

Vol. V

Part X

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ISLE OF WIGHT
NATURAL HISTORY
AND
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1965**

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Errata, 1963-64 *Proceedings*. Page 378, Line 5. Delete paragraph beginning as above, substitute:—

A set of water colours, painted 60 years ago, of Brook, by Mrs. G. E. Smythies, was presented to the Society by Mrs. F. E. Dawkins, daughter of the artist. The ownership of the paintings is now vested in the Society.

LIST OF OFFICERS

(Elected at the Annual General Meeting, 22nd January, 1966)

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MR. S. T. WAITE, B.Sc., Cowes.
MISS T. WHITE, Ventnor.

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Assistant Secretary :

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MR. J. RUSSELL, 27 Player Street, Ryde, I.W.

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Bird Recorder :

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Flower Recorder :

MISS T. WHITE, Seascape, Lower Gills Cliff Road, Ventnor, I.W.

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*(Publications sent in exchange, or inquiries re old "Proceedings" available
should be addressed to the Librarian above)*

SECTION LEADERS

Access to the Countryside :

MRS. D. MILLINGTON, Zigeuner, Wall Lane, Brading.

Archaeology :

MR. J. JONES, Carisbrooke Castle.

Botany :

MISS T. WHITE, Seascape, Lower Gills Cliff Road, Ventnor.

Entomology :

MR. T. D. FEARNEHOUGH, 26 Green Lane, Shanklin.

Geology :

MR. S. T. WAITE, Whitewings, Queen's Road, Cowes.

Mammals and Reptiles :

MR. O. FRAZER, Mottistone Mill, Brighstone.

Ornithology :

MR. J. STAFFORD, Westering, Moor Lane, Brighstone.

Seashore and Shells :

MR. L. C. PREBBLE, Albert Cottage, Binstead Hill, Ryde.

NEW MEMBERS

- MR. A. A. ANGELL, Locks Farm, Porthfield.
MISS A. BRYCE, Primrose Bank, Ventnor.
MR. P. H. BERRY, Dunnocks, Galley Lane, Brighstone.
MRS. E. M. BERRY, Dunnocks, Galley Lane, Brighstone.
MISS D. G. BOYCE, 96 Arthur Street, Ryde.
MRS. J. BISHOP, 4 Nunwell Cottages, Ashey, near Ryde.
MR. H. F. DAGWELL, Nuthatch, Orchard Road, Shanklin.
MRS. M. A. E. DAGWELL, Nuthatch, Orchard Road, Shanklin.
MRS. J. ELLIOTT, Jacma, Newport Road, Cowes.
MR. R. HEWITT, 3 The Hayes, Baring Road, Cowes.
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MRS. V. G. HILL, Kerry Cottage, Ryde Road, Seaview.
MR. P. A. JONES, Cambourne Villa, 44 Coronation Road, Cowes.
MRS. V. KNAPP, Sandford House, Sandford.
MR. E. A. H. PEAT, Afton Thatch, The Causeway, Freshwater.

OBITUARY

ARTHUR JOHN HENRY

Mr. Arthur John Henry died on 6th January, 1966. He had been a most valued member of the Society for 15 years. In 1951 he became auditor and four years later was elected treasurer, a position which he filled with great reliability until he was elected Editor of *Proceedings* in 1965.

It was indeed a great loss to the Society that he could not continue in this work in which he had so great an interest. Everything he attempted he did well, and he was full of plans and hopes for the future, especially in the field of ornithology. He was a keen and competent observer in the field and a patient and excellent photographer of birds and flowers, an interest which he shared with his wife, who can now have so many happy memories of their expeditions together.

Most of all, he is to be thought of as a man in whom we could rely. His kindness, friendliness, and ready help to the Society will be remembered with gratitude by all who were lucky enough to know him.

M.M.S.

EDWARD WHITAKER MARVIN

We regret to record the death on 15th June, 1965, of Mr. Edward Whitaker Marvin, of Bars Hill House, Cowes, at the age of 63.

Mr. Marvin, who was a well-known figure on the Island, had been a member of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society for many years and had taken an active part in its work and was frequently seen at its meetings. Mr. Marvin was elected to the council of the Society in 1960 and took over the duties of Editor of *Proceedings* in the following year. In 1963 he was elected Vice-President, which position he continued to hold until his death.

The Society will be the poorer for his passing.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1965.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward 1/1/65	.....	.....	.....	295	8	0
Interest from Investments	.....	.....	.....	10	15	6
Covenanted Subscriptions	.....	.....	.....	23	0	0
Subscriptions	.....	.....	.....	245	9	0
Income from Tax Refunds (Covenanted Subscriptions)	.....	.....	.....	14	17	8
Profit on Teas	.....	.....	.....	3	18	4
Profit on Film Show (Chris. Mylne Meeting)	.....	.....	.....	4	6	0
SPECIAL DONATIONS FUND—Balance Forward	.....	.....	.....	52	14	5
Interest	.....	.....	.....	2	5	11
CONSERVATION FUND	.....	.....	.....	15	16	2
NEWTOWN FUND, BALANCE FORWARD	.....	.....	.....	102	11	4
LOCAL LOOK, 1965	.....	.....	.....	215	2	1
Interest	.....	.....	.....	5	13	6
Cash in Hand. Forward 1/1/65	.....	.....	.....	3	17	0
				£995	14	11

EXPENDITURE.				£	s.	d.
<i>Proceedings</i> , 1963-64	.....	.....	.....	203	2	0
Postage on <i>Proceedings</i>	.....	.....	.....	6	17	9
Printing Costs	.....	.....	.....	45	7	4½
Hire of Halls	.....	.....	.....	18	9	3
Subscriptions to Other Bodies	.....	.....	.....	10	5	0
Stationery	.....	.....	.....	3	0	5
Petty Cash, Postages	.....	.....	.....	26	4	6½
Osborne Visit. Gratuity	.....	.....	.....	2	10	0
Conservation Fund	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
Entomological Section—Aladdin Lamp	.....	.....	.....	4	2	6
LOCAL LOOK, 1965	.....	.....	.....	73	13	1
Framing Pictures	.....	.....	.....	11	0	0
				£404	11	11

Cash at Bank	.....	.....	.....	276	9	5
Conservation Fund	.....	.....	.....	15	16	2
Newtown Fund	.....	.....	.....	234	11	4
Special Donations Fund	.....	.....	.....	55	0	4
Cash in Hand	.....	.....	.....	9	5	9

				591	3	10
Audited and found correct,				404	11	11
(Signed) G. M. POLLARD,						
J. AITCHISON, <i>Hon. Auditors.</i>				£995	14	11

GENERAL MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS, AND EXCURSIONS

General Meeting on 29th January.

On the evening of the 29th January some 25 members met to hear a talk by Miss L. Kennedy entitled "Ten Days in Andalusia." This lecture was illustrated by a series of very good colour slides.

Miss Kennedy is a keen ornithologist and visited south-west Spain in May of 1964. Her visit included the delta of the Guadalquivir with its marshes or "marismas," where bird life is plentiful. Many photographs of birds, seldom or never seen in this country, gave the audience an idea of the very varied wild life. Among the species pictured were Black-winged Stilts and Flamingoes in full flight, various Egrets, Storks, Bee Eaters, and a Roller. The influence of the Moorish invasion centuries ago could be seen in the pictures of buildings and it was noticeable that many of the villages en route were perched in the edge of steep cliffs or ravines for protection.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr. A. J. Henry, who complimented Miss Kennedy on the excellence of the transparencies and the descriptions.

General Meeting on 26th February.

This was held in the Priory Girls' School and about 45 members heard a most interesting talk given by Mr. S. T. Waite, B.Sc., on "Wanderings in the West Indies." The talk was illustrated by coloured cine film.

Mr. Waite, who is a geologist as well as Conservation Officer for the Society, made the film while on holiday in that area some years ago. The audience was given a brief outline of the formation of the islands and then taken, pictorially, on a visit to Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, and Antigua. At the latter good views were seen of English Harbour, which was used by Lord Nelson as a headquarters for his fleet. It was explained that the islands lie in the Trade Winds and during the dry season there was nearly always a pleasant breeze, but in the wet season rainfall was so heavy on the hills that large tropical forests flourished on the slopes, while on the lower ground there were areas in which desert cacti grew. Slides were shown of a visit to a local rock on which sea birds nested so thickly that it was difficult to avoid treading on their eggs. Foremost among the species seen were Noddy and Sooty Terns and many Pelicans and other birds were seen fishing in the sea.

Mr. Waite concluded his most enjoyable lecture by discussing the large "asphalt lake" in Trinidad and explained its probable origin. He then went on to explain the methods used in mining the asphalt, much of which is used on our British roads. A vote of thanks by Mrs. G. Seabroke brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

Visit to Brownsea Island on 15th May.

A full coach load of members left for Brownsea Island, and even the weather was kind. A pleasant trip along the coast brought the party to Poole Harbour, where launches took over for the last part of the trip to the island. On landing we were met by the Secretary of the Dorset Naturalists' Trust and the Resident Warden and some of his staff. Small parties were formed and each left under the wing of a competent guide.

One of the highlights of the tour was a visit to a permanent hide constructed at the edge of a salt water lagoon. From this vantage point an excellent view could be had of the various birds in and around the lagoon. Two small islands had been constructed and it was evident that one at least had met with the approval of a colony of Common Terns who had nested on it. A family of Canada Geese with their five or six fluffy yellow goslings attracted a great deal of interest. The two fresh water lakes were also interesting and the ingenious hides which had been constructed made it possible for observers to get a good view of the birds on the lakes. There is also a heronry on the island. Many smaller birds of field and woodland were heard, but not always seen.

After a picnic lunch the party walked to the southern side of the island, from which many pleasant views of the Dorset coast were obtained. Near one of the main viewpoints two gulls' nests were found. A fitting climax to the walk was the sight of five peacocks in full display.

The arrangements were made by Mrs. G. Seabroke, to whom members expressed their thanks. The Warden and his staff were also thanked for the part they had played in making the day an outstanding success.

Visit to Osborne on 29th May.

The Society is indebted to the Governor of Osborne, Surgeon-Captain W. F. J. Guild, C.B.E., Q.H.S., M.D., F.R.C.S., and the Forestry Commissioners for the opportunity of paying a visit to the woodlands of Osborne House. Some 50 members took advantage of this opportunity and were met, on arrival, by the Head Forester, Mr. McNulty. He handed the party over to Mr. Fox, his assistant, who acted as guide and mentor for the afternoon.

Members were taken for a most interesting tour of the woodlands, pausing here and there for short talks on the trees in the vicinity. Mr. Fox mentioned that the original planners had to make sure that none of the views were screened and as most of the planting was originally done in the time of Queen Victoria some very fine specimen trees are now to be seen. During his talks Mr. Fox drew attention to the problems facing the forester, who has the task of laying out a plantation. The necessity for interplanting with differing types of trees was brought out and explained. The tour concluded with a walk round the gardens of Swiss Cottage and flower lovers were charmed to find some comparatively rare plants blooming freely.

The members thanked Mr. Fox for his attractive and informative talks, which had done so much to make the visit a success.

Walk over Westover Down and Through the Plantation on 26th June.

There was a good attendance of members for the monthly meeting for a walk on Westover Down under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. O. Frazer. Downland flora were observed and Mr. Frazer pointed out the geological formation of the landscape. Among the interesting plants seen were the early Felwort and a new station for the Capitata Century. Among the several orchids found was a specimen of the Fly Orchid, which is one of the more uncommon varieties found on the Island. The leaders stressed that orchids should not be picked as this practice seriously depletes their numbers.

Botanical Walk at Bouldnor Fort on 17th July.

This walk was led by Mr. Fletcher and Miss G. Bullock and a good turn-out of members assembled at Bouldnor Fort at 2.45 p.m. The walk led over pathways to Bouldnor Bay and a considerable number of wild flowers were seen. Among the more interesting were Dodder, Burnett Rose, and Marsh Mallow, and Sneezewort.

Members' Private Visit to Local Look on 1st August.

On Sunday members, under the guidance of Mr. O. Frazer, had a preview of the Local Look Exhibition. Mr. Frazer gave a short talk on the exhibits.

Local Look at Brook.

August again found Local Look at Brook open to the public. Throughout the month there was a steady stream of visitors passing through the exhibition and the stewards were kept busy answering questions. A tour of the exhibits showed first that of the Geological Section which featured fossils found locally, then came the turn of the Archaeological Section with its attractive display based on the Roman villas found in the Isle of Wight. The bird lovers were catered for by a display of mounted birds, all of which had been found dead. A wide range of nesting boxes was shown and these aroused considerable interest. Included in this section were a number of attractive photographs of bird life. Next it was the turn of the Flower group, whose exhibit was based on the Pea, Rose, and Figwort families of flower. This stall was both attractive and informative. The Shell section featured Island mollusca in a tastefully arranged display, while the entomologists relied on a beautifully mounted selection of the moths of the woodland. The mammals were represented by a report on the Newt population and an illuminated stand showing various sections of pond life. The newly-formed Access to the Countryside section showed details of

walks taken and interesting finds made, together with a panel emphasising the country code.

A pleasing feature was the part played by young supporters, in particular the pupils of Priory Girls' School, who helped Mrs. Dorothy Frazer with the attractive lettering on the exhibits.

Joint Meeting with the B.S.B.I. on 18th September.

Most members will know that the Flower Section has, for several years, been helping with the proposed New Flora of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (first started by Mr. A. A. Westrup and now being completed by Mrs. Yule). The Society members have been making lists of all plants growing in the Isle of Wight. We were, therefore, very pleased when a joint meeting with the B.S.B.I. was arranged. A number of members of the B.S.B.I. joined with members of the N.H.S. to visit the under-recorded squares on the Island. Although late in the season, the results were most satisfactory. Six almost unrecorded areas provided 160-262 species and in six other areas more than 100 names were added, and the rest showed increases. The weather was good and, to judge by letters and the words of appreciation the meeting was enjoyed by all taking part.

Crassula Heimsii was found for the first time. The arrangements were made by Mrs. Yule, for the B.S.B.I., and by Mrs. Seabroke and Miss White for the Natural History Society.

T.W.

Lecture by Mr. Christopher Mylne on 15th October.

This was a joint meeting of the Society, the National Trust, and the Business and Professional Women's Association.

The lecturer was introduced by Mrs. G. Seabroke, the President of the Society, and she referred to the reputation of Mr. Mylne as an outstanding bird photographer, well known through his association with "Look" programmes on B.B.C. Mr. Mylne was for many years official photographer to the Royal Society for the protection of Birds and is now the Principal Field Officer for the National Trust of Scotland.

The lecturer took his audience on a fascinating tour of some of the remote islands off the Scottish coast. His tour started in Arran, in the Clyde estuary, where one of a growing number of adventure camps for young people had been established by the Scottish Trust. Several parties of girls from the Priory School had spent a period at this camp and had done valuable work for the Trust. We then sailed on in imagination to the remote island of St. Kilda, which was, until comparatively recently, inhabited, but which is now the only home of the St. Kilda mouse and the St. Kilda wren. The final port of call was the island of Foula, on which Mr. Mylne once lived and worked as a schoolmaster.

He admitted that this was a slowly dying island and now only supported a small community.

The lecture was illustrated by coloured slides and film of really outstanding quality and interest. Some of the shots of the cliffs of St. Kilda and of the many thousands of sea birds, which make their home there, were breathtaking.

The meeting was brought to a close by votes of thanks from Mr. T. R. Parsons, National Trust Field Officer in the Island and by Miss Fitzpatrick, president of the Business and Professional Women's Association.

Fungus Foray on 23rd and 24th October.

On 23rd October a considerable number of members met at Ashengrove Farm, Swainston, and by kind permission of the farmer, Mr. E. A. Jellis, searched the nearby woods. A good collection of fungi was found. These, together with others from different parts of the Island, were taken to the Priory Girls' School, where they were laid out for display with the help of a number of pupils.

The specimens were identified by Mr. E. H. Ellis, of Guildford, whose knowledge and genial personality were very much appreciated. Among the more interesting finds were the Earth Star, the Birds' Nest Fungus, and several specimens of the poisonous Death Cap, which is responsible for most of the cases of fungus poisoning.

On the following afternoon, that of the 24th, a large number of members and friends inspected the display and heard a most interesting talk on the specimens shown, given by Mr. Ellis. No fewer than 114 different varieties were on show, including five species which had not previously been reported on the Island. A vote of thanks, given by Mrs. G. Seabroke, president of the Society, brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

General Meeting, November.

This meeting took place on Friday 19th November in the Priory Girls' School. Mrs. G. Seabroke took the chair.

Mr. O. Frazer presented his report on the Annual Newtown Survey to a large and enthusiastic audience, which included 20 pupils of the Priory Girls' School. A detailed account of the survey is included in this issue of the *Proceedings*.

After the talk an excellent series of colour slides was shown and there was also a comprehensive display of black and white photographs and striking drawings, both in colour and monochrome, executed by pupils of the Priory Girls' School, who took part in the survey. After tea the Society's film "Birds of Newtown" was shown by Mr. O. Frazer. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. G. Seabroke.

General Meeting, December.

The General Meeting for December took place on Saturday 4th in the Priory Girls' School. Mrs. Seabroke was in the chair. At this meeting section leaders reported on the year's activities of their sections.

BIRD SECTION.—Mr. J. Stafford reported that considerable interest had been taken in the bird display at Local Look and that valuable information had been obtained regarding the distribution of the collared dove on the Island.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION.—Mr. J. Jones reported on the diggings at Chessell and also on the finding of a Mammoth tusk at Newtown.

ENTOMOLOGY SECTION.—Mr. D. Fearnough reported on the meetings held by the section and also intimated that a new record for the Island had been made by the finding of the Autumn Moth.

BOTANICAL SECTION.—Miss T. White reported on the various meetings held by the section and reminded members of the many happy and rewarding excursions held.

GEOLOGICAL SECTION.—Mr. S. T. Waite reported increased interest and referred to the outing held in conjunction with the Geologists' Association.

MAMMALS SECTION.—Mr. O. Frazer reported on the Newt survey held on the Island and also referred to a national survey for which the section was able to supply all the information required.

SEA, SHORE, AND SHELL SECTION.—Mr. Prebble, the leader, was unable to be present and in his absence his place was taken by Brian Thistleton, who presented an extremely interesting display of land and fresh water snails.

ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE SECTION.—Mrs. D. Millington reported that all meetings of the section had been well attended and that representation had been made to the appropriate authorities on the state of some of the paths traversed.

A selection of colour slides taken by members was shown by Mr. Frazer, and particular mention must be made of a series of shots of Red Squirrels brought by Mr. Philbrick, of Totland Bay. Mrs. Seabroke brought the meeting to a close by thanking all the section leaders for their excellent reports.

Annual General Meeting on 22nd January, 1966.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Priory Girls' School on 22nd January and was attended by 120 members. Mrs. G. Seabroke took the chair and opened the meeting by welcoming new members and thanking the officers and council for their support during her term of office. She also thanked the Education Committee and Mrs. M. E. M. Dudgeon for the use of the school for meetings, the Press, Mr. V. Wadham for the use of a store, and the ladies who had provided tea.

Mrs. Seabroke then referred with regret to the deaths of four members during the past year. These were Miss L. Cashford, Mr. E. W. Marvin (Vice-president), Mrs. George Smith, and Mr. A. J. Henry (Hon. Treasurer for 10 years). Members stood in silence in tribute to their memory.

Mr. Cooper (Hon. Sec.) gave his report and informed members that the Society had now more than 300 members and that more meetings had been held this year than ever before. Mrs. I. Gaskin (Chairman of the Local Look Committee) reported that the exhibition had been successful and that both attendance and receipts had exceeded those of the previous year. Mr. J. Russell (Hon. Treasurer) presented the accounts and reported that the Society was in a healthy financial position.

The next business was the election of officers and the following were duly elected: President, Mr. R. J. Machin; Vice-president, Mr. S. T. Waite; Hon. Member, Rev. Father Higgins; Council, after ballot, Mr. D. Cooper, Mr. J. M. Gunn, Miss M. Pollard, and Mr. G. Wells.

Mr. Machin then took the chair and in his remarks paid tribute to the work done by Mrs. Seabroke during her term of office.

ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE SECTION, 1965

By Mrs. D. MILLINGTON

Members had become increasingly disturbed at the overgrown state of many public footpaths in the Island and several instances were reported of obstructed paths and bridleways.

This was brought to the notice of the Council of the Society and after much discussion they agreed to the formation of the "Access to the Countryside" section. The purpose of the section is to walk footpaths, particularly those of interest to naturalists and archaeologists, and where necessary to take steps to ensure that the paths are kept open. In addition, the section leader was authorised to approach any land-owner, on whose land there was some area of particular interest, for permission to make a visit to it. Where overgrown or otherwise obstructed paths were found the section was to make a report to the appropriate authority at the County Hall.

Twenty-four walks have been taken during the year. Seven of these were combined with the activities of other sections. On some of these walks obstructed paths were found and several farmers were contacted. Most proved to be co-operative. Numerous visits were paid to the County Council Planning Office, Rights of Way Sub-committee, and various Rural District Councils to verify maps, routes, and permitted diversions.

The section provided four panels for the Local Look Exhibition. These emphasised the "Country Code" and valuable assistance was given by various members of the section.

There are no less than 1328 scheduled footpaths in the Island and simple arithmetic will show that, at the present rate of one walk each fortnight, it will require 60 years to cover all the existing paths. Even at the rate of one walk every day some four years will be necessary. This makes no allowance for follow-up walks to verify that obstructions have been removed and that green lanes have been cleared.

Two provisions of the Act governing these matters are quoted for reference.

1. A farmer has the right to wire gates to prevent cattle and other live stock from straying.
2. A pedestrian has the right of access to any public footpath, and may if necessary remove wire to obtain entry. The wire must, however, be replaced and the gates closed.

BIRD REPORT FOR 1965

By J. STAFFORD

The year's total of species recorded was 182 (apart from one notable sub-species, Balearic Shearwater, and including a Melodious or Icterine Warbler which was not specifically identified)—a good result which was only bettered in the remarkable year of 1963. An encouraging outcome of the increased interest in bird-watching in recent years has been the growth of the number of species recorded; there have been more in *each* year since 1960 than in *any* year before 1958.

In the autumn much of the country experienced unusual numbers of Bearded Tits and Waxwings. Details of the Island's share in these movements are to be found in the Systematic List.

Two new species occurred in 1965—4 Cory's Shearwaters and a Snowy Owl. Some other unusual or interesting visitors not mentioned above were Storm Petrel, Gadwall, Ferruginous Duck, Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck, Goosander, Osprey, Wood Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Black Tern, Wryneck, and Ortolan Bunting.

The many observers must be thanked once more for supplying the copious information which made this report possible. As usual, the amount selected for publication is only a fraction of the whole.

Miss V. R. Prior was very helpful in the preliminary task of copying records and sorting them into systematic order.

Abbreviations, etc. Records with an element of doubt are enclosed in square brackets []. The order, numeration, and nomenclature follow the British Ornithologists' Union's *Check-List* (1952), except that the English names are those used by *British Birds*. All dates refer to 1965 unless stated otherwise. Observers are indicated by their initials in the systematic list. m.o.: many observers (more than four). ♂: male; ♀: female; S.C.P., St. Catherine's Point.

Observers and Contributors. Mrs. P. M. Alder, D. W. Axten, S. M. Baker, J. E. Ball, J. Beazley, P. Bryer-Ash, Miss G. Bullock, J. M. Cheverton*, Mrs. F. J. Constable, D. O. Cooper, J. Croucher, N. Davis, O. H. Frazer, J. M. Gunn, K. J. Hawker*, Mrs. M. Hawker*, A. J. Henry, Mrs. E. M. Henry, J. K. Hicks, Major E. H. Hill, D. Hookey (DH), G. R. Hopkins*, W. Humber, D. Hunnybun*, Miss L. Kennedy, R. J. Machin*, P. Mew, Mrs. D. Millington, D. G. Mitchison, V. J. Montagu, Mrs. L. A. Moore, Mrs. S. Newell, Miss E. M. Newnham, Miss P. Parker, C. R. Pope, M. Porter, Lt.-Col. G. W. Quin-Smith, B. W. Renyard*, D. Roberts, H. P. K. Robinson, A. Searle*, Mrs. M. M. Seabroke*, W. Shepard, Miss S. Sims, J. Stafford*, J. H. Taverner*, W. H. Truckle*, S. T. Waite, Brig. J. B. P. Willis Fleming, E. J. Wiseman*, D. B. Wooldridge*, W. A. P. Wykeham.

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.** Only one recorded, flying E. past S.C.P. on April 30th.
- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** Between April 3rd and May 2nd 10 flew E. past S.C.P.
- 4 **Red-throated Diver.** Between April 23rd and May 1st 4 flew E. past S.C.P. Also 2 on sea off Yarmouth on Jan. 14th (JS).
- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.** Yarmouth, 1 on Jan. 14th (JS). Newtown, 1 on Feb. 21st and Dec. 21st (MMS). Osborne Bay, 1 on Jan. 7th (MMS) and Nov. 22nd (SN, MMS).
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** One at Newtown on Dec. 19th (MMS).
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.** One at Yarmouth on Feb. 10th (JS).
- 9 **Little Grebe.** One off S.C.P. on Oct. 8th, in addition to many records in the usual places.
- 14 **Storm Petrel.** On Oct. 7th 1 was found unharmed on the balcony of St. Catherine's Lighthouse.
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** Recorded only at S.C.P.: 4 flew W. on April 17th, 1 E. on April 26th, and 4 E. on May 23rd.
- 16 **Balearic Shearwater.** Recorded only flying E. past S.C.P.: 5 on May 1st and 1 on Aug. 13th.
- 18 **Cory's Shearwater.** At S.C.P., 2 flew to S.E. on April 23rd, and 1 to S.E. and 1 to E. on April 26th (DBW). These were the first records for the Island and for Hampshire. Although April records of this species are exceptional, there were others in the same month off the coasts of Dorset and Ireland (see *British Birds*, vol. 58, p. 352, and vol. 59, p. 283).
- 26 **Fulmar.** The most definite records yet of "prospecting" at Main Bench: 5 on May 27th (DH) and 6 on June 4th (JS), including 2 sitting on cliff ledges on each occasion. Also several other records of fewer birds in the same area in May and June (m.o.).
- 27 **Gannet.**
- 28 **Cormorant.**
- 29 **Shag.**
- 30 **Heron.**
- 45 **Mallard.** 292 were counted at Bembridge on Jan. 17th (AJH). A nest beneath the railway bridge at Dodnor was made entirely of wood chips from the sleepers (DH).
- 46 **Teal.**
- 47 **Garganey.** A pair in Brading Marsh on March 29th (JMC, SN), and a ♂ at Yarmouth on April 10th (JS).
- 49 **Gadwall.** A pair at Newtown on June 8th (MMS).
- 50 **Wigeon.** The largest flocks in several localities were all recorded on Jan. 3rd—c. 500 at Newtown (JMC), 104 at Thorness Bay (DH), 60 on Medina (KJH, MH), and 35 at Yarmouth (JS).

- 52 **Pintail.** One in Brading Marsh on Oct. 10th and 17th (KJH, MH). All other records were at Newtown, including 14 on Jan. 14th and 20 from Dec. 20th to end of year (MMS).
- 53 **Shoveler.** Recorded only at Newtown, including 16 on Feb. 14th and Dec. 24th (MMS).
- 55 **Scaup.** Recorded only at Bembridge—2 on Dec. 12th (RJM) and 3 on 19th (JMC, DH, WS).
- 56 **Tufted Duck.**
- 57 **Pochard.** Recorded only at Bembridge. The largest number on the ponds was 75 on Dec. 19th (JMC, DH). c. 200 on the sea there on Jan. 5th (JMC).
- 58 **Ferruginous Duck.** The ♂ in Brading Marsh at the end of 1964 (see *Report* for 1963 and 1964) was seen on several occasions until Jan. 15th (JMC, AJH, DH, SN, MMS, JS).
- 60 **Goldeneye.** A ♂ at Bembridge on Jan. 15th (SN). 2 on the Medina on Jan. 31st (KJH, MH). A ♀ at Newtown on Dec. 25th (JMC).
- 61 **Long-tailed Duck.** 4 flew E. past S.C.P. on Nov. 8th.
- 62 **Velvet Scoter.** 48 flew E. past S.C.P. between April 19th and 30th, including 33 on 29th.
- 64 **Common Scoter.** The birds counted flying past S.C.P. exceeded the previous maximum in 1958. Between March 13th and June 6th 4917 flew E., including 2000 on April 23rd and 1108 on 29th.
- 67 **Eider.** A ♂ in mid-Solent off Ryde on Feb. 11th (JS).
- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.**
- 70 **Goosander.** A ♂ flew E. past S.C.P. on April 29th.
- 73 **Shelduck.** A pair again nested on Brighstone Down (JS).
- 76 **White-fronted Goose.** 7 flew E. past Newtown on Dec. 11th (MMS).
- 80 **Brent Goose.** Numerous records of up to 13 at Newtown from beginning of year until March 21st (m.o.).
- 82 **Canada Goose.** 3 on Feb. 6th and 2 on March 28th at Newtown (MMS).
- 84 **Mute Swan.** The autumn herd on the Medina consistently comprised over 60 birds, and 88 were counted on Oct. 17th (WS) and Dec. 28th (DH).
- 91 **Buzzard.** Records from various places (m.o.), but none in summer.
- 93 **Sparrowhawk.**
- 102 **Montagu's Harrier.** A ♀ over a cornfield near Chessell on May 16th (CRP).
- 103 **Osprey.** One at Newtown, Sept. 6th-21st (SN, MMS, JS).
- 105 **Peregrine.** One at Newtown, Jan. 10th and 15th (MMS). One at Tennyson's Down, March 17th (JS) and in August (GWQS).
- 110 **Kestrel.** Numerous records at all seasons (m.o.) suggest that the species is holding its own.
- 116 **Partridge.** Several observers consider that this species is becoming scarce. Detailed information would be welcome.

- 117 **Quail.** A dog flushed 2 from a field of kale at Apse Farm, Shanklin, in August (EMN).
- 118 **Pheasant.**
- 120 **Water Rail.**
- 125 **Corncrake.** One near St. Helens on April 28th (SN).
- 126 **Moorhen.** A chick found in Brading Marsh on the surprising date of Jan. 18th (SN).
- 127 **Coot.**
- 131 **Oystercatcher.** 47 at Newtown on Nov. 28th (MMS).
- 133 **Lapwing.** The largest flocks were c. 1000 at Newtown on Dec. 12th (KJH, MH) and over 500 by the Medina the same day (JMC, DH).
- 134 **Ringed Plover.** 5 pairs nested at Newtown (DH, RJM, MMS).
- 139 **Grey Plover.** Newtown: 9 (in summer plumage) on Sept. 15th, 42 on Oct. 13th (MMS), 12 on Nov. 13th (KJH, MH), and 30 on Dec. 25th (JMC). 1 by Medina on Feb. 7th (KJH, MH).
- 140 **Golden Plover.** c. 280 at Atherfield on Jan. 29th (JS). c. 200 at Newtown on Dec. 12th (MMS).
- 143 **Turnstone.**
- 145 **Snipe.**
- 147 **Jack Snipe.** One in Brading Marsh on Feb. 26th (SN).
- 148 **Woodcock.**
- 150 **Curlew.** One on down above Shorwell on May 2nd (KJH, MH).
- 151 **Whimbrel.** On April 30th and May 1st 131 were counted flying E. past S.C.P. The movement continued through the intervening night and on a smaller scale the following night.
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** At Newtown, 240 on Oct. 15th and 270 on Dec. 26th (MMS). The latter is the largest flock ever recorded on the Island (*cf.* 1962 *Report*).
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** May flew E. past S.C.P. on the night of April 30th-May 1st, and 87 next day. Otherwise only a few records of 1 or 2 at Newtown (m.o.).
- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** One by a pond near Calbourne on July 3rd, and 2 there on 8th (MMS).
- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.** One by Medina on Sept. 2nd (JS).
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.**
- 161 **Redshank.**
- 162 **Spotted Redshank.** One at Newtown from Sept. 3rd to end of year (MMS, JS).
- 165 **Greenshank.**
- 169 **Knot.** Numerous records at Newtown (m.o.), including 210 on Dec. 28th (MMS). Also 12 at St. Helens on Jan. 5th (JMC) and 1 by Medina on March 7th (KJH, MH, RJM).
- 170 **Purple Sandpiper.** 2 at Freshwater Bay on Dec. 17th (JS).
- 171 **Little Stint.** 2 at Newtown, Sept. 5th-15th (MMS).
- 178 **Dunlin.** c. 1500 at Newtown in Dec. (MMS).

- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.** Newtown: 2 on Aug. 5th, 1 on Aug. 26th and 28th, and Sept. 27th (MMS). 1 by Medina on Sept. 2nd (JS) and Oct. 3rd (MMS).
- 181 **Sanderling.** 57 at Bembridge on Feb. 17th (DH) and c. 50 at Seaview on 21st (SN). None outside this usual area.
- 184 **Ruff.** One in Brading Marsh on March 29th (RJM) and Oct. 8th (SN), and at Newtown on Aug. 26th and Sept. 14th (MMS).
- 193 **Arctic Skua.** 35 flew E. past S.C.P. between April 16th and May 8th.
- 194 **Great Skua.** 7 flew E. and 1 W. past S.C.P. between April 19th and May 1st.
- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.**
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.** 2 pairs nested at Culver Cliff (DH) and 1 near Needles (m.o.). 46 at Puckpool on Jan. 5th (JMC).
- 200 **Herring Gull.**
- 201 **Common Gull.**
- 208 **Black-headed Gull.** Early nests at Newtown, on an island opposite the quay, were washed away by an unusually high tide on May 3rd. The gulls deserted this site and returned to the saltings off the East Point and Brickfield, where they had nested in former years. By May 22nd about 500 nests were occupied there (MMS).
- 211 **Kittiwake.** The main movement past S.C.P. was 60 to E. on Nov. 8th.
- 212 **Black Tern.** One at Newtown on Aug. 29th (MMS) and at Seaview on Oct. 27th and 30th (SN).
- 217 **Common Tern.**
- 218 **Arctic Tern.**
- 222 **Little Tern.** 5 pairs nested at Newtown (RJM).
- 223 **Sandwich Tern.**
- 224 **Razorbill.**
- 227 **Guillemot.**
- 230 **Puffin.** Several records of up to 3 near Needles in breeding season (m.o.).
- 232 **Stock Dove.**
- 234 **Woodpigeon.**
- 235 **Turtle Dove.** First at Newtown on May 1st (MMS).
- **Collared Dove.** Occurrences in 1965 and all previous years are included in a separate paper on pp. 465-467.
- 237 **Cuckoo.** First heard at Newtown on April 15th (MMS).
- 241 **Barn Owl.**
- 244 **Snowy Owl.** One on a fence post near the cliff edge at Sud Moor, Brighthstone, on March 6th was seen at close range by numerous members of a beagling party (PM, JBPWF, WAPW, *et al*). Identification details were supplied. Local residents and farm workers said it had been in the area for about 2 weeks previously, *i.e.*, since about Feb. 20th. It could not be found on March 7th (JS), but was seen again not far away on March 13th (DHy).

One (thought to be a ♀) in Brading Marsh on March 28th (ND, AJH, DH, WS, JS). It, too, sat on a fence post, where it was mobbed by Black-headed Gulls and a Rook. It could not be found on March 29th and 30th (JMC, RJM, MMS).

These two records (and one at Pennington, Hants, on March 14th) presumably refer to the same bird. It is the first record for the Island, and the third for Hampshire. The unusually large number of records in Southern England in 1965 are considered to be suspect because many Snowy Owls were recently imported for sale here (see *British Birds*, vol. 59, pp. 291-2).

246 **Little Owl.**

247 **Tawny Owl.** Heard occasionally at Shanklin (EMN).

249 **Short-eared Owl.** One near The Hermitage, Niton, on March 24th (SN).

252 **Nightjar.** One at S.C.P. on Sept. 18th.

255 **Swift.** First on May 3rd at East Cowes (JS).

258 **Kingfisher.** Numerous records from the northern half of the Island (m.o.) indicate that the species is recovering well from the severe weather of 1963. None recorded in the southern half, where it has always been scarce.

261 **Hoopoe.** Single birds at Cowes on April 23rd (STW), at Newtown on April 30th (MMS), and on St. George's Down, Blackwater, on May 23rd (DH, WS).

262 **Green Woodpecker.**

263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.**

265 **Wryneck.** One on the disused railway track in Brading Marsh on Sept. 19th (JMC, ND, WS, JS). Although apparently not tired, it was extremely tame, allowing one observer to approach too closely to focus his binoculars on it! It was still present, but much less tame, on Sept. 27th (JS).

One at S.C.P. on Sept. 4th and 5th and Oct. 2nd-9th.

272 **Skylark.**

274 **Swallow.** First on March 30th at Brading (JMC) and last on Nov. 6th at Brading (DH) and Newtown (MMS).

The largest movements past S.C.P. were 1510 to S.E. in 1½ hours on Sept. 17th and c. 6000 to W. in 7½ hours on Sept. 19th.

276 **House Martin.**

277 **Sand Martin.** First at Newtown on March 28th—a continual passage to E. all day (MMS).

c. 9 pairs nested at Sandown Golf Course (DH).

280 **Carrión Crow.** One at Yarmouth on Jan. 10th was described as "brown with dirty white wings and tail" (JMC).

282 **Rook.**

283 **Jackdaw.**

284 **Magpie.**

286 **Jay.**

- 288 **Great Tit.**
 289 **Blue Tit.**
 290 **Coal Tit.**
 292 **Marsh Tit.** Nested at Dodnor and Porchfield (JMC, DH, RJM).
 294 **Long-tailed Tit.** More records than in 1964 (m.o.), but numbers appear to be still below normal.
 295 **Bearded Tit.** 12 in Brading Marsh on Oct. 12th (SN). At Yarmouth, 3 on Nov. 14th (JS), and 2 on Dec. 22nd and 28th (MMS).

These are the first records of the species in the Island since the two in the 19th century. During Oct.-Dec. Bearded Tits were recorded over much of England and Wales on an unprecedented scale. Apparently both British birds from East Anglia and others from Holland were involved (see *British Birds*, vol. 58, pp. 527-8).

- 298 **Treecreeper.**
 299 **Wren.** Now plentiful again in some areas (m.o.).
 301 **Mistle Thrush.**
 302 **Fieldfare.** c. 300 near Ryde Airport on Feb. 14th (SN).
 303 **Song Thrush.**
 304 **Redwing.** c. 100 with Fieldfares near Ryde on Feb. 17th (SN).
 307 **Ring Ouzel.** Numerous in autumn, including 6 on Brighstone Down (JS) and 18 at S.C.P., both on Oct. 9th.
 308 **Blackbird.**
 311 **Wheatear.** First at Newtown on March 11th (MMS), and last at Brighstone on Oct. 11th (JS). Largest numbers at S.C.P. were 21 on March 28th and 26 on Aug. 23rd.
 317 **Stonechat.** Still no records in the breeding season since 1962. A few up to mid-March, and numerous from Sept. 24th to end of year (m.o.).
 318 **Whinchat.** Several records in both migration seasons (m.o.), including 10 at Brading on Aug. 24th (MMS).
 320 **Redstart.** First at Seaview on March 22nd (SN).
 321 **Black Redstart.** S.C.P.: 1 on March 21st, 1 on Oct. 24th, 2 on Oct. 25th, and 1 on Nov. 7th. 2 on Headon Warren on Oct. 24th (JS).
 322 **Nightingale.** First seen at S.C.P. on April 4th (DH, ND, WS).
 325 **Robin.**
 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** One at Brighstone on April 30th and for some time afterwards (OHF). One at Newtown on May 9th (MMS). One killed by a cat at Hulverstone on May 16th (WH, JS). Present in 2 localities on Brighstone Down from mid-May onwards (JS). Heard at Dodnor Pond on June 12th (DH). 2 heard on High Down on July 12th (DOC). Heard at Gunville on July 16th (RJM). 3 at Carisbrooke Waterworks on Sept. 24th (RJM).
 333 **Reed Warbler.**
 337 **Sedge Warbler.** First 2 on March 28th in Brading Marsh (DH).

- [339 **Melodious Warbler** or
 340 **Icterine Warbler**. A bird belonging to one of these species at
 S.C.P. on Sept. 12th (GRH, WHT)].
- 343 **Blackcap**. A ♂ at Cowes on Feb. 27th (KJH, MH).
- 346 **Garden Warbler**. Nested in Biddlesford Copse, Havenstreet (DH).
- 347 **Whitethroat**.
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat**. One at Yafford on May 9th (JMC). One near
 Calbourne on May 14th (JS). 2 at Newtown on May 16th, 2 at
 Bembridge on July 2nd, and 1 at Newtown on Sept. 16th (MMS).
 One at S.C.P. on Oct. 2nd.
- 352 **Dartford Warbler**. One in a suitable nesting habitat on June 5th
 (JS), but it could not be found later.
- 354 **Willow Warbler**. First seen at Newtown on March 28th (MMS).
- 356 **Chiffchaff**. One in Brading Marsh on Nov. 30th (SN).
- 357 **Wood Warbler**. One at Brook on June 3rd (MMS).
- 364 **Goldcrest**.
- 365 **Firecrest**. One at Gurnard Pines on March 28th (MMS), at S.C.P.
 on April 14th, and at Brook on April 19th (JS).
- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher**. First on May 10th at Newtown (MMS).
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher**. First on April 14th at Brighstone (JS).
- 371 **Hedge Sparrow**.
- 373 **Meadow Pipit**.
- 376 **Tree Pipit**. 2 pairs believed to have bred in Brading Marsh,
 where 1 was seen carrying food on May 22nd (SN).
- 379 **Rock Pipit**.
- 380 **Pied Wagtail**.
- 381 **Grey Wagtail**. No records in the breeding season, but otherwise
 appears as numerous as before the 1963 cold spell. Was seen at
 Yarmouth, Brighstone, Thorness, Carisbrooke, Newport, R.
 Medina, Osborne, S.C.P., Bonchurch, Yaverland, and Brading
 (m.o.).
- 382 **Yellow Wagtail**.
- 383 **Waxwing**. Numerous records in late Nov. and early Dec., when
 a large irruption was affecting much of the country.
 Nov. 15th, 2 at Totland, feeding on fallen apples (EHH). Nov.
 20th, 3 at Cranmore, feeding on cotoneaster and hawthorn (MMS).
 Nov. 26th, 9 near Folly Inn, some drinking from puddle (PBA,
 ND, WS), and 6 still there next day (JMC, DH, RJM, WS).
 Nov. 27th, 2 at Seaview (JKH). Nov. 28th, 3 on Ryde Golf
 Course, feeding on brambles (EMH, SN). Dec. 1st, 1 at Shide,
 killed by a predator [said to be a Kestrel] (per OHF). Dec. 4th,
 2 at Norton Green, feeding on cotoneaster (DOC).
- Another was found near Newport at about the same time, with
 a broken tarsus. It was kept in captivity until April, 1966, when
 the injury was completely healed. While the bird's release was
 being considered it suddenly died (SS).

389 **Starling.**

Ringing recoveries :—

<i>Ring number</i>	<i>Date of ringing</i>	<i>Where ringed</i>	<i>Date of recovery</i>	<i>Where recovered, etc.</i>
36765R	22 /1 /63	Sandown (LK)	14 /1 /65	Forthampton, near Tewkesbury, Glos. Shot.
CA15461	14 /6 /63	Sandown (LK)	24 /1 /65	Seaview. Found dead.
CA15610	30 /1 /64	Sandown (LK)	17 /6 /65	Fawley, Hants. Found dead.

392 **Greenfinch.**

Ringing recoveries :—

<i>Ring number</i>	<i>Date of ringing</i>	<i>Where ringed</i>	<i>Date of recovery</i>	<i>Where recovered, etc.</i>
CA15607	30 /1 /64	Sandown (LK)	16 /4 /65	Yaverland. Killed by cat.
BA57111	16 /8 /64	Stockbury, Kent.	Sept., 1965.	No Man's Land Fort, off Seaview. Found dead.

393 **Goldfinch.**394 **Siskin.** 2 flew W. past S.C.P. on Sept. 19th, and 2 were present on Oct. 6th.395 **Linnet.**396 **Twite.** 2 on Brighstone Down on Dec. 18th (JS).397 **Redpoll.** A total of 9 at S.C.P. in Oct.401 **Bullfinch.**404 **Crossbill.** At least 12 at Osborne on Aug. 11th (MMS).407 **Chaffinch.**408 **Brambling.** 2 on Brading Down on Jan. 4th (MMS).409 **Yellowhammer.**410 **Corn Bunting.** One near Brook on Oct. 9th (JS). One flying over Brading Marsh on Oct. 27th (SN, MMS). One at Rowborough, N. of Shorwell, on Nov. 2nd (MMS).415 **Cirl Bunting.** Nested at Osborne (MMS).416 **Ortolan Bunting.** One at S.C.P. on Oct. 10th (JS).421 **Reed Bunting.** 16 on Stenbury Down on Feb. 6th (SN).424 **House Sparrow.**425 **Tree Sparrow.** 4 near St. Helens Railway Station on April 26th (SN, MMS).

CONCHOLOGICAL NOTES ON THE LAND AND FRESH WATER MOLLUSCA OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

By L. C. PREBBLE

A recording of a section of the Island's mollusca was carried out during the year. Special acknowledgment is due to Brian Thistleton, who dealt with all the minute specimens and also to M. Goodchild, B.Sc., who acted as referee and identified the species which otherwise could not have been named accurately. Acknowledgments are also due to many members of the Society who have assisted. This survey will continue into 1966.

Publications used in this recording:

- 1—"The Young Specialist Looks at Land and Fresh Water Molluscs,"
Horst Janus.
- 2—"Shell Life," Edward Step, F.L.S.

The numbers on the right of the items in the key to species table correspond to the serial numbers on the left of the locality chart.

	LOCALITIES.	<i>Map Reference</i>
Fresh Water.		
1	Lukely Brook, Carisbrooke	488, 883
2	Pond near Grammar School, Carisbrooke	488, 889
3	Priory Pond, Carisbrooke	485, 884
4	Stream at bottom of Hunnyhill, Newport	497, 895
5	Stream in Winkle Street, Calbourne	423, 867
6	Somerton Reservoir, near Cowes	492, 948
7	River Yar, Brading.	
8	River Yar, Alverstone	577, 857
9	Brading Marsh	
10	Small Pond near St. Catherine's Point	495, 754
11	Small Pond east side of Headon Hill	307, 858
12	Stream near Players Woods (Ryde)	578, 928
Land.		
13	Wood above Chalkpit, Carisbrooke	474, 882
14	Chalkpit in Carisbrooke	476, 882
15	Walls of Carisbrooke Castle	486, 878
16	Gardens in Carisbrooke and Gunville	
17	Bowcombe Down	
18	Wood in Shorwell Shute	457, 835
19	Chalkpit in Shorwell Shute	458, 835
20	Quarry on road between Calbourne and Brighstone	421, 854
21	Tapnell Quarry	385, 867
22	Mudless Copse near Swainston	446, 868

23	Town Copse, Newtown	429, 908
24	Knighton Copse	576, 871
25	Wood near Hare and Hounds	536, 878
26	Downend Chalk Quarry	535, 875
27	Undercliff, Blackgang to Niton	
28	St. Catherine's Hill, above Blackgang	492, 771
29	Tennyson Down	335, 856
30	East Afton Down	368, 860
31	Brading, land by River Yar	
32	Brading Marsh	
33	Players Wood, near Ryde	580, 930
34	Winkle Street	423, 867
35	Land by stream at bottom of Hunnyhill, Newport	497, 895
36	Somerton, near Cowes	492, 948

LAND AND FRESH WATER MOLLUSCS, RECORDS FOR 1965.

- 4 *Valvata piscinalis*: 7, 9, 8.
- 7 *Pomatias elegans*: 18, 27, 24, 17.
- 13 *Potamopyrgus jenkinsi*: 1, 10, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12.
- 19 *Carychium tridentatum*: 14, 22, 24, 25, 17.
- 23 *Physa fontinalis*: 7, 4, 8.
- 25 *Lymnaea truncatula*: 4.
- 26 *L. palustris*: 9.
- 27 *L. auricularia*: 7.
- 28/9 *L. peregra*: 3, 6, 7, 5, 8.
- 33 *Planorbarius corneus*: 3.
- 36 *Planorbis carinatus*: 9.
- 41 *P. albus*: 9.
- 44 *P. crista*: 2.
- 47 *Ancylus fluviatilis*: 5, 8.
- 48 *Acroloxus lacustris*: 2.
- 50 *Succinea pfeifferi* ??? : 35, 34, 32.
- 54 *Pyramidula rupestris*: 15.
- 56 *Cochlicopa lubrica*: 14, 18, 27, 24, 25.
- 57 *C. minima*: 35, 34.
- Vertigo* spp.: 31, 20, 23.
- 68 *Vertigo moulinsiana* ??? : 32.
- 70 *Abida secale*: 27, 29.
- 71 *Pupilla muscorum*: 27, 20.
- 72 *Lauria cylindricacea*: 27, 31.
- 74 *Vallonia costata*: 27, 31, 33.
- 75 *V. pulchella*: 31.
- 77 *Acanthinula aculeata*: 23, 33.
- 80 *Ena obscura*: 17, 13, 27, 24.
- 83 *Clausilia bidentata*: 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 33, 23.

- 81 *Marpessa laminata* : 17, 18, 22, 24.
- 92 *Arion ater ater* : 17, 30, 29, 16, 18, 27, 24.
- 94 *A. fasciatus* : 24, 25.
- 96 *A. hortensis* : 16, 18, 34, 22, 24, 25, 17, 23, 33.
- 97 *A. intermedius* : 17, 24.
- 98 *Limax maximus* : 18.
- 102 *Agriolimax reticulatus* : 17, 30, 16, 18, 24, 25, 23.
- 104 *A. laevis* : 35, 32.
- 110 *Milax budapestensis* : 16, 24.
- 115 *Retinella nitidula* : 36, 18, 27, 31, 24, 25.
- 116 *Oxychilus draparnaldi* : 34 (dead).
- 117 *O. cellarius* : 18, 27, 31, 24.
- 118 *O. alliarius* : 18, 27, 22, 24, 17.
- 120 *Zonitoides nitidus* : 35, 34 (dead), 32.
- 122 *Euconulus fulvus* : 35, 23.
- 124 *Discus rotundatus* : 18, 27, 23, 22, 24, 25, 17, 33.
- 125 *Vitrina pellucida* : 18, 24, 13, 33.
- 130 *Helicigona lapicida* : 27.
- 131 *Arianta arbustorum* : 27.
- 136 *Hygromia striolata* : 27, 24, 18, 14.
- 138 *H. hidpida* : 36, 27, 31, 24, 26, 17.
- 141 *Monacha cantiana* : 17, 35, 24.
- 143 *Helicella caperata* : 28, 27, 20, 21, 31, 24, 17, 19.
- 145 *H. virgata* : 17, 28, 30, 29, 27, 20, 21, 31, 26.
- 149 *Cochlicella acuta* : 17 (colony at map. ref. 479878). 29.
- 150 *Cepaea nemoralis* : 27, 18 (young), 24 (dead).
- 151 *C. hortensis* : 24 (dead).
- 153 *Helix aspersa* : 16, 18, 27, 21, 35, 22, 24, 25, 26, 17, 19.
- 158 *Anodonto anatina* : 7.
- 161 *Sphaerium corneum* : 2.
- 162 *S. Lacustre* : 9 (dead).
- 163 *S. transversum* : 8 (as yet unconfirmed).
- 164 *Pisidium amnicum* : 7, 8.
- 165 *Pisidium casertanum* : 8, 3 (?).
- Pisidium spp.* : 7, 8, etc.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION REPORT FOR 1965

By T. D. FEARNEHOUGH, A.Met.

During the 1965 season seven meetings were held by the section. The first was an indoor meeting at the Unity Hall, Newport, on 19th March, at which the programme of field meetings for the year was arranged. At this meeting Mr. S. D. L. Shore exhibited a film showing about 15 species of butterflies in their natural surroundings. Included was a remarkable shot of a pair of Brimstone Butterflies, *Gonepteryx rhamni*, in courtship flight, and one of the Whiteletter Hairstreak Butterfly, *Strymonidia W-album* which, previous to 1964, had been recorded for the Island only three times. A number of colour slides was shown by Mr. O. H. Frazer. These included photographs of larvae found at a meeting at Freshwater, and also specimens of the Death's Head Hawk Moth, *Acherontia atropos*, and the Colvolvulus Hawk Moth, *Herse convolvuli*, caught in the Island.

The first field meeting was held at Mottistone Mill on the evening of 30th April for the purpose of attracting moths to light. Two light sources were used, a pressure paraffin lamp and a mercury vapour electric bulb. Only a small number of moths, comprising five species, was attracted, and unfortunately these did not arrive until most of the members had left. The species observed were: Hebrew Character, *Orthosia gothica*, Common Quaker, *O. stabilis*, Clouded Drab, *O. incerta*, Early Thorn, *Selenia bilunaria*, and Engrailed, *Ectropis bistortata*.

About equal numbers of moths were attracted to the two light sources.

A joint meeting with the Mammals Section at Brighstone Bay on 8th May was entomologically unsuccessful, for weather conditions were quite hopeless for caterpillar hunting, the object of the meeting.

The meeting at High Down on 19th June was favoured with sunny conditions but there was a strong wind which prevented insects from flying in the exposed areas. However, in the sheltered hollows behind the Down a fair number of butterflies were observed. These were: Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*; Brown Argus, *Arícia agestis*; Speckled Wood, *Pararge egeria*; Wall Brown, *Pararge megera*; Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*; Large Skipper, *Ochlodes venata*; Small Skipper, *Thymelicus sylvestris*. A web of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars was seen on nettles and on blackthorn were several webs of the rather destructive micro moth, *Hyponomeuta padella*. The micro moth *Crambus perilellus* was disturbed from coarse grass in fair numbers. The best find was a specimen of the Small Purple Barred moth *Phytometra viridaria*, which is rare on the Island.

On 10th July an evening meeting was held on Brading Marshes where, with the aid of a paraffin pressure lamp, a number of moths were observed after dark. These included Common Wainscot, *Leucania pallens*; Smoky Wainscot, *L. impura*; and a single specimen of the local species, Southern Wainscot, *L. straminea*. Other moths seen

were the Local Double Lobed **Apamea ohpiogramma** ; White Ermine, **Spilosoma menthastri** ; Ghost Swift, **Hepialus humuli** ; Drinker, **Philudoria potatoria**. Specimens of some of these species were later exhibited at Local Look.

An evening meeting was held at Borthwood on 8th October. The party made a circular tour of the wood to examine a number of sugar patches prepared in advance by the leader. About a dozen moths were attracted. Three species, Angle Shades, **Phlogophora meticulosa** ; Feathered Ranunculus, **Eumichtis lichenea** ; and Beaded Chestnut, **Agrochola lychnidis** were observed.

Speaking generally, the season was a poor one for insects and there was little evidence of migratory movement from the Continent. However, towards the end of March there appeared to be an influx of Small Tortoiseshell butterflies, which were seen in numbers in various places on the Island. A concentration of 30 to 40 in a small area in Shanklin was reported by Miss Newnham. There were also numbers of Peacock butterflies about at the same period, but in neither case was a large autumn brood forthcoming.

Among the moths, the most interesting find was a colony of the Autumnal moth, **Oporinia autumnata**, near Shanklin. This moth looks very much like the common November moth, **Oporinia dilutata**. The identity of the autumnata specimens was confirmed by the British Museum. Specimens of a very local Pug Moth, **Eupithecia intricata arceuthata** found in Shanklin were also submitted for identification to the British Museum.

FLOWER REPORT FOR 1965

By Miss T. WHITE

The good summer of 1964 was no doubt responsible for many interesting finds in 1965. Orchids were in good numbers, also Mulleins and bird seed aliens.

The section had several meetings: 10th April along the Ventnor Cliffs; Tree Mallow, Samphire, and the various forms of Arum—*Maculatum*, *Neglectum* and *Italicum* were seen. 19th May, walk in the Godshell area. The woods proved to be interesting and spring flowers were found in abundance. 2nd June, Chale area with the object of mapping. Among the finds was Henbit, which was plentiful. 3rd July, the walk was over Rew Down, where several interesting finds were made. Of particular interest was the contrast between the flora on the chalk and that on the leached area. 21st July, an evening walk at Newtown along the old railway track added many plants to our list. The small Toadflax, *Chaenorhium minus*, was a surprise find. 18th and 19th September; this week-end was the highlight of the year. Members of the B.S.B.I. from the mainland joined us and we mapped 20 squares, adding an average of 125 species to each square.

Names of Contributors and Abbreviations:—

Miss G. Bullock	(GB)	Mr. C. Pope	(CP)
Mrs. D. Frazer	(DF)	Mrs. A. J. Saunders	(AJS)
Mr. L. Hardstaff	(LH)	Mrs. M. Seabroke	(MS)
Mrs. M. Hardstaff	(MH)	Mr. B. Shepard	(BS)
Rev. Fr. Higgins, O.S.B.	(JH)	Miss T. White	(TW)
Mrs. D. Millington	(DM)	Mrs. Yule	(PY)
Miss E. M. Newnham	(MN)	Many Observers	(MO)
Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI).			

Numbered in accordance with Dandy's *List of British Vascular Plants* (1958).

- 5 *Osmunda regalis*, L. (Royal Fern). Luccombe Down (MN).
- 11 *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, L. (Maiden Hair Fern). Ryde (not garden) (JH).
- 58 *Papaver argemone*, L. (Pale Poppy). Newchurch (CP).
- 66 *Fumaria capreolata*, L. (Climbing Fumitory). Ventnor (TW), Bonchurch (CP).
- 67 *Brassica oleracea*, L. (Wild Cabbage). Afton Down (JH).
- 84 *Thlaspi arvense*, L. (Penny Cress). Shanklin (MN).
- 88 *Cochlearia danica*, L. (Early Scurvy Grass). Colwell Bay (MS).
- 108 *Sisymbrium orientale*, L. (Eastern Rocket). Newport (BS).
- 113 *Viola obtusifolia*, Auct. (Larger Field Pansy). Bunkers Hill (AJS).

- 123 **Silene dichotoma**, *Ehrh.* (Forked Campion). Cheverton (BS). New.
Silene gallica, *L.* (Small-flowered Catchfly). Ventnor (Miss Williams). New.
Silene nutans, *L.* (Nottingham Catchfly). Sandown (GB), (MS).
- 128 **Vaccaria pyramidata**, *Medic* (Bird Seed alien identified by British Museum). Brading (GB).
- 143 **Spergularia marina**, *L.* (Saltmarsh Sand Spurrey). Porchfield (BSBI).
- 149 **Montia fontana**, *L.* (Water Blinks). Godshill (MO).
- Montia perfoliata** (wild) (Spring Beauty). Brook (PY). New.
- 154 **Chenopodium hybridum**, *L.* (Sowbane). Shanklin (MN).
- 160 **Salicornia perennis**, *Mill* (Perennial Glasswort). Newtown (BSBI).
Salicornia ramosissima, *Woods* (Twiggy Glasswort). Newtown (BSBI).
- 189 **Ononis spinosa**, *L.* (Rest Harrow, Spiny). Chale (TW).
- 202 **Ornithopus compressus** (Birdsfoot). British Museum identification. Lake (LH). New.
- 207 **Lathyrus sylvestris**, *L.* (Everlasting Pea). Mottistone (DF).
- 212 **Potentilla erecta reptans** 3686 (B.S.B.I.).
- 237 **Crassula Helmsii**. Marsh Farm, Newtown (MS), (BSBI). New.
- 242 **Chrysosplenium oppositifolium**, *L.* (Golden Saxifrage). St. Martin's Down (N), (CP).
- 264 **Thesium numifusum** *D.C.* (Bastard Toadflax). High Down (MS), (JH). Mersley Down (BSBI).
- 276 **Myrrhis odorata**, *L.Scop* (Sweet Cicely). Brading Marsh (MS). New.
- 277 **Torilis arvensis**, *Hudson* (Spreading Bur Parsley). Brading Marsh (MS).
- 282 **Conium maculatum**, *L.* (Hemlock). Afton Down (BS). Shide (MS).
- 289 **Ammi majus**, *L.* Binstead (GB).
- 300 **Oenanthe lachenalii**, *C.C. Gmel.* (Parsley Water Dropwort). Brading, Mersley (MS). Norton, Freshwater (JH).
- 320 **Polygonum arenastrum**. St. Helens, near Upton (JH).
- Polygonum dumetorum**, *L.* (Copsie Bindweed). Afton Down (BS).
- 374 **Samolus valerandi**, *L.* (Brookweed). Freshwater (JH). Blackgang (BS). Osborne (MS).
- 397 **Lycopsis arvensis**, *L.* (Small Bugloss). Sandown (GB). Totland Bay area (JH). Bowcombe (AJS). Shanklin (MN).
- 402 **Lithospermum arvense**, *L.* (Corn Gromwell). Binstead (garden) (GB).
- 406 **Calystegia soldanella**, *L. R.Br.* (Sea Bindweed). Newtown E. (MS).
- 415 **Datura stramonium**, *L.* (Thorn Apple). Brading (DM). (LH).
- 416 **Verbascum phlomoides**, *L.* (Orange Mullein). Carisbrooke. 1964, Brook (JH).

- Verbascum virgatum**, *Stokes* (Large-flowered Mullein). Shorwell (LH).
- 420 **Linaria repens**, *L., Mill* (Pale Toadflax). Bouldnor (BS).
- 434 **Melampyrum arvense**, *L.* (Field Cow-wheat). Site II recovering after fencing by N.H.S. (MO).
- 439 **Lathraea squamaria**, *L.* (Toothwort). Reported very abundant in many sites.
- 440 **Orobanche purpurea**, *Jacq.* (Yarrow Broomrape). Sandown (MO).
- 445 **Mentha smithiana**, *R.A., Grah.* Horingford (BS). Brading (MS).
- 465 **Mentha x verticillata**, *L.* Weston Manor, Freshwater (JH).
- Galeopsis bifida**, *Boenn* (Hemp Nettle). Fishbourne, 1964 (JH). Many areas (BSBI), 1965.
- 495 **Valeriana officinalis**, *L.* (Common Valerian). Shide (MS).
- 502 **Bidens cernua**, *L.* (Nodding Bur-marigold). Shanklin (MN).
- 506 **Senecio vulgaris**, *L., var-radiatus, Koch* (Groundsel with ray florets). Ryde (GB), (JH).
- 515 **Gnaphalium sylvaticum**, *L.* (Upright Cudweed). Racketts Marsh (AJS).
- 542 **Onopordum acanthium**, *L.* (Scotch Thistle). Arreton (BS).
- 554 **Lactuca serriola**, *L.* (Prickly Lettuce). Ryde (JH). Newport (BS).
- 561 **Baldellia Ranunculoides**, *L. Parl.* (Lesser Water Plaintain). Nr. Freshwater (JH). Brading (MS).
- 579 **Ruppia maritima**, *L.* (Tassel Pondweed). Yarmouth (JH).
- 584 **Narthecium ossifragum**, *L. Huds.* Bog Asphodel Site VI (MO).
- 627 **Spiranthes spiralis**, *L.* Chevall (Lady's Tresses). Shanklin (MN). Compton Down (MS).
- 640 **Ophrys apifera**, *Huds.* (Bee Orchid). More in many areas (MO).
- Ophrys trollii**, *Hegetschw* (Wasp Orchid). Arreton (GB).
- Ophrys insectifera**, *L.* (Fly Orchid). Several reported (MO).
- 642 **Orchis ustulata**, *L.* (Burnt Tip Orchid). Ventnor (TW). Ashey (GB).
- Orchis morio**, *L.* (Green-winged Orchid). Freshwater (CP). Shanklin (MN), (Bi-coloured). Bembridge (MS).
- 649 **Arum Italicum**, *Mill.* Mersley Farm Road (MH). New site.
- 652 **Sparganium erectum**, *L.* (Branched Bur-reed). Landguard (MN). Bouldnor (GB). Chillingwood, Havenstreet (GB).
- Sparganium emersum**, *Rehm.* Between Norton and Freshwater (JH). Brading (MS).
- 653 **Typha angustifolia**, *L.* (Lesser Bulrush). Brading Marsh (MS). Fishbourne (GB).
- 663 **Carex arenaria**, *L.* Headon Warren, away from the sea (JH).
- 669 **Glyceria plicata**, *Fr.* (Small Flote-grass). Freshwater (JH). Newnham Moor (JH), (GB).
- 672 **Vulpia myuros**, *L., C.C. Gmel.* (Ratstail Fescue). Ryde (JH).
- 676 **Poa compressa**, *L.,* (Flattened Meadow Grass). Ryde (JH).

- 683 **Zerna erectus**, *Huds. Gray* (Upright Brome). Ryde (JH).
Bromus madritensis, *L.* (Compact Brome). Binstead (GB).
 701 **Agrostis canina**, *L.* (Brown Bent). Binstead (GB). Headon
 Warren (JH).
 713 **Phalaris arundinaceae**, *L.* (Reed Grass). Shalfleet (JH).

Error 1964—No. 256 *Oenothera biennis*, *L.*, should read: **Oenothera rubricaulis**, *Klebahn*. Corrected by British Museum.

GEOLOGICAL SECTION REPORT FOR 1965

By S. T. WAITE, B.Sc.

Interest in geology continues to grow and there are now 45 members on the mailing list. An encouraging feature is the number of children who show an enthusiasm for the subject. During the year 10 outdoor meetings, four jointly with the Geologists' Association, who kindly invited us to join their Easter meeting, were held. Average attendance at the field meetings was about 13, while 21 were at the indoor meeting.

Tapnell and Prospect Quarries, 17th January.—Ten hardy members, including one youngster, turned out in a bitter south-westerly gale. Tapnell was first visited, and the relation of the topography to the underlying geology was explained. A start was made looking for fossils and minerals in this quarry, but it was too exposed, and a retreat was made to the comparative shelter of Prospect. A good haul of fossil fresh water molluscs as well as some very fine land snails was made.

Thorness Bay, 13th February.—Again we were rather unlucky, for although the day was fine and sunny, a cold north-westerly gale was blowing. Nevertheless, 15 members turned out.

It was pointed out that although the relation of the beds on the west side of the bay to the limestone of Gurnard Ledge seemed simple, previous mapping had not shown the presence of a well-marked limestone in the bay near the low water mark. It appeared to be higher than the Bembridge of the Ledge, but lack of exposures made correlation impossible and there were many signs of disturbance which might indicate faulting. The limestone contained a distinctive fucoid bed which could be traced high into the cliff, and formed a reference plane to which other strata could be related.

Very well exposed green marls were seen, and numerous excellent specimens of *Polymesoda convexa* and *Potamachis turritissima* were found. A number of turtle plates were picked up on the foreshore.

Joint Easter Meeting with the Geologists' Association.

Compton Bay, 16th April.—Natural History Society members met at Brook Chine and examined the beds as far as Hanover Point. Some good examples of lignitised and pyritised wood were found in the Wealden beds and also some of the mineralised tree trunks from the "pine raft." Hazel nuts ("Noah's Nuts") and wood from the ancient river deposits were collected.

High tide prevented further progress along the beach, as well as preventing the G.A. party from reaching Brook. Our party therefore went to Compton Chine by car, and there joined up with the others to examine the Upper Greensand, Gault, and the lower part of the Chalk. Some fairly good molluscs from the Gault and ammonites from the Chalk were found.

Eleven members turned up on a fine sunny day.

Alum Bay, 17th April.—Six members were present in the morning and four in the afternoon.

After collecting a number of fossils, including the zone fossil *Belemnitella mucronata*, from the top of the Chalk, the unconformable junction of the Eocene Reading beds with the Cretaceous was examined and the "pot holes" in the Chalk, which were filled with the basal sands of the Eocene, were noted. In the overlying London Clay some beautiful specimens of the marine molluscs *Pholadomya* and *Panopaea* were collected.

Next, the non-marine Bagshot and Bracklesham beds, which are mainly sands, were briefly examined. Plant remains were found in the pipe clay intercalations and the Lignite beds were particularly noted. The overlying Barton beds, predominantly marine clays, are full of fossils, but mostly of a fragmentary nature and no good samples were obtained. The Nummulite beds could not be found. Some of the party attempted to reach the Headon Hill fresh water limestones high up the cliff, but were considerably hampered by the muddy conditions.

After lunch the most westerly outcrop of the Bembridge limestone in the Island, situated on the east end of Headon Hill, was visited, but the heavy rain spoilt the trip. However, after tea some members went to Colwell Bay to see the Headon beds, which we had examined in the previous October.

Whitecliff Bay, 18th April.—Between 12 and 15 of our members were present at various times. The day was marred by occasional heavy showers, and a rising tide necessitated a tough scramble over the cliffs of the Bembridge limestone. The lower part of the Bembridge marls, with the "insect bed" in its typical lithology (no insects found), and the "oyster bed," from which some good specimens were obtained, elicited much interest.

The tide prevented an examination of the limestone; the underlying Osborne and the Headon beds, the Upper and Lower parts with fresh water fossils, and the Middle with marine fossils were well seen. Some of the Nummulites beds were found in the Barton and the Bracklesham beds, which are here much more marine nature than at Alum Bay. The Bagshot sands are unfossiliferous. The London Clay and Reading beds are typical.

Bouldnor, 19th April.—As the G.A. party was returning home in the afternoon only a morning trip was planned—even so, shocking weather and high tide spoilt the day. Six of our members turned out.

Brook, 23rd May.—Between 15 and 18 members turned out at least for part of the day. The trip was planned to collect specimens for the "Local Look" exhibition. A fine sunny day added to the enjoyment of the outing.

As far as Hanover Point was a repetition of the first day of the G.A. trip. Then the succession upward through the unbedded and un-

fossiliferous Wealden clays with occasional sandstone beds was traversed.

The base of the Wealden shales was very clearly shown by the presence of beds crowded with fresh water fossils—*Paludina* (now *Viviparus*), *Cyrena* (now *Filosina*), and minute crustaceans called *Cyprids*. Blocks of hard calcareous and ferruginous sandstones full of *Cyrena* were common, but were not found *in situ*. Some very fine radiating crystals of selenite (calcium sulphate) were found, and were very prolific in one bed of clay. A search was made for the Perna bed at the base of the Atherfield Clay, but this is now obscured by landslip.

Compton Bay, 23rd June.—A second trip was planned to complete the section to Compton Bay. Unfortunately the party was left leaderless owing to an emergency call to London, but a number of members turned out and collected fossils from the base of the Chalk.

Alum Bay, 10th October.—This was a repeat of the G.A. excursion arranged to give our members (of whom 21 were present) an opportunity to examine the section at greater leisure. We were joined by a party of schoolchildren from Oxfordshire. The weather was excellent.

Geologists' Question Time, 29th October.—21 members attended a lively indoor meeting, when a wide range of geological subjects was covered. Fortunately, Mr. Prebble and Mr. Goodchild were present to determine the fossils.

It was decided the next year's "Local Look" display would consist of distinctive fossils from the various formations in the Island. At a later date an appeal will be made for any good fossils to be exhibited on loan.

Whale Chine, 21st November.—Although a cold north gale was blowing, it was warm and sunny on the beach when 23 people, including some from the W.E.A. courses, enjoyed one of the most interesting trips of the year.

The beds were examined westward from the Chine, in descending order from the Crioceras bed to the Lower Lobster bed at the top of the Atherfield clay. All belong to the Lower Greensand. Impressions of large ammonites were common and some fine specimens of the large oyster *Exogyra latissima* (previously *sinuata*) and the small but distinctive *Lopha colubrina* (previously *Ostrea frons* or *O. carinata*) were obtained from the Lower Gryphea bed. Good specimens of the *Brachiopods* (stalked bivalves), *Terebratula* (now *Sellothyris*), *sella*, and a *Rhynchonellid* were also found. Some lucky members got a few good lobsters from the Lower Lobster bed at the top of the Atherfield Clay. No specimens were found in the upper bed.

The sand-blasted erosion of the beds at the top of the cliffs in the chine were noted.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWTS IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT IN 1965

By O. H. FRAZER

The chief task undertaken by the members of the Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians Section of the Society during 1965 was an Investigation into the Distribution of Newts in the Isle of Wight. Help in this was also given by members of the writer's W.E.A. classes and also a group of pupils from the Priory Secondary Girls' School, Newport.

Aim.

The chief aim of this investigation was to record the distribution of the three species of newts by a simple process of "catching and counting" in as many widely dispersed ponds as possible during the breeding season from April to June. It was not expected that the results in themselves would be necessarily conclusive, but it was hoped that certain features of the pattern of distribution thus disclosed might pose interesting problems worthy of further serious investigation.

Method.

The frame for the large drag-net used was largely made from the roof-rack on the writer's car. This is probably not the cheapest way of making a drag-net, but in this instance the roof-rack had proved itself singularly unsatisfactory for its original purpose, and when cut in half and slightly modified it was found to provide the main basis for two very satisfactory drag-nets. The bag was made of nylon mesh, and the whole was capable of being dismantled for cleaning and easy stowage. Ropes were clipped on to both the front and back of the frame. This was necessary to retrieve the net, if it was caught in any hidden snag. It also served a useful purpose, as each time the net was pulled across, the rope for the return journey was available and only had to be clipped on the front. Two strong dip-nets with long handles were also used in those parts not accessible to the drag-net.

A total of 23 ponds were visited, and in each case the procedure was the same. The net was dragged through the pond a number of times in different directions, and any newts caught were temporarily retained. Note was also taken of any other form of life caught in the net and seen round the pond. When a good representative sample of newts had been obtained these were identified and recorded before being put back in the pond.

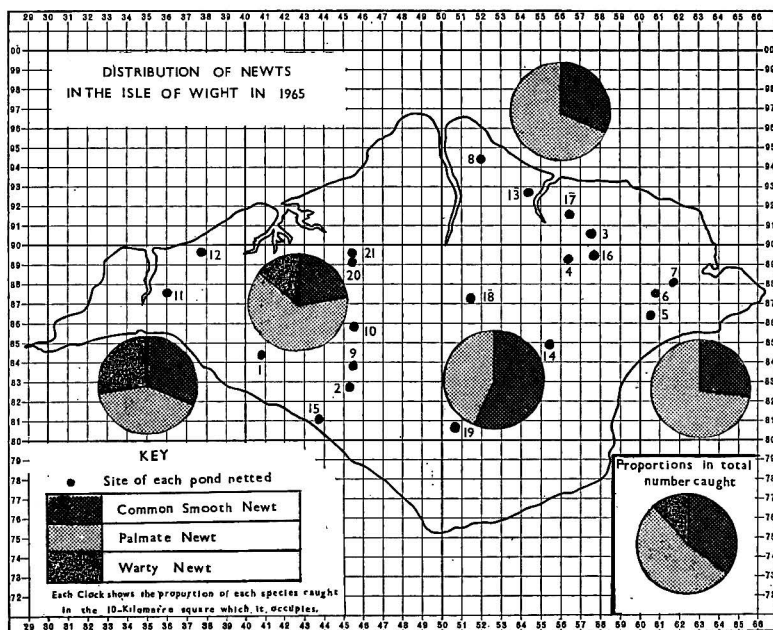
The metal sides of the drag-net acted as efficient skids, and on only two occasions was a large quantity of mud brought up, making it impossible to sort out the catch. In some ponds, however, submerged weed posed a problem, as the drag-net tended to ride over this and any newts present might well take cover in the weed below the net. The dip-nets were therefore brought into use on such occasions and pushed down

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Date 1965	No.	Site of Pond	Adult Newts Caught									Other Observations.
			Smooth			Palmate			Warty			
			♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total	
3/4	1	Long Stone, Mottistone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Many Lesser Waterboatmen, Water Beetle, and Dragonfly larvae. Little weed.
	2	West Court, Shorwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Very shallow and very little life. Used by ducks.
4/4	3	Pottery Shute, Havenstreet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Very weedy—Water Soldier, Floating Pondweed and Ivy-leaved Duckweed. Full of life, including large Dragonfly larvae and 3-spined Sticklebacks.
	4	Rowland's Copse, Havenstreet	0	1	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	Weedy—Floating Pondweed and Blanket Weed. Many large Water Beetle larvae.
11/4	5	Morton Manor, Brading	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	Large open pond, stocked with fish.
	6	Old Vicarage, Brading	0	0	0	4	3	7	0	0	0	Overgrown by trees. Largely inaccessible. 9-spined Sticklebacks.
	7	Railway Field, Brading	1	3	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	Open, but weedy.
14/4	8	Barton Manor, East Cowes	7	8	15	17	16	33	0	0	0	Large lake in wooded grounds. Numerous Water-fleas. Full of life. 7 Newt larvae.
25/4	9	Renham Down, Shorwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Numerous Water-fleas. Little plant life. Used by ducks.
	10	Idlecombe Down, Shorwell	3	0	3	17	2	19	1	4	5	Almost surrounded by shrubs. Weedy—Water Crowfoot. Many insect larvae. 7 Newt larvae.
28/4	11	Wilmington Farm, Thorley	4	1	5	1	6	7	5	5	10	Concrete pond. Little plant life. 6 Newt larvae.
	12	Wood End, Bouldnor	4	15	19	16	9	25	5	7	12	Amongst trees. Many Water-fleas, Phantom larvae and large Dragonfly larvae. 21 Newt larvae and 1 Neotenus larva.
1/5	13	Wootton Farm, Wootton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lacking in all forms of life.
	14	Wacklands Farm, Newchurch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Very weedy—Water Lilies. Very muddy. Ducks nesting.
8/5	15	Hamslea Farm, Atherfield	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	Open pond near cliff. Many Lesser Waterboatmen, Toad Tadpoles, and 1 large Eel. Evidence that ducks had been there, but none seen.
16/5	16	Gatehouse Farm, Ashey	20	6	26	19	2	21	0	0	0	Amongst trees. Fairly weedy—Water Starwort and Duckweed. Toad Tadpoles.
	17	Newnham Farm, Binstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Floating Pondweed. Many Toad Tadpoles. Used by ducks.
22/5	18	Garrett's, St. George's Down	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Lack of plant life. Very muddy. Grass Snake seen by edge.
	19	Leechmore Farm, Bleak Down	4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	Very weedy—Floating Pondweed and Water Crowfoot. Full of life, including several species of Leeches. 28 Newt larvae.
30/5	20	Vittlefields Farm, Carisbrooke	6	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	Open pond. Fairly weedy.
	21	Durrant's Farm, Parkhurst	3	1	4	14	7	21	1	3	4	Overgrown by trees and shrubs. Full of life, but partly inaccessible.
		TOTALS	53	40	93	93	51	144	12	19	31	

through the weed. If these failed to produce any newts it was considered safe to assume that no newts were present.

Identification of the three species is not difficult, once one has become accustomed to the differences. The males of all three species have distinctive crests in the breeding season. The male Smooth Newt has a continuous notched crest from the neck to the tip of its tail, and is a very handsome creature. The male Warty Newt is larger and dark brown or almost black, and has a rough skin. It also has a very deep notched crest, but this is interrupted where the tail joins the body. The male Palmate Newt has only a slight straight crest, but is easily distinguished by its black webbed hind feet and the end of the tail, which is abruptly truncated and continues as a fine black filament. The females do not have crests. The female Warty Newt is large, dark brown, or black, speckled with white spots on the sides. The belly is bright orange with black spots and blotches. The females of the other two species are very similar, but the female Smooth Newt has little spots under the chin while the female Palmate Newt has an immaculate pale pink throat. No attempt was made on this occasion to identify the larvae.



Results.

The results of the investigation can best be shown in the form of the accompanying table.

In addition two further ponds at Newtown were visited and yielded a number of Palmate Newts, but as this was not representative of the newts known to exist in this area, where there are a number of suitable ponds, they have been excluded from the present results and await further investigation at a later date.

Analysis of Results.

It will be noted that the first three ponds visited failed to yield any newts. It was thought that, owing to the cold and inclement weather, we might have started too early, before the newts had arrived at the ponds. Subsequent investigation of these ponds later in the season, however, still failed to produce any newts, so it must be presumed that we were just unfortunate in our choice of ponds at the beginning. It is significant, however, that in almost all cases where there was evidence of the presence of ducks, newts were absent. It will be noted also that the five ponds, Nos. 8, 10, 12, 16, and 21, yielding the greatest number of newts of all three species, were closely associated with trees or shrubs, although other ponds, such as No. 6, of a similar nature, were not so productive of newts. Unfortunately, a record was not made of the species of trees growing by the ponds, and it would be very interesting to investigate the possibility of some correlation between the species of tree and the numbers and species of newts found. On the other hand, it could be that those ponds, which were shielded by trees, were not so likely to be colonised by ducks, thus resulting in a greater population of newts. There is plenty of scope for further investigation here.

As a National Survey of the Distribution of Reptiles and Amphibians is being currently undertaken, it was thought advisable to analyse the results on the same basis of the 10 kilometre square of the National Grid. The accompanying diagram shows the proportions of each species of newt caught in each of the five 10 kilometre squares, for which a reasonably representative sample had been obtained, and in the bottom right-hand corner the proportions in the total number of newts caught. Study of this diagram, in conjunction with the Summary of Results, will reveal a number of interesting points :—

- 1—According to the results the commonest newt in the Island is the Palmate Newt, the numbers of which exceeded those of the other two species put together.
- 2—Both the Smooth and the Palmate Newts are equally widely distributed, being caught in fair numbers in all of the five 10 kilometre squares.
- 3—The Palmate Newt is commonly regarded as a montane species, preferring ponds in hilly country, but there is no evidence in these results to support this. In the three ponds, Nos. 8, 12, and 16, in which there was a particularly good catch of Smooth Newts, the Palmate Newt was also found in good numbers, indicating that the conditions suiting the one were also favoured by the other.

Of the two ponds, in which the Palmate did predominate, one, No. 10, at Idlecombe, was certainly on the downs. but the other, No. 21, on Durrant's Farm, is on flat low-lying country.

- 4—The Warty Newt was the rarest and most restricted in its distribution, being confined, according to these results, to the West Wight. This is not to say that it does not occur elsewhere and, indeed, I remember being given two of this species caught in a private pond at Ryde some years ago. It is significant, however, that 12 ponds in the East Wight failed to produce a specimen, when four ponds out of nine in the West Wight produced 31 specimens.

Further Investigations

Some suggestions for further investigations have already been made, such as the incompatibility between ducks and newts, and the possible correlation between the species of trees growing round a pond and the number of newts to be found in it. It would also be interesting if members, who have the time to spare, would investigate the newts in their own areas by "catching and counting" and see if the results they get are markedly different from those shown here. It will, of course, be appreciated that the larger the sample collected, the more representative of the newts in the area it is. In particular, the writer would like to receive reliable records of the recent occurrence of the Warty Newt, particularly in the East Wight.

Plans are already being made to investigate those areas not already covered, and a repetition of this investigation at a later date would be interesting for purposes of comparison.

Acknowledgments.

My thanks are due to all those who took part in the expeditions and worked so hard, often under cold and wet conditions, to obtain these results. We are also grateful to the landowners who so kindly gave us permission to visit the ponds on their property. Lastly, I must pay tribute to my wife, who made the nets, which I designed, and shared my life with newts throughout the investigation.

REPORT ON EXHIBITION "LOCAL LOOK"

HELD AT THE SEELY HALL, BROOK, AUGUST 1st-31st, 1965

By Mrs. I. GASKIN

"Come to Brook for Local Look" would now seem to be the Society's annual watchword for August. Be that as it may, the slogan helped to lure 4204 visitors to this fifth successful exhibition, and to benefit funds by £128 15s. 9d. As the Newtown Estuary quota was completed in 1964, these funds are now allocated for Conservation and Research.

Up to the end of the third week the Exhibition Committee experienced some anxiety as, owing to the good weather, attendances were appreciably less than in 1964. However, the fourth week brought heavy rain, resulting in over 200 visitors daily. The unbroken record of increasing numbers was maintained by 316 more than last year.

Most gratifying was a marked rise in the number of Island residents attending; as also of Hampshire neighbours, a result of publicity given by the Hants and I.W. Naturalists' Trust. Many Commonwealth visitors, as well as some from Johannesburg, evidenced great interest.

The various section displays, again arranged by group members under their leader's direction, displayed many new features, including entomological food-specimens and a complete range of bird-nesting boxes. An entirely new stand was that of the Access to the Countryside section, featuring a detailed walk, the country code, and other items. eye-catching group of water-colours of Brook in the 1890s, presented to the Society at 1964 Exhibition. and now pleasingly framed, proved a great attraction.

1917 of Messrs. Dixon's postcards were sold; 21 Geological Histories, and 13 Geological Guides (all available); 155 Outline Maps of the Isle of Wight, and 43 Postcards of this year's Exhibition. Donations totalled £5 16s. 5½d.; total receipts £249 8s. 8d.; total expenses £120 12s. 11d.

Publicity was extended even further on the mainland, and A.A. road signs are now regularly positioned for the Exhibition period.

The Newtown subsidiary exhibition was again run under the direction and care of Mrs. M. Seabroke.

The general public are now coming to regard Local Look as a regular summer event, many visitors having attended every exhibition since its inception. Several letters, and a number of enquiries, have arrived addressed to "The Curator, Seely Hall." This once again underlines the often expressed desire for a permanent Natural History Museum for the Island.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1965

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 Meade, Church Road, and are 180ft. above sea level. The Sunshine Recorder and the Weather Vane are on the roof of the Town Hall. All the instruments in use have been supplied by the Meteorological Office and are tested periodically. Readings are taken at 0900 hours and at 1800 hours daily.

Shanklin just missed top place for sunshine in 1965. Jersey just managed to surpass the Shanklin record of 1878 hours by two hours. Ventnor and Sandown took third and fourth places so it seems that the Isle of Wight had more than its fair share of the sun. In spite of this pleasant record, the year as a whole was not particularly outstanding as far as weather was concerned. There were no extremes of any kind and the summer had few periods of settled weather. There were, however, plenty of sunny days and there were nearly 100 days out of the 122 days comprising the summer on which no rain was recorded between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The latter part of the year had plenty of sun, but also had spells of heavy rain.

The total rainfall for the year was 37.196 inches compared with the average figure of 35.81. Of this, over 17 inches fell in the last four months of the year, this in spite of October being exceptionally dry. If we cast our minds back to 1960, when 53.89 inches of rain fell, we may be excused for thinking that 1965 was not too bad after all.

Monthly Summary.

JANUARY.

A month of very mixed weather with hail, thunder, gales, and light snow flurries interspersed with some very sunny days. The sunshine total of 90 hours was the highest since 1959 and 20 hours up on the 17-year average. The two previous Januarys were the worst on record.

FEBRUARY.

The outstanding features were its dryness, the frequency of winds from the east, and the number of cold, cloudy days with consequent below average sunshine total and mean temperature. It was the driest February on record with less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. of recorded rainfall.

MARCH.

The month confirmed the old saw "in like a lion, out like a lamb." The first week consisted of cold days and nights with winds from the east. On the third the maximum screen temperature was only 38°F. and the night temperature fell to 19°F., a record low. The latter part of the month showed an improvement and the last few days were dry, warm, and sunny. The sunshine total was 170 hours, 29 hours up on the average, while the rainfall and temperature were average.

APRIL.

Another month with a mixed bag of weather, mainly unpleasant, including one snowfall and two hailstorms with cold northerly winds. Sunshine, rainfall, and temperature were all below the average.

MAY.

This month showed no great improvement. The recorded sunshine total of 224 hours was 25 hours below the average.

JUNE.

Up to the 14th there was little rain or wind and plenty of sunshine. The prolonged spell of low rainfall had become serious, so the next seven days during which 3in. of rain fell, mostly during the night, brought great relief. The month's total rainfall was 1½in. above the average, while the sunshine was 33 hours below.

JULY.

The one really bad month of the year, with cool unsettled weather. The sunshine record was poor and several records, all unfavourable, went by the board. It was the coldest July on record and the least sunny for 21 years. The maximum screen temperature of 67°F. and the minimum of 45°F. on the 4th and 17th were the lowest on record.

AUGUST.

The month showed a decided improvement with average amounts of sunshine, rainfall, and temperature, so visitors had little to complain of.

SEPTEMBER.

Often a pleasant interlude in years with a broken summer. This year it failed to live up to its reputation and was cool, wet, and cloudy.

OCTOBER.

What a month! July was easily bottom of the class, but October surpassed itself and went right to the top. Temperatures were well above average and it was the driest and second sunniest on record. Truly a month worthy of an ode by Shelley.

NOVEMBER.

A disappointing mixture of Indian Summer and Arctic weather. There were many days of unbroken sunshine and many on which the sun failed to put in an appearance.

DECEMBER.

A very sunny month with 21 hours of sun above the average. Unfortunately, the rainfall was also above average and the mean temperature failed to reach the average figure.

The year ended with a cloudy rainy day, as though it was rather ashamed at not having put up a better show during 1965.

WEATHER SUMMARY CHART FOR 1965

	Hours Sun	Rain Inches	Screen Temperatures			Mean Temp. °F.	Snow Storms	Thunder Storms
			Max. Mean °F.	Min. Mean °F.	Extremes °F.			
Jan.	88.9	4.82	44.3	36.5	51—27	40.4	3	—
Feb.	68.7	0.23	42.3	33.8	48—26	38.1	3	—
Mar.	170.1	2.7	47.6	36.9	59—19	42.3	2	—
April	188.3	1.24	53.5	40.8	62—34	46.7	1	1
May	224.2	1.71	58.0	46.5	74—35	52.1	—	—
June	222.1	3.4	63.0	50.1	71—40	56.5	—	2
July	195.9	3.01	63.4	53.4	67—45	58.4	—	1
Aug.	228.2	3.21	65.2	54.6	72—48	59.9	—	1
Sept.	158.7	4.71	61.4	49.9	67—43	55.6	—	—
Oct.	159.7	0.86	59.4	49.8	66—37	54.6	—	—
Nov.	95.7	5.51	48.7	38.7	57—25	43.7	3	—
Dec.	82.9	6.56	48.9	38.2	54—22	43.5	—	—
	1883.4	37.96						

REPORT ON THE NEWTOWN WHITSUN SURVEY—1965

By O. H. FRAZER

The seventh consecutive annual Whitsun Survey, organised by the Society, was held at Newtown during Whit-week from the evening of Friday 4th June to Sunday 13th June, 1965.

The following took part for varying periods :—

In Camp.—Mr. and Mrs. O. Frazer, Mrs. I. Gaskin, Mary Deacon, Deborah Medland, Vicky Warner, Joan Sly, Carole Holland, and Edward Cooke.

By The Day.—Mrs. M. Seabroke, Rosalind Tosdevin, Lesley Fox, Heather Way, Susan Seymour, Maria Brett, Janice Meaning, Hilary Smallman, Karen Baltzer, Sheila Hall, Jane Flack, Helene Miller, Carol Meadows, Cherry Balchin, Roberta Tosdevin, Barbara Dade, Colin Pope, Bobby Randall, Imelda Barnes, and other occasional visitors.

In addition, several members of the Society and the I.W. Science Teachers' Association, visited the area on Open Day, held on Saturday 12th June, 1965.

The Camp.—For the past several years members of the survey team have had to travel daily to and from Newtown, but this year a most successful camp was organised at Brickfield. Apart from the enjoyment of camping in such pleasant surroundings, this afforded an opportunity for a watch to be kept on the nesting areas in the early mornings and late evenings, when previous experience had shown that there is likely to be some disturbance of the birds by landing parties. On several occasions action was taken to prevent possible disturbance from this cause, and on one occasion late in the evening two wild Alsatian dogs were, with the help of the neighbouring farmer, driven off the point, where they could have caused great havoc and loss of life. Tents were provided by the campers, and much equipment was improvised, but in future years an effort must be made to cut down on the volume of camping gear to be carried. Permission was granted for the use of Brickfield Cottage as a store, for which purpose it is still being used. The interior condition is very good, but it does need well-shuttered windows, which can be opened to let in light and air, so that it can be used as a field study centre, and a refuge in case of really wet weather.

The Birds.—It was a particularly rewarding year for the observation of the shore-nesting birds, as all the eggs in the nests under observation hatched during the week. These included no fewer than six known nests of the Little Tern, two nests of Ringed Plover, and one nest of Oystercatcher. One hide had no fewer than five nests of three different species within observable distance, so that the siting of this hide presented some new problems. The excellent photographs of the Little Terns feeding their young had to be taken from the back of the hide.

It was also noted here that the Oystercatchers were somewhat persecuted by the Little Terns, which swooped on them if they came too near their nests, a difficult thing to avoid as they were so close together. Of particular joy and credit to the survey team was the successful hatching of the Ringed Plovers right on the point, where previous attempts at nesting had failed because of constant interruptions by people landing.

In addition to the above, a hide was moved rapidly from one nest to another in a small colony of Black-headed Gulls, as young were hatching throughout the week. At least one of the party would have gladly spent all her time in this hide, although it had several inches of water in it on occasions! A hide was also erected by a Herring Gull's nest, but only one picture was taken before it was deserted, due to the relentless mobbing by the Black-headed Gulls, which would not tolerate its presence so close to their hatching young. A Skylark's nest with hatched young was also observed closely on the point towards the end of the week.

Other Observations.—There was again no sign of the Kingfishers in their old breeding site, but subsequent reports of one having been seen at Newtown raise one's hopes that they may return. Search was made for Shelduck nests and young, without success. General observation was carried out from the top of the old brick kiln, and it is recommended that a permanent covered hide in this position should be made from available building material, and would be a major asset. A number of photographs in colour and black and white were taken of the flowers in the meadow and on the shingle, and more work of this kind might well be done. Follow-up work has resulted in some excellent drawings in colour and other media, reflecting great credit on those who have produced them.

Acknowledgments.—The sincerest thanks of all concerned are due to the following: Mr. and Mrs. Seabroke and family for constant help, and particularly for the transport of all the heavy camping gear and hides.

Mrs. I. Gaskin for help in supervising the camp.

To all who took part for their cheerfulness and ready willingness to undertake any task, without which the Survey could never take place.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION REPORT FOR 1965

During 1965 12 walks were arranged for the Ornithological group. Eighty members altogether took part at different times and 95 species of birds were seen during the year.

Four walks on Sunday mornings at low tide along the east bank of the Medina were specially rewarding for those beginning to study birds as waders, ducks, little grebes, swans, and coots could be seen near at hand.

Two of the four Newtown walks were arranged to take place during the spring and autumn migration, when it was possible to see several species which pass through the estuary. A visit to Brading Marches in October resulted in a large count of birds and the walk at St. Catherine's in September enabled members to see summer migrants collected there on their way to winter quarters.

There was a most enjoyable walk in October along the disused railway line from Three Gates lane to Five Houses—when many seed-eating birds were watched devouring the well-laden blackberry, hawthorn, and other fruiting plants.

In December a few members walked from Freshwater to Yarmouth along the railway track in springlike conditions after heavy rain, but very few birds were seen.

The count of 95 species seen during the year included Kingfisher, Little Stint, Greenshank, Curlew, Sandpiper, Sparrow Hawk, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, and Brent Goose.

M.M.S.

THE COLLARED DOVE IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

By J. STAFFORD

The spectacular spread of the Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 1500 miles across Europe from the south-east since the beginning of the century is now well known. A useful general account of it is that by Fisher.¹

The species arrived in Britain in 1955 (or perhaps in 1952). Its subsequent expansion here has been chronicled in a recent paper by Hudson,² who concluded that by 1964 there were over 18,000 birds in over 500 localities. The Isle of Wight naturally received a share of this total, although the first birds were not recorded until 1962.

The following chronological list includes all recorded occurrences of Collared Doves in the Island up to the end of 1965. Apart from records submitted by members in the usual way, information was also obtained from the general public by means of a special display and appeal at the Society's "Local Look" Exhibition in 1965. Thanks are due to all these observers, who are mentioned individually in the list.

Wootton.—First noted at Lushington Hill in 1962, and nested the same year. By 1965 had increased to 23 adults and young. D. Roberts.

(The above record had not come to light when information was being collected for Hudson's paper.² His Figure 7 should now be altered to show the Isle of Wight as a 1962 breeding area.)

Shanklin. Four localities. First recorded in the Landguard Manor area in 1962, and have been present ever since. First nested 1962 or 1963, and numbers now greatly increased. A pair in Howard Road, March-June, 1963. Four along East Cliff promenade in June, 1963. In West Hill Road and Victoria Avenue area, 1 in 1964 and up to 8 in 1965. J. M. Cheverton, J. Croucher, Miss D. Williams.

Sandown.—Two localities. Spread around Lake Hill and Battery Gardens area, where there were 8 in 1962. First nested 1962 or 1963, and since increased to over 40. One in Grove Road in September, 1965. Miss L. Kennedy.

Totland.—1 on June 24th, 1962, but only stayed for part of a day. Miss K. M. B. Hack, J. Stafford.

(At the time this was thought to be the first occurrence on the Island,³ but it is now known to have been ante-dated by the Wootton birds, and probably, too, by the Shanklin and Sandown ones).

Ventnor.—Two localities. From March 18th, 1963, up to 12 were scattered over the East Ventnor/Bonchurch area. They had increased to about 20 by 1964. First nested 1963 or 1964. In 1964 about 5 were also present in the Undercliff W. of Ventnor. B. J. Banyard.

¹ James Fisher. "The Collared Turtle Dove in Europe." *British Birds*, vol. 46 (1953), pp. 153-181.

² Robert Hudson. "The spread of the Collared Dove in Britain and Ireland." *British Birds*, vol. 58 (1965), pp. 105-139.

³ J. Stafford. "Bird report for 1962." *Proc. I.W.N.H.A.S.*, vol. v, part vii (1962), pp. 321-331.

St. Catherine's Point.—A presumed migrant on October 27th, 1963, and on October 18th, 1964. B. Duffin, E. Williams, E. J. Wiseman.

Fishbourne.—Present in 1964, and a pair nested in 1965. A. J. Henry, M. Porter.

Luccombe.—A pair seen in 1964, and a few pairs nested in 1965. Mrs. P. M. Alder, D. W. Axten, Mrs. F. J. Constable.

Freshwater.—A pair nested near Pound Green, 1965. About 12 at East Afton Farm on October 18th, 1965, were presumably migrating. D. O. Cooper, V. J. Montagu.

Brighstone.—A pair nested in Grange Chine in 1965. J. Stafford.

Chesell.—A pair resident and probably nested in 1965. J. Stafford.

Bembridge.—1 resident, May-July, 1965. Mrs. L. A. Moore.

Yarmouth.—A pair seen once in May, 1965. S. M. Baker, J. M. Gunn.

Newport.—4 in October and 2 in December, 1965, at Broadlands House. Mrs. M. Hawker.

Enough information is available to attempt an estimate of the total population. I have dealt with the inevitable gaps and uncertainties in the records in the ways described by Hudson,¹ so that the figures should be comparable with his. The few birds seen away from known breeding sites outside the breeding season were assumed to be migrating (or dispersing), and are not included in the totals. The result of the calculations is the following table.

	Year	1962	1963	1964	1965
No. of localities where birds were resident in the breeding season		3	6	10	15
No. of localities where they probably nested		2	4	6	11
Approximate number of birds		12	46	102	186

The totals are far from precise, and should be treated with reserve, but they do indicate that on average the numbers of both sites and birds are being roughly doubled each year. This enormous rate of growth cannot be maintained indefinitely, and appears to be decreasing in the more recent years.

The Collared Dove needs careful identification to distinguish it from the domestic Barbary Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*). The latter species frequently escapes from aviaries, and at Sandown in particular there are some which either live ferally or are allowed to fly freely. The two species are able to interbreed, the hybrid offspring exhibiting a variety of plumages. Thus a flock of 40 (mostly Collared Doves) at Sandown included two Barbary Doves, six white hybrids, and three almost white ones.

Although fears have been expressed that the Collared Dove may become a pest, no evidence was received locally to substantiate them.

¹ Robert Hudson. "The spread of the Collared Dove in Britain and Ireland." *British Birds*, vol. 58 (1965), pp. 105-139.

Local enquiries by the Ministry of Agriculture also drew a complete blank. The Collared Doves at Wootton come regularly to feed with poultry, but happily this arrangement is tolerated by both the poultry and their owner.

Almost all the nesting sites are in the same type of habitat—town or village gardens with tall trees and some cover. There is an ample supply of this habitat still unused, both in those localities already colonised and elsewhere (there are, for instance, no records yet from Ryde or Cowes). We may, therefore, confidently expect that Collared Doves will continue to increase for some time. Possibly much of the Island will come to resemble one observer's description of the Landguard Manor area—"Where once Woodpigeons were obvious here, now Collared Doves seem to have taken over."

THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND THE REVOLUTION OF 1688

By J. D. JONES

Among the small collection of manuscripts, known as the Clarke Papers, in Carisbrooke Castle Museum, three documents relate to the part played by the Isle of Wight in the political upheaval that resulted in the deposition of James II in 1688. The intention of this paper is to preface the published transcript of these manuscripts with a short discussion of their historical setting.

A résumé of the general causes of the so-called "Glorious Revolution" must here necessarily be brief, and thus liable to the faults of over-simplification. Several factors were working, but it is probably true to say that the overriding cause was a general anxiety to ensure a Protestant succession to the throne. The (nominally) Protestant Charles II was succeeded in 1685 by his Roman Catholic brother James, and the Monmouth rebellion was only one symptom of the tense political atmosphere that resulted. There was, fortunately, a safety-valve; the heir-presumptive to the throne was the Protestant Mary, wife of Prince William of Orange and elder daughter of James II by his first wife, Anne Hyde. Nor was William's interest in the English throne limited to his wife's claim, for he himself was a grandson of Charles I. Mary's younger sister Anne was also a Protestant, so the Protestant succession was probably safe.

Probably, but not certainly; for on Sunday 10th June, 1688, James II's second wife, the Roman Catholic Mary of Modena, gave birth to a prince,¹ and at once the situation was transformed. In place of a Protestant heir-presumptive there was now a Roman Catholic heir-apparent. The Protestant hubbub became strident. There were widespread—and quite unjustified—rumours that the child was a changeling. Nevertheless, there was an official façade of rejoicing. William of Orange himself sent a congratulatory envoy to London—in reality a scout for invasion; and in the Isle of Wight, as elsewhere, the local militia companies paraded outside their various parish churches for festive bonfires and fusillades after evening prayer on Sunday 1st July.²

These official rejoicings, however, were overtaken by another development, perhaps even more deadly to the régime. Against the advice of his Lord Chancellor Jeffreys,³ James II brought to trial seven bishops who had refused to support his Declaration of Indulgence granting toleration to Dissenters and, of course, to Roman Catholics. Here again there is a connection with the Isle of Wight, albeit a distant one; for one of the seven bishops—Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells—

¹ James Francis Edward Stuart (d. 1766), "The Old Pretender."

² Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 23 (printed as Appendix A of this paper).

³ G. W. Keeton: *Lord Chancellor Jeffreys and the Stuart cause* (1965) p. 441.

had been formerly a Rector of Brighstone from 1667 to 1669.¹ On Saturday 30th June, 1688, the bishops were acquitted by the jury hearing their case. The London crowds cheered; and that same day another seven people—now known as the “Immortal Seven”²—sent off the formal invitation, without which William of Orange would not move to intervene. When, the next evening, the bonfires blazed outside the Isle of Wight churches to celebrate the birth of the prince, the revolution had already been put in motion.

James II was slow to recognise how serious the threat was, but at last the warnings reaching him from different sources could no longer be ignored. Towards the end of August he began to refer openly to the possibility of a Dutch invasion, and to assemble his defences. In the Isle of Wight these were in the hands of the bustling, impetuous Governor, Sir Robert Holmes, who immediately busied himself with preparations. The first step was to ensure the smooth working of the beacon alarm system, and his instructions for the most easterly station, on Bembridge Down, still survive.³ The beacons—tall poles surmounted by iron fire-baskets containing tar-soaked faggots—were in groups of three. In the case of these orders, issued on Thursday 30th August, 1688, one beacon was to be fired if more than 20 ships were seen by the watchers; a second beacon followed if the ships were then identified as Dutch; and a third indicated a landing on the Island. With the alarm system fully manned, Holmes now looked to the local militia companies. Hard as he worked—in the early part of September he was out in the field drilling his troops every day—he could find little to encourage him. The Island was ripe for a change of régime. The seditious song “Lillibullero” was going the rounds of the taverns, and even the militia was verging on mutiny. On Monday 3rd September, using a military drum as a writing desk, and holding down his writing paper against the teasing gusts of wind, he rushed off in his angular scrawl a letter to the Navy Secretary, Pepys: “I was never soe afraid as I am at presente for feare of those devils faling upon me in this sad condition this place is in.”⁴

September wore on into October. It began to look as if the autumn gales would put a close to the invasion season. The news, when it came, was all the more startling for its suddenness. On the night of Friday 19th October a boat scraped ashore at Bonchurch. Aboard it was a William Townley, who at once made urgent inquiries for the local militia commander. This was Major Thomas Knight of Great Landguard, near Shanklin,⁵ and the next morning Townley was hammering at his door. He had indeed an extraordinary tale to tell. Having sailed from Rotterdam the previous

¹ *Dictionary of National Biography* (1921-2), x, 1287.

² The Earls of Shrewsbury, Devonshire, and Danby; Lord Lumley; the Bishop of London; Edward Russell, and Henry Sidney.

³ Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 24 (printed as Appendix B of this paper).

⁴ Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS. Rawl. A. 179, f.44v.

⁵ *Victoria County History of Hants. and I.W.* v (1912), p. 164. The house was pulled down in 1879 and rebuilt.

Wednesday, 17th October, he had seen William's invasion fleet assembling at Brill, and ready to sail. Major Knight had some reservations about the credibility of his informant; but he dismissed Townley and wrote a short report for Sir Robert Holmes. This finally reached the Governor at 4 o'clock that afternoon,¹ and Holmes wasted no further time in getting more details. Townley was urgently summoned from his home at East Cowes, where he had intended to stay that night, and at 8 o'clock in the evening he was brought before the Governor.² The details that now emerged, if true, could mean nothing but an imminent invasion. The transports that had moved down from Rotterdam to the Brill included cavalry. There were ten Swedish ships, full of troops, in the Texel, and the main part of the fleet was embarking infantry at Goeree and Helvoetsluys. There were many English troops among the army, and all the English vessels in Holland had been commandeered on a monthly charter basis.³ Holmes now got Townley to make an estimate of the strength of the invasion force, and the reply made his eyes widen. Surely no fleet in Europe could move such an army. Holmes's suspicion grew. Either this man was a Dutch agent sent to shatter the enemy's morale; or, innocent or not, he was going to have just that effect anyway. Townley was not destined to spend that night at his home in East Cowes. He spent it in prison, while Holmes scribbled a report to the Earl of Sunderland, Secretary of State.

There are several points of interest about this incident. In the first place, the intelligence brought back by Townley was accurate. The Dutch fleet did, in fact, sail, in overwhelming strength, on Friday 19th October—the very day of Townley's landing on the Isle of Wight. Secondly, the very act of getting out of the fleet's concentration area on the eve of invasion was something of an achievement, for the Dutch had thrown out a security blanket, with particular attention to foreign travellers.⁴ Finally, this report filtering in to the Isle of Wight was almost certainly the first intimation the English government had of the imminence of invasion. Sunderland sent Holmes a curt acknowledgment on Thursday 25th October,⁵ and news of the actual sailing reached James II on the night of Friday/Saturday, 26/27th October⁶ (Sunderland having by this time been dismissed from the King's service).

Holmes meanwhile had been shaping his tactics on what he hoped was a realistic appraisal of the situation. He seems to have regarded a Dutch landing on the Island as quite possible; but he was keenly alert to the greater probability of trouble from local dissidents. In his orders of 30th August to the beacon watchers (appendix B of this paper) the Governor is explicitly stated to have his headquarters at Carisbrooke

¹ Public Record Office (henceforth abbreviated P.R.O.), SP.31/4/150.

² Holmes was probably by now at Yarmouth.

³ P.R.O., SP.31/4/148.

⁴ E. B. Powley: *The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688* (henceforth abbreviated as "Powley") (1928), p. 46, quoting Huygens's *Journal* for 27 Oct. N.S.

⁵ P.R.O., SP.44/97/3.

⁶ Powley, 70.

Castle; yet, in a letter to Pepys the following Monday,¹ Holmes is already hinting at a change of plan: "I am doing all I can to give astop at Yarmouth and Hurst Castell, if I have anie help from the King they shall not have this Island soe easelie as they may expect." From this date onwards Holmes repeatedly emphasised the importance of these two forts.² There were probably several reasons contributing to this switch; there was Holmes's own close connection with Yarmouth; there was the dilapidation of the barrack accommodation at Carisbrooke Castle.³ The deciding factor, however, must have been the hostility of the Islanders. Yarmouth and Hurst between them guaranteed, in the last resort, an exit from the Island; and Holmes would have been aware of the plight of the Royalist garrison at Carisbrooke, marooned in the middle of Parliamentary territory, at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642.

The Governor's hope, of course, was that it would not come to the last resort. Though he had no illusions about the mood of the Islanders, he clung to the belief that a small reinforcement of regular soldiers would overawe them. No such help was forthcoming. Though recognising the possible threat to Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, the most that James II could do was to station a frigate on scout duty in the Channel. He just could not afford the necessary troops.⁴ Certainly, by 22nd November, there was not a penny left in the Ordnance Office.⁵ Holmes must have known how slim were the chances of help from the mainland, and with characteristic energy he set about a programme of self-help. On 4th September he began to recruit from the local militia companies two hundred hand-picked dragoons.⁶ Like an earlier Governor, Colonel Hammond, when the Island was threatened by a Royalist fleet in 1648,⁷ he appreciated the particular value of a mobile force of cavalry in the defence of the Island. As Holmes's defence policy hinged increasingly on Yarmouth and Hurst, he decided on 20th October to enlist four hundred of the more dependable militia to garrison these two forts.⁸ How dependable these troops were we shall shortly see. Finally, he arranged for all boats to be concentrated at Yarmouth in the event of an alarm.⁹

William of Orange, meanwhile, had met with a check from the weather. Contrary gales had forced his fleet back to harbour, and it

¹ Bodleian Library, MS. Rawl. A. 179, ff.44v—45.

² P.R.O., SP.31/4/148; Historical Manuscripts Commission, 7th Report (henceforth abbreviated H.M.C., vii), p. 414a; Historical Manuscripts Commission, 11th Report, appendix, part 5 (1887) (henceforth abbreviated H.M.C. xi), p. 185.

³ Historical Manuscripts Commission, 12th Report, appendix, part 6, p. 135.

⁴ J. R. Tanner: *Naval Preparations of James II in 1688*, in *English Historical Review*, viii (1893), p. 276.

⁵ J. Ehrman: *The Navy in the War of William III* (1953), p. 237.

⁶ Bodleian Library, MS. Rawl. A.179, f.45.

⁷ R. Bell: *Memorials of the Civil War* (1849), ii, p. 9.

⁸ P.R.O., SP.31/4/148.

⁹ H.M.C. vii, 412b.

seemed that James II's faith in the early winter weather would be justified. It was on Thursday 1st November that the wind shifted, and the so-called "Protestant wind," which was to carry the fleet to England, began blowing. On the evening of the same day the fleet again set sail, holding a northerly course. Then, at about noon on Friday 2nd November, with the wind firmly in the east, the fleet changed course to south-west and headed for the Straits of Dover. Early on the Saturday morning the Dutch had a glimpse of part of the main English fleet, penned in by the contrary wind near the Gunfleet buoy off the Essex coast. Towards midday William and his fleet began the passage of Dover Strait—an awesome and impressive exercise in psychological warfare. The cliffs on each side were crowded with sightseers, and the spectacle was one to remember. Fifty-nine warships and some two hundred transports had formed up in line abreast, straddling the Channel from coast to coast. As the gaily coloured ships came level with Dover and Calais they fired a salute. In the front was the Prince's frigate *Brill* flying the English colours with the mottoes "For the Protestant Religion and Liberty" and "*Je Maintiendrai*." For three hours the solemn music of trumpets and drums wafted over the water to the people on the cliffs. As dusk fell, with the fleet off Beachy Head, the spectacle was, if anything, even more dramatic. The sea was spangled with lights as the Dutch force, like some great, floating city, made its ponderous way down the Channel. Ashore, all along the south coast, festoons of sparks flared out from the blazing signal beacons, whipped by the strong easterly wind and clearly visible to the Dutch fleet. The moment of peril for the Isle of Wight was drawing near.

It was about 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, 4th November, that those aboard the fleet had their first sight of the Isle of Wight, "bearing north-west by north about 4 miles off."¹ Ashore, things were soon stirring. The cliffs began to fill with watchers, while at Brading, about 9 o'clock, Captain Thomas Knight, the commander of the St. Helens militia company wrote to warn the Governor: "This morning was seen, which are still in sight, a very great fleet, but being very far off I cannot give an exact account, but I think it must be the Dutch fleet."² In accordance with the existing orders of 30th August³ Knight sent his message to Holmes at Carisbrooke Castle, evidently unaware that his headquarters was now at Yarmouth, where the report was finally received in the early afternoon. Meanwhile a customs officer from the east of the Island had hurried in to Cowes Castle with the news that some two hundred ships had been sighted off the Island. While the drums at Cowes were beating the alarm and the boats were being marshalled for transport to Yarmouth, Captain Peter Gallois, commander of the castle, scribbled a dispatch to the Governor—this time correctly addressed to Yarmouth.⁴ Long before Holmes had the news, the

¹ H.M.C. xi, 203.

² H.M.C. vii, 412b.

³ Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 24 (and Appendix B of this paper).

⁴ H.M.C. vii, 412b.

southern hills of the Island were speckled with round-eyed spectators, concealing their satisfaction with varying degrees of success. There must have been some thin congregations at morning prayer this Sunday. At a Conventicle meeting at Stroud Green (Chale Green) the minister, Thomas Newnham — described as “in his sermons a Boanerges” — rose to the occasion. He “set aside the subject which he intended to have preached on, and gave his people a discourse suited to such a circumstance of providence, with which many were much affected.”¹

In the Dutch fleet attention was concentrated on the coming and going of pinnaces between the Prince's frigate *Brill* and Admiral Arthur Herbert's ship the *Leyden*. Thousands of eyes must have watched the masthead of the *Brill* for the plain red flag, flown under the English colours, which would signal a landing. They watched in vain. The progress of the fleet continued. By mid-afternoon Sir Robert Holmes, having sent a dispatch to Lord Preston (who had now succeeded the Earl of Sunderland as Secretary of State), hurried up to a vantage point on the downs just in time to see the fleet vanishing into the mist. “When we saw them last,” he wrote in a later message to Preston, “they stood to the westward, the great ships with their topsails upon the cap, and many of them with their lower sails brayled up, which I suppose was their men-of-war staying for their loaded ships.”² So far out to sea were the Dutch ships standing when last seen that Holmes felt sure they were making for France and not for any point on the English coast. A less likely destination than France could hardly be imagined, but Holmes was in no mood for cool reflection.

The next day, Monday 5th November, the Island militia were on duty at full strength on the downs all day, with Holmes in command. Farther up the Channel the English fleet, having at last struggled out of Gunfleet and round the Galloper Sand, was now creaking, helplessly becalmed, off Beachy Head. Lower down the Channel, at Torbay, the Dutch fleet was taking grateful advantage of the same calm, to land its army in near-ideal conditions. Holmes meanwhile, from his vantage-ground in the Isle of Wight, was at a loss to know what had happened. He still thought the fleet had gone to France, though there was a nagging doubt that they might have used the previous night to slip into Lyme Bay³ — which, indeed, was the case. Then, as the late-afternoon light faded and Holmes returned to Yarmouth Castle, things began to happen at the other end of the Island. Some straggling units of the Dutch fleet were still moving desultorily down Channel. Towards evening a man-of-war (of forty guns) and two frigates (of thirty guns apiece) came within reach of Spithead. They were loaded with 1800 troops — the Duke of Holstein's regiment⁴ — and their main business was, of course, at Tor-

¹ Edmund Calamy: *The Nonconformist's Memorial: being an account of the Ministers who were ejected or silenced after the Restoration* . . . (ed. by Samuel Palmer 1775), ii, 27-8.

² H.M.C. vii, 413a.

³ Ibid.

⁴ H.M.C. vii, 423b.

bay in Lyme Bay, with the rest of their fleet. They appear to have met up with the English sloop *Fan-Fan*¹—one of the very few English naval units as far west as this—and they took the chance of chasing it. The *Fan-Fan*, outgunned as it was, used low cunning and retreated to the “Horse,” sometimes known as the “Owers,” a sandbank near Spithead and a possible trap for foreign ships without a pilot.² The three Dutch ships now gave up the chase, sailed coolly into Brading Harbour, and dropped anchor off St. Helens.³ Presently the splash of oars was heard and a ship’s boat grounded on the beach. It contained five sailors—three of them Dutch and the other two English.⁴ They made for the nearest house and started negotiating the purchase of provisions. Cautiously, more and more of the local people emerged from their cottages to look at these invaders. Meanwhile they had a highly-coloured tale to tell their hostess. Yes, they were from the Dutch fleet. There were 600 ships altogether, and an army of 60,000.⁵ They asked whether there were many Papists in the Isle of Wight, and where the King was.⁶ Then one of the two English sailors was recognised by a St. Helens seaman as a man from Poole. This helped the conversation along. There were thirty more ships to follow, said the Poole man. The main fleet had landed in Lyme Bay⁷ and the ships were then going on to harbour in the Solent.⁸ They could have been in England sooner, he continued, “but that was the time that was appointed by some that had promised to meet them.”⁹ At this stage the fraternisation was interrupted by the arrival of the local militia, and the intruders ran for their boat and rowed to safety, taking with them, according to one account, a local pilot.¹⁰

Sir Robert Holmes had no sleep that night. Over at Yarmouth he was receiving relays of couriers reporting the developments in Brading Harbour; and through the dark hours he was busy deploying his local forces and writing dispatches to London. By the first light of dawn his dispositions were complete. Brading Harbour was ringed with troops—not the unfledged local militia this time, but veteran companies of dragoons: Captain Serle’s company at St. Helens, and Captain Holmes’s company on the Bembridge side. As the darkness faded, however, the harbour was seen to be empty. The ships had gone during the night. Two of the dragoons were at once sent up to St. Catherine’s Hill on the south of the Island to find what course the Dutch had taken. Three ships were sighted, their sails flapping in the listless breeze,

¹ Powley, 118. ² H.M.C. xi, 203. ³ H.M.C. vii, 413a. ⁴ Ibid., 413b.

⁵ Ibid. 414a. The report was, of course, exaggerated. The total fleet was about half this size, and the army probably did not number above 13,000.

⁶ H.M.C. xi, 204.

⁷ H.M.C. vii, 414a. It is interesting that these Dutch sailors knew where the main fleet had landed, because—as it is hoped to show later in this paper—the final decision on destination was probably taken by the Prince while passing the Isle of Wight on 4th November. He had, however, left Captain Vander Saan cruising off the Island to notify stragglers (H.M.C. xi, 203) and these three ships must have been in contact with him.

⁸ H.M.C. vii, 413b.

⁹ Ibid., 414a.

¹⁰ H.M.C. xi, 203.

apparently on a course for the Cape de la Hague, just west of Cherbourg.¹ When this report reached Holmes at Yarmouth later that Tuesday morning it confirmed him in his earlier opinion that the Dutch fleet was making for France. This interlocked, too, with another report just received. A hoy had arrived from Weymouth, sailing the previous evening and making the last part of the voyage by daylight that morning; and the captain told Holmes that, between St. Alban's Head and the Isle of Wight there was not a ship to be seen to seawards. Holmes now sent a hoy to reconnoitre as far as Portland.

In London, meanwhile, the King was keeping an anxious vigil. Late on Saturday 3rd November the news had arrived that the Dutch had slipped through into the Channel, and during the early hours of Sunday morning James II was conferring with his generals about the dispatch of reinforcements to Portsmouth, now thought to be the enemy's objective.² This opinion was confirmed when on Monday Holmes's messages, written on Sunday afternoon and evening, were received. "We were in great apprehensions for you," wrote Lord Preston, "lest they might have made some attempt upon your island."³ Then, on Tuesday afternoon, the King had news that the fleet was preparing to land at Torbay, and Holmes was left to fend for himself. He still spared no energy in ensuring that the Island defences were fully mobilised, and his general order for the rendezvous of the militia, issued on Monday 12th November, is evidence of his thoroughness.⁴ He knew by now that the Dutch had landed at Torbay, but he was preparing either for the arrival of further stragglers like the three ships at St. Helens on 5th November, or for an attempt to harbour the Dutch fleet of transports in the Solent. No thoroughness on the Governor's part, however, could counteract the temper of the Islanders, whose sympathies were undisguisedly with William of Orange. During his vigil in the early hours of Tuesday 6th November Holmes wrote from Yarmouth to Lord Preston: "I shall not be able to oppose these people, being master of this island, except the little forts and castles that may hold out for some time. Part of the militia is grown mutinous already and refuses to follow their commander's orders, as I am afraid they will do everywhere where His Majesty has occasion to call for them . . . I hope His Majesty will give me some speedy relief; for want of one troop of horse to keep this militia in awe the island will be lost without striking one stroke for it; God knows how I shall be dealt with by this militia."⁵ Nevertheless, Holmes managed to preserve effective authority for another month. Then, early in December, the blow fell. Provisions at

¹ H.M.C. vii, 413b. The three ships completed their Odyssey by slipping successfully through English navy units in the Channel and returning home. Their arrival off the Brill caused even more consternation than their recent incursion into the Solent. They were mistake for hostile French ships, and caused the Dutch Parliament to go into emergency night session (H.M.C. vii, 423b).

² A. Bryant: *Samuel Pepys, the saviour of the Navy* (1938), p. 299.

³ H.M.C. vii, 348a.

⁴ Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 20 (printed as Appendix C of this paper).

⁵ H.M.C. vii, 414a.

Yarmouth were running low, so on Friday 7th December Holmes sent out his senior lieutenant with his company to do some foraging. The weather on Saturday was wet and blustery, and after dark the other lieutenant took advantage of the storm and of the absence of his colleague, to assemble some boats and abscond with the majority—about thirty men—of his company. They all crossed over to Hurst Castle and tried to capture that; but the commander at Hurst, surprised at seeing a militia officer demanding admittance at such a time of night, happened to notice several other men crouching at the foot of the wall, waiting to rush the entrance, and so he refused to open the gate.¹ Holmes was now left almost on his own at Yarmouth Castle, lamenting the fact that the townspeople of Yarmouth were on the point of declaring for William of Orange. One consolation, at least, he drew from the desertions, that he was “rid of villains that upon all occasions would have taken an opportunity to do him mischief.” It was about this time also that Holmes noticed something even more ominous; he was no longer getting replies to his requests for instructions from the Government in London. On Wednesday 12th December he wrote from Yarmouth to the Earl of Dartmouth,² in command of the English fleet which had been at Spithead since 22nd November,³ asking for instructions about making prizes of Dutch ships, in view of the fact that he had had no answer from the Court. It was too late. The previous day James II had fled from London, throwing the Great Seal into the Thames as he went; and on Wednesday, the date of Holmes’s letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, Dartmouth himself surrendered the English fleet to William of Orange. The change of régime awaited only formal completion in January, 1689.

This, then, is the plain narrative. It leaves several questions unanswered, the most important being whether the Dutch at any stage intended a landing on the Isle of Wight. James II and his advisers made their preparations on the basis of a possible landing on the east or north-east coast of England—hence the stationing of the English fleet at Gunfleet—and indeed such an intention is clearly implicit in William of Orange’s instructions⁴ to his Admiral, Arthur Herbert, on 27th October (New Style, equals 17th October O.S.). There was, however, room for flexibility in the Dutch plans. The Prince took with him twenty English pilots,⁵ enough for almost any eventuality. The only suggestion that there was a considered decision to sail for the south and west seems to be a report to James II from Ignatius White, Marquis d’Albeville, his envoy at the Hague (for diplomatic relations with Holland continued unbroken), who alleged that the Prince’s invasion

¹ H.M.C. xi, 225.

² George Legge, Earl of Dartmouth, who had replaced the Catholic Sir Roger Strickland in command of the English fleet on 24th September, was the son of Colonel William Legge, who accompanied Charles I to the Isle of Wight in 1647.

³ Ehrman, *op. cit.*, p. 236n.

⁴ Powley, 43-4.

⁵ D. Ogg: *England in the reigns of James II and William III* (1955), p. 214.

fleet was held up just off the Dutch coast to await the return of Eullenstyn "from some creek or place upon the coasts of England, where he was to meet somebody."¹ The report continued, according to d'Albeville, "that your Majestie had given such good orders in all places towards the north, that the Prince could not do better, than land somewhere in the west where your Majesty does not expect him; that men, nor horses, nor provisions can be wanting in them parts, where men and townes would not faile to declare for him; that he could land even at Rey (Rye) very well and commodiously free, and open; that he might make an attempt upon the Isle of Wight, in passing by Poole haven, where the whole fleet could lay conveniently; that there was nothing to be feared, since the French King had no shippes at Dunkirk, nor Calais, and that taking his course he could eschew an engagement with your Majesty's fleet; a councill of warr being presently called, where Dickfelt, and Baron de Heebren first Commissioner for forreigne affaires were present, being yet with the Prince, it was resolved immediately to sett sayle towards the west." This hardly agrees, however, with the fact that the fleet took a northerly course until the afternoon of the second day, only then making a drastic change of course which actually brought them in sight of units of the English fleet, before entering Dover Strait. This has every sign of a subsequent change of plan. One of the few indications of the Prince's own intentions comes in a letter he wrote on 16th November to his friend Prince Georg Friedrich von Waldeck, commanding his army back in Holland: "Il est facheux que nous avons este obligé par le vent de mestre pied a terre de ce coste ici du West."² This seems to be reasonably conclusive evidence that the westerly move down the Channel was an improvisation.³

Given this fact, what were then the chances of a landing on the Isle of Wight? This possibility seems to have been carefully considered when the fleet came up to the Island on Sunday 4th November. It was an auspicious day—the Prince's birthday and the anniversary of his wedding. According to one of the sailors on the *Leyden*, the Admiral's flagship, the question of a landing was debated, but on the advice of his pilots the Prince decided to sail on towards Exmouth and Dartmouth.⁴ The reason given was "seeing the easterly wind continued according to wish," implying that advantage was taken of the continuing wind to get farther down-Channel and presumably out of range of the English fleet. There was, on the other hand, a latent threat in the weather, which the pilots must have brought to the Prince's attention. Once into the Solent on an easterly wind, there would be no easy getting out again, at least until the Isle of Wight was controlled; for the westerly Channel at Hurst, apart from its difficult currents, was under the muzzles of the Yarmouth and Hurst Castle guns. A landing on the seaward coast of the Isle of Wight, on the other hand, can hardly

¹ H.M.C. xi, 201.

² Powley, 115.

³ M. Ashley: *The Glorious Revolution of 1688* (1966), p. 154.

⁴ H.M.C. xi, 203.

have been considered. It was too exposed to the weather ; apart from Sandown Bay, there were either sheer cliffs or treacherous rock ledges, and Sandown Bay itself was guarded by a fort. An attempt on the Isle of Wight would certainly have been more hazardous than the landings in the West Country. Nevertheless, it was a very open possibility, and the English Admiral Dartmouth, off Beachy Head on Monday 5th November, was working on the assumption that the Dutch had probably entered the Solent.¹ The King at this time was of the same opinion.²

Another point of interest is the effectiveness or otherwise of the Island's beacon alarm system. It failed, in fact, on two counts, and in each case the failure was probably due to defects in the Governor's instructions. In the first place, the earliest alarm of the approach of the Dutch from the east on 4th November was apparently given by daylight look-outs in the Bembridge area. Yet, all the previous night the beacons had been burning along the Sussex coast, and visibility was good enough at least to allow them to be seen by the Dutch fleet.³ Unless there was a local mist, some of these fires should have been sighted from the Island. There can be little doubt that they were either not sighted, or else they were misinterpreted, for the first warning of any sort did not reach Holmes at Yarmouth until the Sunday afternoon. Secondly, when a small unit of the Dutch fleet did come in to Brading Harbour and send a boat ashore, a courier had to toil the 23 miles to Yarmouth to give the alarm to Holmes, and there is no mention, in Holmes's reports, of the beacons being used. If we now look at Holmes's beacon instructions of 30th August, we see that these two contingencies are not provided for. He required the beacons to signal back to the mainland in the event of a suspicious sighting or a landing, but there is no mention of the interpretation of signals from the mainland ; and he provided only for the sighting of more than twenty ships, thus laying himself open to incursions by straggling units like the flotilla off St. Helens. The faults in Holmes's instructions are the more important in contrast with the similar but much more flexible orders prepared by Sir George Carey a century earlier⁴ for the look-out against Spanish ships. Using substantially the same beacon equipment, Carey in his instructions provided for almost every foreseeable emergency—though it is fair to add that Holmes's orders were drafted under much more urgent stress, and their shortcomings have to be weighed with this in mind.

Finally, after Holmes's gloomy speculations about his fate at the hands of the mutinous Islanders, what became of him? The answer was typical of the smooth transition of Government machinery that made this remarkable Revolution so impressive. The English fleet and most of the units of national administration were handed over intact to William and Mary ; and Holmes was part of the parcel—he continued

¹ H.M.C. vii, 264.

² A. Bryant, *op. cit.*, 299.

³ H.M.C. vii, 226a.

⁴ British Museum, MS. Lansdowne 40, No. 8.

as Governor of the Isle of Wight, and within a year was flinging himself with his old energy into arrangements for defence against the French. One of his first jobs under the new régime was to deal with a strange backwash of the 1688 Revolution—the billeting on the Isle of Wight of 1500 Irish troops,¹ Tyrconnel's levies that had formed part of James II's standing army, and been the cause of so much bitterness in England. The problem of billeting these "overners" in the Island was a delicate one. Scottish troops had been quartered in private houses in the Island in Charles I's reign, at the time of Buckingham's expedition to the Isle of Rhé, and the legacy was a large, unpaid bill for billeting money² and—according to Sir John Oglander—an increased illegitimacy rate.³ In this case, with the Irish, there were few lurid incidents—though some of the customs officials at Poole were detected in a conspiracy to smuggle a few of the Irish soldiers into France, for a fee of fourteen guineas⁴—but there were the inevitable unpaid debts for billeting money due to private householders. Hardly had the Irish arrived, when Sir Robert Dillington, one of the M.P.s representing Newport in the new Parliament, drafted a petition to the Prince complaining that "those Irish newly come into the Island are quartered on private houses, notwithstanding your Highnesses most gracious Declaration to the contrary, which is a great Oppression to the poore Inhabitants there, and might easily be prevented by Quartering them on the severall Garrisons as well as in Publick houses, Carisbrooke Castle being spacious enough to containe the Major part of them."⁵ In April, 1689, arrangements were put in hand for shipping some of the Irish away to Hamburg,⁶ but the billeting problem remained throughout most of the year. On 8th August the Mayor of Newport refused to sign a quittance note to the officers of the outgoing regiment of Colonel Lutterell because many of the citizens had not been paid their billeting money; and the Corporation "further agreed that none of the souldiers of my Lord Mordants Regiment now coming to this Towne shall be quartered in any private houses but in the publique houses only."⁷ Sir Robert Holmes was still Governor of the Isle of Wight; and he still had his problems.

¹ H.M.C. xi, 246.

² Isle of Wight County Record Office, OG.79.

³ Oglander notebooks (f.101 of the bound volumes of photostat copies in Carisbrooke Castle Museum).

⁴ *Calendar of Treasury Papers, 1557-1696* (1868), p. 35.

⁵ P.R.O., SP.31/4/253.

⁶ H.M.C., 12th Report, appendix part vi, 176.

⁷ Newport Corporation MSS., *Convocation Book*, vol. ii (1659-1760), p. 225.

APPENDIX A.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 23 :

(*Recto*)

I have received especial orders from ye Governor to warne ye severall Capts. of ye Western Regiment that they meet near their severall Parish-Churches on Sunday next being ye first of July after evening prayer with their respective companies and use such expressions of joy by making bonfires and firing vollies as are requisite at ye birth of a Prince : Wherefore you are desired to issue out orders to ye severall Capts. of ye said Regiment to put ye said orders in Execution. June 28. 88.

EDW. WORSELEY.

To John Leigh Esqr.
Major of ye Western Regiment.

Will. Stephens June 28. 8 in ye evening.
Hen. Worseley at ye same time.
Tho Urry the 29 June.

To bee sent with all speed from Capt to Capt, and the last to return it unto mee./ : 29 June : 88 : At 7 in ye morn : John Leigh.

Tho : Wavell June ye 29th at 8 in ye morn :
David Urry June the 29th at 12 aclok.
Tho : Reade June ye 30th at ii in morning.

APPENDIX B.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 24 :

Isle of Wight
the 30th of Augt.
1688

Instructions for Capt : Tho : Knight

You are upon the first signe of any alarme to repaire yourselfe in person to the Beecons upon Benbridg Downe and in case you see any number of ships Exceeding twenty sayle standing in for this Island ; to cause the Estermost beacon upon the said Downe to be set on fire and theare to stay till such time as you can Discerne (or make them to be Dutch ships either by their colours or hulls then to set the second beecon on fire and in case that they Land within or without the Estermost part of the Island then to set the third Beecon on fire ; and Imediatly after that to march with yr. company to the place whear you perceive them to Land there to make what oposition you can till such time as more succour comes to you

You are allso to send an Exprese on horseback with all the speed posible to me to Carisbrooke Castle together with all the particulers that you can Discerne

You are to Apoint a rendesvouse for your company about the Estermost end of Brading Downe where they are to keepe together till such time as you march as above mentioned or upon your receiving further orders from me for your so Doeing this shall be your suffitient Warant

APPENDIX C.

Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Clarke MS. 20 :

(*Recto*)

A Generall Order for the Rendevouz of all the militia of the Isle of Wight vizt.

Sr Edward Worsley	Shalflett
Towne Companies to Remaine	
Major Leigh	Ningwood
Captn Wavell	Colborne
Captn Henry Worsley	Wellow
Captn David and Thomas Urry	Yarmouth to be relieved
Major Knight	Sandham
Captn Knight	St. Hellens
Captn Oglander	Ride
Captn Newland	East Cowes

The other foure Companies to Newport of the Eastern Regiment. Dragoons of the East Medine to Newport & to send 4 orderly men to Captn Knight. 4 to Ride to Capt Oglander 4 to East Cowes to Captn Newland. 4 to West Cowes to Captn Gallois the rest to expect orders.

West Dragoones Thorley. 6 orderly men to Yarmth

When the Companies march to have Amunition, and victualling Carts, and their great Guns to follow all Sparemen Spades Shovells Pickaxes and axes.

And the respective Captains above menconed in their stations doe keep good Guards, and to seize & apprehend all such men as shall come a shore from any Dutch shippes, and to send them to Newport, to secure their Boate or Boates or whatsoever else they bring a shore with them. Alsoe if

(*Verso*)

Alsoe if any Dutch vessells great or small should by accident or otherwise be forct or come within St Hellens That they should use their best Endeavors to gett a Boate or Boates and to man them out of their Companies, and endeavor to seize or take any such vessell, To take care that they doe not Entangle themselves with any man of warr, or shipp of any Force, and for soe doing this shalbe your warrant Given under my hand and seale the 12th day of November 1688.

(*Signed*) Rob. Holmes

To Sr Edwd. Worsly
Leint Governr of the
Isle of Wight.

WHO WAS THE WIFE OF SIR JOHN LEIGH, AGNES, MARY OR ANNE?

By Rev. S. F. HOCKEY

The monument in Godshill Church to Sir John Leigh and his lady, of Appuldurcombe, bears no inscription. Sir John Oglander tells us that Sir John Leigh had married the widow of the lessee of Appuldurcombe, Mary Fry, a descendant of the ancient Island family of Hackett.¹ Appuldurcombe was not hers by right, but came to her from her husband at his death; there was a son, John, but he disappears from all records after 1504.² Oglander repeats elsewhere that "the fayrest toombe in oure Island" is of Sir John and his wife Mary. The first editor of the memoirs adds that she died in 1557,³ whereas her husband had died in 1523. Worsley says that Leigh married the heiress of the Hacketts and that the tomb is of Sir John Leigh and Mary his lady.⁴ Nearer our day the *Victoria County History*, Hampshire, V, styles her co-heiress with lady Joan Gilbert, of Knighton Gorges, also a Hackett. In the same volume the tomb is said to be of Sir John and his wife Agnes, while the caption under the photo on the opposite page speaks of Sir John and his wife Anne!⁵ Stone gives a plate, No. XVI, of the tomb of Sir John Leigh and Mary Hackett, his wife. He repeats the name of Mary on p. 19, yet later corrects his earlier error to Agnes.⁶

We must evidently look elsewhere for firmer ground. The lease of Appuldurcombe (1498), granted by the convent of the Minories in London, is in the names of Sir John, his wife Agnes, and her son, John Fry⁷ (though Worsley says the Frys died childless). Sir John Leigh died in 1523 and his will was proved by his wife Agnes.⁸ The will of Annys (i.e. Agnes) Leigh is dated 1525⁹—not 1557! In it, she mentions her daughter Anne Worsley and also her brother, William Hackett. It becomes difficult, then, to understand how the sisters Agnes and Joan are co-heiresses if there exists a brother, still alive in 1525. But we will not insist, for there seem to be no documents available for the Hackett family. Moreover, Lady Joan Gilbert, in her will of 1501,¹⁰ makes no mention of the Leighs, though, from the lands she had inherited, she was clearly a Hackett. May one point out also that Anne Worsley was not the only child of the Leighs, as is regularly stated, for Sir John in his will¹¹ left 40s. to his daughter, Isabelle, a nun at Wilton Abbey in Wiltshire. Sir John Oglander would seem to be the source of the confusion, for the wife of Sir John Leigh was undoubtedly Agnes.

¹ *Oglander Memoirs*, ed. W. H. Long (1888), 154, 185.

² Worsley, *Hist. of I.W.*, app. 34. ³ *Ogl. Mem.*, 185 n.l. ⁴ Worsley, 195, 213.

⁵ *V.C.H.*, Hants., v, 216, 176; cf. *Ogl. Mem.* 84, n.2.

⁶ P. G. Stone, *Architectural Antiquities of I.W.* (1891) i, 19, 56.

⁷ Worsley, app. 34 & p. 216.

⁸ Two wills of Sir John Leigh: Somerset House, Bodfeld 18 & *Cant. & York Soc.*, Register Wolsey, 155.

⁹ Som. House, Bodfeld 34.

¹⁰ *ibid.*, Blamyr 14; printed in translation by *Somerset Rec. Soc.*, vol. 19, "Somerset Medieval Wills," 1903, 24 (Sir John was a Somerset man).

¹¹ i.e., in the Somerset House will.

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