Oxlip x Primrose Hybrid in Knapwell Wood *W. H. Palmer*

Nature in Cambridgeshire

No. 14 1971

Published by Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust Ltd

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND ISLE OF ELY NATURALISTS TRUST LTD

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EDITORIAL

The heavy programme of events arranged by the Trust during European Conservation Year passed off smoothly, and we can feel some satisfaction that we have played our part in giving publicity to the idea of conservation. One of our aims for 1970 was to increase our membership extensively, and it will be seen from the long list of new members which we publish in this number that we have had a marked success. It was a happy moment when we enrolled our 2,000th member early in November.

The response to our £10,000 Appeal for the Ouse Washes has been fair, but we are still a long way short of our target. We shall clearly have to make further efforts to raise the money this year. The Trust's film dealing with Hayley Wood and the Ouse Washes has been shown at a number of meetings and has earned considerable praise. It should prove very useful in reinforcing our money-raising efforts.

The Trust has recently been expanding so rapidly that a certain amount of reorganisation and consolidation now seems desirable. This seems likely to be the main theme in 1971.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 1970

European Conservation Year

1970 has proved to be one of the significant milestones in the development of the Trust, as indeed for the whole conservation movement. An intensification of our usual activities in publicity, education and public relations generally has brought considerable reward, and it can truly be said that there is now a greatly increased public awareness of the meaning of conservation and of the need to take action to protect our environment.

Our own programme included a long list of meetings of all kinds, and a strongly continued membership drive. An appeal for money for the Ouse Washes reserve was launched by Peter Scott in April and several new reserves were announced. After a season of film shows, lectures, exhibitions, meetings, excursions, newspaper articles, radio and television features, it seems hard to believe that anyone in Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely can remain completely ignorant of the problems. This will make easier our task of development during the coming years, and we hope that the lessons and achievements of 1970 will continue to guide and inspire the Trust for a long time to come.

A special feature of Conservation Year was the Countryside Exhibition put on at the Cambridge Guildhall and at the March Institute of Further Education. It was organised by the Countryside Advisory Working Party with strong support from the Trust. Mrs Farmer and Mrs While took active parts in the organisation.

Administration

After a year's active and progressive work, our Secretary, Mrs Anne Farmer, found herself unable to continue in post after July and the Trust wishes to record its appreciation of her energetic period of office. Our former Secretary, Robert Payne, stood in temporarily after Mrs Farmer's departure and has since made a welcome return on a permanent basis.

During the year Mrs J. Bourne and Mrs D. Parker-Rhodes have retired from Council. Mrs E. W. Parsons and Mr M. Schofield have been co-opted as new members of Council. David Alexander gave up the secretaryship of the Education Committee and was succeeded by Tom Worthington. The present close and fruitful relationship between the Trust and the County Education Department is largely due to David's work and it is good to know that he will continue as a committee member.

The Trust now has eleven local management committees for reserves; they remove a lot of work from the central office and make for more rapid attention to local problems, and we are glad to acknowledge the services of members who serve on them.

Although the central administrative work load continues to increase rapidly, greater help than ever has been given by voluntary workers. It is difficult to select names, but special thanks are due to Mrs Wilson, Mrs House and Mrs Stirland for regular help in the office; Mrs Bythway, Miss Gingell, Miss Doggett and Mrs Kay at outside events; and Mr Jones who has taken charge of the Trust's exhibit. Mr Faulkner has given great help with covenants and with our filing system.

The Trust has developed very rapidly in the last few years and this has brought a number of administrative problems. The time has come to take a cool look at its structure and organisation, and to put any changes into effect which will increase its effectiveness and simplify its administration.

Membership

The 2,000 barrier was broken in early November and no significant abatement of recruitment was apparent up to the end of the year. In other words, our membership has trebled over the past three years—an achievement brought about by hard work but also reflecting the growing public awareness of conservation problems.

Ouse Washes Appeal

By the end of the year the gross total donated had passed £4,000, the first target. At that figure we were originally promised a grant of £800 from the World Wildlife Fund, and when that has been received we shall be close to the halfway target of £5,000. A large amount of the loans received in previous years for buying land in the Washes has already been repaid.

New Reserves

A further five acres of land were purchased in the Ouse Washes Reserve and a new reserve has been acquired at Manea by the generosity of the North Witchford R.D.C. A lease for several stretches of the Devil's Dyke near Burwell was agreed with the County Council to mark Conservation Year and a local management committee has been set up to look after the area. Final arrangements were made for a management agreement for Upware North Pit and members will be given access details very soon. A number of interesting plants grow there, including one national rarity which is also present in our Bassenhally reserve.

Reserve Management

An increasing amount of our income is being spent on this, and much valuable help was given during the year by the Conservation Corps and individual members at Hayley Wood, Fulbourn and the Devil's Dyke in particular. The help given and interest shown in our Ouse Washes reserve by Jeremy Sorensen, the R.S.P.B. Warden, is much appreciated.

Fund Raising

(a) Christmas Stationery made record sales of about £1,250, 80% higher than in the previous year. The work was done from the office and voluntary workers assisted with deliveries.

(b) Garden openings proved disappointing owing to the bad weather experienced for most of them. Miss Gingell also arranged exhibits at shows and fairs. Other activities were arranged by members, the afternoon arranged by Miss Doggett being expecially successful. Other welcome additions to funds resulted from Mrs While's Wine and Cheese party at March and from a jumble sale organised by members of the Norwood Road Committee.

(c) The Christmas draw was a record success and made a profit of over £200.

Reports from Committees:

Business Committee

The monthly meetings of this Committee reflected a busy year. The major items dealt with were the membership drive, Ouse Washes Appeal, events during Conservation Year, acquisition of reserves, change of Secretary, as well as the normal matters of budgeting and control of expenditure, and co-ordination of committees. The production of the Trust's film was completed and the first showings arranged; its sponsors were entertained at a private showing of the film.

An increasing amount of time was spent in discussing and planning matters of reserve management and this reflected the slowing down of our

acquisition programme and the beginning of a period of essential consolidation.

Field Committee

Mr C. F. Marshall reports as follows:

As the number of local site Management Committees increases—two more have recently been set up, for Heydon Pit and the Devil's Dyke—the Field Committee has an important role in co-ordinating the programme for work parties. These parties are now largely manned by Conservation Corps members under John Booth's enthusiastic leadership but some Trust members take part as well.

Meetings of local members at Village Colleges have been held at a number of places with the intention of recruiting members and spreading information about the Trust in the rural parts of the county. They have been successful on both counts and it is planned to cover all Village Colleges in a two year programme of talks and film shows.

In May a work party collected litter from five miles of Streetway and green roads between Bottisham and Great Wilbraham. The dumps were duly removed by the local authorities. This was an unpleasant task and it is disappointing to report that by early November the litter of bottles, tins, cartons and old clothes was as plentiful as it had been in the spring.

The Field Committee is acting for the Trust in making arrangements for a natural history survey in 1971 of the park and woodlands surrounding Bottisham Hall. This survey has added interest on account of the data collected by Jenyns and published in 1846. The Trust is indebted to the owner of Bottisham Hall for this opportunity.

Technical Committee Report

Mr D. Wells reports as follows:

Of the various management proposals drawn up by this committee in 1970 perhaps the most welcome was the opportunity offered by the City Council to suggest suitable management for the maintenance of the natural history interest of the Cambridge City commons. These amount to over 200 acres, some of which provide much of interest to the naturalist and all have an amenity value for the general public, who are fortunate in having such land within the City boundary.

The major work of the committee for 1971 will be the classification of sites within the county based on their scientific interest—botanical, ornithological, entomological, geological, etc. and the possible use which could be made of each site—educational, amenity, etc. From this a priority list will be drawn up to enable the Trust to apply its limited resources most effectively. Members are asked to notify the Trust of any site which they feel should be considered.

Education Committee

Mr D. G. Alexander reports as follows:

The Countryside Exhibition at the Guildhall did much to publicise the work of the Trust and allowed those villages who had made a careful study of their Parish Natural Histories to display their findings. We are most encouraged to find that many of these groups found the exercise so absorbing that work will be continuing for some time to come.

An illustrated edition of the County's 'Wild Flower Guide' has been published in conjunction with the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Education Committee, copies of which may be obtained from the office. There has appeared a steady flow of publications throughout the year to record the areas of natural history in which the Trust takes an active interest.

The Fulbourn Reserve Committee is closely linked with this Committee as the Reserve is used for educational visits. The Management Committee has been working hard during the year to improve the facilities available to schools when they visit the Local Education Authority's Field Studies Centre based in the Old Fulbourn Primary School.

Evenings Centres continue to place a heavy demand on the Trust's lecturing service. However there are signs that locally based Conservation groups are beginning to evolve. These groups under the wing of the Adult Tutor may consist of a Youth group concerned with active conservation work and an adult group studying the natural history of the Area. This is a most encouraging development which could do much to continue the work stimulated by 1970.

Isle of Ely Committee

Mrs H. While reports as follows:

The committee was actively involved in a number of ventures in connection with the E.C.Y. programme. Members were on duty at the Ouse Washes open days and at the openings of the Nature Trails at Roswell Pits and the Norwood Road Reserve. But the biggest effort was the staging of the Countryside Exhibition in March, followed by a less ambitious one at Wisbech. Unfortunately the public response to both exhibitions was very disappointing. Two Wisbech members organised a successful publicity meeting at Peckover House with Mr Peter Conder, Director of the R.S.P.B., as the speaker. In addition, several committee members helped to man the Trust's stand at the East of England Show at Peterborough. The final venture of the year was a second Wine and Cheese Party in November, which was even more popular than last year's. The Trust's film was shown to an enthusiastic audience followed by an interesting talk by Tony Vine.

Bedlam Pit, Manea has now been added to the list of sites in the Isle. A management policy for these is being organised by the committee.

We feel that during 1971 we should concentrate on increasing Trust membership in the Isle.

Hayley Wood Committee

Dr Rackham reports as follows:

The chief new enterprise has been the purchase of the eastern hedge of Hayley Lane and a strip of the adjoining field. This is a step in solving the long-standing problem of a permanent vehicle access to the Wood (for maintenance and extracting timber) which will not damage the amenities of the Lane. It also adds to the reserve one of the most interesting ancient parish boundary hedges in the county. We shall plant a new hedge, parallel to this, along the boundary of the strip. This will be a useful demonstration of contrasts in hedges; it is also an unusual opportunity of studying, in a long-term experiment, the relations between an old hedge and a new one close to it.

Other activities have continued as usual. The coppicing teams, organised by Mr J. Booth, finished the eighth plot in two-and-three-quarter days, a remarkable achievement due mainly to very large turn-outs (about 45 on a pouring wet day). A revised management plan has been drawn up. Material for the Hayley Wood book is nearly complete. Our thanks are again due to Dr J. M. Way, Mr G. McBride, and to all who have taken part in coppicing and helped in other ways.

Ouse Washes Committee

Dr F. Perring reports as follows:

The number of birds nesting in summer or feeding on our Washes in the winter depends very much on the height and pattern of the vegetation. This is controlled by grazing or hay cutting. Generally speaking, if the vegetation is too short by the end of the summer there will be little feed for winter visitors; if it is left too long it will reduce nesting of important species in the following season. Water level control is also important.

This year, for the first time, most of our Washes to the south of Welches Dam have been managed as we would wish. The Singing Washes on the Ely side have been grazed at varying intensities by sheep and cattle and from two of them considerable quantities of hay were taken. These Washes provide one of the best Godwit areas and we are hoping for even more nesting pairs next year. In front of the Hide, the two Rickwood Washes have been grazed by Mr Sole's Herefords, which has proved a much happier arrangement than the wild horses of 1969.

To the north of Welches Dam the main drain parallel to the barrier bank has been dredged. This will give an opportunity of letting a block of grazing in this area in future years. The purchase of the five-acre wash to

complete our ownership up to the R.S.P.B. land on the Welches Dam side was a vital step towards proper management.

None of this work could have taken place had it not been for the combined activities of our Honorary Warden, Mr L. Luck, and the R.S.P.B. Warden, Jeremy Sorenson. Trust members who have enjoyed watching birds in the Washes this year owe them an enormous debt of gratitude. Towards the end of the year we were able to begin to repay the debt as far as the R.S.P.B. is concerned with the arrival of Brian Ribbands, who is working full-time for the Trust on a semi-voluntary basis. He has been helping Jeremy with construction work and with wildfowl counts, and those who have visited the Hide will appreciate the new coat of Cuprinol he has given it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Following the practice of recent years the detailed accounts and balance sheet, together with explanatory notes and comments, are printed separately from this report.

The programme of events organised in connection with E.C.Y. provided opportunities to increase considerably the Trust's trading activities, which in turn increased the pressure on the secretariat in the matter of stock control. The future development of this aspect of its work will doubtless be the subject of deliberation by the Trust Council. The Trust film has received its first showings and should prove a useful asset in our future membership campaign. The film cost £340, of which £200 was contributed by the sponsors in 1969.

At the Norwood Road Reserve an additional acre of land was purchased for £43. The proceeds to date of the Ouse Washes Appeal have been directed to the repayment of the £2,000 loan and the purchase of an important small area at Welches Dam at a cost of just over £600. This means that the Trust still lacks the large reserve fund desirable on two counts: (a) as a source of investment income to meet increasing land management costs and (b) to finance future purchases without recourse to heavy borrowing. The building up of such a fund must be our immediate concern.

NATIONAL TRUST

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE WICKEN FEN LOCAL COMMITTEE

Report for 1969–70

The major events of the year have been the completion and opening of the new laboratory building and the start of work on the Charles Raven

Marshland Reserve. The building was completed in 1969 and was opened by Rev. J. S. Boys Smith on 16 May 1970; it was named the William Thorpe Building in honour of our Chairman. The first stage of work in the creation of the Raven Reserve, the construction of a waterproof bank along the edge of Brett's and Trevelyan's Pieces from Monk's Lode to Harrison's Drove, was carried out in the summer of 1969 at a cost of £800. The Executive Committee have approved plans for further development of the Raven Reserve and the detailed layout of a demonstration garden around the William Thorpe Building is being considered.

Publications

During the year a second edition of Guide No. 1 (*Wicken Fen. A Topographical and Botanical Guide*) and the new Guide No. 7 (*The Spiders of Wicken Fen*) were published. The map of *Fenland Waterways—Past and Present* was revised and reprinted. The bird ringing group produced an attractive publication giving some of their results.

Visitors

The number of recorded visitors to the Fen fell last year for the first time since 1953–54. Some figures are given below:

	Year			
	1952–53	1953–54	1968–69	1969–70
Total number of visitors	1,470	About 1,000	12,598	11,909
Number in parties	—	—	3,526	3,761
Number of parties*	—	—	156	146

**Parties ranged in size from 7 to 75*

Botanical Report

The effect of the continuously high water level from about July 1968 till June 1969 has been spectacular in killing off much old carr over an area of several acres in the south-west corner of Verrall's Fen. In the most completely killed areas only an occasional Sallow (*Salix cinerea*) is surviving. By October 1969, when the surface water had completely gone, there was a remarkable growth of algae and bryophytes over the peat in the wetter places, whilst on the ridges a few inches higher (from which the water had receded earlier) a rich 'weedy' flora had appeared, including *Chenopodium rubrum*, *Solanum nigrum* and *Samolus valerandi*. It will be very interesting to see how rapidly this ground cover under the dead carr changes in 1970. Patches of *Phragmites* might be expected to extend rapidly, but over the areas in which the dense shade of the old carr has eliminated the main fen dominants, the stages in succession are less predictable.

Zoological Report

The introduction of Swallowtails continued in 1969 with the release of a number of fertile females in June. Unfortunately the release date, forced upon us by when the adults emerge, seems to precede the growth of *Peucedanum* and the release of caterpillers may be more desirable and effective.

Warden's Report

A year of great progress at Wicken Fen but no comment will be made about the two major events, the construction of the William Thorpe Building and the clay bank, as these have been dealt with in the main report.

St Edmund's Fen

The only work that has been carried out in St Edmund's Fen is the completion of cutting back all the paths and droves through this area.

The large patch of male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) at the east end of this Fen continues to flourish.

The Sedge Fen

Clearance continued and good progress was made last season. There is at last a continuous cleared area (except for about thirty yards) from the entrance to the Fen up to Drainer's Dyke. In fact this cleared area continues on the west side of the Dyke for some hundred odd yards.

The paths on the Sedge Fen are still far from satisfactory but the programme of widening carried out last year has prevented any further deterioration.

The very wet state of the Fen in the early summer, followed by plenty of sun, had a most salutary effect on the sedge which made much above average growth; the same applies to the reed. Some parts of the Sedge Fen almost look like a reed field.

Adventurers' Fen

The construction of the clay bank has been a great success. The water table is considerably higher and wildfowl have greatly appreciated the resulting area of flood and flush water. The actual duck population has not increased by much, but it is quite certain that duck have used the new wet-land areas for feeding, not remaining so much on the Mere. One of the unexpected results is that the duck, as a whole, have become much more sensitive to human approach; the duck feeding on the wet-land seem to be much more nervous than the duck resting on the Mere.

This has been a good year for reed, in so far as the crop is concerned but it has been a very bad harvesting season.

CAMBRIDGE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President: Mr W. H. Palmer
Senior Secretary: Mr C. H. Pickup

Report for 1970

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

23 January	Mr W. H. Palmer (Presidential Address)	Flowering Plants of Cambridgeshire
13 February	Dr H. D. Fisher	Arctic Mammals and their adaptations
6 March	Dr J. E. Guest	The Nature of the Lunar surface
23 October	Mr D. T. Streeter	Nature Conservation—its implications and justification
6 November	Dr G. R. Coope	The Beetles' response to the Ice Age
27 November	Prof. J. A. Kitching	The Natural History of a Sea Lough in South-west Ireland

The Zoological, Entomological, Botanical, Geological and Cell Biology sections each held some six meetings during the season. A successful Conversazione was held in the University Zoological Department on 13 March and the Annual General Meeting on the same date. Members of the Trust are now entitled to attend the General Meetings of the Society—a privilege which might well be exploited more.

Subscriptions: Life Membership: £2, Annual: 50p, (compounding to Life after 4 years), Members of Homerton and Hughes Hall (annual): 25p, Undergraduates (3 years): 75p.

Applications to: Mr I. Hepburn, 8 Millington Road, CB3 9HP
(City Secretary)
Mr S. M. Head, Corpus Christi College
(University Secretary)

OPEN DAYS AND FIELD MEETINGS IN 1970

Apart from the joint meetings with the Cambridge Bird Club, the field meetings during 1970 took the form of 'open days' at the Trust's Nature Reserves in an effort to introduce the idea of conservation to as many people as possible.

The Bird club excursions to more distant sites were as follows:

Sunday 31 May	Minsmere and Walberswick
Sunday 19 July	Wicken Fen and the Brecks
Sunday 20 September	Norfolk coast

Saturday, 21 and 28 February, Welches Dam Washes

The Washes were opened to the public on two Saturdays at the end of February, and attracted large numbers of visitors. Although the weather on the 21st was not very kind, the visibility was quite good, and a large number of birds was observed from the Trust's hide. On the 28th, the weather was much pleasanter, but the birds mostly kept over the far side of the water and were difficult to observe. On both days Mr Jeremy Sorensen, the R.S.P.B's Warden was present, aided on the 28th by Mr Martin Walters, to point out the different species to visitors—a most valuable contribution to the success of these outings.

Mr Sorensen's list of the birds seen during 21 February is as follows: Little Grebe, Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Goosander, Pochard, Mute Swan, Berwick's Swan, Moorhen, Coot, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Snipe, Ruff, Greater Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull, Stock Dove, Wood Pigeon, Skylark, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Fieldfare, Meadow Pipit, Starling, Goldfinch, Brambling and Reed Bunting. These were seen from the Hide itself and, in addition, the following were seen during the day: Great Crested Grebe, Goldeneye, White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan and Short-eared Owl.

He considered it a vintage winter for wildfowl on the Washes as a whole, with maximum counts of 898 Bewick's Swans, more than 37,000 Wigeon, 6,000 Mallard, 2,400 Pintail, 2,400 Pochard and 140 White-fronted Geese, etc.

Saturday, 2 May, Knapwell Wood

On a balmy, cloudless day some 150 visitors inspected the wood during the four hours it was open to the public. Although the date for the open day had been carefully chosen so as to be during the period when the spring flowers were likely to be at their best, the display of oxlips, for which the wood is famous, was distinctly disappointing. In most years the whole wood should be carpeted with at least half-a-million blooms, but on this occasion the number of blooms was reduced to about one-fifth of this, and many of these were small and inconspicuous. This does not mean that the number of plants had fallen but that there was a high proportion of non-flowering plants. This may well have been chiefly due to the long drought during the previous autumn, and also perhaps more flowers than usual had been eaten by birds or rabbits. Nevertheless, there were still large numbers of oxlip flowers to be seen, some anemones and primroses, and a few early bluebells in flower.

A considerable variety of birds were seen or heard, notably many different warblers and some long-tailed tits. It was also possible to observe

the early stages of the coppicing which is being carried out by the Management Committee in a small area. This is the start of the re-creation of the coppice cycle which previously obtained in the wood. This should provide, amongst other things, a more open habitat for the smaller birds and also for insects.

Saturday, 23 May, Hayley Wood

Over 200 visitors availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the wood on 'open day' and were rewarded by a fine day with the wood looking at its most impressive. Owing to the late Spring, acres of massed bluebells were to be seen under partly leafless trees. Many other plants were in flower, including two orchid species and the bizarre Herb Paris. Among the birds, several different warblers were heard and groups of long-tailed tits were observed in the crowns of the oaks.

In the series of 1-acre coppiced plots, visitors were able to compare seven years of regrowth in different stages of development, further illustrated by a display of photographs by Mr W. H. Palmer showing how one of the plots had altered in appearance over the years. In the second-year plot there was a particularly fine display of Yellow Archangel. Other places of interest visited were the Great Glade, now forming a good turf, the Main Pond, and the plant communities developing on the old railway line. A soil pit was dug to show the structure of the boulder clay.

Members of the Management Committee were present to answer questions on various aspects of the wood and its management, and the 3rd edition of the Nature Trail Guide was in constant use. The reserve is so extensive that it was well capable of absorbing this number of visitors—even at the busiest time one had only to stray a few yards off the rides to be quite out of sight of mankind.

Saturday, 29 June, Fulbourn Fen

Although there was a rather disappointing turn-out of visitors on the 'open day', the fifty or so naturalists who came had an interesting afternoon in splendid weather. The attraction of this fine reserve is the great variety of different habitats it provides. Thus there are extensive woodlands containing many different trees, open grassland, some of it grazed and some of it ungrazed with some shrub growth, some of it dry and some of it moist and peaty, and also various drainage dykes colonised by water plants. It is not surprising that a wide variety of plants and animals are to be found there.

Many of the visitors were armed with field glasses and were able to see something of the rich bird population. Particularly noticeable were the Willow Wrens, Blackcaps, Whitethroats and various tits and finches. Both

Green and Spotted Woodpeckers were also seen. The botanists were interested to see in the woods plants of the Stinking Hellebore and the Gladdon, neither of which are at all common in the county. In some of the dry meadows the ground seemed quite blue with Milkwort, and it was good to see a few plants of the Yellow-wort, another very local species. There was a particularly fine display of the tall Hemlock along one of the dykes.

No entomologists were noticed among the visitors, but this is also an excellent area for the study of insects. How lucky local children are to have this beautiful site in which to learn their natural history!

Saturday, 27 June, Bassenhally Pit, Whittlesey

An extremely severe thunderstorm, accompanied by torrential rain flooded most of the roads leading to this site shortly after 1 p.m., with the result that the 'open day' was literally washed out. Two brave members did arrive during the afternoon, but they saw no one else!

Sunday, 28 June, 'Greys', near Royston

Twice in one week Mr William Darling's 480 acre farm, 'Greys', near Royston, was invaded—firstly by farmers and secondly by naturalists—all part of Mr Darling's contribution to European Conservation Year.

For many years Bill Darling has been a keen supporter of the World Wildlife Fund and the County Naturalists' Trust movement, as well as being a practical conservationist. On June 24 he demonstrated to 200 farmers how he could run an efficient modern farm and still find room for small copses, hedges and areas of old grassland which give shelter to wildlife. By planting up corners of fields which the combine cannot reach he has increased the game carrying capacity of the farm and increased its capital value by up to £20 per acre. He believes that unsprayed hedgebanks where wild bees nest are an important factor in ensuring pollination of clover which he grows for seed.

On the Sunday, 200 naturalists came to follow a Nature Trail which was laid out on the farm and on adjacent parts of Therfield Heath. Mr Darling has been grazing sheep on the Heath at the Royston end since 1966 in order to conserve and increase the number of typical chalk downland flowers which occur. Already the effect can be seen—cowslips are common from April onwards. By July over 60 flowering plants may be recorded including purple milkvetch, dropwort, harebell, common rockrose and lady's bedstraw, as well as four species of orchid. It is hoped that development of the chalk downland flora will produce an increase in the number of butterflies and that maintaining a sizeable area of hawthorn scrub may lead to the return of the red-backed shrike as a breeding bird.

A very handsome illustrated guide to the Nature Trail prepared by the Printing Section of the Cambridge Technical College was available, and tea on the lawn of the farm house and a display of natural history in the barn were other attractions which provided entertainment to all who completed the three-mile walk.

Saturday, 4 July, Thriplow Meadows

About a dozen devoted members turned out on a wet morning to carry out the annual orchid count. Not merely was there intermittent rain, but the long grasses and sedges were soaking. It was immediately apparent that there were not as many blooms as usual. The results were as follows (last year's figures being quoted for comparison):

	1970	*1969*
Strip I (grazed)	762	1,538
Strip II (cut)	130	269
Strip III (untouched 'control')	382	637
Strip IV (grazed)	576	1,241

It will be noticed that the figures are only about half those recorded for 1969, which was actually a particularly good year, and are very similar to those recorded in 1967 (but greater than those of 1965 and 1966). Owing to the exceptionally long spell of sunny weather many of the plants were going over, and although this did not probably affect the counts, the meadows did not look as bright as usual for the visitors.

The weather remained drizzly for the rest of the Saturday, but the following Sunday afternoon was dry and warm. It was thought that there were at least 250 visitors on the two days. The exhibition in the adjoining school was first-rate and exactly what a village exhibition should be. The Management Committee should be warmly congratulated on the results of their efforts.

Saturday, 3 October, Brandon Park

The annual Fungus Foray took place, as traditionally established, on the first Saturday in October and some 50 members and friends arrived by car and hired coach at the entrance to Brandon Park. Under the expert and genial guidance of Prof. E. J. H. Corner they proceeded to search the woodland around the now deserted house for fungi, which soon proved to be varied and numerous. The professor soon demonstrated specimens of the poisonous Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*) and the related Fly Agaric (*A. muscaria*), which has achieved notoriety recently on account of its hallucinatory effects and its connection with primitive folk rituals.

Other species seen in quantity and in good condition included *Paxillus involutus*, a large toadstool with olive-brown cap and pale gills, *Russula*

ochroleuca, of medium size with a bright yellow cap and white gills, and several species of *Boletus*, including the excellent edible *B. edulis* and *B. badius*. Several brave members, trusting to the advice of the experts, collected these and other edible fungi with every intention of putting them to the test that evening.

It was a pleasant autumn day, dry and cool, with patches of warm sunshine. In the broad ride from the house some late summer wild flowers were still in flower, notably the handsome blue Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) and both the normal pink-flowered and rarer white forms of the Common Storksbill (*Erodium cicutarium*). Autumn tints in the trees and shrubs were beginning to make their effect and the great variety of planted trees round the house was particularly rich in colour.

The party dispersed around 5 p.m., well satisfied with a pleasant and rewarding afternoon, which had produced for Professor Corner's identification at least 40 different species of fungi.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE MOTHS OF REACH

M. J. Bishop and S. J. Bishop

The moth population of Reach, Cambridgeshire has been investigated over the past year (1969–70), using the Rothampsted type of light trap fixed in a garden. Almost 200 species have been recorded, and it is hoped that the present list will form a basis for further work in the area.

Reach lies where the undulating glaciated chalk country meets the flat peat-covered Fenland. The underlying rocks are Lower Chalk, once quarried as 'clunch' in several pits in the parish, and Gault, which forms an impervious base to the Fen area. There is therefore the potential for a wide variety of vegetation types. However the extensive drainage and subsequent farming of the area has led to a drastic reduction in the available natural or semi-natural habitats.

The species list follows the nomenclature of South (1961). The relative abundance of moths collected in the light trap is given in five categories ranging from rare (only one or two specimens in the year) through occasional, common and frequent to abundant (over one hundred). These values reflect the proportion of the total population which is attracted to the trap and are not necessarily a measure of the absolute ratios of different species. The food plants given by South were used to assign habitats in eight categories, according to where the larvae might be expected to be

found, from the known occurence of plants in the area. It must be emphasised that in only a few cases has the assignment been confirmed by field observations.

1. Arable fields: these cover by far the largest area and the crops include cereals, sugar beet, carrots, potatoes, and cabbages. (27 species of moths).
2. Pasture: three fields remain in the village and are used for grazing cattle. (57 species).
3. Rough vegetation: some remains along tracks and near ditches, on baulks between arable fields and on scree slopes in the old quarries. There is a small area of chalk grassland on the Devil's Dyke. (90 species).
4. Hedgerows: very few hedges are left and these are mostly near the village. Hedges are still being removed rather than replanted. (61 species).
5. Scrub: there is a substantial area on the Devil's Dyke and around the old quarries. (64 species).
6. Trees: there are large isolated poplars and willows in the Fens. There is no woodland for at least three miles, but some of our records are given by South as woodland species. (49 species).
7. Waterside plants: found along lodes and ditches. (13 species).
8. Gardens: occupy small areas in the village. Many species may live in gardens, but only those specially mentioned by South are included. (23 species).

Reach is two-and-a-half miles from Wicken Fen which supports several species of rare moths. It is possible that some of the species collected, such as *Meliana flammea* (the Flame Wainscot), may have flown from Wicken.

As might be expected, more species of moths appear to live in the rough vegetation, hedgerows and scrub than elsewhere. Such areas have largely been cleared in Reach, and this process can only lead to a reduction in the number of species found here.

SPECIES LIST

Sphinx ligustri Linn. 4, 5, 8.
Deilephila elpenor Linn. r, 3, 7.
Harpyia furcula Clerck. o, 6.
Lophopteryx capucina Linn. o, 4, 5, 6.
Pterostoma palpina Clerck. c, 6.
Phalera bucephala Linn. c, 4, 5, 6, 8.
Clostera curtula Linn. o, 6.
Habrosyne pyritoides Hufn. o, 4, 5.
Thyatira batis Linn. r, 4.
Tethea ocularis Linn. o, 6.
Drepana falcataria Linn. o.
Cilix glaucata Scop. f, 4, 5, 8.
Orgyia antiqua Linn. 4, 5, 6, 8.
Dasychira pudibunda Linn. c, 4, 5, 6.
Euproctis similis Fuessly. c, 4, 5, 6, 8.
Leucoma salicis Linn. 6.
Euxoa nigricans Linn. o, 2, 3.
Agrotis segetum Schiff. f, 1, 3.
Agrotis puta Hübn. o, 2, 3, 7.
Agrotis exclamationis Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Peridroma porphyrea Schiff. r, 1, 2, 3.
Graphiphora augur Fab. r, 1, 2, 3, 4.
Diarisa rubi View. a, 1, 2, 3.
Ochropleura plecta Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Amathes c-nigrum Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Amathes triangulum Hufn. o, 2, 3, 4, 5.
Amathes xanthographa Schiff. c, 1, 2, 3.
Axylia putris Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Euschesis comes Hübn. 2, 3.
Euschesis interjecta Hübn. 2, 3.

Noctua pronuba Linn. c, 1, 2, 3, 8.
Cerastis rubricosa Schiff. c, 1, 2, 3.
Naenia typica Linn. 2, 3, 8.
Mamestra brassicae Linn. f, 1, 2, 3.
Melanchra persicariae Linn. a, 1, 2, 3, 8.
Diataraxia oleracea Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Ceramica pisi Linn. o, 4, 5.
Hadena thalassina Schiff. c, 3, 4, 5.
Hadena conspersa Schiff. r, 4.
Orthosia gothica Linn. a, 1, 2, 3, 4.
Orthosia stabilis Schiff. f, 5, 6.
Orthosia incerta Hufn. f, 5, 6.
Orthosia gracilis Schiff. f, 3, 4.
Heliophobus calcatrippae View. r, 3, 4.
Meliana flammea Curt. r, 7.
Leucania pallens Linn. c, 2, 3.
Leucania impura Hübn. c, 2, 3.
Leucania lythargyria Esp. c, 2, 3.
Cucullia verbasci Linn. o, 3, 4.
Xylocampa areola Esp. c, 4, 5.
Eumictis adusta Esp. f, 4, 5.
Parastichtis suspecta Hübn. r, 5, 6.
Agrochola lota Clerck. r, 5, 6.
Agrochola lychnidis Schiff. r, 2, 3, 4.
Apatele psi Linn. c, 4, 5, 6.
Amphipyra tragopoginis Clerck. o, 3, 4, 5, 6.
Rusina ferruginea Esp. c, 2, 3.
Apamea lithoxylaea Schiff. c, 2, 3.
Apamea monoglypha Hufn. o, 2, 3.
Apamea epomidion Haw. o, 2, 3.
Apamea sordens Hufn. o, 2, 3.
Apamea infesta Ochs. r, 1, 2, 3.
Apamea unaminis Hübn. c, 7.
Apamea secalis Linn. f, 1, 2, 3.
Apamea ophiogramma Esp. o, 2, 3, 7, 8.
Apamea ypsillon Schiff. f, 6.
Procus fasciuncula Haw. c, 2, 3.
Eremobia ochroleuca Schiff. o, 2, 3.
Euplexia lucipara Linn. o, 3, 4, 5.
Phlogophora meticulosa Linn. o, 1, 2, 3, 8.
Petilampa minima Haw. r, 2, 3.
Meristis trigrammica Hufn. o, 2, 3.
Caradrina morpheus Hufn. f, 1, 2, 3.
Caradrina blanda Schiff. f, 1, 2, 3.
Caradrina clavipalpis Scop. o, 1, 2, 3.
Gortyna micacea Esp. o, 1, 2, 3.
Gortyna flavago Schiff. c, 1, 2, 3.
Arenostola pygmina Haw. r, 7.
Arenostola phragmitidis Hübn. r, 7.
Chilodes maritima Tausch. r, 7.
Earias clorana Linn. c, 5, 6.
Catocala nupta Linn. c, 6.
Euclidimera mi Clerck. 2, 3.
Colocasia coryli Linn. c, 4, 5.
Plusia chrysitis Linn. f, 3.
Plusia ni Hübn. r.
Plusia gamma Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Unca trigemina Werneberg. f, 3.
Unca triplasia Linn. f, 3.
Episema caeruleocephala Linn. c, 4, 5, 8.
Rivula sericealis Scop. r, 2, 3.
Scoliopteryx libatrix Linn. c, 5, 6.
Hypena proboscidalis Linn. a, 3.
Zanclognatha tarsipennalis Treit. c, 3, 4.
Zanclognatha nemoralis Fab. f, 5, 6.
Laspeyria flexula Schiff. o, 6.
Malacosoma neustria Linn. c, 5, 6, 8.
Gastropacha quercifolia Linn. r, 5, 6.
Lithosia griseola Hübn. r, 6.
Lithosia lurideola Zink. c, 6.
Lithosia complana Linn. r, 6.
Spilosoma lubricipeda Linn. a, 2, 3.
Spilosoma lutea Hufn. a, 2, 3.
Cycnia mendica Clerck. f, 2, 3.
Phragmatobia fulginosa Linn. o, 2, 3.
Callimorpha jacobaeae Linn. c, 3.
Alsophila aescularia Schiff. f, 6, 8.
Hemithea aestivaria Hübn. c, 5, 6.
Calothyanis amata Linn. f, 4, 7.
Scopula imitaria Hübn. o, 3.
Sterrha dimidiata Hufn. c, 3, 4.
Sterrha subsericeata Haw. r, 3, 4.
Sterrha aversata Linn. f, 3, 4.
Sterrha trigeminata Haw. r, 4, 5.
Sterrha biselata Hufn. r, 3, 4.
Xanthorhoë montanata Schiff. a, 2, 3, 4.
Xanthorhoë fluctuata Linn. a, 1, 8.
Xanthorhoë quadrifasiata Cl. c, 4, 5.
Xanthorhoë ferrugata Cl. a, 2, 3, 4.
Xanthorhoë spadicearia Schiff. a, 2, 3, 4.
Orthonama lignata Hübn. a, 7.
Colostygia pectinataria Knoch. c, 3.
Colostygia didymata Linn. c, 3.
Earophila badiata Schiff. f, 4.
Anticlea derivata Schiff. f, 4.
Perizoma sagittata Fab. r, 7.
Perizoma flavofasciata Thunb. o, 3.
Euphyia cuculata Hufn. r, 3.
Euphyia bilineata Linn. c, 2, 3, 4.
Lyncometra ocellata Linn. r, 3.
Pelurga comitata Linn. c, 1, 2, 3.
Lygris pyraliata Schiff. f, 4.
Lygris mellinata Fab. c, 1, 8.
Cidaria fulvata Forst. c, 4.
Dysstroma truncata Hufn. c, 5, 6.
Hydriomena furcata Thunb. r, 5, 6.
Hydriomena coerulata Fab. r, 5, 6.
Philereme transversata Hufn. o, 5.
Epirrhoë alternata Müll. a, 3, 4.
Horisme vitalbata Schiff. r, 4, 5.
Eupithecia centaureata Schiff. f, 3, 4.
Eupithecia icterata de Villers. f, 3, 8.
Eupithecia virgaureata Dbldy. c, 3, 8.
Eupithecia dodoneata Guenee. c, 4, 5.
Chloroclystis rectangulata Linn. f, 4, 5, 8.
Lobophora halterata Hufn. r, 5, 6.

Mysticoptera sexalata Retz. c, 5, 6.
Oporinia dilutata Schiff. c, 5, 6.
Operophtera brumata Linn. c, 4, 5.
Abraxas grossulariata Linn. c, 4, 5, 8.
Lomaspilis marginata Linn. c, 5, 6.
Bapta bimaculata Fabr. f, 4, 5.
Bapta temerata Schiff. f, 4, 5.
Deilinia pusaria Linn. c.
Deilinia exanthemata Scop. c, 5, 6.
Campaea margaritata Linn. c, 5, 6.
Deuteronomos alnaria Linn. c.
Deuteronomos fuscantaria Steph. o, 4, 5, 6.
Selnia bilunaria Esp. f, 4, 5, 6.
Apeira syringaria Linn. r, 4, 8.
Gonodontis bidentata Clerck. c, 4, 5, 6.
Colotois pennaria Linn. o, 4, 5, 6.
Ourapteryx sambucaria Linn. c, 4, 5.
Plagodis dolabraria Linn. c, 5, 6.
Ophisthograptis luteolata Linn. a, 4, 5.
Epione repandaria Hufn. c, 5, 6.
Theria rupicapraria Schiff. c, 4, 5.
Errannis marginaria Fabr. c, 4, 5, 6.
Erannis defoliaria Clerck. c, 4, 5, 6.
Lycia hirtaria Clerck. a, 6, 8.
Biston betularia Linn. o, 5, 6, 8.
Menophra abruptaria Thunb. f, 5, 8.
Cleora rhomboidaria Schiff. f, 5, 8.
Alcis repandata Linn. c, 5.
Pseudoboarmia punctinalis Scop. r, 6.
Ectropis crepuscularia Schiff. f, 5, 6.
Ematurga atomaria Linn. 3.
Itame wauaria Linn. r, 8.
Lithina chlorosata Scop. f.
Chiasma clathrata Linn. c, 3.
Hepialus humuli Linn. c, 1, 2, 3.
Hepialus lupulina Linn. a, 1, 2, 3.
Aphioma sociella Linn. r.
Crambus tristellus Schiff. c, 2, 3.
Schoenobius forficellus Thunb. c, 7.
Schoenobius mucronellus Schiff. c, 7.
Myelois cribrumella Hübn. o, 3.
Hypsopygia costalis Fab. a.
Scoparia cembrae Haw. o, 3.
Sylepta ruralis Scop. a, 3.
Eurrypara hortulata Linn. a, 3.
Pyrausta lutealis Hübn. f, 3, 4.
Pyrausta coronata Hufn. a, 4, 5.
Alucita pentadactyla Linn. c, 3.

r=rare o=occasional c=common f=frequent a=abundant

THE FRESHWATER MOLLUSCA OF REACH LODE

S. J. Bishop and M. J. Bishop

The Cambridgeshire Fenland, with its wealth of drainage ditches carrying calcareous drainage water, provides some of the best localities in Britain for freshwater molluscs. Reach Lode is one such drainage ditch which eventually flows into the River Cam at Upware. The study of molluscs was made at the village of Reach, where the Lode begins (Grid reference 52/565664).

Here the Lode is narrower (3m) and less deep (1.5m) than it is downstream. The water current varies but it is never very rapid, and the water lying in the arm of the Lode which branches off at the Hythe shows little movement. The bottom consists of mud with a thick layer of humus, the body of which accumulates during the winter when considerable amounts of floating vegetation may be blown up the Lode.

The collecting was carried out over the course of a year, mainly by searching the weed, of which there was a good growth during the summer. The water plants included *Ranunculus* sp. (Crowfoot), *Myriophyllum* sp. (Water Milfoil), *Hippuris vulgaris* (Marestail), *Callitriche* sp. (Starwort), *Ceratophyllum* sp. (Hornwort), *Elodea canadensis* (Canadian Pondweed), *Lemna minor* (Lesser Duckweed), *L. trisulca* (Ivy-leaved Duckweed), and *Potamogeton* spp. (Pondweed). The main part of the Lode was deepened by dredging in the autumn of 1969 and this gave an ideal opportunity for studying the bottom dwelling molluscs.

There are 22 species of gastropods and 12 species of bivalves which make up the list of 34 species. This is an impressive total for such a small area and compares very favourably with the published list for Wicken Fen (37 species). The large number of species indicates that Reach Lode is a favourable environment for many molluscs, some of which such as *Planorbarius corneus*, *Bithynia leachi*, and *Aplexa hypnorum* are somewhat local in distribution. *Segmentina nitida*, another local species, has been obtained in the form of fossil shells from peat at the bottom of the Lode but there is no evidence that it still occurs. The species of *Anadonta* and *Unio* are all four abundant and each species shows a certain degree of variation. *Unio tumidis*, which has not yet been recorded from Wicken Fen, occurs more frequently in the wider part of the Lode. It is readily distinguished from *U. pictorum* by its swollen outline, squatter appearance and green-rayed colouration.

SPECIES LIST

**recorded only from dead shells*

Viviparus contectus (Millet)
Valvata cristata Müller
Valvata piscinalis (Müller)
Potamopyrgus jenkinsi (E. A. Smith)
Bithynia tentaculata (L.)
Bithynia leachii (Sheppard)
*Lymnaea palustris (Müller)
Lymnaea stagnalis (L.)
Lymnaea auricularia (L.)
Lymnaea peregra (Müller)
Aplexa hypnorum (L.)
Physa fontinalis (L.)
Planorbarius corneus (L.)
Planorbis carinatus Müller
Planorbis planorbis (L.)
Planorbis vortex (L.)
*Planorbis leucostoma Millet
Planorbis albus Müller
Planorbis crista (L.)
Planorbis contortus (L.)
*Segmentina complanata (L.)
Acroloxus lacustris (L.)
Unio pictorum (L.)
Unio tumidis Philipsson
Anadonta cygnaea (L.)
Anadonta anatina (L.)
Sphaerium corneum (L.)
Pisidium amnicum (Müller)
Pisidium casertanum (Poli)
Pisidium milium Held
Pisidium subtruncatum Malm
Pisidium henslowanum (Sheppard)
Pisidium nitidum Jenyns
Dreissena polymorpha (Pallas)

We thank Dr M. P. Kerney for the identification of the species of Pisidium.

PLANT AND SOIL NEMATODES OF WICKEN FEN

by G. W. Yeates

Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden

As a list of plant and soil nematodes would be of little use, the nematode faunas at each of five sites on four occasions are listed. Most of the nematodes may be identified to genus using T. Goodey (1963) but recent periodical literature is necessary for specific identification.

Sites:

I Reed field (*Phragmites communis* Trin.)—the north-east corner of a reed bed in Adventurer's Fen, opposite the end of New Dyke.

II Sedge (*Cladium mariscus* Pohl)—a pure stand of sedge on the east side of Christy's Drove, about 40 m from Wicken Lode.

III Mixed fen—in Sedge Fen Drove about 1 m out from marker post 608.

IV Alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus* Miller) carr—20 m north of marker post 608.

V Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus* Linn.) carr—10 m north of the old hut to the north of Sedge Fen Drove.

Collections were made on the following days:

A 4 November 1968

B 30 January 1969

C 27 April 1969

D 21 July 1969

In the table the fewest species required to comprise 75% of the fauna are indicated by 1, those species comprising at least 2% of the fauna by 2, and less abundant species by 3. Further species found in supplementary samples are indicated by*.

Discussion

The nematode faunas, extracted using Seinhorst's 2-flask method (see J. B. Goodey, 1963), are similar in total number and biomass to faunas given by Nielsen (1949) and Banage (1963). However, the numerical dominance of Dorylaimida, especially *Thornenema wickeni*, *Tylencholaimus minimus* and *Dorylaimellus parvulus*, is unusual. The feeding habits of the Dorylaimida are poorly known, but *Monochus*, *Mylonchulus* and *Prionchulus* are predators. No endoparasitic nematodes were recovered from macerated roots.

The Rhabditida, Teratocephalida, Araeolaimida and Monhysterida contain mainly microbivorous species whose main food is bacteria. The Tylenchida and most Dorylaimida use a stylet, or spear, in feeding. Plant-feeding species all have stylets but not all stylet-bearing nematodes feed on

	I				II				III				IV				V			
TYLENCHIDA	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Tylenchus filiformis Bütschli, 1873	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	1	3	2	3	1	3	2	1	1	3	2	2	–
Tylenchus leptosoma de Man, 1880	–	–	–	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	3	–	–	–	–
Tylenchus sp.	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	3	3	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tylenchorhynchus tessellatus J. B. Goodey, 1952	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rotylenchus fallorobustus Sher, 1968	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Heliocotylenchus paxilli Yuen, 1964	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	2	2	2
Hirschmanniella loofi Sher, 1968	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Macroposthonia annulata de Man, 1880	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	2	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Boleodorus thylactus Thorne, 1941	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	3	2	–	2	3	2
Aphelenchoides sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	3	2	3	–	–	–	2	1	–	–
RHABDITIDA																				
Mesorhabditis sp.	–	–	–	–	–	*	–	–	–	–	3	2	3	3	–	3	2	1	–	–
Panagrolaimus sp.	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cephalobus nr. *persegnis* Bastian, 1865	–	–	–	–	3	3	–	1	3	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	3	–
	–																			
	–																			
TERATOCEPHALIDA																				
Teratocephalus terrestris (Bütschli, 1873) de Man, 1876		–	–	–	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	3	2	–	3
Euteratocephalus palustris (de Man, 1880) Andrássy, 1958		–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
AREOLAIMIDA																				
Plectus parietinus Bastian, 1865	–	–	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	3	3
Anaplectus granulosus (Bastian, 1865) de Coninck & Sch. Stek., 1933	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	*	2	2	2
Chronogaster tenuis Loof & Jairajpuri, 1965	–	–	–	–	3	3	–	2	–	–	2	1	3	3	2	2	–	–	–	2
Leptolaimus sp.	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rhabdolaimus terrestris de Man, 1880	–	–	–	1	*	3	1	–	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	–	2	2	3
Aphanolaimus attentus de Man, 1880	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
MONHYSTERIDA																				
Monhystera simplex de Man, 1880	–	*	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	2	3	1	3	3	–	1	3	–
ENOPLIDA																				
Oxystomatina sp.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	2	–	*	–	2	–	–	–	–
Tripyla filicaudata de Man, 1880	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	1	–	3	1	3	3	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
DORYLAIMIDA																				
Dorylaimus nr. *ruwenzorii* de Coninck, 1935	–	–	–	1	3	2	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Thornenema wickeni Yeates, 1970	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mesodorylaimus sp.	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	*	2	–	–	–	–	–
Tylencholaimus minimus de Man, 1876	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	–	1
Eudorylaimus rhopalocercus (de Man, 1876) Andrássy, 1959	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	1	3	–	2	–	–
Tylencholaimellus fenensis Yeates, 1970	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Eudorylaimus spp.	–	–	–	–	*	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	*	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Dorylaimellus parvulus Thorne, 1939	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1
Dorylaimellus globatus Yeates, 1970	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	3	1	1	3	3	1	3	2	2	–	2
Monochus truncatus Bastian, 1865	–	*	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Mylonchulus brevicaudatus (Cobb, 1917) Altherr, 1954	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Prionchulus (juveniles)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Alaimus primitivus de Man, 1880	–	–	–	–	2	3	–	–	3	–	3	–	2	2	–	–	2	2	–	3
Total number of nematodes recovered from 200 ml of soil	7	0	0	6	430	396	104	159	2008	258	449	1121	1394	295	187	345	227	200	190	332
Total biomass of nematodes mg/m² to a depth of 15 cm	0.1	0	0	2.8	188	190	20	30	758	70	190	288	280	87	75	166	92	64	71	216

Table 1. Plant and soil nematodes, by Order, in the four samples from the five sites

higher plants; some feed on fungal hyphae and spores, some on algae and some are predatory on small animals, including nematodes.

Arable fen land would contain a different nematode fauna including the endoparasitic cyst nematodes (*Heterodera* spp) and *Pratylenchus* and various ectoparasitic nematodes in addition to free-living species.

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THE BIRDS OF KNAPWELL WOOD, 1970

P. Moule

One of the most important aspects of nature reserve management is to obtain a clear idea of which plants and animals inhabit the reserve, their numbers and their requirements. With this in mind I made careful observations of the bird life of Knapwell Wood during the 1970 breeding season.

The 1970 breeding season was favourable for most species, with many long dry spells ideal for feeding nestlings and minimal damage from rain and winds. Forty-three nests of nine species were found, and for each nest a B.T.O. Nest Record Card was completed. These notes and the Table summarise the records obtained.

Blackbirds and Song-thrushes were by far the commonest breeding species with their nests uniformly distributed throughout the wood, but as usual they had many failures during the early part of the season before the vegetation became established. Perhaps the most exciting find was the Long-tailed-tit's nest which was built in a Blackthorn bush at the North edge of the wood, and from which several young were successfully reared.

One of the most welcome of early spring songs was that of the Willow-warbler, which, with the Blackcap and the Chiff-chaff is one of the three species of warbler breeding at Knapwell. At the end of April a Blackcap's nest was found built at the edge of a bed of nettles, close to the entrance and almost opposite the notice board. It was strongly woven around the nettle stems and the characteristic handles which distinguish it from the Garden-warbler's nest, could clearly be seen. Five eggs were laid of which

four hatched and were successfully reared, the young leaving the now battered nest after approximately 11 days. A pair of Tree-creepers were regularly observed near the entrance path and some breeding display was seen but the exact location of the nest was not known.

These observations show that the birds of Knapwell Wood, are typical of small woods in West Cambridgeshire, showing a considerable variety in a small area (11.4 acres), but with no rare or restricted species. It is possible that changes will occur as the programme of active management is pursued, and now that we have this base-line of observations for 1970 it will be possible to detect such changes by repeating the survey in future years.

Nests found and recorded on B.T.O. record cards

Pheasant	1	
Blue tit	1	
Long-tailed tit	1	
Wren	2	
Song-thrush	16	
Blackbird	12	
Blackcap	1	
Dunnock	6	*9 species*
Yellow-hammer	3	*43 nests found*

Other species proved to be breeding, using B.T.O. census methods

Woodpigeon
Turtle-dove
Chiff-chaff
Willow-warbler
Great-tit
Chaffinch
Bullfinch
Linnet
Greenfinch
Robin
Tree-creeper *11 species*

Other species recorded in wood

Jay
Tree-sparrow
Tawny-owl
Little-owl
Cuckoo
(Woodcock were seen in 1969, but not 1970) *5 species*

NOTE ON THE HISTORY OF KNAPWELL WOOD

G. F. Peterken

When Oliver Rackham described Knapwell Wood (Nature in Cambs. 12, 25–31, 1969) he mentioned three recognisable clearance phases, citing as part of his evidence the occurrence of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) in the eastern hedge of the lane along the east side of Stocking Furlong (see Rackham's Fig. 1). This evidence is strengthened by the subsequent discovery of Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) and Crested Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum cristatum*) in the same verge. One plant of the former was recorded in 1969, but did not reappear in 1970. The Cow-wheat, on the other hand, is flourishing along 100 yards of the verge near the southern end, growing mainly at the back of the verge near what remains of the hedge. None of the three species had been found in the western hedge and verge, said by Rackham to be modern. Sulphur Clover (*Trifolium ochroleucon*), also grows in the eastern verge, but this is not a woodland or wood-edge species like the other three.

VASCULAR PLANT RECORDS

F. H. Perring and P. D. Sell

All records are for 1970 unless otherwise stated

1970 has been a year in which considerable attention has been given to aliens, a number of which have been recorded for the first time. It will be interesting to see which, if any, become permanent members of our flora.

Dryopteris carthusiana (Vill.) H. P. Fuchs. Marshy area, Yardy's Pits, Whittlesey. 52/254978. June. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. Third county record.

Ranunculus lingua L. Amongst *Phragmites*, Yardy's Pits, Whittlesey. 52/254978. June. J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. Only two other sites now known.

Ceratophyllum submersum L. (cf. *Nat. Cambridgeshire* **12**, 37 (1970)). A. W. Punter has informed us (in litt.) that the presence or absence of spinulose projections on the fruit of this species depends on the age of the fruit and therefore the two varieties based on this character should not be recognised.

Spergularia rubra (L.) J. and C. Presl. Disused ash-pits, Whitemoor Railway Yards, March. 52/410987. July. G. M. B. Smith. First fenland record, presumably introduced.

Euphorbia cyparissias L. Side of green lane north of Six Mile Bottom. 52/584583. May. J. C. Faulkner. Otherwise only known from the Gogs and Newmarket Heath.

Myosotis discolor Pers. Cornfield on boulder-clay, Bourn. 52/335555. August 1969. R. M. Burton. Never abundant, but now a very rare weed.

Verbascum nigrum L. × *phoeniceum* L. = *V.* × *ustulatum* Celakov. Babraham. July 1890. A Shrubbs: old orchard, Fox Hill, near Stapleford. 52/483532. July 1965. P. D. Sell, no. 65/398. Both confirmed I. K. Ferguson. New county records for this alien hybrid.

Verbascum chaixii Vill. Waste ground near Waterbeach aerodrome. 52/489658. July 1958. P. D. Sell, no. 58/202. New county record for this alien.

Verbascum olympicum Boiss. Disturbed roadside between Stretham and Ely. 52/531783. August. P. D. Sell, no. 70/734. New county record for this alien.

Marrubium vulgare L. Waste ground, Broad Street, Cambridge. 52/459582. July. J. O. Mountford. First record since 1930, probably introduced.

Teucrium scorodonia L. Dry grassy bank, Whittlesey Station. 52/284962. June. J. O. Mountford. Apparently native. Second county record. Extinct at Gamlingay for over 30 years.

Galinsoga parviflora Cav. Edge of rubbish tip, Ely. 52/550803. November. G. M. S. Easy. Second county record.

Galinsoga ciliata (Raf.) Blake. Rubbish tip, Fen Drayton. 52/327685. October: common weed in sugar-beet field, Milton. 52/483628. November. G. M. S. Easy. Previously only known from Cambridge.

Ambrosia artemisiifolia L. Disused chicken run, Bacon's Farm, Thriplow. 52/443467. October 1964. G. Crompton: roadside sweepings, by Fen Road, Bassingbourn. 52/318452. September. P. D. Sell, no. 70/739: Cambridge Sewage Farm, Milton. 52/473614. September: rubbish tip, Cherry Hinton. 52/485574. September. G. M. S. Easy. New county records for this alien.

Hieracium strumosum (W. R. Linton) A. Ley. Disused railway cutting, by Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington. 52/442543. June 1969. O. Rackham, det. P. D. Sell. Third county record for this introduced species.

Carex vesicaria L. Margin of dyke, Bassenhally Pit Reserve. 52/285985. August. F. H. Perring, J. O. Mountford and G. M. B. Smith. First record since 1948.

Vulpia ambigua (Le Gall) More. Garden, Hadleigh, Huntingdon Road, Girton. May. 52/423607. F. H. Perring. First record outside Breckland fringe.

WEATHER NOTES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1970

J. W. Clarke

The general pattern of the weather in 1970 was very similar to that of 1969. In both years, a mild, rather wet January was followed by a cold, wet spring, which quickly changed to warm summer weather in May. Drought in October was also another common feature. The summer of 1970 was very warm and exceptionally dry. In parts of the county where thunderstorms did not occur it was the worst drought since 1947. At Swaffham Prior only 7.05 ins. of rain fell in the summer six months (May–October). The drought had disastrous effects on spring sown crops such as barley.

The year began with frost and snow in the first week of January, but mild weather soon set in and continued, apart from a short period of frost and snow in mid-February, until March, when a cold spell developed, giving the most severe weather of the winter—eight days with snow lying (4th–11th) and 13°F of frost during the night 8th–9th. From mid-March to the end of April the weather was wet and cold, with few signs of spring. On May Day the landscape was almost as bare as in mid-winter. During the first week of May the temperature climbed quickly to give the most rapid spring for many years. Warm, dry weather then set in and continued with very few breaks until October. The autumn was wet but free from fog, and the year ended with a cold spell at the end of December, which gave four days with snow lying.

The total rainfall for the year at Swaffham Prior (20.90 ins.) was only slightly below the average. The driest month was June (0.84 ins.) followed by October with 0.86 ins. The wettest month was November (4.88 ins.); January, February and April were all wetter than usual also. Summer rainfall was very unevenly distributed over the county. A thunderstorm on 10 June gave very heavy rainfall in S.E. Cambridgeshire along the crest of the East Anglian Heights, and on 27 June 3.28 ins. of rain fell in the space of two hours during another thunderstorm at Cambridge. On both occasions no rainfall was registered at Swaffham Prior. The summer was warmer than 1969 and the warmest since 1959. Seventeen days had maxima over 80°F—the same number as in 1959, but the 1970 mean summer temperatures were slightly lower than 1959. The hottest day of the summer was 7 July with a maximum temperature of 87°F. June was once again the warmest month of the year. This has become a marked feature of many recent years.

Weather Records at Swaffham Prior 1970

Number of days over 80° F	17
Number of days over 70° F	83
Number of days with a maximum under 32° F	6
Number of days with a minimum under 32° F	60
Last air frost of the Spring	28 April
First air frost of the Autumn	8 November

Weather Records at Swaffham Prior 1970

Temperature °F

Month	*Mean max.*	*Mean min.*	*Highest*	*Lowest*	*Rainfall ins.*
January	41	35	51 on 19th	18 on 7th	1.85
February	41	32	52 on 21st and 22nd	24 on 14th	2.04
March	44	33	60 on 20th	19 on 9th	1.27
April	52	39	61 on 23rd	27 on 2nd	2.54
May	68	49	79 on 24th	43 on 1st	0.99
June	75	53	86 on 11th	46 on 17th	0.84
July	70	55	87 on 7th	49 on 2nd and 3rd	1.76
August	72	54	84 on 3rd	46 on 28th	1.00
September	69	51	79 on 20th and 28th	40 on 23rd	1.60
October	60	46	72 on 11th	34 on 17th	0.86
November	51	40	61 on 2nd	27 on 16th	4.88
December	42	33	52 on 4th and 19th	21 on 25th	1.27
Annual mean	57.1	43.3		Total	20.90

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Back Numbers

Copies of many of the earlier volumes of *Nature in Cambridgeshire* are still available at the Office and may be purchased, while stocks last, at 15p a copy. But volumes 1 and 2 are out of print, and volumes 7, 8, and 11 are in very short supply (price £1 each).

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) £1·50, *Corporate Membership Schools, etc.* £1 *p.a., Students* 50*p 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.