

**Vol. V**

**Part I.**

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ISLE OF WIGHT  
NATURAL HISTORY  
AND  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
FOR 1956.**

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**Copies may be obtained from the Editor  
price 7/6 post free**

**Issued December, 1957.**

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**Isle of Wight:  
THE COUNTY PRESS, NEWPORT  
1689/1957.**

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## LIST OF OFFICERS.

*(Elected at the Annual General Meeting, January 19th, 1957).*

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### President :

E. H. WHITE, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S.

### Vice-Presidents :

MISS G. BULLOCK, Binstead.  
CAPT. G. C. C. DAMANT, C.B.E., R.N., East Cowes.  
G. C. DUNNING, B.Sc., F.S.A., London.  
A. L. HUTCHINSON, M.A., Carisbrooke.  
G. F. MEW, B.E.M., C.C., Seaview.  
E. W. POLLARD, B.Sc., Dorking.  
D. ROBERTS, Wootton.  
J. W. SAUNT, A.L.S., East Cowes.

### Councillors :

J. D. JONES, M.A., Carisbrooke Castle Museum.	
D. ATTRILL	W. SHEPARD
MISS V. FISK	J. STAFFORD, M.A.
MRS. A. HENRY	V. WADHAM
MISS G. POLLARD	F. WALLIS
	R. WYATT

### Secretary :

J. E. COOPER, 33 Queen's Road, Shanklin, I.W.

### Treasurer :

A. J. HENRY, 17 Victoria Avenue, Shanklin, I.W.

### Auditors :

MISS E. M. NEWNHAM, Shanklin.  
S. WHITE, Shanklin.

### Editor of Proceedings :

O. H. FRAZER, Mottistone Mill, Brighthstone, I.W.

### Bird Recorder :

J. STAFFORD, M.A., 24 Cypress Road, Newport, I.W.

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*(Publications sent in exchange should be addressed to the Editor as above).*

## NEW MEMBERS.

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The following list gives the names and addresses of all candidates elected to the Society during 1956 :—

- BROOK, MRS. D. E., West Hill, Old Seaview Lane, Seaview, I.W.  
COOL, L. G., 97 Gunville Road, Carisbrooke, I.W.  
DINNIS, F. S., Burnt Wood, Ward Avenue, Cowes, I.W.  
DOWNER, W. E., Victoria House, The Avenue, Gurnard, I.W.  
HEWITT, P. A., 44 Nelson Road, Newport, I.W.  
HOPKINS, MISS F. M., 9 Denness Road, Sandown, I.W.  
HOTSON, MISS H. B., M.A., Graytiles Lodge, Niton Undercliff, I.W.  
JONES, R. P. K., Brooklands, Queen's Road, Freshwater, I.W.  
KENNEDY, MISS L., 38 St. John's Road, Sandown, I.W.  
LAMB, MISS E., Upper Chine School, Shanklin, I.W.  
MARVIN, E. W., Beach House, Queen's Road, Cowes, I.W.  
STEVENS, MISS K., 3 Carter Avenue, Shanklin, I.W.  
WESTCOTT, J. S., 6 Woodvale House, Baring Road, Cowes, I.W.  
WESTWOOD, D. J., 10 Rookwood Bungalows, Parkhurst, I.W.  
WILKINSON, MRS. A., B.Sc., Preston Manor, Grest Preston Road, Ryde, I.W.
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## OBITUARY.

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### LADY BALDWIN, J.P.

We regret to record the death of Lady Baldwin, J.P., at her residence, Castle House, St. Helens, on February 24th, 1956.

After taking up permanent residence at Castle House in 1926, Lady Baldwin with her husband, the late Sir Harry Baldwin, C.V.O., L.D.S., M.R.C.S., surgeon-dentist to King George V, were both elected members of the Society the following year, and showed a keen interest in its activities. Following her husband's tragic death from typhoid while on holiday in Brittany in 1931, Lady Baldwin continued to take an active part in the Society and was elected in 1934 to the Council on which she served for the next three years. Deeply interested in the preservation of the countryside and the rural way of life, she became a member of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and sat on the local committee of the National Trust. She also gave devoted service to the Women's Institute, the British Legion, the District Nursing Association, and the I.W. Society for the Blind.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to her only daughter, Miss Mary Baldwin, M.A., senior investigator on the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, and also a member of the Society.

O.F.

### WILLIAM BAXTER NICOLL.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr W. B. Nicoll, suddenly, at his home at Chale on 19th August, 1956, at the age of 58. For six years he had held the appointment of the Island senior ministry official in the realm of Agriculture. William Baxter Nicoll was a Scotsman and a graduate of Edinburgh University. In 1925 he went to Leeds University as assistant lecturer in agriculture. Later he went to Lancashire and lectured at the County Farm Institute. After war service in the R.N.A.S. he eventually came to the Island in 1950, and during his tenure of office here he became very familiar with the farms of the Island, where he amply demonstrated his wide knowledge and experience in all types of problems, so that his death was a great loss to the agricultural community.

His interests were wide, and it was not surprising that he soon became a member of the Natural History Society. There his knowledge, particularly of grasses and weeds of the fields, was profound, and at the various informal botanical meetings of the Society he gave unstintingly of his wide knowledge of plant life in various parts of the Island. He served on the Council for three years, where he was a source of wise counsel. His death in the prime of life is not only a great loss to the agricultural community, but we in the Society will sadly miss him, though we shall always remember the visit to his lovely garden at Sun Acre, Chale. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Nicoll and her family in their sad bereavement.

E.H.W.

### ARTHUR SELWYN HAYWARD.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death on December 7th, 1956, of Mr. A. Selwyn Hayward, at the age of 71.

Arthur Selwyn Hayward was born in Colombo, Ceylon, and came to the Island with his parents in 1900, when they took up residence in Madeira Road, Ventnor. After active service in the 1914-18 war as Captain in the Derbyshire Yeomanry, he followed his profession of architect at Ventnor. He was an all-round sportsman, playing cricket and football for local clubs, was outstanding at golf, and was a keen yachtsman. Since retiring he established the Dormivecti Goat Herd, and by good breeding and sound advice did much to improve the quality of goats kept on the Island.

He was a valued member of our Society, being intensely interested in everything connected with the Island, its history, geology, etc., on which he had published a number of articles. He rendered great assistance at our Exhibition in 1953, and, although very ill, was at the meeting held at Mottistone Mill in May, 1956.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his widow in her sad bereavement.

G.F.M.

## MISS L. E. COX.

We regret to record the death, on the last day of the year 1956, of Miss L. E. Cox, B.Sc., F.L.S., at her home, 72 Corringham Road, London, N.W.11.

Miss Cox, although living in London, had taken a continuous keen interest in the work of the Society, which she joined in 1933.

O.F.

## BALANCE SHEET, 1956.

RECEIPTS.						£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	11	11½
Subscriptions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83	19	6
Donation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	14	0
Sale of <i>Proceedings</i> and Offprints	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	13	10
Profit from A.G.M. Tea	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	6	
Interest from War Stock	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	15	6
						£149	6	3½

EXPENDITURE.						£	s.	d.
Printing <i>Proceedings</i> and Offprints	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	9	6
Other Printing	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	6	0
Stationery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	5	4
Postage and Carriage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	0	10
Hire of Rooms and Caretaker's Fees	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	12	4
Affiliation Fees, C.B.A. and B.T.O.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	15	0
Sundries	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		15	0
Balance in Hand	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55	2	3½
						£149	6	3½

Investment, 3½ Per Cent. War Stock (par value) ..... £322 15 3

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) S. G. WHITE,  
E. M. NEWNHAM.  
*Hon. Auditors.*

(Signed) A. J. HENRY,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*

## GENERAL MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS AND EXCURSIONS.

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**General Meeting** held on Saturday 25th February, 1956.

The President in the chair.

In spite of the bad weather there was a good attendance at this meeting when films on various subjects of natural history interest were shown at the Priory Secondary Girls' School, Newport. In the absence of her husband, owing to indisposition, Mrs. O. Frazer introduced the films, which included "Some Flowerless Plants," depicting the detailed life histories of mosses and ferns, "The Woodlands," being a survey of the geology, flora and fauna of some woodland areas of Britain, and "Arachnida," showing the structure and habits of spiders. The President thanked Mr. D. T. Martin, who at short notice, kindly acted as projectionist with the assistance of Mr. J. Audus.

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**Informal Meeting** held on Friday 2nd March, 1956.

Subject for discussion—Ornithology.

Records were compared, and are embodied in the Bird Report elsewhere in these *Proceedings*.

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**General Meeting** held on Saturday 17th March, 1956.

The President in the chair.

About 40 members attended a lecture entitled "Recent Excavations by the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate" by Mr. M. W. Thompson, Ph.D. (Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments). He outlined the policy of the Ministry of Works during the war and showed how this had grown and expanded since. Nearly all the excavations undertaken at the moment were those which were threatened with destruction by quarrying, building, and flooding. With the aid of some very good lantern slides, the lecture was illustrated with photographs of excavations in progress and some recent finds. Mr. Thompson was thanked by the President. Mr. O. Frazer was the projectionist.

**General Meeting** held on Saturday 7th April, 1956.

The President in the chair.

There was a good attendance to hear a most interesting lecture on "Dipterous Flies," by Mr. J. W. Saunt, A.L.S. The lecturer introduced his subject as embracing all those flies distinguished by having only one pair of wings, unlike the ants, bees, and wasps, which have two pairs, the hind pair being represented by two small halteres or balancers. He gave structural details and typical life histories of the many varied families contained in this extensive group of insects. Specimens of all the main families, selected from the lecturer's wonderful collection, were on view.

Thanks to the lecturer were expressed by the President, and many interesting questions were answered.

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**Informal Meeting** held on Friday 20th April, 1956.

Subject for discussion—Botany.

Mr. E. H. White, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S., led the discussion, which was particularly concerned with members of the order Ranunculaceae. Notes were compared and discussed.

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**Excursion to Mottistone Mill, Brighstone, on Saturday 12th May, 1956.**

Leaders, Mr. O. H. Frazer and Mr. J. Stafford, M.A.

Between 30 and 40 members gathered at Brighstone to study birds and other fauna and flora in the grounds of Mottistone Mill and the surrounding neighbourhood. The weather was ideal for this kind of work in the marshes and woods. Maps were provided by Mr. Frazer, showing the paths which could be taken or, alternatively, where seats had been placed under cover. Other parties, under the leadership of Mr. Stafford, had a very rewarding afternoon and many species of birds were seen or heard. Afterwards, at Mottistone Mill, Mrs. Frazer provided an excellent tea in the old stone barn. Appreciation of this hospitality was expressed by the President, who also thanked Mr. Piper, who lent the barn and gave permission to visit the woods and marshes on his land.

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**Excursion to Chillerton Down on Saturday 9th June, 1956.**

Leaders, Mr. J. Jones, M.A. and Mr. E. H. White, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S.

Twenty-four members met at Sheat Manor. By kind permission of Sir Robert Hobart, Bart., J.P., the party walked through Tolt Copse

and over the down to the Five Barrows. A variety of interesting wild flowers were observed on the walk, and specimens were identified and discussed by Mr. E. H. White. On reaching their objective, the party were addressed by Mr. J. Jones, M.A., Curator of Carisbrooke Museum, who drew attention to the line of five mounds, which used to be regarded as barrows, but are now considered to be the remains of the rampart of a hill fort of the Iron Age period, between the third century B.C. and the early first century A.D. Air photographs of the area, showing many interesting features not discernible from the ground, and a few fragments of pottery found near by, were passed round and examined. After a picnic tea, the party returned to the main road by way of Long Copse.

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**Excursion to Knighton Gorges on Saturday 21st July, 1956.**

Leader, Mr. E. H. White, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S.

Thirty-six members met at Newchurch and walked to Knighton Gorges, the site of the ancient home of the famous Dillington family, whose rise and fall in fortune was brought vividly to mind as the leader told their story to those assembled on the old ruins above the one-time bowling green, where Charles I is recorded as having played. Many famous people are known to have visited the house before it was pulled down in 1821. After a most pleasant walk through woods and fields, tea was enjoyed at Alverstone, and the return to Newchurch was made on the south side of the river. A varied selection of plants were identified and discussed by the leader. A visit to the church, with its chapel containing the memorials to the Dillingtons, concluded a most interesting afternoon.

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**Excursion to Brook on Saturday 15th September, 1956.**

Leader, Mr. F. Holdsworth, B.Sc.

Over 50 members and friends met at Brook for a geological excursion along the shore to Compton Bay. Mr. J. E. Barker read an introduction to the subject from notes prepared by Mr. A. T. Grapes, Hon. Curator of Sandown Museum of Geology, and Mr. F. Holdsworth, B.Sc. pointed out the features of interest and identified specimens. Considerable attention was paid to the pine-raft, which was well exposed, before proceeding to the anticline where the oldest of the strata to be seen in the Island are exposed. The President thanked Mr. Holdsworth, who, in turn, expressed his appreciation of those who had assisted him. Discussion continued over tea.

### Exhibition of Fungi on Saturday 20th October, 1956.

Over 60 members and friends attended an exhibition of fungi in the science laboratory of the Priory Secondary Girls' School, Newport. In the absence of the President, Mr. E. H. White, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S., introduced Mr. E. H. Ellis, of the Ellis Research and Testing Laboratories, Ltd., who kindly undertook the identification of specimens brought in by members earlier in the afternoon from all parts of the Island. After tea Mr. Ellis gave a most interesting talk on Fungi, and said he was glad to see some unusual specimens among the hundred or so displayed, including *Clathrus ruber*, which he had not seen for many years. Mr. White expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Ellis for the generous way in which he shared his knowledge with the Society, and also thanked the many people who made the exhibition possible by collecting and bringing in a wide variety of specimens, and particularly he mentioned the four pupils of the Priory Secondary Girls' School, who helped Mr. O. H. Frazer to arrange the specimens in systematic order. The Exhibition was open to the public on Sunday afternoon, and parties from other schools visited it on Monday and Tuesday. A keen interest was shown and further specimens were brought in for identification during these days.

A number of specimens not identified on the Saturday were forwarded to Dr. J. Ramsbottom for identification, and these included four species new to the Island list. Details are as follows:—

#### HYMENOMYCETES.

POLYPOREAE (Pore Fungi).

**Polyporus spumeus**—Rookley Wilderness. Uncommon. (J. Stafford).

**Polyporus picipes**—Apse Castle Woods. (Miss V. Fisk).

LEUCOSPORAE (Gilled Fungi, with white or whitish spores).

**Clitocybe conglobata**—Apse Castle Woods. (Miss V. Fisk).

**Lactarius uvidus**—Parkhurst Forest. (Sandown Grammar School).

Also included were a number of specimens in various stages of development of the pore fungus, *Trametes rubescens*, which was first recorded at the Fungus Foray held in October, 1954. (See *Proceedings*, Vol. IV, page 329).

**Informal Meeting** held on Friday 26th October, 1956.

Subject for discussion—Ornithology.

Records were compared and are embodied in the Bird Report elsewhere in these *Proceedings*.

**General Meeting** held on Saturday 3rd November, 1956. (In association with the British Trust for Ornithology).

The President in the chair.

There was a good attendance to hear an interesting and stimulating lecture entitled "Bird-watching—and then—?" by Dr. Bruce Campbell, secretary of the British Trust for Ornithology, and also a well-known writer and broadcaster on birds. He suggested various ways in which bird-watchers could develop their hobby after passing the necessary first stage of being able to identify birds. There is scope for all kinds of activity, ranging from individual research on a single species of bird to participation by large numbers of observers in a nation-wide enquiry, such as the recent census of nesting swans.

The lecture was well illustrated by slides, Mr. O. H. Frazer being the projectionist. Two slides showing the site where a pair of hoopoes nested at Middle Wallop during the summer were of particular interest to the audience, in view of the numerous records of hoopoes in the Island this year. Dr. Campbell was thanked on behalf of the members by the President, and a display depicting the many activities of the British Trust for Ornithology attracted many of the members.

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**Informal Meeting** held on Friday 16th November, 1956.

Subject for discussion—Archaeology.

Mr. J. Jones, M.A., Curator of Carisbrooke Museum, displayed a number of specimens and also some recent archaeological publications, arising from which there was a general discussion.

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**General Meeting** held on Saturday 1st December, 1956.

Mr. E. H. White, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S., in the chair.

Thirty-five members and friends heard an illustrated lecture by the Southern Regional Officer of the Nature Conservancy Board, Mr. Hemsley, on the work of his department with special reference to the Isle of Wight.

After outlining the various ways by which special areas of interest to the naturalist were being preserved, the lecturer illustrated his remarks by showing some attractive coloured slides. He stressed the importance of active conservation as against the old idea of just putting up a fence and letting an area go wild. An area for conservation had often to be cultivated and scientifically farmed in order to preserve the balance upon which the nature of the area depended. In the course of their work much useful knowledge in the field of biology was being gained. In conclusion the lecturer, a keen field botanist himself, showed a number of his own outstanding collection of coloured slides of some of Britain's rarer plants.

A number of questions relating to areas of special interest in the Island were asked, and the official maps showing these areas were displayed on the tables. The thanks of the Society were expressed by

the Chairman, and it was resolved that a close association between the Society and the Board should be maintained.

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**Annual General Meeting** held on Saturday 19th January, 1957.

The President in the chair.

Fifty members attended. The President in his opening address thanked the members for their loyal support during his term of office, which now, on completion of three years, was coming to an end. He referred, with sorrow, to the loss by death during the year of three most valued members, whose obituary notices appear elsewhere in these *Proceedings*. Members stood in silent tribute.

The secretary's report referred to another successful year, with good attendances at a full programme of excursions, lectures, and exhibitions. The membership stood at 189.

The treasurer's report showed a satisfactory state of affairs in spite of greatly increased costs, with a balance in hand of over £55, representing an increase of over £20 on last year.

Mr. E. H. White, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S., was elected President and took the chair. He thanked the retiring president for his services, and asked all members to try hard to increase the membership of the Society. There were many people in the Island deeply interested in various branches of natural history or archaeology who needed to be made aware of the activities of the Society, which they would gladly join if it were brought to their notice.

The officers, vice-presidents, and councillors, as recorded in these *Proceedings* were elected.

Mr. E. H. Ellis was elected, and Mr. J. F. Jackson and Dr. J. Ramsbottom were re-elected as hon. members.

Votes of thanks to the Headmaster of the Newport County Grammar School, the Education Committee, and the *County Press* for their helpful co-operation were passed.

Short talks were given by members who had brought exhibits. Miss G. Bullock spoke on her display of dissected owl pellets, prepared and mounted by pupils at Ryde County Secondary School, and made a special plea for the preservation of the lovely barn owl, which accounted for so many rodent pests, as shown by the contents of the pellets. Mr. J. Stafford, M.A., M.B.O.U., showed a pied flycatcher, found at Freshwater, and a Natterer's Bat, which is the subject of a note elsewhere in these *Proceedings*. Mr. Shepard spoke on sight, with special reference to the insect's compound eye, and other exhibits included out-of-season fungi and flowers. Tea was provided by Mrs. O. H. Frazer and helpers, while members examined and discussed the exhibits.

## ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES FOR 1956.

By J. LOBB.

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The summer of 1956 was one of the worst I have ever known, and at its peak in late July delivered one of the worst gales experienced for that time of the year in living memory. The salt spray whipped up from the Channel was carried half across the Island and played havoc with the foliage of trees and hedges, especially along the south coast line to Freshwater, which presented a very bleak sight a week or two later. However, despite the shocking season, two very important species were captured.

My first capture was near a light at Osborne in late February, and at first was thought to be a Brindled Beauty, *Lycia hirtaria*, Clerck, but the early date puzzled me, and it was later found to be a very dark form of the Pale Brindled Beauty, *Phigalia pilosaria*, Schiff. (*pedaria*, Fab.).

My main outing of the season was to Yarmouth to find the Plume Moth, *Agdistis bennetii*, Curtis, and study its habits. The large areas of Sea Lavender, which is its food plant, growing in the salt flats and the lovely blue flowers of the Sea Holly in the sandy areas surrounding the flats were a sight to gladden the heart. I had noticed that, during the long spells of sunshine, as I walked, what appeared to be Crane-flies were disturbed, but I could not find them as they settled. Eventually I marked the very spot where one had settled, and closed the two halves of a glass-bottomed box on the herbage. On looking in the box there appeared to be just a few dead twigs, and I was about to throw the contents away, when I realised that one of the twigs was indeed my quarry. With wings rolled up and held forward in a line with the body, it had the appearance of a stick insect, a wonderful piece of mimicry. This insect would not be flushed from the Sea Lavender unless the sun was out, and during these spells a short series found their way into my collecting tin. The habits of *Agdistis staticis*, Mill., are very similar, but it is a very local insect and is not found in this area to the best of my knowledge. During some three or four hours spent in these very pleasant surroundings, a number of the delicate Blood-vein, *Calothysanis amata*, Linn., were taken and released. So, with aching back and a light heart, I made off for my bus with two nice bunches of Sea Lavender, which is very decorative.

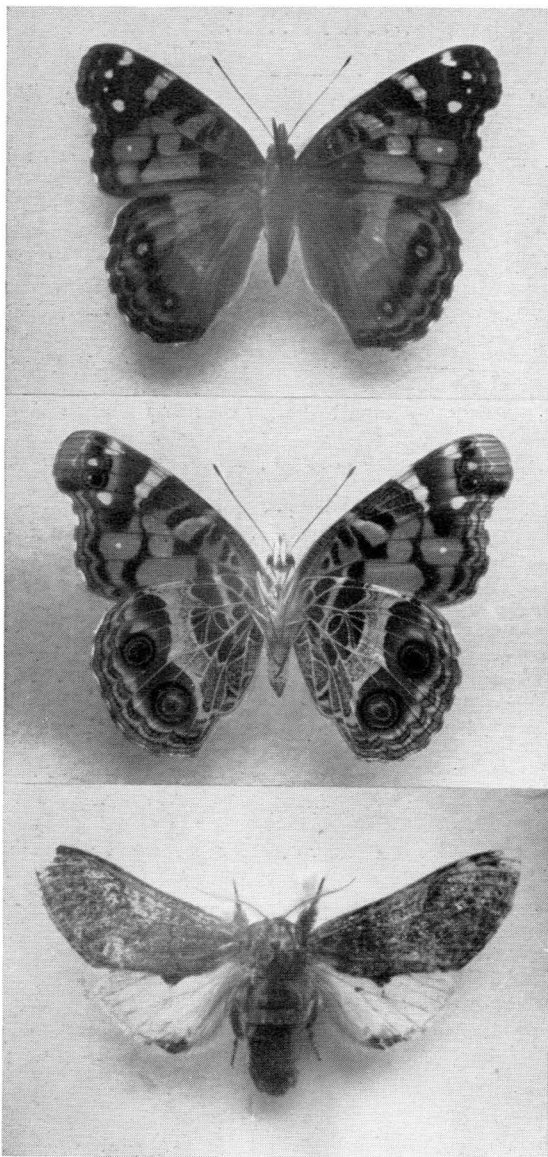
The following day the great gale raged, but, fortunately, the next morning, conditions had improved, and, with the sun breaking through for long periods, I decided to visit Brading Down, for I had promised a friend of mine a pair of living Dark Green Fritillaries, *Argynnis aglaja*, Linn., and little time remained to obtain these in good condition.

On reaching the downs the wind was still very strong, and conditions were far from ideal to take the speedy *aglaia*. However, I have had some long experience of the wiles and habits of this lovely insect, and to those who are unable to capture it I respectfully tender the following advice. Stand perfectly still in one spot, and, when you see your quarry, wait until you see it settle. Be careful to keep your eyes on the exact spot as you move up cautiously to within two or three yards, then lower yourself and cover the remaining distance more slowly on your knees. The quarry will almost certainly be settled in a little hollow on the flower of the ground thistle, and poising the net carefully, one must strike straight down and swiftly. Fortunately for me, first a male and then a female settled fairly close, and both were secured, but the total cost was three days in bed with lumbago.

The exciting event of the year occurred on August 19th, when in a telephone conversation with Dr. Knill Jones, of Freshwater, I was informed that he and his two sons had that morning taken in their garden what appeared to be an American Painted Lady, *Vanessa huntea*, Fab., which I was able to confirm when I saw the specimen later, and to crown their success they had the same evening taken at Mercury Vapour light a Three Humped Prominent, which is a very rare insect indeed, but as these form the subject of a separate paper in these *Proceedings*, I will say no more about them here.

Taken in my own garden at M.V. light were the Bordered Beauty, *Epione repandaria*, Hufn., (*apiciaria*, Schiff.), the Rosy Footman, *Miltochrista miniata*, Forst., the Chinese Character, *Cilix glaucata*, Scop., the Frosted Orange, *Gortyna (Ochria) flavago*, Schiff., the Double-striped Pug, *Gymnoscelis (Eupithecia) pumilata*, Hueb., and Wormwood Pug, *Eupithecia absinthiata*, Clerc. The two crambids, *Crambis tristellus*, Schiff., and *C. perlellus*, Scop., were in good numbers, and, of course, the usual commoners were in force. A pair of the Ghost Moth, *Hepialus humuli*, Linn., turned up and were new to my garden. On one good night two Privet Hawk Moths, *Sphinx ligustri*, Linn., were taken, one in the trap and one outside. The same evening, a micro, *Phalonia dipoltella*, Hueb., a very local insect, was taken. One Convolvulus Hawk Moth, *Herse convolvuli*, Linn., was brought to me by a friend who captured it at Whiteley Bank cross-roads. This is the first I have seen for some years.

On some plants known as Solomon Seal in my neighbour's garden, a certain species of larvae had each year been doing a lot of damage, and, on examining the plants, I was convinced the damage was caused by the larvae of a fly, and my good friend Mr. Wakely identified them for me as *Phymatocera atterrima*, Klug., an introduced species of sawfly. Only one specimen of Clouded Yellow, *Colias croceus*, Geoff, was seen at East Cowes, and the best addition to my cabinet was a lovely Hedge Brown, *Maniola tithonus*, Linn., *abh. albida*, taken after a good chase on St. Boniface Down, during which a portion of my trouser leg was left on a mass of barbed wire, amongst which my quarry sought refuge.



*Photo : Merwood.*

*Upper and Middle : American Painted Lady, *Vanessa huntia*, Fab., upper and lower surfaces.*

*Lower : Three Humped Prominent, *Notodonta phoebe*, Sieb.*

*(Reproduced by arrangement with the Entomologist's Record).*

# THE CAPTURE OF NOTODONTA PHOEBE AND VANESSA HUNTERA IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

By R. KNILL JONES.

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At about 10 o'clock on the morning of August 19th, 1956, my brother caught sight of a butterfly resting on Valerian, which he thought at first was a variety of the Painted Lady, but since this does not usually vary much, a net was hurriedly brought on to the scene. The butterfly was by now feeding on flowers very close to the wire netting surrounding the tennis court, and I failed to net it. The butterfly was lost, but by now we realised it was a foreign species new to us, so for the next 10 minutes we frantically searched a neighbour's garden, until I spotted a fast-flying butterfly returning back to our own. We gave chase and found we were after the one we wanted. We eventually cornered it as it flew over a small section of the potato patch. My brother took the net, and it was in.

With the help of Dr. Mansfield and Mr. Taylor, the insect was provisionally identified, and later a visit to Mr. Lobb confirmed that the insect was indeed the American Painted Lady, *Vanessa huntera*, Fab.

This butterfly is a native of the U.S.A., and it also occurs in a slightly different form in Teneriffe, Canary Islands. Its manner of getting here, is, of course, a matter of conjecture. It may well have come here on a boat, but it may also have flown the few thousand miles, because it has been seen migrating in the company of the Milkweed butterfly (in September, 1919) from Long Island, New York. As the Milkweed is caught relatively often in these islands, and has been seen flying and resting on the water in mid-Atlantic, it is possible that our specimen had also flown the Atlantic from either of its habitats.

Since the first capture of this species by Captain Bloomer at Withybush, near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, in 1828, this would seem to be about the thirteenth specimen to be recorded in Britain, and it is in fact the second record for the Island. One is recorded as having been caught at Luccombe on September 20th, 1876 (Dannreuther, T., A.E.S. Bull., 94:219). In the same year there were three other records, one from Christchurch (Ent. Mon. Mag. 1877:183), and one taken in a railway carriage at Wokingham (Ent. Mon. Mag. 1877:230), and a third from Torpoint (Entom. 1876:255). There are other records, the origin of which is hazy and obscure, so could I take this opportunity of asking any readers whether they can ever remember reading of a former entomologist on holiday in Ireland in 1929, who found 5 *Vanessa Huntera* in one place and managed to catch one in his cap? I can vaguely remember reading this myself, but have no idea where or when. If anyone can further assist me, I would be most grateful.

Now back to the story of August 19th. Ever hopeful, we decided to follow the fresh W.S.W. wind back to the downs to see if any more *V. huntera* had arrived there, but, needless to say, our luck could not run that far. With still more boundless optimism, I reasoned that if a wind could have carried a migrant butterfly thus far, why not a moth as well? So we put out our Robinson's design Mercury Vapour Moth Trap to catch it.

It was windy and cold, and normally we would not have worked the trap under these conditions, but the lamp was on all night, and in the morning we got up to inspect what we felt sure would be a worthless catch. There was a miserable selection of about 100 of the commonest species, but amongst them we found a species of Prominent new to us. Guessing, unrealistically as we then thought, at the very rare Large Dark or Three Humped Prominent, we consulted South's "*Moths of the British Isles*." With its white hindwings it was identified as the Three Humped, *Notodonta phoebae*, Siebert, using the beautiful illustration in Ford's "*Moths*" as a check.

Less than a dozen specimens of this Central European species have occurred in Britain, and more than half of these have been larvae. E. B. Ford suggests that the species breeds at a very low density over a wide area of Southern England, and also that if all its habits were fully elucidated it may perhaps turn out to be commoner than is thought at the present. Anyway, this is the first record for this species on the Island.

After these two most exciting captures the moth trap was kept very busy, but Dame Fortune had left us. Let us hope that she visits some other lucky member of the Society during the current season, and makes 1957 as memorable to them as 1956 was to us.

Both specimens are illustrated in the Frontispiece. The photographs were taken locally by Mr. Merwood, and are reproduced due to the generosity of Mr. J. Lobb and the Society, who provided the funds for the block to be made originally for the *Entomologist's Record*.

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References :—

- E. B. Ford, *Moths*, Chap. IX, page 124. *Butterflies*, Chap. I, page 21.  
 South, *Moths of the British Isles*, Series I, pages 72-3.  
 Capt. Dannreuther, *A.E.S. Bulletin* No. 94, Oct., 1948.  
*Ent. Mon. Mag.*, 1877, pages 183 and 230.  
*Entomologist*, 1876, page 255.

# ATHALIA CORNUBIAE, BENS, A RARE SAWFLY, TAKEN IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

By J. W. SAUNT, A.L.S.

In the Entomologist's Monthly Magazine for May, 1931, Mr. R. B. Benson described a new British species of the genus *Athalia*-*Athalia cornubiae*\*, sp. nov.—a ♀ (Holotype) England, Cornwall, Looe, IX, 1922 (G. C. Champion), in the British Museum; and ♀ (Paratypes), one from Italy, one from France, F. D. Morice, and three from Spain, kindly lent by Dr. Jose M. Dusmet, of Madrid.

In *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, Hymenoptera, Symphyta*, section (b) (Royal Entomological Society of London, 5th September, 1952) Benson states only 4 ♀ British records of this species are known: Cornwall, Looe, IX, 1922 (G. C. Champion); Bucks, Beaconfield, 26.V.1935 (J. F. Perkins); Warwickshire, Princethorpe 26.V.1931, and Tile Hill 30.VII.1932 (J. W. Saunt).

Recently, while looking over some Isle of Wight captures, I came across a ♀ taken at East Cowes 21.VI.1953, which I suspected might be *cornubiae*, and sent it to South Kensington, when Mr. Benson confirmed it. This is a new record for the Isle of Wight, and is the fifth record for Great Britain, three of these five records being in my collection.

Morley's list in Morey's *Guide to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight* only records one species of *Athalia*, *A. lineolata*, Lep. We have nine British species of *Athalia*, eight of which I have met with on the Island. The ninth, *A. scutellaria*, Cam., is attached to the Skullcap, *Scutellaria galericulata*, Linn. and *S. minor*, Hud. Although I have not met with these plants myself, Morey's *Guide* refers to their being found in a number of places on the Island, so, if botanists would look out for this fly on these plants, I shall be pleased to receive and identify specimens.

All species of *Athalia* are yellow with black markings on the head, thorax and legs, about the size of ordinary house-flies. Some frequent low-growing plants in moist situations, and others may be met with in gardens, woods, and open country.

I hope to publish an account of the Isle of Wight Sawflies in the near future.

\* *Cornubia* in Mediaeval Latin was the name applied to the part of England now included in Cornwall and South Devonshire, west of Start Point.

## BOTANICAL NOTES FOR 1956.

By E. H. WHITE, M.B.O.U., F.R.H.S.

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At the usual informal botanical meeting of members a number of interesting records of Island plants were given. Two were completely new to the Island list. One was *Tragopogon hybridus*, found by Miss T. White, of Ventnor, and was found growing on waste land near Ventnor. It's name was confirmed by the authorities at Kew.

The other was *Galensoga parviflora*, sometimes called "Gallant Soldier." This was discovered by Miss M. G. Middleton, of Mirables, in the Undercliff. This rare alien plant has inexplicably appeared in the kitchen garden at her home. It belongs to the Composite order of plants, as Miss White's plant does also. It first appeared at Kew some 50 years ago among a consignment of plants from Peru. Recently published botanical works state that it has occurred near London, and one of our recent lecturers says that it occurs near Dorking, but this is its first record for the Isle of Wight.

A plant that has of recent years been given definite status is *Gymnadenia conopsea*, Linn. var. *densiflora*, the Marsh Fragrant Orchid, a much stouter plant in all ways than *conopsea*. Morey does not mention it in his list, but Mr. Barker, at Newchurch, Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Mr. Wyatt, in the West Wight, have confirmed the increase of this striking plant in some of our areas of marsh.

But to-day the tale of Island botanical losses increases. The loss of many habitats of the local *Orchidaceae* has already been put on record. Now it is noted that the two rarest of our local orchids, *Epipactis phyllanthes*, var. *vectensis* and *Aceras anthropophorum*, the Man Orchid, have not appeared in the last two seasons. This does not mean to say that they are definitely extinct. They may appear again, but the signs are not promising, particularly in the case of the *Aceras* habitat where cattle are regularly put out to graze.

For three years now, members have been asked to record the two blue flowers of the cornfield, the Corn Campula, *Legousia hybrida*, Linn., and Cornflower, *Centaurea cyanus*, Linn., but none have been seen. Any records by members would be welcomed by the writer. The Corncockle, *Agrostemma (Lychnis) githago*, Linn., is another picturesque weed of the cereal fields, but it is becoming very scarce in the Island. By burning weeds, and the closer sifting of the grain seeds, the cornfield weeds are all becoming scarcer—even poppies—and the time is not far distant when some of them will completely disappear from the list of Island native plants.

## BIRD REPORT FOR 1956.

By J. STAFFORD, M.A., M.B.O.U., Grad.R.Ae.S.

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The year again brought its interesting occurrences, including two new species for the Island's list—Gull-billed Tern and Ortolan Bunting—although in each case there has been an unsatisfactory earlier record. The Ortolan Bunting was part of the heavy passage observed in various parts of southern Britain on September 8th-10th; watchers at St. Catherine's Lighthouse during these nights had the good fortune to witness spectacular numbers of small passerines, mostly Whitethroats and Willow Warblers, but also including, in addition to the bunting, two Aquatic Warblers and many Wheatears, Whinchats, Redstarts, and Pied Flycatchers. From an account of the weather conditions which appears in *British Birds* (vol. 1, p. 205) in connection with vagrants on Skokholm at the same time, it is evident that the birds drifted down-wind to the N.W. from western France on September 8th. On the 9th and 10th the passage at the Lighthouse was all to the E. or N.E., and the wind had veered to N.E.

The other periods of unusual weather reflected in the bird notes were two cold spells in February, when grey geese, Brent Geese, Whooper Swans, and a Long-tailed Duck were all recorded; the single records of Redpoll and Brambling were both at this time, and the deaths of numerous thrushes were reported.

The total number of species identified was 161; there were also a skua of uncertain species, and six further subspecies. Some other birds worthy of special mention are Balearic Shearwater, Great Skua, Little Gull, Icterine Warbler, Water Pipit, Red-legged Partridges (which proved to have been introduced), and ten Hoopoes.

Attention should also be drawn to the several interesting recoveries of ringed birds scattered through the systematic list, including the first instance of a bird ringed in the Isle of Wight being recovered outside the British Isles.

A more regular watch was kept at St. Catherine's Point, particularly by members of the Portsmouth Group, in both migration seasons. This was mainly responsible for a much larger volume of notes on visible migration of passerines. It is becoming increasingly evident that these notes will have to be drastically summarized (or in the case of some species held over for a year or two until enough have been received to be worth summarizing); to publish them in sufficient detail to be of any scientific importance would occupy considerable space and would have little to attract the general reader, although of absorbing interest to the migration enthusiast.

A most valuable and stimulating Conference on Local Bird Reports, held in Oxford in September, 1956, was attended by the Editor of the *Proceedings* and by the writer of these notes. It appears that the main way in which this Report falls short of the accepted ideal is in being compiled by a single author rather than by a committee; this, however, will be remedied shortly, in an indirect manner. The annual Bird Report of the Hampshire Field Club is to be written by a committee, commencing with the 1957 Report, and all Isle of Wight records will be submitted for their consideration. This arrangement, in addition to improving the imperfect liaison between the two reports, should give this Society all the advantages of a committee with none of its disadvantages.

My grateful thanks are once more due to all those who contributed information, either individually or in connection with the co-operative inquiries. They are again slightly more numerous than in the previous year—a pleasant surprise, as the 1955 list was enlarged by the members of the public who were invited to take part in the Swan census. Mr. A. J. Henry continued to analyse the rookery counts.

**Abbreviations, etc.** Records with an element of doubt are enclosed in square brackets [ ]. The order, numeration, and nomenclature follow the B.O.U. *Check-List* (1952), except that the English names are those used by *British Birds*. All records refer to 1956 unless otherwise stated. Observers are indicated by their initials in the systematic list. m.o. : many observers (more than four). ♂ : male. ♀ : female.

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## SYSTEMATIC LIST.

- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** One in Clamerkin Lake, Newtown, on Feb. 26th (JS), and one off E. Cowes on Dec. 18th (RMC).  
[2 which were either this species or Black-throated Diver flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on May 19th (GHR).]
- 4 **Red-throated Diver.** Several migratory movements past St. Catherine's Pt. were noted: between March 31st and May 5th 31 flew E., and between Oct. 6th and Nov. 10th 7 flew W. and only 2 E. (JKB, WGE, GHR, WHT, EJW). 3 also flew E. past Egypt Pt. on April 21st (GHR, EJW).
- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.** 3 were found dead at Colwell Bay on March 24th (BM). Only 5 other records, all between E. Cowes and Brading, in March, Nov., and Dec. (m.o.).
- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.** One off Shanklin on Jan. 29th (AJH), and 1 in Brading Harbour on Feb. 25th (JS).
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** 3 in Whitecliff Bay on Jan. 28th (GHR, EJW), 1 in Freshwater Bay on Feb. 5th (JS), and 1 at E. Cowes on Dec. 18th (RMC).
- 9 **Little Grebe.** A few more than usual on the R. Medina in the autumn—c. 50 on Oct. 28th (GAHW).
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** At St. Catherine's Pt. single birds flew past to W. on March 31st (GHR), to E. on April 17th (RJGR, RJW), and to W. on June 20th (DFa).  
**Balearic Shearwater.** On Aug. 17th one flew across Solent from N. to Cowes Roads, and then away to W. (RMC). Details supplied.  
[An unidentified shearwater was seen off Ryde on June 23rd (DFa).]
- 26 **Fulmar.** Only seen once at the Needles cliffs this year—on May 12th (JKB). 13 other records between March 31st and July 28th, at St. Catherine's Pt., Shanklin, and Ryde (m.o.).
- 27 **Gannet.** Recorded in every month except Jan. and Feb. There were numerous reports of movements, mostly past St. Catherine's Pt., with easterly movements predominating very strongly in both spring and autumn—in spring 16 flew E. and none W., and in autumn 189 E. and 6 W. (m.o.). The largest number occurred on Sept. 6th, when 54 were seen in 2½ hours (BAEM, RJGR, RJW).
- 28 **Cormorant.**
- 29 **Shag.**
- 30 **Heron.** 8 nests were occupied in Six Acre Copse, Wootton (keeper, *per* JFB). The previous site in Swan Copse is now apparently disused.  
Several movements were again noted at St. Catherine's Pt.: 1 flew W. along shore, April 22nd (JKB, WHT); 1 flew past to E., off shore, and 1 came in from S.E. and continued inland to N.W., Aug. 9th (JKB, GHR, EJW); and 1 flew past to E. on Oct. 2nd (WHT) and 21st (EJW).

45 **Mallard.** 57 birds which flew out to sea from Brading Marsh on Jan. 28th were later found off shore in Whitecliff Bay (GHR, EJW).

46 **Teal.** C. 230 in Brading Marsh on Jan. 7th (JKB), and over 150 at Newtown in Jan. and Feb. (MMS, GAHW).

The following three ringing recoveries all refer to birds ringed by Maj.-Gen. C. B. Wainwright at Abberton Reservoir, Essex, in the autumn of 1955, which were all shot in the I.O.W. within a week of each other, during the cold spell.

<i>No. of ring</i>	<i>Age and sex</i>	<i>Date ringed</i>	<i>Date shot</i>	<i>Where recovered</i>	<i>Observers</i>
917882	Ad. ♂	4.10.55	Early 2.56	By R. Medina, near Newport	EHS
3006585	Juv. ♀	22.11.55	31.1.56	Kingston	FM
3006760	Ad. ♂	29.11.55	7.2.56	Bembridge	GWJ

50 **Wigeon.** At Newtown 262 were counted on Jan. 15th, and 391 on Feb. 14th; the first pair of the winter arrived on Nov. 4th, and there were 200 by the end of Dec. (MMS).

7 flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on March 3rd (JKB, GHR, EJW).

52 **Pintail.** 12 at Newtown on Feb. 17th (MMS) and 26th (GAHW). A pair flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on April 20th (JKB, WHT), as did 3 birds on Nov. 3rd (GHR).

53 **Shoveler.** 4 in Brading Marsh on Jan. 28th, which flew out to Whitecliff Bay with Mallard (GHR, EJW). 23 at Newtown on Feb. 12th (MMS). Several other records at Brading Marsh and Newtown, up to April 15th (m.o.); also a pair at Newtown on Dec. 1st (MMS), and a ♂ at Yarmouth on Dec. 30th (MCA).

56 **Tufted Duck.** Recorded only during Feb. and March. Brading Marsh and Harbour: a pair on Feb. 4th and 11th (JS); 4 birds on Feb. 12th (JB); 12 on Feb. 18th (JS); 20 on March 11th (JB). R. Medina: 10 on Feb. 12th (JS). Yarmouth: 4 on Feb. 19th (JS).

57 **Pochard.** A ♂ on R. Medina on Jan. 15th (JS). 2 ♂ in Brading Harbour on Feb. 12th and 18th (JB, JS).

60 **Goldeneye.** A ♀ at Newtown on Feb. 12th (MMS).

61 **Long-tailed Duck.** On Feb. 25th, during cold weather, an adult ♀ slightly oiled on one flank was watched diving in the breakers close to the shore at Brightstone (JS)—the first record for over a century.

62 **Velvet Scoter.** 5 birds on April 21st (JKB, WHT), and 4 on the 28th (GHR, EJW), flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt.

64 **Common Scoter.** More intensive observation of the movements past St. Catherine's Pt. (m.o.) revealed a different pattern from that of 1955. There were many more spring records, with movement to E. predominating—307 to E. and only 3 to W.—between March 31st and May 26th. The autumn passage was more

- prolonged, from June 20th to Nov. 4th, with movements to E. and W. roughly equal in numbers—247 and 238 respectively. There is a very close correspondence between these figures and those obtained at Portland Bill in 1955 (cf. *Report on Dorset Birds*, 1955, p. 61—the 1956 observations have not yet been published).
- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.** At St. Catherine's Pt., a pair on April 21st (JKB, WHT) and May 19th (GHR), and a ♂ on October 27th (JKB). Up to 5 were recorded at various places from Ryde to Cowes in Jan.-April and Dec. (m.o.).
- 73 **Shelduck.** At least 70 young were reared at Newtown (MMS). Other nesting localities: Probably 3 pairs at Yarmouth (MCA); at least 1 pair at Thorness Bay (WS); several pairs in Brading Marsh (DFa, JS); adults were also frequently seen in the inland locality at Gunville, where young were reared in 1955 (WS, JS), and on Tennyson's Down (m.o.), but in neither case was there direct evidence of nesting.
- 75 **Grey Lag Goose.** A gaggle of 33 flew in low over the sea at Shanklin on Feb. 18th, mounted high over the town, and continued to the N.W. (EHW).
- 76 **White-fronted Goose.** On March 17th 8 flew out across the Solent from Yarmouth, and turned E. over the saltings at Pennington, Hants (JKB).
- 75-78 **Grey Geese** (species unidentified). At Yarmouth 8 flew over to N. on Feb. 21st (BM), 150-200 flew over to S.E. on Feb. 28th and appeared to settle on ploughland in the Thorley area (MJB), and there was another report of c. 30 at the end of Feb. (WWD).
- 80 **Brent Goose.** Several scattered records in Feb. and March. 12 on the sea off Bembridge on Feb. 4th (JS), and a dead bird, which may have been washed in, was found in the harbour on Feb. 12th (JB). 7 flew W. along the shore past Ryde on Feb. 6th (JS). At Newtown up to 42 were seen from Feb. 12th to 27th, when they were joined in flight by c. 30 more and flew away to the E. (MMS, AJH, WS, JS). 7 at Thorness Bay on March 4th (WS). [A gaggle flew E. high over Rookley on March 18th, but the species was not identified with certainty (DJA). A report of up to 70 geese on the sea at Brighthstone about Feb. 22nd (*I.W. County Press*) could not be confirmed, but if correct probably referred to this species.]
- 84 **Mute Swan.** The census organised by the B.T.O. was repeated this year, and the results are given on the next page for comparison with those in the 1955 *Report*. Unfortunately the inquiry was not as well supported as previously, and only 14 nesting pairs were located, 11 of which hatched young. The first ten sites in the list were occupied in both years, and the next two may also be tentatively linked with previous sites—the pair at Wootton apparently nested S. of the road, but N. of it in 1955, while the nest near Coppins Bridge was only 400 yards downstream from the 1955 site at Pan Mill. The remaining two pairs do not seem to have been present before, although it is possible that the last

CENSUS OF NESTING SWANS.

<i>Position</i>	<i>National Grid Ref.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Pool E. of Home Farm, Bembridge	642 884	8 young reared	JS
Bonchurch Pond	574 780	Adults present, but no evidence of nesting	JS
By R. Medina at Werrar	506 928	Several young reared	RJM, JS
Reservoir at West Medina Cement Works	503 914	No information on success	JS
(i) E. of railway viaduct	498 918	Only 2 eggs were laid, and only 1 cygnet was hatched; this was later deserted by its parents and was fed by the owner of the pond	RJM, JS
Pond by Stag Lane, Parkhurst			
Reservoir at Carisbrooke Water Works	487 881	5 young reared—the first success for several years	RJM, MP
On top of sea wall round Newtown Marsh	426 915	This pair, which had two nests washed out by the tide in 1955, this year nested in a much higher situation and reared 3 young	MMS, JS
Brightstone Mill	426 823	No eggs laid	VF, JS
Pond E. of Yarmouth Station	359 894	3 young reared	MCA
Saltings by R. Yar, Freshwater	349 873	4 young reared	MCA, BM, JS
Wootton Mill Pond	548 915	Nest not found; not recorded until 3 young seen on water	JS
By R. Medina at Coppins Bridge, Newport	503 892	5 eggs laid, and 3 or 4 young reared	m.o.
By Lukely Brook at Town Gate, Newport	497 894	7 young reared	RJM, MP, JS
Reservoir at West Medina Cement Works			
(ii) W. of railway viaduct	498 913	Several young hatched	RJM, DWc

- one was overlooked in 1955. The main gap in the 1956 observations seems to lie in the marshes of the E. Yar, between Alverstone and the sea, where only one nest was reported, compared with five in the previous year.
- 85 **Whooper Swan.** During very cold weather on Feb. 4th 3 were viewed closely (and possibly 3 others at a distance) with Mute Swans in Brading Harbour (JS).
- 91 **Buzzard.** The only record concerned 4 over Garstons Down on March 25th (WS).
- 93 **Sparrowhawk.**
- 105 **Peregrine.** The breeding at Blackgang in 1955 was apparently not repeated in 1956, although birds were seen there occasionally until April 21st. A pair was present as usual near the Needles (m.o.).
- 107 **Merlin.** A ♀ at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 17th and 18th (RJGR, RJW), and a pair there on Oct. 27th (JKB, WGE).
- 110 **Kestrel.**
- 115 **Red-legged Partridge.** A report of two birds in a field by the cliff-edge at St. Lawrence on March 3rd (JKB, GHR) prompted inquiries about any recent introductions, and the following information was obtained. C. 25 juveniles were released at Bowcombe, near Carisbrooke, in August, 1953, and in August, 1954, 20 more at Bowcombe and 20 on Newbarn Down, Shorwell. There had been only two subsequent records—c. 12 were seen together at Great Appleford, between Godshill and Chale, in Jan., 1955, and one was shot near Billingham in Sept., 1955; this was identified by the ring it was wearing as one of those released in 1953 (FC).  
It was also discovered that there had been an unrecorded introduction about 1930, when some adults were released at Bowcombe, but they were not seen again (FC).
- 116 **Partridge.**
- 118 **Pheasant.**
- 120 **Water Rail.** New localities at which the species was recorded this year (outside the breeding season) were the large pool in the Undercliff at Rocken End on March 3rd and 31st and Nov. 4th (JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW), Gatcombe Mill on March 24th (JS), Yafford Mill on March 25th (JS), and Sandown Gas Works on Nov. 11th (AJH).
- 125 **Corncrake.** The only birds recorded were two at St. Catherine's Lighthouse during the night of Aug. 31st-Sept. 1st (GHR, EJW).
- 126 **Moorhen.**
- 127 **Coot.** More than usual recorded during the cold spell, particularly at Bembridge, where the numbers increased from c. 100 at the beginning of January (see 1955 *Report*) to c. 150 before the end of the month (JB, GHR, EJW). When the pools in Brading Marsh froze the birds moved over to the Harbour and often on to the sea—on Feb. 5th as far as Seaview (JB)—but returned

after the thaw (JS). Others recorded were one at Newtown from Feb. 12th to 26th (MMS, GAHW), and up to 11 at Yarmouth between Feb. 28th and March 16th (m.o.).

- 131 **Oystercatcher.** A pair nested at Thorness Bay (WS), and several pairs as usual at Newtown (m.o.).
- 133 **Lapwing.** Additional nesting locality (see 1955 *Report*): 3-4 pairs in the disused clay pit adjoining the West Medina Cement Works, Parkhurst (WS, JS).
- Ringing recovery: A nestling ringed (275132) at Brighstone on May 1st, 1955 (JS) was found dead at Guenrouet, Loire-Inférieure, France (47°32' N., 1°57' W.), on Feb. 19th—c. 215 miles S.
- 134 **Ringed Plover.** Has increased considerably in numbers at Newtown since the Marsh was flooded—up to 300 by the end of the year (MMS).
- 139 **Grey Plover.** Recorded only at Newtown—up to 6, Jan.-March and Oct.-Dec. (m.o.).
- 140 **Golden Plover.** Several small parties were recorded, Jan.-March and Dec. (m.o.), but no large flocks this year, the largest being 14 at Northwood on Jan. 14th (JS). Also two at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 15th (GHR).
- 143 **Turnstone.** One was found dead with a broken neck at the foot of St. Catherine's Lighthouse at dawn on Nov. 4th (WHT).
- 145 **Snipe.** Now hardly ever occurs in the flooded Newtown Marsh, although formerly numerous there outside the breeding season (MMS).
- 148 **Woodcock.**
- 150 **Curlew.** At least 270 were counted at Newtown on Aug. 5th (MMS).
- 151 **Whimbrel.** First recorded on April 16th, at St. Catherine's Pt. (RJGR, RJW), and last on Sept. 29th, at Yarmouth (JKB).
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** Numerous records of up to 74 at Newtown, Jan.-Feb. and Sept.-Dec. (MMS *et al*). Also a flock, estimated from their calls to comprise 20-30 birds, flew N. over St. Catherine's Lighthouse at about 2.30 a.m. on April 18th (RJGR, RJW).
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** Up to 45 recorded at Newtown, Jan.-Feb. and Sept.-Nov. (m.o.).
- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** 1 at Yarmouth on July 14th and 22nd, and 4 or 5 on Sept. 2nd (MCA). 1 heard at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 9th (BAEM, RJGR, RJW). 1 at Newtown on Sept. 23rd (WGE). 2 at Yarmouth on Dec. 2nd, which were also said to have been present for several weeks previously (MCA).
- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.** 1 at Hamstead on Sept. 30th (JS).
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.** On the afternoon of Sept. 9th a party of 25 which had congregated on the shore at St. Catherine's Pt. during the day flew due S. out to sea until lost to sight (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).
- 161 **Redshank.** Now nests more numerously at Thorness Bay, possibly because Newtown Marsh was rendered unsuitable by

- flooding in 1954 (WS).
- 165 **Greenshank.** As in 1955, was recorded at Newtown in every month except May and June, in parties of up to 8 (m.o.). The only other one was at St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 1st (GHR, EJW).
- 169 **Knot.** Recorded only at Newtown : 1 on Aug. 7th (RET), 24 on Aug. 17th, 30 on Nov. 11th (MMS), and 15 on Dec. 26th (JS).
- 171 **Little Stint.** Also recorded only at Newtown : 2 or 3 on April 8th (WS), 1 on Sept. 11th (MMS), and 1 on Dec. 26th (JS). The last one is the first winter record for the Island ; it was seen at close range, in company with Dunlin and Ringed Plover.
- 178 **Dunlin.** This species, like the Ringed Plover, has increased in the flooded Newtown Marsh. Up to 1000 were present by the end of the year (MMS).
- 181 **Sanderling.** Up to 60 between Brading Harbour and Whitecliff Bay in Jan. and Feb. (JKB, GHR, JS, EJW). Also 1 at Thorness Bay on April 21st (GHR, EJW).
- [193 **Arctic Skua.** A small skua of the Arctic type flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 8th (JKB).]
- 194 **Great Skua.** Two records at St. Catherine's Pt.—the third and fourth for the Island. 1 flew past to the E. on April 22nd (JKB, WHT), and 2 flew away to the S.E. on Sept. 6th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). Details supplied.
- 198-208 **Gulls.** A national inquiry into the coastal roosting of gulls was organized by the B.T.O., covering the period from October, 1955, to March, 1956. Almost the whole of the Island's coastline was searched, although in some places far from thoroughly, and the following roosts were located.

(a) Sandown Bay (AJH). The numbers roosting here far exceeded expectations. The maximum was 4000-5000 in cold and overcast conditions on Nov. 14th, and there were several other estimates of between 1000 and 4000 in Oct., Nov., Dec., and Jan. Herring and Black-headed Gulls, usually roughly equal in numbers, comprised the large majority, but on some visits a few Common and Great Black-backed could be seen. The roost was usually centred off Lake Slipway, but sometimes extended for well over a mile between Sandown Pier and the N. end of Shanklin Esplanade. Outside this stretch, between Shanklin Esplanade and Luccombe Chine and between Sandown Pier and Red Cliff, only very small parties were seen prior to dusk, and most of these were believed to join the main roost later. Some Herring Gulls from the latter area, however, flew off to roost on Culver Cliff, where the species nests. There was a noticeable tendency for the numbers using Sandown Bay to be augmented when severe weather approached from between S.W. and N.W., which is not surprising in view of the bay's sheltered situation.

(b) Cowes Harbour (GAHW). Used only by Black-headed Gulls, fluctuating in numbers up to 100, but usually about 50.

During observations here it was noted that the daily roosting flights to the Hamble River, described in the 1953 *Report*, still take place.

(c) Newtown River (MMS). This roost was difficult to observe as its situation changed daily according to the state of the tide. In the middle of the winter it contained about 1500 gulls (roughly 1200 Black-headed, 250 Herring, 40-50 Common, 5-6 Great Black-backed, and 2-3 Lesser Black-backed). During the day they moved inland to feed on near-by farm land, or up the creeks of the estuary.

(d) The Needles and adjacent cliffs (JS). This nesting locality of Herring Gulls was used by them as a roost throughout the winter. From the cliff-top it was impossible to count the birds, but they seemed considerably fewer than the summer population of about 1500—perhaps 500-1000.

In addition to these roosts, various other possible locations were visited without finding roosts, namely, Yarmouth (MCA), Thorness Bay (GAHW), East Cowes, Wootton Creek, Ryde, Bembridge, and the S.W. coast between St. Catherine's Pt. and Freshwater Bay (JS). It appears likely, however, that gulls roost irregularly at some of these places in certain weather conditions. For instance, the harbour and esplanade at East Cowes were visited six times during the winter without seeing any gulls (JS), but on Feb. 21st, with the water made choppy by a N. wind, the usual site around Cowes Pontoon was unoccupied, while a number of gulls could be discerned in the more sheltered situation across the harbour, at East Cowes (GAHW).

The only stretch of coast of any length which was not covered by these observations is that between Dunnose and St. Catherine's Pt.

- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.** Continues to increase slowly at the western end of the Island, where 5 or 6 pairs nested this year—3 on the Needles, 1 on Oldpepper Rock, 1 on the cliff-face a few hundred yards further E., and probably 1 at Sun Corner (m.o.).
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.** Unprecedented numbers of the Scandinavian race *Larus f. fuscus* were reported in the autumn. It was not always possible to distinguish these birds from those of the British race *graellsii* which usually accompanied them, so that exact numbers cannot be given, but it appears that a total of well over 300 *fuscus* flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt. and the Needles on five dates between Sept. 29th and Nov. 3rd (JKB, GHR, EJW). Also on Nov. 3rd there were c. 20 *fuscus* on the sea off Cowes (BC), and 1 off Ryde Pier (GHR).
- 200 **Herring Gull.**
- 201 **Common Gull.** Ringing recovery; a nestling ringed (597137) at Graswarder, Heiligenhafen, Germany (54°23' N., 11°0' E.), on June 21st, 1949, was found dead at Wootton about Aug. 20th, 1956 (*per* Wildfowl Trust).

- 207 **Little Gull.** A first-summer bird was found in a weak condition by Freshwater Causeway on June 15th, and was cared for until it died a few days later (SW ; also seen when dead by OHF, HCH, MMS, and JS).
- 208 **Black-headed Gull.**
- 211 **Kittiwake.** A total of 26 birds recorded at St. Catherine's Pt. between March 3rd and May 26th and between July 28th and Nov. 4th (m.o.). Also 9 flying E. past Grange Chine on March 19th (MCA), and an immature in Cowes Harbour on Sept. 29th (RMC).  
 Ringing recovery : an adult ringed (364935) on Lundy Island on July 15th, 1954, by Lundy Bird Observatory, was found newly dead on the shore at Bonchurch on July 31st, 1956, after gales (RG).
- 212 **Black Tern.** A loose flock of 27 was seen off Ryde on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). 1 flew W. past Warden Pt. on Sept. 29th (JKB). On Oct. 13th one spent some time feeding at the mouth of Wootton Creek, and then flew away to the W. (WGE).
- 215 **Gull-billed Tern.** On Aug. 27th one flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt., close inshore, into a strong W. wind (ELJ). Full details have been supplied. This is the first definite record for the Island.
- 217-8 **Common Tern and Arctic Tern.** Two very late birds were seen in Osborne Bay on Dec. 6th, but their species could not be determined. Several other birds which may have been terns were seen at a distance (AJH). Although this is a later date than those quoted by *The Handbook* for either species, there is a record of one in Kent on Dec. 19th-21st, 1954 (v. *British Birds*, xlix, 75).  
 Apart from the above, the last was seen at Newtown on Oct. 11th (WS), and the first also at Newtown on April 21st (GHR, EJW).
- 222 **Little Tern.**
- 223 **Sandwich Tern.** Ringing recovery : on the evening of June 12th one was accidentally caught through diving at a fishing-bait in Hurst Narrows, and was released unharmed (WJT). It had been ringed (214532) at de Beer, Holland (just S. of The Hook), on June 28th, 1947.  
 Numerous records of movements were received, almost all to E. in spring and W. in autumn (m.o.). The only occasion when more than 15 were seen was on May 19th, when 146 flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. in 6½ hours (GHR).
- 224 **Razorbill.**
- 227 **Guillemot.**
- 230 **Puffin.** 3 birds were seen on the rocks at the base of the cliffs near the Needles on Jan. 8th (GAHW)—an extremely early date to return to a nesting colony.
- 232 **Stock Dove.**
- 234 **Woodpigeon.**

- 235 **Turtle Dove.** First on April 28th, at Chessel (MCA) and Shanklin (AJH). A considerable nocturnal passage to the E. past St. Catherine's Lighthouse was observed on Sept. 9th; 151 were counted in 6 hours from midnight (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).
- 237 **Cuckoo.** First heard on April 15th, at Nettlestone (GFM).
- 241 **Barn Owl.**
- 246 **Little Owl.**
- 247 **Tawny Owl.** Heard calling near St. Catherine's Pt. in the early hours of April 21st (WHT). Also heard there in the autumn, and in the autumn of 1955, but the dates were not noted (GHR).
- 249 **Short-eared Owl.** Only 1 recorded, on March 31st, soaring S.E. from St. Catherine's Pt. until out of sight (GHR).
- 252 **Nightjar.**
- 255 **Swift.** First on May 5th, at a nesting site in Newport (WS), and migrating N. over Tennyson's Down (JKB); in other years passage birds have been recorded some days before the return to the nesting sites. Last on Sept. 10th—c. 12 at Seaview (RAL).
- 258 **Kingfisher.**
- 261 **Hoopoe.** Ten records of single birds (two more than the record number of 1954) in April and September: at Alum Bay on two consecutive mornings about April 10th (*per* GAHW); on farmland at Rookley on April 12th, and possibly also on 15th (GLH); found exhausted near Alum Bay on April 13th, and died during night (SW); behind the Bembridge embankment on April 16th (JEC); at Rowborough, N. of Brading, on April 29th (JEC); at St. Catherine's Pt. at the end of April (HBDK); in a Shanklin garden, Sept. 3rd-11th (EHW); in a garden below the S. slope of Brading Down, Sept. 6th-11th (PS); on a lawn at Wroxall, Sept. 7th-11th (JGC); at St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). It is evident from the overlapping of the dates that four different birds were present in September.
- 262 **Green Woodpecker.**
- 263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.**
- 272 **Skylark.** Migratory movements: at St. Catherine's Pt., on 5 dates between Oct. 6th and 27th, 159 flew to W. and 117 to N. (JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW); at Yarmouth smaller numbers observed on 4 dates between Oct. 2nd and Nov. 3rd had the same N. and W. trends—9 to N., 34 to N.W., and 2 to S.E. (MCA).
- 274 **Swallow.** First on April 7th, at Yarmouth (MCA). Two separate very late birds were seen on Dec. 19th, at Seaview (RAL) and Ventnor (MCA).

The very numerous reports of visible migration conformed in general with the summary in the 1955 *Report*. The largest numbers observed were a steady stream moving E. past St. Catherine's Pt. all day on Sept. 22nd—1127 counted in the first hour after dawn—(JKB, EJW), and c. 1500 flying S.W. over E. Cowes in 2 hours on the morning of Oct. 17th (JWS). The autumnal movements of all three hirundines past St. Catherine's

Pt. exhibited an unexpected feature—on 5 dates in Sept. all movement was to the E., while on 8 dates in Oct. and Nov. it was in the opposite direction (m.o.). These two migrations were presumably being performed by birds originating in different areas—possibly British-bred birds and passage-migrants respectively.

276 **House Martin.** First seen on April 12th—4-5 flying N.E. past Headon Warren (GAHW). Last on Nov. 4th—2 at Newtown (MMS) and 3 juveniles at Yarmouth (MCA).

277 **Sand Martin.** First on April 7th, at Yarmouth (MCA). Last on Oct. 20th (WGE); although this is within the range of late dates given in the *Handbook*, more than an odd straggler was involved—c. 17 flew S.E. over Wootton, and later in the day 12 were seen at Bembridge Foreland.

During the morning of Aug. 23rd a continuous migration was observed along five miles of the Hampshire coast from Hill Head to Gilkicker Pt., where the birds struck out across the Solent towards Ryde (TEB).

Nesting was again attempted at Sandown Golf Course (see 1955 *Report*), but was unsuccessful due to disturbance by boys (AJH).

279 **Raven.** For the first time for some years there was definite evidence of breeding. At Scratchell's Bay on April 14th and 16th a pair of adults were watched continually entering a crevice in the cliffs with their crops bulging, and leaving with them empty (GHR, RJGR, RJW, EJW). Unfortunately before the young flew the nest was inadvertently destroyed by the tipping of rocks from the top of the cliff.

Apart from numerous other records in the Needles area (m.o.), birds were also seen at Compton Bay, Yarmouth, Whale Chine (MCA), St. Catherine's Pt. (RJGR, RJW, GAHW), Rookley (DJA), and Culver Cliff (AJH).

280 **Carrion Crow.** One at Ventnor on Dec. 19th had a brownish tinge on rump and tail, and large off-white wing-bars (MCA).

282 **Rook.** The rookeries were counted again in April, and the total of 5858 nests in 172 sites was once more the highest recorded, 166 nests and 2 sites more than the 1955 figures.

25 new sites were found and an additional 3 sites were re-occupied after being empty for 2 years or longer. Against these increases 22 sites were deserted, and 4 sites were amalgamated with existing larger ones, as the distances between them had become too small to differentiate.

It is interesting to note that the once largest rookery on the Island, at Fernhill, Wootton, which contained over 300 nests in 1932, has now ceased to exist, after only 11 nests were counted in 1955. The main cause of this extinction appears to have been the felling of trees during the war; when this happened most of the birds left to establish 3 new rookeries nearby, since when the numbers at the original site have fluctuated without recovering.

Another rookery at "The Mount," Yarmouth, known to have been in existence for over 50 years, has also been deserted.

Sites containing over 50 nests show signs of an upward trend, and there are now 10 with between 100 and 200 nests. Rookeries with 25 or fewer nests are still most numerous, comprising 100 of the 172 sites, or 58 per cent.—a drop of 6 per cent. since last year. (Summary of analysis by AJH of counts by JB, DF, OHF, AJH, RJM, PMcP, WS, JS, and GAHW).

- 283 **Jackdaw.** A partial albino appeared at Ventnor during the frost in February, with almost completely white wings and rump (TW).
- 284 **Magnie.**
- 286 **Jay.** Ringing recovery: an adult ringed (377693) at Cowes on Jan. 21st (JS, GAHW) was shot 8 miles S. at Shorwell on Nov. 26th (RSC).
- 288 **Great Tit.**
- 289 **Blue Tit.**
- 290 **Coal Tit.**
- 292 **Marsh Tit.**
- 294 **Long-tailed Tit.**
- 296 **Nuthatch.** The bird in the grounds of Northwood House (see 1955 *Report*) was seen several times from the beginning of the year to March (WGW). One was seen and another heard in the grounds of Osborne on Feb. 16th (AJH). On Nov. 16th one was seen at Grove Rd., Ventnor (TW), and a late report has been received of one heard at Spring Hill, which adjoins Grove Rd., on April 14th, 1951 (BWR, PLR).
- 298 **Treecreeper.**
- 299 **Wren.** In a withy bed by the course of the Lukely Brook near Carisbrooke several pairs of wrens nest in the dead reeds of previous years, which are bent over at various angles. The nests are built not in the usual upright position but inclined at the same angle as the supporting reeds, so that two nests found on May 21st had entrances facing obliquely towards the ground. (WS). Such a position is not mentioned by E. A. Armstrong (*The Wren*, 1955) who devotes considerable space to a discussion of nest-building.
- 301 **Mistle Thrush.**
- 302 **Fieldfare.** The first autumn record was at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Nov. 3rd (GHR).
- 303 **Song Thrush.**
- 304 **Redwing.** The first bird of the autumn was seen near Werrar on Oct. 7th (JS), but no more were reported until Oct. 27th, when 51 flew N. over St. Catherine's Pt. (JKB) and 12 E. over Yarmouth (MCA).
- 307 **Ring Ouzel.** A ♂ was seen feeding in a field at Compton Bay on April 5th (LEH, ERH), and there was a ♀ on burnt gorse on Headon Warren on April 12th (GAHW).

- 308 **Blackbird.**
- 311 **Wheatear.** The first arrival was seen on March 12th flying N.E. past the Lymington-Yarmouth ferry in mid-Solent (JS). The last seen was a ♀ at St. Catherine's Pt. on Nov. 4th (WGE). Numerous records in both migration seasons (m.o.), including c. 400 at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).  
**Greenland Wheatear.** A ♂ at St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 29th (GHR, EJW).
- 317 **Stonechat.** Nested on Westover Down, where 2 or 3 young which could only fly with difficulty were seen with an adult ♂ on Aug. 13th (JS).
- 318 **Whinchat.** First on April 15th, at Yarmouth (MCA) and St. Catherine's Pt. (RJGR, RJW), and last on Sept. 29th, at Freshwater and Headon Warren (JKB). C. 25 were seen at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 9th, but only 3 on 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).
- 320 **Redstart.** First on April 11th, on the Turf Walk at Totland (GAHW), and last by the R. Yar at Freshwater on Sept. 28th (WGE). There were numerous records in various places during the week-end April 14th-15th (m.o.). Prominent at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 9th and 10th, particularly on the former date, when c. 50 were identified in an hour during a prolonged rush of small birds (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). Also reported in unusual numbers on the same dates at Bembridge, Culver Down (JS), Freshwater (GH), and Yarmouth (MCA).
- 321 **Black Redstart.** 1 at Yarmouth on March 17th (MCA). A ♀ on the shore at Bembridge on March 24th (JS). A ♂ on the ruined fort on Headon Warren on April 10th (GAHW). 1 ♂ and 3 ♀ or immature ♂, and possibly 2 others, on Culver Down on Oct. 14th (EC).
- 322 **Nightingale.** First on April 12th, at Totland (GAHW).
- 325 **Robin.**
- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** 1 in song at Alum Bay on May 6th (MCA). 2 were caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). The probable nesting locality on Westover Down, occupied in 1954 and 1955, now appears to be unsuitable, due to the growth of a young plantation, and no birds could be found elsewhere in this area (JS).
- 333 **Reed Warbler.** Additional nesting localities (see 1953 and 1954 *Reports*): the reservoir at the West Medina Cement Works (JS), and the creek on the opposite side of the R. Medina, near Binfield (GAHW).  
 A late bird was seen at St. Catherine's Pt. on Oct. 2nd (WHT).
- 337 **Sedge Warbler.** First on April 15th, at Yarmouth (MCA). Very numerous at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).
- 338 **Aquatic Warbler.** One was caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse

- early on Sept. 10th, and when released at dawn flew away to E. Later in the morning good field views were obtained of one by the pools in the Undercliff W. of the Lighthouse, which was considered to be a different bird (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). Full details of both birds have been supplied. There have been four previous records for the Island, all at the Lighthouse, but only about thirty for the whole of the British Isles.
- 340 **Icterine Warbler.** One was caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 15th (DFB, CJH, GHR). Very full details have been supplied, including the 2nd primary being longer than the 5th, which distinguishes this species from the Melodious Warbler. The one previous record for the Island was also at the Lighthouse.
- 343 **Blackcap.** First on April 15th at Yarmouth (MCA).
- 346 **Garden Warbler.**
- 347 **Whitethroat.** First on April 11th at Alum Bay (GAHW), and last at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on Oct. 7th (JKB, WHT). At least half of the unusually large numbers witnessed at the Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 10th were Whitethroats; c. 100 were caught, and later in the morning they were too numerous to count in the surrounding bushes (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat.** First on April 28th, at St. Catherine's Lighthouse (GHR, EJW), and several others there in May, Aug., and Sept. (m.o.). Also recorded in May at Alum Bay, Yarmouth and Newtown (MCA).
- 352 **Dartford Warbler.** A ♂ was seen in June in the same locality as in 1955.
- 354 **Willow Warbler.** First on April 1st at Rookley (DJA). At least 200 were seen at St. Catherine's Lighthouse early on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).
- 356 **Chiffchaff.** First heard at Brighstone on March 19th (DF).  
A bird which was considered to be referable to one of the northern races *abietinus* or *tristis* was seen in Alum Chine on April 14th. Its general colouration was white below and silver-grey above. As its call could not be distinguished from that of the typical race *collybita* it was probably *abietinus* (Scandinavian Chiffchaff). (GHR).
- 364 **Goldcrest.** Several records of up to 3 migrants at St. Catherine's Lighthouse in Sept., Oct., and Nov. (m.o.).
- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher.** An early arrival was watched resting in a tree at Seaview on April 13th, before flying on towards the mainland (RAL).
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher.** Unusual numbers occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on Sept. 9th, when c. 40 passed to the E. in 1½ hours before dawn. On the following day the passage was similar, but more prolonged—77 identified in 3½ hours (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). Numbers were also seen on the same dates at Freshwater Bay (GH), Bembridge, Culver Down, and Luccombe (JS). The only

other records were a ♂ at Yarmouth on April 14th and 15th (MCA), a pair at Shanklin on April 22nd (EHW), and 3 at the Lighthouse on Sept. 15th (GHR).

371 **Hedge Sparrow.**

373 **Meadow Pipit.** At St. Catherine's Pt., over 800 flew past to E. on both Sept. 15th and 22nd, but on several dates in Oct. movements were mainly to W., in smaller numbers (JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW).

376 **Tree Pipit.** First seen on April 14th, arriving at Scratchell's Bay from S. (GHR, EJW), and last at Parkhurst Sewage Farm on Oct. 30th (GAHW). There were several records of arrivals at St. Catherine's Pt. from S. during April (m.o.).

379 **Rock Pipit.**

**Water Pipit.** One at St. Catherine's Pt. on March 31st was very wary, and eventually flew away to W., gaining height, until out of sight (GHR). Full details supplied. The third record for the Island.

380 **Pied Wagtail.** A pair which nested in a stack of drainpipes in a Newport builder's yard, becoming confused by the multiplicity of identical openings, built five nests in different pipes, all at the same height (VSW). There was a similar occurrence about 1950 at Blackwater, where several identical drainpipes discharge into the R. Medina (WS). In neither case is it known whether the nesting was eventually successful.

140 flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt. on Oct. 6th (EJW), and 91 on the following day (JKB, WHT).

**White Wagtail.** Single birds identified at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 15th (RJGR, RJW), 20th, and 22nd (JKB, WHT); the last two were flying past to the E.

381 **Grey Wagtail.**

382 **Yellow Wagtail.** First at Yarmouth on April 15th (MCA). The last was a very late bird at St. Catherine's Pt. on Nov. 4th (WHT), and 4 were also seen there on Oct. 7th (JKB, WHT).

388 **Red-backed Shrike.** Only one seen—a juvenile at St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW).

389 **Starling.** Ringing recovery: an adult ringed (S48157) at Sway, Hants., on Feb. 2nd (SHS), was found dying at Cowes, 13 miles E., on April 7th (AHB).

392 **Greenfinch.**

393 **Goldfinch.** Several records of migration, mainly to W., at St. Catherine's Pt. in Oct., with a peak of 174 counted on 21st (JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW).

395 **Linnet.** Frequent at St. Catherine's Pt. in Oct.; numbers counted flying to W. were 241 on 6th, 384 on 7th, 286 on 13th, 88 on 21st, and 16 on 27th, but much smaller numbers were also seen flying in all other directions (JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW).

397 **Redpoll.** One feeding on old seed heads at Brighstone on Feb. 23rd, during the cold spell (DF), was the first recorded in the Island for some years.

- 401 **Bullfinch.**  
 407 **Chaffinch.**  
 408 **Brambling.** The only one recorded was feeding with Chaffinches in a garden near the centre of Shanklin on Feb. 23rd, during the cold spell (AJH).  
 409 **Yellowhammer.**  
 415 **Girl Bunting.** The ♂ at Osborne at the end of 1955 remained there throughout 1956, being heard regularly in song from March 6th to Aug. 15th, twice in Oct., and twice in Dec. (JS) (cf. 1955 *Report*). No other records.  
 416 **Ortolan Bunting.** A juvenile was caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse early on Sept. 10th (BAEM, RJGR, DRW). Full details have been supplied. This constitutes the first record for the Island, as the specimen reported from Freshwater in 1867 cannot be considered acceptable. It is stated in *British Birds* (vol. I, p. 119) that about the beginning of Sept. a sprinkling of Ortolan Buntings were recorded on the E. and S. coasts and in the Irish Sea.  
 421 **Reed Bunting.** Additional nesting locality (see 1953-1955 *Reports*): by the creek running into the E. bank of the Medina estuary near Binfield (GAHW).  
 424 **House Sparrow.**

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## SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS REFERRING TO ISLE OF WIGHT BIRDS.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB, vol. XIX, pp. 188-211. "Birds, 1955." Edwin Cohen.

BRITISH BIRDS, vol. XLIX, pp. 258-267. "The Black-tailed Godwit in Great Britain and Ireland, 1938-1952." Averil Morley and K. L. H. Price.

" " pp. 289-297. "The Crossbill invasion of Great Britain in 1953." E. M. Barraud.

" " pp. 367-370. Review of Hampshire Bird Reports, 1953 and 1954, and I.O.W. Bird Report, 1954. D. D. Harber.

" vol. I, pp. 122-123. "Some internal parasites from an Iceland Redwing." R. E. Scott. (*Dilepis undula*)

" " pp. 149-155. "The rarer birds of prey. Their present status in the British Isles. Peregrine." I. J. Ferguson-Lees.

" " pp. 173-197. "The past and present status of the Buzzard in the British Isles." N. W. Moore.

# THE RECRUITMENT OF QUARR ABBEY,

1132-1536.

By The Revd. S. F. HOCKEY, O.S.B., B.A.

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When Baldwin de Redvers decided to found a monastery on his lands in the Isle of Wight he applied to the Norman house of Savigny, a Benedictine community famous at that time for its fervour which had already founded Furness (1123) and Neath (1130). Of the first group of monks we know only the name of the abbot, Gervase, and that from the Carisbrooke cartulary. Once the house was established it naturally was expected to recruit locally. Even after the Savigny houses as a whole became united to the Order of Cîteaux (1147) we must remember that, until the foundations of Beaulieu (1204) and of Netley (1239), Quarr had a wide field for recruitment.

Very few monks of the first 175 years are known to us by more than their Christian names, such as Edmund, two Roberts, of which one was a physician, and Simon, who became bishop of Achonry. Among these we can be precise only about one family name, and that a well-known name: Simeon, son of Hugh de Mandeville. If he was not a local man, his sister was married to Thomas Vavasour, who held land on the island at Preston. Among the other names of the period appear a few local place names: William de Swineston, Nicholas de Christchurch, and Philip de Binstead, the last two being concerned in the affair at Staplers in 1282. It is only when the episcopal registers begin at Winchester in 1305 that we are on more fruitful ground. Except for one or two registers which have been lost, the records of the bishops give us the names of the Quarr monks who went for ordinations to the cathedral or to St. Cross, more frequently to an episcopal manor as to Farnham, to South Waltham, to Esher, or even to the bishop of Exeter at Farendon.

The names we have from 1305 until the close are in most cases a Christian name and a name indicating his provenance. This was clearly necessary, for the range of Christian names in use among some 170 monks known to us is very limited: 40 are called John, 26 William, 8 Robert and Richard, 7 Thomas, 6 Simon, 5 Roger, and 4 Nicholas. It may be that they dropped an occupational name, such as Mason or Carpenter, and adopted their place name, since the nearest approach to an occupational name is that of Symon Naylere (1330) and Robert Smythe (1536).<sup>1</sup> Normally a monk kept his family name if he had one.

Now, among the toponymic names we find the Island well represented: Roger Benstede (1481), John Benstede (1508), Walter de Chale (1328), John de Caresbrok (1350), John Carisbrooke (1384), Henry de Godeshull (1333), John Newecherche (1384), John Newchurch (1488), John atte Ryde (1347), William de Shentlynge (1305), William de Tydelyngham (1305), Geoffrey de Wroxhale (1313), Henry de Wolverton (1333), William Wodyton (1412).

For Hampshire we find the following: William Beuley (1455), Robert Cryschurch (1395), John Cristchurch (1455), John Elyngham (1495), Thomas de Farleye (1333), Simon de Hamtone (1306), John de Hampton (1350), Walter Hampton (1467), John de Havonte (1313), John de Lemyngton (1350), William Milforde (1517), John de Portesmuthe (1310), John de Romseye (1328), Richard Soberton (1412), John de Stonham (1321), Roger de Tichefeld (1347), William de Worthy (1305), John de Wynton (1350).

Such well-known and widespread place names as the following indicate that the abbey was able to attract men from all parts of England, and in fact did so, as the dates show, at all stages of its history: Robert Alcestre (1384), Symon Abyngdon (1412), Robert Bedforde (1367), Ralph de Benyngton (1328), Walter de Bradeford (1324), William Chertseye (1398), John Chyppenham (1402), Henry Cornwale (1410), William Chichestre (1455), William Durham (1495), William Lyncolne (1458), Thomas London (1508), John de Middleton (1330), John de Notyngham (1373), Richard Pyrley (1508), William Rippon the last abbot, Hugh de Suttone (1310), Nicholas Stodele (1395), Hugh de Stoke (1321), Gilbert Salesbury (1403), William Wynburne (1458), John York (1474).

Of the thirty-nine abbots known to us, only fifteen are known by more than a Christian name. Adam of Arundel (1274-1304) seems to have been an outstanding figure. Geoffrey Newchurch (1470-1479) was undoubtedly an Island man. So, too, almost certainly was Richard Totnam (1508-1525) for he seems to have retired to a cottage at Arreton, and his sister, Alice, was married to John Cottesolde, who, after farming Fernhill and Granthams in Arreton, took a lease of Luccombe from the abbey in 1528 and was still there in 1553.

Among the names that are family names in the Isle of Wight, we would mention these: Geoffrey le Baron (1310) and Roger (1368), perhaps to be linked to Berrybarn in Brighstone; William de Boukelonde (1349), David (1350), and William (1385), perhaps connected with Buckland Grange in Ryde; John Brakkle (1350), a name well attested in Newport in later years; William de Clive to be linked with Clevelands in Wroxhall; John de Clavile (1317) of a well known Whippingham family, benefactors to the abbey, cf. Clavell's Copse; John de Cosham (1349), probably of the family of that name which held the manor of Cosham in Newport, as well as Cosham in Hants; John Durant (1324), perhaps connected with Durrants in Calbourne; John Farnehille (1403), of a Whippingham family with which Fernhill is

associated; Robert de Mora (1313), no doubt of a family connected with Heasley; John Newenham (1470), the Newnams are a widespread Island family; John Petresfelde (1393) and William (1455) are to be associated, not with the town, but with the family holding land in Brading, as well as just outside Newport; John Preston (1481), perhaps to be linked to Preston's Farm.<sup>2</sup>

An examination of some of the Quarr documents now in the Public Record Office gives proof of the abbey's relations with the Cosham, Clive, Claville, Mora, and Preston families from the earliest times, and with the Farnhull family at a later period. In addition, we learn that Ralph Fulcher, of Sway, was offered by his father to be a monk at Quarr in its early days. Somewhere about 1300, when James Junior entered Quarr, he gave the monastery a messuage with its buildings in Newport.<sup>3</sup>

What of the rest who do not fit into this classification? They all bear such authentically English names that with our present evidence one would not dare to attribute them to any particular part of the country: John Alynson (1508), Thomas Blake (1373), William Baret (1386), Richard Bradle (1395), William Burt (1282), Reginald But (1282), John Forde (1402), John Forest (1508), John Gold (1373), Stephen Golde (1386), John Howston (1459), John Rose (1324), John Stout (1321), Thomas Symmes (1479), Stephen White (1510), etc.

We may safely conclude that, even with our small knowledge of the Island families in medieval times, recruitment to the abbey was very largely local—some 32 per cent. are shown by this rough analysis to have come from Hampshire or the Isle of Wight, and the true proportion must have been still higher.

#### NOTES.

<sup>1</sup> The dates and spelling given are those of the first entry.

<sup>2</sup> For this paragraph I am indebted to H. Kökeritz; *The Place-names of the Isle of Wight* (Upsala, 1940).

<sup>3</sup> P.R.O. E315/45/46.

## METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1956.

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It is regretted that, owing to the discontinuation of regular recording of observations at the West Wight Secondary Modern School Meteorological Station it has not been possible, unfortunately, for Mr. J. P. Corbett, M.A., to compile his usual summary this year.

This summary was compiled by Mr. H. Hoare, Meteorological Officer for Shanklin.

The Maximum, Minimum, Wet and Dry Bulb Thermometers, and the Rain Gauge are situated in Big Mede, Church Road, 180ft. above sea level.

The Sunshine Recorder and Weather Vane are on the roof of the Town Hall.

Readings are taken at 0900 hours and 1800 hours daily, G.M.T.

1956 was certainly unique from a meteorological point of view, and several long-standing records were broken. January made a fair start, the first half being sunny, warm, and fairly dry, but with nearly 4in. of rain recorded during the latter half, it was the wettest January for seven years. Despite this, sunshine was above normal.

February was a real "plumber's month" with six recordings of 11° or more of frost. Sunshine was again above average and rainfall very slight.

March was again sunny and dry. The combined rainfall for February and March was a low record.

April was the coldest for over 27 years, with very little rainfall and a poor sunshine total.

It was the sunniest May for 47 years, and rainfall was again very slight.

The rot set in well and truly in June, normally the finest month of the year, it being the coldest June for 29 years, with rainfall well above average.

July followed in the same pattern, the only redeeming feature being the below average rainfall. The gale which raged in the early hours of Sunday July 29th, and reached hurricane force, will long be remembered for the damage caused to property.

One must draw a veil over August, being truly indescribable. Depressing records were broken wholesale.

September provided little compensation for the previous three months of bad weather. The early part was very wet and extremely cold, but when the summer shows and most of the hotels had closed the

weather became appreciably warmer and dry, in fact, the beginning of an Indian summer, which lasted until the final days of November.

December was a month of very little sunshine, with 17 completely sunless days, of mist, fog, and rain—a fitting end to a bad year. Rainfall for December was 6.35in. (average 3.8in.), and it was the wettest December since 1937.

Thunder was recorded 15 times during the year.

The latest frost occurred on May 21st, and the earliest on October 9th.

### 1956 WEATHER AT SHANKLIN.

Month	Temperatures				Dry (Mean)	Wet (Mean)	Rainfall (Inches)	Sunshine (Hours)
	Max. (Mean)	Min.	Extremes					
Jan.	47.1	36.6	53	28	41.9	40.6	5.26	80.0
Feb.	37.3	27.1	49	17	31.6	30.7	.24	102.2
Mar.	48.0	39.3	57	32	43.9	41.7	.32	170.3
April	51.6	38.1	59	31	46.1	43.0	1.78	194.4
May	60.7	45.9	73	35	55.2	51.5	.38	303.7
June	62.1	50.5	69	43	56.9	53.5	2.93	198.1
July	64.6	55.6	75	51	60.5	58.6	2.04	217.3
Aug.	61.0	53.1	67	44	58.9	57.4	5.13	237.6
Sept.	63.2	55.2	70	48	59.9	57.9	4.60	137.9
Oct.	56.6	45.9	62	35	52.2	50.1	1.77	134.7
Nov.	49.8	40.2	57	24	44.7	43.0	.82	10.24
Dec.	48.8	40.0	55	24	44.9	43.7	6.35	35.4

## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

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**Humming-bird Hawk Moth.**—A specimen of Humming-bird Hawk Moth, *Macroglossa stellatarum*, Linn., was observed in good condition flying in sunshine at Ventnor on January 9th, 1956.

January, 1956.

Miss T. White.

**Mites Found on Bat.**—On October 7th, 1956, I found a Natterer's Bat, *Vespertilio nattereri*, which appeared to have been recently killed by a train, lying on the railway between Newport and Cowes, near the Cement Mills. There are only two previous records for this bat, at Bonchurch on December 13th, 1844, and the other undated at Ventnor. While examining it, I discovered two mites, one folded within each wing. These mites were kindly identified by Mr. E. Browning, of the British Museum (Natural History), as specimens of *Spinturnix euryalis*, Canestrini, which is a common parasite of a number of species of bats. No list has yet been compiled of Mites found in the Island.

November, 1956.

J. Stafford, M. A.

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