to fit in with current developments.

A considerable part of the book is taken up with a detailed survey by regions of the main national conservation schemes already established in Britain—a valuable source of information. In addition, a more detailed summary of the various County Naturalists' Trusts and the local reserves they manage is given in an appendix (this is dated 1966 and inevitably is already considerably out of date).

It is difficult to see how the author's masterly treatment of this complex subject could have been bettered, and this volume will provide an excellent background to the whole New Naturalist Series. One small point—perhaps the chapter on Reserve Management might have been expanded to give fuller and more detailed treatment of this important subject, since the care and maintenance of reserves looms so large in most local Trust's programmes.

It need hardly be added that there are some excellent black-and-white photographs, some instructive maps, and that the production is well up to the usual high standard of these volumes.

I.H.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TRUST

Ian Hepburn

The opening of European Conservation Year 1970 provides a suitable opportunity to review the progress made by the Trust in the first 13 years of its existence. Our membership has recently increased so rapidly that relatively few people will have any knowledge of the early days.

It was during 1955 that informal discussions between certain Cambridgeshire naturalists about the formation of a County Trust took place. As a result, a small meeting was arranged in Prof. W. H. Thorpe's rooms in Jesus College when Mr A. E. Smith, Secretary of the Lincolnshire Trust, explained how his Trust was run and spoke on the value of the voluntary conservation movement. At a larger meeting of interested naturalists in June 1956, convened by Captain R. G. Briscoe, the Lord Lieutenant, it was decided to form the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust. The Trust was formally launched at a public inaugural meeting in the Small Guildhall in Cambridge on 16 November 1956, and the first Annual General Meeting took place in June 1957 under the chairmanship of our first Patron, Captain Briscoe. On this occasion an executive committee with Dr Max Walters as Hon. Secretary was set up. Ours was in fact the fifth County Trust to be formed in Britain and during the first year some 150 members joined. The sudden death of Captain Briscoe in December 1957 was a sad blow, for his enthusiasm had been a powerful factor in the successful initiation of the Trust. Lord Fairhaven became our second Patron, and gave continuous support to all the Trust's efforts in nature conservation until his death in 1966.

The most important work carried out during the early years was concerned with surveying in detail the sites of natural history importance by the Technical Committee under the expert guidance of its energetic secretary, Dr Franklyn Perring. This culminated in the publication in 1965 by the County Planning Department of a splendid booklet describing all the sites of scientific importance designated — a work which has been the envy of many other Trusts. It is a pleasure to record that from the start the County Planning Department has been most cooperative and helpful in our conservation schemes.

During this early period agreements were made with several parishes over the management and preservation of various small pits, and the first working parties on certain scheduled trackways like the Roman Road and the Mare Way were organised.

The first of the Trust's reserves to be leased consisted of the famous orchid meadows at Thriplow (one meadow was acquired in 1960, the others not until 1968). But by far the most important event of the early

days was the purchase in 1962 of Hayley Wood, the largest of the Cambridgeshire oxlip woods on the boulder clay. The money was raised by the public as a result of a special appeal for £7500, with the aid of a generous interest-free loan from the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves and a splendid donation from Mr Christopher Cadbury. A management committee with Prof. C. D. Pigott as its first secretary was soon formed—the first of several such committees set up in subsequent years to look after our growing number of reserves.

The smooth running of the Trust in its early days and the steady expansion of its activities was largely due to a devoted band of voluntary workers. Besides the indefatigable Dr Walters and Dr Perring, Mr A. E. Vine was a most energetic Hon. Secretary for the Isle of Ely from the start until 1966. The important post of Hon. Treasurer was first occupied by Mr A. Burton and it was a sad loss when he died in 1960. Mr C. J. E. Steff then took over until 1967 when Mr J. C. Faulkner, who had served as Assistant Treasurer from 1960, took his place. In 1968 our present Hon. Treasurer was appointed. We were also very fortunate in having the services of Mr D. V. Durell from the start as the Trust's legal adviser.

The growing clerical work was tackled by a number of ladies, prominent among whom were Miss K. Gingell, Dr M. Stanier, Miss B. Nevinson and Mrs G. Crompton. The last-named, in particular, was a tower of strength from the beginning, becoming Assistant Secretary in 1963, and in 1966 taking over Dr Walters' post as Hon. Secretary. Then in 1966, our membership numbers having passed 600, Mrs J. Bourne took on the arduous duties of Membership Secretary. It was not until 1963 that we acquired an office of our own at 1 Brookside, thanks to the hospitality of our President, Mr J. S. L. Gilmour, the Director of the Botanic Garden.

A number of new properties were bought or leased during 1966—'L Moor' at Shepreth, Norwood Road Reserve at March, Hall Yard Wood at Fordham and, most important of all, the first 96 acres of the Welches Dam Washes. The following year a number of adjoining plots of land were acquired to bring our total holding in the Washes to nearly 300 acres. This is now our largest and most important reserve, and once again a most generous donation towards its purchase from Mr Christopher Cadbury must be recorded. Generous grants were also made by the Pilgrim Trust and the World Wildlife Fund, and a welcome interest free loan was given by the Wildfowl Trust. A hide was erected early in 1967 to enable members to observe the remarkable displays of wildfowl on the flooded meadows during the winter without disturbing the birds.

Our Patron, Lord Fairhaven, died in August 1966 and bequeathed his beautiful home, Anglesey Abbey, and the 100-acre estate surrounding it to the National Trust—a splendid memorial. Lord Walston kindly consented to become our new Patron. Two further important reserves, primarily

intended as Educational Nature Reserves, were declared in 1967—Fulbourn Fen and Bassenhally Pit, near Whittlesey. With the formation in 1964 of an Educational Committee, increased importance was given to the selection of suitable sites for use by schools, with the active cooperation of officials of the County Education Department. This committee has also been responsible for arranging lectures on conservation and natural history all over the region. It has also encouraged the setting up of Nature Trails in our reserves, Dr M. Stanier's contribution in this work being specially noteworthy.

The rapid increase in the Trust's property during 1966 and 1967 made it necessary to appoint a secretary who could give more time to our widening activities, and accordingly Mr Robert Payne was appointed in October 1967. Mrs Crompton gave up this onerous task which she had performed so well, but remains as a valued member of Council and the Business Committee. The new secretary soon organised a massive membership drive, sending out a special appeal from our Patron to some 10,000 people and arranging lectures about the Trust's work up and down the county in Village Colleges and elsewhere. The result was that a membership of 1000 was achieved before the end of 1968, and by the end of 1969 our numbers stood at 1,250. It was a sad blow when Mr Payne had to retire through ill-health at the end of May 1969. Mrs Anne Farmer was appointed as the new Secretary in June, and she has rapidly learnt the ropes and made herself indispensable.

An important contribution was made by the Trust in 1968 by initiating the setting up of the Countryside Advisory Working Party to advise the County Council on matters arising from the Countryside Act. This body includes representatives from virtually all organisations interested in the use of the countryside. Some of the subjects it has been considering are country parks, the improvement of bridleways and footpaths, and the future of hedgerows and roadside verges.

Recently separate management committees have been set up to look after our reserves, but the Field Committee still has to keep an eye on the smaller sites of scientific interest not controlled by the Trust. This is done by members of the committee aided by local 'watchdogs'. This committee also has the task of organising the voluntary work parties which from the beginning have performed so many essential jobs in maintaining our sites. In this connection, the coppicing experiments in Hayley Wood and the grazing experiments on Thriplow meadows have been particularly interesting, and have set a pattern for other Trusts in management technique (the latter attracted a grant of £250 from the Nature Conservancy).

*Nature in Cambridgeshire* has been published annually since 1958, and has retained roughly the same format. Apart from recording our activities, we were lucky from the start in being able to include articles from distin-

guished biologists, which has meant that it has qualified as a serious scientific journal. Mr P. G. Hall was editor until 1966 when the present editor took over.

No account of our activities would be complete without some reference to Miss Kathleen Gingell's remarkable money-raising schemes. She it was who instituted the sale of Christmas cards, calendars, ties, etc. some years ago, and more recently has organised the opening of gardens in aid of the Trust. Our stall has been a familiar feature at many events in the county which, besides making a valuable contribution to our funds, has provided excellent publicity of our activities. But the most successful single event in fund-raising was the Shell Fair at Newton Hall, organised by Mrs Crompton in March 1966. This brought in the fantastic amount of over £900, and launched our Nature Reserves Fund.

In conclusion, mention must be made of our most recent reserve — Knapwell Wood, an attractive oxlip habitat which we have arranged to manage for the owner. This was opened in April 1969.

## THE OUSE WASHES

### The Birds

Michael J. Allen

It is inevitable that an important new area of reserves like the Ouse Washes should attract attention in the first place for the excitement of the rare breeding species to be found there. When one of those species is as spectacular in spring display as the Black-tailed Godwit then it is perhaps not surprising that other features of the area may temporarily seem to be of secondary importance.

Yet for most ornithologists the prime importance of the reserve lies in its value as a wetland throughout the year. The significance of the area on an international scale is shewn by its placing in Category A (the highest of the categories) in the Project Mar list of European wetlands, which represents a concerted European attempt to draw attention to threatened wetland habitats and in doing so to help preserve them.

Since 1964 the Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildfowl Trust have gradually acquired between them some 1,300 acres of washes and a joint management committee has been appointed to advise on their development.

The Ouse Washes have for long been acknowledged as among the most important wintering areas for wildfowl in the British Isles, and peak counts of 12,000–15,000 Wigeon, 3,000 Mallard, 4,000 Teal, 3,000 Pintail, 1,500 Shoveler and 2,000 Pochard during the winter serve to underline that importance. But perhaps the most critical species of all is the Bewick's

Swan for which the Washes serve as a wintering ground of international importance, with concentrations of up to 800 birds in recent winters. Smaller flocks of other species of duck, White-fronted Geese and Whooper Swans are also to be seen in most winters and occasional visits from other wildfowl can bring the total of species wintering to over twenty.

The Washes' value as a winter refuge for wildfowl depend on the depth of water at any given time, and the wildfowl numbers fluctuate accordingly. As the water recedes in spring the meadows only dry very slowly, and before the cattle are turned out on to them the Godwits and Ruff, as well as the commoner waders like Snipe, Redshank and Lapwing have already established territories and are feeding in the soft earth. Apart from the exciting rare breeders, with which must be included the Black Tern which has nested twice recently in exceptionally wet late springs (1966 and 1969), some sixty-odd species of birds have been recorded nesting on the Ouse Washes, and this figure includes ten species of ducks. In 1968 within a six-mile stretch of the Washes covering our reserves and those of the RSPB, 34 pairs of Black-tailed Godwits, 4-5 Reeves, 250 pairs of Lapwing, about 60 pairs of Redshank and 400 pairs of Snipe were found to be nesting together with 20 pairs of Garganey and 8 pairs of Gadwall. The Ouse Washes have their share of rarities, but it is the quantities of birds which lend support to the view that these meadows form one of the most important wetland habitats in Europe.

Towards the end of the summer and before the winter floods rise there is usually an interesting passage of waders such as Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Green, Common, Wood and Curlew Sand-piper, and frequently quite large numbers of some species can be seen from the banks.

In certain years, too, the Ouse Washes serve as an important feeding and roosting area for hirundines on autumn passage. Thus on one evening in August of 1968 it was possible to see some 2,000,000 Sand Martins streaming into the Welches Dam area between eight and nine o'clock, and performing incredible mass aerial manoeuvres before sinking to roost in the narrow osier bed beside the River Delph. Further up in the Welney direction on the same evening an immature White-winged Black Tern was feeding with seven Black Terns over a pool beside the River Delph, while Green Sandpipers, Wood Sandpipers and a Greenshank were heard calling and seen in flight from the Bedford Bank.

The programme of conserving the Ouse Washes has only just begun with the acquiring of reserves. To protect the habitat is one thing; to develop and conserve it in the best interests of the species dependent on it is another. The rare breeding species on the edge of their range will need carefully managed habitats in the face of changing patterns of land-use if they are to acquire more than a temporary foothold here. Elsewhere in Britain and in Europe vast agricultural progress has been made at the expense of the

animals and plants dependent on the undeveloped marsh or meadow land. It is to be hoped that with careful management, based on a continuing programme of research, the Ouse Washes will continue to be a vital link in the chain of refuges available to both visiting and breeding wildfowl and waders, and that visiting naturalists will continue to take an active interest in preserving this unique area.

### The Botanical Interest

D. A. Wells

To many naturalists, the Ouse Washes means birds, and in particular, wildfowl; but how many ornithologists have asked themselves why these washes are so rich in bird life? There are, of course, a number of reasons, one of which is the abundance of certain plants like Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), Docks (*Rumex* spp.) and Persicarias (*Polygonum* spp.), seeds of which provide food for wildfowl. Similarly, because of the luxuriant growth of such grasses as Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) man has traditionally summer-grazed much of this area with cattle, thereby encouraging birds either directly, (e.g. Yellow wagtails) or indirectly, (e.g. Redshank and Black tailed Godwits) to breed in this area. The inter-relationship between birds, mammals, plants and man is therefore very clearly illustrated in this virtually self contained, man-made area.

The *ecology* of the Washes probably provides the greatest botanical interest and can be considered at three levels; national, county and local.

#### National

Nationally, the Ouse Washes represent the best example of a rapidly decreasing habitat. In the foreseeable future only the Ouse Washes and Baston 'fen' (part of the old Glen Washes, and now owned by the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Trust) will remain of these once extensive areas, subjected to prolonged flooding. The long inundation to which the vegetation is subjected every year, has necessarily affected the botanical composition. In neutral grasslands, washes represent the opposite extreme to old ridge and furrow meadows, which are rarely flooded, with flood meadows where flooding occurs for only short periods, in between. A number of species like Rough-stalked Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are common to all neutral grassland, but their degree of dominance in a sward is dependant on the degree of soil moisture, Meadow-grass tending to increase and Red fescue to decrease with increasing soil moisture. Similarly, Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*) is a common plant of flood meadows, but it is absent from the much longer inundated washes.

## County

At this level the main interest centres around the presence of large tracts of unimproved grassland, together with numerous ditches, which are not subjected to man's destructive attentions, including the use of herbicides, as occurs on the adjoining fenland. In a predominantly arable county like Cambridgeshire, the presence of such a habitat supports several species which would otherwise be unrecorded in the county e.g. Lesser Persicaria (*Polygonum minus*) and Nodding Bur-Marigold (*Bidens cernua*).

## Local (within the Washes)

Here the interest lies in the juxtaposition of three major habitats—ditches; damp grassland and dry retaining banks. Each has its distinctive species ranging from the Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in the ditches to the Prickly Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*) on the dry banks. From these three habitats in the Washes over 260 species of higher plants have been recorded. In the surrounding arable fens, an area roughly twice the size of the Washes yields little more than half this number of species.

To this wealth of interest is added the large number (16) of species and hybrids of Pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) making this an important area for a taxonomic study of this genus. The historian and geographer also will find much of interest in the well-chronicled events relating to this by-product of the draining of the fens.

## SOME CAMBRIDGESHIRE PLANT GALLS

S. A. Manning

Many naturalists have noticed such galls as the red 'nails' on Lime leaves and the red 'pimples' on Maple and Sycamore leaves, but have been deterred by the absence of a popular modern guide from studying these and other growths produced by plants reacting to the parasitic attacks of certain mites, insects and other agents.

Arnold Darlington's *The Pocket Encyclopaedia of plant galls in colour* (Blandford Press, 1968) has filled this gap, and it is to be hoped that more workers will now collect, study and record plant galls.

With the object of stimulating interest, I have summarised the results of much of my own collecting during 1964-69 and have included a few records of specimens submitted by Mrs G. Crompton and Mr T. Le Neve Foster to the Biological Records Centre. Accounts of galls found on Oaks, Sallows and Willows will be published later.

The names of gall-causers are mainly those used by Darlington and they appear under those of their host-plants, which are arranged alphabetically. The name of each gall-causer is followed by the number of any coloured illustration in Darlington's book, and a brief indication of the type of gall.

Localities are grouped according to the 10 km. squares of the National Grid, all those mentioned here forming part of 100 km. square 52 (TL). Thus, places listed after the number 25 are in 10 km. square 52/25.

Gall-causers included in this report belong to the following groups:

Acarina (mites)	<i>Aceria</i> <i>Eriophyes</i>	<i>Cecidophyopsis</i> <i>Monochetus</i>	<i>Eptrimerus</i>
Insecta			
(a) Hemiptera-Homoptera:	<i>Eriosoma</i> <i>Tetraneura</i>	<i>Pemphigus</i> <i>Trichohermes</i>	<i>Psyllopsis</i>
(b) Hymenoptera:	<i>Blennocampa</i>	<i>Diplolepis</i>	<i>Liposthenus</i>
(c) Diptera:	<i>Contarinia</i> <i>Geocrypta</i> <i>Taxomyia</i>	<i>Dasyneura</i> <i>Hartigiola</i> <i>Wachtliella</i>	<i>Didymomyia</i> <i>Jaapiella</i>

**Acer campestre** L. Common Maple.

*Eriophyes macrochelus* Nal. (72). Pimple-shaped galls on leaf upper surface. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 34: Meldreth, 16.8.69. 54: Hinxton Hall (Mrs G. Crompton), 5.9.64. 55: Fulbourn E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

*Eriophyes macrorhynchus cephalodes* Nal. (73). Pimple-shaped galls on leaf upper surface. 25: Buff Wood, East Hatley, 11.5.68. Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Trumpington Road, Cambridge, 15.6.69. 54: Hinxton Hall (Mrs G. Crompton), 5.9.64. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69. 67: Fordham, 26.7.69.

*Eriophyes macrochelus* Nal. var. *erinea* Trotter. Erineum (felt of abnormal hairs) on leaves. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

**Acer pseudoplatanus** L. Sycamore.

*Eriophyes megalonyx* (Nal.). (74). Pouches in the leaf-blade with hairy blotches on the underside. 25: Buff Wood, East Hatley, 11.5.68. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68 and 23.7.69. By River Cam, Trumpington, 12.7.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69. 66: Devil's Ditch, 1.6.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Eriophyes macrorhynchus aceribus* Nal. (75-6). Red pustules on leaves. 34: Shepreth (T. Le Neve Foster), 6.7.64. Meldreth, 16.8.69. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68 and 23.7.69. Trumpington Road, Cambridge, 15.6.69. 54: Hinxton Hall (Mrs G. Crompton), 5.9.64. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

**Alnus glutinosa** (L.) Gaertn. Alder.

*Eriophyes laevis inangulis* Nal. (143). Scattered pustules on leaves. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Eriophyes axillare* Conn. (144-5). Pustules in axils of leaf veins. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Eriophyes brevitarisus* Nal. (146-7). Pouches in the leaf-blade with tawny coloured hairs on the underside. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

**Centaurea scabiosa** L. Greater Knapweed.

*Aceria centaureae* (Nal.). Leaf galls. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 55: Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 66: Devil's Ditch, 24.5.1969.

**Corylus avellana** L. Hazel.

*Eriophyes avellanae* Nal. (121). Bud gall ('Big bud'). 25: Buff Wood, East Hatley, 11.5.68. Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

**Crataegus** spp. Hawthorn.

*Eriophyes goniothorax typicus* Nal. (108). Marginal roll galls on leaves. 36: Overhall Grove, Knapwell, 3.5.69. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69. 66: Devil's Ditch, 24.5.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Dasyneura crataegi* (Wtz.). (111-2). Terminal rosettes on shoots. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. Brooklands Avenue and Trumpington Road, Cambridge, 1.7.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68.

*Eriophyes crataegi* Can. Leaf galls. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64.

**Euonymus europaeus** L. Spindle-tree.

*Eriophyes convolvens* Nal. Marginal rolls on leaves. 25: Buff Wood, East Hatley, 11.5.68. Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

**Fagus sylvatica** L. Beech.

*Eriophyes stenopsis typicus* (Pgst.). (150). Marginal rolls on leaves. 55: Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 12.10.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

*Hartigiola annulipes* (Htg.). (153-4). Hairy cylindrical pouch galls on leaves. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68 and 23.7.69. By River Cam, Trumpington, 12.7.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

*Monochetus sulcatus* Nal. Leaf 'fans'. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Wandlebury, 1.6.68. Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69.

**Filipendula ulmaria** (L.) Maxim. Meadow-sweet.

*Dasyneura ulmariae* (Bremi.). (89). Leaf pustules. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: By River Cam, Trumpington, 12.7.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Dasyneura pustulans* (Ruebs.). Leaf galls surrounded by bright yellow zones. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

**Fraxinus excelsior** L. Ash.

*Eriophyes fraxinivorus* Nal. (245-6). Inflorescence galls ('Ash cauliflower'). 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. Trumpington Road, Cambridge, 15.6.69. Trumpington, Cambridge, 22.6.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 67: Fordham, 26.7.69.

*Psyllopsis fraxini* L. (247-8). Coloured marginal roll-galls on leaflets. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 34: Meldreth, 16.8.69. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Cambridge, 29.6.64. University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69. Trumpington, Cambridge, 22.6.69. Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Dasyneura fraxini* (Kieffer). (249-50). Pod-like swellings on midrib of leaflets. 34: Shepreth (T. Le Neve Foster), 21.9.64. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

**Galium aparine** L. Goosegrass.

*Eriophyes galii* Nal. (268). Leaf-roll galls. 34: Meldreth, 16.8.69. 36: Knapwell churchyard, 3.5.69. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Trumpington, Cambridge, 22.6.69. Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, 28.6.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

**Galium uliginosum** L. Fen Bedstraw.

*Geocrypta galii* H. Löw. Gall masses on shoots. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68.

**Geum urbanum** L. Herb Bennet.

*Cecidophyopsis nudus* (Nal.). Leaf galls. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68.

**Glechoma hederacea** L. Ground Ivy.

*Dasyneura glechomae* (Kief.). (260). 'Lighthouse' galls on leaves. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 34: Meldreth, 16.8.69. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

*Liposthenus latreillei* (Kief.). (261). Globular pea-like swellings. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69.

**Juglans regia** L. Walnut.

*Eriophyes tristriatus typicus* Nal. (139). 'Blisters' on leaves. 44: Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. 67: Lane leading to Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., Fordham, 26.7.69.

**Populus nigra** L. var. *betulifolia*. 'British Black Poplar'.

*Pemphigus bursarius* (L.) Koch. (215). Purse galls on petioles. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69.

*Pemphigus filaginis* (Fonsc.). (216). Leaf midrib galls. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. This gall also on *Populus* sp. at 45: Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69.

**Populus nigra** L. var. *italica* Duroi. Lombardy Poplar.

*Pemphigus spirothecae* (Passer.). (218). Spiral galls on petioles. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

**Prunus spinosa** L. Blackthorn.

*Eriophyes similis* Nal. (103). Oval leaf galls. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 7.6.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69. 67: Lane leading to Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., Fordham, 26.7.69.

**Rhamnus catharticus** L. Buckthorn.

*Trichohermes walkeri* (Foerst.). Marginal rolls on leaves. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68.

**Rosa** spp. 'Wild roses'.

*Wachtliella rosarum* (Hardy). (95). Fold galls in leaflets. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. Gilmerton Court, Long Road, Cambridge, 10.8.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 67: Lane leading to Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., Fordham, 26.7.69.

*Blennocampa pusilla* Htg. (96). Leaflets rolled downwards. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69. Gilmerton Court, Long Road, Cambridge, 10.8.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 67: Lane leading to Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., Fordham, 26.7.69.

*Diplolepis* sp. (97). Smooth pea galls on leaflets. 44: Thriplow, 16.8.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69.

*Diplolepis* sp. (98). Spiked pea galls on leaflets. 44: Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 57: Wicken Fen, 19.8.68. 67: Lane leading to Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., Fordham, 26.7.69.

*Diplolepis rosae* (L.). (99-102). Rose Bedeguar. 44: Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 66: Devil's Ditch 24.5.69.

**Sambucus nigra** L. Elder.

*Epirimerus trilobus* (Nal.). Marginal rolls on leaflets. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, 28.6.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 57: Wicken, 19.8.68.

**Solanum dulcamara** L. Bittersweet.

*Aceria cladophthira* (Nal.). 67: Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., 26.7.69.

**Taxus baccata** L. Yew.

*Taxomyia taxi* (Inch.). (32-3). Artichoke galls. 34: Shepreth (T. Le Neve Foster), 25.9.64. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

**Tilia** sp. Lime.

*Eriophyes tiliae typicus* (Pgst.). (56). Nail galls on leaves. 45: Gilmerton Court, Long Road, Cambridge, 1.6.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

*Eriophyes tiliae exilis* Nal. (57). Leaf galls along lateral veins. 45: Gilmerton Court, Long Road, Cambridge, 25.5.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

*Eriophyes leiosoma* (Nal.). (59). Roughened hairy patches on leaves. 34: Shepreth (T. Le Neve Foster), 25.9.64. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

*Dasyneura thomasiana* (Kief.). (60-1). Roll galls on leaves. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69.

*Contarinia tiliarum* (Kief.). (62-3). Petiole galls. 45: Five places in Cambridge: Long Road, Station Road, Trumpington Road, Brooklands Avenue, University Botanic Garden, 6.69.

*Didymomyia reamuriana* (F. Löw). (65-71). Pustules on leaves. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

**Ulmus** spp. Elm.

*Eriosoma ulmi* (L.) (135-6). Roll galls on leaves. 45: University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, 28.6.69. Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69.

*Tetraneura ulmi* De Geer. (138). Fig galls on leaves. 45: Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69.

*Eriophyes ulmi* (Nal.). Nail galls on upper surface of leaves. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. Thriplow, 16.8.69. 45: Trumpington, Cambridge, 22.6.69. Wandlebury, 23.7.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. Fleam Dyke, 27.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69.

**Urtica dioica** L. Stinging Nettle.

*Dasyneura urticae* (Perris.). (133-4). Swellings on stem, petiole, leaf or inflorescence. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Footpath between Brooklands Avenue and Long Road, Cambridge, 28.6.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69.

**Veronica chamaedrys** L. Germander Speedwell.

*Jaapiella veronicae* (Vallot). (251-2). Terminal leaves galled. 25: Hayley Wood, 6.7.68. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64. 45: Wandlebury, 21.8.68. By River Cam, Trumpington, 12.7.69. 55: Fulbourn Fen E.N.R., 3.9.69. 56: Anglesey Abbey, Lode, 20.9.69. 65: Devil's Ditch, Stetchworth, 1.6.69. 67: Lane leading to Fordham Hall Yard Wood N.R., Fordham, 26.7.69.

**Viola** sp. Violet.

*Dasyneura affinis* (Kief.). Leaf roll. 44: Ickleton, 4.7.64.

## OXLIPS IN KNAPWELL WOOD RESERVE

G. F. Peterken

When the Management Committee first met on 29 January 1969 we discussed the oxlips at some length. They were clearly the main attraction, but they might also prove to be the biggest problem, for it was known that some visitors could not resist the temptation to come accompanied by basket and trowel, and we had the distinct impression that they were concentrated on the rides in disproportionately large numbers where they might be vulnerable to the increased number of visitors after the reserve was declared. We were not unduly worried, however, for the oxlips had evidently held their own over the years and at nearby Overhall Grove the numbers of oxlips had not changed significantly since the War, according to Dr T. M. Owen, who has had a grandstand view of the wood and its large number of visitors for almost twenty years. Even so, the Committee obviously had to know how many oxlips were present and where they were concentrated, so on 25 April 1969, at the height of the flowering season, I counted the number of inflorescences in 304 quadrats of 50 cm  $\times$  50 cm evenly distributed over rides and compartments so that the sample was representative of the total population in so far as this could be judged by eye. Inflorescences, not plants, were counted for purely practical reasons: in some areas oxlips were so dense that deciding where one plant ended and another began was guesswork.

Knapwell Wood occupies 11.43 acres, or 4.64 ha., and the total number of oxlip inflorescences was estimated to be 545,000. There is obviously no shortage at present and even if all the 40 or so Trust members who came to the opening on 27 April had had a fit of avarice and each picked bunches of 100 inflorescences, more than 99% of the total would have remained intact. Furthermore, the rides (a ride was taken to be a 4 m wide strip throughout the wood), which occupy 0.28 ha. or about 6% of the wood, had an estimated 30,000 inflorescences, or 5.5% of the total, so the rides are not after all a preferred habitat, except in the sense that the largest individuals were found in them.

Taking Knapwell Wood as a whole, the mean density of oxlip inflorescences is 11.7 per m<sup>2</sup>, but of course in the central area where the best display occurs the density is much higher, reaching 44.0 per m<sup>2</sup> locally. This compares favourably with the density in Eltisley Wood, much of which has recently been replanted, but where in the south-east corner a small stand of elm remains beneath which a display of oxlips develops which must be one of the finest in England. Here, on 29 April 1969, the mean density was 43.4 per m<sup>2</sup>, whereas in a small sample of the converted area the mean density was 29.6 per m<sup>2</sup>. Incidentally, on the basis of this small sample, the initial effect of coniferisation on the oxlip in Eltisley Wood appears to be a reduc-

tion in density to 60–70% of the former level and a distinct clumping into groups, some of which are so dense that a density of 168 per m<sup>2</sup> was recorded.

The oxlip display in parts of Knapwell Wood rivals the best anywhere—and there seems to be no reason why it should not continue to do so.

## NOTE ON A NEW MOSS SPECIES

In a paper in the *Transactions of the British Bryological Society* (1969) Dr H. L. K. Whitehouse, one of our members, describes a moss which is new to science. Its local interest is that it was first found in 1960 in three different localities, two of which were in Cambridgeshire. The author found it in a stubble field at Papworth St Agnes, and it also turned up amongst some other mosses collected in a similar field near Thorney by the late Mr P. J. Bourne. The third locality was near Wareham, Dorset. He tentatively identified it as *Dicranella rufescens*, and the above county records appear under this name in the *Flora of Cambridgeshire* (C.U.P. 1964).

He was not, however, happy about this identification, and as a result of exhaustive research he was forced to the conclusion that it did not correspond with any known species.

It is a small plant, only about 5 mm. tall, with large leaf-cells and brown irregular tubers on the rhizoids. Sporophytes are unknown and only female plants have been seen. Dr Whitehouse considers that the reason it has hitherto been overlooked is its small size and lack of sporophytes. It may well have been sometimes confused with immature specimens of *Dicranella varia*. He has named it *Dicranella staphylina* (Greek *staphyle*, a bunch of grapes) from the appearance of the tubers, its most distinctive feature.

In the last two or three years it has been recognised that the moss is of widespread occurrence in the British Isles in non-calcareous arable fields and similar disturbed habitats. It has, in fact, now been recorded in no less than 35 vice-counties. A full description, illustrated with line drawings, is given in Dr Whitehouse's paper.

Reference: Whitehouse, H. L. K. 1969 *Trans. Br. bryol. Soc.* 5, 757–764.

I.H.

## VASCULAR PLANT RECORDS

F. H. Perring

*All records are for 1969 unless otherwise stated*

As in 1968 the year has been notable for new records. It has also been a good year for records in general, with three species new to the County and the rediscovery of two others thought to be extinct. It is encouraging to find so many new names among the recorders.

- Equisetum telmateia* Ehrh. Roswell Pit, Ely. 52/55–80–. July. P. H. L. Cook. First record for over 80 years.
- Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* L. Wall of car park, 'Three Kings', Haddenham. 52/464754. May. F. H. Perring. Old walls around Baptist Centenary Chapel, March. 52/415963. September. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith.
- Asplenium trichomanes* L. 4 plants, Cottenham church. 52/455686. April. A. J. Worland. Many plants, wall at Royston station (v.c. 29). 52/353412. May. F. H. Perring. Wall of car park, 'Three Kings', Haddenham. 52/464754. May. F. H. Perring. Old wall, Portland Place, Whittlesey. 52/271968. May. J. O. Mountford. Number of known localities doubled in 1969.
- Polystichum setiferum* (Forsk.) Woyнар. South side of Bourn church. 52/324563. A. J. Worland. Second county record.
- Polypodium vulgare* (agg.) L. One plant on wall at Royston station (v.c. 29) 52/353412. May. F. H. Perring. A fifth locality for this rare fern.
- Brassica rapa* L. Field, Knight's End, March. 52/413950. May. J. O. Mountford. Found by J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith in several localities in northern fenland. According to the *Flora* overlooked.
- Cochlearia danica* L. Railway ballast, north of Bridge Lane, Wimblington. 52/419931. May. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. Second county record.
- Cerastium pumilum* Curt. Car park, Cambridge station. 52/461572. June. Miss A. Conolly. det. P. D. Sell, New county record. An alien on railways in Bedfordshire, probably introduced from there.
- Stellaria palustris* Retz. Calcareous marsh, Bassenhally Pit. 52/286987. July. J. O. Mountford. Second known locality in the county.
- Montia perfoliata* (Donn ex Willd.) Howell. Copse,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile S.E. of Bassenhally Pit. 52/29–98–. April. J. O. Mountford. First fenland record.
- Oxalis corniculata* L. Gravel paths, Scaldgate, Whittlesey. 52/272970. July. J. O. Mountford. var. *atropurpurea* Van Hoult. West End, March. 52/407970. July, G. M. B. Smith, det. D. P. Young. May be spreading in the fens.
- Oxalis stricta* L. var. *rufa* (Small) D. P. Young. Sandy waste ground, Wimblington Common. 52/437908. July. G. M. B. Smith, det. D. P. Young.
- Colutea arborescens* L. Abandoned railway yard, March station. 52/417979. July. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. First record of this naturalised leguminous shrub.
- Lathyrus nissolia* L. Sandy grassland, Gildenburgh Pits, Whittlesey. 52/282967. June. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. First record from the north of the county.
- Potentilla anglica* Laichard. Beside old railway line, Hayley Wood. 52/28–53–. O. Rackham. Second confirmed county record.

- Epilobium palustre* L. Gamlingay Meadow Reserve. 52/222510. Miss S. Richardson. September. First record since 1940 (at Milton Fen).
- Oenothera biennis* L. Waste ground, Gildenburgh Pits, Whittlesey. 52/281967. July. J. O. Mountford. Only one other recent record.
- Petroselinum crispum* (Mill.) Nyman. Roadside, Langwood Hill, near Chatteris. 52/412843. June, Railway line, March to Wimblington. 52/4—9—. May. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. Rare escape.
- Rumex maritimus* L. Unploughed field margin, Whittlesey. 52/289939. September. P. D. Sell. Known only at Wicken previously.
- Lysimachia punctata* L. Sandy waste ground, Wimblington Common. 52/438911. July. G. M. B. Smith. Second county record for this garden escape.
- Melampyrum cristatum* L. Ride in Gamlingay Wood. 52/240535. July. F. H. Perring and R. C. Steele. Population of over 100 plants.
- Prunella laciniata* (L.) L. Edge of working chalk-pit, Cherry Hinton. 52/486558. June. M. W. Rand. First record since 1937.
- Galinsoga parviflora* Cav. Arable field west of Gamlingay. 52/223516. September. Miss S. Richardson. New county record. Long known at Everton, the adjacent parish in Beds.
- Centaurea solstitialis* L. Horseheath. 52/61-47-. 1954. W. H. Palmer. Lime Grove, March. 52/414979. July 1965. F. Warner, det. P. H. Langton and G. M. B. Smith. For two other records of this casual see *Nature in Cambridgeshire* 12, 37.
- Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Druce) Soó. × *incarnata* (L.) Soó. Marshy field, Gildenburgh Pits, Whittlesey. 52/282967. June. J. O. Mountford. Second record.
- Dactylorhiza fuchsii* (Druce) Soó. × *praetermissa* (Druce) Soó. Edge of marsh, Wimblington Common. 52/437910. July. G. M. B. Smith, det. P. F. Hunt. Elsewhere only known certainly at Thriplow Meadows.

## WEATHER NOTES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1969

J. W. Clarke

The warmest summer for a decade and an extremely dry autumn were the most noteworthy features of the 1969 weather. The winter came late; after a mild January, a severe spell developed in February, bringing a tremendous blizzard on the 7th after nightfall and incidentally producing the coldest night of the year (15°F.) Temperatures continued below normal throughout March—snow from the February blizzard was still lying in drifts on 6 March—and the spring was cold and wet. However, in May, temperatures rose above normal and remained so throughout June and July. On 16 July, the hottest day of the year, R.A.F. Oakington recorded 91°F. During the summer, 15 days had maxima over 80°F.—the greatest

number since 1959 (17). Unfortunately, the fine warm weather did not continue into the autumn without a break, and in Cambridgeshire after mid-August and at harvest-time, the weather became poor—the last week of August being particularly dull and drizzly, very similar to the weather of August 1968. However, it soon became dry again, October being exceptionally warm and sunny. November, too, was notably free of mist and fog, but towards the end of the month it became very wintry, with blizzards on the 28th and 29th and the temperature remaining below freezing all day on the 29th. December also had lower than average temperatures and five days with snow lying.

The total rainfall for the year (21.4 ins.) was close to the average at Swaffham Prior. July had the heaviest rainfall—quite a normal feature of Cambridgeshire climate, as has been pointed out in previous weather notes—but most of this fell on one day, July 29 (2.47 ins.). May was an exceptionally wet month and January was also much wetter than usual. There was a very pronounced drought in the autumn, no really significant rain falling from the end of August until the middle of November. September had the least rainfall (0.06 ins.) on only one rain day, and October produced only 0.24 ins. on three rain days. Thunder-storms were noticeably absent during the summer and occurred only during May at Swaffham Prior.

It is interesting to note that although 1969 was the warmest summer of the sixties, the readings were no higher than those of an average summer during the first forty years of the century.

#### Weather Records at Swaffham Prior 1969

<i>Number of days over 80° F</i>	15
<i>Number of days over 70° F</i>	71
<i>Number of days with a maximum under 32° F</i>	6
<i>Number of days with a minimum under 32° F</i>	62
<i>Last air frost of the Spring</i>	19 April
<i>First air frost of the Autumn</i>	30 September

#### Weather Records at Swaffham Prior, 1969

Temperature °F

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mean max.</i>	<i>Mean min.</i>	<i>Highest</i>	<i>Lowest</i>	<i>Rainfall ins.</i>
January	45	39	54 on 22nd	30 on 1st	2.37
February	37	29	49 on 22nd	15 on 8th	1.45
March	44	34	53 on 30th	23 on 7th	1.83
April	56	39	71 on 9th	29 on 3rd	1.49
May	64	49	80 on 13th	38 on 20th	3.11
June	70	50	80 on 13th, 14th and 15th	39 on 6th	1.30
July	74	57	88 on 16th	48 on 7th and 9th	3.25
August	70	57	85 on 10th	49 on 24th	1.76
September	66	53	74 on 11th	32 on 30th	0.06
October	62	51	75 on 9th	40 on 30th	0.24
November	47	38	62 on 3rd	22 on 30th	2.37
December	40	34	50 on 21st	27 on 1st and 6th	2.17
Annual mean	56.2	44.1		Total	21.40

# ADDITIONAL LIST OF TRUST MEMBERS

December 1969

*(Joined since November 1968)*

- Allchin, Dr and Mrs, Westgate House, Barrington  
Cambs
- Allen, Miss Julia C., 1 Magrath Avenue,  
Cambridge
- Allsop, Miss J., 157 Queen Edith's Way,  
Cambridge
- Anderson, Prof. and Mrs, 1 Pettits Close,  
Fulbourn
- Anthony, L., Glenfield, Stonald Road,  
Whittlesley, Peterborough
- Ashburner, Mr M., Commercial End, Swaffham  
Bulbeck
- Askham, Mr and Mrs R., 4 Milner Road,  
Comberton, Cambridge
- Attwood, Miss E. L., 48 South Road, Impington
- Attwood, S. D., 48 South Road, Impington
- Ayres, Mr and Mrs G., 100 Fallowfield,  
Cambridge
- Backhouse, Mr and Mrs L. C., 2 Orchard Close,  
Elsworth
- Backhouse, Dr and Mrs H. L., 132 Blinco Grove,  
Cambridge
- Bainbridge, Dr R., Corpus Christi College,  
Cambridge
- Baker, Mrs P., Meadow Cottage, Crow End,  
Bourn
- Barber, J. K., 4 Mayfield Road, Girton
- Barnett, Mrs M. N., 59 Grantchester Street,  
Cambridge
- Barford, Mr and Mrs, 26 de Preville Road,  
Gt Shelford
- Baston, Mrs I., 11 Common Lane, Sawston
- Bates, Mr and Mrs, 8 Haslingfield Road, Harston
- Belbin, Dr and Mrs, 8 Lansdowne Road,  
Cambridge
- Bendall, Dr and Mrs, 139 Thornton Road,  
Cambridge
- Bennett, Miss R. A., 2 Park Drive, Impington
- Bloxam, R. G., 109 Knight's End Road, March
- Bloy, F. S., 24 Derby Street, Cambridge
- Boby, Mrs G., 7 St Luke's Mews, Cambridge
- Bolgar, Miss H., 52 Church Street, Gt Wilbraham
- Bour, Mr and Mrs, Horseshoe Cottage, Coine  
Road, Bluntisham
- Bond, Dr D. A., 16 Priam's Way, Stapleford
- Bradford, M. N., 25 Woodlands Road,  
Gt Shelford
- Brading, Mr and Mrs, Kendrick, Highfields,  
Caldicote
- Brading, Mr and Mrs, 15 Thornton Road, Girton
- Brackenbury, J., The Village College, Impington
- Bragg, D. W., 39 Oxford Road, Cambridge
- Bride, R. W., 42 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham
- Bristow, C. E., 21A Cranmer Road, Cambridge
- Burnt Fen W.L., C/o Mrs A. Hart, Buldon Farm,  
Burnt Fen
- Burns, S. H., 1 Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge
- Butcher, Miss W. H., 17 Thornton Court, Girton
- Burdett, N. H., Westwick Hall, Oakington
- Burdett, Jane A., Westwick Hall, Oakington
- Butler, Mrs M., 65 High Street, Landbeach
- Butler, Mrs V., 1 The Causeway, March
- Buehdahl, Mrs N., 11 Brookside, Cambridge
- Caldecote Parish Council
- Carey, Mr, Mrs and Miss, 14 Chaucer Road,  
Cambridge
- Carrier, W. M., 13 Station Road, Swavesey
- Carter, Mrs M. J., 108 Histon Road, Cottenham
- Chadwick, Prof. and Mrs, The Master's Lodge,  
Selwyn College
- Channell, Mr and Mrs, 131 Girton Road,  
Cambridge
- Chamberlain, Mr and Mrs, 4 Grange Gardens  
Cambridge
- Chaplin, Miss, 4 Ludlow Lane, Fulbourn
- Chaplin, Mr and Mrs, 12 Queen Edith's Way,  
Cambridge
- Chapman, P. C., Jasmin Cottage, Brinkley
- Chatteris Women's Institute
- Child, J. N., 10 Rustat Road, Cambridge
- Christmas, Miss E. M., 7 Gaul Road, March
- Clark, Miss E., 34 Sunhill, Royston
- Clarke, Mr N., Scarborough House, Low Road,  
Elm
- Clarke, Mr and Mrs, Appleacre, Pettits Lane,  
Dry Drayton
- Clarke, B. S., 81, Mill End Road, Cherry Hinton
- Cole, Mr and Mrs, 37 Hallcroft Road, Whittlesley
- Clyne, Miss M., 6 Ashwell Road, Guilden  
Morden
- Coley, P. D., 18 Arles Avenue, Wisbech
- Conningsby, G., Rectory Farm, Whaddon,  
Nr Royston
- Cope, Mr and Mrs, Cos Lodge, Beeston Green,  
Sandy
- Coleman, Dr G. S., Chestnuts, Foremans Road,  
Thriplow
- Corner, Prof. and Mrs, 91 Hinton Way,  
Cambridge
- Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
- Coulson, Mrs S., Orchard End, Orchard Road,  
March
- Cowell, Mr and Mrs, 11 Litchfield Road,  
Cambridge
- Crook, Mr and Mrs, Stapleford Hall, Stapleford
- Crook, Miss Rachel, Stapleford Hall, Stapleford
- Crouch, Mr and Mrs, Farley, Haslingfield Road,  
Harlton
- Dakin, Mr and Mrs, 43 Lantree Crescent,  
Huntingdon
- Dainty, J. G. A., 3 Kingfisher Court, Halifax  
Road, Cambridge
- Davies, T. B., 22 Oak Tree Road, Fen Drayton
- Delaney, Mr and Mrs, 50 High Street,  
Haddenham
- Dewing, Mrs C. E., 15 Wort's Causeway,  
Cambridge
- Diver, Mr E. W. H., 8 Mill Street, Isleham
- Dobson, Mrs M. I., 33 Henson Road, March
- Dockerill, Miss I. M., 8 Gordon Avenue, March
- Doggett, Miss E., 29A Hills Avenue, Cambridge
- Doubleday, M., No. 1 Staff House, The Village  
College, Cottenham
- Dowding, J., Priory Junior School, Longsands  
Road, St Neots
- Duff, Mr and Mrs O. L., 3 School Lane, Swavesey
- Duncan, C. J., 48 Hasso Road, Sobham
- Dunning, K. R., 31 Greenfields, Eltisley
- Drury, Sir Alan and Lady, 25 Millington Road,  
Cambridge
- Easterling, Mrs M. L., 221 High Street,  
Cottenham
- Easy, G. M. S., 11 Landbeach Road, Milton
- Eaton, T. G., 8 Home End, Fulbourn
- Edwards, Dr and Mrs, 32 St Margaret's Road,  
Girton
- Edwards, Mr and Mrs, Cox's Drive, Fulbourn
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- Ellis, D. A. H., 5 Gables Farm, Little Eversden
- Ellis, Mr and Mrs, 4 Rhugarve Gardens, Linton

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 Ely, The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop  
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 Empson, Miss N. M., Havelock House,  
 Gamlingay  
 English, D., 68 Eastrea Road, Whittlesey  
 Evans, Mrs D., 15 Symons Lane, Linton  
 Everitt, Mr and Mrs, Long Balland, Wilburton  
 Evetts, J. E., 4 Petersfield, Cambridge  
 Faber, Mrs, 5 Cranmer Road, Cambridge  
 Fairweather, Dr and Mrs, 3 Palace Green, Ely  
 Farmer, Mrs, 27 Madingley Road, Cambridge  
 Farmer, John, 27 Madingley Road, Cambridge  
 Fisher, Mrs V. M., The Beeches, High Street,  
 Bassingbourn  
 Feinstein, Mr and Mrs, 4B Millington Road,  
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 Fovargue, Mr and Mrs, Whitehill, Back Road,  
 Linton  
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 Fowlmere  
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 Cambridge  
 Gairdner, Mrs A. H., 19 Adams Road,  
 Cambridge  
 Gammie, Dr and Mrs, 11 Applecourt, Newton  
 Road, Cambridge  
 Gane, Mr and Mrs, 2 Pemberton Place,  
 Cambridge  
 Garner, R., Cranwell, Prickwillow Road.  
 Adelaide, Ely  
 Gathercole, R. W. E., 51 Eilfeda Road,  
 Cambridge  
 Glover, Miss M. R., 37 Alpha Road, Cambridge  
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 Field Road, Swaffham Prior  
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 Greenslade, R. M., 83 Long Road, Cambridge  
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 Cambridge  
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 Halnan, Mr and Mrs, 12 Haverhill Road,  
 Stapleford  
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 Cambridge  
 Hawkes, Mr and Mrs, Derrymore House,  
 Dry Drayton  
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 Grey  
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 Hopkin, Miss A., 105 Maple Grove, March  
 Horrocks, Mr and Mrs, Brookend, Brampton  
 Hosking, Dr and Mrs, Green End, Comberton  
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 Howard, Mr and Mrs, 33 Cootes Lane, Fen  
 Drayton  
 Hughes, Dr S., 34 Porson Road, Cambridge  
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 Jackson, D. E., 11 Long Reach Road, Cambridge  
 Jackson, Mr and Mrs, 52 Broad Lane,  
 Haslingfield  
 Jakes, H., 27 Mill Street, Gamlingay  
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 Drive, Littleport  
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 Babraham  
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 Kedge, B., 19 Sterne Close, Cambridge  
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 Dodington  
 Kirkman, Mr and Mrs, 19 High Street,  
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 Madingley Road, Cambridge  
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 Lewis, Miss J. E., Rowan Cottage, Littleington,  
 Cambs  
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 Madin, D. F., 32 Kinross Road, Cambridge  
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 March Urban District Council  
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 Cambridge  
 Martin, S., Orchard Close, St Ives  
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 Mason, Mr and Mrs, Pine Ridge, Newton,  
 Nr Wisbech  
 Miles, Mrs P., 135 High Street, Long Stanton  
 Millard, Mr and Mrs, 3 Ferndale Rise,  
 Cambridge  
 Milne, Mrs P., 25 Leys Avenue, Cambridge  
 Minifie, Mr and Mrs, 65 Regent Street,  
 Cambridge  
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 Cambridge  
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 Moore, Mr and Mrs, 109 Perne Road,  
 Cambridge  
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 Whittlesey  
 Mountford, A., Wesley House, 7 Scaldgate,  
 Whittlesey  
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 Girtton  
 Murley, Mr and Mrs, 53 Madingley Road,  
 Cambridge  
 Murray, Dr and Mrs, 1 Market Lane, Linton

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- Sexton, A. H., 51 Whitehill Road, Cambridge
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- Tucker, M., Worsted Lodge, Babraham
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- Waterfield, Mrs B. E., The Close, Girton
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- Weis-Fogh, Prof. and Mrs, 7 Almoner's Avenue, Cambridge
- West, H. W., The Hermitage, 12 Almoner's Avenue, Cambridge
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- White, Mr and Mrs, 24 Elwyn Court, March

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Gt Shelford  
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Widgery, Mrs and Miss, 18 Thornton Way,  
Girton  
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Williams, Mr and Mrs, Merrion Gate, Gazeley  
Road, Cambridge  
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Willmer, Mr and Mrs, 11 Park Terrace,  
Cambridge

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Wolstenholme, Miss M., 110 Hartington Grove,  
Cambridge  
Wood, Mr and Mrs, 41 New Road, Haslingfield  
Wood, J. D., 94 Elm Road, March  
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### Why the Trust has been formed

The countryside is changing rapidly before our eyes. Some change is, of course, inevitable; but nearly all the alteration is tending towards a loss of variety, interest and beauty, and the destruction of areas still in a natural or semi-natural state. County Naturalists' Trusts are now active in practically all parts of Great Britain. Our own Trust, which has played a valuable part in the growth of the voluntary conservation movement, has many urgent tasks to perform in Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely.

### Aims of the Trust

1. To conserve the wildlife interest of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely.
2. To set up Nature Reserves by acquisition or agreement in order to manage and protect their wildlife.
3. To promote in the public an interest in and understanding of conservation and natural history by publicity and education.
4. To co-operate with all local and national organisations concerned with the conservation of the countryside.

### Privileges of Membership

Members are entitled to visit the 600 acres of Nature Reserves owned or managed by the Trust. They can also attend summer field excursions arranged by the Trust, and all receive a copy of *Nature in Cambridgeshire* and two newsletters each year.

### Membership

*Minimum subscriptions: Ordinary £1 p.a., Life £20, Family Membership (husband, wife and any children under 12) 30/-, Corporate Membership Schools etc. £1 p.a., Students 10/- p.a. Full particulars from the Secretary, 1 Brookside, Cambridge, CB2 1JF.*

## LEGACIES

Some members may have considered the possibility of leaving money to the Trust in the form of a legacy. We are therefore including a suggested form of bequest, worded as a codicil to an existing will, which might prove useful. The testator should, of course, consult his or her legal adviser in making this alteration.

This is a codicil to the last Will of me.....(name)  
of .....  
..... (address)

I give a legacy of.....pounds (£.....) free of all duty to the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or Secretary for the time being or proper Officer of the Society shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees for the said legacy.

In all other respects I confirm my said Will.

Signed, dated and witnessed.