

Vol. V

Part II.

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ISLE OF WIGHT
NATURAL HISTORY
AND
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1957.**

**Copies may be obtained from the Editor
price 10/- post free**

Issued December, 1958.

**Isle of Wight:
THE COUNTY PRESS, NEWPORT
2001/1958.**



HEDGEHOGS—see Natural History Notes, page 85.

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LIST OF OFFICERS.

(Elected at the Annual General Meeting, January 18th, 1958).

President :

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

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

Bird Recorder :

J. STAFFORD, M.A., Westering, Moor Lane, Brighstone, I.W.

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

NEW MEMBERS.

The following list gives the names and addresses of all candidates elected to the Society during 1957 :—

BOLTON, R. LEE, Oaklands, New Road, Wootton Bridge, I.W.
BOLTON, MRS. D. E. LEE, M.A., Oaklands, New Road, Wootton Bridge, I.W.
CAPEWELL, MRS. D., Upper Chine School, Shanklin, I.W.
COOPER, MRS. C. M., 63 Mill Hill Road, Cowes, I.W.
ELCOCK, MISS P. S., 6 Parklands Avenue, Cowes, I.W.
MCKENZIE, C. B., Regatta View, Solent View Road, Gurnard, I.W.
UNDERWOOD, N. J., 15 West Street, Wroxall, I.W.

OBITUARY.

FRANCIS HENRY JAMES DAMP, M.C.

We regret to record the death on June 17th, 1957, of Mr. F. H. J. Damp, at his home, Westbury, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, at the age of 63.

Francis Henry James Damp was well known in the Island in connection with the family firm of H. and F. Damp, Ltd. He saw service in the 1914-18 war with the Hampshire Regiment at Gallipoli and later at the second battle of the Somme, where he was gassed. He was awarded the Military Cross for courage and leadership. Although a member of the Society for a comparatively short time, he was very interested in its activities, and enjoyed nothing more than an afternoon's ramble in the countryside. His last outing with the Society, which took place shortly before his death, was on the occasion of our visit to the Priory, St. Helens, in which he was particularly interested from past association with it in the days of his youth.

V.S.W.

FRANK MOZART WALKER, B.A.

We regret to record the death at his home at St. Albans, on December 5th, 1957, of Mr. F. M. Walker, B.A., at the age of 86.

Frank Mozart Walker came to the Island early in the century and was a prominent and respected figure in Island education, music, and sport. After being a master at the Ryde Upper Grade School, he was transferred, in 1904, to the I.W. Pupil Teachers' Centre, later the County Secondary School, at Newport, where he was senior master until he left in 1918 to conduct a school at St. Albans. He was quite a "man of parts." As a member of a group of five enthusiastic naturalists, including S. W. Pring and E. W. Pollard, who cycled and walked the whole Island trying to find all the plants mentioned in Bromfield's *Flora Vectensis*, he worked for the first two decades of the century.

Much material was also found in Pond Life which was published in *Morey's Guide to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight*. Walker was also well known as a musician, playing several instruments, but specialising in the violin, without which no philharmonic platform was complete. In this also he was associated with Pring, and the pair continued to keep seismic records at Shide after the death of Prof. Milne. In sport Walker was a skilful player for the Ryde F.C. for several seasons.

Although it is many years since Walker left the Island for St. Albans, he continued to take an active interest in the Society, and always paid an annual visit. In 1953 he was present and very helpful at the three-day Exhibition held by the Society in Newport.

E.W.P.

BALANCE SHEET, 1957.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought Forward	55	2	3½
Subscriptions	88	0	0
Donations	2	5	0
Subscriptions overpaid	15	0	0
Sale of <i>Proceedings</i> and Offprints	6	9	6
Profit from A.G.M. Tea	16	10	0
Interest from War Stock	10	15	6
	£164	4	1½

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Printing <i>Proceedings</i> and Offprints	68	1	6
Other Printing	2	14	3
Postage, Envelopes, etc.	11	14	9½
Cost of Lectures, etc.	1	6	0
Hire of Rooms and Caretaker's Fees	11	7	6
Affiliation Fees, C.B.A. and B.T.O.	2	15	0
Sundries (part cost of plate)	1	10	0
Balance in hand	64	15	1
	£164	4	1½

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.

General Meeting held on Saturday 2nd March, 1957.

The President in the chair.

The illustrated lecture on "Wild Life on the Norfolk Broads," by Mr. F. W. Sander, M.A., arranged for this meeting was not able to be delivered owing to the illness of the lecturer.

In its place, Mr. O. H. Frazer showed his collection of coloured lantern slides of Island plants, insects, and reptiles. These included recent photographs of the rare Wood Calamint, *Calamintha sylvatica*, growing in its only known British habitat on the Island.

Informal Meeting held on Friday 8th March, 1957.

Subject for discussion—Ornithology.

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

General Meeting held on Saturday 23rd March, 1957.

The President in the chair.

Mr. J. Alexander, M.A., of Cambridge University, gave the first public lecture on the findings of the Excavation of the Barrow at Down End, Arreton, in the summer of 1956. It was hoped that the full report would be available for publication in these *Proceedings*, but as this is not yet to hand the following report gives the main substance of the lecture.

Among the discoveries of general interest were two female skeletons, one in a remarkable state of preservation, a dagger, also in unusually good condition, and a blue glazed faience bead, all of which confirmed the barrow as belonging to the Early Bronze Age period—some 3600 years ago. Further discoveries revealed that the site had been previously settled during the late secondary Neolithic Period, between 1800 and 1400 B.C. The lecturer emphasised that complete excavation by experienced diggers was the only satisfactory method for examining a barrow and establishing its true significance. Small trenches were only harmful, often damaging the site for the expert. The site was scheduled for preservation under the Ancient Monuments Acts of 1913 and 1931, but after the chance discovery of a Bronze Age dagger by Timothy Blishen in 1954, treasure seekers invaded the barrow, which was further endangered by the encroachments of the adjacent chalk quarry. Interested people contacted Mr. G. C. C. Dunning, and after two years the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the Ministry of Works authorised the excavation under the lecturer's charge.

Mr. Alexander said that the barrow was one of the two remaining of four known barrows on the western end of Arreton Down, part of the chalk ridge through the Island which men had used in earliest times as an important route. The finding of the Arreton Down hoard, now partly housed in the British Museum (see *Proceedings*, Vol. II, pp. 612-3), had provided evidence of the occupation and use of the site in the early Bronze Age. Originally it was thought that a considerable portion of the barrow had been lost through quarrying, but they had proved that only a foot or so was missing. However, there was evidence of disturbances in the past, and the barrow was only three and a half feet high, compared with the adjacent one, known as Micah Morey's Hump, which stands nearly nine feet high.

The speaker quoted from the Close Roll of 1237 A.D., in which Henry III ordered the Duke of Cornwall to open the Island barrows and see if they contained treasure. The King had evidently heard that Islanders were already digging and sought to forestall them in finding gold or other valuables. That his command was carried out was shown by the discovery in 1857, by the Rev. E. Kell, of 60 fragments of pottery, which were reconstructed into a medieval storage pot. Earlier in the 19th century Mr. T. Cooke, who was investigating Micah Morey's Hump, saw labourers employed by the Turnpike Commissioners digging flints for roadmaking, and he also reported that five years before, in 1810, the landowner had dug a road block between the two barrows to prevent the passage of carriages. During the 1930s Mr. Sherratt erected a wireless mast on the barrow and found several skulls while digging foundation pits. It had also been the scene of tank practice in the last war, and rabbit infestation and the series of unofficial raids following Mr. Blishen's find had badly damaged the area down to the top of the chalk. A third of the original ground surface was retained, however, and helped in reaching conclusions about when it was built.

The primary burial pit, cut in the chalk and surrounded by circles of stake holes and a penannular ditch about 18-inches deep at the most, had been robbed. They had found the remains of a middle-aged woman's skeleton, which had been thrown back at an earlier date, and with it a blue faience bead. These beads had travelled across Europe from the Mediterranean to Britain between 1600 and 1400 B.C., when they were used as trade goods. About 28 had been found in Britain, but he believed it to be the first in the Island. Secondary burials were also uncovered, both for inhumations and cremations. In one of the former they found the perfectly preserved skeleton of a young girl, between 15 and 20, buried in the crouched position characteristic of the Bronze Age. An unusual and unexplained feature of the skeleton was that her left arm appeared mutilated. It was unlikely that decay had caused the damage, and so it might have been deliberate and part of the ritual. The body had been edged by two crescent-shaped indentations, a feature for which Mr. Alexander could not quote a parallel. The barrows were used as family vaults and secondary graves often contained relatives

or members of the same tribe. Close by the skeleton they found a second dagger, similar in every way to Mr. Blishen's. It was rare, however, as the wooden sheath had been preserved, and they had been able to tell from the discolouration of the soil the shape of the wooden handle. Near by they found a bone hook, which probably held the dagger to the wearer's belt. Proof of a pre-Bronze Age settlement included thousands of worked flints, fragments of pottery, fired clay, charcoal, and animal bones.

Replying to questions, Mr. Alexander said that the discoveries would go to the Island Museum at Carisbrooke Castle after their examination was complete. While he would like to dig Micah Morey's Hump, this would not be possible unless the Ministry of Works found it was in danger of disappearing. It was scheduled as an ancient monument, which precluded amateur digging.

The lecture was illustrated by film slides, projected by Mr. O. H. Frazer, and photographs, including those taken by Mr. P. Sprack, a member of the Society. The President thanked Mr. Alexander for his knowledgeable and imaginative address.

Informal Meeting held on Friday 5th April, 1957.

Subject for discussion—Botany.

Under the leadership of the President, botanical notes were compared and discussed.

General Meeting held on Saturday 6th April, 1957.

The President in the chair.

Three short papers were read by members of the Society.

Miss Bullock demonstrated some "Ingenious Devices for Pollination" in flowering plants. Apart from an interesting collection of the plants themselves, the lecture was illustrated by a number of excellent wall charts.

Mr. P. D. Whittingham spoke on "Coin Finds and History." He displayed cases of interesting coins, but warned his hearers about drawing false conclusions when finding old coins.

Mr. D. Roberts spoke on "Instinct and Intelligence in Insects," with special reference to the social insects, on which he is an authority.

The President thanked the speakers for a most interesting and instructive afternoon.

Excursion to St. Helens Priory, on Saturday 11th May, 1957.

Leaders, the President and Mr. J. E. Cooper.

Forty-five members met at the entrance to Nodus Fort. After walking through the grounds of the Priory Guest House, by kind permission of the Workers' Travel Association, the Secretary gave a short history

of the Priory, which was a Cluniac foundation of pre-1090 A.D., and with which the ancient barns and farm house, which now form part of the Guest House, have a direct link.

Members explored the beautiful grounds, which have a foreshore frontage of half-a-mile, also the interior of the house was shown, where wood carvings and decorations of periods from Jacobean to the present day were much admired.

On leaving the Priory, the party walked across the fields to the remains of St. Helens Old Church on the shore and thence, via the Duver, across the harbour by the old mill wall to the Brading Haven Yacht Club, where the club's ladies committee kindly provided tea.

Although no birds of particular rarity were seen, a number of interest were observed, and after tea members explored the district as they felt inclined.

Excursion to Shanklin and Luccombe Chines on Saturday 8th June 1957.

Leader, the President.

Thirty-five members met at Shanklin Old Village and walked through the Chine, where the geological explanation of its formation was explained. The party then went along the shore to Luccombe Chine, where several interesting plants were found, including the Marsh Helleborine and Bog Pimpernel. Tea was taken in the beautiful garden of Dunnose Cottage, and the return walk was across Luccombe Common.

Excursion to Yarmouth and Freshwater on Saturday 20th July, 1957.

Leader, Mr. O. H. Frazer.

In spite of the bus strike, 20 members were able to meet at Yarmouth, and walked along the disused railway track to Freshwater, by special permission of British Railways. Interesting examples of colonisation of plants were noted along the track, hitherto prevented by the regular use of weedkiller. Among the interesting plants observed were Cotton-easter, Marsh Mallow, and Purple Toadflax.

Refreshments were taken on Freshwater Marsh, where the delightful Flowering Rush was in bloom. The return journey was made by way of the footpath from the Parish Church to Norton Spit, where among the plants of the seashore, Sea Holly, Yellow and White Melilot, and Fennel were observed.

Excursion to Apes Down and Carisbrooke on Saturday 21st September, 1957.

Leader, the President.

Forty-four members and friends met at Apes Down Farm for a walk of great botanical interest through the valley and along the downland ridge to Carisbrooke.

The weather was most unkind as, shortly after setting out, it started to rain and this persisted for the whole afternoon, but members were pleased to note specimens of the Wood Calamint, *Calamintha sylvatica*, growing in this, the only British habitat, and a wide variety of other plants in flower and fruit were recognised.

Exhibition of Fungi on Saturday 19th October, 1957.

Gilled fungi only were collected by members in different parts of the Island, and brought to the science laboratory of the Priory Secondary Girls' School, Newport, where they were identified and named by Mr. E. H. Ellis, and arranged in systematic order on the tables by Mr. O. H. Frazer, assisted by senior pupils. A total of 81 species were displayed, of which four were new records for the Island. Details are as follows:—

HYMENOMYCETES.

Cortinarius armillatus—Harwood Copse, Lushington Hill.

(D. Roberts).

Mycena haematopus—Apse Manor Farm. (Miss V. Fisk).

Russula heterophylla—Parkhurst Forest. (Sandown Grammar School).

Schizophyllum commune—Parkhurst Forest.

(Sandown Grammar School).

Mr. Ellis gave a short talk and demonstrated the points to look for when identifying these fungi. Mr. J. Barker showed a selection of excellent lantern slides from photographs of fungi, taken by himself, and Mr. D. Roberts set up a microscope for the study of fungus spores.

The President thanked Mr. Ellis and all who had brought in specimens and had helped in so many different ways to make it a most interesting, instructive, and enjoyable afternoon. Tea was served by Mrs. L. Stafford and helpers, while members examined the exhibits.

Informal Meeting held on Friday 15th November, 1957.

Subject for discussion—Ornithology.

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

General Meeting held on Saturday 16th November, 1957.

The President in the chair.

Sixty-five members and friends attended this illustrated lecture by Mr. Clifford Matthews, of Fishbourne, on the Bird Photographs of the late Mr. H. Willford, of Havenstreet. The speaker recounted the story of how very fortunately he came to be in possession of this truly

remarkable collection of lantern slides, which included the best series of photographic studies of the Hooded Crow that had ever been taken. Other interesting photographs that will be long remembered by those that saw them, were of the Red-backed Shrike, or Butcher Bird, taken at its nest in the hedge opposite the photographer's house at Havenstreet, and excellent studies of the Lesser and Greater Black-backed Gulls, with young just hatched, Skuas, Artic Terns, Whimbrel, and Curlew, to mention only a few. In addition there were cases of stuffed birds from the same source on view, including a Lesser Bittern, of particular interest to Islanders as it was shot in error in the Island, and is a very rare record. It was very gratifying to learn that owing to the kindness of the late Mr. Willford's sister, the best of the photographs are kept by the Nature Conservancy in trust for the nation.

Mr. Matthews also showed a series of photographs of the family of hedgehogs recently reported and illustrated in the *County Press*, and these were discussed with interest. (See *Frontispiece* and *Natural History and Archaeological Notes* in this issue of *Proceedings*).

The President thanked Mr. Matthews and the projectionist, Mr. Frazer, on behalf of the large and appreciative audience.

General Meeting held on Saturday 7th December, 1957.

The President in the chair.

A well-attended meeting heard an illustrated lecture on the "Flowers of the Tyrol," by Mr. A. W. Westrup, B.Sc., of the Portsmouth Technical College. The speaker stated that what he had to say and show was the outcome of a most interesting expedition with a party of students to the Austrian Tyrol in August, 1956. Whereas many of the alpine flowers were found in Britain, it was not possible to take students to see them, as many of them were so extremely rare that their exact locations were closely guarded secrets. Such a visit as this to the Tyrol provided them with the opportunity of seeing 500 different species of alpine flowers growing profusely in their natural habitat, and as over 200 of these were on the British list, it was of the utmost interest to any student of the British flora. Most of the flowers were found on the alpine meadows or "alms," the more gently sloping areas at various heights on the sides of the steeper mountains. Quite different flowers would be found amongst the debris left by the receding glaciers, as the lack of soil gave an opportunity for those species to grow which could not stand the competition of other plants. The lecture was illustrated by a wonderful collection of slides of coloured photographs taken by Messrs. J. Beetham and P. Sheasby, whose generosity in lending the slides for the purpose of the lecture was much appreciated.

On behalf of the members, the President thanked the lecturer, and also the projectionist, Mr. O. H. Frazer. Members then examined the collection of pressed specimens on display.

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18th January, 1958.
The President in the chair.

Over 60 members attended. In his opening address the President thanked the members for their support in what had been a most happy year. The success of the Society was due in no small measure to the atmosphere of friendliness which was always so evident at their meetings. He outlined some of the meetings to which they were looking forward in the coming year, and made a special plea for members to keep written records of their observations, so that these could be collated and used as a basis for furthering our knowledge. The Society were unfortunate in the loss of two of their oldest members during the year, Mr. F. H. J. Damp, of Newport, and Mr. F. M. Walker, of St. Albans, for whom Obituary Notices appear elsewhere in these *Proceedings*. Members stood in silent tribute.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. A. J. Henry, showed the healthy state of the Society's finances, with a balance in hand of over £64, being an increase of over £9 on last year. The membership remained steady at 189.

The officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mrs. M. Henry, Miss V. Fisk, and Mr. F. Wallis, who had completed their three years on the Council. Miss T. White, Mrs. D. Brook, and Miss J. Eley, were elected to fill these vacancies. Dr. J. Ramsbottom, Mr. E. H. Ellis, Mr. J. F. Jackson, and Mr. J. E. Barker were re-elected as Honorary Members in recognition of valuable services to the Society. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected with the addition of Mr. O. H. Frazer, of Brighstone.

Votes of thanks were expressed to the Officers, to the Headmaster of the Grammar School, the Headmistress of Priory Girls' School, and the Education Committee for the use of their buildings for meetings, and to the *County Press* for their helpful co-operation, and to the ladies who had so kindly provided tea.

A special plea was made for members to bring the activities of the Society to the notice of their friends, and encourage as many as possible to join. On the proposition of Miss J. Eley, it was unanimously agreed to seek affiliation with the British Empire Naturalists' Association.

During and after tea, provided by Mrs. M. Henry and helpers, members took part in a competition involving the identification of 25 objects of natural history and archaeological interest, organised by Mr. O. H. Frazer, with the assistance of Mr. J. Jones, M.A., and Mr. G. F. Mew, B.E.M., C.C. Book tokens were awarded to the lady and gentleman with the highest marks. In the case of the ladies, a tie between Miss T. White and Miss F. M. Hopkins had to be resolved by a further test, which resulted in Miss Hopkins being declared the winner by one point. The other winner was Mr. J. Stafford.

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES FOR 1957.

By J. LOBB.

Looking back on the 1957 season will always recall many happy memories. One in particular was a lovely week's collecting and studying in glorious weather during the last week in May. In February, as is my usual practice, I made several trips to assess the progress or decline of the Island's treasure, the Glanville Fritillary, *Melitaea cinxia*. As the previous summer had been a bad one, I was not surprised to find this species at a rather low ebb, and searching in a situation where previously I have found as many as 30 or 40 webs containing larvae, I could only find one small web. In early June, searching for the perfect insect brought the same result, and consequently none were netted. One of the oldest and safest colonies has now been invaded by a caravan site, and the undergrowth in the declivities, where the larvae pass the winter, was flattened out by the occupants of the caravans. This cannot but fail to have an adverse effect on the webs of small larvae. After years of study of the habits of this insect, I am convinced these coastal declivities give the protection necessary for this rare butterfly's continued existence.

One ambition I have fostered for a long time was to discover the colony of the rare micro-moth, *Metzneria littorella*, Doug., which is reputed to be confined to one field near Ventnor, and known only to one or two entomologists, one of these being the late Mr. H. G. Jeffery. Much searching in this area proved negative, so I set out to test a pet theory I had held for some time that this insect may be present in a certain locality which presented possibilities. The environment of this area was totally different from the known habitat. However, at Easter I decided to put it to the test and visited the place to gather the seed-heads and stems of the Buckshorn Plantain, *Plantago coronopus*, of which, up to that time, I only had a description, but I was fortunate to find it growing there. The situation was on the cliff face on the south coast of the Island, and, as the larvae pass the winter in the seed stems of its foodplant, it was necessary for me to gather a quantity for a friend who required the moth. I was a bit late, and the winter gales had broken off and buried many of the stems, but I did gather a limited number, having little hope of success. But I was in for a surprise, for a week later my friend wrote to say that he had found a small larva in one stem. I wrote for advice on this to Mr. Wakely, and he replied that the larva found was most certainly *M. littorella*, as the only other larvae found in the stem of this plant were those of a beetle, and the two could not be confused. This proved to be correct when, in June, I received word from my friend that ten imagines of *M. littorella* had emerged, so a new locality and environment had been added to what was known of this rare species.

On May 28th I visited Tennyson Down, Freshwater, to look for another plant new to me, and to find the larva of the uncommon Plume Moth, *Alucita spilodactyla*, Curt., whose life history is associated with the White Horehound, *Marrubium vulgare*. In this venture I was successful in not only finding the plant, but also finding the larvae in good numbers. I collected 14 larvae and found it quite interesting to rear, having 12 imagines emerge after pupating on a small plant I had potted up. Collecting this species is not to be recommended to anyone who suffers from nerves, as the plants grow within 2 or 3 feet of the 200-foot vertical cliff, and, as my nerves are not as good as they were before my accident, extreme caution had to be exercised, and I much preferred the retreat to the advance on this occasion. On my way back across the Down to Freshwater, I kicked up a moth which proved to be the Dew Moth, *Setina irrorella*, Clerck, and a further surprise was meeting another entomologist friend from Stroud, who was down on a short vacation, unknown to me. As we returned to Freshwater we kicked up quite a few specimens of the Yellow Belle, *Aspitates ochrearia*, Ross., on the way.

On May 29th a pleasant trip to St. Helens produced little excitement. Quite a few Yellow Shell, *Euphyia bilineata*, Linn., and the Yellow Belle again were seen, and a large web of larvae of the Lackey Moth, *Malacosoma neustria*, Linn., was found. It was noticed that the Buckshorn Plantain grows in this area also. A walk through the Bonchurch landslip to Luccombe on May 30th produced several specimens of the Plume Moth, *Platyptilia gonodactyla*, Schiff.

Early in June I was fortunate in receiving from Mr. Wakely two larvae of the Clifton Nonpariel, *Catocala fraxini*, Linn. These, he informed me, were from the ova of the only female taken at Ham Street Wood in Kent that season, so, as I had never reared this fine moth before and had not seen it for over 30 years, I took particular care. Black Poplar is the pabulum, but I found it very difficult to obtain, and at first I had to try Lombardy Poplar, which they did not take to, so it was obvious there was little chance of success unless I could obtain Black Poplar. Fortunately I did find a tree, and as soon as this was supplied they seemed to thrive. When not feeding they seldom moved, but lay flat on a twig, the fleshy appendages between the legs breaking the outline and giving the impression that this larva could easily escape detection in its natural environment. When it was feeding, the speed at which a leaf was consumed amazed me. The leaf was eaten edge on, and each movement started at the base and continued in a slight curve in one movement to the top. One large leaf was consumed entirely in five minutes by a full-grown caterpillar. On June 15th and 16th both pupated in a slight cocoon between dead leaves, and the perfect insects emerged on July 24th.

August 5th found me at Whippingham and King's Quay, and on this very hot day I took several specimens of the Holly Blue, *Celastrina (Lycæna) argiolus*, Linn., and watched one female laying eggs on the ivy in the hedgerow. It was most interesting to see with what care the

situation for egg-laying was selected. It has always puzzled me why this pretty insect is called the Holly Blue, for I have never found it in any stage on Holly, but wherever there is abundance of Ivy it can always be found, especially along the Undercliff from St. Lawrence to Niton. During this outing I was fortunate in discovering a group of five plants of Elecampane, *Inula helenium*. This is very uncommon and being in a rather inaccessible situation may survive for some years. On my way through the woods I came across two large plants of Tutsan, *Hypericum androsaemum*, which is very local. At King's Quay the lovely blue of the Sea Lavender and the glorious yellow of the Horned Poppy were sights which made the visit well worth while. Here also the Marsh Mallow grows in some profusion.

The following day I again visited Tennyson Down, Freshwater. It was a fine but windy day, and I was very pleased to find the Dark Green Fritillary, *Argynnis aglaja*, Linn., flying there, although those I inspected and released were rather worn. I have seldom seen such numbers of the Chalk Hill Blue, *Lysandra coridon*, Poda., as on this occasion at every step five or six were kicked up. In one sheltered hollow one of the Crambid Moths was present in some numbers. This proved to be *Crambus inquinatellus*, Schiff., the larva of which is found in a silken gallery at the base of grass stems. Another day-flying moth found in some numbers was *Pyrausta flavalis*, Schiff., a rather pretty moth which, when disturbed, flies a short distance and settles underside up, and, being a dull colour underneath, it is most difficult to detect. It is also found on Brading Down, but the life history is little known.

August 7th found me at the Undercliff, Niton, once again. On this occasion the most common insect was the Mother of Pearl Moth, *Notarcha ruralis*, Scop., which could be disturbed at every group of stinging nettles, with which its life history is connected. I also investigated a colony of a very uncommon beetle, *Mononychus punctumalbum*, Herbst, which I discovered for Mr. Wakely a few years ago. It is found breeding in the seed pods of the Stinking Iris, *Iris foetidissima*. Several pods I opened each contained many larvae feeding on the seeds. The larvae pupate in the pods when full-grown, and emerge in about four weeks. On my way home I found a specimen of the plant known as the Yellow Bird's Nest, *Monotropa hypopitys*, under a beech tree, on which it is reputed to be a parasite. There are no leaves, and the flowers are brownish. The specimen was 18 inches high.

A late visit on October 5th, which was a fine day, was paid to Yarmouth Salt Marsh, in search of the larva of an interesting moth, *Sparganothis pilleriana*, Schiff., which is reputed to feed on the Bog Asphodel. I am not yet familiar with this plant, and being a bit late to find it in flowering condition I did not meet with success, but, while investigating, I found a very interesting beetle of the weevil family and, on sending this to Mr. Wakely for identification, was later informed it was *Apion limonii*, Kirby, which, it seems, is seldom found on the plant, but mostly at the base, and is difficult to get. I was surprised

to find, at the end of a twig of elm, about a dozen full-grown larvae of the Buff Tip Moth, *Phalera bucephala*, Linn., all formed up close together as though for protection.

All the usual commoners were taken at light, but there were two species new to me—The Black Rustic, *Aporophyla nigra*, Haw., and the Pale Prominent, *Pterostoma palpina*, Linn., and the following micros:—*Crambus falsellus*, Schiff., *C. pratellus*, Linn., *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla*, Scop., *Platyptilia pallidactyla*, Haw., *Borkhausenia pseudospretella*, Sta., *Depressaria arenella*, Schiff., *Yponomeuta cognatella*, Hueb., *Euxanthis angustana*, Hueb., *Scoparia dubitalis*, Hueb., and *Nola cucullatella*, Lin. On the night of June 10th a specimen of the Wall, *Dira megera*, Linn., entered the light trap between 11 and 12 at night, a most unusual occurrence.

In early December, while taking a stroll during my lunch hour, I was fortunate in discovering a plant I had wanted to acquaint myself with. This was the Madder, *Rubia peregrina*, as the larva of a Pyralid Moth, *Mecyna (Pyrausta) asinalis*, Hueb., feeds on it, and it was obvious that some larvae had been feeding upon this particular plant. As these larvae hibernate in dead leaves, I examined the plant and found two larvae in curled-up leaves attached to the stalk. These were silk-lined, and one larva became active when brought into a warm room. Mr. Wakely tells me that it is almost certainly *M. asinalis*, so I look forward to rearing this moth out in 1958. So this encouraging find brought to a close what was a very interesting and enjoyable season.

BOOK REVIEW.

“The Archaeology of Wessex” by L. V. Grinsell (Methuen, 1958 : £2 2s.).

Mr. Grinsell will need little introduction to members of this Society, who are indebted to him for his comprehensive paper on Isle of Wight barrows (Vol. III, Part III, 1940, pp. 179-222). Methuen, too, are publishers who have catered lavishly for the archaeologist, and have already produced a successful regional archaeology in E. C. Curwen's “*Archaeology of Sussex*” (now in a second, revised edition). Mr. Grinsell has now produced as a companion volume “*The Archaeology of Wessex*.”

The region calls for some explanation, as the reader will look in vain for it on a county map. For the purposes of this book, Mr. Grinsell has included Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, and part of Surrey. The period

covered ranges from the earliest human occupation, up to the pagan Saxon period, and the book, although dealing with antiquities of all sorts, lays special emphasis on existing field monuments.

It need hardly be said, with the proximity of archaeological publications, that such an undertaking as this presented an extremely formidable problem of synthesis. All the more credit is due to the author, then, for having come through this job with an undimmed enthusiasm, which communicates itself to the reader.

Mr. Grinsell has treated the area as a unity, and dealt with it period by period—any other treatment, indeed, would hardly make sense of the archaeological material. It follows from this that the matter relating to the Isle of Wight needs searching out; but it is all there, and well indexed, too, if its indexing as a sub-division of Hampshire can be forgiven! It should perhaps be pointed out that the treatment in each case is necessarily brief. This is a vast canvas that Mr. Grinsell is working on, and sanatory in helping us to get our local archaeology in proper perspective; but it is a guide to local publications, not a substitute for them.

The book has an authenticity that comes from the author's copious archaeological scholarship and his exceptional energy. Practically every field monument described in this book has been personally visited by Mr. Grinsell; and he and his publishers have spared no pains to make it as up to date as possible—for instance, the recent exploratory excavation on the Long Stone mound at Mottistone by Jacquetta Hawkes is referred to in a footnote to the chapter on Long Barrows. When it is remembered that the area covered includes such important prehistoric sites as Stonehenge, Avebury, and Windmill Hill, the value of this work as an archaeological handbook will be appreciated.

A special word, in conclusion, about the maps and diagrams, which are perhaps the most delightful feature of this book. There is, at the end, an excellent, two-colour map section, in which distribution maps are shown on a background of the surface geology, the key to each type of rock showing the resultant vegetation; this is standard for all the maps, from neolithic to pagan Saxon—perhaps allowance should have been made for the climatic change from Sub-Boreal to Sub-Atlantic, but this is a small niggle. The excellence of these maps is enhanced by a very useful reference grid.

But this is not all. The book is quite lavishly illustrated with very neat site plans, whose north points are decorated in each case with an appropriate design—a skull, for instance, on the plan of a long barrow. These gave me, I must confess, an inordinate amount of pleasure.

It remains only to say that the book has 384 pages plus xv introductory, and includes 15 half-tone plates, 18 line drawings, and 6 maps. Archaeologists should be grateful for it, for a long time to come.

J.D.J.

BIRD REPORT FOR 1957.

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

This year produced a good variety of birds, 167 species being recorded, in addition to unidentified petrels and grey geese, and seven further sub-species. Birds which had been only seldom recorded before included Purple Heron, Gull-billed Tern, Stone Curlew, Water Pipit, and Hawfinch, but for the first year since 1953 no new species were added to the Island's list.

St. Catherine's Point was again well manned in both migration seasons, mainly by enthusiastic visitors from the Portsmouth area. The point was visited on well over a hundred days, and the lighthouse on forty-three nights. The spring and autumn observations were ably summarised by D. F. Billett and J. K. Bowers respectively before I received them; this had the unfortunate result that no individual observers could be quoted for many of the records, which is against the recommendation of the Oxford Conference of Editors of Bird Reports, but it is hoped to remedy this in future.

A new feature of the St. Catherine's Point observations is the number of waders reported at the lighthouse by night—fifteen species, apart from some others which were only seen by day. It is interesting to compare this with the period from September 1905 to June 1908, when only nine species of wader were reported at the lighthouse (v. *Proc. I.O.W.N.H.A.S.*, vol. I, part III (1922), pp. 125-127). It is not possible to draw an exact comparison, however, as these earlier records were confined to birds which were killed.

Noteworthy events in the nesting season included the first nesting of Red-legged Partridges in the Island (although the recently introduced birds can hardly be considered genuinely wild) and the nesting of a White Wagtail paired with a Pied Wagtail.

The Island received its share in the widespread occurrences of Kittiwakes in February and Leach's Petrels and Grey Phalaropes in September, and the irruption of Blue Tits and some other species in the autumn; details are given in the systematic list.

Since it was last mentioned in the 1955 *Report* the flooded Newtown Marsh has come well up to expectations. The waders far exceed in both number and variety those which occurred before the flooding, and there has also been a marked increase in the number of Shelducks.

Finally, may I again extend my thanks to all those who took the trouble to supply the information on which this report is based, and who are listed below. A. J. Henry analysed the rookery counts as usual, and hopes to produce a fuller report on the census next year, covering five consecutive years.

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 1957 unless otherwise stated. Observers are indicated by their initials in the systematic list. m.o. : many observers (more than four). ♂ : male. ♀ : female.

Observers and Contributors. M. C. Adams*, A. Allen*, D. J. Attrill, E. H. Batt, D. F. Billett*, D. W. Bland, J. K. Bowers*, K. Brown*, R. Brown*, P. J. Chadwick, E. Cohen, J. Conchie*, F. Cram, R. M. Curber, R. H. Dennis*, C. Doe, E. Doe, W. G. Edwards*, Miss I. J. Eley, Miss V. Fisk, Mrs. D. Frazer, O. H. Frazer, A. J. Henry, C. J. Henty*, Rev. Father J. Higgins, F. J. Honnor, O. Hook, Mrs. G. Hopkinson, G. W. Jacobs, E. L. Jones*, Miss L. Kennedy, G. Kinsey*, G. K. Lloyd*, R. J. Machin, B. A. E. Marr*, R. H. May, D. G. Mitchison, B. Morris, I. C. T. Nisbet, A. Pettet*, G. H. Rees*, B. W. Renyard*, D. Roberts, Mrs. M. Rogers, J. Russell, Mrs. M. M. Seabroke, Miss P. Sharland, W. Shepard, J. Stafford*, Dr. C. Suffern, J. H. Taverner*, M. R. Taylor*, M. Townsend*, W. H. Truckle*, C. R. Tubbs*, G. A. H. Wells, Miss R. Went, D. J. Westwood, Miss T. White, E. Williams*, R. J. Wilmshurst*, E. J. Wiseman*.

*—Observers marked thus contributed notes referring to St. Catherine's Pt., which are not acknowledged individually in the systematic list.

SYSTEMATIC LIST.

1-4 **Divers.** Many divers were seen, but it was often impossible to determine the species. At St. Catherine's Pt. in the spring 57 flew past to E., and only six to W., between March 2nd and May 12th, while between Aug. 17th and Nov. 9th six flew to W.

On Dec. 30th there was considerable movement to and fro some way off Bonchurch and Dunnose. Most of the birds seemed to be coming from the E. or N.E. and collecting on the sea off Bonchurch (MCA).

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.** One off St. Catherine's Pt. on March 10th, April 22nd, and Nov. 2nd.
- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** One in Hurst Narrows on Jan. 27th (JKB).
- 4 **Red-throated Diver.** Most of the divers which were identified were of this species.
- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.** Seen singly at Newtown on Feb. 10th (AJH, MMS) and in Bouldnor Bay on Dec. 26th (MCA). Numerous other records of up to six were all in the Eastern Solent, from Osborne Bay to Ryde.
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** One off Sconce Pt. on Dec. 25th (MCA).
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.** One in Osborne Bay on Feb. 3rd (WGE), and one off St. Catherine's Pt. on April 13th and Sept. 21st.

- 9 **Little Grebe.** Twenty-one in Brading Harbour on Jan. 19th (JKB). Up to 50 on R. Medina from mid-Oct. to end of year (JS). Seventeen on Nov. 7th at Newtown, where usually only small numbers are seen (MMS). C. 20 at Yarmouth on Dec. 25th (MCA). Also one in mid-Solent off Ryde on Aug. 24th (BWR).

There was no direct evidence of breeding, but birds were seen occasionally in the summer on the pools at Bembridge where they usually breed (JS), and there was also one on the pond at Carisbrooke Waterworks on April 17th (MCA).

- 12 **Leach's Petrel.** One on the Solent near Gurnard Bay on Sept. 15th was seen at very close quarters from a yacht, and was followed for several minutes (OH, MR).
- [14 **Storm Petrel.** Single unidentified small petrels, presumably of this species, were seen off St. Catherine's Pt. on July 27th and Nov. 3rd. On each occasion there was a strong S.W. wind.]
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** One off Ryde on Sept. 12th (ICTN). All other records were off St. Catherine's Pt.: 18 from May 11th to 25th (13 flew W. and five E.), 21 from Aug. 4th to 11th (all to W.), and seven on Nov. 3rd (six to W. and one to E.). The largest number was 15 on Aug. 10th in a S.W. gale and showers, and the weather on Nov. 3rd was similar.
- Balearic Shearwater.** Singletons flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt. on Aug. 6th, 10th, and 11th (AA, JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW). The last two were one of each phase, pale and dark.
- 26 **Fulmar.** There is now a strong suspicion that this species nests on the cliffs near the Needles. On four occasions a bird was flushed from the same spot on the cliff-face, which could not be seen from the cliff-top (JKB, JS). There were several other records of single birds flying about the cliffs in May and June (m.o.) and c. six on May 25th (JKB). It has been found elsewhere in Britain that the mean interval between starting to "prospect" sites and starting to nest is 4.4 years (J. Fisher, *The Fulmar*, p. 465), and as "prospecting" at the Needles cliffs was first recorded in 1953 nesting could be expected to start there about 1957 or 1958.

At St. Catherine's Pt. up to eight (but usually less than four) were seen regularly from April 13th to May 27th, and seven on Aug. 10th, but no definite movement could be discerned. On May 27th one circled several times close to the face of Gore Cliff (MCA).

The only other record was one at Atherfield Pt. on May 25th (JKB).

- 27 **Gannet.** Many more than in previous years were seen off St. Catherine's Pt., flying in opposite directions in roughly equal numbers—184 to E. and 128 to W. in spring and 138 to E. and 181 to W. in autumn (cf. 1956 *Report*).

Other records totalled 56 birds off various parts of the S. coast (MCA, JS).

- 28 **Cormorant.**
- 29 **Shag.** There were several records suggesting breeding at Culver Cliff, including three adults and 16 juveniles on the water on May 4th (GHR). Nesting there has apparently not been recorded since 1923.
- 30 **Heron.** Eleven nests were occupied in the Wootton heronry (JS). At St. Catherine's Pt., apart from a few flying past along the coast, single birds came in from the sea on April 14th, Aug. 7th, and Sept. 10th, while on Nov. 9th one circled over the Point before drifting off to the S.
- 31 **Purple Heron.** One, which was first seen far out from St. Catherine's Pt. on April 14th, came in from the S.S.W. and landed at Rocken End. It was watched on the grass cliffs for about five minutes before flying E. along the shore. A full description has been supplied (JKB, RHD). This is the second record for the Island.
- 45 **Mallard.** Several groups totalling 210 on the sea off Culver Cliff and Whitecliff Bay on Jan. 19th drifted until they were off Sandown (JKB, WGE).
- 46 **Teal.** Up to 200 at Newtown at the beginning and end of the year (MMS), and over 100 at Yarmouth in Dec. (MCA).
- 50 **Wigeon.** At Newtown, c. 300 in Jan. and Feb., and c. 350 in Dec. (MMS).
- 52 **Pintail.** Five at Newtown on Jan. 27th (MMS). Sixteen flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on March 10th.
- 53 **Shoveler.** At Newtown, eight on Jan 14th (MMS), six on Nov. 9th (AJH) and nine on Dec. 16th (MMS). A pair flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on March 30th.
- 56 **Tufted Duck.** Up to three on the pools at Bembridge in Jan., Nov., and Dec. (MCA, JKB, WGE, AJH), and a drake at Newtown on Dec. 16th (MMS).
- 57 **Pochard.** Recorded only on the pools at Bembridge—up to three in Jan., Nov., and Dec. (MCA, JKB, WGE, AJH).
- 60 **Goldeneye.** A pair in Osborne Bay on Feb. 3rd (WGE).
- 62 **Velvet Scoter.** Seen flying E. past St. Catherine's Pt.—one on April 15th and 21st, and eight on May 11th.
On July 5th a drake spent a few hours in Clamerkin Lake, Newtown (MMS).
- 64 **Common Scoter.** At St. Catherine's Pt. the spring movements were again predominantly to the E. Between March 2nd and May 23rd 2335 flew to E. and 198 to W., including c. 650 to E. on March 30th. In the late summer and autumn, between July 9th and Nov. 16th, 162 flew to E. and 414 to W., mostly during the second and third weeks of August.
- Other movements along the S. coast in small numbers were observed at the Foreland (MCA, GHR), Whitecliff Bay (GHR), Sandown (JS), Bonchurch, Ventnor, and Woody Pt. (MCA).
- There were only three records in the Solent—a drake on the sea off Ryde in rough weather on Feb. 7th (MRT), an oiled duck at

Egypt Pt. on May 20th (GAHW), and three off Ryde on Aug. 24th (BWR).

- 67 **Eider.** Fourteen flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on April 21st. A drake at Newtown on Nov. 17th and 27th-29th (MMS, RJM, WS).
- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.** At St. Catherine's Pt. 16 flew to E. and a duck to W. between March 10th and April 23rd, and a drake to E. on Nov. 2nd.

As usual most records were in the E. Solent between Osborne and Ryde, Jan.-April and Nov.-Dec. (m.o.). There were usually less than 10, but on Dec. 6th at least 63 were off Woodside (MCA).

Up to five at Newtown, Jan.-Feb. and Nov.-Dec. (m.o.).

- 70 **Goosander.** At Newtown, a pair on Jan. 13th and six birds on Feb. 24th (MMS).
- 73 **Shelduck.** Nesting localities: Newtown (m.o.); by R. Medina at Werrar—a new locality (JS); two to three pairs suspected at Yarmouth (MCA); suspected at Whitecliff Bay—another new locality if confirmed in later years (GHR).

The flocks visiting Newtown continue to increase. The largest numbers counted were 284 on Jan. 19th (MMS) and 235 on Dec. 24th (MCA).

- 75-78 **Grey Geese** (species unidentified). A party of five flew E. far off St. Catherine's Pt. on Nov. 9th.
- 80 **Brent Goose.** Newtown: one on Jan. 13th (RJM) and 19th (MMS); two on Feb. 3rd (AJH, MMS); six from Dec. 16th to 26th (MCA, MMS).

Seven at Thorness Bay on Jan. 19th (RMC). Three off Ryde on Feb. 3rd (MRT). Four flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on March 2nd and 16th.

Except at St. Catherine's Pt., all these birds were identified as the Dark-breasted race *berniola*.

- 84 **Mute Swan.** On Sept. 10th two approached St. Catherine's Pt. from W. and alighted on the sea five to seven miles S.S.E.
- 91 **Buzzard.** One over Brightstone Down on March 31st (GAHW). One at Quarr on April 23rd (JH). One over St. Boniface Down on June 5th (MCA). On Aug. 30th one approached St. Catherine's Pt. from S.E. and turned to W. before reaching shore. Two on Oct. 5th, and one on Dec. 28th, over Brightstone Down (MCA).
- 93 **Sparrowhawk.** A ♀ flew in to St. Catherine's Pt. from S.E. on Sept. 2nd.
- 105 **Peregrine.** As usual, a pair was present near the Needles in the breeding season, but there was no direct evidence of nesting (m.o.). One was seen occasionally at St. Catherine's Pt. in April, May, Sept., Oct., and Nov., and three on Sept. 22nd. Also one at Culver Cliff on Jan. 19th (JKB, WGE) and Feb. 17th (AJH), at Thorness Bay on Jan. 19th (RMC), and over St. Boniface Down on Oct. 22nd (MCA).
- 107 **Merlin.** A ♂ over Stenbury Down on Oct. 24th (MCA), and a ♀ at St. Catherine's Pt. on Oct. 27th.

- 110 **Kestrel.** At St. Catherine's Pt. one flew past to E. on April 20th, two came in from the sea on Sept. 29th, and two flew past to W. about half-a-mile offshore on Oct. 6th.
 Ringing recovery: A nestling ringed (389600) near Everley, Wilts., on July 21st (PJC) was shot 42 miles S.E. at Wootton on Dec. 30th (EHB).
- 115 **Red-legged Partridge.** Following the introductions in 1953 and 1954 (see 1956 *Report*), nesting in the Island was recorded for the first time in 1957. An adult was seen S. of Billingham Manor, on May 4th, but none could be found on several later visits during the summer until Aug. 20th, when a pair was seen feeding with at least three young which were still unable to fly (JS). Another pair nested at Brook; the birds' presence was known, but the nest was only discovered when it was trodden on and destroyed by a cow (FC).
- 116 **Partridge.**
- 118 **Pheasant.**
- 120 **Water Rail.** New localities at which the species was recorded this year (outside the breeding season) were Alverstone (MCA) and King's Quay (WGE).
- 126 **Moorhen.** At Flowers Brook, Ventnor, sometimes feeds among the seaweed-covered rocks on the shore (MCA).
 Killed at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on Feb. 22nd and Oct. 24th.
- 127 **Coot.** Nested at West Medina Cement Mills—three nests with eggs on May 4th (RJM, WS).
 The flock on the Bembridge pools grew from 93 on Sept. 9th to 220 on Dec. 27th (MCA). The numbers in this flock in winter have increased steadily over the last few years; 100 in 1955 and 150 in 1956 were then considered unusually large.
- 131 **Oystercatcher.** The largest flocks were 41 on Jan. 19th (MMS) and 27 on Dec. 1st (RJM), at Newtown.
 Occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on seven nights in March, May, Aug., and Sept.
- 133 **Lapwing.** C. 700 at Newtown in Feb. (WGE, MMS). One came in to St. Catherine's Pt. from S.W. on March 2nd.
- 134 **Ringed Plover.** There are now sometimes over 1000 in Newtown Marsh outside the breeding season (MMS).
 Occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on 11 nights in March-May, Aug., and Sept.
- 139 **Grey Plover.** Recorded only at Newtown, fluctuating between four and 10 up to Feb. 24th, and between five and 13 from Nov. 30th onwards; also two on Sept. 9th (m.o.).
- 140 **Golden Plover.** Two or more at St. Catherine's Lighthouse before dawn on Sept. 21st. Heard over St. Boniface Down after dark on Oct. 22nd (MCA). At Newtown, one on Nov. 30th (MCA), and c. 37 on Dec. 22nd and 27th (MCA, MMS).
- 143 **Turnstone.** The largest flocks were c. 30 by R. Medina on Oct. 1st (MCA) and 18 at Newtown on March 24th (MMS).

- Heard at St. Catherine's Lighthouse early on Sept. 1st.
- 145 **Snipe.** Not often seen at Newtown—one on Dec. 1st (RJM) and two on Dec. 26th (MMS).
- 148 **Woodcock.** One was killed by flying into the revolving radar head on St. Boniface Down before light on Oct. 28th (MCA).
Flushed from pool near St. Catherine's Pt. on Nov. 12th.
- 150 **Curlew.** At St. Catherine's Pt. a total of 64 was seen to fly past to E. between March 3rd and May 11th, and three to W. in Aug. Heard at the lighthouse twice in Sept., including a large flock flying W. on Sept. 2nd-3rd.
C. 150 at King's Quay on Feb. 3rd (WGE) and up to 65 at Yarmouth in Dec. (MCA).
- 151 **Whimbrel.** First on April 13th at St. Catherine's Pt. Last on Oct. 22nd at Newtown (MMS).
Passage to E. past St. Catherine's Pt. was seen regularly from April 13th to May 15th, and a few passed to W. in autumn. Heard at the lighthouse on four nights in April and May, mostly apparently passing E.
On May 4th at Whitecliff Bay four parties totalling 12 birds flew past along the coast to N.E. The same movement was later watched at the Foreland, where a party arrived from the S.W. and departed towards West Wittering, Sussex (GHR).
The largest number at Newtown was 27 on Aug. 15th (MMS).
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** Frequently seen at Newtown, Jan.-Feb., June, and Aug.-Dec. (m.o.); the largest flocks were in Aug. and Sept., with 111 on Sept. 14th (WGE) and 78 on Sept. 22nd (MMS). At Yarmouth, one on Aug. 5th-6th and Nov. 30th, and two on Dec. 29th (MCA). One at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 18th, and one at the lighthouse on the night of Sept. 2nd-3rd.
A bird which is considered to belong to the Icelandic race *Limosa l. islandica* was found dead at Thorness Bay in Feb., having already been dead for a week or two (WS). Measurements made by JS were: tarsus 67mm., wing 203mm., bill 81mm. (the tail was too damaged to measure). K. Williamson, who has been making a study of this race, wrote that "the bird is almost certainly a male *islandica*." Bill-measurements quoted by Salomonsen¹ for the typical and Icelandic races are: *limosa*, ♂♂, 83-99mm., ♀♀, 101-121mm.; *islandica*, ♂♂, 76-85mm., ♀♀, 85-100mm. The Icelandic race has only recently been admitted to the British list²; it has been shown by Williamson and Ruttledge³ to form the bulk of the Irish winter population, but it has apparently not been recorded in this part of the country.
- 1 *Aves. Zoology of the Faeroes* (1935), p. 84.
2 *Ibis*, vol. 98 (1956), p. 161.
3 *British Birds*, vol. 1 (1957), pp. 524-526.
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** Several records on spring passage. A flock of 17 at Yarmouth on April 26th (an exceptionally large flock for Yarmouth) was thought to be sheltering from a strong N.E. wind

(MCA). The largest flock at Newtown was 20 on May 4th (MMS), and on the same day four flew E. past Ryde (BWR). Two at Hanover Pt., Brook, on May 5th (MCA). At St. Catherine's Pt. one flew past to E. on May 3rd, as did 11 on May 11th, and at the lighthouse parties were heard twice on the night of May 4th-5th and passing over to N.E. in some numbers on the night of May 7th-8th.

Otherwise recorded only at Newtown, in May, June, Aug., and Oct. (m.o.).

- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** Heard at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the nights of May 10th-11th and 14th-15th. Numerous records of up to three at Yarmouth from June 29th to Oct. 6th (MCA). At Newtown, one on July 24th and 28th, and two on Aug. 2nd (MMS). Singletons at Paghham Moor, Rookley, on April 27th (RJM, WS), by R. Medina at Rookley on Aug. 3rd (DJA) (see also 1953 *Report*), and in a gravel pit on St. George's Down, Blackwater, on Sept. 18th (MCA). These three records are a reminder that this species may be found in a much wider range of habitats than most other waders.
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.** First on March 3rd at Totland Bay—a party of nine flying across to Hurst Castle (BM), and last at St. Catherine's Pt. on Oct. 3rd.
- Occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on nine nights in May, Aug., and Sept.
- 161 **Redshank.** Occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on three nights in March, Aug., and Sept.
- 165 **Greenshank.** Numerous records at Newtown in Jan., Feb., May, and July-Dec. (m.o.); no more than six, except for 16 on Sept. 10th and 15 on Sept. 22nd (MMS). One in Brading Marsh on May 4th (GHR). Heard at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the night of Sept. 20th-21st. One at Yarmouth on Sept. 29th, Dec. 8th, and Dec. 22nd (MCA).
- 169 **Knot.** Several records of up to 25 at Newtown in Jan., Feb., and Aug.-Dec., although the numbers fluctuated considerably and there were sometimes none at all (MCA, MMS). One at Yarmouth on Nov. 10th (MCA).
- 171 **Little Stint.** At Newtown, seven on Oct. 9th, and several other records of up to three from Aug. 15th to Nov. 6th (AJH, MMS, JS). One heard at St. Catherine's Lighthouse after dark on Sept. 21st.
- 178 **Dunlin.** Occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on 15 nights in March-May and Aug.-Sept., especially Aug. 4th-5th and Sept. 21st-22nd.

There were again up to 1000 at Newtown at the end of the year (MMS).

If the flocks at Yarmouth are disturbed at high water they sometimes cross the Solent to the larger resting-grounds there (MCA).

- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.** Eight on July 28th, and two on Sept. 8th, at Newtown (MMS).
- 181 **Sanderling.** Several small parties were apparently passing E. over St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the night of May 7th-8th, and one was heard there on the night of Sept. 2nd-3rd.
In Brading Harbour at high water there were 83 on Dec. 3rd and 117 on Dec. 9th, but none at low water on Dec. 16th (MCA).
A few at Newtown in Nov. and Dec. (AJH, JS).
- 184 **Ruff.** One to two males at Yarmouth from Sept. 29th to Oct. 6th (MCA).
- 187 **Grey Phalarope.** One, moulting from juvenile plumage, in Grange Chine, Brighstone, on Sept. 15th and 16th (GAHW, DJW, OHF), and one at Yarmouth on Sept. 29th (MCA). [A phalarope which was probably this species was seen off the sea wall at Yarmouth on Sept. 15th (ED.)]. Unusual numbers of phalaropes occurred elsewhere in Britain at about this time.
- 189 **Stone Curlew.** One was flushed from a field at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 18th.
- 193 **Arctic Skua.** Recorded only at St. Catherine's Pt. Between April 16th and May 12th ten dark-phase and five light-phase birds passed to E. [Eleven unidentified skuas, probably this species, also passed to E. during the same period.] On Aug. 8th an immature passed to E., and on Sept. 28th a dark-phase adult came from the E. and returned in that direction.
- 194 **Great Skua.** Recorded only at St. Catherine's Pt. : two on May 12th, three on July 27th, and one on Sept. 9th, all flying to E.
- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.** There was again an increase in the nesting population at the western end of the Island, totalling seven or eight pairs this year—three on the Needles, probably one at Sun Corner, two on Oldpepper Rock, one on the cliff-face further E., and one on the Arch Rock, Freshwater Bay—a new site (m.o.).
At least 30 of various ages at Ryde on March 10th (MCA). Seventy-five, including some immatures, stayed in Newtown Marsh from June 19th to 25th (MMS). Twenty-two, all but three immature, at Yarmouth on July 21st (MCA). On Dec. 9th at least 52, almost all adult, flew N. past the Foreland as the tide fell in the late afternoon (MCA).
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.** Two birds were seen frequently near the Needles in the breeding season (m.o.), and two at Culver Cliff on March 21st (MCA).
At St. Catherine's Pt. in the autumn (mid-July to end of October) out of a total of 1389 whose direction was recorded, 1292 flew W. and 97 E. The actual number which passed was probably very much in excess of this, as from mid-August to the end of October passage continued at the rate of 10-30 per hour, with peaks of c. 50 per hour on Sept. 6th and 60-100 per hour on Sept. 21st and 22nd; these rates imply a total passage of the order of 10,000 birds. The British race *Larus f. graellsii* was seen only in

very small numbers, and all passage birds which were identified belonged to the Scandinavian race *fuscus*.

- 200 **Herring Gull.** C. 250 pairs were nesting at Culver Cliff on May 4th (GHR). This estimate supersedes the tentative one in the 1955 *Report*.

A pair nested at Newtown—a new locality— on the portion of the sea wall isolated between the two breaches (GAHW).

- 201 **Common Gull.** At St. Catherine's Pt. movement was to the W. at the beginning of the year—96 on Jan. 6th and 83 on Feb. 21st—but from the beginning of March to mid-May the direction was reversed and 229 flew E., with a maximum of 94 on March 3rd. Fifty-six flew W. on Nov. 10th.

The largest flocks were c. 400 at King's Quay on Feb. 9th (WGE) and c. 100 at Bembridge on Nov. 18th (MCA).

There was at least one adult at the Main Bench cliffs on May 4th (BWR).

- 208 **Black-headed Gull.** Ringing recovery: a nestling ringed (3029415) at Stoke, Kent, on June 2nd (Flegg and Musson) was found injured at Bembridge, 90 miles S.W., about Sept. 9th and had to be destroyed (GWJ).

The easterly spring passage at St. Catherine's Pt. was conspicuous as this species seldom feeds there. A total of 609, mainly adults, passed E. between March 3rd and May 25th, with a maximum of 183 on March 3rd.

- 211 **Kittiwake.** At the beginning of February a "wreck" of this species occurred in S. and W. Britain, with the greatest concentration in Hampshire (see *British Birds*, vol. li, pp. 253-266). In view of this the February records are given in full: six dead, completely covered in oil, at Compton Bay, Feb. 3rd (JS); two at Bonchurch, Feb. 6th (MCA); three, of which two were oiled, at Yarmouth, and one dead, oiled, at Alum Bay, Feb. 10th (MCA); at least six at Bonchurch, Feb. 12th (MCA); one at Ventnor, Feb. 13th (MCA); one at Ventnor and two at Orchard Bay, Feb. 17th (MCA); two flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt., Feb. 18th (MCA); three alive and one dead at St. Catherine's Pt., Feb. 21st (BWR, JC); two dead at Yarmouth, Feb. 23rd (thought to be the oiled birds seen on 10th) (MCA); one dead, oiled, at Bonchurch, Feb. 28th (MCA). These total 31 birds, although some of them may have been reported more than once. Most of them were identified as adults, and none was stated to be otherwise.

At St. Catherine's Pt. only small numbers, as in previous years, were seen from March 1st to May 25th, 13 flying W. and eight E. There were occasional records there throughout the autumn, from July 9th to Nov. 16th, but on Nov. 3rd c. 30 flew past to W. in two hours in a strong S.W. wind and showers.

Other records: three adults flew W. past Bonchurch, May 16th (MCA); one juvenile flew W. past Sconce Pt., Aug. 25th (MCA);

- one adult at the Foreland, Sept. 9th (MCA); two adults at Culver Cliff, Sept. 12th (J.K.B).
- 215 **Gull-billed Tern.** On Aug. 29th two birds, an adult in winter plumage and a juvenile, flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. (R.H.D). Full details have been supplied. These are the second and third records for the Island.
- 217-8 **Common Tern and Arctic Tern.** First on May 2nd at Newtown (MMS)
- At St. Catherine's Pt. the only spring record was two flying E. on May 12th. Thirteen flew W. on Aug. 10th, as did 41 in two hours on Sept. 22nd. Small numbers were seen at the Lighthouse on the nights of Sept. 2nd-3rd, 20th-21st, and 21st-22nd. Twenty-two on Aug. 9th, and 33 on Aug. 11th, were seen off Ryde (J.K.B, G.H.R).
- 222 **Little Tern.** First on May 2nd at Newtown (MMS). Small numbers were present throughout the summer at Newtown and Yarmouth, but no nests have been reported in the Island since 1953.
- 223 **Sandwich Tern.** First seen flying E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on March 23rd, and a total of 56 flew E. between April 20th and May 23rd. Only odd birds were seen there in the autumn, from July 24th to Sept. 22nd, except for 17 flying E. on Sept. 9th. On May 4th there was a small passage N.E. along the coast past Whitecliff Bay; on arriving at the Foreland two small parties continued N. along the coast, while two other parties set out towards West Wittering and Bracklesham Bay, Sussex (G.H.R). On the same day three flew W. past Sconce Pt. (MCA).
- 224 **Razorbill.** C. 60 nesting pairs were estimated at the Needles cliffs on May 25th (J.K.B).
- 226 **Little Auk.** Recorded only at St. Catherine's Pt. where one flew E. on Nov. 3rd and one W. on Nov. 10th.
- 227 **Guillemot.** C. 80 nesting pairs were estimated at the Needles cliffs on May 25th (J.K.B).
- 230 **Puffin.** The largest number seen near the Needles was 12 on March 24th (MCA), but as the season progressed, and presumably burrows were occupied, no more than eight were recorded on numerous occasions (m.o.). At least 12 flew E. past St. Catherine's Pt. on May 23rd (MCA). This is more than could be expected from the Needles area at this season, and the birds had possibly come from the Dorset breeding colonies 30-50 miles away.
- 232 **Stock Dove.** At St. Catherine's Pt. on Nov. 2nd three came from E. with Woodpigeons and headed S.S.W. out to sea, and on Nov. 10th two flew over to N. with Woodpigeons.
- 234 **Woodpigeon.** At St. Catherine's Pt. one was seen at the lighthouse on the night of March 30th-31st, and two on April 5th-6th. Movements there in the autumn: 121 flew past to W., Oct. 20th; 273 flew W. and 15 E., Oct. 27th; 728 came from E. and departed

S.S.W. out to sea, 150 came from E. and turned N.W., 45 came from E. and turned N., and 180 made false starts to S., Nov. 2nd (similar movements involving hundreds of birds were also seen at both Selsey Bill and Portland Bill on the same day); seven flew to N., one to N.W., and c. 800 to E., Nov. 9th; 318 flew over to N. from S. and S.S.W., c. 200 flew S. out to sea, and 52 came from E. and turned N., Nov. 10th.

Also at Ventnor on Nov. 8th c. 50 flew N.E. from over the sea (MCA).

- 235 **Turtle Dove.** First on April 27th, at Newtown (MMS) and Calbourne (JS).

At Bembridge on Sept. 12th one came in to the Foreland from the N.E. (JKB, ELJ).

There were c. 23 at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the night of Sept. 20th-21st, and two on the following night.

- 237 **Cuckoo.** First on April 15th, at Newtown (MMS).

One came in to Ventnor from the sea on April 24th, and one was caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse early on May 8th (MCA).

- 241 **Barn Owl.**

- 246 **Little Owl.**

- 247 **Tawny Owl.** Only three records this year, but this is more than usual. One flew E. along the cliff edge at St. Catherine's Pt. in daylight on April 16th. One over Idlecombe Down, N. of Shorwell, on June 1st (JS). One at Newtown in Aug. (AJH).

- 252 **Nightjar.** Several breeding localities were visited for the B.T.O. census, but as the census is continuing in 1958 the two years' results will be combined in next year's Report.

A ♀ was found dead on the road at Brook on Sept. 2nd (MCA) (cf. 1953 *Report*).

- 255 **Swift.** First on May 2nd, at Newtown (MMS), and last on Sept. 12th, at Bembridge (JKB, ELJ).

A mid-season movement occurred on July 10th-12th. On the 10th there was a fairly steady passage W. around St. Catherine's Pt., c. 150 being counted in half-an-hour. The following day at Sandown there was a heavy coastal movement to S.W. for most of the day, which was very noticeable just prior to a rain-storm when c. 500 passed in under half-an-hour. When the rain came the movement continued at a lower rate. Back at St. Catherine's Pt. on the 12th birds were still passing, but no count was made (AP).

- 258 **Kingfisher.**

- 261 **Hoopoe.** On March 31st MRT had the fortunate experience of seeing three birds. The first was at Knighton sandpit, where it had first been seen on the 23rd by one of the workers there, and two others were seen by the roadside at Hardingshute, near Brading. The identification has been fully checked.

Three others were seen—in a Totland Bay garden on March 18th (FJH), on Ryde golf course on April 30th (PS), and on Brightstone Down on Aug. 4th (GAHW).

- 262 **Green Woodpecker.**
- 263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.** At St. Catherine's Pt., on Oct. 20th, one which flew W. along the cliff edge with Linnets was thought to be a migrant, and on Nov. 16th one came in from the S.W. and landed.
- 264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** One seen at St. Catherine's Pt. on March 3rd and Oct. 5th (JKB).
- 272 **Skylark.** The principal movements at St. Catherine's Pt. were 18 to N.W. on March 10th, 36 to N. and eight to S. on Oct. 20th, and 32 to W. on Nov. 2nd.
On Nov. 9th four flew N. over the Ryde ferry in mid-Solent (JKB).
- 274 **Swallow.** First three on March 31st at Thorness Bay (RJM). Last one on Nov. 29th and several previous days at Yarmouth (MCA).

Several small movements were noted in the spring (m.o.).

The main autumn movements at St. Catherine's Pt. were to the W. at hourly rates of c. 1000 on Sept. 21st, c. 390 on Sept. 28th, and c. 160 on Oct. 19th.

The following movements occurred mostly against the wind. On Sept. 18th there was a large and continuous passage W. over St. Catherine's Hill for about two hours in the morning, but in the afternoon this had ceased and there was a distinct passage to E. in moderate numbers. On Sept. 23rd a large passage W. past Bonchurch was estimated to extend at least half-a-mile out to sea; some of the birds were coasting, but most were reaching Dunnose from the E. over the sea. A considerable movement N. past Luccombe on Sept. 26th was traced back to Bonchurch and Ventnor, where the birds were passing E. all day. Several hundred flew W. past Woody Pt. on Sept. 27th (MCA).

- 276 **House Martin.** First at Cowes on March 31st (GAHW). The last two were an adult and a juvenile at Bembridge on Nov. 23rd (AJH).

Movements of this species and Swallows were recorded more often separately than together. Some selected autumn records were: 350 flying S. past Whitecliff Bay on Sept. 12th (JKB, ELJ), 272 W. past St. Catherine's Pt. in two hours on Sept. 13th, and c. 400 W. past the same place in an hour on Sept. 28th.

At Bembridge on Sept. 9th a flock of about 50 House Martins and Swallows, and a Swift, were quite deliberately circling in the smoke from a flame weed-burner (MCA). This was still continuing when the observer left after several minutes.

- 277 **Sand Martin.** First at the Needles on March 24th, and last at Yarmouth on Sept. 30th (MCA).

Nesting again occurred at Sandown Golf Course, but most of the nests were interfered with and there was no proof of success (AJH).

The only notable movement was at St. Catherine's Pt. on Aug. 30th, when 140 flew to W. and c. 20 to N.

- 279 **Raven.** There were numerous records at the W. Wight chalk cliffs, including a bird apparently carrying food to a much-frequented spot on the cliff face on April 14th, and three seen together on May 11th (m.o.).
A pair seemed to be resident at St. Catherine's Pt. from April 17th to May 1st, and there were three records there in the autumn.
The only other recorded was flying N.E. over Wroxall on Dec. 17th (MCA).
- 280 **Carrion Crow.** Several partial albinos were recorded: the one seen at Ventnor in Dec., 1956 (see 1956 *Report*), was seen again on Jan. 8th (MCA); a "semi-albino" at St. Catherine's Pt. on March 2nd; two near Wroxall on Dec. 17th both had large whitish wing-bars, and one of them also had a small bar on the wing-coverts (MCA).
At St. Catherine's Pt. between March 3rd and May 4th three flew past to E. some way out, nine flew out to sea between S. and S.E., six flew in from S. or S.S.W., and one flew past to W.; and 20 were feeding together in the fields on April 21st. In the autumn one was killed by striking the lighthouse on Aug. 28th, and two flew over to N. on Oct. 6th.
- 281 **Hooded Crow.** One in trees near Ventnor Hospital on March 26th (MCA). One in a field at St. Catherine's Pt. with Carrion Crows on April 21st.
- 282 **Rook.** The result of the rookery census in April was 5047 nests in 180 sites. This total was 811 nests fewer than in 1956, but for the fourth consecutive year the number of rookeries was the largest ever recorded. Compared with 1956, 24 sites were deserted, 13 old sites were re-occupied, 22 new sites were found, and three sites were amalgamated with existing larger ones. One of the sites deserted, for no obvious reason, was the well-known one at Blackgang, which had been in use at least since 1932. (Summary of analysis by AJH of counts by MCA, WGE, DF, OHF, AJH, RJM, BM, WS, JS, GAHW, and DJW).
One at Chillerton on June 12th had a large buff patch on the secondaries of the right wing, but the left wing appeared normal (JS).
- 283 **Jackdaw.** Birds with white wing-bars were seen on Brighstone Down on April 28th (RJM, WS), and at Shanklin on June 8th (JS).
- 284 **Magpie.**
- 286 **Jay.** Seen at St. Catherine's Pt. from Sept. 4th to Oct. 27th, with a maximum of 12 on Oct. 19th.
On Oct. 7th four flew to Newtown from across the Solent (MMS).
- 288 **Great Tit.** Noted only in small numbers at St. Catherine's Pt. during the Blue Tit irruption. One on Sept. 13th and two on Oct. 20th flew past to W.
Very numerous at Quarr in Dec. (JH).

- 289 **Blue Tit.** During a watch of six hours on April 14th at Egypt Pt., Cowes, seven flew over to N. across Solent, two arrived from S. and flew E. along the Esplanade, and three arrived from S.E. and flew N. across Solent (GAHW).

The autumn records at St. Catherine's Pt. are given in full: four on Aug. 29th; c. 80 in bushes, and birds moving W., Sept. 21st; 16 in bushes, Sept. 22nd; 53 flew past to W., and 12 came in from sea and turned W., Sept. 28th; c. 40 in bushes, Oct. 5th; 54 flew N., Oct. 6th; nine flew W., Oct. 19th; 46 flew W., four flew N., and four came from N. and landed, Oct. 20th; 18 in bushes, Oct. 26th; eight flew W., Oct. 27th; eight came in from sea, and 12 in bushes, Nov. 2nd; c. 20 in bushes, Nov. 9th.

The remaining records also have a bearing on the autumn irruption. There were probably several hundred on Culver Down on Oct. 6th (JS). A party of 70-100 passed E. along the Newtown shore on Oct. 7th (MMS). On Nov. 30th a tired bird was found in a corner of Newtown Marsh (MCA). Very numerous at Quarr (JH) and Brighstone (JS) in Dec.

Putty-pecking occurred at Sandown from Oct. to mid-Jan., 1958 (LK), and both putty-pecking and opening of milk bottles at Brighstone at the end of Dec. (JS). In neither case were the birds seen, and they were only presumed to be this species.

- 290 **Coal Tit.** Two set out to N.W. from St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 21st.
- 292 **Marsh Tit.**
- 294 **Long-tailed Tit.** Migrants can not always be distinguished from the small resident population at St. Catherine's Pt., but on Sept. 21st 12 were present, and only one next day. On Oct. 19th eight suddenly appeared in the lighthouse grounds, and later left to N.W.
- 296 **Nuthatch.** One at Osborne on Jan. 10th (JS).
One was seen in the bushes at St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 21st (JKB, RHD, GHR). This species is very scarce in the I.O.W., and this is the first record in circumstances which suggest migration.
- 298 **Treecreeper.**
- 299 **Wren.** There was a marked influx to St. Catherine's Pt. on the morning of Oct. 6th, 250 being estimated along c. 600 yards of cliff. One was killed at the lighthouse about Oct. 9th.
- 301 **Mistle Thrush.** Thirty-four flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 28th.
- 302 **Fieldfare.**
- 303 **Song Thrush.**
- 304 **Redwing.** Seen or heard at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on three nights in March and one in Oct.
- 307 **Ring Ouzel.** Recorded only at St. Catherine's Pt.: one ♂, Sept. 4th and 5th; one ♀ and one immature ♂, Sept. 7th; one immature ♂, Sept. 21st; one adult ♂, Sept. 22nd; one ♀, Sept. 29th.

- 308 **Blackbird.**
- 311 **Wheatear.** The first arrivals were c. 10 at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the night of March 8th-9th, and birds were also recorded there on 19 other nights in March-May and Aug.-Oct. The last one was seen on St. Boniface Down on Oct. 31st (MCA).
A pair possibly bred on Tennyson's Down, being seen there several times in the breeding season; a ♀ was carrying food on May 25th (JKB, BWR, JS).
- 317 **Stonechat.** Nested at Freshwater (KB), and also probably near Alum Bay, where two pairs were present in the breeding season (MCA, JKB, JS, GAHW).
- 318 **Whinchat.** Seen only in the migration seasons, from April 28th, St. Catherine's Pt. (MRT), to May 14th, Freshwater (RHM), and from July 18th, near Brighstone (MCA), to Sept. 18th, Whale Chine (MCA). There were large numbers at St. Catherine's Lighthouse through the night of May 4th-5th, and 13 at the Point on May 5th.
- 320 **Redstart.** This species was also seen only in the migration seasons, from March 23rd to May 15th, both at St. Catherine's Pt., and from Aug. 5th, St. Catherine's Pt., to Oct. 1st, Ryde (MRT). Birds occurred at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on 17 nights in March-May and Aug.-Sept., with considerable numbers on May 4th-5th and 7th-8th.
- 321 **Black Redstart.** Several records at St. Catherine's Pt.: one on April 18th; one on Oct. 5th; three on Oct. 19th and 20th, which were said by the lighthouse staff to have been present for at least a week previously; two on Oct. 26th; one on Nov. 9th.
Also singletons at Newtown on March 10th (MMS), at Ventnor on March 13th (MCA), and at Shanklin on Nov. 4th (MCA).
- 322 **Nightingale.** First at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 14th.
- 325 **Robin.** A partial albino was seen at Hamstead on May 11th (RJM, WS).
- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** Recorded only at St. Catherine's Pt. and Lighthouse this year: one on the night of April 17th-18th; three on April 18th; one on April 19th; three on May 4th; two on the night of May 4th-5th; four on May 5th; one on the night of Aug. 5th-6th.
- 333 **Reed Warbler.**
- 337 **Sedge Warbler.** The first two were recorded on the night of April 17th-18th, and the last one on Sept. 21st, on both occasions at St. Catherine's Pt.
- 343 **Blackcap.** First two ♂♂ caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse early on April 6th (MCA).
A ♀ at Freshwater Bay on Dec. 3rd (GH) is the first winter record for the Island.
- 346 **Garden Warbler.** First at Newtown on April 14th (MMS),

- 347 **Whitethroat.** First at Newtown on April 3rd (MMS).
There were numerous nocturnal records at St. Catherine's Lighthouse in both spring and autumn, with large numbers on the nights of April 22nd-23rd, 29th-30th, May 3rd-4th, 4th-5th, 7th-8th, and 10th-11th.
Ringing recovery: one ringed (C 97923) at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on April 17th (CJH) was found dead on a road near Blidworth, Notts., 170 miles N., on May 15th (DWB).
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat.** First on April 21st, at Rookley (DJA) and Yarmouth (MCA). Heard singing in June at Yarmouth and Thorley (MCA). Other records in the migration seasons at Ventnor (MCA), two localities near Ryde (MCA, MRT), and St. Catherine's Pt.
- 352 **Dartford Warbler.** To minimize confusion while preserving security, localities where this species is reported will in future be denoted by the following letters.
Locality A. In this, the traditional breeding site on Sandown Golf Course, no birds have been seen since 1951, when the gorse was burnt.
Locality B. A ♂ was seen in 1955 and 1956 in an area where birds were reported many years ago.
Locality C. Re-discovered in 1957 in another very old locality—a possible on April 4th, two on Oct. 22nd, at least three on Nov. 28th, and one heard on Dec. 19th (MCA).
Locality D. A new locality two miles from C. One on Oct. 23rd (MCA).
- 354 **Willow Warbler.** First on March 20th, at Newtown (MMS) and Osborne (JS), and last on Sept. 29th, near Shanklin (AJH). One of the Northern race *acredula* was caught at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on the night of May 10th-11th.
[Birds which were either this species or Chiffchaff appeared at St. Catherine's Lighthouse on most suitable nights, often in some numbers, and the last was seen at the Point on Oct. 5th.]
- 356 **Chiffchaff.** First on March 9th, at Yarmouth (MCA), and at St. Catherine's Lighthouse in the early hours, and last on Sept. 28th near Shanklin (AJH). [There was also a warbler, probably of this species, at Freshwater Bay on Dec. 2nd and 3rd (GH).]
Singletons at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 19th and May 4th were apparently of one of the northern races *abietinus* or *tristis*.
- 357 **Wood Warbler.** One in song in Clamerkin Wood, Newtown, on May 19th (MCA). No other records.
- 364 **Goldcrest.** Several nests found in coniferous plantations between Newport and Havenstreet were all robbed or destroyed by unknown predators (RJM, WS).
- 365 **Firecrest.** One at St. Catherine's Pt. on April 18th.
- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher.** First on May 4th at Brighstone (JS), and last on Sept. 12th at St. Catherine's Pt.
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher.** St. Catherine's Pt.: one at the lighthouse on the nights of April 17th-18th and 18th-19th, and at the Point

on the 18th ; three at the lighthouse on the night of May 4th-5th ; one on Aug. 6th and 29th ; one at the lighthouse on the night of Sept. 2nd-3rd ; c. 100 on the night of Sept. 20th-21st ; four on Sept. 21st, and two at the lighthouse after dark.

The only other was a ♀ at Shanklin on Sept. 22nd (AJH).

- 371 **Hedge Sparrow.**
- 373 **Meadow Pipit.** Movement at St. Catherine's Pt. was mainly to N. in spring and W. in autumn.
- 376 **Tree Pipit.** First on March 30th and last on Oct. 27th, both at St. Catherine's Pt.
- 379 **Rock Pipit.**
Water Pipit. One came in to St. Catherine's Pt. from the S.E. on April 21st.
- 380 **Pied Wagtail.**
White Wagtail. A ♀ nested at the Solent Brickworks, Brading, paired with a ♂ Pied Wagtail. They were seen from April 14th to May 19th, and were watched at close range through a window. At least one young was fledged (AJH, JS).
- 381 **Grey Wagtail.** Nested at Carisbrooke Waterworks (RJM, MCA).
- 382 **Yellow Wagtail.** First on April 13th at St. Catherine's Pt. Last on Sept. 27th at Woody Pt. (MCA).
Movement at St. Catherine's Pt. was mainly to N. in spring and W. in autumn. The largest numbers were 94 on Aug. 28th and 128 on Sept. 13th, all going W.
- 389 **Starling.** C. 6000 roosted near Newtown on Feb. 10th (WGE). C. 120 on Oct. 6th, and over 500 on Oct. 20th, flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt.
- 391 **Hawfinch.** Three flew N.E. over St. Catherine's Pt. on Aug. 18th (JKB, ELJ).
- 392 **Greenfinch.** For six hours on Oct. 27th birds were flying W. past St. Catherine's Pt. at the rate of 70 an hour.
- 393 **Goldfinch.** At St. Catherine's Pt., 230 flew E. and 311 W. in spring, and 526 flew W. in autumn.
- 394 **Siskin.** Ten at St. Catherine's Pt. on Sept. 21st, and a ♂ flew past to W. on Nov. 2nd. Two at Bembridge on Nov. 4th (MCA).
- 395 **Linnet.** At St. Catherine's Pt. 134 flew E. and 417 W. in spring. The autumn movement was almost all to W., the largest numbers being c. 1000 on Oct. 20th and c. 900 on Oct. 27th.
- 397 **Redpoll.** At St. Catherine's Pt. three flew E. on May 4th and one W. on Nov. 10th. Five near Ryde on Oct. 30th (MRT).
- 401 **Bullfinch.**
- 407 **Chaffinch.**
- 408 **Brambling.** One on Oct. 20th, and four on Nov. 2nd, flew W. past St. Catherine's Pt. Some with a flock of Chaffinches at Quarr on Dec. 4th (JH).
- 409 **Yellowhammer.**
- 410 **Corn Bunting.** A ♂ was in song near Thorley Farm on April 20th and 21st, but the area was not searched again until the autumn,

when none was seen (MCA). A pair was seen in a suitable nesting habitat at the top of the cliff above St. Lawrence on June 12th and July 10th (DJA).

Singletons flew over St. Catherine's Pt. to N. on Oct. 20th and to W. on Nov. 2nd.

- 415 **Cirl Bunting.** Heard again in song at Osborne, March to October, and December (JS). A ♂ between St. Helens and the sea on Aug. 22nd (MRT).

- 421 **Reed Bunting.**

- 423 **Snow Bunting.** A ♂ and three ♀♀ were seen on the marsh bank at Newtown on Nov. 7th—a very cold day with N.E. wind (MMS, AJH).

- 424 **House Sparrow.** Several small movements recorded at St. Catherine's Pt.: two flew E. with Goldfinches, and two over to N., May 4th; 22 flew to W., and 14 came in from sea and later left to E. with Linnets, Oct. 6th; 11 flew W. with Linnets, and eight over to N., Oct. 19th; one flew W., Oct. 27th.

A completely albinistic ♀, with pink eyes and yellow bill and legs, was caught by a cat at Havenstreet on May 25th, and died later (RW). It was sent to B. L. Sage, who is making a special study of albinism, and considered it the best example of a pure albino he had seen for some time.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS REFERRING TO ISLE OF WIGHT BIRDS.

- BIRD LIFE IN THE ROYAL PARKS, 1955-56.** H.M.S.O. 3s. (Includes a report on Osborne House by Mrs. M. M. Seabroke).
- PROCEEDINGS OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB, vol. xix, pp. 310-354.** "Birds in Hampshire, 1956." Edwin Cohen.
- BRITISH BIRDS, vol. 1, pp. 449-485.** "Report on bird-ringing for 1956." Robert Spencer.
- " vol. li, p.p. 57-72. "British recoveries of birds ringed abroad." E. P. Leach.
- " " pp. 74-77. "Reports from Britain of Black-headed Gulls ringed in the Oberlausitz, East Germany." Wolfgang Makatsch.
- " " pp. 253-266. "The wreck of Kittiwakes in early 1957." Leontia McCartan.
- BIRD STUDY, vol. 4, pp. 216-220.** "Diseases of wild birds, fourth report." A. R. Jennings and E. J. L. Soulsby. (*Eucoleus laricola* in gull.)
- THE IBIS, vol. 99, pp. 621-627.** "The interstitial and spermatogenetic tissue of autumn migrants in Southern England." B. Lofts and A. J. Marshall. (Based on 28 males of 15 species accidentally killed at St. Catherine's Lighthouse.)

RYDE'S RAINFALL RECORDS.

1918—1957

By KENNETH J. HOSKING.

The Editor has suggested that an article reviewing the salient features of a statistical research which I have made into the official rainfall records maintained by the Borough of Ryde might be of interest to the members of the Society. The period covered by this research now extends to 40 years, from the 1st January, 1918, to 31st December, 1957.

In acceding to his request with pleasure, first of all let me make it quite clear that I have merely compiled a detailed day by day tabulation of the recorded rainfall figures. It will be appreciated that whilst a similar summary for other Island resorts might well reveal the same broad picture, geographical features will account for local variations in yearly averages. More particularly will there exist, especially in summer—and this seems to have been most marked in recent years—wide variations locally in rainfall measurements for individual days.

The rainfall in 1957 (29·48in.) was slightly below the yearly average of 30·17in., but, even so, higher than in the two previous years, when the figures were 26·57 (1955) and 27·28 (1956). Thus, for three consecutive years, rainfall has been below the average. The three wettest days in 1957 were January 31st (1·24in.), July 2nd (1·43in.), and November 3rd (1·47in.). A feature of the weather in 1957 was an exceptionally dry spell from March 29th until June 8th, when the total rainfall was only ·75in. In contrast, measurable rain fell on 22 consecutive days up to February 13th. In 1956, there had been only ·47in. rain in the period from February 1st to April 10th. Against this, August, 1956, with 23 days of measurable rain, produced a record monthly total of 5·60in.

A summary of the monthly averages over the 40 years with the average number of days with measurable rain is as follows:—

January	.....	3·47 (17)	July	.....	2·14 (11)
February	.....	2·31 (12)	August	.....	2·36 (12)
March	.....	1·92 (12)	September	.....	2·60 (13)
April	.....	1·82 (12)	October	.....	3·14 (14)
May	.....	1·79 (11)	November	.....	3·69 (15)
June	.....	1·49 (9)	December	.....	3·44 (17)

Easily the wettest year was 1951, with a fall of 46·01in. on a record number of 192 days. During this year over half-an-inch was measured on no fewer than 29 occasions. Six times the fall exceeded one inch.

At the other extreme in 1921 only 17.79in. fell, there being only 115 days with measurable rain. With a heaviest fall of .77in., on only six other occasions did the fall exceed half-an-inch.

Over the whole period reviewed, the longest without measurable rain was the 44 days to July 13th, 1921. In contrast, the highest consecutive number of rain-days occurred in the 24 days to December 15th, 1929.

The wettest month on record was October, 1949, when exactly 9in. fell. During this month a period of 10 consecutive days to October 26th accounted for the phenomenal total of 7.42in.—four times in the course of six days a fall exceeding one inch being measured (the only occasions during 1949). The wettest day on record was November 11th, 1936, when 2.18in. fell in Ryde. On November 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1934, at least one inch fell daily—strangely enough, the only instances during the whole of that year.

My research shows that over the 40 years there have been 95 times when at least an inch has fallen in a single day—giving an average of about seven instances over a three-year period. No falls of this intensity have been recorded in March or April, although 65 times the fall exceeded half-an-inch. In fact, it is rather remarkable that only on one occasion between February 9th and May 14th has the measurement of one inch or more ever been recorded. By contrast, an inch of rain was measured 24 times during November.

Only three of the 480 months have been without rain—June, 1921, June, 1925, and August, 1940. Apart from October, 1949, with its record fall of 9in., the next wettest months have been December, 1934 (8.98), November, 1940 (8.87), and November, 1951 (8.34).

A tabulation of the figures to show the aggregate fall for corresponding dates of each year revealed the 24-hour period ending at 9 a.m., G.M.T., on June 26th as the driest day, with a total rainfall of .58in. in the 40 days. This day fell within the driest seven-day period, which occurred from June 21st to 27th inclusive. It is interesting to note that the aggregate fall in this week over the 40 years was only 7.35in. Holiday-makers should note that this is less than one-half of the aggregate measurement for any consecutive seven-day period in July, August, or September.

Although October is only the fourth wettest month, the wettest week occurred in the seven days ended October 26th, with its aggregate of 42.26in. in 40 years. This week included the wettest individual day (October 22nd) when the aggregate fall in 40 24-hour periods was 8.52in.

The rainfall figures for the 40 years do not bear out the widely held belief that our climate is not what it was in the days of our youth! A study of the rainfall figures for individual months fails to reveal any significant trends.

I have supplemented this general review by the preparation of two appendices, which I hope may prove of further interest.

APPENDIX 1.

SUMMARY OF BOROUGH OF RYDE RAINFALL STATISTICS (all figures in inches) 1st Jan. 1918—31st Dec. 1957

Month	Average Rainfall	Wettest Month		Driest Month		Wettest 24-hr. Period		No. of times 1" or more	No. of times $\frac{1}{2}$ " or more	Longest spell without rain		Highest consecutive No. of rain-days	Highest No. of raindays in month		Lowest No. of raindays in month		Average No. of raindays in month	Month
		Year	Am't	Year	Amount	Day	Am't			Days	To		No.	Year	No.	Year		
Jan.	3.47	1937	6.40	1935	.84	15-1-18	1.44	10	68	12	28-1-50	11	25	1922 1930 1948	7	1940	17	Jan.
Feb.	2.31	1951	6.80	1934	.01	8-2-51	1.54	4	52	22	23-2-21 22-2-32	14	23	1923 1937	1	1934	12	Feb.
Mar.	1.92	1947	6.13	1944	.14	4-3-49	.94	0	37	22	22-3-43	14	26	1947	2	1929 1944	12	Mar.
April	1.82	1922	3.69	1938	.01	6-4-52	.90	0	28	28	30-4-38	13	20	1920 1932	1	1938	12	April
May	1.79	1932	4.16	1936	.20	27-5-31	1.43	3	35	20	31-5-19	10	20	1925 1955	4	1944	11	May
June	1.49	1936	3.04	1921 1925	Nil	11-6-51	1.16	3	28	30	30-6-21 30-6-25	10	17	1946	0	1921 1925	9	June
July.	2.14	1920	5.85	1949	.17	3-7-29	1.91	10	43	21	27-7-29	7	21	1936	4	1935	11	July
Aug.	2.36	1956	5.60	1940	Nil	23-8-25	1.72	10	48	31	31-8-40	13	23	1956	0	1940	12	Aug.
Sept.	2.60	1927	6.77	1926	.41	14-9-27	2.06	10	53	20	26-9-41	11	24	1950	3	1929	13	Sept.
Oct.	3.14	1949	9.00	1931	.51	26-10-28	1.64	10	76	20	20-10-47 28-10-31	14	24	1923 1928	5	1946 1947	14	Oct.
Nov.	3.69	1940	8.87	1945	.54	11-11-36	2.18	24	92	15	30-11-34 24-11-22 20-11-57	18	26	1926	6	1945 1957	15	Nov.
Dec.	3.44	1934	8.98	1926	.26	7-12-37	2.07	11	64	13	27-12-48	19	27	1934	6	1926	17	Dec.
Total	30.17	Oct. 1949	9.00	June, 1921 June, 1925 Aug., 1940		11-11-36	2.18	95 Average 7 times in 3 yrs.	624 16 p.a. includes previous column	44 days to 13-7-21	24 days to 15-12-29	Average No. of raindays in year Highest 1951 192 Lowest 1921 115				155	Total	

APPENDIX 2.

BOROUGH OF RYDE—RAINFALL STATISTICS.

1st JANUARY, 1918—31st DECEMBER, 1957.

NOTE.—For purposes of the attached chart, a rain-day is defined as any period of 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. G.M.T. on which at least .01 of an inch of rain was recorded.

WET SPELLS.

		<i>inches</i>
Wettest ten consecutive days—17-26th October, 1949		7.42
Wettest two consecutive calendar months	Oct./Nov., 1939	14.78
Wettest three	Nov./Dec. 1929/Jan. 30	18.45
Wettest six	to 28th Feb., 1925	29.18
Wettest nine	to 28th Feb., 1925	37.19
Wettest twelve	to 31st Dec., 1951 (also Wettest year)	46.01

DRY SPELLS.

Driest two consecutive calendar months	March/April, 1938	.32
Driest three	Feb./April, 1938	.89
Driest six	to 31st July, 1921	4.63
Driest nine	to 31st Oct., 1921	8.99
Driest twelve	to 31st Dec., 1921 (also Driest year)	17.79

OTHER NOTES.

Over one inch of rain was recorded on three consecutive days—November 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1934—the only instances during the whole of 1934.

Over one inch of rain was recorded four times in six days between October 20th and 25th, 1949—the only instances during the whole of 1949.

Over one inch of rain fell four times in November, 1940.

Only once between February 9th and May 14th, inclusive, has an inch of rain been recorded in the 24-hour period—and never in March or April.

During the years 1921, 1930, and 1941, there were no occasions upon which a fall of one inch or more was recorded in the 24-hour period.

In 1935 and 1951 there were six such instances.

In 1921 only on seven occasions was as much as half-an-inch recorded—the highest being .77.

In 1951 half-an-inch was measured or exceeded on a record number of 29 occasions.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1957.

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.

The outstanding features of the 1957 weather were the record sunny June and the gale which developed suddenly on November 24th, and at times reached a wind speed of hurricane force.

It was the warmest January and February for seven years, despite the fact that both months had below average sunshine. March was another cloudy month with rainfall above average.

April, with only .27in. of rain, the lowest for 19 years, was a very trying month, cold with the wind coming from an easterly direction on 23 days.

May was sunny, but, like April, very dry, the two months together having the lowest rainfall ever recorded.

June proved the high spot of the year, the sunniest ever known, but unlike most parts of the British Isles, the rainfall was 1.20in. above the average, due to the heavy thunderstorm on the 18th, when 1½in. were recorded.

The dream was well and truly shattered in July, and the ensuing three months were very damp, the wettest and with the least sun on record.

October was a mild month with November following in the same pattern, and December having an above average sunshine total completed a pleasant Indian summer.

RAINFALL.

The total rainfall for the 12 months of 37.14in. was 1.94in. above the average, and there were five days on which one inch or more was recorded.

There were 177 rain-days. The driest month was April, and the wettest was February. Snow was practically non-existent, with only a few showers of sleet in January and February.

Thunder was recorded 13 times.

SUNSHINE.

The sunshine total of 1929.7 hours was only 54.5 hours below average, thanks to the high total recorded in June.

There were 69 sunless days.

TEMPERATURE.

There were seven months when the average mean temperature was not reached, but the overall mean temperature for the 12 months was the highest since 1949.

Temperatures varied from a maximum of 82.3°F. on June 17th and 29th, to 21.9°F. on December 17th, a variation of 60.4°F.

Frosts were comparatively few, the first to be recorded after the summer being as late as November 7th.

1957 WEATHER AT SHANKLIN.

Month	Max. (Mean)	Min.	Temperatures		Dry (Mean)	Wet (Mean)	Rainfall (Inches)	Sunshine (Hours)
			Extremes					
Jan.	47.2	39.6	54	30	43.5	41.8	3.44	69.9
Feb.	47.8	40.5	52	29	44.7	43.1	5.09	85.0
Mar.	52.2	44.6	59	37	49.3	47.6	2.42	116.7
April	54.4	42.4	66	33	48.9	45.6	0.27	184.5
May	58.1	45.1	65	34	53.1	49.4	0.84	270.0
June	68.1	51.9	82	43	62.4	57.1	3.04	344.0
July	67.2	57.5	77	52	62.8	60.1	4.64	240.3
Aug.	65.7	55.2	75	48	61.5	58.4	3.62	212.7
Sept.	61.8	52.2	66	38	57.6	55.2	4.92	139.2
Oct.	58.9	48.5	62	39	55.0	53.1	3.06	118.0
Nov.	48.9	40.9	57	31	44.4	42.6	2.55	72.9
Dec.	47.4	38.0	54	22	42.8	41.2	3.25	76.5
Year	—	—	—	—	—	—	37.14	1929.7

NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

Hedgehogs with two litters. — The nest in which the Hedgehogs illustrated in the *Frontispiece* were photographed was on the marginal land of a meadow at Pan Farm, Newport. Hedgehogs' nests are not easily found, for almost without exception they are concealed in dense cover, such as grown-in hedge bottoms or neglected meadows, where the grass has been flattened by the wind. In such situations I have, on several occasions, come across a very well-used track beneath the flattened grass, and used frequently enough to leave the ground bare. These runs I follow and they lead to a hedgehog's nest. From the nest it is possible to trace all the runs out, usually three or four, for a distance of ten or twelve feet, after which they appear to peter out, presuming that the animals then wander at will in search of food. This particular nest was about four feet from a bank, in grass that had been cut earlier in the year, and had grown about eight or nine inches, not tall enough to be blown over or tunnelled under, so that the three runs through the grass were unmistakable. They all led to a pile of hay, which to all appearances had fallen from a passing hay cart, except that some fresh grass had been added to the heap. The centre of the pile, mainly dried grass, but including a few dead leaves, was perfectly dry, despite recent heavy rains.

The first discovery of the nest was on November 1st, 1957, and it contained two adult and five young hedgehogs, the young being of two quite distinct age groups.

On the following day I returned with Mr. C. Matthews to photograph the nest and occupants. Unfortunately, only one adult (female) was present with the young. The three largest of the young erected their spines when handled, which proved quite painful, whilst the remaining two, no larger than tennis balls, were quite soft, the spines not having developed.

The mystery remains why there were two distinct groups of young in the nest, and it has been suggested that in her wanderings the mother had collected one group or other from another litter. This is highly improbable, for mammals in the lower classified groups do not take kindly to other than their own offspring.

In seeking a solution I have written to both the Natural History Museum and the British Mammal Society, and both offer the two possible explanations:—

1. Double Fertilisation, that is, while the mother was carrying one litter of young, a further mating took place and she again conceived.

2. Delayed Implantation of the Fertilised Eggs, that is, that only one mating occurred resulting in the fertilisation of five eggs, of which only three became immediately attached to the lining of the uterus, therefore developing, while the other two remained unattached for a considerable period. Such has been known to occur in rodents.

August, 1958.

W. Shepard.

British Trackway at Carisbrooke.—An interesting trace of the ancient British trackway from Freshwater to Brading has recently come to light at Carisbrooke. In his article in the 1945 *Proceedings*, the Rev. E. A. Sydenham traced the western part as far as the junction of Down Lane and Nodgham Lane at Carisbrooke. Now a cutting for a garage entrance made through the south-east bank of Nodgham Lane, some three yards north-east of the boundary stone shown near the junction of the two lanes on the 1/2500 O.S. Sheet, XCV 5, reveals that the old line of the track at this point was not on the line of the present Nodgham Lane, but immediately to the south-east of it. The cutting through the bank shows a cross section of an ancient sunken lane between two undisturbed chalk banks. Since the line of this sunken lane now shown would lead directly into the old chalk pit, now occupied by Pitfield Terrace (opposite the chapel on the hill), it seems likely that the old track was diverted on to the line of Nodgham Lane, which is itself a sunken lane between two chalk banks, when the chalk pit was first dug. If this is correct, the pit must be of very great age.

February, 1958.

R. D. Whittingham.

