

---

**Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society  
Proceedings for 1976**

Volume 98 (issued February 1978)

*Editor-in-chief* W. G. PUTNAM

*Sub-editors*

*Archaeology* L. KEEN      *Bird Report* J. V. BOYS  
*Geology* J. C. W. COPE      *Local History* G. J. DAVIES  
*Biology* G. SOANE

Printed by The Friary Press Ltd., Friary Lane, Dorchester, Dorset, and published by  
The Society.

---



HEADQUARTERS: DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM, HIGH WEST STREET, DORCHESTER,  
DORSET DT1 1XA

(Telephone Dorchester 2735)

### COUNCIL AND OFFICERS 1976

*President:* J. R. Bradshaw Esq., MA

*Vice-Presidents:* Mrs. H. I. Bond, J. Stevens Cox Esq., FSA,  
R. F. Dalton Esq., MA, R. A. H. Farrar Esq., MA, FSA,  
K. B. Rooke Esq., MB, BCh, MBOU, Sir Philip Williams (Bart)

*Trustees:* W. Stuart Best Esq., MA, Major-General H. M. G. Bond,  
Professor R. d'O. Good, MA, ScD, FLS,  
G. D. Squibb Esq., QC, BCL, FSA

*Council:* Four members retire by rotation annually, but are  
eligible for re-election. The dates placed in  
brackets give the year of the original election  
to the Council.

*To retire 1976:*

J. K. Hasler Esq., MB, BS, MRCS, LRCP, FFARCS, BA (1961)  
M. C. Matthews Esq., TD, BSc, FRICS (1967) (Chairman)  
R. Machin Esq., MA (1971)  
T. A. Dulake Esq., (1974)

*To retire 1977:*

N. H. Field Esq., BA, BSc (1956)  
J. B. Hawthorne Esq., MSc, MIBiol, FZS (1963)  
Miss H. A. J. Brotherton, OBE, JP (1963)  
Miss E. J. I. Brocklebank (1965)  
A. T. Bromby (1977)

*To retire 1978:*

Mrs J. G. Walton (1966)  
C. J. Bailey Esq., (1966)  
A. Jaggard Esq., AIPD (1971)  
Mrs. J. Bowyer (1973)

*Co-opted Member:*

Lt. Colonel G. E. Gray

### *Officers:*

*Curator and Secretary:* R. N. R. Peers Esq., MA, FSA, FMA  
*Assistant Curator* W. M. Grange Esq., BSc, AMA  
*Hon. Treasurer* A. B. Warrick Esq.  
*Hon. Editor:* W. G. Putnam Esq., BA, FSA  
*Hon. Field Secretary:* Mrs. D. A. Lang

### *Staff:*

*Conservator:* R. M. Alcock Esq.  
*Secretary:* Mrs. H. M. Painter  
*Assistant Treasurer:* B. E. Gouldsbury Esq.  
*Caretaker:* E. E. Mullen Esq., to 7th July 1976  
D. J. Sutton Esq., from 23rd June 1976  
*Assistant Caretaker:* Mrs. H. Machen from 18th February 1976  
*Attendant:* W. G. Hyde Esq.  
*Cleaner:* Mrs. M. K. Dean  
*Schools Organiser:* Miss M. M. Jackson BEd

## CONTENTS

Council and Officers 1976		ii
Marriages of Convenience by Copyholders in Dorset during the Seventeenth Century	J. H. BETTEY	1
The Medieval Deer-Parks of Dorset XV	J. D. WILSON	6
The Dorset County Election of 1857	CAROLINE HARVEY	11
Sidney Godolphin Osborne, 1808-1889	ANNE HOSFORD	15
The Colonisation of Rural Britain: Sir Robert Edgcumbe and his Settlement in Dorset	BARBARA KERR	25
The Sherborne School Museum and the early collections and publications of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club	H. S. TORRENS	32
The Fossil Collection of the Misses Philpot of Lyme Regis	J. M. EDMONDS	43
List of Type-fossils in the Philpot Collection, Oxford University Museum	H. P. POWELL AND J. M. EDMONDS	48
Dorset Archaeology in 1976	Compiled by LAURENCE KEEN	54
Shorter Contributions on Archaeological Topics:		
An Instrument from the Equestrian Figure of Osmington Hill	S. BRIGGS	63
Roman Villa at Thornford—some new documentary evidence	P. A. PARROTT	64
A probable Roman fortlet on Keynston Down, Dorset	N. H. FIELD	65
The Seal of William de Melcombe	MARTIN HENIG	67
Nos. 9 and 10, Coombe Keynes, Dorset	PAMELA M. CUNNINGTON	69
An Unusual Posset Pot from Dorset	JO DRAPER	72
Natural History Reports:		
Dorset Bird Report	ed. J. V. BOYS	73
Dorset Rainfall, 1976	D. J. PAXMAN	109
Geology	JOHN C. W. COPE	113
Botany	R. D'O. GOOD	113
Land Arthropods other than Lepidoptera	A. J. BROWN	113
Fish	M. LADLE	114
Amphibians	ROBERT V. SKINNER	115
Reptiles	ROBERT V. SKINNER	116
Mammals	E. M. KEATS	116
Lepidoptera	ALAN T. BROMBY	118
Marine Invertebrates	J. B. HAWTHORNE	128
Obituary		129
Book reviews and bibliographies		130

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1	Sidney Godolphin Osborne 1808-1889	16
Fig. 2	Sir Robert Edgcumbe after his second marriage in 1891	26
Fig. 3	Sherborne School Museum in 1896 in the room in the Old Mill Buildings used from 1879-1910	33
Fig. 4	Sherborne School Museum in the room in the Carrington Buildings	34
Fig. 5	A small bronze Roman brooch from Pentridge	58
Fig. 6	Two inlaid fourteenth century floor tiles from Owermoigne	58
Fig. 7	Bronze Age Axe from Wiltshire Record Office MS 383/907	63
Fig. 8	Bronze Age Axe from J. Evans, <i>Ancient Bronze Implements</i> , London 1881, Fig. 15	63
Fig. 9	Earthwork at Keynston Down, Dorset	66
Fig. 10	The Keynston Down enclosure in relation to Buzbury Rings and the course of the Claudian Road from Buzbury to Hod Hill	66
Fig. 11	The seal of William de Melcombe	68
Fig. 12	Nos. 9 and 10 Coombe Keynes, Dorset	70
Fig. 13	An unusual posset pot from Dorset	72

### *Notes for Contributors*

A pamphlet giving advice on presentation and layout for articles intended for the *Proceedings* may be obtained from the Editor, Mr. W. G. Putnam, at Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Cranford Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 7LQ (telephone Weymouth 72311 extension 266). Contributors are strongly urged to prepare material for publication in the light of this advice; failure to do so will lead to extra work and delay.

Articles should normally be submitted by 31st December for inclusion in the volume printed the following year.

## MARRIAGES OF CONVENIENCE BY COPYHOLDERS IN DORSET DURING THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

---

J. H. BETTEY M.A., Ph.D.

An important question concerning land-holding and farming in Dorset during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is why the system whereby tenants held their lands by copyhold tenure for lives was gradually replaced all over the county by leasehold tenure for years. Copyhold tenure for lives certainly continued as the common method of landholding in Dorset throughout the seventeenth century; an analysis of forty-nine rentals and surveys of manors from all over the county during the seventeenth century shows the following proportion of freehold, leasehold and copyhold tenants:—

	Number	Proportion
Freeholders:	122	5.9%
Leaseholders:	98	4.8%
Copyholders:	1,803	89.3%

By the end of the eighteenth century, however, copyholds had almost everywhere been replaced by leases for fixed term of years or by leases for years, generally 99 years, determinable upon lives<sup>(1)</sup>. Copyholders held their lands and tenements for lives, usually for three lives, on the terms laid down in the customs of each manor. Manorial customs depended essentially upon long use, upon having been observed “time out of mind” or “from a time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary”. It was manorial custom, enforced in the manorial court which regulated the pattern of copyholders lives, the conditions of the tenure by which they held their lands, their right of transfer and inheritance, the methods of cultivation and common grazing, their entitlement to timber, stone, fuel and other resources, and a host of other matters intimately affecting their daily lives. The customs of different manors varied greatly, and illustrate clearly the statement made by the surveyors of Iwerne Courtney in 1553 that “Their customs are not so universall as if a man have experience of the customs and services of any one mannor he shall thereby have perfect knowledge of all the rest, or if he be experte of the customes of any one mannor in any one countie that he shall nede of no further enstruccions for all the residewe of the mannors within that countie”<sup>(2)</sup>.

Most manorial customs allowed a widow to retain some rights over her deceased husband's tenement. These rights varied, from those on manors such as Yetminster, Beaminster or Netherbury where a widow retained full and uninterrupted possession of the whole property, or those on the royal manors of Gillingham and Portland where she retained a third part, to the custom on the majority of Dorset manors where a widow retained the tenement during her widow-hood, provided she did not re-marry and that she remained chaste<sup>(3)</sup>. During the course of a legal dispute over the customs of the manor of Poorstock (Powerstock) for example, all the witnesses agreed that the custom regarding widows was that upon the death of any copyholder “his wief (yf hee hath any at the tyme of his death) hath alwayes used and of Right ought to hold the same Lands soe long as shee remayneth sole, chast and unmarried. . . .”<sup>(4)</sup>. The rule about remaining chaste was not an idle threat, and there are several examples of the forfeiture of estates by widows because of incontinency. For instance, the

(1) Copyhold tenure continued into the nineteenth century on some of the larger estates and on cottages and smaller tenements. In a few places it survived until the extinction of the Tenure by an Act of Parliament in 1925. For similar decline of copyhold in Devon see W. G. Hoskins – *The Occupation of Land in Devonshire 1650-1800*, Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries, Vol 21 1940-41, pp 2-12.

(2) Survey of Iwerne Courtney 1553, British Museum Harleian MSS 71 ff 45-53.

(3) For examples of seventeenth century manorial customs relating to widows' estate in Dorset see: P.R.O. E 317/Dorset 12; C 2/Eliz D2/39; REQ 2/72/46; REQ 2/131/56; REQ 2/191/50; C3/332/7. DRO D33/3; Mus KG 1184; D54/M8.

(4) P.R.O. C3/328/17.

widow Studley forfeited her copyhold tenement at Cranborne to the Earl of Salisbury in March 1621 because of her departure from the path of chastity, and an unfortunate widow on the Strangways estate was deprived of her tenement for having “given birth to two bastards at a single birth”(5). The provision in manorial customs which allowed a widow to retain a copyhold estate during her widowhood was undoubtedly an irksome one for the lords of manors, for it meant that a widow could often keep a tenement from returning into the lord’s hands for many years, and since annual rents on such tenements were generally very low it was upon the fines for the renewal of copyholds that a landlord depended for the main part of the income from his estate. This provision for the rights of widows also meant that if an elderly copyholder married a young wife shortly before his death, she could, provided she remained unmarried and chaste, keep the tenement out of the lord’s hands during the whole of her life. An aged widower who had neglected to secure his tenement for his children by adding new lives to his copyhold, or who had been refused permission by the landlord to add fresh lives, or who lacked the means to pay the necessary fines, could nonetheless ensure that the children would enjoy some share of the tenement for many years by the expedient of marrying a young woman who was prepared to agree to some suitable arrangement. In return for the life-long security of tenure she would enjoy as a widow, she might be persuaded before the marriage to agree to make some provision for her husband’s children out of the income from the tenement.

Agricultural writers at the end of the eighteenth century suggested that this practice was common in Dorset, and that it was one reason why landlords were so keen to replace copyhold tenure by leases for fixed term of years which produced economic annual rents and were not subject to manorial customs. This view was put forward by William Marshall in 1796 and by John Claridge in 1793, and, most forcibly, by William Stevenson in the General View of Dorset Agriculture 1812 where he wrote of the “frauds practised on the respective lords of manors, by the customary tenants marrying in the last stage of decrepit old age to very young girls, by which, according to the custom of copyhold tenures in this county, the widow is entitled to her free bench on the husband’s copyhold”(6).

At first sight it would appear unlikely that the situation was ever sufficiently common to present anything more than a rare though annoying and expensive nuisance to landlords, and curious that careful observers should have supposed that the practice was a significant factor in the decline of copyhold tenure. The disadvantages for the landlords of copyhold tenure, with its low annual rents, uncertain entry fines depending entirely upon the longevity of tenants, and other restrictions imposed by manorial customs, would alone seem sufficient to account for the decline of this kind of land-holding. It would in any case seem improbable that there were ever many aged widowers anxious to preserve copyhold tenements for their children, who were able to find a young woman complaisant enough to agree to an inevitably complicated arrangement, and willing to remain unmarried after her elderly husband’s decease. Any bargain made between the parties would naturally remain private unless some dispute arose to bring the agreement into the open, and it is therefore impossible to know just how many marriages of this sort did take place. Records relating to several such marriages have, however, been found from the seventeenth century, which show that they were certainly not unknown, and it is at least possible that there were many others which engendered no disputes and of which it will never be possible to know the details. It is not suggested that this was by any means the only reason for the extinguishing of copyhold tenure, but it may have been a significant factor among others, and it would be of interest to know if readers have discovered documentary evidence for similar marriages in the eighteenth century.

An example of such a marriage(7), which may have been typical of many others was that of Thomas Fawne, of Corscombe, who was the tenant of a copyhold farm worth £48 per annum. In 1678 when he was 77 years of age and the father of four grown-up children, his wife Joane died and was buried at Corscombe on 23rd October 1678. He himself was in poor health, and

(5) Salisbury MSS Hatfield House, Cranborne General 81/5.  
D.R.O. D 124/Box 151; MW/M4; Mus 10,629.

(6) W. Marshall – Rural Economy of the West of England, 1796, Vol I, pp 43-48;  
J. Claridge – General View of Dorset Agriculture, 1793, pp 22-23;  
W. Stevenson – General View of Dorset Agriculture, 1812, p 74.

(7) P.R.O. C 8/451/28  
D.R.O. P 222/RE1

I am grateful to my colleague Robert Machin for checking the Corscombe parish registers for me.

his tenement “depended upon his life only” so that it would revert to the lord of the manor upon his death, and he had made no provision for his children. There was a long discussion between him and his four children, and it was agreed that “the said Thomas Fawne should be married to some woman who, probably being of mean fortune, would become bound in case she survived the said Thomas Fawne to pay a yearly or other sum to each of the children of the said Thomas during her widowhood.” They very quickly found a young woman who by coincidence was also called Joane Fawne, a spinster from Catesley in Corscombe parish, who agreed to marry the old man, and after his death to pay out of the estate £15 per annum to John Fawne, the son of Thomas Fawne, and to the daughters, £7 per annum to Mary, £5 per annum to Joane and £5 per annum to Anne. She also agreed to be subject to a penalty if she remarried after Thomas Fawne’s death. These complicated arrangements were concluded very quickly, for Thomas Fawne and his second wife, Joane, were married at Corscombe on 24th December 1678, only two months after the death of his first wife.

It might well have happened that this arrangement, like an unknown number of similar agreements, would not have been made public, but for an unexpected twist in the story which caused a long legal wrangle and has consequently left a record of the whole affair. The unlooked for outcome of Thomas Fawne’s marriage to a young woman was that it evidently gave him a new lease of life, for he recovered from his illness and just over twelve months later his young wife produced a baby daughter Elizabeth, who was baptised at Corscombe on 8th February 1680, and the marriage of this oddly-assorted couple lasted for seventeen years. A pleasant human touch is added to the story in the legal record by the fact that Thomas Fawne and his young wife had evidently been very happy together. One neighbour, Honor Russle, for example, deposed that she had frequently visited them, and that while the old man was bedridden his wife used to sit by his bed and fill his pipe for him and that “sometimes she did find him and his wife reading to him in the Chamber”<sup>(8)</sup>. The dispute arose because during the period when Thomas Fawne was confined to his bed and shortly before his death, when he was 94 years of age, the lord of the manor, Thomas Smyth, persuaded him to surrender up his copyhold tenement together with the widow’s rights for a cash payment of £305, “being a very Antient man and having married a young woman.” When therefore three months later, Thomas Fawne died and was buried at Corscombe on 17th November 1695, leaving all his money to his widow, the children by his former marriage claimed a share because of the agreement made seventeen years earlier. They also alleged that their father had not been in his right mind when he surrendered his copyhold, and that he had been led to do it by his wife who wanted all the money for herself. The long legal battle must have cost as much as the sum of money involved, but eventually the widow was successful and retained what was left of the estate<sup>(9)</sup>.

Another, earlier example was that of Myles Cheney who had two copyhold tenements in the manor of Spetisbury worth £20 per annum. In 1631 “having buryed his former wife and being unmarried and above one hundred years olde”, he married an 18 year old girl, Anne daughter of Richard Haysham, a tailor of Sturminster Marshall, so that after his death Anne, might have widows’ rights to his copyholds. Again, the arrangement is revealed only because Jane Cheney, grand-daughter of Myles Cheney, claimed after her grandfather’s death in 1634 to have been promised a share of his estate<sup>(10)</sup>.

In 1638 the churchwardens of Chardstock, which was then in Dorset, reported to the ecclesiastical authorities apparent irregularities in a marriage which had taken place between Thomas Parris and Mary Marshall. They stated that while she was a young woman, he was “a man of about 80 yeares and upwards, lying in his bedd and not able to stand or goe, wholy decayed in bodye and mynde, who died as ’tis reported the day followinge. . . .”. The marriage was said to have taken place in the old man’s chamber<sup>(11)</sup>. Thomas Parris was a copyholder with a tenement in Chardstock worth £40 per annum; he was also a widower with children, his first wife Katherine having been buried at Chardstock on 3 September 1637.

<sup>(8)</sup> Ibid.

<sup>(9)</sup> P.R.O. C 8/451/28; C10/116/51.

D.R.O. P 222/RE1.

<sup>(10)</sup> P.R.O. REQ 2/666-668.

This and several other references to the marriage of elderly copyholders are listed by F. J. Pope in the very useful manuscript volumes of extracts from the Public Records in the Dorset County Museum.

<sup>(11)</sup> Salisbury Diocesan Record Office, Churchwardens Presentments for the Peculiar of Chardstock 1638.

Although no reference to any agreement survives, it is evident that his second marriage was contracted solely in order to preserve his copyhold for the benefit of his children, for he himself certainly died immediately after the marriage, perhaps even the next day as the churchwardens claimed, and was buried at Chardstock on 24 June 1638, leaving an estate valued at £1,070<sup>(12)</sup>. Again, the matter comes to light only because of a subsequent quarrel between the widow and her step-children. In this case the dispute concerned the marriage portion which it was alleged Thomas Parris had promised to his daughter Edith upon her marriage to John Pinney, and which had never been paid. In the evidence presented to the court it was specifically mentioned that Thomas Parris had married his second wife in order that, through her widows' rights, she could preserve the tenement worth £40 per annum for his children by his first wife<sup>(13)</sup>.

Another, similar, case concerned John Peach, an elderly copyholder of Chideock, who held for his own life only two tenements worth together £40 per annum. His first wife having died, he married a young widow Margaret Morrice in July 1635 in order that she might retain the tenements after his death and make some provision for his children. In the words of a witness in a legal dispute which followed, John Peach "about the moneth of July last past became a suitor in the way of marriage unto one Margaret Morrice of the said parish of Chideock, and in process of time each of them treating of the manifestation of their conjugall affections touching the livelyhood and preferrment of each other of them in time to come. . . ." they agreed to marry. John Peach died early in 1636, and the whole episode was made public only because of a dispute which subsequently ensued between his children and the widow over the division of the property<sup>(14)</sup>. To gain the maximum advantage from the widow's rights to a copyhold tenement, it was obviously important to find as young a wife as possible, and this may explain some of the marriages of very young girls during the seventeenth century. For example, Elizabeth, the daughter of George Vincent of Shaftesbury was married to Robert Frampton in the church at Belchalwell on 15 April 1662 when she was twelve years of age; and in 1664 John Sheppard, a widower with grown-up children, who held copyhold lands at Milton Abbas and Shillingstone, shortly before his death, married as his second wife Elizabeth the daughter of Henry Melmoth of Milborne St Andrew. When he died soon after the marriage, Elizabeth was still only 15 years of age, and twenty years later she was still enjoying her widow's right in the copyhold tenements<sup>(15)</sup>.

A final example comes from Whitechurch Canonorum, where Thomas Wareham, a widower with children held for his own lifetime a copyhold tenement or farm called Chalden worth £40 per annum. This example illustrates the fact that it was often not only the lord of the manor who stood to lose by the marriage of an elderly copyholder to a young wife, but that persons having rights of reversion in the tenement could also be deprived of possession for many years by a young widow. Chalden farm was let for three lives, each of whom would normally have held it upon the death of the other. The three lives were Thomas Wareham, his younger brother John Wareham and their sister Mary Wareham. In 1636 when Thomas Wareham was in possession of the farm he fell very ill "insomuch that in the Judgement of learned Phisicons there was no probability that he should recover agayne." If he died the farm would pass to his brother John Wareham, and Thomas' children would be without their home and their livelihood. They therefore strongly urged him to marry a young widow, so that she "might by that meanes be intituled to hold the premises during her widowhood and might make some provision for the children from the tenement." The widow, whose name was Anne, was at first unwilling to agree to the marriage, but "was much solicited to marry the said Thomas who was then like to die". She eventually consented and, before the marriage took place, signed an agreement that after Thomas Wareham's death she would permit his eldest son William to farm the land and share all the profits with the other children, while in return she would receive £5 per annum and be given house room and necessary fuel<sup>(16)</sup>. Here again events took an unexpected turn because marriage to a young

(12) P.R.O. REQ 2/Chas I Box 508, 29 Sept 1640.  
D.R.O. Transcript of Chardstock Parish Registers 1637-38.

(13) P.R.O. REQ 2/Chas I Box 508.

(14) P.R.O. C 2/Chas I P44/63.

(15) P.R.O. C22/974/9; C5/99/21.

For an interesting discussion of the respective ages of brides and bridegrooms during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries see P. Laslett - *The World We Have Lost*, 1965, pp 81-89.

(16) P.R.O. C2/Chas I W 116/51.

woman had a remarkable rejuvenating effect on Thomas Wareham. Far from dying, he recovered his health and lived for another fifteen years and outlived both his brother and sister. In this case, however, relations with the young wife were not good. She evidently had not expected the old man to recover from his illness and was apparently not pleased that he had done so. At all events she was said to have taken "some causeless displeasure against the said Thomas Wareham her husband and against the children which hee hadd by a former wife (and) forsooke his dwelling and lived away from her said husband many yeares together to the grieffe and shame both of her husband and his children." She was also alleged to have many times stated that when Thomas Wareham died and she had widow's rights to Chalden farm, she would keep it all for herself and notwithstanding her former agreement, would not allow Thomas' children any part in it. It may have been for this reason that, Thomas Wareham, shortly before his death, surrendered Chalden farm to the lord of the manor and, since the other two lives in the copyhold were now dead, secured a fresh grant in favour of his son William Wareham, "to prevent (his wife's) badd purposes towards his children and for the naturall love he bore towards his sayd children. . . ." When Thomas Wareham died therefore, William got the tenement, and in his will the old man left nothing to his widow. She unsuccessfully sued William for the £5 per annum, houseroom and fuel which she had been promised fifteen years earlier, and the record of this legal dispute reveals the whole story which would otherwise have remained hidden<sup>(17)</sup>.

It is probable that only a few of such marriages subsequently engendered the sort of disputes which led to legal proceedings and thus to any record of them surviving. None of the existing records contain any suggestion that such an arrangement was at all strange or unusual, and enough examples have been found from the seventeenth century to show that it could have been a real problem for landlords in Dorset, and to bear out the assertion of William Stevenson and others that it may have been a significant factor in the decline of copyhold tenure in the county. It would be of interest to know of any other references to similar marriages to preserve copyholds, particularly from the eighteenth century. The subject is of more than antiquarian interest, for such marriages and the disputes they produced demonstrate very clearly the fierce determination with which the tenant farmers attempted to cling to their small farms, and the vital importance of their copyholds in their lives. The break-down of copyhold tenure and the creation of large farms which followed upon the change to short-term leases at high rents had an incalculable effect upon the farming population of Dorset. It was an essential factor in the transformation of the county from one of small, family holdings to the nineteenth century situation where large farms predominated, worked by day labourers whose conditions of work, housing and wages became notorious throughout the whole country.

<sup>(17)</sup> Ibid. For another example of a similar dispute over widows' rights, see P.R.O. REQ 2/Chas I/Box 571 Part 2, which is concerned with a tenement at Holt near Wimborne Minster.

J. D. WILSON

Owing to an error, the paper in the present series which appeared in Proceedings Vol. 96 was numbered XIII instead of XIV. The present paper is correctly numbered XV.

As this survey reaches its closing stages, readers should perhaps be reminded that at the outset two lists of mediaeval park sites in Dorset were drawn up: one of parks whose existence was vouched for by contemporary documentary reference, and one of possible sites suggested by significant field names or characteristic earthworks, but for which documentary evidence was wanting. Parks in both lists were numbered, the possibles having the Prefix P. Full lists last appeared in Proceedings Vol. 88; complete annotated lists, together with a revised distribution map, will be published when all sites have been visited and the survey is completed.

As none of the sites in the present paper revealed significant earthworks, no sketch maps are included. The interested reader is referred to the appropriate Ordnance Survey sheets in the 1" or 1:50,000 series, and the text has been written with this in mind.

#### CANFORD GREAT PARK (7), CANFORD LITTLE PARK (8) and KNIGHTON PARK (48)

As these three parks were always within the same manor they can conveniently be dealt with together. We have a reasonably accurate guide to their age, since an entry in the Close Rolls for September 18, 1291, reads as follows: "To Roger Lestrangle, justice of the Forest this side Trent. Order to cause Margaret, wife of Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, to have in the New Forest fifteen live bucks and fifteen live does in order to stock her new park of Caneford therewith." (*Cal. CR, Ed. I, Vol. 1288-96, p. 179*). A similar item is recorded on December 3rd the following year: "To the keeper of the forest of Gillingham. Order to cause Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, to have in that forest ten live bucks and twenty live does in order to stock his park of Caneford, of the king's gift." (*ibid. p. 276*). On October 2nd, 1309, comes a commission "on complaint by Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, touching the breach of his park at Caneford." (*Cal. PR, Ed. I, Vol. 1307-13, p. 243*), followed on October 26th of the same year by: "Grant to Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, of the issues of all penalties for trespasses committed on his park of Caneford" (*ibid. p. 197*). In 1310 the De Banco Roll names some such offenders: "Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, v. William atte Park, forester, Henry le Forester of Chetryt, David atte Woodland and Robert his brother (and ten others), wherefore they at Caneford broke his park and chased deer etc." (*DBR, No. 181, Fry Vol. H. pt 1-2, p. 96*).

The first reference to more than one park at Canford occurs nearly forty years later, in an Inquisition Post Mortem on John de Warena, earl of Surrey and Sussex, dated July 15, 1348. The Inquisition includes lands which the earl "held for his life, of the inheritance of Henry, earl of Lancaster," and among these are: "Caneford. The manor (extent given) including parks called 'Leye park', 'Caneford park' and 'Knyghton park'." (*Cal. IPM, Vol. 9, Edw. III, p. 49*).

A reminder that the mediaeval park had other economic values besides the live-stock is found in the Black Prince's Register for 1355: "Be it remembered that on 16 May a letter was written to John Pleycis, parker of Caneford, ordering him to deliver to Sir Thomas de Brembre six oaks fit for timber in the park of Kaneford, or the foreign wood before the town there." (*BPR, Vol. 4, 1351-65, p. 129*).

We have already noted the Inquisition Post Mortem on John de Warena in 1348; that on his wife fourteen years later, dated October 3rd, 1362, includes mention of the same three parks: "Leye Park", "Caneford Park" and "Knyghton Park". (*Cal. IPM, Vol. 11, Ed. III, p. 184*). Only one park is mentioned, however, in a note in the Patent Rolls on October 6th, 1429: "Grant, during pleasure, by advice of the council, to Thomas Thame, king's serjeant, of the office of surveyor of the king's park and lawn of Canford, with 3½d a day wages." (*Cal. PR, Henry VI, 1429-36, p. 2*).

H. P. Smith, in his *History of the Borough and County of the Town of Poole*, quotes some interesting fragments from the park accounts during the years 1462 and 1463, from the books of William Morland, Reeve, examples of which are as follows:

“Of £7.6.8 of the farm of the herbage of Knightonparke in the tenure of divers tenants.”

“Of £7, £4.15s, from the agistment of the horses, oxen, cows and other animals within the parks in the winter and spring.”

“In the wages of Edward Southworth, John Smith and William Bran, Parkkeepers of the Park, at 3d by the day, for 177 days, £2.3.4d.”

“And in the wages of Geoffrey Wallsh by reason of his office of Head Parker of the Parks at 3d per day . . .”

A sum of £8.5.6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d was expended on, among other items, “remaking and amending of the pales of the park” which were “faulty and ruinous for the greater part in circuit of the same.” (*Smith, Vol. 2, p. 23*).

Smith also quotes from the proceedings of a court at Canford on 19th November, 1472: “John Ede, Under Park-Keeper, presented that Thomas Mascall, late of Little Canford, in the Parish of Wimborne Minster, husbandman, in Whitsun week, in the 10th year of the reign of King Ed. IV, broke and entered the park of George, Duke of Clarence, at Mochel Canford, with force and arms against the peace of the lord the king, and one buck price” (left blank) “of the goods and chattels of the said Duke then and there found with one greyhound and killed to the grave damage of the lord.”

The next reference to the parks of Canford, from the Patent Rolls for 1478, mentions but two parks: “Grant for life to the king’s servant James Worsley, one of the yeomen of the king’s chamber, of the custody of the two parks of the lordship or manor of Kanford, with the custody of ‘lez laundes’ adjoining them and the office of bailiff of la Pole, co. Dorset, receiving the accustomed fees from the issues of the offices, with all other profits.” (*Cal. PR, 1476-85, p. 69*).

A similar grant, but embracing a wider list of properties, is recorded in the Patent Rolls seven years later, on June 30, 1485. “Grant for life, from Midsummer, 1 Richard III, to George Nevill, one of the esquires of the body, of the office of master and keeper of the king’s chace of Cranbourn and all the king’s forests, parks, chaces and warrens and deer in the county of Dorset, with the exception of a parcel of the said chace called ‘Chiterell’, receiving such fees from the issues of the king’s lordship or manor of Cranbourn as John Audeley, knight, lord Audeley, lately had in the office: and the offices of master and keeper of the king’s chaces, parks, and warrens of Canford and the Isle of Purbeck, co. Dorset, and the king’s deer in the same, and constable or keeper of the king’s castle of Corf, co. Dorset, receiving the accustomed fees from the issues of the said lordship or manor.” (*Cal. PR, 1476-85, p. 549*).

In 1550 Edward VI granted to his uncle, the Duke of Somerset, among other properties: “. . . the parks of Canforde, le Holte, Marshwoode and Crekelade . . .” (*Cal. PR, 1549-51, p. 430*).

In 1553 Queen Mary granted a considerable number of Dorset properties to her cousin Gertrude, marchioness of Exeter, and these included: “. . . the lordships and manors of Canforde and Poole, co. Dorset, and the parks called ‘le Greate Parke’ and ‘le Litle Parke’ of Canford.” (*Cal. PR, 1553-54, p. 81*).

Knighton Park, it seems, no longer had a separate existence, and this is borne out by the entry in the 1583 Certificate as to Parks in Dorset: “Hundred of Cogden. Great Park called Canford Park 1 mile in compass. Little Park called Lye Park 1 mile in compass. The Earl of Huntingdon and Mr. John Baker owners of said parks, but no deer in either.” (*SP Dom, Eliz. I, Vol. 163*). Somewhat confusingly the Earl of Huntingdon is described as “Bailiff and keeper of the manor and the Great and Little Parks of Canford” in the Book of all offices held under the Crown, including keepers and officers of Parks, compiled around the year 1588. (*SP Dom, Eliz. I, Vol. 221*).

Thomas Gerard of Trent, writing between 1625 and 1634, mentions “Canford, where stands a large antient House, which hath appertaineing unto it a great Manor, two Parkes, and allsoe the Forrest and Parke of Holt not farre off.” (*Survey of Dorset, p. 117*).

Hutchins maintains that in 1635 Canford manor “and that of Poole, the hundred of Cockdene, the capital messuage of Great Canford, the demesne lands belonging to it, and inclosed lands there, and in Hampreston and Wimborne Minster, called the Great Park, and

Leigh Park, were granted to John Webb Esq.” (*Hutchins, III, p. 295*).

There is no doubt of the location of the parks and it is disappointing that no trace of typical park earthworks has been found anywhere in the area. Saxton’s map of 1575 shows two parks, one north and one south of the Stour. He also marks “Canford Lawndes”, mentioned in the Patent Rolls reference of 1478, an area which roughly corresponds to the present Canford Heath. Canford Great Park is obviously the one south of the river, and Saxton shows what is presumably the Manor House in the north-western corner. Canford Little Park, or Leigh Park, was north of the river, and indeed Leigh Park and Park Farm nearby are still shown on the Ordnance Map.

Quite specific references to the boundary of Leigh Park are found in a perambulation of the Manor of Kingston Lacy made in 1590. It is quoted in full in A. Lindsay Clegg’s *A History of Wimborne Minster and District*, in the form in which it was included in the Gilt Book of the Manor compiled in 1775, and Clegg appends explanatory notes on points in the perambulation which were added by the compilers of the Gilt Book. The Manor boundary is described as following the River Stour eastwards from White Mill Bridge, Sturminster Marshall, past “Great Canford Bridge” and “. . . following the same River Eastward to the West Hedge of Canford Park continuing the same Hedge Northward to a way which leadeth Eastward by a Ditch and a Row of trees to the Easter Pale of the said Parke and so out to the Highway which leadeth to Wimborne Westward . . .” (*Clegg, p. 204*). It is clear that we are here dealing with the park north of the river, since an explanatory note of 1775 to the word “Highway” says: “Turnpike Road from Wimborne to Ringwood” (*ibid. p. 208*). On “the West Hedge of Canford Parke” the compilers of the Gilt Book commented: “Canford Park now belongs to Sir John Webb, and is converted into meadows. The boundary here described is the boundary of Wimborne Parish.” (*ibid. p. 207*.) As for “the Easter Pale of the said Parke”, they remarked: “The Park pales are now down.” (*ibid. p. 207*). Both the western and eastern sides of Leigh Park here mentioned are still parish boundaries, running south-south-east to the Stour on either side of Park Farm. No embankments could be found, and the line of the “Easter Pale” is for much of its length marked by a drainage channel. Here we may have a clue to the absence of park earthworks in the area: that the ground may have been too damp for the construction or maintenance of embankments, and the park enclosed with palings only. This has been suggested as a reason for the absence of embankments at other parks in Dorset, e.g. Litton Cheney and Athelhampton (*Proceedings, Vols. 86 and 88*), though in both these examples part at least of the park boundary was embanked. It may also be of significance that the western hedge and eastern pale of Leigh Park are referred to without mention of bank or ditch although elsewhere in the Elizabethan perambulation banks are mentioned as significant features. The “Ditch and a Row of trees” referred to between the western and eastern sides of the park can perhaps still be identified as a hedge line which approaches the Wimborne-Ringwood road at an angle due north of Park Farm. Though having a slight bank and ditch, this is by no means characteristic of a park bank. The Tithe Apportionment names three fields around Park Farm as “The Parks”, “Stoney Park” and “Corders Park”. There is thus no doubt as to the exact location of Leigh Park, which comprised an area of some 170 acres, and there is a strong presumption that it was never embanked.

The same conclusion seems unavoidable when the two parks south of the river are considered. The present A341 road evidently sets a southern limit to them—Professor Good considers it to be of some antiquity—and on the line of a modern main road it is not to be expected that park earthworks would survive. But nowhere else in the area of the parks could remaining park embankments be discovered. Canford Great Park obviously lay, as Saxton indicated, east of the Manor House, and presumably occupied the whole tongue of land within the wide loop which the Stour makes here north-eastwards to Little Canford. Canford is thus one of the comparatively rare Dorset examples of a mediaeval deer-park which still survives as parkland today.

It is a matter of conjecture whether Knighton Park was immediately adjacent to Canford, or how wide a gap there was between them: the park field names at Knighton are located east of Knighton Farm, again within a loop which the Stour makes here towards Hampreston. In the area of both parks it is noticeable that many field boundaries are marked by drainage channels, and here again the absence of embankment can probably be attributed to the dampness of the terrain. Since the exact boundaries of the two parks cannot be determined, it

is impossible to be more specific about their size than to say that Canford Great Park could well have occupied more than 400 acres, and that Knighton Park was probably about a quarter of that size. Any information which would enable the boundaries of these parks to be more specifically located would be much appreciated.

#### KINGCOMBE (P.4)

In the first article in this series (*Proceedings, Vol. 83*), Kingcombe, in the valley of the River Hooke some three miles north-west of Maiden Newton, was included in the list of possible parks by virtue of a reference in the De Banco Rolls for 1307. It was classified as a possible site only, as the reference did not indubitably refer to a deer park. The reference reads as follows: "Robert (de Kentcombe) proffers a certain charter which testifies that Thomas de Haddone gave and granted to Henry de Est Kemelcombe and Avicia his wife 1 park, which contains 7 acres of meadow to have and to hold said meadow . . . and Joan (de Haddone) says whatever charter the said Robert proffers, said Avicia, the mother, has nothing in said park . . ." (*Fry, G (4), p. 1126, m. 335*).

It is probable that the seven acres of meadow was not the total extent of the park, but even so the reference still seems insufficiently clear and precise to be taken as definite proof of the existence of a deer park at Kingcombe.

Reference to the map will show that there are two Kingcombe hamlets in the sequestered valley south of the familiar Rampisham radio masts: Higher Kingcombe, half a mile east of Hooke, and Lower Kingcombe, half a mile again to the south-east. The latter can probably be taken as "Est Kemelcombe". No park names for fields or woods have been found in the neighbourhood, and the area has been examined in vain for significant earthworks. The existence of a park here must therefore remain in doubt. As with all sites dealt with in this series, the comments of readers which might throw any light upon the existence or otherwise of mediaeval parks will be welcomed.

#### KINGSETTLE (P.38)

The County Museum possesses a copy of a "Plott" of Gillingham Forest dated 1624. This map was referred to in the fifth article in the present series (*Proceedings, Vol. 87*), in the description of Gillingham Park, and is reproduced in the R.C.H.M. North Dorset volume (plate 56, facing page 41). Besides showing the boundaries of Gillingham Park it gives many field names and among them is "Kingsettle Parke", north of Shaftesbury. Kingsettle Farm, recently restored and converted to a dwelling house, lies a mile and threequarters north of Shaftesbury and a quarter of a mile west of the A350, where the ground falls steeply from the greensand ridge to the clay vale. Immediately north-east of the erstwhile farm a triangular field called simply "The Park" in the Tithe Apportionment is recognisably the same as "Kingsettle Parke" on the Jacobean Plott, which indeed shows it with considerable accuracy.

The field, some 11 acres, was manifestly not large enough to form a park in itself, and the Plott shows it surrounded with small holdings and settlements, many of which, as Fägersten demonstrates (p. 29) were in existence in early mediaeval times. This in itself renders the existence of an extensive park here unlikely. A considerable part of the surrounding hedge has been demolished, and the remainder shows no considerable embankment, nor can any such be found in the neighbourhood. It seems unlikely that a second park would have existed within the confines of Gillingham Forest, and indeed no documentary reference to a park at Kingsettle has been found—even in the considerable body of references to Gillingham Park and Forest. There is perhaps a slight possibility that the name Kingsettle Parke may have been applied to an enclosure for harbouring selected stock for the Park or Forest of Gillingham, but here again a reference to it might have been expected. It seems more likely that the name should serve only as a reminder that not every "park" field indicates the existence of a mediaeval park, even though the name dates at least from the early 17th century.

#### STOKE WAKE (P.10)

The parish boundary between Stoke Wake and Woolland runs in a north-westerly direction down the steep escarpment of Bulbarrow Hill a couple of hundred yards east of Rawlsbury Camp. Alongside this boundary on the west are two fields and a wood which are named on the Tithe Apportionment as "Great Park", "Horse Park" and "Cave & Park

Coppices". This is a topographically favourable position in the steep combe, with the parish boundary perhaps defining one side of the park, and a reference in Hutchins gave a further reason for the site to be included in the list of possible parks. He says of Stoke Wake: "Here seems to have been formerly a park; for a court-roll, 13 Hen. VII mentions grounds called Stoke Park." (*Hutchins, 3rd. Ed., IV, p. 413.*)

Examination of the area however revealed no supporting physical evidence. The parish boundary is not embanked and is not ideally situated, running for some distance along a stream and lying in a generally wet area unfavourable to embankment. In this respect however it compares quite closely with two authenticated parks, Melcombe Horsey and West Chelborough, described in *Proceedings Vols. 85 and 88* respectively. Embankment might have been expected to survive in the woodland at the top of the hill, on the north side of the road opposite Rawlsbury, but here again nothing could be found. A likely line for a northern side to the park appeared to be the bridle road running north from Stoke Wake and bearing round north-eastwards to join the metalled road from Woolland to Hazelbury Bryan, but this line too showed no trace of embankment.

The conclusion is that there was no embanked park here, and the fact, as Colonel Drew demonstrated, that the area lay within the confines of the Royal Forest of Blackmoor, at least until 1300, would seem to make the very existence of a park at Stoke Wake unlikely. There is however an oddity which may or may not be relevant: a mile north-west of Stoke Wake, on the road to Hazelbury, is a small group of buildings at a road junction called Park Gate. Fägersten (p. 55) says that the name is "self-explanatory" but since neither of the two early examples he gives of it, from 1327 and 1333, contains the word "park" he seems rather to beg the question. Though Park Gate is in Hazelbury parish, it is only a few yards from the boundary with Stoke Wake; nevertheless it is probably too far from the park fields already discussed to be associated with them. Comments throwing any light on this place name would be welcome.

#### THORNFORD (P.32)

The village of Thornford lies some three miles south-west of Sherborne. From the village two lanes, Blacksmith's Lane to the north and Horsepool Lane to the south, run south-eastwards up on to the slopes of Lillington and Knighton hills. Between these lanes, and closer to the crest of the escarpment than to the village, are a group of nine fields with names such as "Great Park" and "Park Mead". Though no reference has been found to a park at Thornford, this exceptional group of field names strongly suggested that a park had existed there, but detailed examination of the area revealed no trace of characteristic earthworks. Topographically the site appeared a promising one, especially since the parish boundary between Thornford and Beer Hackett follows Horsepool Lane for a short distance and then continues its line up on to Knighton Hill, where it meets the boundary of Lillington parish running along the very edge of the scarp north-eastwards. These boundaries however are not noticeably embanked, nor can any noteworthy embankment be found along either of the two lanes. It therefore appears unlikely that there was an embanked park at Thornford, though the striking group of field names make it difficult to dismiss the site completely.

#### AUTHORITIES

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| BPR       | The Black Prince's Register.  |
| Cal CR    | Calendar of Close Rolls.  |
| Cal IPM   | Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem.   |
| Cal PR    | Calendar of Patent Rolls.   |
| Clegg     | A. Lindsay Clegg: <i>A History of Wimborne Minster &amp; District</i> , 1960.                           |
| Drew      | C. D. Drew: <i>The Forests of Blackmoor and Gillingham</i> , article in <i>The Marn'll Book</i> , 1952. |
| Fägersten | A. Fägersten: <i>The Place-Names of Dorset</i> , 1933.  |
| Fry       | Fry's Typescript in the Dorset County Museum.   |
| Good      | Ronald Good: <i>The Old Roads of Dorset</i> , 1966.   |
| RCHM      | <i>Inventary of Historical Monuments in Dorset</i> , Vol IV, North, 1972.                               |
| Smith     | H. P. Smith: <i>History of the Borough &amp; County of the Town of Poole</i> , 1951.                    |
| S.P.Dom.  | State Papers Domestic, Public Record Office.  |

## THE DORSET COUNTY ELECTION OF 1857

---

CAROLINE HARVEY M.A., (OXON)

The General Election of 1857 was the only occasion between 1831 and 1876 on which the parliamentary representation of Dorset was settled by a contest rather than by the unopposed return of the only three candidates to stand. The spasmodic nature of county contests was not unusual for the times, although few counties surpassed Dorset's quiescence. The county electorate that was called into action numbered 5620, from a population of 184,000. The election proved remarkable not only because it was contested but also because it produced a political up-set. Between 1841 and 1857 all three Dorset seats were held by Protectionist Conservatives. But in 1857 a Liberal, the Hon. William Portman, appeared and defeated one of the sitting Conservatives to come top of the poll. The means whereby his victory was achieved were long debated in Dorset.

Nationally, the 1857 election was notable for the way in which it was dominated by the politics and personality of Lord Palmerston, the Liberal Prime Minister. Palmerston decided to seek a dissolution after he had been defeated in the Commons by a combination of Conservatives, Radicals and Peelites. The question which occasioned his defeat was that of the Government's policy in China. A few months before, the Chinese authorities at Canton had arrested the crew of a Chinese ship, the *Arrow*, which had a British captain and flew the British flag; the Chinese claimed that the crew contained a number of pirates. The British governor at Hong Kong then ordered up a naval squadron which bombarded Canton and captured part of the city. Commercial interests were involved as well as national pride, since the Chinese had been hindering British trade. In Parliament, the Government's opponents condemned the British action as immoral and unnecessary, and criticised the Government for expressing its approval. Palmerston however reduced the question to the simple necessity of defending national interests against an unscrupulous and untrustworthy enemy, and on this platform Government candidates prospered while their opponents struggled.

The comparative economic prosperity of the 1850s tended to diminish popular interest in those demands for reform which had been a feature of the 1840s; unless there was strong local interest in another issue, the question of "for or against Palmerston", as Lord Shaftesbury noted, was the only one that seemed to matter in 1857. In Dorset, the future of the system of compulsory church rates could become an important issue because the rate was still levied in the county, on dissenters and churchmen alike, although in the large cities dissenters had already freed themselves from its payment. Attempts by back-bench Liberals to abolish the rate universally and to substitute a voluntary system were gaining ground each year in Parliament, but had not yet succeeded. Another much-debated topic was the future of the government grant to the Roman Catholic seminary at Maynooth in Ireland, which many Conservative and also many Liberal dissenters agreed in wishing to end. Protection, which had been a crucial question in rural areas ten years before, had ceased to be a divisive election issue by 1857.

The three sitting Conservative members for Dorset in 1857 were Henry Ker Seymer, John Floyer and Gerard Sturt. Seymer and Floyer had represented Dorset since 1846, when they were elected in place of two Free Trade Conservatives who had resigned. Sturt was elected in 1856 in place of George Bankes of Kingston Lacey, once a leading Protectionist. All three were local landowners: Seymer had an estate of about two thousand acres at Hanford; Floyer's smaller estate lay at West Stafford near Dorchester. Sturt came from a wealthier landed family: the Sturt estates were at More Crichel and the family had a controlling interest in various county charities, most notably the Napier almshouses in Dorchester, whose inhabitants featured briefly in the 1857 election.

The new Liberal candidate in 1857, the Hon. William Portman, was the eldest son of Lord Portman, who had an estate of about 10,000 acres in and around Blandford, in addition to

more extensive estates in Somerset. Lord Portman was definitely one of the leading figures in the life of the county and his son was unlikely to have to deal with another Liberal contestant. William Portman had already represented Shaftesbury since 1852; his move to the county seats may have been the result of a feeling among the local Whig landowners that this election presented them with a good opportunity to break the Conservative hold on the more highly-regarded county seats.

At the start of the campaign the Dorset Conservatives announced confidently that the county “will of course send back to Parliament three staunch Conservatives”(1). When Portman appeared, the Conservatives attacked him as a frivolous “young man from Shaftesbury”, whose political ambitions would be better absorbed elsewhere; the *Dorset County Chronicle* (a staunchly Conservative journal) observed that “There are pocket boroughs enough for him no doubt, and warming pans holding them snug”(2). It was objected that Portman should have come forward when Bankes died in 1856, whereas in 1857 there was “no vacancy” in the county representation, and he might “displace a person already in the service of the county”(3). Organisationally, the three Conservatives were ill-equipped to face such a formidable challenge. They had a central committee, formed from a number of county notables, but there is no evidence that it had any continuous role during the election, and the campaign agent seems to have dealt only with financial and legal arrangements. Portman’s campaign appeared to be better organised, and his list of supporters, which included Lord Rivers, the Earl of Ilchester and the Digby family, represented a more impressive collection of those who, as landowners, were believed to possess influence with the county electors.

The most prominent issue of the election campaign, the China question, was also the one which raised most difficulties for the Conservatives. By the time the county election was under way, it was already clear that Palmerston’s appeal to patriotism was overcoming the criticisms of his opponents: the borough election results, which came before the counties polled, were to confirm this. In Dorset the Conservatives could not escape the fact that all their candidates had voted against Palmerston, while Portman had supported him. In their joint election address the three Conservatives tried to draw a distinction between their strong opposition to the initial action taken by the British authorities in China, and their approval of subsequent Government action to protect British lives and property(4). The *Chronicle* however continued to describe Palmerston as “a man of expediency” and his supporters as “men of no principle”(5).

Portman on the other hand declared his complete support for Palmerston’s policy because it was “in accordance with true English spirit and the safest course that could be adopted in the difficult position of affairs”(6). The Conservatives maintained their united front on this question until the end of the campaign, when Gerard Sturt expressed his support for Palmerston in more glowing terms, and described him as “a thorough Conservative minister”, who “deserved well of his country”(7). By the time he said this, Sturt was campaigning apart from his colleagues, and the Liberal press remarked that there was a “real and unmistakable split in the hitherto compact and imposing mass of parliamentary representatives so liberally presented to the county constituency”(8).

The reluctance of the Dorset Conservatives to attack the Liberals on foreign policy did not extend to domestic issues, and the mainstay of the Conservatives’ political campaign became the question of the compulsory payment of church rates. In 1856, Portman had supported the Bill brought in by Sir William Clay to abolish church rates: Palmerston also gave it his support. In his election address, Portman expressed himself in favour of “any well-considered measure to alter the present system”. The Dorset Conservatives, who had opposed the Bill, related their opposition to feeling in the county: Seymer argued that there was no local protest against the rate, and that he “could not agree that because in some few parishes a

#### Notes

I am most grateful to The Hon. Mrs Michael Portman of Durweston, Blandford for giving me access to the Portman estate rent books. The following notes relate to figures in the text:

- (1) *Dorset County Chronicle* 12 March 1857: editorial.
- (2) *D.C.C.* 2 April 1857: editorial.
- (3) *D.C.C.* 19 March 1857: report of Floyer’s speech.
- (4) *D.C.C.* 19 March 1857: Conservative election address.
- (5) *D.C.C.* 12 March 1857: editorial.
- (6) *D.C.C.* 19 March 1857: Portman’s election address.
- (7) *D.C.C.* 2 April 1857: Sturt’s speech.
- (8) *Dorset County Express*: 31 March 1857: editorial.

little difficulty had arisen as to church rates that therefore they were to abolish them in some eight or nine thousand parishes where they were made and collected as easily as any other rate they could mention”(9). The Conservatives spread the rumour that Portman had been forced to leave Shaftesbury because of his “vote of hostility to the church”. The *Dorset County Chronicle* concluded its support for the Conservatives with the stirring call: “The abolition of church rates would strike a blow at the possibility of holding one stone upon another of our twelve thousand English parish churches for many years to come. County voters! You go to the poll then to vote not for or against the son of Lord Portman, not for or against the Government of Lord Palmerston but for or against the church of your fathers”(10).

Another religious issue where the Conservatives made an emotional appeal for support was the “Sunday question”. This grew from the recent and unsuccessful attempts by Sir Joshua Walmsley, M.P. for Leicester, and the National Sunday League to relax the prohibitions upon Sunday entertainment in London. Just before polling day, the *Dorset County Chronicle* printed a revivalist editorial, which condemned Portman for belonging to the same party as men who wished to “continentalise this country and destroy its Sabbaths”(11). Portman retaliated by declaring that he opposed any laws which would cause the “desecration of the Sabbath day”. Walmsley’s proposed reforms related exclusively to London, so that for electoral purposes the Sunday question served the Conservatives in Dorset only as an illustration of the horrors of metropolitan Radicalism, and could not be construed as a direct threat to the peace of the Dorset Sabbath. Finally, the Conservatives stressed that they had voted for the withdrawal of the grant to Maynooth, which Portman had supported.

Dorset electors with long memories found that the circumstances surrounding polling day had changed remarkably since the last county election of 1831, when polling took place over fifteen days. In 1857 polling was confined to one day, when there was “not a bunch of colours, a flag or banner to be seen”(12). County electors no longer converged on Dorchester, but voted in nine electoral districts, at Beaminster, Blandford, Portland, Dorchester, Shaftesbury, Sherborne, Sturminster, Wareham and Wimborne. The result, which was announced two days after polling, was as follows:

Hon. W. B. Portman	2340 votes
H. G. Sturt	2197
H. K. Seymer	2177
J. Floyer	2159

Floyer therefore lost the seat which he had held since 1846.

This result led the Conservatives to examine very closely what had happened during the election and the poll. They concluded that they had been poorly organised for a one day poll, but they reserved their main criticisms for their opponents. They were prepared to accept that landlords did seek to exercise political influence over their tenants’ votes, for, as Seymer observed, “It would ill become me as a Conservative to complain of the legitimate influence of property”(13). But the Conservatives did complain that Portman’s success was built on landlord influence alone, and that this had, in many cases, been used in an “excessive” way, to force electors to vote contrary to their inclinations. In particular they complained that the Liberals had used threats of higher rents against any tenants who were going to vote for the Conservatives in order to force them to give a vote to Portman. The *Chronicle* declared that, “Portman’s canvass, dating its commencement from the last rent day and giving him the whole range of the Digby, Rivers, Westminster, Ilchester and Portman estates . . . was enforced by the additional application of THE SCREW”(14). Thus while Floyer “disclaimed all the arts of a political canvass”, Portman’s supporters had been “driven on to vote under territorial influence, and irrespective of prior and superior claims”(15). The paper later contained an advertisement, no doubt inspired by the Conservatives, for land to rent “under a landlord who would not oblige his tenant to vote in any county election contrary to his own convictions”(16).

(9) *D.C.C.* 2 April 1857: Seymer’s nomination speech.

(10) *Ibid.*: editorial.

(11) *Ibid.*

(12) *D.C.C.* 9 April 1857: editorial.

(13) *D.C.C.* 2 April 1857: Seymer’s nomination speech.

(14) *D.C.C.* 9 April 1857: editorial.

(15) *Ibid.*

(16) *D.C.C.* 30 April 1857.

Does the Dorset poll book provide any evidence that confirms these allegations about landlords' political activities, and were the Conservatives right to discuss the result purely as the outcome of such forces? First, it is clear from the record of the poll that all four candidates did poll more votes in those areas where they or their supporters owned land<sup>(17)</sup>. Thus Floyer had more votes than his colleagues in the Dorchester area; Sturt was ahead at Wimborne, and Seymer at Sherborne. The Liberals alleged that Sturt had run a private campaign in Dorchester, where his father controlled entry to the Napier almshouses: all the inmates there had voted for him alone. There were also definite concentrations of Portman support: thus in Blandford town, in the middle of the Portman estates, 48 electors plumped for Portman, 28 gave him one of their votes and only 8 failed to vote for him at all; many of his voters were Portman tenants<sup>(18)</sup>. Secondly, there is a definite increase in the number of voters who split their votes between the parties in those areas where Liberal and Conservative landlords competed for influence.

On the other hand the poll book demonstrates that the Conservatives were wrong to assert that the Liberals had been forced to use "excessive" influence because there was a general reluctance to accept a Liberal in preference to a Conservative. If this were true it would be shown by a marked concentration of plumper votes for Portman in those areas where the Liberals could exercise influence, and by an equally marked scarcity elsewhere. In fact, Liberal plumper votes are spread evenly among the polling districts. Nor did Portman have a disproportionately high number of votes from among the more dependent classes of voters. The 4271 electors who voted in 1857 consisted of 2584 freeholders, 1183 occupiers, 273 long leaseholders and 231 copyholders; those most directly dependent on their landlords were the occupiers, followed by the leaseholders and copyholders. But 1012 of Portman's 1629 plumper votes came from the freeholders, and, although it can be argued that some of these were "planted" by landowners, there were no complaints of this practice in Dorset and it seems more likely that Portman was, quite simply, the most popular candidate.

If local factors were important, the Conservative analysis of the election neglected an important aspect of them. This was that Dorset contained a group of powerful and influential Liberal landowners who had been denied a share in the county representation for sixteen years. The ending of Protection as an issue associated with the Conservative party meant, as Disraeli said, that the counties returned in this election to their "natural influences"<sup>(19)</sup>. In Dorset's case, the natural reflection of the distribution of landowning influence in the county was a division of the representation.

Would the Dorset result have been the same if Palmerston and the China question had not been available as the main election issue? The evidence of Dorset and other constituencies suggests that Palmerston's popularity provided the spur to the Liberal challenge in the first place, and that, as the Dorset Conservatives realised, he certainly did them no good. The Liberal *Dorset County Express* said of the county election that: "The desire of the electoral body went no further than to pronounce in favour of Lord Palmerston"<sup>(20)</sup>. The Dorset campaign had a considerable element of political controversy and was not regarded by the candidates merely as a formal facade to the real business of influencing votes, but rather as a vital part of the process of winning votes. In this respect the Dorset election was typical of that transitional mid-century period when pre-Reform Act election practices survived among a changed and enlarged electorate. When the next generation of Dorset county electors polled in 1876, the reform of the electoral system had gone further and the introduction of the secret ballot had dealt a serious blow to the use of influence among electors.

(17) A copy of the Dorset county poll book for 1857 is in the Bodleian library; it gives voters' franchise qualifications but not their occupations.

(18) The Portman rent books give some indication of the exact extent of their landholdings.

(19) R. Blake, *Disraeli* p. 375 (London 1966).

(20) *Dorset County Express* 21 April 1857: editorial.

ANNE HOSFORD

In a "fair, quiet spot, surrounded with elms, old lawns and quaintly cut yews", in an age of remarkable clergymen, lived an outstanding example of his kind, the Reverend Lord Sidney Godolphin Osborne, known more familiarly as "S.G.O.". From 1841 until 1875 he was Rector of Durweston, near Blandford, and the "fair quiet spot" was none other than the Rectory and its garden setting, thus described in 1891 by Arnold White, editor of S.G.O.'s forty-four year series of letters to *The Times* newspaper.

These Letters are S.G.O.'s principal memorial, and Arnold White in making his selection of them, describes them as "alive with sincerity and the love of truth". He further asserts that "the zest for controversy gave a noticeable increase to the happiness of his (S.G.O.'s) existence".

This zest for controversy in the early days in Dorset centred on the agricultural poor, and his outspoken championship of their cause brought him into sharp conflict with local landowners, farmers, and with public figures further afield. Although he interested himself in many other burning issues over the years, his head and his heart were always with the poor in their sufferings.

After years of energetically harrowing the stony soil of public opinion, he had at last the satisfaction of seeing a fertile crop of improvements come slowly forth, in the shape of better housing and easier living conditions. The altering of public opinion towards benevolence and understanding of the problems of the poor was of course not his achievement alone; he was part of the nineteenth-century philanthropic movement; but there is no doubt that his writings, tirelessly energetic and meticulously researched, were a notable contribution to the movement.

In Durweston, the Church of St. Nicholas, and the Rectory which he rebuilt are reminders of his former presence, and great grandchildren of his old parishioners are living in the village to this day.

#### FAMILY AND ORIGINS

S.G.O. was not a native of Dorset. He was born on 5th February 1808 at the family seat Gog Magog Hills, Stapleford, Cambs., of which only the stables exist today<sup>(1)</sup>. He was the third son of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, created first Baron Godolphin of Farnham Royal, Bucks, in 1832. S.G.O.'s mother, Elizabeth Charlotte was one of the many daughters of William Eden, first Baron Auckland, a man of high distinction in diplomatic and political life. One of Elizabeth's sisters, Emily Eden, became a well known traveller and writer (*The Semi-Attached Couple*, etc.) S.G.O.'s other grandfather was Francis Godolphin Osborne, fifth Duke of Leeds.

Two remoter ancestors were Thomas Osborne, Lord Danby the statesman, created first Duke of Leeds in old age, and the great John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough. In 1740 the families of Godolphin and Osborne were united through the marriage of the fourth Duke with Lady Mary Godolphin, granddaughter of John Churchill.

S.G.O.'s childhood and youth await research. We might assume from the few facts at our disposal that typical subjects of family conversation and argument would have been Politics, the Poor, the Church, the Abolition of Slavery and, by no means least, a hereditary preoccupation with the Horse and Horse Breeding. Newmarket was not far distant from Stapleford.

He was educated at Rugby School until 1824. At the age of 16 he went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, as a commoner, matriculating in December the same year, and he took a

(1) The Rev. Barber, Stapleford.

B.A. pass degree in 1830<sup>(2)</sup>. At some stage he was elected to membership of the Phoenix Common Room, the select undergraduate wine and dining club. His nickname in those days was "Gallopington", and it is pleasant to imagine that his life at Oxford was an actively social and convivial one. A well known story is told of a shooting party, during which Sidney was instructed by his father Lord Francis that he was to enter the Church of England. Papa's word was law; there was, apparently, no discussion, and S.G.O. duly took Holy Orders, becoming deacon in 1831<sup>(3)</sup>. Next year he was ordained priest by the Bishop of Lincoln. In later life Sidney claimed no sense of vocation, and one suspects that he may not have found his career a congenial one in the beginning. However, his staunch Evangelical upbringing had equipped him to enter the battle of life with more than ordinary success, as we shall see.



Fig. 1. Sidney Godolphin Osborne 1808-1889.

#### ORDINATION AND FIRST LIVING

In the patrimony of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, Sidney's father, were 480 acres at Stoke Poges, Bucks. With this land went the right to appoint an incumbent to the Parish Church<sup>(4)</sup>. Opportunely a vacancy occurred for the young Sidney in 1832, and he was to be Vicar for nine years, and to marry and raise a family there.

The Grenfell family to which belonged his future wife Emily lived at Taplow Court a few miles distant. Pascoe Grenfell<sup>(5)</sup>, Emily's father, was a financier and politician of Cornish origin, whose principal interests were in mining concerns in Cornwall and Anglesey. He had been twice married, his second wife Georgiana St. Leger, Emily's mother, dying in 1819, leaving a family of eleven half brothers and sisters. Emily was the eighth child, and of her two youngest sisters, Charlotte married the historian J. A. Froude in 1849, and in 1844 Fanny married Charles Kingsley, Rector of Eversley for 31 years, and author of *The Water Babies*, *Hypatia*, etc. etc.

Emily and Sidney were married in 1834, and in the next few years a son Sidney Francis (1835-1903) and two daughters were born: Emily Caroline (1837-1920) and Georgiana

<sup>(2)</sup> Eric Collieu, Esq., Brasenose College.

<sup>(3)</sup> Crockford's Cler. Dir. 1874.

<sup>(4)</sup> L. Rigby, Esq., Stoke Poges.

<sup>(5)</sup> D.N.B.

(1839-1924). All three, also Sidney Francis' wife Margaret Hammersley (d.1922) are buried in Durweston churchyard. The fourth child Riversdale (1847-1892) was born at Durweston. Both sons entered the Church.

Already at Stoke Poges, Sidney had given utterance to opinions on the social conditions of the "lower classes". A sermon full of uncomfortable truths one Sunday earned him the pained reproaches of a lady of local society, but Sidney was, naturally, unrepentant. He was already busy gathering a store of facts and figures, and presently published two pamphlets "Hints to the Charitable" which proposed the advantages of village thrift clubs as opposed to indiscriminate charity giving, and "Hints for the Amelioration of the Moral Condition of a Village Population". Forbidding titles, perhaps, but they indicate how strongly his sympathies and convictions were moving.

#### DURWESTON, DORSET, 1841-1875

In 1841 Lord Portman, recently raised to the Baronage, a magnate with among other vast possessions, large estates in Dorset, found himself without a Rector for Durweston parish church. (The benefices of Durweston and Bryanston had been united in 1788). Lord Portman's mansion of Bryanston in those days occupied the site of the present St. Martin's Church, with a unique river vista.

We do not know how Lord Portman had heard of Sidney, but the invitation was sent, and accepted, and the Osborne family arrived at their new home at the beginning of September 1841. What would their first reactions have been, at the first sight of agricultural Dorset, feeling the effects of the long depression on every side. According to contemporary accounts, the average Dorset village would not have been prepossessing, especially at the end of the summer. A far cry indeed from any idyllic romantic notions of quaint cottages and rosy faced villagers. The reality would have been less attractive, with rubbish and "nuisances" much in evidence. A typhus epidemic had been raging in a neighbouring village, and the church and parsonage were dilapidated and in sad need of repair<sup>(6)</sup>. The cottage dwellings varied from the new brick terrace nicknamed "Barrack Row"<sup>(7)</sup> to small cob and thatch habitations insufficient to house the rapidly expanding population. The people themselves would, many of them, have been raggedly clothed and undernourished since the day they were born. This is a grim picture, but Durweston, being a "close" village undoubtedly did not fare as badly as some.

S.G.O. must have been appalled as he went visiting among his new parishioners. They in their turn viewed him with considerable suspicion, this young chap, full of questions about the way they lived, what they lived on, and so forth. The previous Rector Mr. Fleet had been the incumbent for almost 50 years, dying in office the previous March aged 85. Probably life had jogged along in the same way for years. S.G.O. had come to stir things up.

He had not been in residence a month when plans were afoot for a new Rectory, to be much larger than the old parsonage which may well have been little more than a cottage, and which now had to be certified in a sworn statement as being "thoroughly decayed and worn out"<sup>(8)</sup>, and beyond repair.

At this point, let us go a little more deeply into the matter of Durweston Rectory. The architect was Philip Hardwick, who was to become well known in his profession. A Faculty or licence had to be obtained for the taking down and rebuilding, and two local Rectors<sup>(9)</sup> (of Blandford and Tarrant Rawston) certified to the Bishop as to the dilapidated state of the old parsonage, also that the Reverend S. G. Osborne had received dilapidations of £245, which sum would be put towards the cost (£1450) of the new Rectory. The value of the materials in the old parsonage were put at £200, and these were to be re-used in the new building. The remaining sum of £1005 was borrowed at interest from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty on mortgage of the glebe, tithes, etc. In the plans and specifications we read of marble chimney pieces at £7 each to the two principal rooms, and old Purbeck paving in courses for the kitchen and scullery. Also what may well have been the first W.C. in the village, though no bathroom as such. We are told too, that the house was built of three courses of brick to six courses of flint, but this is not visible as the whole house was rendered over.

<sup>(6)</sup> S.D.R.O.

<sup>(7)</sup> 1841 Census.

<sup>(8)</sup> S.D.R.O.

<sup>(9)</sup> S.D.R.O.

Since 1951 the former Rectory has been part of Bryanston School junior house, and the Glebe is farmed with Knighton Farm, whose landlords are the Crown Estate Commissioners. The Rectory has been considerably altered inside and out since S.G.O.'s day, but the gardens are still a quiet haven.

S.G.O.'s first burial was that of Benjamin Godwin the local brewer who had just died, aged 97. Ben, his son Henry and his grandson Henry Colpitts, spanned 177 years, from 1743-1920. John Godwin another of Ben's sons, farmed in the village, and was Poor Law Guardian for a number of years as S.G.O. would be in due course<sup>(10)</sup>. It was probably under John Godwin's roof that Samuel Gifford (grandfather of Humphry Gifford, Esq.) spent a night after viewing Durweston Farm early in 1845, as its future tenant.

Farming was the primary occupation in the district, employing many local men, boys and some women. Pay was in the region of 7s. per week, 3s. for boys, who usually started work at eight or nine years old. A number of the women were engaged in the button trade, in Sidney's early days, but this cottage industry was to fall into decline on the introduction of the machine made button, and only two button workers are listed in the 1851 Census. This Census is a mine of information, and incidentally, tells us that S.G.O.'s household contained at that date a groom, cook, parlourmaid, nurse/housekeeper and nurserymaid.

The village was in the process of undergoing great changes but at the time the Osbornes arrived, the 1800-acre parish consisted of several small farms, mainly in the lower land, with a considerable acreage of "top" land in hand—commons, woodlands etc. Lord Portman had for the previous twenty years been reclaiming Durweston Down, an ambitious enterprise which cost over £10,000<sup>(11)</sup>, we are told, but it provided desperately needed employment during the depression, for a rapidly multiplying labouring population. The work was terribly hard and gruelling but in the long term the land was permanently improved. Every square yard was dug by hand, a feat which nowadays might only be surpassed in the Chinese People's Republic. By 1845 the work was complete, and most of the land in the parish was let in two large blocks. To the north lay Durweston Farm, which absorbed the "new" land, whose tenant was Sam Gifford, to the Knighton Farm to the south was let to George Harding, of whom it is said that he grubbed out eleven miles of old hedge and planted seven miles of new. Sam Gifford continued reclamation work by means of gangs of Irish labourers who lived on site in turf huts. He and George Harding were energetic and progressive farmers, and employed between them on a joint acreage of 1400, some 58 men and boys, in 1851<sup>(12)</sup>. Other local employers were Godwin's brewery and lands, 19 men and 5 boys, the Master Carpenter James Russell, 8 men, also a blacksmith and other tradesmen supplying local needs, in a population of 468. The village contained no freehold properties and was administered as part of the Bryanston estates of the Portman family. The local agent Mr. Forrester lived in what is now Home Farm House, Bryanston village. Such was the parish which was now occupying S.G.O.'s close attention.

Once settled in the new Rectory S.G.O. could in more comfort arrange his affairs and take the measure of the poverty and distress daily obtruding itself upon him. From time to time he would travel further afield, and he gradually amassed a heap of statistics and case histories, in fact a chronicle of misery among the least fortunate of the population—though his interest in their affairs was at first highly suspect even among those he wished most to help.

S.G.O.'s first major sortie into the arena of public controversy was in 1842-3, via a paper he wrote at the request of the Special Commissioners appointed to investigate and report on the conditions of Women, Children and Young Persons in Agriculture. One area chosen for investigation was the Blandford district. The revelations in this Report caused a sensation, and "brought on me an amount of local animosity hard now to be believed" wrote S.G.O. many years later<sup>(13)</sup>. It is fair to point out that other local clergymen and knowledgeable persons gave evidence to the commissioners, none perhaps quite as outspoken as S.G.O. Stimulated and encouraged by the reactions to his paper, S.G.O. now went from strength to strength. The following year saw the beginning of the astonishing series of "lay sermons" to *The Times* newspaper, in which he argued, attacked, marshalled close ranks of facts, and spared no man or institution he considered wanting in humanity or good sense.

<sup>(10)</sup> Minute Books of Blandford Board of Guardians.

<sup>(11)</sup> D.P. 73.

<sup>(12)</sup> 1851 Census.

<sup>(13)</sup> 1867 Report to Commissioners etc.

The refusal of landowners to build more cottages, and the consequent overcrowding was to S.G.O. the <sup>(14)</sup>“great cause of the positive increase in numbers and positive deterioration of character in the peasantry”. He defended himself against Sir James Graham the Home Secretary’s accusation “a popularity hunting parson”, saying he was “content to be condemned as an officious dangerous meddler with the peace of this country . . . my conscience is at ease”. He could be savage when aroused, as so often he was, by the gross discrepancies between rich and poor, and the preaching of the rich “who could more easily conceal their misdoings”<sup>(15)</sup> at the moral shortcomings of the poor struck him as the very height of hypocrisy. He questioned how the recent Poor Law Amendment Act could help the pauper. The handout of parish relief still depended on the alleged distinction drawn between the worthy and unfortunate poor, and the feckless undeserving poor. S.G.O. rewrote the story of the Good Samaritan for 1844: The Good Samaritan came upon a traveller, lying beaten and wounded at the roadside. He would ascertain to which parish the wounded one belonged, and “trot on to the Overseer to report a case of Emergency. The Union Medical Officer would bind up his wounds and the Relieving Officer would remove him into the Workhouse”<sup>(16)</sup>.

One side effect of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act was that some farmers now grudged the poor their ancient right to glean after the harvest. Said S.G.O. “The condition of a labourer with a large family is at present a most pitiable one”—his earnings were not sufficient to provide the family with enough to eat and he is probably not physically capable of the same amount of work as a man with the same wage and less mouths to feed at home. As to overcrowding “in those villages where cottages were most crowded there are the greatest number of illegitimate children”. S.G.O. quoted from the 1843 Report.

Charles Kingsley, eleven years his junior, visited the Rectory in May 1844. Recently S.G.O. had officiated at the marriage between Kingsley and Emily Osborne’s youngest sister Fanny, and the young man found his new brother-in-law “deep in statistics and abuses”<sup>(17)</sup>. Kingsley had been offered the curacy at Pimperne and “did the duty there several times”<sup>(18)</sup>. One day the clerk said to him, referring to his parishioners “They know they can be no worse off than they are”<sup>(19)</sup>. Kingsley was deeply discouraged: “What is the use of talking to hungry paupers about heaven?”<sup>(20)</sup> He must have discussed with Sidney what he should do, and in a letter to Fanny he called his brother-in-law “very clever and instructive. I am learning so much from him and he seems to be doing great good<sup>(21)</sup>.” However, when Kingsley’s former parishioners at his beloved Eversley invited him to return among them as their Rector one can sense his joy and relief. In the late Forties Kingsley edited a short-lived Christian Socialist journal “Politics for the People”. S.G.O. contributed under the guise of “Sam Gorze”, a working man.

1845-6 saw the fruition of plans to take down and rebuild most of the parish church, an operation financed by Lord Portman. Again, Philip Hardwick was the architect, and from what evidence exists<sup>(22)</sup> the new church resembled in style the old one, though was much loftier and lighter inside. An ancient Methodist worthy writing in the Eighties<sup>(23)</sup>, commented that by this rebuilding “much additional employment was given, and as a matter of course some of the workmen were strangers and could tell of doings elsewhere”. Few of the inhabitants had travelled far afield at that time. Sidney’s reactions to his new church were mixed, if not ungrateful: Fiercely he wrote in 1845: “we are known to all the world as a Christian nation, exporting yearly tons of Bibles in all languages . . . religion is at this moment fashionable . . . people build churches as they used to buy marquetrie—to show their taste . . . Men write to the trainers of their racehorses and their church architect by the same post; it is questionable on which they expend most, the house of prayer or the inmates of their racing stables”. What, one wonders, was Lord Portman’s reaction as he read this letter in *The Times* of 9th January 1845 from his turbulent Rector.

<sup>(14)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

<sup>(15)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

<sup>(16)</sup> S.G.O.: “A View . . .”

<sup>(17)</sup> C. Kingsley Letters, Vol. I, page 121.

<sup>(18)</sup> C. Kingsley Letters, Vol. I, page 121.

<sup>(19)</sup> C. Kingsley Letters, Vol. I, page 121.

<sup>(20)</sup> C. Kingsley Letters, Vol. I, page 121.

<sup>(21)</sup> C. Kingsley Letters, Vol. I, page 121.

<sup>(22)</sup> Hutchins.

<sup>(23)</sup> “Methodism in Durweston”.

The potato blight in Ireland during this decade was active also in the allotments and gardens of England, but while the Irish peasantry depended entirely on their potato crop the English labourer's diet though limited was more varied. In Durweston the allotments were first mentioned in the early Fifties, but had been in operation already for some time. Many families kept a pig, but the largest item of expenditure in the housekeeping was on flour<sup>(24)</sup>.

The famine in the west of Ireland was making news in England at last, and S.G.O. paid visits to the stricken areas. In 1850 he published an account of these grisly travels as "Gleanings from the West of Ireland". He met local people concerned with famine relief, and he was conducted over the notorious Ballina workhouse which "served" an area of 100,000 people, in varying stages of death by slow starvation.

His other preoccupation at this time was with Emigration, which he was convinced provided an opportunity for a better life in a new country for those with sufficient ambition and courage. In 1849 he was given the responsibility for "filling a ship" for the Emigration Commissioners. He tells us that twenty-four handpicked persons, including four complete families went from Durweston to join a large party emigrating to New South Wales. He gave a moving account<sup>(25)</sup> of the selling up and departure of the families, and their joining the emigrant ship at Plymouth, in a letter of March 1849. With his usual thoroughness he inspected the ship and visited the emigrant quarters where he found "a veritable Babel" in the compartment where the families with young children spent their time, introduced himself to the captain and assured himself that the spiritual side was well attended to. S.G.O. kept in touch with the emigrants for many years, and in 1867 he reported that "they have all done well and some have sent home money to take their relatives out to them"<sup>(26)</sup>.

The state of agriculture improved after the Repeal of the Corn Laws, and S.G.O. asked why there had been so much commotion against Repeal. In 1852 he wrote "Let any man . . . ride over the estates of our great holders—will he see any evidence that free trade has ruined agriculture? On the contrary in every direction he will see large sums of money being expended on farm buildings on a scale and of a construction proving that the owners of property however they may talk despair do not act it"<sup>(27)</sup>. He wrote of hundreds of acres on the downs being broken up year by year, and of a great demand for farms. The Steam Engine had wrought a minor revolution and S.G.O. spoke of five, within a twenty-mile radius of home.

S.G.O. as might be expected had definite ideas on the education of the farm labourer's children. He set a target which even today seems beyond reach. Do all children in the 1970s leave school after *ten* years able to "read with ease, to be master of simple rules of arithmetic, to write a good plain hand, to have a boy's idea of the earth in outline . . ."<sup>(28)</sup> Boys in his day might only spend three or four years at school, with frequent interruptions for potato picking, and other seasonal work, or simply bad weather for the Bryanston, Travellers Rest and Shepherds Corner children who had so far to walk to the school, then situated at Durweston Cross Roads. S.G.O.'s simple but lofty ideal could rarely have been achieved, but he says that the labourers' children had nearly all been through Lord Portman's school. He himself ran a night school, and Sunday school, in which he had the assistance of his daughters, and of course Emily his wife, to whom a "genial and unaffected kindness" is ascribed by Arnold White. According to him the Osbornes were not dinner givers, and did little "socialising" except among closest friends. There could hardly be much time, with S.G.O.'s travels at home and abroad, his vast correspondence and articles, and the meticulous research and fact-finding which provided the foundation of his writings. It should be said that he always had a curate to assist with parish work.

## THE CRIMEAN WAR

"Scutari and its Hospitals" is S.G.O.'s account of what he found in six weeks' residence close to Scutari over the Christmas period 1854. He and his son Sidney Francis, now 19 years old, travelled out via Vienna and Trieste, then by ship to Piraeus where they heard the news of Balaclava and "the disastrous charge of Cavalry". They arrived at Constantinople on 8th

<sup>(24)</sup> S.G.O.: "A View . . ."

<sup>(25)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

<sup>(26)</sup> 1867 Report to Commissioners etc.

<sup>(27)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

<sup>(28)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

November. The hospitals were across the narrow Bosphorus at Scutari in Turkey. The story of Florence Nightingale and her struggle against hostile medical authorities has been told many times and will not be repeated here, but S.G.O.'s own position should be made plain. He went independently, as an observer, and was under no financial obligation to *The Times*, though he reported his experiences through that Newspaper. Earlier in the year he had been invited to go as Almoner to the *Times* Fund, but he preferred independence and a Mr. Macdonald was chosen instead. Armed with introductions from the Earl of Clarendon and Sidney Herbert, one of his closest friends, he made himself known to the Hospital Chaplain, Miss Nightingale, Mr. Macdonald and others. He tells us his first reactions to seeing the wounded: he had passed weeks in the West of Ireland where hundreds died from famine daily; he had seen also "a good deal of cholera on a large scale" . . . but "War's work is altogether an accursed work".

Sidney spent much time with patients whose end was near. With his self-taught medical and surgical knowledge he felt frustrated to see the lack of medical care, and found it impossible to understand how the army's health and wellbeing could have been so grossly neglected. He, Sidney junior and a friend took it upon themselves to write letters and messages home for those who would never return. Chloroform was used for operations, and on at least one occasion was administered by S.G.O. himself "on a handkerchief held lightly to the face". He was not squeamish, and indeed, confessed himself "unmoved" while a severe amputation was carried out. This man survived, and Sidney could not speak highly enough of the blessings of chloroform. The shock of the old fashioned "healthy bellowing action" (spine chilling thought) usually put a quick end to the hapless patient.

It is impossible to read unmoved this account of Sidney's experiences behind the scenes of the Crimean War, so sympathetic and evocative are his descriptions of incidents which particularly impressed him. Those waiting at home for news of sons and fathers at the War did not fail to catch his compassionate eye.

Let us leave the Crimea with a last terse comment, so typical of S.G.O., on the Naval hospital he visited: "that it was . . . the one English thing I saw properly conducted in the East", and his delighted surprise at the French hospitals. Certainly he was no English chauvinist. He and his son returned to England in the New Year 1855.

Questions which continued to interest S.G.O. included Religion and the Church of England, Crime and Punishment, the organisation of Charities, Sanitation and Public Health, the position of Women. Here he was very much a child of his time, in spite of his deep admiration of Florence Nightingale; but he had some withering comments to make about the harems of Turkey and a system which allowed them. From time to time he speculated on the nature of disease, of which he had seen so much. He was familiar with the work of Edwin Chadwick on sanitation and sewage, and had, through his own microscopic investigations come nearer to the truth than had Chadwick, who connected dirt with disease, but held fast all his life to the "atmospheric" theory of disease. Sidney on the other hand was convinced that some sort of living organism or at least something more positive than "foul air" lay behind disease. All medical matters, however gruesome, held a fascination for him and he took pride in his knowledge, confessing once to an almost morbid interest in the subject. In one letter he gives a lively account of a day in the life of a Union Medical Officer, with which he was familiar after many years on the Blandford Board of Guardians, and long acquaintance with the four medical officers of the Union.

In 1858 he noted the passing of the payment of wages in kind, subject to so much abuse. "The truck system is I hope fast passing away; the men are now, with little exception, paid their earnings in money; if they take any part in corn it is at their own option"<sup>(29)</sup>—so there was now a choice in the matter. Also "The earnings of a family now not only meet its wants better than I ever knew them but leave the margin I love to see for a certain amount of occasional indulgence in pleasures and tastes . . . leading to positive good" and again, "thousands of labourers are now better lodged than they were a few years since".<sup>(30)</sup>

The following year saw a family change—S.G.O.'s eldest brother succeeded to the Dukedom of Leeds; S.G.O. would henceforward bear the title The Reverend Lord Sidney Godolphin Osborne B.A.

<sup>(29)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

<sup>(30)</sup> S.G.O. Letters.

In 1860 he was invited to deliver an address to the members of the Blandford Farmers' Club, entitled "The Respective Duties of Landlords, Tenants & Labourers". This subject was, he says, suggested to him by the Club, and he was to avoid treating it "in a way which shall have any personal application, or be in itself of a political nature". The Club had a membership of about one hundred, mostly tenant farmers on large holdings on the extensive estates in the district (Portman, Rivers, Sturt, Shaftesbury etc.) To S.G.O., born into the aristocracy, it seemed right and natural that the great landowners deserved special deference from those lower down the social scale of the period. In S.G.O.'s philosophy, land ownership conferred as of right the privileges of high social status and political power. But, inseparable from such privilege and the deference it demanded—and received, generally speaking, from the "lower orders", went high responsibility both to society in general, and to dependants in particular, e.g. tenants, servants and employees. S.G.O. noted the rise of the tenant farmer in social status, and the great increase in his business. "The farm has become a factory" has a very familiar sound about it—but of course the nineteenth century "factory" farm had little in common with that of today.

Sidney pointed out to his audience that young men were being drawn away from the villages into the police, railways and the army, all of which demanded a certain standard of education. Meantime farming itself had become elaborate and labour intensive. Complicated new methods required a higher standard from the labourer than ever before.

As for that perennial and well-worked theme of his—cottages, he did not believe they could ever be a good investment, if done as they should be, but decent cottages there had to be if the right sort of worker was going to be attracted.

He ventured onto the dangerous ground of the election of M.P.s and the lack of independence of tenant farmers in the matter of their vote. He fervently believed that tenants should support their landlord whenever they conscientiously could: "I believe it to be one of the great binding supports of our constitution that landed property should have great political weight".

S.G.O. showed a new understanding of the status, and the problems, of the tenant farmer of 1860. Was it for this reason that the Blandford farmers had invited him to address them? In the past he had not spared landowner and tenant farmer alike the lash of his criticism, but age and experience, and the substantial improvements he could see taking place, had mellowed him. His views on the labouring classes were well known and it may have come as a surprise to some to hear his views on the employer class, and the stress he laid on the mutual responsibilities between the three classes.

In 1867 S.G.O., with others in the Blandford district were called upon once again to present evidence to the Special Commissioners for their second Report on the Conditions of Women, Children and Young Persons in Agriculture. In his evidence S.G.O. affirmed the improvement in cottage building and design on the big estates. The worst conditions still prevailed where capital was short, for instance in those villages where small properties were held by many freeholders, who often lacked the capital to carry out even the most elementary improvements to tenants' dwellings. It certainly would appear that the material benefits of living in a "closed" village, as opposed to an "open" one have never been more marked, though these benefits tended to go hand in hand with a certain loss of independence.

Other observations of S.G.O.'s concerned the long hours still worked by boys on the land, to the detriment of their education, and the harm done to the weaker constitution from too early, and continuous exposure to heavy toil and the rigours of the weather. The health of women working on the land could however be better than that of their sisters, working long hours in badly lit homes. Sidney was as concerned as ever at the situation of girls under 16—they he considered should not be employed regularly at out of door farm work. The demon drink he also considered to be "the greatest impediment in the way of raising the labourer's condition, and it is, of all, the most destructive of the work of the church and the school".

His *Times* correspondence continued to flourish until the year before his death, but now, many of his old battles had no longer to be fought with such unremitting vigour. People were much better informed about the state of their less fortunate countrymen than ever before, partly through the efforts of Royal Commissions and Reports over the years.

What of S.G.O.'s private correspondence, if any still exists. This would throw light upon

private friendships (Sidney Herbert of Wilton, Mr. Sturt of Crichel, Lord Rivers are mentioned by Arnold White) and upon family ties—aspects of his life which would have been of great importance to him, and which regrettably remain unexplored for the moment.

In 1875 S.G.O. retired. He was 67 years old, and was to lose Emily his wife shortly before Christmas that year. She was buried at Durweston, and commemorated by a monument of smooth granite, and it is quite possible that Sidney at that time intended it to be their shared resting place. For reasons we can only guess at, this was not to be.

He went into retirement at Lewes near some of his relations, accompanied by his daughters, neither of whom was to marry. In 1882 he bought an elegant property in the town, Pelham House, which is now the home of the East Sussex Record Office.

Some of his last letters concern the Whitechapel murders, which had for him, as for others then and now, a macabre fascination.

On 9th May 1889, aged 81, S.G.O. departed this life, leaving strict instructions as to the nature of his obsequies which in true S.G.O. style were simple and unostentatious. The *Dorset County Chronicle* in an obituary described him as “a pillar of Protestantism, pure and simple”, and of the ceremony it reported: “The remains of the lamented deceased were interred in St. John’s Churchyard, Lewes. The whole of the arrangements were unostentatious in accordance with the desire of the deceased. There was a large attendance. The chief mourners were the two sons of the deceased, his daughter Emily Caroline and his niece Lady Charlotte Osborne. Four nephews also attended, the Duke of Leeds, the Hon. and Rev. Francis Pelham, the Hon. and Rev. E. Carr Glyn and Mr. Arthur Grenfell (the latter two being relations of Emily). Among those present were the Earl of Chichester, the Mayor and ex-Mayor of Lewes and many of the local clergy”.

The National Press, and of course *The Times* whose constant support S.G.O. had received for forty-four years, paid due tribute, and “Punch” published an obituary poem, whose last four lines provide us with our farewell to a truly remarkable man:-

“ . . . . . But PUNCH looks back  
With praise upon his honourable track  
Of useful days, who, thirty years ago  
Was known and loved by him as S.G.O.”

#### SOURCES

##### S.G.O.’s works

Letters to *The Times* newspaper, 1844-1888, 2 Vols. ed. Arnold White 1891.

Gleanings from the West of Ireland, 1849.

These were borrowed through the Inter County Library Lending Service.

Photocopies of the following works were obtained from the British Library:

Hints to the Charitable, 1839.

A View of the Low Moral, and Physical Condition of the Agricultural Labourer, 1844.

Scutari and Its Hospitals, 1855.

The Respective Duties of Landlords, Tenants and Labourers, 1860.

as was also

Methodism in Durweston, J. H. Bartlett, 1883.

Dictionary of National Biography; S.G.O. and works.

Burke’s Peerage and Landed Gentry: general information on Godolphin Osborne and Grenfell families.

Hutchins’ History of Dorset, Vol. I, pages 265-269.

Bodleian Library for copy of page 649 of Crockford’s Clerical Directory, 1874.

Durweston Parish Registers.

Dorset County Record Office for:

Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners on the Conditions of Women, Children and Young Persons in Agriculture, 1843 and 1867.

Minute Books of the Blandford Board of Poor Law Guardians—and much general assistance.

Dorset County Museum:

Robert Douch’s A Handbook of Local History, Dorset.

Dorset County Chronicle, 16 May 1889.

Salisbury Diocesan Record Office:

Plans and papers relating to rebuilding of Durweston Rectory, 1841.

East Sussex Record Office, Lewes, re Pelham House.

Proceedings of the D.N.H.A.S., Vol. 73: G. E. Fussell's "Four Centuries of Farming Systems in Dorset", pages 132-133.

Charles Kingsley: His Letters, ed. Fanny Kingsley, Vol. I.

The Rev. C. A. Barber, The Vicarage, Stapleford, Cambs: Information on S.G.O.'s Birthplace.

Lionel Rigby, Esq., 18 Bunby Road, Stoke Poges, Bucks: Information on S.G.O.'s father and incumbency at Stoke Poges.

Humphry Gifford, Esq., C.B.E., J.P., for family and 19th-century Durweston history.

PUNCH magazine, and Miss Barbara Kerr who brought to my notice the PUNCH obituary poem.

Dr. Ted Ward, 7 Chatsworth Road, Poole, who brought to my attention two articles by "Sam Gorze" (alias S.G.O.) in "Politics for the People" 1848 obtained in photocopy from Birmingham University Library.

Eric Colliou, Esq., Historian and Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, for information on S.G.O.'s years at Oxford University.

The Editor gratefully acknowledges receipt of *A History of the Tregonwell Family* by M. T. Medlycott. This manuscript has been added to the Society's Library.

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the gift of the transcribed Peninsular War diary of Sgt. Benjamin Miller, donated by Miss Margaret E. Dacombe on behalf of the late Miss M. R. Dacombe. The transcript has been added to the Society's Library.

#### CORRIGENDUM

The Editor is indebted to Canon Goodall for pointing out that the Organ at Blandford was restored to its original position six years ago, and the north and south galleries were taken down at the same time. Members may like to correct the information on this point which was published in E. T. Long's article 'Georgian Churches in Dorset', *Proceedings*, Vol. 97, p. 31.

## THE COLONISATION OF RURAL BRITAIN: SIR ROBERT EDGCUMBE AND HIS SETTLEMENT IN DORSET

---

BARBARA KERR M.A., B.LITT.

In the late nineteenth century when agricultural depressions threatened to submerge English farming the smallholder became a social and agricultural phenomenon. While most of his contemporaries were seeking fresh fields of endeavour, this diminutive Jack was striving to stay the giant strides of industrialism. That he was a man apart was generally recognised. An old villager tried to explain the reason: "Wull, a varmer be a man as won't own up as 'e's made a profit no'ow—artful like; an' small'olders, they be men as won't never admit that they be doing badly—terrible obst'nit-minded." The small cultivator was unwilling to acknowledge his financial losses because his principles as well as his livelihood depended on his making a profit from the land. Smallholders, whether from the town or countryside, believed that only on his own land could a man retain his identity in industrial society which boasted of being able to mould a man "as a Birmingham button". The many who believed that nothing was to be gained by reviving a "defective system of polyculture" overlooked the sense of lost identity which was the prevailing malaise of the last decades of the nineteenth century. The uneasiness, which was not confined to any section of society, of those who felt themselves trapped by industrialism found many outlets: hydropathic cures, garden cities, vegetarianism, the cultivation of the soil, whether in window boxes, allotments or smallholdings and retreats to the sparsely inhabited tracts of the globe. So strong was the belief in the restorative powers of tilling the soil that in one of his multitudinous handbooks on smallholdings James Long declared that once on his modest piece of land the "coming Englishman, then will be a compound of conduct and physique, justice and love . . . Idleness, luxury, unchastity, extravagance will be but terms, explainable in the dictionary." Without going into the millenarian aspects of this belief, an attempt will be made to give some account of smallholding settlements with particular reference to the colony founded by Sir Robert Edgcumbe in Dorset. This colony, established in 1888, is worth considering as a surviving outgrowth of the back-to-land movement, and because some of the attributes of its founder's character were typical of fin-de-siècle Radicals who sometimes felt justified in enlisting the improbities of the age to achieve their benevolent aims.

Those who urged a return to the land were remarkable for the diversity of their talents and temperaments. They included Gilbert Murray and Henry Rider Haggard, the Countess of Warwick, with unfulfilled plans for scattering the countryside with women's agricultural settlements, George Cadbury, Alfred Russel Wallace and Jesse Collings, the country boy, who, having made his pile in Birmingham, devoted much of it to encouraging what he described as *The Colonisation of Rural Britain*, (1914) by smallholders, or those who tilled land between one and fifty acres.

This scheme was not so fanciful as it might appear today. As a result of the depression neglected fields and hedgerows were producing the formidable undergrowth of the bush, while many villages had the desolate appearance of a settlement deserted by gold prospectors in search of fresh diggings. Only, as Jesse Collings pointed out, the wellbeing of overseas colonists was of greater concern to governments than "the decline of the purchasing power of Devon, Dorset and of our countryside generally." Nevertheless land reform, which generally included simplification of tenures, compensation for improvements and the provision of allotments and smallholdings, was not without supporters, who included Jesse Collings, Sir Arthur Arnold and F. A. C. Channing, in Parliament. Collings' rallying slogan of three acres and a cow fluttered Conservative agents and caused Radical ones to practise some cruel deceptions in the election campaign of 1886 when the agricultural labourer first went to the polls. But the acts most effective in promoting the cultivation of allotments and smallholdings were passed by Conservative governments. Despite the powers accorded County and Parish

Councils for the provision of smallholdings and allotments and the tempered support of some political leaders for "jam farming", as Gladstone described smallholding activities, the mainspring of the back-to-the-land movement was the individual effort of men of substance, of landowners and of the Smallholding and Allotment Associations formed throughout the country. In the formation of these Northamptonshire, once renowned for its cottage cultivators, took the lead with twenty eight associations; next came Surrey with thirteen which helped to absorb the overspill of dissatisfied Londoners and Dorset followed with twelve, three of which were in the Poole area.

The promoters of smallholdings who set their sights too high were not altogether successful. On 2,700 acres at Hadleigh in Essex the Salvation Army endeavoured in 1890 to settle and to employ about 1,300 Londoners cast adrift by the depression. Prize poultry and pedigree cows were purchased to stock the smallholdings, brickworks were established and a Citadel, in which 400 souls could worship, was built; but only financial losses resulted from "wretched men working on wretched land". Even when settlers of substance worked tractable soils success was not assured. When the London tradesman, R. K. Gooderich, retired he put his competence and his high ideals into fruit growing at Methwold in Norfolk. Soon fellow vegetarians and sympathisers gathered around him and the "villa farms" with their two acres of orchard appeared. But the serpent, in the shape of a pig, entered this Eden. The high price of manure made the vegetarians realise they were "hampered by their creed; a peasant would not be so". Perhaps the smallholders of the Letchworth Garden City Estate may have felt similarly hampered by the diverging creeds of their directors and vice-presidents, among whom were three bishops, Henry Rider Haggard and T. W. Idris of mineral-water fame.

That more down-to-earth schemes of land settlement had a better chance of success is suggested by the fortunes of the smallholding colonies established in Lincolnshire by Alderman Winfrey, in Wiltshire by Major Poore and in Dorset by Sir Robert Edgcumbe.

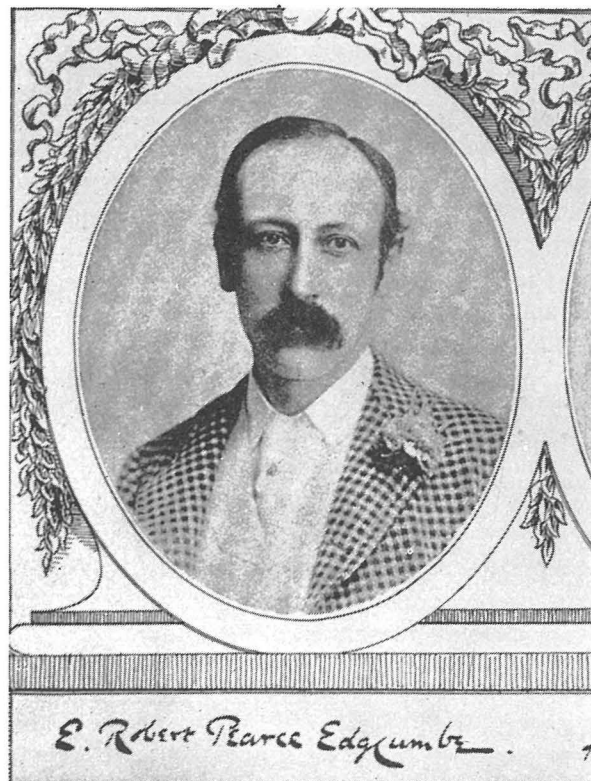


Fig. 2. Sir Robert Edgcumbe after his second marriage in 1891.

Edgcumbe's settlement at Rew in the parish of Martinstown (Winterbourne St. Martin) which lies three miles south west of Dorchester is worth considering in some detail. As the colony still exists and some of the smallholders can recollect the pioneering days it is possible

to learn at first hand something of the ethos of the settlement. Here the traditional obstinacy of the smallholder was strengthened by the hazards of the terrain. The Rew estate, a “notoriously difficult” holding, runs for about a mile and a half over the broken ground between the Dorchester-Bridport road and the heights of Blagdon. It is fitting that the whole area should be dominated by the monument to Thomas Masterman Hardy. When Nelson was ailing in London his flag-captain wrote asking his relatives in the district of Rew to send seakale, then appearing on the market as a nutritious luxury; but soon to prove one of the market gardener’s most profitable crops.

During the many ups and downs of a long life, Edward Robert Pearce Edgcumbe (1851-1929) only found “lasting pleasure” in the “remarkable success which the smallholders [at Rew] achieved”. As in 1884 Pearce took by deed poll his mother’s maiden name of Edgcumbe, was knighted in 1895 and dropped the name of Edward, he will in this account be referred to as Sir Robert Edgcumbe.

It is impossible to understand the genesis of the Rew colony without knowing something of Sir Robert Edgcumbe’s background. Both Sir Robert’s buoyant outlook and his undoubted abilities owed much to his being the only son of gifted parents, and to his early ill-health which necessitated an informal education at home. From his father, Edward Pearce (1817-1885) Robert inherited a quick understanding and a benevolent disposition, but not the financial probity which had made his parent one of the most trusted bankers in Dorset. From his mother, a grand-niece of Sir Joshua Reynolds, he acquired the talent which secured him a studentship at the Royal Academy and made him an enthusiastic patron of the Dorchester School of Art. Here he showed himself a man of feeling by his concern for needy students; and an aesthete by inspiring the redecoration of the interior of the school with “light apple-green walls” and a dado of “a darker slate hue”. Edgcumbe’s “refined tastes” annoyed many of the inhabitants of Dorchester whose views tallied with those of *Punch* (19 February 1881)

We’re sick of Art, and what is more

Vote Botticelli is ‘a bore

O, mock a Dado, mock a Dado, mock a Dado, do!

One of Sir Robert Edgcumbe’s outstanding qualities was a deeply felt sympathy with those who had been dispossessed of their stake in the land. This feeling owed much to the influence of his two tutors, William Barnes and Handley Moule who was then acting as curate for his father at Fordington, near Dorchester, where Edward Pearce lived before he moved into Dorchester. No man felt more deeply than Barnes the hardships of the common “being a-took in”; while Handley Moule shared his father’s belief that *Land for the Million* (1870) could be provided by allotments made productive by Dry Earth, a fertiliser evolved by the vicar himself.

Success as an orator at Cambridge, for the Social and Political League, and at the Bar, where he was appointed official examiner to the High Court of Justice, did not obliterate Edgcumbe’s sympathies for the landless. These feelings were shared by his bride, Clara Jane Constance, who was a Conybeare, a family renowned for advanced thinking on geological and political issues. Soon after their marriage in 1884 the young couple set sail for South America. Their spirits were equal to all the hazards of such a voyage and their minds were filled with ideas of calling the New World to absorb the overflow of peoples from the Old. At first sight it seemed that unlimited land was crying out for settlers; beside the River Plate land speculators were “simply waiting for men to come and run up fences,” and thousand-acre farms were selling at £218. As he was not a sporting man, Edgcumbe probably never read the heartrending letters which had earlier appeared in *The Field* from would-be farmers who had been tempted to settle by the Plate. For the banker’s son and land reformer virgin soil could offer only propitious opportunities to settlers and to investors; and unfortunately Edgcumbe was soon to have control of large sums of money. After the death in January 1885 of both Edward Pearce and his partner, William Eliot, the pillars of the Old Bank at Weymouth, the young barrister unwillingly gave up his legal career to become a partner in the family bank.

Edgcumbe’s enthusiasm and interests were now confined to Dorset. He settled at Somerleigh Court, the many-gabled stone house built by his father, and found himself enclosed in an ancient and slow-moving town when his thoughts were filled by the great grasslands beside the Plate awaiting both settlers and investors. The only aspect of these golden lands displeasing to Edgcumbe was that nothing checked “great capitalists from appropriating

enormous areas of land"; and he determined to avoid this pitfall should an opportunity for colonising occur nearer home.

Edgcumbe's chance came when, as a result of the occupier's bankruptcy, the Rew estate of 345 acres was auctioned at the Antelope Hotel in Dorchester on 24 August 1888 and he purchased it for £5,050. This difficult holding had few charms for agriculturalists already beaten to their knees by a succession of blows. A cold spring had set back the lambs, a "dripping June" spoiled the haymaking and rendered the prospects of the corn harvest "very gloomy", while the arrival of apples from Australia was welcomed as "somewhat of a novelty" by the public but not by the fruit growers.

Just over a fortnight after Edgcumbe's purchase of Rew which was to bring new life and hope to twenty seven families, his wife died at the age of twenty-three leaving two infant sons. Among the wreaths on her grave was one from Thomas Hardy whose entry as a councillor and J.P. into the public life of Dorset was largely due to Edgcumbe's influence; and one from the renowned orientalist Friedrich Max Müller (1823-1900). Two years earlier the professor had lost his daughter recently married to a Conybeare and one thought had filled his mind, "it is the misery of that poor husband . . . that chokes the heart far more than my own distress."

Edgcumbe was lucky in that, having purchased Rew, he was obliged to exert himself to dispose of the land. With the grasp-all propensities of the "great capitalists" beside the River Plate in mind, Edgcumbe had intended to establish eighty small freehold properties; but wisely abandoned this plan for the more practicable one of selling lots between two and thirty acres to twenty-seven families. Land on the shallow rendzina soils to the north of the estate and on the acid podsolised soils to the south were sold at £7 an acre while the more fertile land, about one third of the property, went for £25 an acre. The money was to be paid in half-yearly instalments with 4½% interest on the unpaid instalments. This rate of interest and the fact that Edgcumbe was obliged to keep in hand the fertile Rew Meadows because of difficulties over water rights and irrigation laid Edgcumbe open to accusations of making a profit from a benevolent scheme.

As well as buying the land the banker had to lay out £230 on making, with chalk and flint, the essential thoroughfares, £120 on sinking wells, £490 on tillage and tenant rights and £140 for survey maps and law costs. Many of these legal expenses were avoided by Major Poore who let land to the smallholders of Winterslow on leases for two thousand years. Edgcumbe took a more positive stand by his support of "Free Land". This description was misleadingly given by Radicals to land freed from primogeniture and copyhold tenure, and from excessive legal encumbrances and costs. On this issue Sir Arthur Arnold had unsuccessfully contested North Dorset in 1892. For his pains Arnold was described as cackling like "a hen with one egg". But the defeated candidate had realised more clearly than the rural electorate the chief danger of growing urbanisation: "No people have ever exhibited frugality who were thus divorced from the soil".

If the legal expenses were high in connection with the purchase of Rew, the cost of advertising the holdings was negligible as the news of the New Canaan at Martinstown quickly spread by word of mouth. Within a few days all the plots on the poor soil were sold and Edgcumbe must have felt some reflected happiness when he wrote "the delight of those who possessed themselves of some five acres each for a sum of £35 is not easily forgotten".

The joy of ownership did not wane, but some who had secured five acres found that a larger holding would prove more profitable. A second tithe apportionment of Rew made in 1896 shows that the smallholdings had settled into a pattern which was to remain fairly constant. The 345 acres of Rew (excluding Edgcumbe's twenty-three acres) were held by twenty smallholders, half of whom were in possession of holdings between ten and twenty acres. These landowners were, in the main, steady-going families who steered a difficult course between the debts which often followed the grandiose schemes of those owning over twenty acres and the destitution which awaited settlers who struggled to live on less than five acres.

The critics of the Rew colony, who came to the fore when Edgcumbe stood as a Gladstonian Liberal for South Dorset in the by-election of 1891 and in the general election of the following year, were not altogether impartial. Time proved wrong the assertion that Edgcumbe had created a "moiling, beggarly proletariat". As the population of Martinstown rose

from 430 souls in 1881 to 457 in 1911 the accusation that the settlement at Rew was fostering a burgeoning proletariat, a word then coming into fashionable, and generally incorrect, use, had little foundation. That the colonists were not altogether beggarly is suggested by the Parish Returns. The number of horses in Martinstown rose from sixty-one in 1886 to 139 in 1906, an increase which indicated that a substantial number of smallholders had risen to the rank of horse-and-trap men. The increase of the pig population during this period was equally marked, so that numbers of colonists were proving the truth of James Long's assertion that the pig was the mainstay of the smallholding.

Increases in the numbers of livestock and of acreages under cultivation can be indicated by statistics; but, as Sir Henry Rider-Haggard declared, as well as growing food, land "was meant . . . to grow men and women." Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Sir Robert Edgcumbe's experiment in land settlement was the type of men and women who were attracted to, and moulded by, the colony at Rew. Almost a third of the first settlers were agricultural labourers, generally considered too heavy-handed for the niceties of *la petite culture*, the three gardeners were more fitted to stay the course, as were the seven craftsmen, with the possible exception of the two watchmakers; while of the eight settlers of miscellaneous occupations the two shopkeepers were likely to be most needed in an isolated community and the one policeman the most resented. That only one of the pioneering smallholders came from Martinstown was due to the general feeling that local landowners and tenant farmers were not enthusiastic about the colony which in the village was regarded "as a very good joke". Whatever the villagers may have thought, the venture to Rew was far from being a joke for the smallholders, many of whom were Methodists. For them the essay was a crusade against industrialism and the evils which seemed to follow in its train: greed and ill-health. Rew had its miraculous cures to report; and Edgcumbe took pleasure in recording that "one of the masons when he bought his land had one foot in the grave" but quickly pulled it out again once settled in the colony; and that a blacksmith who came to die lived to produce turnips of 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lbs. and of 12 lbs. which graced the Harvest Festival. That other smallholders at Rew were equally "obst'nit minded" can be seen by a glance at the careers of some of the notables in the community.

When Alfred Dight secured his seventeen-acre holding on the south-facing slope of the Winterborne valley, he changed the scene but not the nature of his activities. He had attained a responsible position as one of the gardeners on Lord Ilchester's estate at Abbotsbury, and he had married a lady's maid in the household of the family. Thanks to savings in the Post Office, skill and determination the Dights were able to launch themselves at Rew before they were too old to make a new venture successful. Dight well knew that profits from flowers, tomatoes, cucumbers and seakale depended on their early growth in the season and their speedy arrival in the market. Content to live at first in a long, low wooden building, which was the standard dwelling of the early settlers, Dight was able to invest in a "large amount of glasshouses". He got his produce on the road at dawn and secured a shop in South Street, Dorchester. Encouraged by the profits Dight made by his early start, other market gardeners at Rew followed his example. An old inhabitant remembers the carnival appearance of the flower-laden traps as they raced each other to Dorchester.

South of Dight's market gardens lay the seventeen acre holding owned by the "celebrated ex-cobbling Farmer Forsey". In a sense Forsey was true to his last for, if William Cobbett is to be believed, shoemakers were noted for their decided and loudly expressed views. Forsey's voice echoing through the valley could be heard from afar; and he made up for his initial lack of agricultural skill by his forceful ways which his wife shared. As a trustee of the Methodist Chapel in Martinstown, Forsey's voice was raised to some effect. Many smallholders had contributed to the building in 1891 of this edifice; they ranged from Alfred Scard, who with a thirty-acre holding could claim to be a farmer, to the Hicks family whom only a diversified economy could support on their ten acres. Old George Hicks was a much loved roundsman who drove a pony and trap with stores of tea, sugar, copies of the *Western Gazette* and *Christian Herald* and medicaments of which eucalyptus was most in demand and often distributed free on lumps of sugar. Hick's efforts were reinforced by those of his two sons; one of whom managed the market garden and the other a small coal-delivery business.

Despite their united efforts the Hicks family failed to live up to Gilbert Murray's aphorism: "So long as the family stick together the savings accumulate". The same could have been said

of the Giffords. The savings of £500 which enabled Joseph Gifford to buy in 1905 a twelve-acre holding had been accumulated in South Wales where many Dorset men found employment. With enough land to support three horses, Gifford secured contracts for road repairs from the County Council which had also been Sir Robert Edgcumbe's stepping stone to local eminence. Gifford worked hard but survival on the smallholding was a family affair. In summer, his wife, after feeding the horses at 3 a.m., filled the time and the family purse until breakfast by breaking stones on the Bridport road. Gifford's work was eventually taken over by his son whose earnings were supplemented by those which his wife made from calves, pigs and poultry. Mrs. Ruby Gifford has now been half a century on the holding which, though managed by her daughter and son-in-law, still reflects her energy and determination. To be "terrible obst'nit minded" was essential not only for the survival of the smallholder but also of his animals, as Mrs. Gifford's wayward stock well testify.

The resolution which characterised many smallholders owed much to Nonconformist tenets. The building of the capacious Methodist Chapel, now a dwelling house, in Martinstown reflected credit on Benjamin Forsey, Alfred Dight and their fellow workers, many of whom were smallholders: but it contributed to the downfall of Sir Robert Edgcumbe. As the Gladstonian Liberal candidate for South Dorset in the general election of 1892 Edgcumbe's hopes were high since in the by-election of the preceding year he had been defeated by only forty votes. Having had "something to do with Martinstown in one way or another" Sir Robert was invited to lay one of the foundation stones of the chapel in the autumn of 1891 and he had taken the opportunity to express his support of a union between Methodists and Anglicans. At the time this course was little favoured by either denomination. Furthermore, Edgcumbe's refusal in the contest of 1891 to support the Temperance Society had lost him the votes of many Nonconformists whose rallying songs included: "Thousands fill a Drunkard's Grave" and "Don't go near the Bar Room, Brother". In many constituencies the Temperance vote assumed a pivotal importance during the confused elections of 1892 when *The Times* gave up any attempt to give party labels and designated the members returned as Unionists or Separatists. The total abstainers unseated Mark Beaufoy in South Lambeth and, according to the Wesleyan chairman of the Dorchester Temperance Society, accounted for the defeat of Edgcumbe in South Dorset.

When in 1889 Edgcumbe had sought election as a councillor on the first County Council his suspected leanings towards Disestablishment caused many voters to ponder over a correspondent's declaration that "only the criminal classes . . . will vote for the Radical banker". Despite this tocsin Edgcumbe was elected and this new broom proceeded to show what a dust he could raise. As chairman of the County Asylums Committee, Edgcumbe secured a loan of £1,000 from the Technical Education grant to the county so as to make the new institution at Charminster, near Dorchester, self-supporting by building extra accommodation for 200 paying patients. These plans for "speculative building" alarmed many of the councillors who were not altogether reassured by one of the banker's supporters declaring that since "he had been trained at the bar and . . . rocked in the cradle of finance", Edgcumbe's estimates could be accepted "as assertions of absolute certainty". In 1891 Edgcumbe became Mayor of Dorchester and showed in the fulfilment of his municipal duties that if he differed from Henchard in Thomas Hardy's *Mayor of Casterbridge* by being a man of parts rather than of character, he shared his fate in being the victim of not altogether merited misfortune.

In the jocund May of the Jubilee Year, the Bank of Eliot, Pearce and Company failed. The fact that bank failures in the last decades of the nineteenth century were so frequent as to provide a constantly recurring theme for Victorian novelists was no consolation to Edgcumbe. He was a feeling man and on 12 May 1897 had to face 3,000 creditors packed into the magnificently adorned Jubilee Hall at Weymouth. Sitting side by side in the "equal franchise of misfortune" were "rough and hardy quarrymen" and single women who had lost the savings of a life time. They listened to the Official Receiver's statement "in stunned silence" which was more heart rending than a storm of abuse could have been. Although Edgcumbe had ceased to be a partner in 1893, he could not dissociate himself from some of the Board's misjudgements. That the value of the Plush Manor estate taken by Edward Pearce against a bad debt, should have fallen from £80,000 in 1869 to about £17,000 a quarter of a century later was not Edgcumbe's fault; but his was the responsibility for transferring funds invested in Government securities at home and in English and Indian railway companies to develop-

ment companies "more or less speculative in nature" in South America and elsewhere. The winds had changed since Edgcumbe wrote *Zephyrus* deriding those who feared "the finance of politicians" in South America, and declaring that "there was no need to distrust South American investments".

After the shock of the bank failure and the humiliation of having the bailiffs in his home, which was valued at £5,800 and its contents at £3,000, Edgcumbe left Dorset. He moved nearer London and in time his old interests revived so that he designed the Town Hall at Sandy in Bedfordshire and took up a number of directorships in London. By 1910 even the energies of Sir Robert were beginning to flag; and he retired to Cornwall, a county with which his forbears had been long associated and where, the year before the crash, he had been High Sheriff.

The widespread interest in the Rew experiment must have been a comfort to Edgcumbe. To the Royal Commissioners reporting in 1895 the settlement was a glimmer of light in the increasing darkness of the second phase of the agricultural depression. In his *Rural England* (1902) Henry Rider Haggard found that Edgcumbe's experiment was a triumphant rebuttal of the croakers who foresaw that the extension of smallholdings would prove the "absolute destruction" of the farming interest. That Jesse Collings, the great champion of the smallholders, found nothing favourable to say about Rew when he was speaking in Dorset during the election campaign of 1891 was an instance that: "policy sits above conscience". Collings had broken with Gladstone on the issue of Home Rule, and could therefore only draw attention to Edgcumbe's indiscretions which, it must be admitted, were not infrequent. By the early twentieth century smallholdings had become the political ammunition of both political parties; and in 1910 the Conservative candidate for South Dorset declared: "I believe Peasant Proprietorship to be far better for the Country than the Radical Socialistic idea of State Ownership and Tenant Farming." The issue was in the arena again at the end of the First World War when acts for establishing Small Holding Colonies attempted to provide for returning servicemen a foothold at least in the land they had fought so valiantly to protect.

Today the climate is unfavourable to minor undertakings but the smallholders at Rew still maintain their course. To walk the whole length of the settlement when the blackbirds are singing in the blossom-covered hedgerows or when the hard sunshine of November gives a diamond glitter to the frequent puddles in the rutted road is to feel momentarily that buoyancy of spirit that enabled Sir Robert Edgcumbe to hold fast to his belief that land was for growing men and women.

#### NOTES ON FURTHER READING

Sir Robert Edgcumbe gave full accounts of his family, his travels and his social and political views in *Family Records* (1895), *Zephyrus*, *A Holiday in Brazil and on the River Plate* (1887) and an introduction to W. Y. Campbell, *Portuguese Nyasaland* (1900). Edgcumbe described his social and political views in *Village Reforms* (1892) and in *Popular Fallacies* regarding Trade and Foreign Duties (1893). His account of Rew entitled "How to Create Small Holdings: an Experiment" appeared in a short-lived periodical *The Country House* (1896).

As in the last quarter of the nineteenth century smallholdings were as widely discussed as Eastern Question the literature is extensive. The works with some bearing on Rew are: P. A. Anderson, *The Rural Exodus*, (1892), A. Arnold, *Free Land* (1880), *The Land and the People* (1887), Jesse Collins, *The Colonisation of Rural Britain* (1914) 2 Vols; J. Long, *Farming in a Small Way* (1881), *The Coming Englishman* (1909) and *The Practical Side of Small Holdings* (1913); H. Rider Haggard, *Rural England* (1902) 2 Vols.: *The Poor and the Land* (1905): *The Land Magazine* 1897-1901. Use has been made of local newspapers, in particular the *Dorset County Chronicle* and the *Western Gazette*.

The information given by those living at Rew, and in Martinstown and its neighbourhood has been of great value, in particular I am grateful for much kind help from Mr. B. Churchill, Mrs. Ruby Gifford, Mrs. Loders (née Dight), Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Manton and Mr. B. Tucker.

# THE SHERBORNE SCHOOL MUSEUM AND THE EARLY COLLECTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE DORSET NATURAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUARIAN FIELD CLUB

---

H. S. TORRENS B.A., PH.D.

## 1) HISTORY

Pupils entering Sherborne School were not taught any natural or experimental science by a resident master until 1873. Before this some boys had independently developed their own interests in natural history, but of these we have little record. Gourlay documents one flourishing entomologist called William Hey at the school before 1830 (1971, pp. 113 & 190). Ralph Lyon, the headmaster from 1823-1845 was a man of wide scientific interests (Gourlay, 1971, p. 103); and may have transmitted these extra-curricular interests to the boys in his teaching. Lyon was elected a member of the London Geological Society on March 11th, 1835, for example, and remained so until his death in 1856; early testimony to geological interests at Sherborne.

In the 1860s the major English public schools started to follow the example of Quaker boarding schools, in founding School Natural History Societies. Marlborough's Society was founded in 1864, the Harrow School Scientific Society in 1865 and the Rugby School Nat. Hist. Soc. in 1867 (Simpson, 1960). The King's School, Sherborne, Natural History and Natural Science Society was founded in 1868. This co-incided with a series of lectures given at the School in this year by Professor James Buckman on Botany and Rev. Henry Wood on Geology. These lectures led to these two meeting and then directly some years later to their foundation of the Dorset Field Club (Buckman, 1884).

Buckman and Wood were also instrumental in founding the School Museum at this time. The "First Report of the School Natural History Society" was published in December, 1868, and records the progress made up till then in building up the School Museum (Tancock & Wood, 1868).

Geology, always the mainstay of the Museum, was already represented by a considerable collection, while minerals, shells, birds and birds eggs were also included. Dr. [John Edward] Gray (1800-1875) of the British Museum had also presented an "excellent collection of British Ferns and seaweeds". The curators were [Rev.] O. W. Tancock (1840 - 1930) a master at the school from 1863-1879 and [Rev.] A. Wood (1838-1917) a mathematics master at the school from 1867-1902.

In 1869 the second report of the society was published (Tancock & Wood 1869) and further additions recorded, again mainly geological. Other benefactors in these early years include:

J. F. Peter	(pupil 1865-1870)	Minerals.
E. Benthall	(pupil or father of one)	British Shells.
J. Tanner	(pupil or father of one)	British Birds
J. C. Dale	(1791-1872 — noted entomologist)	British Insects
Capt. Price RN.	of Paignton	Foreign Shells
Rev. A. M. Curteis	(master 1860-1876)	British and Foreign Shells
Rev. H. D. Harper	(headmaster 1850-1877)	Fossils.

At this period the Museum was housed in hired premises in Cheap Street, Sherborne (Gourlay 1971, p. 190).

In May 1870 the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club visited Sherborne and the "geological museum lately commenced by the boys of the school — another pleasing indication that the Natural Sciences are now taking a more prominent place in school education" (Winwood 1870, p. 127).



Fig. 3. Sherborne School Museum in 1896 in the room in the Old Mill Buildings used from 1879-1910. Note the selection of large ammonites in lower left. (*Original in Sherborne School archives.*)

After this, enthusiasm seems to have waned and nothing is heard of the Society or its Museum for some years. The school's first official science master was appointed in 1873 (Gourlay 1971, p.137) a move which had a considerable effect on future developments concerning the Museum.

On March 16 1875 the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club was founded and we now celebrate its centenary. J. C. Mansel-Pleydell of Whatcombe near Blandford was President, James Buckman of Bradford Abbas near Sherborne, Hon. Secretary and editor of the Proceedings, and Rev. H. H. Wood of Holwell, near Sherborne was Treasurer. The latter two of these had been previously much involved at the school in lecturing on natural science to the boys and fostering the School Museum.

At first, the Dorset Field Club did not have its own Museum. The Dorset County Museum founded in 1846, which today has such a close association with the Field Club or, as it is now known, the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society, was officially independent of the Society right up to 1928 when the two amalgamated. Despite the fact that the Field Club visited the County Museum in its first year of existence (on 28th September 1875), it was *not* here that members' collections were deposited. Instead, Sherborne School Museum was chosen and on May 30th 1876 in a speech to the Field Club, its President noted "the ample means placed . . . for the reception of our treasures at the Sherborne Grammar School . . . under the aegis of so accomplished a Curator as Mr. Harper" (Mansel-Pleydell 1877, p. 1).

The School Museum had obviously taken on a new lease of life undoubtedly aided by the now permanent science master on the school staff. Mr. Harper was the Rev. Hugo Daniel Harper, headmaster from 1850-1877 and he obviously hoped to approach the building up of the School Museum in a serious way. This can be confirmed from a letter<sup>(1)</sup> written by him on September 6th 1877 to the Hon. Sec. of the Field Club, James Buckman "to ask for contributions for our incipient museum . . . we do not yet profess to do much at Sherborne [in Natural History] — we have not yet one proper room — and so are only in embryo, but we have enough vigour to find a master as curator and a boy as sub-curator — for Geology, Botany, Entomology and Ornithology respectively . . . We shall not begin for nearly a year



Fig. 4. Sherborne School Museum in the room in the Carrington Buildings. This was used from 1910 to 1948. This postcard (*Valentines XL Series No. 68947*) was sent by Charles Bayzand to his assistant H. J. Hambridge on 6th September 1911, and shows the Museum in its heyday. (*Original in Oxford University Museum*).

when our room will be available. But I have faith enough to believe that we shall succeed — that we shall soon collect a valuable educational Museum.”

Only a few months after writing this, Harper had resigned to become Principal of Jesus College, Oxford at Christmas 1877, and so played little further part in the Museum’s development. But the Sherborne School Field Society had been (re)founded in March 1877 and after re-organisation early in 1878 became increasingly popular. Four masters acted as presidents of four sections covering Botany, Entomology, Geology and Ornithology, and encouraged the study of natural history among the boys and this was fostered by naturalists in the County who offered more tangible support through the Dorset Field Club in the form of school prizes of 2 guineas. Again, geology was chosen, as the subject for 1877 was a paper “on the species of *Astarte* from the Inferior Oolite of Dorset and Somerset” won by the editor’s son S. S. Buckman aged 17. In 1878 the prize was again offered for a similar essay “for descriptions of the genus *Trigonia* from the same area” — though this was not won by a pupil. Instead the President produced a paper on Dorset *Trigonia* in vol. 3 of the Proceedings.

In offering prizes, the members of the Dorset Field Club “anxiously hoped that they are encouraging the study of Natural History in a very important school and they note with the most sincere pleasure that collections to forward these studies are gradually being got together at the King’s School” (Buckman, J. 1878, p. 80).

This encouragement is reflected in the later careers of the pupils of the time who included:

S. S. Buckman 1860—1929 (son of James the Hon. Sec.) at the school 1871—1879, winner of the Dorset Field Club prize in 1877, later to have a distinguished career, as a geologist and palaeontologist (Lang 1960).

F. O. Pickard-Cambridge 1860-1905 (nephew of Octavius — a Treasurer of the Dorset Field Club) at the school 1873-1880. Artist and brilliant all-round naturalist (especially entomology) (Locket & Millidge 1951, p. 8).

A. N. Whitehead OM., 1861-1947 (Whittaker, E. T. 1948) at the school 1875-1880. Philosopher and "one of the finest minds of our time".

F. W. Galpin 1858-1945 at the school 1872-1877, botanist — contributor to Mansel-Pleydell's *Flora of Dorset* 1895 and author of *Flowering Plants of Harleston* 1888, but better known as the eminent musicologist after whom the Galpin Society is named. (See *The Times*, January 2nd, 1946).

L. V. Lester 1860-1944 at the school 1873-1879, botanist — author of *A Flora of the Island of Jersey* 1903 (also the official Memoir of H. D. Harper 1896). (See *The Times*, April 12th 1944, and Lousley, 1946, p. 647-8).

R. H. Fox (1860-1933) (Son of Charles Darwin's second cousin) at the school 1875-1878. President of the Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society. Ornithologist. (Anon, 1934).

Henry Tryon (1856-1943) at the School 1864-1875. Gave up medical career and devoted himself to natural science. From 1883 employed at the Queensland Museum in 1894, being appointed Queensland Government Entomologist and in 1901 Vegetable Pathologist. Author of 140 scientific papers (see Anon. 1944, 1929).

In 1879 the Museum had a new room of its own (Wildman 1896 p. 48). This was situated in the Old Mill Buildings which had been purchased in 1873. The site had previously been occupied by the Abbey Mill and is marked as such on Jos. Ayres map of 1814. The mill buildings were modified and converted to provide science teaching accommodation and a room for the Museum (Gourlay, 1971, p. 136, 288-91). The collections were transferred from the rented accommodation in the town and properly displayed here until 1910, see Fig. 3 which shows the Museum in 1896.

Edward Cleminshaw who joined the school staff in 1876 as science master, became curator in 1878 on Harper's departure and organised this transfer. He also edited the published report of the School Field Society for 1878 (Cleminshaw and Cambridge 1879).

The Dorset Field Club continued to meet in the Sherborne Museum (See *Dorset Co. Chron.* June 15 1882, p. 7) and to deposit specimens here until 1884 when James Buckman the editor of the Club's first six volumes of Proceedings and first Hon. Sec. died (on 22 November 1884). Wood, the Treasurer, had died two years earlier. The new Hon. Sec. lived near Bristol and the new Treasurer near Wareham so that the focal point for the Field Club's collections naturally shifted from Sherborne to Dorchester, and the new County Museum completed in 1883 (Sykes 1942, p. 87) was used for their reception thereafter (Mansel-Pleydell 1886).

Other societies also used the Sherborne Museum for their meetings. The Geologists Association of London met in Sherborne in 1885 in the "spacious and fairly well lighted" Museum, noted the excellent collection of local fossils and "complimented the governing body on having provided such a Museum for the use of the boys" and prophesied the school would turn out a larger percentage of geologists than other schools (Hudleston 1886, p. 187). They met here again in 1939.

By 1885 the Museum had already received some important material which was to remain there until 1959. The Museum remained in the Old Mill Buildings until 1910 when it was again transferred to an impressive new room in the new Carrington Buildings, see Fig. 4. The opportunity was taken in Autumn 1911 of bringing the curation of the geological material up to date and, Oxford University having been approached, C. J. Bayzand — Museum Assistant at the University Museum — was paid by Sherborne School to arrange and re-curate these collections on characteristic wooden blocks edged with light blue paper, a style still visible today in many of the wall cases of the University Museum. Much of the work was done at Oxford, by Bayzand and H. J. Hambridge (*Delegates of the University Museum* 1912, p. 75) in their spare time.

Interest in the Museum was again rekindled and is reflected in the rare "Guide to the neighbourhood of Sherborne and Yeovil" published in 1911 and written by the masters and boys. The Geology pp. v-viii was written by R. E. Steel a science master at the school 1907-1920 and curator until he left, who mentions the main items in the school collection (also 2nd ed. 1925, p. 103-6). Later and up till the Second World war C. Palmer, a master 1905-1946, was the curator. But there was never apparently a catalogue (Wildman, 1896, p. 48).

In 1940 the Museum, though not directly hit, suffered considerable damage during an

Air-raid on September 30th. Many show cases were broken. For the remainder of the war the Museum functioned as headquarters of the school's Sea Cadet Corps (Gourlay 1971, p. 290).

After the second world war the space occupied by the Museum was needed for teaching and the museum was dismantled in April 1948 and, with Joseph Fowler — a local historian — as overseer, packed in boxes and moved to Middle House, Castleton, Sherborne (Arkell 1951-59, p. 5). The larger specimens in wall cases however, remained on the walls of the old Museum which became two classrooms divided by a partition.

Thereafter the collection started to seriously deteriorate, the material in storage being moved again from Castleton to new premises in Long Street. By 1958 several attempts had been made to sort the collections out but without proper facilities this was impossible. In 1959, knowing the unique importance of some of the geological material, I arranged for Dr. W. E. Swinton of the British Museum (Natural History) to visit the school on 9 March 1959 to arrange transfer of the famous Jurassic Megalosaur (see p. 39) from the school to London. The school governors gave their permission later in March and almost all the geological and mineralogical collections were later assembled and transferred to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), the work being carried out by Messrs. B. Newman & C. P. Palmer. Almost all surviving geological material is now located here and bears a printed label "Presd. [by] Governors of the King's School, Sherborne, Dorset, January 1960".

The history of the Dorset County Museum founded in 1846 is described by Sykes (1942) who records the period of stagnation from 1863-1876. There is a *complete* gap in the donations book from January 1860 to November 1881. It is not hard to see why the Sherborne School Museum was preferred to the County Museum until after 1883-1884.

Sykes (1942, p. 88) also mentions that "a large number of the early gifts are not here now". He puts this down to loss, decay or their having been returned to donors. One reason not hitherto explored is that some which should have reached the County Museum stayed at Sherborne. This is certainly true of the Rev. H. H. Wood's collection of fossils.

## 2) GEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS FORMERLY REPRESENTED IN THE SCHOOL MUSEUM

\*Signifies confirmed by extant material now transferred to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

### a) Rev. H. H. WOOD.\* 1825-1882 (Buckman 1884).

Wood lived at Holwell, 5 miles SE of Sherborne, for 25 years 1857-1882 and made a fine collection of fossils especially from the Cornbrash here which he was forming "for the Museum of the King's School, Sherborne". (Wood 1877, p. 25). He also made earlier donations before 1868 (Tancock & Wood, 1868). His fossil collections were deposited here by May 1880 and included fossils from both the Forest Marble and Cornbrash of Holwell (Sherborne School Field Soc. minutes). On his death in 1882 his collections were purchased outright from the family by subscription among members of the Dorset Field Club; c.£70 was raised towards this.

In June 1883 J. Buckman recorded that "the Wood collection of fossils would be ready for transference to the County Museum as soon as that Institution was in a condition to receive it" (Cambridge 1884, p. 145). Three cabinets did reach the County Museum for Young (1886, p. 49) notes the H. H. Wood "collection not yet properly displayed of Tertiary fossils and recent shells" presented to the County Museum in July, 1883, by the Dorset Field Club (also see Sykes, 1942, p. 88).

Obviously the County Museum thought more was coming as the Dorset County Museum council minutes of July, 1883, record that instructions were given to the curator (H. J. Moule) to write to J. Buckman "to enquire about the Cornbrash fossils which are missing and [which] are regarded as of great value to the [County] Museum".

However, nothing further was done. Buckman died in November 1884, and the most important part of Wood's collection remained at Sherborne where Blake (1905, p. 7 — who correctly pointed out that Wood's Holwell collection had included Forest Marble and Cornbrash fossils), Douglas & Arkell (1928, p. 148) and Sherborn (1940, p. 145) all record it, prior to the second world war.

b) Professor James BUCKMAN (1814-1884)

Buckman was born at Cheltenham on November 20th 1814 (not in 1816 as given in various obituary notices and the Dictionary of National Biography). Biographical details can be found in Lang 1960, and in obituary notices in *Glos. Notes and Queries*, vol. 3, pp. 71-72, 1887; *Proc. Dorset N.H. and A.F.C.* vol. 7, pp. 1-4; *Quart. Jl. Geol. Soc. Lond.* 41 Proc. p. 43; *Proc. Linn. Soc.* 1886, p. 104.

He was an authority on all aspects of Natural History, Archaeology, and Agriculture and wrote widely on all these subjects. He was a friend of Charles Darwin and many other eminent naturalists of the last century.

James Buckman was connected with several scientific institutes. He held for some time the post of Hon. Sec. of the Cheltenham Literary and Philosophical Institute until 1846 and must have contributed to their collections which passed in 1870 to Cheltenham College (Morgan, 1968, p. 75). These collections passed to Portsmouth Polytechnic after the second world war. From 1846-1848 he was Hon. Sec. of the Birmingham Philosophical Institution, any contributions he made to these collections were sold in 1852 (Sherborn, 1940, p. 17).

In 1848 he was appointed Professor of Geology and Botany at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. Here he again made very large collections of fossils which he presented to the College (see Sherborn, 1940, p. 33 and Richardson, 1925, p. 93, for their dispersal), and antiquities which he presented to the Corinium Museum.

In 1863 he retired to a farm (East Farm) at Bradford Abbas, Dorset, which he farmed on Scientific principles. Coming from Gloucestershire where the Cotteswold Naturalist Field Club was thriving, he organised the foundation of a similar Dorset Field Club in 1875. His large Dorset geological collections passed largely to his son S. S. Buckman and thence in the main to the British Museum (Nat. Hist) or Geological Survey Museum. But others went during his lifetime to the British Museum and some to Sherborne School Museum from 1868-1880 (Tancock & Wood 1868 and Cleminshaw and Cambridge 1879). Some may have gone to the Dorset County Museum as we find S. S. Buckman writing on May 24, 1886, offering them some of "James Buckman's Dorset fossils for cash and duplicates free". It is not known if this offer was accepted.

c) Hugo D. HARPER (1821-1895) Headmaster 1850-1877

Instrumental in introducing Natural Science to the School Curriculum, president of the 1868 Natural Science Society, and curator of the Museum in its early years.

Tancock & Wood (1869, p. 9) record the presentation by him of "a very excellent collection of Inferior Oolite Mollusca" to the Museum.

d) Edward CLEMINSHAW\* (1849-1922)

He was educated at Rugby School and in 1867 played an important part as one of the schoolboy founders of the early Natural History Society there. He was editor of their first annual report pub. 1868, and contributed several geological papers to the early annual reports. He was described by his science master in 1868 (when criticising one of Cleminshaw's papers) as the best geologist Rugby had produced during 10 years (Wilson, 1868, p. 31).

He obtained a First Class B.A. Degree in Natural Sciences at Oxford in 1872 and an M.A. in 1876, becoming Sherborne School's second resident science master in the same year, replacing H. W. Lloyd Tanner. Cleminshaw was only at the school from 1876 to 1884, but he seems to have had a galvanic effect on the Natural History Society and the school Museum. He became Curator in 1878 and contributed largely to its improvement. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society from 1878-1895. Whilst at Sherborne he was renowned for his versatility (Gourlay, 1971, p. 137 and see pl. opp. p. 176). Parker (1928, p. 105) remembered him as an "alpine climber and basso profundo with a beautiful sister".

After leaving Sherborne he took up the more lucrative position of Analytical Chemist at the famous glass works of Messrs. Chance at Oldbury near Birmingham. He translated into English A. Wurtz's book "The Atomic Theory" which went through eight editions from 1880 to 1910. On the title page he is described as a Fellow of the Chemical Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry.

While at Birmingham he played an active part in the Birmingham Natural History Society

and developed his botanical interests especially in Bryophyta. He died on March 25th, 1922 at an Ewell (Epsom) nursing home and his herbarium passed to Rugby School.

For notices of his work see Journ. Bot. 63, p. 25, 1925; Rep. Brit. Bryol. Soc. 1924, p. 94; Rep. Watson Bot. Exch. Club, 3, No. 8, p. 283, 1925.

He was instrumental in obtaining two of the Museum's geological treasures (e.g. the *Megalosaurus* and the *Araucarites* q.v.) and Cleminshaw and Cambridge (1879) record many additions made by him to the Museum which may have included ammonites and brachiopods mentioned by S. S. Buckman (1882) and Davidson (1882-4) who record using fossil material of his collecting.

e) Miss PAYNE of Weymouth.

She was an early member of the Dorset Field Club see first members list (Proc. 1, vii — 1877). Her name disappears from the members lists after vol. 20, pub. 1900.

The Sherborne School Field Soc. minutes record she donated a valuable collection of minerals to the School Museum in July 1878 (see also Cleminshaw and Cambridge 1879, p. 9 and 23).

Miss Payne also appears as a contributor of records to Mansel-Pleydell's *Flora of Dorset*, 1st ed. 1874, p. 95. Her herbarium went to the County Museum (Acland 1929, p. 11).

f) John Clavell MANSEL-PLYDELL (1817-1902)

Enthusiastic student of Dorset natural history and author of books on its flora, birds and mollusca, he was co-founder of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club and its first president from 1875 until his death in 1902. (Dictionary of National Biography)

His collections were widely distributed during his lifetime. When the Dorset County Museum was founded in 1846, he donated one of its first treasures (G 123) the giant fore paddle of a pliosaur mentioned by Hulke (1870, p. 620) of which casts may be seen at the Sedgwick Museum (Cambridge) and also BM (NH) Reg. no. R 1245. As Delair (1959, p. 72) points out it has still never been adequately described.

In 1883 the Dorset County Museum moved into its new home and Mansel-Pleydell became its enthusiastic supporter (see Stuart-Gray 1902 who lists his most important donations).

He also presented fossils to the British Museum (Nat. Hist) from 1862 onwards (A. S. Woodward, 1904, p. 309). His donations to Sherborne School Museum consisted of a general Jurassic collection from Dorset (Cox and Arkell, 1948, p. xxii) — presumably donated before 1883 and the re-organisation of the County Museum.

g) Henry TRYON\* (1856-1943) a boy at Sherborne School 1864-1875. (See p. 35).

He made a collection of local Inferior Oolite fossils which won the School prize in 1874 (Cleminshaw & Cambridge 1879, p. 23).

h) Robert Elliot STEEL\* (1853-1933)

Oxford M.A. 1881, author of four scientific text-books 1889-1891. He became science master at the school from 1907 to 1920, and served as curator. He is Jenks of Alec Waugh's Sherborne novel "The Loom of Youth" 1917, see also p. 35.

### 3) NOTES ON EARLY GEOLOGY COLLECTIONS AT THE COUNTY MUSEUM

a) Thomas Charles MAGGS of Yeovil (c.1824-1900)

John Morris (1810-1886) was Professor of Geology at University College, London from 1855 to 1877; before this he had been a chemist and it was from a fellow chemist in Yeovil that he obtained many of his Oolitic fossils according to C. D. Sherborn (1940 p. 91) who gives the latter's name as — Mag. This is T. C. Maggs who had amassed a fine collection of local fossils by 1871 when it was visited and warmly commended by a party of the Geologists Association of London (Lobley 1871 p. 247).

Maggs achieved some non-geological notoriety by being involved in the death of R. D. Blackmore's (the author of *Lorna Doone*) eccentric brother Henry in 1875. Henry had made several wills, one of which named T. C. Maggs as his sole executor and willed his estate to the

Maggs' family. R. D. Blackmore, considering Maggs had murdered his brother by administering drugs, took him to court but lost. W. H. Dunn's biography of Blackmore (1956 pp. 229-234) provides detailed information, and I thank Victor Adams for bringing this facet of Maggs' life to my attention.

Perhaps this unhappy affair affected Maggs scientific activities as the next we hear of him is Mansel-Pleydell's record (1886 p. 26) of the addition of the Maggs collection to the County Museum in 1885, (see also Stuart 1886b p. xxxv and Acland 1929 p. 4). But it is important to record this did not include all of Maggs' fine collection. S. S. Buckman, who had been previously given specimens by Maggs, recorded (1891 p. 247) that he was able to obtain some of the best ammonite material from the famous dealer Robert Damon of Weymouth to whom Maggs must have sold much of his collection.

Maggs died on 26 July 1900 and his death at Richmond Hill, Surrey aged 76 is recorded in *The Times* of August 1 1900 (p. 1). From this we learn Maggs had been living previous to this at Clarendon Villas, West Brighton whence he had moved from Yeovil. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society in 1883.

#### b) William SHIPP of Blandford (1809-1873)

Shipp was a printer and bookseller in Blandford. He is best remembered as senior editor of the 3rd edition (1861-1874) of J. Hutchins *History & Antiquities of Dorset*. What little is known of him is summarised by R. Douch in his Introduction to the 1973 reprinting of this edition by EP Publishing, Ltd. (Vol. 1, pp. xix-xx).

Before his involvement in this he was an enthusiastic fossil collector, although he does not appear to have published anything separately on the subject. By 1855 he was the local secretary for the Dorset area of the newly founded national Palaeontographical Society. Involvement in Hutchins soon after probably restricted his subsequent geological activities.

Cambridge (1885, p. xv) records the proposition that this collection be purchased in 1884 by subscription among Field Club members and presented to the County Museum. There is a printed catalogue by C. Rickman (1884) of the collection in the DCM library and £150 was raised for its purchase and presentation in October, 1884. It was palaeontological in nature and contained "an almost unique series of *Marsupites* (crinoids) from the Upper Chalk" (M. G. Stuart 1886a, p. xix).

#### 4) TYPE, FIGURED AND CITED FOSSILS FORMERLY IN THE SHERBORNE SCHOOL MUSEUM

[BM(NH) = British Museum (Natural History) collection.]

##### 1. *Megalosaurus* jaws

These were described by Owen (1883) and have recently been redescribed with illustrations by Walman (1974) who has made them the holotype of a new species *Megalosaurus hesperis*. The specimen was originally discovered by a workman named Betten in an Inferior Oolite quarry near the Bristol Road, Sherborne. The Sherborne School Field Society minute book records the date of discovery was Saturday 25th February 1882, See the Shirburnian 1882, p. 227. Edward Cleminshaw immediately secured the remains for the School Museum, a small piece more being found later (Minutes of 25th May, 1882), and *Dorset Co. Chron.* 15th June, 1882, p. 7.†

Cleminshaw records the exact details of its discovery in a letter written in 1914 (Richardson 1916, p. 50).

Any confusion about the site of the quarry seems due to the fact that it was situated at the confluence of the Bristol Road with the Cold Harbour Road. Buckman's differing statement quoted by Waldman (1974) refers only to the stratigraphic horizon the material came from, *not* the locality, so Buckman's statement is not confusing.

Original in BM(NH) Reg. no. R 332, with plaster casts preserved in the BM(NH), Dorset County and Manchester Museums.

##### 2. *Araucarites cleminshawi* (Mansel-Pleydell)

This cone (the holotype) was described by Mansel-Pleydell (1884) from the Inferior Oolite

of Sherborne ex. F. [i.e. Edward] Cleminshaw collection. It was figured subsequently by Fowler (1936, p. 82). It is now in BM(NH) Reg. no. V. 29208. Richardson (1932 p. 74) quotes a letter from Cleminshaw suggesting the locality and horizon quoted in the original description were incorrect and that the Portland 'Dirt Bed' was more likely as its source. But Richardson, who knew the Inferior Oolite well, examined the type specimen and satisfied himself that the matrix was that of the local Inferior Oolite. It thus seems more likely Cleminshaw's memory of events thirty years previous was not, in this case, reliable.

3. Bone with ?Palaeolithic engraving of horse carved on it.

A. Cortesi collection (pupil at the school 1911-1915). This specimen found in 1911 was the subject of intense debate in 1926 about its genuineness (see *Nature*, vol. 117, p. 86, 233, 341, etc.) It was originally described by A. S. Woodward (1914) and the whole subject is to be redescribed by R. A. H. Farrar. Original now in the BM(NH) Reg. no. E 5305 and see Gibb, 1973.

4. Corallian ammonites

W. J. Arkell (1935-1948, p. 70) recorded that the Museum had two specimens. One of these was figured (p. 84, pl. 16, fig. 8) as *Perisphinctes antecessens* Salfeld from near Gillingham, Dorset. This is now in the BM(NH) Reg. no. C 68491.

5. Bathonian Ammonite

W. J. Arkell (1951-59 p. 218) records and figures (pl. 32, fig. 1) a specimen of *Choffatia subbakeriae* (d'Orbigny) in the Museum from the Cornbrash of Holwell, Dorset (and thus ex. Rev. H. H. Wood collection without doubt). This is now in the Oxford University Museum Reg. no. J 13002.

6. Bajocian Bivalve (*Eopecten*)

L. R. Cox (1942, pl. 4, fig. 3) figures a specimen of *Eopecten abjectus* (Phillips) from the Inferior Oolite of Osborne, Dorset. The figure also appears in the Treatise on Invertebrate Palaeontology part N, vol. 1, ed. R. C. Moore p. N 372, fig. 4b. The original should have been transferred to the BM(NH) but it cannot be located at present (C. P. Palmer in lit).

#### CITED SPECIMENS

7. Kimmeridgian Reptiles

Cleminshaw and Cambridge (1879) record the donation to the Museum of Saurian remains from Gillingham by J. Stephens. These were later cited by H. B. Woodward (1895, p. 163) but have not yet been identified in the material transferred to BM(NH).

8. Purbeck Beds fish

A. S. Woodward, (1916-19, p. 30, 32) cites a specimen of *Lepidotus minor* Agassiz in the School Museum from the Purbeck Beds. This *may* be the same as the "Fine fish from Purbeck strata" recorded by Cleminshaw and Cambridge, (1879, p. 23) as "lately presented by Robert Longman" pupil before 1835 and school governor from 1851 to 1894.

9. Bathonian Mollusca

L. R. Cox worked through the school collections prior to 1948 and cites some specimens in his work with W. J. Arkell. "A survey of the Mollusca of the British Great Oolite Series". *Palaeontogr. Soc. Monogr.* 1948-1950 as being in the School Museum, e.g. p. 9, 11, 39. These have presumably passed with the rest of the collection to the BM(NH).

#### 5) DATES OF PUBLICATION OF THE SHERBORNE-PRINTED PROCEEDINGS (VOLS. 1-7).

James Buckman was editor for the first six volumes of the Field Club's Proceedings, but little care was taken to record their date of publication. This is a matter of some importance especially as many of these volumes contain descriptions of new taxa of animals which must date from their dates of publication. Sykes (1941) has suggested dates for these but not always accurately.

##### *Vol. 1*

Published after January 1877 from internal evidence (p. 52). Almost certainly in 1877 as accepted by Sykes, Mayo (1885) and the Royal Society Catalogue (12, p. 186), and very

probably in May 1877 the date that appears on offprints of T. Davidson's paper (pp. 73-88).

*Vol. 2*

Published after June 1878 from internal evidence (p. 94). Probably in 1878 as accepted by Sykes, Mayo and the Royal Society Catalogue (*12* p. 130).

*Vol. 3*

Sykes, Mayo and the Royal Society Catalogue all give 1879 following the title page. But Crick (1902, p. 13) points out that the editor speaks of October, 1879 as October of *last year* (pp. 141-3); this shows publication was not until 1880.

*Vol. 4*

Sykes gives 1881, Mayo 1882, and the Royal Society Catalogue 1883 (*12*, p. 130) S. S. Buckman (1907) the editor's son shows from internal evidence (p. xv) that the correct date of publication is October or November, 1882. It was being printed in June, 1882, *Dorset Co. Chron.* June 15th, 1882, p. 7.

*Vol. 5*

Sykes gives May 1884 from evidence in Vol. 6, p. xiv. This is confirmed by a letter from T. Davidson to J. Buckman acknowledging its receipt on 23 May, 1884.

*Vol. 6*

Sykes shows publication was in the first half of 1885.

*Vol. 7*

Sykes gives August 1886 the date of receipt by the British Museum.

From *Vol. 8* onwards publication moved to Dorchester.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am most grateful to the late A. B. Gourlay and J. H. P. Gibb of Sherborne School for allowing me access to the school archives and for much help in their interpretation, to R. N. R. Peers and W. M. Grange of the County Museum for similarly allowing access to their records. Peter Buckman very kindly provided details of his illustrious family, and I am also indebted to Raymond Farrar, who most kindly provided details concerning the Palaeolithic bone controversy. Mr. A. B. Gourlay in addition read and commented on an early draft of the paper, providing many helpful suggestions.

#### REFERENCES

- Proc. only refers throughout to the *Proceedings* of the Dorset Natural History [and Antiquarian Field Club] later (and Archaeological Society).
- ACLAND, J. E. 1929. *Guide to the Dorset County Museum*, 22nd ed. Ling, Dorchester, 16p.
- ANON. 1929. Retirement of Mr. Henry Tryon. *Queensland Agric. Jl.* 32, 176-183.
- ANON. 1934. Reginald H. Fox. *Proc. Isle of Wight Nat. Hist. Arch. Soc.* 2, (4) 253-254.
- ANON. 1944. In Memoriam: Henry Tryon. *Queensland Agric. Jl.* 58, 61-62.
- ARKELL, W. J. 1935-1948. A monograph of the Ammonites of the English Corallian Beds. *Palaeontogr. Soc. (Mon.)*
- ARKELL, W. J. 1951-59. A Monograph of English Bathonian Ammonites. *Palaeontogr. Soc. (Mon.)*
- BLAKE, J. F. 1905. A Monograph of the Fauna of the Cornbrash. *Palaeontogr. Soc. (Mon.)*
- BUCKMAN, J. 1878. The Species of *Astarte* (Preparatory Notes). *Proc.* 2, 79-80.
- BUCKMAN, J. 1884. Memoir of the late Rev. Henry Hayton Wood. *Proc.* 5, xiii-xv.
- BUCKMAN, S. S. 1882. *Proc.* 4, pp. 5, 48 and 139.
- BUCKMAN, S. S. 1891. Monograph on the Inferior Oolite Ammonites of the British Islands. *Palaeontogr. Soc. (Mon.)*, p. 247.
- BUCKMAN, S. S. 1907. *Proceedings of Dorset Field Club*. Date of Volume IV. *Geol. Mag.* (5) 4, viii.
- CAMBRIDGE, O. P. 1884. Notes of Meetings. . . in 1883. *Proc.* 5, 144-149.
- CAMBRIDGE, O. P. 1885. Notes of Meetings. . . in 1884. *Proc.* 6, xiii-xvii.
- CLEMINSHAW E. and CAMBRIDGE, F. O. P. (editors) 1879. Report of the Sherborne School Field Society for 1878. Sherborne: James Ellis 76p. (S. S. Buckman's personal copy survives in the General Library of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) The MSS Field Society Minutes 1877-1883 in the school archives (SS 6) refer on May 15th 1880, to the "Report of the Society for 1879 being distributed," but no copy of this or any later Reports seem to have survived.
- COX, L. R. 1942. Notes on Jurassic Lamellibranchia. VIII On the Genus *Velata* Quenstedt. *Proc. Mal.*

- Soc. 25, 119-124, pl. 4.
- COX, L. R. AND ARKELL, W. J. 1948-1950. A Survey of the Mollusca of the British Great Oolite Series. *Palaeontogr. Soc.* (Mon.)
- CRICK, G. C. 1902. On the type-specimen of *Belemnoteuthis montefiori* J. Buckman *Proc. Mal. Soc.* 5, 13-16.
- DAVIDSON, T. 1882-1884. Monograph of the British Fossil Brachiopoda Vol. V. *Palaeontogr. Soc.* (Mon.) p. 252, 260, 264, 265, 270.
- DELAIR, J. B. 1959. The Mesozoic Reptiles of Dorset. *Proc.* 80, 52-90.
- DELEGATES OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OXFORD, 1912. *Annual Report* No. 24, for 1911. p. 75.
- DOUGLAS, J. A. and ARKELL, W. J. 1928. The stratigraphical distribution of the Cornbrash. I The South-Western Area. *Quart. J. Geol. Soc.* 84, 117-178.
- DUNN, W. H. 1956. *R. D. Blackmore – the author of “Lorna Doone” – a biography*. London: Robert Hale, 316 p.
- FOWLER, J. 1936. *Sherborne behind the Seen*. Sherborne: Sawtells, 88p.
- GIBB, J. H. P. 1973. The Sherborne Bone. *Shirburnian* – Autumn issue, pp. 24-25.
- GOURLAY, A. B. 1971. *A History of Sherborne School*. 2nd edition. Sherborne: Sawtells, 335 p.
- HUDLESTON, W. H. 1886. Excursion to Sherborne and Bridport. *Proc. Geol. Ass.* 9, 187-199.
- HULKE, J. W. 1870. Note on some Plesiosaurian Remains. *Quart. J. Geol. Soc.* 26, 620-621.
- LANG, W. D. 1960. The Buckmans, Father and Son. *Proc.* 82, 73-76.
- LOBLEY, J. L. 1871. Excursion to the Yeovil District. *Proc. Geol. Ass.* 2, 247-250.
- LOCKET, G. H. and MILLIDGE, A. F. 1951. British Spiders Vol. 1. *Ray Soc. Pub. No.* 135, 310 p.
- LOUSLEY, J. E. 1946. L. V. Lester-Garland. *Rep. Bot. Soc. Exch. Club* 12, 647.
- MANSEL-PLEYDELL, J. C. 1877. An Address. *Proc.* 1, 1-14.
- MANSEL-PLEYDELL, J. C. 1884. Notes on a Cone from the Inferior Oolite Beds of Sherborne. *Proc.* 5, 141-143.
- MANSEL-PLEYDELL, J. C. 1886. Address of the President at the Annual Meeting of the Dorset County Museum. *Proc.* 7, 23-27.
- MAYO, C. H. 1885. *Bibliotheca Dorsetiensis*. London: privately printed, 296 p.
- MOORE, R. C. ed. 1969. Treatise on Invertebrate Palaeontology Part N. Mollusca 6 BIVALVIA. *Geol. Soc. Amer. & Univ. Kansas Press*, Vol. 1, 489 p.
- MORGAN, M. C. 1968. *Cheltenham College: The First Hundred Years*. Chalfont St. Giles: R. Sadler, 246 p.
- OWEN, R. 1883. On the Skull of *Megalosaurus*. *Quart. J. Geol. Soc.* 39, 334-47, pl. 11.
- PARKER, L. N. 1928. *Several of My Lives*. Chapman & Hall, London 312 p.
- PICK, B. P. 1950. *The Sherborne Register 1550-1950*. 4th ed. Warren. Winchester, 638 p.
- RICHARDSON, L. 1916. On the Stratigraphical Distribution of the Inferior Oolite Vertebrates of the Cotteswold Hills and the Bath-Burton Bradstock District. *Proc.* 37, 48-55.
- RICHARDSON, L. 1925. Excursion to Cirencester and District. *Proc. Geol. Ass.* 36, p. 93.
- RICHARDSON, L. 1932. The Inferior Oolite and Contiguous Deposits of the Sherborne district, Dorset. *Proc. Cottesw. Nat. F.C.* 24, 35-85.
- ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 1867-1925. *Catalogue of Scientific Papers 1860-1900*. Vols. 1-19. London.
- SHERBORN, C. D. 1940. *Where is the — Collection?* Cambridge Univ. Press, 147 p.
- SIMPSON, N. D. 1960. *A Bibliographic Index of the British Flora*. Bournemouth: privately printed.
- STUART, M. G. 1886a. The meetings . . . during 1885. *Proc.* 7, xvii-xxvii.
- STUART, M. G. 1886b. The Proceedings . . . during 1886. *Proc.* 8, xxxiv-1.
- STUART-GRAY, M. G. 1902. In Memoriam: The late J. C. Mansel-Pleydell, Esq. *Proc.* 23, lxii-lxxii.
- SYKES, E. R. 1941. On the dates of publication of our Proceedings in Past Years. *Proc.* 62, 34-36.
- SYKES, E. R. 1942. The Dorset County Museum, its History and Founders. *Proc.* 63, 82-91.
- TANCOCK, O. W. and WOOD, A. 1868-1869. *First report of the Kings School Natural History and Natural Science Society for the year 1868*, pub. 1868. Sherborne: James Ellis, 19 p. (copy in Sherborne School archives SS 4) *Second report . . . for 1869*, pub. 1869, 17p (Sherborne School archives SS 5).
- WALDMAN, M. 1974. Megalosaurids from the Bajocian (Middle Jurassic) of Dorset. *Palaeontology*, 17, (2), 325-339.
- WHITTAKER, E. T. 1948. Obituary notice of Alfred North Whitehead, 1861-1947. *Ob. Notices Fellows Royal Soc.* 6, 281-296.
- WILDMAN, W. 1896. *A Short History of Sherborne from 705 A.D.* F. Bennett, Sherborne, 114 p.
- WINWOOD, H. H. 1870. [Report of visit to Sherborne] *Proc. Bath Nat. Hist. Ant. Field Club* 2, 127.
- WOOD, H. H. 1877. Notes on Some Cornbrash Sections in Dorset. *Proc.* 1, 22-27.
- WOODWARD, A. S. 1904. The “History of the Collections contained in the Natural History Departments of the British Museum”, Vol. 1, Geology Dept. 260-340. London Brit. Mus.
- WOODWARD, A. S. 1914. On an apparently Palaeolithic engraving on a Bone from Sherborne, Dorset. *Quart. J. Geol. Soc.* 70, 100-103.
- WOODWARD, A. S. 1916-1919. The fossil Fishes of the English Wealden and Purbeck formations. *Palaeontogr. Soc.* (Mon.)
- WOODWARD, H. B. 1895. *The Jurassic Rocks of Britain* Vol. 5. Mem. Geol. Surv. U.K.
- YOUNG, E. W. 1886. *Dorchester: its ancient and modern history, principal buildings and institutions and its neighbourhood*. Ling, Dorchester, 116 p.

## THE FOSSIL COLLECTION OF THE MISSES PHILPOT OF LYME REGIS

---

J. M. EDMONDS

In August 1880, an important collection of fossils, mainly from the Lias of Lyme Regis, Dorset was presented to Oxford University by Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Philpot, in memory of her husband, John Philpot. The negotiations which led to the gift were carried through by Joseph Prestwich, the professor of geology at Oxford, with the active cooperation of Robert Etheridge, F.R.S. and together they met Mrs. Philpot at Lyme Regis to make the final arrangements (Prestwich 1899:308).

John Philpot's father, also called John, was a solicitor practising in London. About 1805, John the elder took a house at Lyme Regis for his four sisters and three of them, Mary (1777-1838), Margaret (?-1845) and Elizabeth (1780-1857), settled there for life living at Morley Cottage, 1 Silver Street<sup>(1)</sup>. They soon began collecting fossils and of the three, it appears that Elizabeth the youngest was most closely concerned with the collection or at any rate was the amanuensis in matters relating to it.

The town was steadily becoming a popular summer resort and, by 1834, a topographical and historical account (Roberts 1834:178) stated:

"Few towns centre in themselves so many various inducements to visit them as Lyme. Viewed as a watering-place, it offers the fairest prospect of restored health and spirits to the *invalid*, and a round of visiting and good company to those whose constitution and fortune permit an indulgence in them. The *fossilist* and *geologist* look upon this place as the sportsman does upon Melton Mowbray."

Well-known and obscure fossil collectors alike visited Lyme Regis, some first coming alone and later returning for regular holiday visits with wives and families. Although undoubtedly many of them found their main attraction in the fossil shop and colourful character of Mary Anning, there were others for whom the first interest was to examine the fossil collection or "museum" belonging to the Misses Philpot. The sisters were also active collectors and were able to conduct their visitors to the most rewarding fossil localities in the neighbourhood.

The Misses Philpot were well established at Lyme when Mary Anning (1800-1847) was still only a young girl, and Elizabeth Philpot lived on to old age, and survived ten years after Miss Anning's death. There is however evidence of a close and affectionate relationship between them which transcended social origins and educational upbringing. The letters of Mary Anning frequently mention the Philpot sisters and it is from these (Lang 1939, etc) that we are able to glean most of our information. By adding to these incidental references various items of scientific testimony which have been recorded, it is possible to give some chronological account of their active scientific pursuits and associations.

The Philpot sisters must have progressed rapidly with their collecting in the first ten years of their residence in Lyme Regis, for on 1st June 1817, James Sowerby published a plate in his "Mineral Conchology", figuring an ammonite to which he gave the name *Ammonites obtusus* (Sowerby 1817:151, pl.167). The more complete of the two specimens depicted had been lent to him by Miss Philpot through the agency of Professor William Buckland of Oxford and this one has become the type specimen of the species.

From correspondence between Sowerby and Buckland relating to this loan, Dr. W. D. Lang (1941:199) has been able to reconstruct the manner in which the specimen was returned to Miss Philpot. When Buckland forgot to collect the specimen, together with some of his own and others belonging to G. B. Greenough (the eminent geologist and Member of Parliament) he sent a note to Sowerby asking him to deliver them

"to Mr. Greenough's where I dine today, and the Rest [some of his own] by waggon in ye Basket to Oxford. I leave London tomorrow morning at 6."

Sowerby replied that he had already sent Miss Philpot's ammonite to her brother

<sup>(1)</sup> Information from Mr. J. V. Keene of Oxted, Surrey, a great-grandson of John Philpot the younger.

“to Hare Court Temple, and Friday morn sent our kind friend Mr. Greenough one of his spec., the other 2 I told him in a note I would retain a short time for your use, if he did not immediately want them . . . I trouble you with this that you may be quite easy about Miss P. and Mr. G.”

It is clear that William Buckland regularly examined the Philpot collection, for on 6 February 1829, reading his paper at the Geological Society on the Lyme pterodactyl found by Miss Anning, Buckland (1829a:219, pl.27, fig.3) stated:

“I had for some time past suspected the existence of the Pterodactyle in the lias at Lyme; partly from having heard, about twenty years ago, that in the collection of Mr. Rowe, then made at Charmouth, there was the skeleton of a fossil bird, which I never saw, but imagine may have been a Pterodactyle; and partly from having found, four years ago at Lyme, in the collection of Miss Philpots, some bones of a wing and toe, which I could refer to no other animal, and of which a drawing was then made for me. More recently, I have discovered in the cabinet of Miss Philpots a thin elongated fragment of flat bone, which appears to be the jaw of a Pterodactyle; it is set with very minute, flat, lancet-shaped teeth, bearing the character of a lacertine animal – A drawing of it is annexed.”

In 1824, Miss Anning had discovered an almost complete skeleton of Plesiosaurus at Lyme and in a letter of 21 December 1830 to Dr. Buckland, she announced her discovery of another specimen, and then continued (Ms. in Devon C.R.O., original spelling preserved; also Lang 1939:156):

“Do you recollect the live creatures you had put in spirit (if so my discription may be acceptable) I got two more, one alive, and it, whenever it was touched ejected a purple fluid (this one Mr. De la Beach coveted, and has taken to some Naturalist to be described). The second I dissected at Miss Philpot’s, it first had a shell this shape [sketch inserted] very like a smooth pecten only more concave, also a sack or ink bag exactly resembling the fossil one you borrowed of Miss Philpot this shape [sketch inserted] it had also a second small bag (like the gizzard of a fowel) containing a number of horny triangular little pieces (I should think to assist its digestion) it had four horns, in the two uppermost are its eyes; round the shell, I should have observed, a lip of fleshy substance which completely covers and gards it in case of necessity”(2).

Some years before, Buckland had noticed in the two collections at Lyme Regis small masses each nearly the shape and size of a small gall-bladder and containing an indurated black substance. When powdered this material resembled painter’s sepia and had been used as such to tint drawings. The ball or sac was enclosed in a brilliant nacreous sheath forming the lining of a thin shelly substance which was prolonged into a hollow cone and had other features which suggested links with the belemnite. At the meeting of the Geological Society on 6 February 1829, Buckland (1829b:388) described them and referred to them as “fossil ink-bags”.

He already had in his possession, for drawing, specimens from the collection of the Misses Philpot but withheld their publication in the hope that further evidence would reveal their relationship. It was Louis Agassiz who eventually in October 1834 drew Buckland’s attention to two specimens in the Philpot cabinet which appeared to provide the critical evidence. Each of these contained an ink-bag within the anterior portion of the sheath of a perfect belemnite and the next year Buckland figured them in his *Bridgewater Treatise* (1836 vol.2, pl.44’, figs.7,9) along with the drawings made several years before (1836 pl.29, fig.1, and pl.30).

Undated letters written by Mary Anning to Mrs. (later Lady) Murchison, wife of Roderick I. Murchison, are thought by Dr. Lang (1945:169) to have been sent late in 1828 and early in 1829 and they contain references to the Misses Philpot. In the first is:

“You and Mr. De la B. [H. T. De la Beche, who must have known the families well] between you have given me the green Sand Mainia, both Miss Philpot and myself have been beating bits of green Sand to pieces to find shells, and after our return we sit down an turn over the leavs of Sowerby untill our poor heads is compleate jumble of Bivalves univalves &c &c.”

and in the second:

“Since I wrote to you I have not found much I. soone lost the green sand mania, and

(2) From this description, Dr. M. L. Clarke of the Marine Biological Association Laboratory, Plymouth has identified the animal as the gastropod, *Aplysia punctata*, a sea hare.

returned to my old passion for bones.”  
and in a postscript:

“the Miss Philpots beg to present their Compts to you – pray when may we hope to see you at Lyme again, it is so seldome that we see any lady or gentleman.”

This transfer of allegiance to the Greensand is also referred to in the journal of 1832 of a young woman, Miss Anna Maria Pinney of Somerton Erleigh, Somerset (Lang 1956:149):

“Monday 23 (August 1832) . . . Went with the Miss Philpots to Shorn Cliff and found a mass of echinites and other siliceous specimens in the Green Sand.”

In another entry, they were examining the Lias once more:

“Friday 7th (December 1832). I went out fossilizing with Miss Spekes &c &c. M. found a perfect Belemnite with its ink-bag – the only one previously found belongs to Miss Philpot.”

Therefore the Lyme women collectors were evidently fully aware of the significance of these specimens almost two years before Agassiz drew Buckland’s attention to them.

If the letters which Miss Anning sent to their mutual scientific correspondents invariably contained news of or greeting from the Misses Philpot, then similarly the latter sometimes mentioned their friend, Mary, as is shown in the following, headed Lyme, Dec. 9, 1833, and addressed to Mrs. Buckland at Oxford:

Dear Madam,

I fear you will think me presuming in offering you a sketch of a fossil which was made by so unskilful a hand as mine; but I am induced to send it to you as it was drawn with the colour prepared from the Ink of the fossil Sepia; and Mary Anning considers this Jaw the most perfect specimen she has ever met with. I have enquired of her but she has not any message for Dr. Buckland. Yesterday she had one of her miracle escapes in going to the beach before sunrise and was nearly killed in passing over the bridge by the wheel of a cart which threw her down and crushed her against the wall, fortunately the cart was stopped in time to allow of her being extricated from her most perilous situation and happily she is not prevented pursuing her daily employment. May I beg you to remind Dr. Buckland that he has borrowed from me some Plesiosaurus vertebrae, as it is some time since I will mention that they are a section of a vertebra, one with the process, ten others, and a chain set in a box.

My sisters write with me in best compliments to You and Dr. Buckland & believe me Dear Madam

Yours sincerely

E. Philpot.

The drawing in sepia is on the sheet attached to this letter and is titled:

“A Jaw of the Ichthyosaurus communis from the lias, Lyme Regis. Drawn with colour prepared from the fossil Sepia cotemporary with the Ichthyosaurus.”

In August 1834, Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz (1807-1873), the Swiss geologist, arrived on his first visit to England. In October he went to Lyme Regis and examined Miss Philpot’s fossil collection; and when he returned to Oxford to stay with William Buckland, he drew the attention of the latter to the presence in her cabinet of the two important specimens of belemnites with ink-sacs. Agassiz was however mainly interested in examining collections of fossil fishes in connection with his *Recherches sur les Poissons fossiles* published between 1833 and 1844 and in this respect he was highly gratified by what he found in Miss Philpot’s collection:

“Knowing that so many fossils of all classes of the animal kingdom, and such curious plants, had been found at Lyme Regis, I was prepared to discover in this locality a greater number of fossil fishes than had been reported before a thorough search had been made. The result of my search surpassed all expectation. At Lyme Regis itself, I saw in the collection of Miss E. Philpot thirty-four new species of fossil fishes from this locality alone; several of which belong to new genera, not counting all those that I had already seen in other collections and which I found again here. Being able to stay at Lyme Regis only a few days, Miss Philpot kindly consented to allow me to borrow all these species so that I could describe them in detail. This collection has been especially valuable to me as Miss Philpot and Mary Anning have been able to shew me with certainty which are the ichthyodorulites [dorsal fin spines of sharks] that correspond to the different types of teeth. With this key, I have been able to reach some important conclusions and, in other formations, relate

various forms of teeth and spines to each other, by combining all the modes of association already known in these fragments. The collection of Miss Philpot also contains some very fine teeth from the Chalk of Pinhay and of Wiltshire.” (Agassiz 1844 vol.1:22).

In order to facilitate his work, the Geological Society of London set aside a room for the use of Agassiz at their headquarters in Somerset House. Here he assembled some two thousand specimens and he sent for his artist, Joseph Dinkel, to come over and begin drawing them. It was a task which took Dinkel several years to complete. The Philpot specimens which were illustrated in Volumes 2 and 3 of the *Poissons fossiles*, were transported to London for this purpose, but in addition to those which were actually described and figured, many of the other Philpot specimens bear labels in Agassiz’s handwriting.

The second and third volumes of Agassiz’s work are punctuated by such statements as:

“The original of Plate 25a, which represents a complete fish, is the finest example of fossil fish I have ever seen; it is also from Miss Philpot’s collection.” (1835 vol.2, pt.1:192).

and:

“Examination of Miss Philpot’s collection at Lyme Regis has furnished me with proof that *Hybodus* had two dorsal fins and that the bony rays of these two fins differed no more from each other than do the two dorsal spines of living species which have them.” (1837 vol.3:41).

When Agassiz named a species, *Eugnathus philpotiae*, he added this tribute:

“In dedicating this species to Miss Philpot, I have pleasure in publicly recognising the services which she has rendered to palaeontology and notably to fossil ichthyology, by the care she has taken in collecting the fossil remains of the Lias at Lyme Regis. The species which we have just described and which is in her collection can be regarded as one of the finest fishes of this formation.” (1844 vol.2, pt.2:102).

In 1946, Dr. W. D. Lang had access to a letter written to Miss Philpot by J. N. Sanders a well-known fossil collector of Fielding House, Clifton, Bristol and dated 10 February 1838:  
Dear Madam,

As I haad the honour of being introduced to you, at this place, I hope to be excused for troubling you on the present occasion, even if I should not have the good fortune to succeed in my object. I believe that you are already aware that I purchased of Miss Anning, some years ago, a rare fossil, described by Monr. Agassiz, and of which there is a large plate in the last report of the Geological Transactions. If Miss A. had not forgotten her promise to me, a portion of the tail, subsequently found, would now be attached to the fossil.

Should you be of the opinion that science would be promoted by a reunion, I should be most happy to pay any expense that you have incurred, for the fragment in your possession.

I can sincerely assure you that I have no personal interest in view, having already offered the fossil, gratuitously, to a public museum, to prevent so valuable a specimen leaving this Country; which our valued friend Mr. Conybeare had so much at heart, that he offered with his usual liberality to contribute a considerable portion of the first cost, to prevent - - - - -.

I have the honour to be dear Madam Your very obedt Serv J. N. Sanders.

The specimen referred to was that in Agassiz’s vol.3, pl.42 and 43 and there named *Spinacorhinus polyspondylus*. It is evident that Miss Philpot did not accede to the request and in the event, it is probably as well, for the main part of the fossil is believed to have been lost when the Bristol Museum was destroyed by bombing.

In July 1833, the botanists, John Lindley and William Hutton, figured an araucarian shoot from the Philpot collection and said (1833-35:19, pl.88):

“The specimen which has been carefully cleaned from the Lias when soft, is one of the most perfect that we have ever seen; every thing, even the surface of the leaves, having been completely preserved.”

By 1840, the Misses Philpot had assembled by active personal collecting a “cabinet” of fossils of remarkable scientific interest, and one to which the foremost research workers sought and were granted access. Thus Richard Owen, then professor at the Royal College of Surgeons and later head of the British Museum (Natural History) wrote (Owen 1894.I,166) to his sister, after a visit made on 26 September 1839:

“Next day we [Wm. Buckland, W. D. Conybeare and he] had a geological excursion with Mary Anning, and had like to have been swamped by the tide. We were cut off from

rounding a point and had to scramble over the cliffs. I spent the next day at Miss Philpot's museum; then went to Charmouth, and so returned to London."

The report on "British Fossil Reptiles" prepared by Owen (1840:43) after the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science of 1839, has descriptions of specimens of Plesiosaurus and Ichthyosaurus in Miss Philpot's collection, and one of his note-books, now preserved at the British Museum (Natural History), contains the measurements and notes which he made on this visit.

It is also known that Dr. Thomas Wright, the expert on fossil echinoderms, had seen and admired specimens in the collection and that he enquired about them soon after the death of Elizabeth Philpot (Lang 1947:112).

Later letters from Mary Anning to correspondents in London, quoted by Dr. Lang, include mention of the Misses Philpot. In that to Miss M. Lister, 8 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London on 13 January 1840 there is a postscript with their "kindest remembrances" and to Mrs. Solly, 48 Upper Gower Street, Bedford Square, London on 10 June 1844, she sends thanks (Lang 1953:175):

"- - - also for your most interesting account of the lectures (Lyme being such an out of the way Town, that I seldom get any scientific news). Miss's Philpots desires their kind Compts and were so delighted with the information contained in your letter, that they fingred it to copy; - - -."

These slight references all combine to give a picture of a small circle of intelligent and scientifically interested friends, but perhaps the most pleasing impression is that created by the personal recollection of Miss Selina Hallett writing in June 1920, when she was then aged 81<sup>(3)</sup>:

"There has been a great deal written about Miss Anning the Fossilist. I can remember seeing her stand outside her shop in Broad St., but I have never seen anything said about the two Miss Philpot's that used to go fossiling with her. They were two ladies that resided at Morley Cottage (now called The Nest). They were great fossilists and had a very large collection. Several cases with glass tops and shallow drawers all down the front stood in the dining room, and the back parlour, and upstairs on the landing, all full of fossils with a little ticket on each of them. I heard they were worth £1000, but when the late Mrs. Philpot moved to Herne Lea she gave them to the Oxford University. I don't expect she ever thought of her son building a museum at that time. Mr. Tom's grandfather was brother to the Miss Philpot's; I remember seeing him when he came to visit his sisters.

They were very good, kind ladies to poor people. One thing they were noted for was their home-made salve of which they always kept a store for anyone that chose to go and ask for it, as it was so good for any sort of wounds, and they had a great many applications for it. Miss Margaret passed away in my very early days before I remember, but Miss Philpot lived many years after. The old Mrs. Clive of Haye House used to come down every day and take her for a drive in her carriage. The old lady always drove herself and Henry Jones her black servant sat up behind. Of course there was nothing of the motor car about her driving, I never saw the horse trot.

Then in Miss Anning's day Mr. De la Beche was living in Lyme. He afterwards became Sir Henry De la Beche. He was a great geologist and often used to accompany the ladies on their fossiling expeditions. In his early married days he resided for a short time at the Grove (in the time of Mr. Linnison). My mother was cook to him there and one night he thought he heard someone about so he took his sword and went down to look around. When he came to the scullery window he saw as he thought a man's head inside and in went the sword but it proved to be only the head of the mop that had been turned up to dry. I remember the last time he visited Lyme. He came to see my parents in Pound Rd., and I acted the part of girl guide to show him where some of his friends (the Thrupp family) lived at St. Michael's House."

(3) Quoted by permission of Mrs. Hallett of Southampton, and of Miss Margaret Purvis of Lyme Regis.

#### REFERENCES

- AGASSIZ, J. LOUIS R., 1833-44. *Recherches sur les Poissons fossiles*. Neuchatel, 5 vols. (text), 5 vols. (plates).  
BUCKLAND, W., 1829a. On the discovery of a new species of Pterodactyle in the Lias at Lyme Regis. *Trans. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, ser. 2, 3, 217-222.

- BUCKLAND, W., 1829b. Fossil Sepia. *Philosoph. Mag.*, London, n.ser., 5, 388.
- BUCKLAND, W., 1836. *Geology and Mineralogy, considered with reference to Natural Theology*. Treatise VI of the Bridgewater Treatises, London. 2 vols.
- DEVON COUNTY RECORD OFFICE. Ms. letter from Mary Anning to William Buckland. no. 138M/F254.
- LANG, W. D., 1939. Mary Anning and the Pioneer Geologists of Lyme. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 60, 142-164.
- LANG, W. D., 1941. Early days of Natural History at Charmouth. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 62, 97-113.
- LANG, W. D., 1945. Three letters by Mary Anning, "Fossilist" of Lyme. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 66, 169-173.
- LANG, W. D., 1947. James Harrison of Charmouth, geologist (1819-1868). *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 68, 103-118.
- LANG, W. D., 1950. More about Mary Anning including a newly-found letter. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 71, 184-188.
- LANG, W. D., 1953. Mary Anning and the fire at Lyme in 1844. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 74, 175-177.
- LANG, W. D., 1956. Mary Anning and Anna Maria Pinney. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Archaeol. Soc.*, 76, 146-152.
- LINDLEY, J. and HUTTON, W., 1833-1835. *The Fossil Flora of Great Britain*, vol. 2. London.
- OWEN, Rev. R., 1894. *The Life of Richard Owen*. London. 2 vols.
- PRESTWICH, G. A., 1899. *Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Prestwich*. Edinburgh.
- ROBERTS, G., 1834. *The History and Antiquities of the Borough of Lyme Regis and Charmouth*. Second edition. London.
- SOWERBY, J., 1815-18. *The Mineral Conchology of Great Britain*, vol. 2. London.

## LIST OF TYPE-FOSSILS IN THE PHILPOT COLLECTION, OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

H. P. POWELL AND J. M. EDMONDS

The fossil collection of the Misses Philpot of Lyme Regis consists of about 400 specimens mainly from the Lower Lias of that neighbourhood and was compiled during the first part of the nineteenth century, during which time it was studied by various prominent palaeontologists. On the death of the youngest sister, Elizabeth Philpot, the collection passed to a nephew, John Philpot, and, in 1880, it was presented to Oxford University by his widow.

The list which follows contains only those specimens which have been documented in research publications, although in the case of the fishes, many others bear the manuscript determination of Louis Agassiz.

All the specimens listed are from the Lower Lias and the locality is recorded as Lyme Regis, Dorset. No information accompanies the collection to help fix more detailed horizons or more precise locations.

The registration numbers quoted are those of the Oxford University Museum ("OUM") palaeontological collections. Type-specimens are marked: **H** for holotype, **S** for syntype, and **L** for lectotype. Where the specimen has been incorporated into a different species by a later worker, a letter in lighter type has been used to indicate the original status.

LINDLEY, J. and HUTTON, W., 1833-1835. *Fossil Flora of Great Britain*, vol. 2. London.

*Araucaria peregrina* Lindley and Hutton, 1833  
vol. 2, p. 19 (1833), pl. 88 (July 1833). Referred to *Pagiophyllum*  
*peregrinum*, Seward 1904, p. 48; Seward 1919, p. 276; to **Pagio-**  
**phyllum (Pachyphyllum) peregrinum** (Lindley and Hutton, 1833),  
Kendal 1948, p. 88.

**H.**

J925.

*Strobilites elongata* Lindley and Hutton, 1833  
vol. 2, p. 23 (1833), pl. 89 (July 1833). Mentioned as indeter-  
minable, Carruthers 1866, p. 544; Seward 1904, pp. 23,51,52.

H. J926a,  
(counterpart) J926b.

*Cycadeoidea pygmaea* Lindley and Hutton, 1835  
vol. 2, p. 175, (1835), pl. 143. Referred to *Bolbopodium*, Saporta 1875,  
p. 256. Mentioned as *Cycadeoidea pygmaea* Lindley and Hutton, 1835,  
Seward 1904, p. 23; Seward 1917, pp. 368,417. Cited Wieland  
1906, p. 20.

H. J1144.

#### REFERENCES

- CARRUTHERS, W., 1866. On some Fossil Coniferous Fruits. *Geol. Mag.*, **3**, 534-546.  
KENDALL, M. W., 1948. On six species of *Pagiophyllum* from the Jurassic of Yorkshire and southern  
England. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 12, **1**, 73-108.  
SAPORTA, L. C. J. G., 1875. Plantes Jurassiques, vol. 2, Cycadées. *Paléont. Française, 2e.sér. Végétaux*.  
SEWARD, A. C., 1904. The Jurassic Flora. II, Liassic and Oolitic floras of England. *Cat. Mesoz.*  
*Plants, British Museum*. London.  
SEWARD, A. C., 1917. *Fossil Plants*. vol. 3. Cambridge.  
SEWARD, A. C., 1919. *Fossil Plants*. vol. 4. Cambridge.  
WIELAND, G. R., 1906. *American Fossil Cycads*. vol. 1. Washington.

SOWERBY, J., 1815-1818. *The Mineral Conchology of Great Britain*, vol. 2. London.

*Ammonites obtusus* J. Sowerby, 1817  
vol. 2, 1817, p. 151, pl. 167 (upper figure). Referred to genus  
*Asteroceras* Hyatt, 1867, p. 79; selected Lectotype of **Astero-**  
**ceras obtusum** (J. Sowerby, 1817), Spath 1925, p. 300.

L. J1194.

#### REFERENCES

- HYATT, A., 1867. The fossil Cephalopods of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. *Bull. Mus. comp.*  
*Zool. Harvard*, **1**, no. 5.  
SPATH, L. F., 1925. Notes on Yorkshire Ammonites, VI. *Naturalist*, London, 299-306.

BUCKLAND, W., 1836. *Geology and Mineralogy, considered with reference to Natural Theology*. Treatise  
VI of the Bridgewater Treatises. London. 2 vols.  
(also editions of 1837 and 1858, with other pagination).

"Fossil Loligo"

vol. 2, p. 50, pl. 29, fig. 1; vol. 1, p. 309. Referred to  
*Belopeltis bucklandi* Voltz, 1840, p. 30. Mentioned as **Loligosepia**  
**bucklandi** (Voltz, 1840), Jeletzky 1966, p. 42.

J3503.

"A large fossil pen of Loligo"

vol. 2, p. 51, pl. 30; vol. 1, p. 309. Mentioned as **Loligosepia**  
**bucklandi** (Voltz, 1840), Jeletzky 1966, p. 42.

J3530.

"Unique specimen of *Belemnites ovalis*"

vol. 2, p. 69, pl. 44', fig. 7; vol. 1, pp. 372,374. Figure reproduced as  
Syntype of **Belemnites bucklandi** Phillips, 1867, p. 53, pl. 8,  
fig. 18; referred erroneously to *B. aff. ventroplanus* Voltz,  
Lissajous 1925, p. 65.

J3541.

*Belemnites Pistilliformis?*

vol. 2, p. 69, pl. 44', fig. 9; vol. 1, pp. 372,374. Re-  
ferred to *Belemnites clavatus* Stahl, Lissajous 1925, p. 122; to  
**Hastites clavatus** (Schlotheim, 1820), Lang 1928, p. 217.

J3531.

#### REFERENCES

- JELETZKY, J. A., 1966. Comparative Morphology, Phylogeny, and Classification of Fossil Col-  
eoida. *Univ. of Kansas Paleont. Contributions*, Mollusca Art. 7.  
LANG, W. D., in LANG, W. D., SPATH, L. F., COX, L. R., and WOOD, H. M., 1928. The  
Belemnite Marls of Charmouth, a Series in the Lias of the Dorset Coast. IV. Belemnites. *Quart. J. Geol.*  
*Soc. Lond.*, **84**, 196-222.  
LISSAJOUS, M., 1925. *Répertoire alphabétique des Bélemnites Jurassiques*. Lyon.

PHILLIPS, J., 1869. A Monograph of British Belemnitidae, pt. iv. *Palaeont. Soc.* London.  
 VOLTZ, P. L., 1840. *Observations sur les Belopeltis ou lames dorsales des Bélemnitidae.* Paris.

AGASSIZ, J. LOUIS R., 1833-1844. *Recherches sur les Poissons fossiles.* Neuchatel et Soleure.  
 5 vols. (text), 5 vols. (plates).

The work was issued as a series of "Livraisons" or parts, published at intervals from 1833 to 1844. Each livraison comprised a number of pages of text and also some plates, but the latter were not necessarily related to the descriptions with which they appeared. As a result, a period of several years sometimes separated the publication of a description of a species and the plate which illustrated it.

Supplemental Sheets to the work were also issued from 1834 to 1843 under the title, *Feuilleton additionnel sur les Recherches sur les Poissons fossiles.*

*Dapedius politus* De la Beche, 1822  
 vol. 2, part 1, pp. 185, 192 (1835), pl. 25, figs. 1,6c (1836). Cited Woodward 1895, p. 133 where species attributed to Leach (in De la Beche 1822); referred to **Dapedium politum** Leach, 1822. J29287.

*Dapedius granulatus* Agassiz, 1835  
 vol. 2, part 1, p. 190 (1835), pl. 25, fig. 2 (1836). S. J3005.  
 pl. 25, fig. 3 S. J3006.  
 pl. 25, fig. 4 S. J3013.

Figures 5, 6a, and 6b are parts of figs. 2, 3, or 4. Mentioned Woodward 1895, p. 148; becomes **Dapedium granulatum** (Agassiz, 1835).

*Dapedius punctatus* Agassiz, 1835  
 vol. 2, part 1, p. 192 (1835), pl. 25a (1836). Mentioned Woodward 1895, p. 142; becomes **Dapedium punctatum** (Agassiz, 1835). The scales figured on pl. 25, figs. 6d, 7, 8, and 9 are possibly from this specimen. H. J3001.

*Amblyurus macrostomus* Agassiz, 1836  
 vol. 2, part 1, p. 220 (1836), pl. 25e, fig. 1 (1836). S. J3025.  
 pl. 25e, fig. 2 S. J3026.  
 pl. 25e, fig. 3 S. J3027.

Referred to **Dapedium** sp. indet. (vertically crushed specimens) Woodward 1888, p. 356; Woodward 1895, p. 151.

*Lepidotus rugosus* Agassiz, 1837  
 vol. 2, part 1, p. 246 (1837), pl. 33a, fig. 2 (1843). Probably specifically indeterminable, and may belong either to *Eugnathus* or *Heterolepidotus*, Woodward 1895, p. 302. J3085.

**Pholidophorus bechei** Agassiz, 1837  
 vol. 2, part 1, p. 272 (1844), pl. 39, fig. 1 with figs. 2,3, and 4 (scales) (1837). Cited Woodward 1895, p. 450. H. J3065.  
 N.B. J3074 and J3075 are associated type-material, determined and labelled by L. Agassiz.

*Pholidophorus onychius* Agassiz, 1837  
 vol. 2, part 1, p. 274 (1844), pl. 39, fig. 5 with figs. 6 and 7 (scales) (1837). Referred to **Pholidophorus bechei** Agassiz, 1837, Woodward 1895, p. 450. H. J3066.

*Eugnathus speciosus* Agassiz, 1839  
 vol. 2, part 2, p. 100 (1844), pl. 57, fig. 1 (1839). S. J3029.  
 pl. 57, fig. 2 S. J3030.

Referred to **Eugnathus orthostomus** Agassiz, 1842, Woodward 1895, p. 291.

**Eugnathus philpotiae** Agassiz, 1839  
 vol. 2, part 2, p. 101 (1844), pl. 58 (1839). Mentioned as *Eugnathus philpotae*, Woodward 1895, p. 295. H. J3087.

*Eugnathus chirotes* Agassiz, 1842  
 vol. 2, part 2, p. 102 (1844). Species referred to *Caturus* (*Conodus*) *chirotes*, Woodward 1895, p. 344; to **Caturus chirotes** (Agassiz, 1842), Gardiner 1960, p. 294. (not present)

- Eugnathus minor** Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 2, part 2, p. 103 (1844), pl. 58a, fig. 1 (1839). Mentioned Woodward 1895, p. 296. H. J3028.
- Eugnathus polydon* Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 2, part 2, p. 104 (1844), pl. 58a, fig. 2 (1839). Referred to **Eugnathus philpotiae** (as *philpotae*) Agassiz, Woodward and Sherborn 1890, p. 79; Woodward 1895, p. 294. H. J3031.
- Pachycormus macrurus* Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 2, part 2, p. 113 (1844), pl. 58a, fig. 3 (1839)—the genus is queried in the text-heading, but not on the plate. Referred doubtfully to *Osteorachis macrocephalus* Egerton, 1868, Woodward 1895, p. 325. Cited as **Osteorachis macrocephalus** Egerton, 1868, Gardiner 1960, p. 282. H. J3050.
- Pachycormus heterurus* Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 2, part 2, p. 113 (1844), pl. 58a, figs. 4,5 (1839)—the genus is queried in the text-heading, but not on the plate. Referred to **Caturus heterurus** (Agassiz), Woodward 1895, p. 339. H. J959.
- Myriacanthus paradoxus** Agassiz, 1836  
vol. 3, p. 38 (1837) H. J3092.
- Myriacanthus retrorsus* Agassiz, 1837  
vol. 3, p. 39 (1837), pl. 8a, figs. 14,15 (1838). Referred to **Myriacanthus paradoxus** Agassiz, 1836, Woodward 1891, p. 44; Patterson 1965, p. 128. H. J3091.
- Hybodus formosus* Agassiz, 1837  
vol. 3, p. 51 (1837), pl. 9, figs. 10,11 (1839). Doubtfully referred to *Hybodus reticulatus* Agassiz, 1838, Woodward 1889, p. 266; Woodward and Sherborn 1890, p. 103. H. J3118.
- Hybodus ensatus* Agassiz, 1837  
vol. 3, p. 51 (1837), pl. 9, fig. 12 (1839). Mentioned as “dorsal fin-spine resembling those of *Hybodus* or *Acrodus*”, Woodward 1889, p. 305. (not present)
- Hybodus carinatus* Agassiz, 1837  
vol. 3, p. 52. (not present)
- Acrodus latus* Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 3, p. 144 (1839). The reference to plate 22, fig. 1 in the text-heading appears to be erroneous; this figure is titled *Acrodus gibberulus* on the plate. Species referred to **Acrodus nobilis** Agassiz, 1838 (= *Acrodus nobilis* Agassiz in Buckland, 1836), Woodward 1889, p. 283. S. J3127, J3128.
- Acrodus gibberulus* Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 3, p. 144 (1839). Species referred to **Acrodus nobilis**, Woodward 1889, p. 283. These specimens are associated type-material of *Acrodus gibberulus*, determined and labelled by L. Agassiz. J3129, J3130.
- Acrodus undulatus* Agassiz, 1839  
vol. 3, p. 144 (1839), pl. 22, fig. 4 (1843). The specimen is recorded in the text as being in the collection of Miss Philpot. The title on the plate is *Acrodus anningiae* Agassiz, and, according to Woodward 1889, p. 289, the figured specimen is in the B.M. (N.H.) collections (Enniskillen Colln.).
- Hybodus medius** Agassiz, 1838  
vol. 3, p. 184 (1843), pl. 24, fig. 25 (1838). Mentioned Woodward 1889, p. 264; Woodward and Sherborn 1890, p. 102. H. J3093.
- Thyellina prisca* Agassiz, 1838  
vol. 3, p. 378 (1843), pl. 39, figs. 1,2 (1838). Designated

type-species of new genus *Palaeospinax* Egerton, 1872. p.1. Cited as **Palaeospinax priscus** (Agassiz, 1838) Woodward 1889, p. 322. H. J3094.

**Spinacorhinus polyspondylus** Agassiz, 1836  
vol. 3, pl. 43 (1836) where titled *Spinacorhinus polyspondylus*; p. 381 (1843) where named *Squaloraja polyspondyla*. The principal part of the specimen was figured in vol. 3, pl. 42 (1836), and was deposited in the Bristol Museum. It was given the name *Squaloraia dolichognathos* Riley, 1833, p. 484, but this appears to be a *nomen nudum*. The specific name was withdrawn when the specimen was described and figured by Riley 1837, pp. 83, 85, pl. 4, and the genus *Squaloraia* formally proposed p. 88. In the meantime, Agassiz had given the type-specimen the name *Spinacorhinus polyspondylus* both in the Feuilleton (vii), p. 94 (1836), and in vol. 3, pls. 42, 43. He had previously used the generic name in the Feuilleton (iv), p. 53 (1835). Mentioned as *Squaloraja polyspondyla* Agassiz, 1843, Woodward 1891, p. 41; Patterson 1965, p. 116. Here referred to **Spinacorhinus polyspondylus** Agassiz, 1836. H. J3097.

#### REFERENCES

- AGASSIZ, J. L. R., 1835, 1836. *Feuilleton additionel sur les Recherches sur les Poissons fossiles*. iv (1835), 21-64; vii (1836), 87-98.  
DE LA BECHE, H. T., 1822. Remarks on the Geology of the South Coast of England. *Trans. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, ser. 2, **1**, 40-47.  
EGERTON, P. M. G., 1872. Figures and Descriptions of British Organic Remains. Decade XIII, vii. *Mem. Geol. Survey U.K.*  
GARDINER, B. G., 1960. A revision of certain Actinopterygian and Coelacanth fishes, chiefly from the Lower Lias. *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Geol.)*, **4**, 239-384.  
PATTERSON, C., 1965. The Phylogeny of the Chimaeroids. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.*, ser. B, **249**, 101-219.  
RILEY, H., 1833. On a fossil in the Bristol Museum, and discovered in the Lias at Lyme Regis. *Proc. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, **1**, 483-484.  
RILEY, H., 1837. On the *Squaloraia*. *Trans. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, ser. 2, **5**, 83-88.  
WOODWARD, A. S., 1888. Note on the early Mesozoic ganoid *Belonorhynchus*, and on the supposed Liassic genus *Amblyurus*. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 6, **1**, 354-356.  
WOODWARD, A. S., 1889. *Catalogue of the Fossil Fishes in the British Museum (Natural History)*. Part 1. London.  
WOODWARD, A. S., 1891. *Ibid.* Part 2. London.  
WOODWARD, A. S., 1895. *Ibid.* Part 3. London.  
WOODWARD, A. S. and SHERBORN, C. D., 1890. *A Catalogue of British Fossil Vertebrata*. London.  
OWEN, R., 1840. Report on British Fossil Reptiles. *Rept. Brit. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* (for 1839), pp. 43-126. All specimens are from the Lias at Lyme Regis.

**Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus** Conybeare, 1824 (parietal bones)  
Mentioned in note p. 53 J28585.

**Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus** Conybeare, 1824 (dentaries)  
Described, with measurements, p. 61. J28586.

**Plesiosaurus macromus** Owen, 1840  
Described p. 72. H. J28587/1-57.

*Plesiosaurus arcuatus* Owen, 1840 (?) (dentaries)  
Described, with measurements, p. 76 as "appears to be referable to this species". Species referred to *Thaumatosauros* von Meyer, 1841, Woodward and Sherborn 1890, p. 290; to *Eurycleidus* Andrews, 1922, p. 294. J28588.

*Plesiosaurus arcuatus* Owen, 1840 (?) (a humerus)  
Described, with measurements, p. 76 as "a femur supposed to belong to the same *Plesiosaurus*". J12100.

#### REFERENCES

- ANDREWS, C. W., 1922. Description of a new plesiosaur from the Weald Clay of Berwick (Sussex). *Quart. J. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, **78**, 285-298.

WOODWARD, A. S. and SHERBORN, C. D., 1890. *A Catalogue of British Fossil Vertebrata*. London.

BUCKLAND, W., 1829. On the discovery of a new species of Pterodactyle in the Lias at Lyme Regis. *Trans. Geol. Soc. Lond.*, ser. 2, **3**, pp. 217-222.

“Jaw . . . . . supposed to be of Pterodactyle”

p. 219; pl. 27, fig. 3; on p. 220 stated as probably belonging to the new species there described as *Pterodactylus macronyx*. Figured as *Pterodactylus macronyx* Buckland, Owen 1841, p. 275, pl. 63A, fig. 7. Cited as *Pterodactylus (Dimorphodon) macronyx* Buckland, Owen 1859, p. 98. Referred to **Dimorphodon macronyx** (Buckland, 1829), Owen 1860, p. 246.

J28251.

#### REFERENCES

OWEN, R., 1841. *Odontography*. London (1840-1845).

OWEN, R., 1859. On a New Genus (*Dimorphodon*) of Pterodactyle with remarks on the Geological Distribution of Flying Reptiles. *Rept. Brit. Assoc. Adv. Sci.* (for 1858), pp. 97-98.

OWEN, R., 1860. *Palaeontology; or a Systematic Summary of Extinct Animals and their geological relations*. Edinburgh.

---

compiled by LAURENCE KEEN

ARNE. R. A. H. Farrar continued excavation of the Romano-British potteries at *Redcliff*, and reports that work on the east side of the area opened in 1975, and separated from it by a modern field drain, revealed similar burnt deposits and a virtually identical range of pottery wasters, and it was shown that the second anomaly registered by gradiometer, like the first, was not caused by the presence of any fired clay structure.

A single sherd of a South Gaulish samian bowl made between AD80 and 110 (*teste* B. R. Hartley) was found in the upper part of the filling immediately underlying the 'pie-dish' horizon.

CASTLETON. Excavations on the north gateway at *Sherborne Old Castle* were continued by P. White for the Department of the Environment.

CERNE ABBAS. A Roman coin found by Mrs Fraser in the garden of Mount Pleasant has been identified by the British Museum as a bronze *foliis* of Constantine I minted in Lyons AD 301-303; obv. CONSTANTIVS NOB C rev. GENIOPOP-VLI ROMANI.

CHARMINSTER (ST 6897). Mrs S. M. Campbell reports a small scatter of Romano-British material towards the north-east of the parish. The finds include tegulae, imbrices, several small sherds of samian, the rim of a buff fabric 2nd-century mortarium and a worn *sestertius* of Hadrian (AD 117-138).

CORFE CASTLE (ST 95458154). Excavations by J. Collins and N. H. Field at *Bucknowle Farm* investigated the site of a tessellated floor discovered by P. A. Brown. A test excavation took place in July-August 1976 on the site discovered in 1975. Though the land is now under grass, the building remains are vulnerable to ploughing. The pavement has special interest, being the first known south of the chalk ridge in Purbeck. 125 sq m were opened up and seven periods were identified: *Periods 1 & 2* The earliest features were Iron Age ditches. The second and later of these had been refilled in one operation early in Roman times, for among much Iron Age 'C' pottery was a flagon rim of Gallo-Roman type; *Periods 3 & 4* Black occupation soil of Roman date then covered the area to be cut through by a stone drain that ran across the site from south-west to north-east. Clearly major structures, probably second century in date, lie further west; *Period 5* In the third century, an L-shaped building was erected, some 3m wide and laying north-south and east-west, with the inner south-east angle forming the corner of a roughly paved yard. A projection of the outer east-west wall was possibly a pillar base or a buttress rather than part of a gateway; *Period 6* Later, probably at the end of the third century, the L-shaped building had important alterations. The inner north-south wall was extended across the angle and within the north-south 'room' so formed, a crude unmortared pavement of large red tesserae was laid on a rubble base. To the east of this 'room' or corridor, the yard was also extended across the demolished inner east-west wall, while a doorway now gave access to it from the end of the corridor; *Period 7* Late in Roman times, the whole building was demolished and robbed, though occupation seems to have continued nearby. The configuration of the pavement suggests a corridor, but there is no flanking range of rooms; a covered way is another possibility. The site has been shown to be extensive and little can be concluded so far. Finds in 1976 were modest and included 3 coins and evidence of shale-working.

DEWLISH. W. G. Putnam reports that the eighth season of excavation on the Roman Villa at Dewlish took place during July and August 1976. The work was carried out mainly by students of the Dorset Institute of Higher Education (formerly Weymouth College of Education).

The season was marked by exceptional drought conditions, which produced scorch marks in many parts of the field containing the villa remains. These occurred predominantly on the sloping ground on the south and east sides of the field where a very thin clay overlies the chalk. On the plateau which forms the northern end of the field, the greater depth of clay with flints prevented marks appearing.

Unexpectedly the scorch marks occurred over buried ditches and pits. The fillings of these had dried out to such a depth that the once disturbed material of these features lost moisture more than the undisturbed subsoil.

Faint traces appeared of the third/fourth-century villa, though the recent excavations and backfilling obscured the main building. Associated with this villa was a lane coming from the southern corner of the field, passing to the south-west of the villa, and turning at right angles towards the north-east.

There were extensive traces of a system of small square or rectangular fields. Trial excavation indicated a first/second-century date for these, and the quantity of finds in one ditch towards the south corner of the field suggest the presence of an earlier farm or villa in that direction.

On the north-western side of the field there were traces of an irregular pattern of enclosures together with a large number of circular pits. Excavation suggested that these features are earlier than the rectangular fields, and of late pre-Roman Iron Age date. The one pit excavated was characteristic of Iron Age grain storage pits.

Thus the site now provides three main settlement areas, separated but with overlapping features; Iron Age, early Roman and late Roman. The possibility exists that this settlement is continuous over 400-500 years.

The major area of excavation was on the south-west side of the presumed courtyard of the third/fourth-century villa. An aisled barn was found, measuring 19m × 11.5m overall. Unfortunately this lay on the heavily ploughed slope, and only survived to floor level close to its north-east side.

Datable material appears to be indistinguishable from that of the main villa building. Features included a small furnace in the south-west aisle fired from the nave, another furnace just outside the north-west end, a complex iron object in the north corner, and a room with a sunken floor in the east corner. A side wall had collapsed intact into this room, indicating that the walls were built of flint to their full height. Some carbonized grain samples were recovered from sealed layers. There was no sign of domestic occupation.

The building had at least four phases in its construction with considerable alterations at its south-east end. Initially the aisles were formed by continuous narrow walls, but later the south-west aisle was formed by wooden posts on substantial flint and mortar bases.

On the north-east side of the barn another substantial building of equal length had destroyed and replaced its original side wall. This extended beyond the area of excavation, and forms the main area of excavation in 1977.

DORCHESTER (SY 685911). C. J. S. Green reports that the eleventh season of excavations for the Dorchester Excavation Committee at *Poundbury* took place during July, August and September 1976. Work was concentrated on an area of 19,000 sq ft (0.17 ha) in the northern part of site E adjacent to the chalk escarpment which here forms the limit of the site. The northern edge of both the late Roman cemetery and the post-Roman settlement was expected to lie in this area, the excavation of which would thus have cleared the area of archaeological potential scheduled for development. However, although the northern perimeter of the cemetery was located, the post-Roman settlement was found to fan out west and east along the scarp and to have succeeded phases of Iron Age and Roman occupation, previously identified only on the south-east of the complex. Excavation of this area remains unfinished.

The major Iron Age feature consisted of two lengths of V-cut ditch, approximately at right angles to each other, and enclosing on the south and west an area of at least 8,000 sq ft (0.07 ha). No return was located to the north-west but the chalk escarpment may have formed the enclosure boundary here. Any return at the south-east corner, or an entrance, must lie outside the present excavations. The ditch measured *c.* 8 ft wide by 4 ft deep and had been recut at least once. The chalk rubble filling of the second phase contained sherds of Iron Age pottery of perhaps the first or second century BC while the uppermost filling produced sherds of Durotrigian forms. Within the western part of the interior two possible hut platforms and a beehive pit produced finds of a similar date. Outside the south side of the enclosure another beehive pit, 5 ft wide by 5 ft deep produced a large quantity of pottery, entirely of Durotrigian type, and much environmental evidence. A further pit is apparently cut into the enclosure ditch filling.

At a later date a shallow terrace, *c.* 250 sq ft in extent, was created on the site of one of the possible huts and part of the southern enclosure ditch. Traces of flint walls and pottery of the first and second centuries AD indicate structures earlier than those encountered elsewhere in the settlement. This occupation had, however, ceased before the main cemetery encroached upon this area during the fourth century.

A further 110 inhumations from the late Roman Christian cemetery were excavated, bringing the total investigated to 1,070. In the main cemetery the inhumations were of the normal type, contained in wooden coffins, oriented with head west and unaccompanied by grave goods. The few exceptions comprised of two lead-lined wooden coffins containing bodies packed with plaster and five simple inhumations accompanied by coins of the early to mid-fourth century. Other unusual burials included one adult female accompanied by a child and another adult who had had an iron stud fixed between the front incisors of the upper jaw.

In the eastern part of the site the main cemetery was bounded on the north by an earlier enclosure ditch, north of which three isolated burials were excavated. Two were oriented with head east one equipped with hobnailed footwear and surrounded by coffin nails, the other furnished solely with coffin nails. The third burial, aligned with head north, and also contained in a nailed coffin, cut the latter. To the west the main cemetery had no definite boundary, the burials thinning out towards the escarpment.

In the post-Roman settlement two structures and a series of small pits and enclosure boundaries were investigated. All that remained of one structure was a drip gully 12 ft long running along the south-western side of a slight terrace filled with soil and stone rubble, debris perhaps from a drystone structure. The only associated find was a simple iron knife of post-Roman type from the drip gully. The other structure consisted of a sub-rectangular terrace 10 ft square, on the trampled surface of which traces of timber uprights were recognised. To the north-west, a slot 2 ft wide by 2 ft deep may define the settlement area. A further three structures and several pits await excavation.

The systematic sieving of soil samples from all phases of the site, with the aid of a flotation tank, set up by M. Monk of Southampton University, has produced quantities of carbonized grain and weed seeds. This evidence for cereal agriculture will supplement that already obtained for the animal husbandry and provide a fuller picture of the changes in farming economy on a site occupied continuously from the late Neolithic to the post-Roman period.

In addition to the results of excavation the drought of 1976 also revealed a series of parch-mark sites both within the hillfort and outside its defences. Within the defences two ring ditches indicate the position of unrecorded barrows while oval marks in the south-east part of the camp may represent hut circles. Another square mark north-east of the existing barrow mound is perhaps a Romano-Celtic temple. A double-ditched sub-rectangular enclosure adjacent to the Roman road south-west of the hillfort must remain undated but its size and location in respect to the hillfort is perhaps comparable to the excavated enclosures.

The results of excavation and fieldwork in 1976 transform the settlement pattern in the Poundbury area since the present investigations are now revealing both the extramural features of an Iron age hillfort and other phases of settlement not contemporary with its defences nor contained by them.

— During foundation work for a new building at the corner of *Icen Way/Durngate Street* L. J. Keen and C. J. S. Green observed Roman and later occupation in the foundation trenches. No Roman masonry was noticed, only a light mortar floor about 5cms thick overlain by thin layers of charcoal. A pit about 1.50m wide contained 3rd/4th-century material. The Roman material was approximately 1.12m below the ground surface. A rammed chalk floor 33-50cms below the surface contained a piece of glazed base, probably 16th/17th century in date. On the east side of the development a substantial north-south gravel surface is probably a previously unrecorded Roman road.

— During the construction of a service trench in *Colliton Street Youth Centre* a partially disturbed human skeleton was noticed about 0.50m below the car-park tarmac. It lay approximately north-south with the head to the north. Several nails with wood still adhering surrounded the bones and indicate a coffin. No dating evidence.

FIFEHEAD NEVILLE (ST 77030895, 77050900). Linear features are reported by British Gas Corporation: they were not visible when sectioned.

GILLINGHAM (ST 80062620). During the laying of a water-pipe at *Badge House*, Common Mead Lane, a human skull was found. Excavation by the Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group uncovered a complete skeleton 0.75m below the surface with head to the north. Shoe studs were located 1m to the east and 20cms above the skull. Romano-British pottery was found above and in contact with the skeleton. Nails around the skeleton may indicate a coffin. A small metal object, 8cms long, found with the skeleton may be a knife.

— (ST 80242635). A polished neolithic axe (DO/141/1690) with Group VI characteristics was found in *Common Mead Lane* and is reported by the Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group.

— (ST 8025). Excavation and observation by Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group in advance of development at *Common Mead Lane*, established an extensive Iron Age and Romano-British site first recorded in 1869 and then in 1951. The remains of several buildings constructed of pitched stones were found together with a stone-lined feature interpreted as a pond. Much material was excavated or retrieved from the site. This included, evidence for lead-smelting, quern-stones, animal bones, Kimmeridge shale, brooches and pottery. The pottery consisted of New Forest, black burnished and grey wares. The samian ware (*teste* B. R. Hartley) includes several late first-century pieces but the majority is of second-century date. The coins, so far identified include three of the second century, seven of the third and eleven of the fourth century.

HALSTOCK. Continued excavation of the Roman villa was directed by R. N. Lucas to extend the examination of the west wing and to establish if the winged corridor building excavated in 1974 and 1975 had a north wing, and the relationship between buildings either side of Common Lane. Despite the difficulties imposed by the banks and hedges of the lane the presence of a north wing was established. It is possible that in the later stages of the occupation of the villa the wing was partially dismantled as an arc of foundation overlay the north-east corner of the wing. A tank or reservoir, 2.3m by 2.18m and 0.56m deep, with large flat stones on its north side, was located east of the wing. In the north-east corner is an overflow and in the south-west the inlet. Water was fed into the tank along a watercourse connected to the aqueduct (previously referred to as a drain) running north-west to south-east on the north side of the cobbled way between the two buildings of the west wing. Excavation to the east of the wing proved sterile suggesting that the buildings so far uncovered represent the north-west corner of a courtyard. Work on the building south of the cobbled way was extended but further work is necessary to complete its plan. Work in the lane showed that the north-south arm of the passageway from the barn and the bath-suite ended 2.6m from the north side of the west wing. At the end of the two passageway walls are massive foundations suggesting a large, possibly ornate entrance. Trial excavation approximately 75m to the east of the west wing revealed two south-west to north-east

parallel walls 3m apart, which may prove to be a corridor on the west side of the east wing, linking it to the north wing and to the bath-suite.

HAZELBURY BRYAN (ST 761080). British Gas Corporation reports a pit-like feature containing Romano-British pottery.

HORTON (SU 03150753). During April 1976, a pottery kiln waste dump was sampled by David Algar, Penny Trehane and Tony Light. The site lies on the eastern edge of Horton village on Tithe Map, Plot 79. It is immediately adjacent to Horton Pond, at one time a clay pit. A trench three metres square and 0.50m deep was dug to the subsoil. From this fragments of approximately 700 vessels were recovered. The dump was shown to be a primary one, as many of the pots, although broken, were found intact. The pottery is provisionally dated to the mid-17th century.

Two fabrics were produced. The majority of the vessels is of pinky-red to grey earthenware containing fragments of what appears to be ironstone. The colour of the lead glaze varies considerably with the degree of firing, usually being olive green with dark flecks derived from the iron in the clay. Forms include, pancheons, pans, bowls, vertically sided bowls, colanders, pipkins, lids, dripping pans, jars, pitchers with some spigot holes, jugs, wide-mouthed jugs, spherical costrels with double pierced shoulder lugs, chafing dishes, milk or butter pots with bucket handles, saucers and fuming pots. The decoration is limited to a few incised circumferential lines and wavy lines on pancheon flanges, bowl rims and costrel sides. Some jars have an applied band of clay beneath the rim, decorated with finger impressions. Ridge tiles were also produced in this fabric.

About 25 vessels are of a finer fabric, pinky-buff to pale grey in colour and containing smaller less numerous iron particles. Here the glaze is predominantly green or brownish green. The forms present are single-handled beakers, small jugs, bowls with horizontal handles and saucers. Again the decoration is limited to incised lines on the beakers, the jug necks and the saucers.

All the pottery is well produced, the majority with high quality glazing. Other finds included lead slag, an iron spade shoe and fragments possibly of an iron bowl. No kiln furniture was found, a few fragments of partially-fused brick were the only traces of kiln structure. The kiln however, can be only a few metres from the excavation.

A preliminary survey of some wills and the Horton Parish Register has revealed the names of two families connected with potting in the 17th Century: Talbet and Frost. The Frosts appear to have worked a pottery, certainly over the period 1640-80. Work on the documents as part of a survey of all the North Dorset Kilns is continuing.

IBBERTON (ST 781096). A stone-filled trench is reported by the British Gas Corporation.

IWERNE COURTNEY (ST 849122). The third season of the excavation of the Causewayed Enclosure complex at *Hambledon Hill* by R. J. Mercer concentrated in 1976 upon the elucidation of the causeway ditch fillings and their sequence. It had become quite apparent that the earliest archaeologically perceptible stage of ditch filling — a carefully laid out organic deposit at the base of several segments associated with frequent depositions of human skeletal material and two crouched infant inhumations — is secondary to a recutting phase now only just visible and of unknown content. This first evident deposit is succeeded by a period of natural ditch infill which is again dug through to introduce a series of deposits at a secondary stage. After the accumulation of further natural infill a whole series of recuts takes place in the top of the ditch and these are filled with similar deposits of human skeletal material and organic debris. Further complications ensue in the very top of the ditch fillings which are associated with a scatter of Late Neolithic and “domestic beaker” pottery types. The principle conclusions to be drawn from the ditch fillings must lay emphasis upon the long periods over which the ditches retained their importance in a site that consistently exhibits a substantial funerary element.

It has been well known for many years that more massive outer earthworks apertaining to the causewayed enclosure exist on *Hambledon Hill*. Careful field survey carried out in 1976 added very substantially to our knowledge of these works which would seem at present to form an outer enclosure utilizing the difficult approaches to the hill and cutting off the easy approaches. One of these outworks was examined on a fairly large scale and evidence was retrieved which may point to the existence of a massive timber reinforcement of the bank set behind an equally massive but causewayed ditch. Set within the outer earthwork investigated in 1976 appear to be traces of a trapezoid outline timber lined entrance passage.

There can be little doubt that at least this one outwork was intended to provide an obstacle either psychological or physical to penetration of the causewayed enclosure within.

— (ST 843139, 848137). Linear features are reported by British Gas Corporation.

— (ST 867127). Another linear feature with no dating material is also reported.

IWERNE MINISTER. Mr. H. Fraser reports the finding of a bronze coin of Constantine I (AD 307-337), mint of Trier, at Dip Well Cottage, *Watery Lane*, together with an eighteenth-century Poole

token: rev. PROSPERITY TO THE TOWN OF POOLE 1795, obv. Jas. Bayly Draper.

KINGSTON RUSSELL (SY 587908). A large Neolithic end scraper with utilized edge, a flake with edge working and nine other Neolithic struck flakes were found by L. J. Keen during field-walking.

MAPPOWDER (ST 739056). A possible DMV with sunken road and at least one house platform was surveyed before being cut through by a gas pipeline. Stone walls were observed during the construction of the pipe-line.

MILTON ABBAS. R. A. H. Farrar reports that the continued search for the site of the supposed Romano-British pottery kilns on *Bagber Farm* met with some success in 1976, in a thin scatter some 30m wide of worn and fragmentary *imbrex* tile centred around SY 80129907, in freshly ploughed pasture south of the Dutch barn, as forecast (*PDNHAS*, XCV (1973), 95-6). The only pottery sherds, however, were a fragment of amphora and wheel-thrown grey ware jar-rim, with no sign of black-burnished ware. The crucial area may lie in the remaining pasture to the west.

MOTCOMBE (ST 85022523). Excavation by the Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group at *Sunnyside* uncovered a 3.5m length of greensand retaining wall at right angles to the stream and 3.6m from it. The wall is 0.40m wide and about 0.60m high. A large section of a quern stone built into the stream retaining wall and a section of stone window mullion in the stream bank were also found. These and the stone wall are probably part of a Bakehouse.

OKEFORD FITZPAINE (ST 795112). Three linear ditches containing no dating material are reported by the British Gas Corporation.

— (ST 799118). A DMV with several house platforms was found during field walking by L. J. Keen and J. Morrish. This was subsequently surveyed by the Department of the Environment in advance of it being crossed by a gas pipe-line. Roman pottery, a large amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the site by L. Groube during construction work. This has not yet been processed.

— (ST 805122). British Gas Corporation reports a surface find of limestone blocks.

— (ST 809129). A sparse scatter of medieval pottery is also reported.

— (ST 813129). Bank with double ditch is reported by British Gas Corporation.

OWERMOIGNE. Two inlaid fourteenth-century floor tiles set into the front walls of the south porch of *Holly Cottage* (demolished 1976) are reported by R. Tarr. (Fig. 6).

PENTRIDGE. A small bronze Roman brooch of horse and rider, with blue enamel or glass (cf Nor'nour no. 132 Type 26 *Arch. Journ.* CXXIV (1967), 47) found near *Woodyates* was sent to the County Museum for possible purchase ex R. T. Clough, Keighley, Yorks. (Fig. 5).

— (SU 026188). British Gas Corporation report the ditches of a D-shaped enclosure.

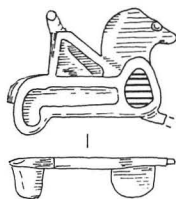


Fig. 5 scale  $\frac{1}{1}$



Fig. 6 scale  $\frac{1}{4}$

— (SU 039193). Grims Ditch was cut through by a gas pipe-line; the section was excavated by British Gas Corporation.

KINGSTON RUSSELL. Rosemary Maw reports that further trial trenches were dug in the summer of 1976 at Rope Lake Hole, Kimmeridge.

It was intended to determine the extent of the site and the degree of disturbance by badgers.

Considerable evidence of structures and occupation was found in trench 'A', some 25m into the field from last year's trench near to the cliff edge. The site was also found to extend to the east to the top of the slope. Here, however, there was evidence of the site being used for agriculture between the early Iron Age and the Roman period. Disturbance by badgers was found only in trench 'C' on the crest of the hill to the west, where the latest occupation layers have been removed in the course of farming. The remaining layers were unstratified but included large amounts of early Iron Age pottery sherds and a late Roman coin.

The finds, as last year, included considerable evidence of the shale bracelet industry, both hand-cut and lathe turned, of salt production and metal working and occupation from the early Iron Age to the late Roman period. In trench 'A' a feature possibly identifiable as a stone lined water gully was found built into the underlying Iron Age occupation layers.

No further trial trenches are planned. The site now requires a full scale excavation which may be forthcoming in future years. A full report on the trial excavations will be published in the *Proceedings*.

**SHAFTESBURY.** The Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group has excavated several sites under the direction of Mr. Bill Moore and observed building operations with the following results:

— (ST 86252296). In the cellar of 22 *High Street*, before it was filled with ballast, excavation in the south-west corner located an unmortared sandstone lined pit or cistern beneath the tiled cellar floor. The pit was 4 ft 6 ins deep, 4 ft wide across the top, 3 ft wide at its base and contained nineteenth-century material. The clay-pipes included bowls made by, probably William Dowdell of Poole and John Down, or Davis of Bristol. The pit was an insertion into the cellar which was constructed of substantial stone walls with two relieving arches.

— (ST 8603222895). At 6 *Bimport* a trench was excavated to a depth of 7 ft. The dark surface soil was 3 ft deep and contained seventeenth- to nineteenth-century material, including a number of clay-pipes with makers' marks. Beneath this a light brown sandy soil much stone and fifteenth-century pottery overlay a green sandstone foundation.

— (ST 86212302). Prior to the construction of the National Westminster Bank, at the *Commons* part of a stone-built cellar was recorded before being filled with concrete. The west wall contained an archway, 6 ft wide, at least 2 ft in depth, the head 4 ft 2 ins below ground level. The archway was filled with loose stones which extended at least four feet back from the face of the archway. Part of a decorated medieval floor-tile was found. A cobbled surface, or road, 3 to 6 ft from the surface was located on the south side of the site.

— (ST 8592522756). In the garden of 7 *Love Lane* a rectangular sump 5 ft deep was investigated. It had brickwork above green sandstone blocks.

— (ST 8668222907). In the grounds of *St Edward's Hotel, Salisbury Street* trial excavation retrieved only a few sherds of eighteenth-century pottery.

— (ST 85832306). A cistern was investigated in the garden of the *Fountain Inn, Enmore Green*. The rendered brick structure was 15 ft 6 ins by 10 ft 10 ins and 6 ft 6 ins deep below the roof centre.

— (ST 8625622921). At *Park Lane* an old stone water course was observed 1 ft 4 ins below the tarmac during building works.

— (ST 8622723082). During drain laying at the *Bell Street* car park a brick floor was located at a depth of 5 ft. Iron tools were found suggesting the presence of a Blacksmith's shop known from nineteenth-century sources.

— (ST 8620922930). At 8 *Church Lane* fragments of a nearly complete human skull were found at a depth of 3 ft.

— (ST 8628522945). Excavations in *St Peter's Church* were undertaken in advance of the relaying of the undercroft floor and work carried out in the north aisle during the removal of plaster and relaying of floors. In the *Undercroft* beneath 0.40m of cement, cinder and soil, two features, spanned by a large stone relieving arch and cut into by a nineteenth-century brick arch were examined.

The first was 1.80m east-west and 1m north-south, continuing beneath the south wall. The feature sloped gradually from the north but the east and west sides were steep with a depth of 1.15m. The black soil filling this feature contained charcoal, pieces of chert, unworked flint, two worked flints (one a transverse arrowhead), and a substantial quantity of hand-made pottery provisionally dated to the eleventh or twelfth century. The second feature was dug after the south wall had been built in the sixteenth century. To the west of these features a large roughly semi-circular feature 2.60m wide (east-west) and 2.10m (north-south) to the wall face was investigated to a depth of 1m. The loose infilling contained eighteenth to nineteenth century material. A small trench dug west of the east pier of the west bay of the *north arcade* examined its foundations. The pier rests on floor tiles which overlie

flagstones. Beneath the latter was found a part of a masonry pier or font base 0.52m × 0.52m, 0.30m high, with round shafts at each corner, separated by a roughly square-sectioned fillet. This stone is provisionally dated to the twelfth century. The foundations to the opposite pier in the *South Arcade* were examined and found to consist of laid blocks of cut stone 30 by 35cms lying in line with the arcade.

— (ST 8592622837). Excavations were carried out at 22 *Bimport* in advance of redevelopment to obtain evidence for the location of St Mary's church. No building evidence was found.

SHERBORNE (ST 64251668). A fourteenth-century bronze heraldic pendant 32mm long and 25mm wide with enamelled coat of arms (unidentified) was found during a house conversion in *Long Street*.

— Sherborne School. Excavations in the *Lower Library*, carried out by Messrs Gibb, Gem and Keen in advance of alterations in what was the west range of the medieval abbey, uncovered an insubstantial north-south medial wall. The substantial north wall of the range was located, cut through by the north-west/south-east trench for the town's original water-supply. Full report in preparation.

— Sherborne School. Excavations within and around *The Slype* by Messrs Keen, Thackray and Gem, in advance of consolidation and repair, were concluded. Further evidence of the pre-conquest monastic layout was found and more of the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth-century work in the north wall of the Abbey exposed. The south wall of the twelfth-century Chapter House was also uncovered. During repairs to the tops of the north and east walls many pieces of moulded stone were found. These included several vault ribs and also a substantial part of a late twelfth-century enriched door arch, possibly from the Chapter House. Full report in preparation.

— Sherborne School (ST 63781656). During the removal of three lime trees in *The Courts*, south of the Medlicott Building, a fireplace and stone walls were reported.

— Sherborne School (ST 63661658). Excavations for a new Sports Hall revealed the profile of a medieval fish pond, at least 3m deep and 10m wide.

— (ST 629154). A coin of Valentinian I (Gloria Romanorum, Lyons mint) AD364-75 and another (obv. illegible, 2 victories, Lyons mint) AD347/8 together with fourth-century Roman pottery was found by Mr. Ashmore during construction work.

— (ST 6215). Redug field ditches in the field north of the Lenthay Roman villa were examined by several persons. Fourth-century pottery, large lumps of *op. sig.* and a coin of the house of Constantine were found.

SIXPENNY HANDLEY (SU 011166). The construction of a new roundabout at the Handley Hill crossroads by Dorset County Council revealed a number of interesting features reported by L. Groube. Examination of them was made possible by the co-operation of the Council which allowed an interval of three months between the initial removal of topsoil and the commencement of road works.

The south-east quadrant was examined first, where a tumulus had been recorded by Pitt Rivers: 'opened, nothing found', a statement which perhaps accounts for the failure to find any trace of it. The initial excavation and subsequent ploughing had totally removed the tumulus, which cannot have had an enclosing ditch. The identification of this (apparently) small tumulus as a barrow must remain in doubt.

The larger south-west quadrant revealed a number of archaeological and geological features:

(1) Running almost due north, the bottom of a former field boundary ditch was exposed in the chalk. Excavation revealed a V-section, but no datable material was recovered. The 'ditch' was visible on aerial photographs and continued southwards outside the excavation area, with a small change of direction coinciding with the present Salisbury-Blandford road, to the prominent barrow at GR. SU 014163. The use of this barrow as a boundary marker suggests that the ditch was post-Bronze Age and probably fairly recent.

(2) Close to (1) two small pits or shallow post-holes were discovered, one containing a large sherd of Beaker ware. The ashy infilling of the two pits suggested a cremation origin but no further sense could be made of them. There was, apparently, no association with the field boundary, which had an entirely different (chalk) infilling.

(3) The most prominent feature on the cleared chalk was a strange meandering 'trench' which ended abruptly in a soil-filled hollow. Excavation revealed this feature as a natural collapsed horizontal pipe, formed by solution action, a small version of the famous Dewlish Trench. Like the Dewlish Trench, the water-cut fissure was infilled with clean quartz sand containing some highly polished quartzite pebbles. The discovery of a small bone (horse?) deep in the chalk infilling where the solution pipe dived into the hill, caused some excitement, but careful examination showed that the chalk infilling above the clean sand in which the bone was embedded was the remains of the collapsed 'roof' of the pipe. As this collapse could have occurred at any date during the natural and agriculturally induced lowering of the Handley Hill chalk surface, little significance can be attached to the bone. The absence

of any other diagnostic remains in the infilling of the trench, suggests that the collapse was either well *before* the period of intensive occupation on the area (which is rich in Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains), or fairly recently, the latter being favoured as the whole feature was visible as a pasture depression on pre-War aerial photographs.

Although this natural trench, unlike the larger Dewlish example, did not contain diagnostic remains, it is highly probable, as the collapse can occur at any time, that somewhere on the chalk downlands another trench may one day reveal human remains — skeletal or artefactual — from any periods in prehistory or history.

Field archaeologists on the chalklands should remain alert for natural features of this nature. It suggests, furthermore, that some of the larger solution holes on the chalk might warrant closer investigation. Some of the history of the chalklands, lost by surface destruction during the Pleistocene, might conveniently be lodged in these natural traps.

(4) Confirmation of the natural origin of the trench on Handley Hill came from the discovery, a few metres away, during foundation testing by Dorset County Council, of another large water-cut(?) quartz sand filled hole sealed completely within the chalk. How the clean sand actually entered this solution hole was unclear, but its similarity to the nearby exposed feature suggested that both may be part of a former underground system of solution pipes filled with (Eocene) sand. How this sand entered the pipes and so completely filled them is unclear.

One aspect of the discovery of the large body of clean sand within the chalk is its possible relevance to the still doubtful origin of sarsens. If, under warmer conditions (e.g. the Oligocene), the water flowing through this underground system was highly silicious, such a sand body could well become silcreted and could thus be formally identical to many sarsen stones.

**STINSFORD.** Surface finds collected by Mr. R. Woods at *Duddle Farm*, included a small quantity of Neolithic and Mesolithic flakes and waste material, several pieces of Durotrigian pottery and a range of third- to fourth-century Roman coarse wares.

**TARRANT GUNVILLE (ST 908121, 923121, 925121).** Linear features, part of the Gunville Down field system, are reported by British Gas Corporation.

**TARRANT HINTON.** R. M. Tanner continued excavation in Barton Field during 1975 and 1976. *SITE II 1975.* Work commenced on an extension of site II, on the western side of the Bath House reported in 1974 (*PDNHAS*, XCVI (1975), 64). Two further buildings, VII and VIII, the remainder of the 15m diameter Iron Age roundhouse, together with a large number of Iron Age pits were uncovered. *Romano-British.* Buildings VII and VIII are situated on the western side of the Bath House, the former being connected to it by a narrow corridor. The corridor was 36 ft in length and 5 ft wide internally. The remaining flint and mortar walling was 1 ft 9 ins wide. Due to its shallow depth most of the corridor has been removed by ploughing and no floor surface survived. Building VII was not excavated totally though it was found to lie north-south and parallel to the Bath House with the western end of the corridor flanking its southern side. It measured 18 ft wide externally with flint and mortar wall 1 ft 9 ins thick. On the eastern side timber steps were identified by indentations in the mortar. Building VIII was connected to the south-west corner of Building VII and lay at an acute angle to it, approximately east-west. It measured 24 ft long by 15 ft externally and has an 8 ft wide entrance porch on the south side protruding some 4 ft. The building was divided in two by a wall 1 ft 9 ins wide providing one main room 12 ft 6 ins by 11 ft 6 ins internally.

Another entrance, 4 ft 6 ins wide was found in the east wall; on one side was a large piece of worked green sandstone with the door pivot slot, a depression on the opposite side marked where a similar stone had been. Two Romano-British pits to the west of Building VIII were excavated. From pit II, which was 18 ft deep a complete second-century coarse ware pot and a coin of Domitian (AD86) were recovered. Building VII was in use during the second and third centuries, together with the Bath House and the pits.

*Iron-Age.* The remainder of the 15m diameter Roundhouse found in 1974 was uncovered together with a large scatter of Iron Age Pits. This building is between and below Building V (Bath House) and VI (Working area). As the construction of Building V had removed a large portion no internal post holes were discovered: the remnants have been severely damaged by ploughing. The pits were on the western side of Site II and to the south of Building VII. Several of the pits had been cut into by others, some produced large quantities of pottery, others contained no dating material. In one pit a very fine La Tène Bow brooch was recovered. These discoveries together with the pits on Site I and the large ditch beneath Building IV indicate the existence of a substantial Iron Age settlement. During the dry summer of 1976 the line of the ditch could be seen continuing in a northerly direction from site I towards site II.

*SITE I COURTYARD 1976.* An area at the south-western side of the 1969-73 excavations was excavated. The remainder of Building IV, another building to the east of it and a possible flat cemetery of Bronze Age date were revealed. *BRONZE AGE.* Five Bronze Age burials within four graves were discovered to the south of Building IV. The graves were rectangular and were dug into the chalk to an average depth of 3 ft. From each grave a nearly complete but fragmented Beaker was recovered. The Beaker from Grave I is a Bell type European Beaker of the Early Bronze Age, the remainder are of Middle Bronze Age. Small shale bracelet beads were recovered from grave III. From the staining of

the skeleton in Grave I it was apparent that a sword or dagger had been buried with the body and was removed during the Romano-British period, as two stained vertebrae were found at the southern edge of the grave. Only Grave II had not been disturbed by the Romano-British occupation. However, a partially excavated bronze object was robbed during the excavation by modern 20th-century 'Treasure seekers' using a metal detector. Graves III and IV were very disturbed, particularly Grave IV which had been cut through by a pit. The four graves were never within a barrow as there is no evidence of a ditch or barrow.

*Romano-British.* Building IV is to the south-west of Building I and forms part of the southern wing of the courtyard complex. The building is of the aisled type with five pairs of equally spaced rammed chalk and flint plinths with an average diameter of 4 ft. The external dimensions are 64 ft in length by 37 ft in width. This building is contemporary with Buildings I and II and can be dated to the middle of the fourth century. At the southern end of the building and adjacent to its external wall two pits were discovered. Pit I, the closer to the building was 20 ft. deep. New Forest pottery was recovered from the pits together with twenty bone pins.

— (ST 938122). The Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group report a crouched inhumation burial in a Linear Ditch running parallel with the Roman road.

— (ST 939120). Roman Road sectioned by gas pipeline showed only small V-shaped ditches on either side.

— (ST 947124). British Gas Corporation report the ditches of an apparently rectangular enclosure.

— (ST 95971294). Ditch section recorded by L. Groube.

— (ST 96071285, 96411328). Bank with double ditches, sectioned by a gas pipe-line was examined by L. Groube.

PORTLAND. An Iron-Age burial is reported from construction work on the Council house development at *Verne Common*.

— Excavations at the Culverwell Mesolithic site were continued under the direction of Mrs. S. Palmer.

WAREHAM LADY ST MARY. A few pieces of thirteenth-century unglazed pottery were found by L. J. Keen during building work at the corner of *Moreton's Lane* and *Carrion Lane*.

— (SY 91558675). During field-walking by D. E. Johnston and L. J. Keen a small quantity of second to fourth-century AD Coarse pottery was found.

WAREHAM ST MARTIN (SY 91258695 – 91488669). To the west of Cuckoo Lane (now obliterated by school playing fields) Romano-British occupation debris of the first to fourth-century AD has been found. A large settlement enclosure is visible on air photographs, consisting of ditches and possible pits. (D. E. Johnston. *The Wareham Bypass* (1975)).

WEST KNIGHTON (SY 734864). A. M. Hunt reports that the Dorset Institute of Higher Education has surveyed the DMV and water-meadow earthworks in the field south-west of the earthworks published by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. (West Knighton monument 19)

WHITCOMBE (SY 717882). Dorset Institute of Higher Education has surveyed the earthworks of the DMV, whose existence has been recorded but which have not been surveyed before (A. M. Hunt).

WHITECHURCH CANONICORUM (SY 405905). The Dorset Institute of Higher Education is in the process of planning the barrows and circular feature on *Hardown Hill* as previous records are inaccurate. (A. M. Hunt)

WINTERBOURNE STEEPLETON (SY 603880). A plan of the Roman signal station has been produced by the Dorset Institute of Higher Education for the forthcoming excavation report by W. G. Putnam.

WOOL (Church Lane). A small bronze seal, probably early fourteenth century in date was found by E. Gilder. The inscription appears to be meaningless.

WYKE REGIS (SY 659779). A. M. Hunt reports that salvage excavation and recording was undertaken by the Dorset Institute of Higher Education when the digging of service trenches disturbed Iron Age and/or Romano-British burials and settlement evidence. Publication pending.

'AN INSTRUMENT FROM THE EQUESTRIAN FIGURE OF OSMINGTON HILL'

Among the few surviving antiquarian papers of Sir Richard Colt Hoare now housed in the Wiltshire County Record Office at Trowbridge is the following letter, addressed to the Baronet at Stourton (sic) House, Wilts;

Library Weymouth,  
19th Aug 08,

Sir,

To one of your taste, and knowledge as an antiquarian, I flatter myself that the annexed exact size and representation of an Instrument (whether of British, or Roman Antiquity) will not prove unacceptable.

It is said to be of Copper, but it has more the appearance of Brass, or rather of a composition like Bell metal; it is but little corroded; Particularly on one side; probably from the soil where found, being Chalk; it was discovered in cutting out an Equestrian figure of the King in the side of Osmington Hill in this neighbourhood not far from Sutton Points, where the range, or line of Tumuli, commences and extends to the neighbourhood of Bridport, along the ridge of hills.

Should any further discoveries be made in this way, I shall feel happy and proud to communicate the same to you Sir, if agreeable: and here permit me to solicit the favor of your opinion on the present article in question, at your leisure, and for which I shall ever hold myself particularly obliged and in the interim am respectfully

Sir,

Your very Obed: Servt  
John Wood.'

History does not relate whether or not Colt Hoare was agreeable; no comprehensive letter books are preserved and the surviving diaries are of little help in ascertaining information about his correspondence. The fate of the axe illustrated by the 'annexed draft' (Fig. 7) is fairly easily determined. From its known movements, we may conjecture that Colt Hoare probably never even saw the implement.

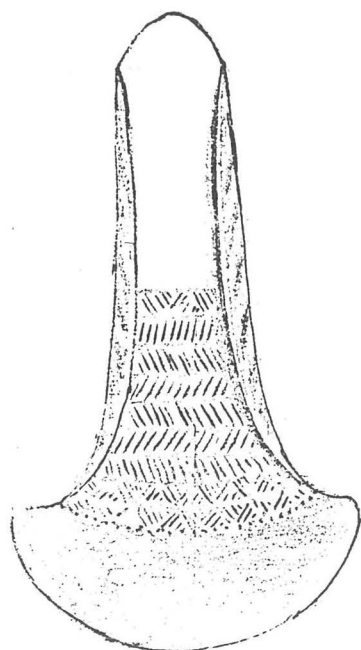


Fig. 7

Scale  $\frac{1}{1}$



Fig. 8

Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$



Fig. 7. Bronze Age Axe. From Wiltshire Record Office MS 383/907 courtesy of the County Archivist. Scale approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ . (Photo D. M. S. Evans)

Fig. 8. From J. Evans, *Ancient Bronze Implements*, London 1881, fig. 15. Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ . (Photo D. M. S. Evans)

This flanged axe of Megaw and Hardy's Class III<sup>2</sup> and Harbison's Type Derryniggin<sup>3</sup> is now well-known. Its distinctive decoration is gilt-impressed into the front board of the buckram binding of Sir John Evans' *Ancient Bronze Implements* of 1881, whilst the figure presented in the text (no. 15) confirms that the axe was indeed from 'Dorsetshire'<sup>4</sup> (Fig. 8). Having formerly been in the possession of the Rev. Dr. W. Sparrow Simpson, the axe passed into the British Museum collections in 1875<sup>5</sup>.

The site of the White Horse of Osmington is also well-known (O.S. SY 717 853).

John Wood's letter therefore provides a more precise provenance for the axe, placing it alongside the examples from the Plymstock, Devon, and Westbury-upon-Trim, Gloucestershire hoards as only the third of its type with a Southwestern provenance<sup>6</sup>.

S. BRIGGS

#### Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to Mr. Maurice Rathbone, County Archivist for Wiltshire, for permission to study and publish the letter; also to Mrs. Gill Varndell of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, the British Museum, for assistance in identifying the axe described in the letter.

#### Notes

(<sup>1</sup>) Wilts. Record Office Ms 383/907

(<sup>2</sup>) B. R. S. Megaw and E. N. Hardy 'British decorated axes and their diffusion during the earliest part of the Bronze Age', P.P.S. 5 (1939), 272-307, 299

(<sup>3</sup>) P. Harbison *The axes of the Early Bronze Age in Ireland* (Munich, 1969), Type Derryniggin, pp 55-63, 79.

(<sup>4</sup>) Evans op. cit., 52-3

(<sup>5</sup>) Now B.M. reg. no. 75 4-1 6

(<sup>6</sup>) Megaw and Hardy, op. cit. (2)

### ROMAN VILLA AT THORNFORD — SOME NEW DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

In a collection of deeds recently deposited by a firm of solicitors in the Dorset Record Office a small letter was found,<sup>1</sup> a transcript of which follows.

Thornford, March 5th 1849

Sir,

I have to inform you as we was doing some draining in a feild of yours called bindels about of 15 or 16 feett under the surface we discovered a buttfull spesimin of a tesillated roman villa flore it is very curious and worthy of notice. There is a quantity of people to see it evry day we have opend it a bout of 16 feet in length and 3 feet wide it appears that it runs some distance round farther butt I do not like to open it any farther with out your knowledge. Please to give me answer as soon as possible wether I had better to cover it up ore what I had better to do with it as people comes there and trespass and it is of course and ingury to me there was a flore of the same discription found a few years ago in feild near Sherborne on Lord Digbys land and his Lord Ship had it takend up and lid down up at his castell and it is considred a great curiosity.

Your Humble ser.

H. Abbott, Boot Inn, Thornford.

(Endorsed in a different hand:) 5 March 1849. Mr. Abbott states that a Roman Pavement had been discovered, etc. on his ground, etc.

The existence of a Roman site at Thornford has been known for over a century. Excavations were carried out by Prof. J. Buckman in 1876<sup>2</sup>, and four rooms each with a mosaic pavement were found, thought at the time to be part of a larger complex. (This was in part confirmed subsequently by John Leach<sup>3</sup>). Buckman mentions the finding of tesserae during drainage operations a few years previous to his excavations, in the field which he chose to open. He does not indicate exactly where the field was, except to say that it was to the north of Thornford village and was bounded on the east by the "winning river Yeo". A study of the Thornford Tithe Map, coincidentally made in 1849, shows Bindles Close as being a field's distance or more from either the Yeo or its tributary the Trill. Moreover Buckman dug on Lord Digby's land, and the Tithe Apportionment (and the collection of deeds in D560) show that Bindles was privately owned, in 1849 by Miss Lucy Hole, and let to Henry Abbott (who incidentally was proprietor of the Boot Inn.) Possibly Buckman received indications of the site from another casual find; drainage operations were common enough on farmland at this time, the Ordnance Survey 1/25,000 (2nd edition, 1903) dates the site to 1865 (and places it firmly in Bindles Close) and Kelly's Directories do not mention it until 1867. Yet Abbott addresses his letter to a male recipient. The Tithe Map shows Bindles as divided into two unequal positions, the smaller (eastern) of which was glebe land, in 1849 in the possession of Revd. C. R. Dampier, which may solve the problem.

There is no mention in the Dorset County Chronicle or the Sherborne Mercury of a discovery of a "tesillated roman villa flore" in 1849 at Thornford, despite the "quantity of people" who came to view

#### References

(<sup>1</sup>) D.R.O. Ref. D560/14

(<sup>2</sup>) *PDNHAS*, I (1877), 41-49. See also R.C.H.M., *Dorset* I (1952), 24-9a

(<sup>3</sup>) *Ibid.*, LXXXVII (1965), 104-9

it. Buckman states that the pavements he uncovered were of a simple pattern and construction, and while Abbott may have been subjective in his judgement that what he found was a 'beautiful specimen' and 'very curious and worthy of notice', it certainly seems to have attracted an amount of outside attention. Leach could have dug on Bindles Close, to judge from the map reference and his site location, but he himself doubts whether he was working on the same spot as Buckman a century earlier. His findings do not fit in with Buckman's, nor do they agree with Abbott's description — which leads us to question what the landowner's decision over the pavement was. Leach calls for more work in this area, and one might say that the documentary evidence enforces his words.

Miss B. Kerr in her article on Dorset Field Names<sup>4</sup> remarks on the number of field names in the north-western corner of Thornford parish which seem to indicate early occupation and cultivation. Apart from Bindles, which from its modern corruption 'Binders' she suggests may refer to ivy-covered ruins (the close is called Bindles in all the deeds in D560 from the seventeenth century onwards and seems to have changed its form comparatively recently), the names which she regards as indicative of early land use are further away to the south and west, by the river Trill, and seem to shun the neck of the parish in which Roman buildings have been found. There may be scope here for further investigation, but at all events it seems that there is ample evidence in this area of Thornford of early land use and certainly of occupation in the Roman period, which the letter from Henry Abbott seems to confirm. It might be added as a final note that one could wish that more nineteenth-century discoverers of archaeological remains showed as much respect for the 'find' (and, of course, the owner's land) as Mr. Abbott.

P. A. PARROTT

(<sup>4</sup>) Ibid., LXXXIX (1967), 233-252

#### A PROBABLE ROMAN FORTLET ON KEYNSTON DOWN, DORSET

Two major discoveries have come to light in the Stour valley as the result of aerial photography. The writer is grateful to John Boyden of Cheselbourne for making the relevant air photographs available to him before they were sent to the National Monuments Record. One of these discoveries, at Crab Farm, Shapwick, is an impressive Roman fort of 6 acres (24 ha).<sup>1</sup> The second site, the subject of the present note, is probably another Roman military establishment.

The discovery at Keynston Down (Fig. 9) lies north-west of Tarrant Keynston village (centre at ST 92630559) at the end of a long ridge over 300 ft high (91.4m) that extends west-north-west from the site, parallel with the river Stour on the south. Where this ridge narrows, the enclosed settlement of Buzbury Rings<sup>2</sup> effectively controlled movement along the high ground bordering the valley (Fig. 10). In the air photograph, the Keynston Down site appears as a single-ditched enclosure of precise rectangular shape very close to a square. A curving dark line visible north and north-east of this feature accords closely with a path marked on the 1st ed. of the OS 6 in. map going through the Ashley Wood Plantation that extended over this area in the nineteenth century. Another faint line can be traced following a straight course south of the enclosure and seen as a discontinuous streak, sometimes dark, sometimes light. This faint straight line appears to cross a ring-mark, possibly 25-30 ft. in diameter that may represent a destroyed barrow. There is no obvious trace of two well-ploughed round barrows (RCHM Tarrant Keynston nos. 25 and 26), which ought to lie in the bottom right-hand corner of the photograph. The land can be seen to have been thoroughly ploughed, though not so much that ground examination shortly after the air survey failed to add useful details. The enclosure occupies a well-defined platform, standing about two feet (0.7m) above the surrounding terrain and clearly demarcated by the encircling ditch 8 ft. wide (2.3m). There are indications of an internal bank and the platform appears artificially levelled. Within the ditch-line the enclosure measures 160 ft. (48.8m) by 130 ft. (39.6m), its longer axis lying approximately WNW-ESE, and this circuit takes in an area of 0.48 acre (0.19 ha). It is important detail that the four corners of the ditch-perimeter are rounded, not right-angled, emphasizing the independence of the feature from the other observable crop-marks. No obvious signs of gates or causeways show on the photograph or indeed on the ground. Superficially the earthwork suggests only one origin — the Roman army. If we accept this, then a fortlet rather than a small marching-camp is implied, not only by the levelling of the interior, but also by the evident lack of entrance-causeways defended by the ditched *clavicula* or *titulum* traverses normal to encampments of troops on the move.<sup>3</sup> No pottery has yet been found on the surface to suggest the date of occupation; indeed, if the use of the earthwork was not prolonged, few such casual discoveries can be expected. It is in the general setting of the Roman occupation and the ensuing military occupation that we may best find reasonable clues to the function of the earthwork.

The Keynston Down enclosure lies almost exactly midway between the Roman fort at Hod Hill and the Roman base at Lake Farm, near Wimborne. It is 2½ miles from the Shapwick fort and a straight line between Hod and Lake runs almost through all four sites. The strategic objective was to control the hill-fort country of central Dorset following the initial penetration up the Stour valley.<sup>4</sup> But all four military stations are of different sizes, and the modest area of the Keynston fortlet suggests that it acted

#### Notes

(<sup>1</sup>) N. H. Field in *Britannia* VII (1976), 280-3

(<sup>2</sup>) Not regarded as a true hill-fort (*Arch. Journ.* CIX (1952)), but so included on the area map for convenience.

(<sup>3</sup>) Information from R. A. H. Farrar, who kindly commented on the first draft of this note.



Fig. 9 Earthwork on Keynston Down, Dorset (Photo J. R. Boyden)

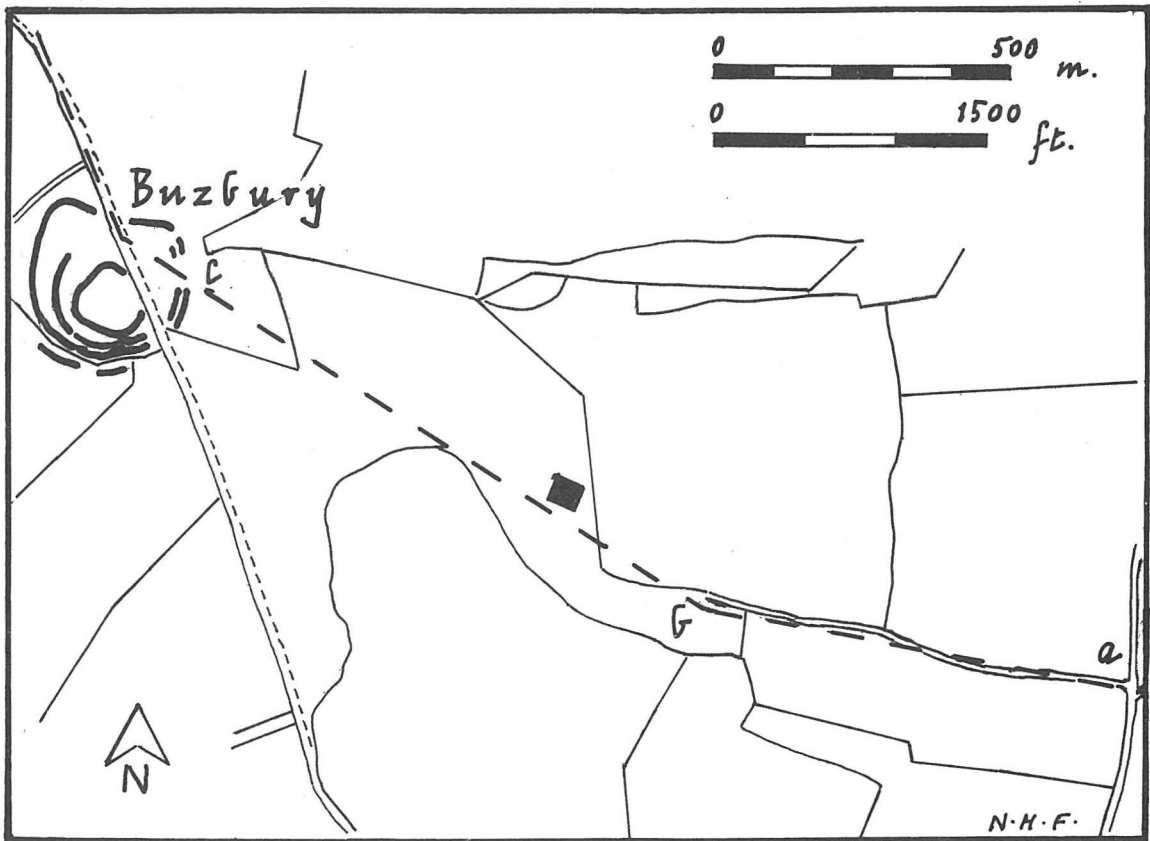


Fig. 10. The Keynston Down enclosure in relation to Buzbury Rings and the course of the Claudian road from Buzbury to Hod Hill. (a-b-c)

either as a local police-post or as a signal-station or both. In the latter case it ought to have enjoyed inter-visibility with Hod and Shapwick at least, unless there existed other such sites not yet identified. Keynston is not quite visible from Shapwick, while the view between it and Hod (471 ft., 143.2m) is obstructed by the high ground at Down Wood (367 ft., 111.7m) some 1200 yds. (1100m) WNW of Buzbury Rings. A military site for the purpose of receiving and transmitting signals would have been better placed at Down Wood, since from there Hod was visible and probably Shapwick too. The Keynston fortlet must have fulfilled other needs. The question arises: what were they?

It has already been remarked that Buzbury lay athwart the natural route following the heights along the north side of the Stour valley. The writer believes that the Keynston fortlet was adjacent to a Claudian road from Badbury to Hod via Buzbury,<sup>5</sup> the general course of which has already been published.<sup>6</sup> In describing the suggested road as it crosses Keynston Down, there is the danger of a circular argument: the road is being used to prove the fortlet and the fortlet is being used to prove the road. The intention here is to demonstrate that the siting of the military post, indeed its very existence, can best be explained by the fact that the life-line between the Hod fort and its supply-base at Lake via Badbury needed particular surveillance along this stretch. Fortlet and road were closely interconnected.

The suggested Roman road, as observed from four sections of its nine-mile course had a 16 ft. (5m) wide agger, normally lightly metalled and flanked by shallow scoops rather than by side-ditches. Approaching Keynston Down from the east, the road climbed steadily up the slope after leaving a ford across the Tarrant (Fig. 10, a-b), following a line that is today broadly commemorated by an ancient holloway, Heath Lane. Towards the top of the lane, where it peters out on the edge of former downland, there is for some distance a wide wooded verge. This verge has been cut through recently to create a new diverted bridleway and the gravel agger has been exposed. At 'b', the summit of the rise, the agger can be traced across the lane as it changes direction to head straight towards Buzbury Rings (Fig. 10, b-c). On the open ground, there is no sign of its course, but the air photograph reveals the faint discontinuous line previously mentioned, on the expected alignment S and SW of the fortlet. At 'c', where the alignment reaches the Rings, a causeway, now recognizable as a Roman creation,<sup>7</sup> takes it over the outer circuit of bank and ditches. In order to keep as near as possible to the direct line from Badbury to Hod and avoid a detour the Roman engineers constructed their road through the Iron Age settlement. After a battle at Badbury, no longer a supposition now that we know of the Shapwick fort, it is likely that some show of resistance had taken place where Buzbury lay astride the ridge. Thereafter, whatever immediately happened to the inhabitants of Buzbury,<sup>8</sup> the Keynston fortlet must have acted as a patrol-post along the central sector of the Badbury-Hod road.

Finally, the size of the Keynston fortlet seems on present knowledge commensurate with the task suggested for it. Allowing for ramparts, the area available is double that inside the two early fortlets at Old Burrow and Martinhoe.<sup>9</sup> The second of these was shown to have held a force of one century. Two barrack-blocks of Hod Hill pattern and a shorter building could have fitted inside the Keynston fortlet to provide a garrison of two centuries.

N. H. FIELD

- (4) Cf. Dr. K. Branigan's suggested line of movement up the Stour (*PDNHAS*, XCV, (1973), 51), confirmed by the present discoveries.
- (5) The Lazerton causeway (*PDNHAS*, XCV (1973), 87-88) must surely have been Roman, forming part of the first alignment of this road from Hod.
- (6) N. H. Field, *op. cit.*
- (7) The track passing over this causeway has been described as medieval (R. Good, *The Old Roads of Dorset*, 2nd ed. (1966), 65-6), but that cannot be the origin of such a wide and carefully engineered feature. The Ashfield Gate at Hod Hill provides a parallel along the same Roman road. To the Roman army too, we should ascribe the razing of the outer circuit to the north of the causeway (see note 9).
- (8) It is significant that the circuit of the inner enclosure appears to date to the 2nd century AD (*PDNHAS* LXXXVI (1964), 112-4; *RCHM Dorset* IV, 102-4). This would point to partial or total abandonment of the outer enclosure (cf. note 7) and then the reoccupation of the inner area only.
- (9) A. Fox and W. Ravenhill, in *Antiquity*, XXXIX (1965), 253-8.

## THE SEAL OF WILLIAM DE MELCOMBE

A silver seal, ovoid in shape and set with an onyx intaglio (Fig. 11), was found near Dorchester and exhibited at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute by the Rev. E. Bingham in 1862.<sup>1</sup> The seal is of a normal late twelfth or early thirteenth-century type and has a suspension loop at one end.<sup>2</sup> The legend, which reads +*SIGILLUM WILELMI DE MELECUBE* is in conformity with an entry in the Book of Fees.

### References

The writer records his thanks to Mr. R. N. R. Peers for the photograph and to Mr. Julian Munby for the reference to the Book of Fees.

- (1) *Arch. Journ.* XIX (1962), 369. also cf. J. Hutchins, *History of Dorset*, 3rd edition, (Westminster, 1870), IV, 364 and C. D. Drury, 'Catalogue of Seal Casts in the Dorset County Museum, 1944' *PDNHAS*. LXVI (1944) 84-126 especially p. 123 No. 179
- (2) Dimensions, 44mm by 38mm. For similar seals set with intagli, A. B. Tonnochy, *Catalogue of British Seal-Dies in the British*



Fig. 11. The Seal of William de Melcombe. Size of intaglio 14mm × 10mm. (Photo D. M. S. Evans)

Fees, now ascribed to the year AD1212 which states that a certain Richard, *son of William*, holds Melcombe from the Earl of Warwick for the service of a Knight.<sup>3</sup>

The intaglio is of Roman Imperial date and an interesting addition to the other gems in the County Museum already published.<sup>4</sup> It is oval, 14mm in length and 10mm in width and has a bevelled edge. The device, cut through the blue surface layer of the stone into the black ground below, is a racehorse wearing a bridle and contemplating a palm of victory in front of it. Above the creature's back are two letters *IT* and between its front and hind legs the single character *A*: It should be pointed out that an impression such as the recipient of a letter sealed with this gem would receive, reverses the order of the upper letters (so that they read *TI*). Both the material of the gem and the style of cutting date the piece to the period of the Middle Empire: Many of the details, for example the baseline, reins, mouth and tail are characterized as being composed of small, elliptical grooves. Dr. Maaskant-Kleibrink has recently described this manner of cutting as the 'Small Grooves Style' and stated that it is no earlier than the second century AD<sup>5</sup>.

Racehorses are commonly depicted in art and many are named. In the present instance the name only survives as an abbreviation for *ITA(lus)* or *TIA(ra)* or some such designation. A stone from Cirencester shows a horse with the letters *AMLS*, which must also be a shortened sobriquet.<sup>6</sup> A gem in Munich is cut with the same device, a horse and a palm branch, but the beast is here called '*CRETUS*', engraved retrograde.<sup>7</sup> Another intaglio, in Kassel, shows a horse — '*FELIX PADUS*' — walking with a palm in its mouth, and here the legend is engraved to be read on the gem.<sup>8</sup>

*Museum* (London 1952), 124 and plate xiii No. 579; p. 135 and plate xiv No. 638; p. 146 and plate xiv No. 707, (all dated to this period).

(3) *Testa de Nevill*, Record Commission London 1807, 164 b. and now *The Book of Fees* i, P.R.O. (London, 1920), 90 which establishes the dating. The seal must be earlier than this year.

(4) M. Henig, 'Roman Gems in Dorset', *PDNHAS*, XCIII (1972), 183-196

(5) Maaskant-Kleibrink, *Classification of Ancient Engraved Gems*, (Leiden, 1975), 193

(6) M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites*, *BAR* 8 (1974), ii, 80 and plate xviii No. 586. On racehorse names in general of J. M. C. Toynbee, *Animals in Roman Life and Art*, (London, 1973), 177-183

(7) E. Brandt, *Antike Gemmen in Deutschen Sammlungen I Staatliche Münzsammlung München*, iii (Munich, 1972), 25 and pl. cxcvii No. 2246.

(8) P. Zazoff, *AGD III Gemmensammlung der Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Kassel* (Wiesbaden, 1970), 220 and pl. xcvi No. 97.

It is possible that the gem was found in Britain in the Middle Ages, in which case it joins the Cirencester intaglio cited above and another from Dover showing a fine beast called HERACLEIDES, as evidence for horse-racing in Roman Britain.<sup>9</sup> However gems were much valued in the Middle Ages for their supposed magical properties and were widely traded (and even copied) at the time. In the present instance, however, we may at least suspect that William appreciated this relic of antiquity for its own sake and not just as a charm.<sup>10</sup>

MARTIN HENIG, MA, D.Phil, FSA

(<sup>9</sup>) Henig, *op. cit.* (note 6) 80 No. 585.

(<sup>10</sup>) *ibid.* i, 196-200 and ii, 106-108, pls. xxiii and lvi also cf 'A Medieval Sealing in Exeter College Archives', *Oxoniensia*, XXXIX (1974), 98-99 plate viii c.

## NOS. 9 AND 10, COOMBE KEYNES

This house, which had been divided into two cottages, and is now being re-converted back to one house, is shown as *Coombe Farm* on the Weld Estate Map of 1770. It stands in the centre of a group of farm buildings, mainly of late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century date. The farm appears to have been divided into two units at about this period, when the present *East Farm* and *West Farm* houses replaced the original Coombe Farm house, which was then probably divided into two farm cottages.

The farm was associated with an open field system, the fields lying to the north of the farm house and buildings, and apparently enclosed in the late eighteenth-century.

Nos. 9 and 10, which adjoins the main village road, opposite the junction with Church Lane, is a Grade II Listed Building, and the listing description, as amended in August 1974, is as follows:-

Map Ref. 15/7 "C17 or 18. Hammer dressed Purbeck stone with red brick patching. Thatched roof, half-hipped to E. with red brick gable coping on kneelers to W. C19 red brick stacks with corning. 2 storeys, 4 ranges of Yorkshire casements with glazing bars. Rear has catslide roof with 1 thatched gable. Chequer brick extension; part 1 storey with corrugated iron catslide roof, and coped brick gable end on kneelers; part two storey with pitched slate roof; Yorkshire casements with glazing bars.

Interior has stone flagged floor, chamfered ceiling beams, and planked doors with contemporary iron latches. Barn extension to E. Hammer dressed Purbeck stone with red brick patching. Hipped thatch roof. 1 storey. Planked doors at W. end. 4 moulded corbels projecting on S. side. (Possibly from Bindon Abbey). N. side open and taken on 4 brick piers; 2 square with chamfers and 2 cylindrical".

Although this is generally accurate as a factual description of the house, it does not indicate its historic significance.

The description in the survey of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments states:-

"House, of two storeys, of rubble and with a thatched roof, was built in the late 16th or early 17th century. It has been extended and so considerably altered that the original plan is uncertain. It probably comprised two rooms, each with a fireplace in the end wall, divided from one another by a through passage. Two rooms were added at the E. end in the 18th century. Reset in the S. wall of the adjoining *Barn* are four 12th-century moulded stone dressings".

The plan accompanying this description indicates a house of Type T2 of the RCHM classification, with an additional room, and an extension comprising a lean-to and an adjoining cross gable, built at a later date on to the east end.

From a detailed internal examination of the house it became clear that this interpretation was not correct (Fig. 12). Apart from the rear lean-to and cross-gabled section, and the much later brick extensions at the west end, the whole house appears to be basically of one build, of the three room and cross passage type; further, that both chimney stacks, and the first floor of the central room, are insertions, and are not part of the original structure.

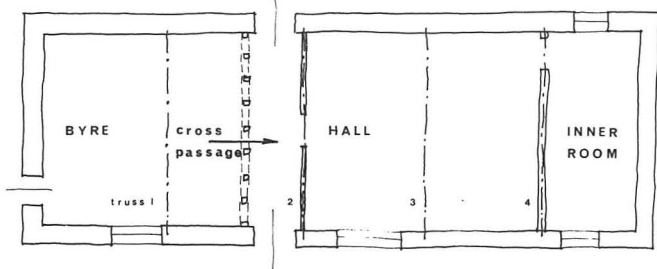
The house is divided into five bays by four jointed-cruck trusses with face pegs, and all the indications are that it was originally of the open-hall form. Furthermore, the size of the present kitchen, west of the cross passage, and 1½ bays long, appears excessive for the usual pantry and buttery block, and it seems reasonable to assume that this was originally the byre of a long-house.

The first floor over the kitchen is now supported on steel joists, and it is not certain when this room was floored over.

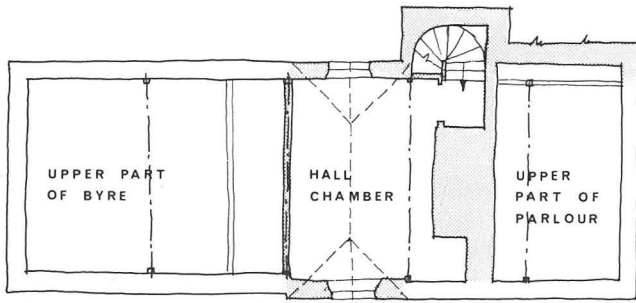
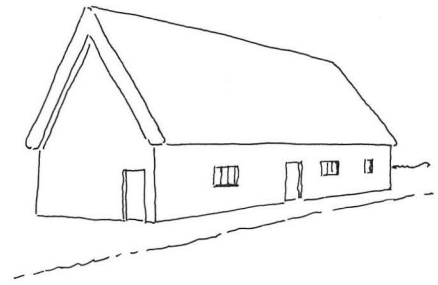
### References

(<sup>1</sup>) D.C.R.O. D/10/P1/V

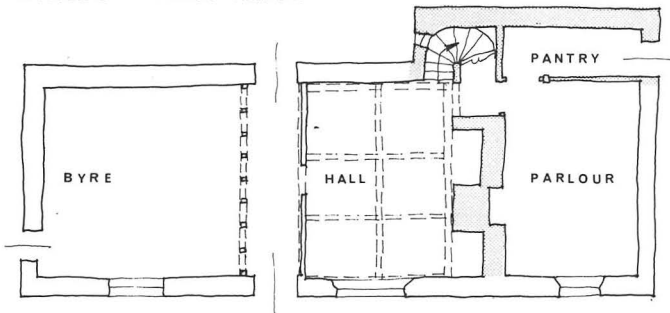
(<sup>2</sup>) R.C.H.M., *Dorset*, II, i, (1970), 50b



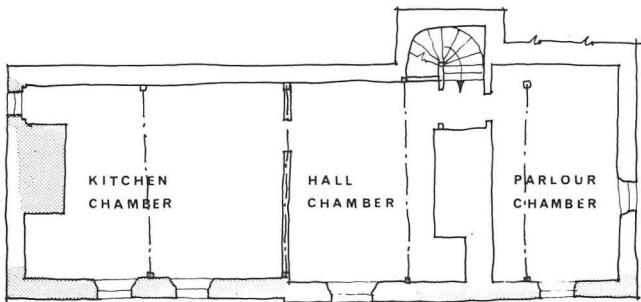
STAGE 1 LONG-HOUSE



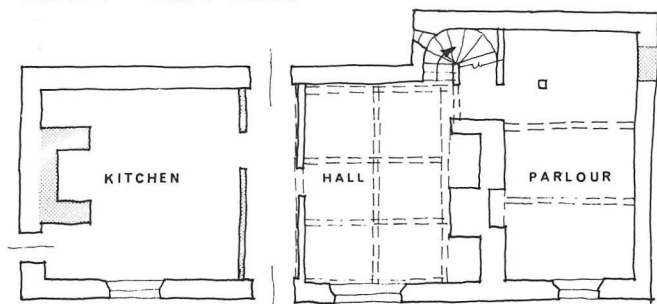
STAGE 2 FIRST FLOOR



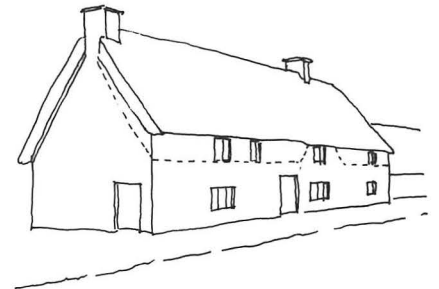
STAGE 2 GROUND FLOOR



STAGE 3 FIRST FLOOR



STAGE 3 GROUND FLOOR



Scale of feet 0 10 20 30 40

P.M.C.

Fig. 12 Nos. 9 and 10 Coombe Keynes, Dorset

The partition between the kitchen and the cross passage, which is not in line with a truss, is of rough timber studding, covered with later lath and plaster, and this studding may represent the tethering posts of the original byre. In contrast, the first floor beam between the cross passage and the central room, i.e. the "hall", is grooved on the underside for a plank and muntin partition, although the partition itself has been replaced by later brickwork. This difference in the partitions on either side of the cross passage may well indicate that the rooms they enclosed had different functions.

The floor over the hall is carried on oak beams with plain deep chamfers, dividing the ceiling into six panels. This work probably dates from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, and, like the stack in this room, is clearly an insertion, both these features being unrelated to the jointed-cruck trusses. The room to the east of the hall, until recently a separate cottage, would have been the "inner room", either a "parlour" or a pantry. The beams carrying the first floor over this room appear later in date than those over the hall, having much smaller stopped chamfers.

The rear extension to the eastern part of the house comprises a cross-gabled section which, from its partly circular internal plan, and a small slit window uncovered recently, probably contained a spiral stair, — dating from the flooring over of the hall; and a lean-to extension of the inner room.

From the surviving evidence, much of which has been revealed during the present work of repair and conversion, it would appear that the evolution of the house was as follows:-

## STAGE 1 THE LATE MEDIEVAL LONG-HOUSE

At this stage the house consisted of a simple rectangle, five bays long, divided by four jointed-cruck trusses, (numbered 1 to 4, from west to east, on the plan), all of similar form. The two central trusses, nos. 2 and 3, bounding the altered hall, (see under Stage 2.) survive substantially in their original form, and the ends of the principal rafters may be seen on the face of the external front wall. The two outer trusses, nos. 1 and 4, were altered when the front wall was raised, (see under Stage 3), but their original form survives at the rear. Part of the cruck post of truss no. 1 may be seen on the face of the front wall.

The walls of the house are now faced externally with a mixture of the local Heath stone and the dark ironstone from the Wimborne area. It is probable that much of this, like the corbels in the adjoining barn, came from Bindon Abbey, which, like Coombe Keynes, was in the ownership of the Howards by the late sixteenth century, and had passed to the Weld family by the mid-seventeenth century.<sup>3</sup> Where the inner faces of the house walls have been uncovered, they appear to be mainly of chalk block. It is therefore likely that the house was originally built of this material, or partly of chalk and partly of cob, the normal building material in this area. The walls were probably refaced with salvaged stone from Bindon after the Dissolution, and, judging from some straight joints to be seen on the external wall faces, this was not all done at one time.

At this first stage, the whole building was probably open to the roof, although there may have been "loft" floors over the byre and the inner room, with partitions below these separating these rooms from the hall. The original eaves line may be seen on the front wall.

The layout of the house would then have been, from west to east:- Byre, 1½ bays, cross passage, ½ a bay, hall, 2 bays, and inner room 1 bay.

## STAGE 2 THE LATE TUDOR MODERNIZATION

The first stage in improving the house appears to have been the flooring over of the hall, with the deeply chamfered beams already described, the insertion of a chimney stack to serve the hall and the parlour, the construction of a spiral stair to serve the new chamber over the hall, and the construction of a lean-to extension to the parlour, possibly to provide a small separate pantry. This last development left the rear cruck post of the eastern truss (no. 4) free-standing in the building, forming in effect an "aisle".

Since the chimney stack in the present kitchen seems later in date than the one between the hall and the parlour, it would appear that this room was still being used as a byre at this stage. This would also explain the existence of a pantry at the opposite end of the house rather than in the usual position below the cross passage. Fragments of pottery, dating from the sixteenth to the seventeenth centuries, found in the pantry area, are consistent with such a use for the east end of the house at this period.

The siting of the hall/parlour chimney stack, had the effect of reducing the size of the hall and increasing that of the parlour. It is not clear how much of this latter room was cut off to form a pantry, but it is reasonable to suppose that the partition was on the line of the cruck post, since it would have been most unusual to leave this as a completely free-standing feature.

The chimney stack, built of stone, and repaired in brick, has been considerably altered, and its original form is uncertain. The hall fireplace has a stop-chamfered lintel. The fireplace on the parlour side has been much altered, partly for the construction of a later bread oven, and it is not clear whether this room was originally heated.

In order to provide sufficient headroom for the new chamber over the hall, the roof over this section was reconstructed in the form of a cross-gable, but leaving the trusses on each side of it, (Nos. 2 and 3) unaltered. Although this gable was destroyed in Stage 3, evidence for it may be seen in the stonework of the front wall where some of the lower kneeler stones survive.

(<sup>3</sup>) J. Berkeley, *Lulworth and the Welds* (1971), chaps. I and VII

### STAGE 3 THE CONVERSION OF THE BYRE

This third stage probably took place in the late 17th or early 18th century, when the animals were removed to a separate cow-house, and the byre converted to a kitchen. A chimney stack to serve this kitchen was built on the west gable, and rooms constructed over the kitchen and the parlour at the east end.

In connection with this work, the cross-gable over the hall was removed, the eaves line raised and the roof pitch flattened along the whole of the front of the house, to provide increased headroom on the first floor. This involved altering the two outer trusses (nos. 1 and 4) disconnecting the principal rafters from the cruck posts, and refixing them at the new roof level. Evidence for this alteration may be seen in the front wall, where, on each side of the remains of the hall gable, the stone walls have been raised in brickwork.

From the spacing of the main beams carrying the first floor over the parlour, and the lack of evidence for partitions below these, it appears that the parlour now occupied the whole of the west end of the house, including the rear lean-to. Indeed, the formation of the new kitchen probably made the earlier pantry redundant.

The barn adjoining the east end of the house may well have been built at this time, as part of the re-organization of the farm complex and the re-housing of the animals.

At a later date, presumably when the farm was divided, the old farm house was divided into two cottages, and further additions built at the rear. The spiral stair was probably removed at the same time, being replaced by the existing timber stairs in each cottage.

The findings at this house illustrate the need for a systematic investigation of smaller houses and cottages, even those which, from a casual external inspection, appear to be of no particular interest. This is especially important when alterations and improvements are planned, since it is all too easy to destroy historical evidence without appreciating its significance. It is not sufficient, in these cases, to rely on the descriptions in the Lists of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, prepared by the Department of the Environment, or even in the Survey of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, useful as these may be in drawing attention to the possible value of a building.

For the type of investigation carried out at Coombe Keynes, the goodwill and co-operation of the owner is of course essential, and I am grateful to Mr. P. Frigot, who bought the house in 1976, and is now restoring it, for his help and interest in this matter.

PAMELA M. CUNNINGTON

### AN UNUSUAL POSSET POT FROM DORSET

The Dorset County's Museum's collection contains an unusual posset pot with a strainer attached to one side of it. Substantially whole, the vessel has probably never been buried: unfortunately no information as to its provenance can be found. It is probably of local manufacture and late seventeenth or eighteenth century date, possibly Verwood.

The position of the strainer relative to the handle suggests that the small section was that used for drinking. The small size of the perforations suggests that fairly small particles were sieved. Peter Brears suggests that the pot may have been used for caudles, the strainer permitting the whey to be drunk separately from the firmer curds, or for a herbal infusion, or spiced ale with apples.

#### *Description*

Fine, slightly fine-sanded red fabric: perforation between pots is many small holes: mottled orange to greeny orange glaze with occasional small dark brown flecks which have run: base of both vessels only partially glazed externally: pot has slightly soft feel overall.

*Drawing by Daphne Roscoe.*

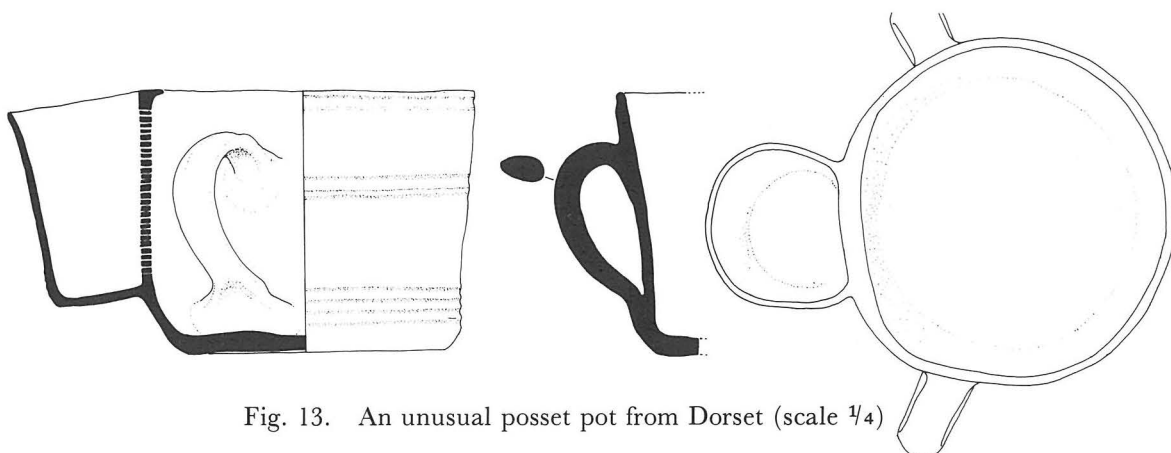


Fig. 13. An unusual posset pot from Dorset (scale 1/4)

## DORSET BIRD REPORT 1976

---

EDITED BY J. V. BOYS M.A.

### INTRODUCTION

As last year I have delayed writing this introduction until 1 May when the typescript is due in Dorchester, in the hope that everything would be complete. My assistants and sub-editors are mainly the same people as last year but we have a new recorder for Christchurch Harbour (CHOG). To all these we owe a vote of thanks, especially as there has been more paperwork than ever: D. N. Arnold (Nos. 1-86 and Wildfowl tables); Mrs. A. Russell (Nos. 87-118 and 194-230); D. J. Godfrey (Nos. 119-192 and Wader tables); A. H. Dunn (Nos. 232-287); J. C. Follett (Nos. 288-425, a double share, plus all the initial sorting and distribution of records); Col. E. D. V. Prendergast (Ringing report); I. S. Robertson (Portland Bird Observatory (PBO), and processing of data for the Rare Birds Committee (RBC) at a national level); D. N. Smith (recorder for CHOG). But all those who send in their records deserve thanks and encouragement, for it is they who make this Report possible. I make just one plea: use our yellow forms for reporting but, if you find it necessary to send in lists, please write on one side of the paper with wide spacing between lines. I should welcome comments and criticism, with suggestions for improving this document.

It is good to know that our Rook survey in 1976 revealed no reduction in total numbers despite elm-disease, and to hear that our Sandwich Terns did not repeat their 1975 breeding failure on Brownsea Island, but there must be a big question-mark hanging over the fate of our Dartford Warblers after the colossal heath fires of last summer, and one wonders whether Ravens will again breed in Dorset. It is curious that the massive invasion of Siskins in winter 1975-76 led to no suggestions of breeding and that there was not a single record for the autumn. I am glad that fewer of our species are being neglected by recorders, but do please keep up the flow of information: almost any facts and figures relating to breeding can be put to far better use than repetitious reports of an individual rare or less usual bird. It has been suggested that details of 'routine' migration and wintering statistics at the various Reserves etc. might be more readable in tabular form.

The list of 1976 rarities is exceptionally long and includes several Dorset 'firsts': Radde's Warbler, Rustic Bunting, Little Bunting from the east, and from America a Dowitcher, an Upland Sandpiper and two Ring-billed Gulls. Other American visitors included Pectoral and Spotted Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs. No less than 24 species on the RBC list have been reported, some like Cetti's and Aquatic Warblers in numbers, while others such as Cory's Shearwaters, Red-footed Falcons, Little Egrets and Tawny Pipits are almost annual in Dorset, though the Gyrfalcon and Scarlet Rosefinch are extremely infrequent here. It is a pity that long delay by some observers in submitting reports to the RBC means that I have to include some species on a tentative basis at this stage — if in doubt, please contact me for advice or ISR who will do the paperwork for you if required. Some species are not on the RBC national list but are very unusual in Dorset, and 1976 provided a Leach's Petrel, a Long-tailed Skua, a Kite and something approaching a passage of Honey Buzzards, though the Common Redstart surviving in Weymouth until 23 Dec is even more remarkable.

Some readers comment on the absence of reports of Dorset Bird Club activities and of longer articles in this publication. Present financial policy precludes this but our quarterly news bulletins are available, and the Editor of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society's Proceedings (from which this annual report is off-printed) is very anxious to receive ornithological papers of any length for consideration, but do please check up on the format regulations before rushing into print!

J.V.B.

### List of contributors (with apologies for errors and omissions)

I. H. Alexander, G. Armstrong, J. Armstrong, D. N. Arnold; Miss Baines, S. Banks, A. J. Barrett, G. Barrett, A. J. Bevis, T. Blake, R. O. Blyth, S. P. Bollins, W. F. Boston, J. V. Boys, Mrs. K. M. Boys, R. C. Branwhite, M. Bray, E. S. Brodie, D. J. Brotheridge, S. T. Buckland, A. Bull, R. Burt, M. Cade, Miss R. Canning, Chapman's Pool Ringing Site (CPRS), Mrs. Chesborough, P. Chesborough, Christchurch Harbour Ornithological Group (CHOG), P. Christian, Mrs. B. Clafton, F. R. Clafton, N. Cleere, H. H. Coe, E. F. C. Coetzee, Mrs. J. E. Coetzee, C. Cook, S. G. D. Cook, J. Rees Cox (Studland N.R.), Mrs. A. M. Cox, M. Darke, Carol Darley, Peter Darley, T. Dee, Mr. and Mrs. Delbridge, D. A. Dolphin, A. H. Dunn, H. C. Eagers, R. A. East, Mr. Edmonson, P. J. Ewins, Mrs. C. M. Field, R. Filby, D. J. Fisher, C. H. Flynn, J. C. Follett, Mrs. V. Follett, Miss A. Francis, Sir Norman Frome, G. Gallia, S. Gantlett, W. Gilbert, D. J. Godfrey, K. M. Godfrey, P. Goldsborough, B.

E. Gouldsbury, Mrs. J. R. Green, M. Greenhill, P. H. Harvey, Dr. J. K. Hasler, Mrs. J. Hawkins, W. T. Haysom, D. R. Hewitson, P. Hilbown, P. A. R. Hockey, T. Hooker, J. R. Hopkins, L. T. Howells, Mrs. A. Hughes, G. Hughes, D. Ireland (RSPB Radipole Lake), D. James, L. E. Kerridge, R. A. King, S. R. Knight, M. Lawson, J. Lockwood, Mrs. L. Maddox, A. G. Male, J. H. Marchant, P. Marriott, N. A. Marsh, Miss S. Matthews, Milton Abbey School (MASNHS), D. C. Mole, R. Mould, D. J. Moxom, G. Moyser, H. Newgass, Miss C. E. Ollivant, K. W. Parker, J. G. Parkinson, C. E. Pepin, G. R. M. Pepler, B. Pickess (RSPB Arne), Portland Bird Observatory (I. Robertson), J. D. Powne, P. Prior, E. D. V. Prendergast, G. A. Pyman, Radipole School, G. Ralston, A. Reese, C. E. Richards, I. S. Robertson, M. F. Robertson, Mrs. I. Rocksborough Smith, Mrs. D. Rodwell, N. R. Rogers, S. A. Roles, G. Roper, Mrs. A. Russell, G. F. Ryan, M. W. Seaford, R. J. Senior, R. Simpson, S. J. Slade, D. N. Smith, P. Smith, T. Squire, W. Stuart Best, J. V. Sullivan, V. G. Symonds, P. Taylor, J. R. M. Tennant, M. V. Tuck, Mrs. S. Valdef-Scott, G. Walbridge, A. St. G. Walton, M. M. Ward, B. H. and E. M. Watts, M. Westrapp, P. F. Williams, A. J. Wise, Mrs. R. Wise (Brownsea Is. Reserve), D. E. Wooberry, T. B. Wood.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

The order is that of the B.T.O. 1971 list, with the numbering of the 1952 list retained for cross-reference with earlier reports.

### 1 Black-throated Diver

At PBO.: single birds Jan-Mar; spring passage 14E 9 Apr-3 May; one on 5 Jun and singles W on 8 and 25 Oct. The spring passage was also noted at Hengistbury Head: 5E 1W Apr-May. Other reports come from Portland Harbour: one on 15 Feb; Poole Harbour: single birds on 4 Jan, 21 and 26 Nov, 5 and 12 Dec; Christchurch Harbour: one during Jan-Feb; and W. Bexington: one in summer plumage on 5 Jun.

### 2 Great Northern Diver

PBO: one or two Jan-Mar; spring passage 18E 19 Apr-16 May; one on 30 May and singles Oct-Dec. Further records from Portland Harbour-Weymouth Bay: single birds Jan-Feb and Nov, two or three in Dec; Poole Harbour-Shell Bay: one Jan-Feb, 5 in Nov-Dec; Christchurch Harbour: 7 in Jan, singles Feb-Mar, May and Jul but 3 in Apr; W. Bexington: one on 1 Feb.

### 4 Red-throated Diver

PBO: single birds Jan-Mar; spring passage 16E 2W 19 Apr-15 May; six 1 Oct-3 Nov and one in Dec. Weymouth-W. Bexington: singles Jan-Feb, at least two Mar-Apr; up to 3 in Nov and up to 5 in Dec. Poole Harbour-Shell Bay: singles Jan-Apr; an adult and an imm on 10 Oct; up to 4 Nov-Dec. Christchurch Harbour: 3 Jan-Feb, 1 Mar, 2 Apr, 6 May and 1 in Jun.

In addition unidentified Divers were reported from PBO 20 in winter, 80 in spring, 19 in autumn (see Table 1). Parties of 4-10 birds were noted in Chesil Cove, Portland Harbour, Poole Harbour and Christchurch Harbour, many of which presumably duplicate the specific identifications above.

### 5 Great Crested Grebe

Summer records come from Sutton Bingham, Sherborne Lake, Christchurch Harbour and the Fleet, but not Criel Lake this year, and there is no mention of breeding. The major wintering flocks were in Weymouth Bay: max 37 in Mar and 8 in Dec; and Poole Harbour: max 24 in Jan and 8 in Dec. The small numbers in the second winter period would seem to indicate a shortage of food, or a poor breeding season. One bird passed PBO on 18 Apr.

### 6 Red-necked Grebe

Single birds frequented Weymouth Bay from 13 Mar to 3 Apr and between 8 and 12 Dec. One was also recorded in Poole Hbr on 4, 5 and 26 Jan, and 4 on 21 Nov. The only other record was of one in Christchurch Harbour on 8 Feb.

### 7 Slavonian Grebe

The largest parties were recorded at Studland Bay, peak 39 for Jan-Mar; Portland Harbour-Weymouth Bay with 8 in Jan-Mar and 6 in Dec; and Kimmeridge Bay with 6 in Jan-Mar and 4 in Dec. Other records come from Abbotsbury, Littlesea, Arne and Christchurch Harbour.

### 8 Black-necked Grebe

As usual the majority of records come from Poole Harbour-Studland Bay with up to 6 in Jan-Mar and 10 in Dec. Single birds occurred at Radipole Lake and Weymouth Bay 1 Feb-8 Mar, Christchurch Harbour 1-14 Feb and 8 Nov, and W. Bexington on 16 Oct, and there are a few other doubtful records from the Fleet.

### 9 Little Grebe

Twenty-six breeding pairs reported — an increase on recent years, probably due to more thorough recording. The major wintering parties were on the Fleet, with 30 in both winter periods, and at Radipole Lake, with max 26 for Jan-Mar and max 28 for Sep-Dec, and in Christchurch Harbour, max 15.

### 26 Fulmar

No confirmed breeding but 28 birds Durlston Head-St. Aldhelm's Head, 11 Jun, and perhaps 3 prs at Gad cliff; also present at Portland Bill from 1 Jan-16 Sep, max 30 on 27 Mar, with a blue-phase bird on eight days in Apr. Other regular reports come from the area of Durlston Head and Anvil Point, and less frequent ones from W. Bexington and Hengistbury Head.

## 20 Cory's Shearwater

Only recorded at Portland Bill; single birds on 11, 12 and 18 Jun (so far only that on 12 Jun accepted by RBC).

## 16 Manx/Balearic Shearwater

Large numbers recorded off Portland Bill: peak counts 1207E on 3 May, 1780E on 12 May, and 400W on 20 Jun; fewer feeding flocks present offshore in late Jun-Jul and only 18 birds seen after the end of Jul (see Table 1). These movements were reflected by observations off W. Bexington, Chesil Cove, St. Aldhelm's Head and Hengistbury Head.

Few Balearic shearwaters were noted during the year: at PBO only 6 records, of 10 birds, singles on 29 May, 12 Jun, 30 Jul and 2 Oct, with 3 on 26 Jun and 2 Aug, while W. Bexington, Chesil Cove and Hengistbury Head shared 4 birds between them.

## 21 Sooty Shearwater

Singles off Portland Bill on 14 Aug, 5 and 6 Sep, 5 Oct, and two there on 29 Aug. One passed W off Hengistbury Head on 17 Oct.

Unidentified shearwaters passed Hengistbury Head on 22 May; Portland Bill, 6 in May-Jun (possibly Cory's) and also 8 in Aug-Nov (possibly Sooty and Great).

## 14 Storm Petrel

Two off Portland Bill on 31 May, following three uncertainly identified on 5 May. Singles off the Chesil Bank opposite Ferrybridge on 19 Jul and 23 Oct.

## 12 Leach's Petrel

One seen flying west off Hengistbury Head on 7 Nov. This record has been scrutinised by the CHOG Panel for unusual species but not by the Editors.

## 27 Gannet

Mainly recorded off Portland Bill, with day peaks in excess of 500 on 25 May and 22 Jun (see Table 1). Other movements were noted quite frequently off W. Bexington, St. Aldhelm's Head, Southbourne and Hengistbury Head.

## 28 Cormorant

c.100 pairs bred at Gad Cliff as usual, and probably 5-15 prs at Ballard Point. Major winter counts come from Poole Harbour: 248 in Jan, 297 in Nov, 228 in Dec; also Portland Harbour: 40 in Jan; and Christchurch Harbour: up to 40. The peak counts at PBO were 66 in Apr and 126 in Oct. Odd birds sometimes wander inland up the main river valleys.

## 29 Shag

On 11 Jun, 48 nests were counted between Durlston Head and St. Aldhelm's Head; no other reports. Winter flocks number 75 in Jan, 131 in Nov, 117 in Dec at Poole Harbour; 50 in Jan and Oct in Portland Harbour; and 22 in Jan in Christchurch Harbour. The PBO peaks coincided with Cormorant peaks: 43 in Apr and 62 in Oct.

## 30 Grey Heron

117 pairs nested: out of 101 on Brownsea Island 93 reared young; Sherborne Lake had 11+ nests and there were 3 in the Blackmoor Vale and 1 at W. Parley.

Flocks of 10 to 15 were noted on the Fleet, at Lodmoor and at Holes Bay, and the maximum at Littlesea in Aug, when the water level was low, was 36. The largest count at Radipole Lake was 21 in Oct.

## 31 Purple Heron

One, probably a second year bird, at Radipole Lake and Lodmoor, 12-29 Apr, (accepted by RBC). Single birds flew N over Christchurch Harbour on 6 May (not yet submitted to RBC) and on 2 Jun (accepted by RBC).

## 32 Little Egret

An adult visited Littlesea on 6 May and Brownsea on 27 May (accepted by RBC). One in Christchurch Harbour on 4 Jul (subject to RBC).

## 38 Bittern

Most records come from Radipole Lake: single birds on 3 Jan, 14 and 25 Jul, 17 Aug, 17 Sep and 13 Oct. Singles were also seen at Lodmoor in Jan-Feb, and Christchurch Harbour on 21 Apr.

## 40 White Stork

One at Steeple on 22-27 Apr (accepted by RBC) and several reports in many places through to Jul. An imm seen at Moreton during 20-27 Sep (accepted by RBC) — is this the same individual as the earlier bird and is it an escapee or a true wanderer? — and later reports of the same bird through into 1977.

## 42 Spoonbill

Two, claimed as a male and a female (but on what evidence?), on the Fleet from 8 to 26 Jun.

## 45 Mallard

50 breeding pairs were reported, fewer than in recent years, but not a meaningful figure. The table of Wildfowl Counts (Table 3) gives the major monthly winter counts for this and other common species. Large flocks were also seen at Lodmoor, max 112 in Mar, and Milton Abbas, 150 Aug-Sep. Small movements were seen off Portland Bill in both spring and autumn.

## 46 Teal

Some eight or nine pairs bred. The peak counts were in mid-winter and the autumn: Poole Harbour, 1430 in Jan; the Fleet, 332 in Jan; Lodmoor, 152 in Feb; Christchurch Harbour, 350 in Jan; and Radipole Lake, 235 in Oct. PBO had single birds only, in Jan, Feb and Oct.

#### **47 Garganey**

Up to four in the Weymouth area between 26 Feb (an early date) and 24 Apr. The only other spring reports were of single drakes at Christchurch Harbour on 27 Mar and Littlesea on 30 Mar. Autumn records come from Radipole Lake: up to five 5 Aug-11 Sep; Langton Herring: a drake on 8 Aug; Arne: a drake on 7 Sep, and Christchurch Harbour: 2 between 28 Aug and 2 Sep.

#### **49 Gadwall**

The largest flocks occurred at Littlesea with 38 in Dec, and Crichel Lake with 26 in Dec. Smaller parties were seen at W. Bexington, Lodmoor, Radipole, the Fleet, Sherborne Lake, Brownsea, the lower Avon and Christchurch Harbour.

#### **50 Wigeon**

The Fleet total was 7400 in the early part of the year, but much smaller than usual in the Sep-Dec period, perhaps a result of the dry summer causing reductions in food supplies. Poole Harbour figures were however up on recent years (see Table 3). Smaller numbers were recorded at most waters in the county. Movement was noted off PBO in Jan, Mar and Oct.

#### **52 Pintail**

The peak winter counts were at Poole Harbour: 138 in Mar and 227 in Dec; and the Fleet: 120 in Feb and 268 in Nov, (see Table 3). The only movements noted were at Radipole Lake where 60 flew E on 5 May, and Portland Bill where 4 flew W on 28 Aug, only the fourth record for PBO.

#### **53 Shoveler**

The major flocks frequented Poole Harbour: 166 in Dec; the Fleet: 254 in Feb; and Radipole Lake: 120 in Dec, (see also Table 3). There were a few records in May, but no evidence of breeding. Seven flew NW off Chesil Cove on 13 Mar.

#### **55 Scaup**

The tendency for the Poole Harbour flock to increase has continued, the peak being 186 on 15 Feb, which is about twice the size of the usual flock. Small groups were recorded in winter at Radipole Lake, Abbotsbury, the lower Avon and Christchurch Harbour. One flew E off PBO on 2 Oct.

#### **56 Tufted Duck**

The only breeding reports are of a pair on an inland lake and of 3, possibly 4, pairs at Brownsea Island. The largest counts come from Radipole Lake: 465 in Jan, 496 in Nov; Poole Harbour: 358 in Jan, 496 in Nov; the Fleet: 100 in Feb, 50 in Dec; and Crichel Lake: 113 in Jan, (see Table 3). Singles passed PBO on 27 Aug and 29 Oct.

#### **57 Pochard**

Only one pair bred, at the usual place which has not yet been published, and presumably there was no breeding at Sherborne Lake this year. Major flocks occurred in Poole Harbour: 126 in Dec; the Fleet: 205 in Jan; Radipole Lake: 462 in Jan; Crichel Lake: 97 in Jan, (see Table 3). A drake spent a day in Portland Harbour on 4 Dec, an unusual location.

#### **58 Ferruginous Duck**

There was an adult drake at Sutton Bingham Reservoir, 23-26 Dec.

#### **60 Goldeneye**

Large flocks were again recorded in Poole Harbour: peak 106 in Feb; and in the Fleet-Portland Harbour area: peaks 142 in Jan and 116 in Dec. At Christchurch Harbour the peak was 22 in Jan, (see Table 3). A summer record concerned one at Radipole Lake, 5-14 Jun.

#### **61 Long-tailed Duck**

In Poole Harbour there was a duck 1-26 Jan, and up to six birds Nov-Dec. In the Fleet-Portland Harbour area there was a drake 1 Jan-23 Mar and a duck on 10 Jan, also a pair 21 Nov-31 Dec. Movement was noted off Christchurch Harbour on 6 Feb (12E) and in Dec, and off Portland Bill with 6 on 30 Mar, 6E on 13 Apr, 2E on 18 Apr, and later singles on 17 Oct and 7 Nov. An imm. was at Radipole Lake in late Oct, while Lodmoor had 2 drakes on 30 Oct.

#### **62 Velvet Scoter**

There was a duck in Weymouth Bay, 7 Feb-21 Mar, and 2 drakes on the Fleet on 5 Nov and a duck in Portland Harbour on 31 Dec. Up to 9 birds were noted at W. Bexington during Jan, and 2 on 14 Nov. Winter records also come from PBO, and the Purbeck shores, while Christchurch Harbour had up to 18 in Jan and 6 in Feb. Spring movement was detected at PBO with 18E 28 Apr-9 May, and at W. Bexington with 17 birds between 19 Apr and 2 May. Autumn movement involved four birds off PBO 29 Oct-7 Nov, and 5W off Christchurch Harbour 20-21 Nov.

#### **64 Common Scoter**

Winter records come mainly from Studland Bay, max 28 Feb-Mar, and W. Bexington, max 30 during Dec. Summer records come from Southbourne where 50 were noted in Jul. The usual spring movement occurred off PBO with 1622E (see Table 1). This movement was reflected off Christchurch Harbour with 173E during Apr and 623E 540W May-Jul; also W. Bexington with 112E 4W Mar-Jun; and the Chesil with peak 70 on 15 May. The autumn passage was smaller, the PBO total being 794W.

#### **67 Eider**

Large flocks wintered in Shell Bay, peaks 129 in Jan and 95 in May, while PBO had up to 40 in Jan, and Christchurch Harbour had max 43 in Jan. Up to 20 summered off Studland-Pilot's Point, 8 in Christchurch Harbour area, and 4 off PBO. 45 in Shell Bay on 11 Dec was the largest party in the second winter period. Spring passage at PBO totalled 32E in Apr, and Hengistbury Head had 48 on 7 May. Autumn figures were 85 off PBO Sep-Nov, 24 off St. Aldhelm's Head 31 Oct and 21 Nov, and 15 off W. Bexington on 14 Nov.

### **69 Red-breasted Merganser**

The peak counts at the entrance to Poole Harbour were 102 on 8 Jan, 417 on 27 Nov, and 298 on 4 Dec. The Fleet-Portland Harbour flock reached peaks of 280 in Feb and 303 in Dec. Small coastal movement was noticed off PBO and Hengistbury Head in Apr, Sep and Oct.

### **70 Goosander**

Three ducks were reported on the Fleet on 11 Jan and two on 1 Feb, and two were in Christchurch Harbour Jan-Mar and one on the Avon near Winkton 14-21 Feb. The only records in the second winter period were of single birds in Christchurch Harbour on 20 Nov and in Poole Harbour on 12 Dec.

### **71 Smew**

On 1 Feb two appeared briefly at Forde Abbey lake near Chard (erroneously published last year for 1975), and on the same date two were in Christchurch Harbour, one remaining until 7 Feb. Meanwhile a duck visited Littlesea 26 Jan-22 Feb, and one was on the Avon on 15 Feb. The only autumn birds were single redheads at Littlesea on 7 Nov and in Christchurch Harbour on 20 Dec.

### **73 Shelduck**

Over 60 pairs bred: Poole Harbour 53 pairs, Fleet-Bexington 6 pairs, Christchurch Harbour 4 pairs. Large numbers wintered in Poole Harbour and on the Fleet (see Table 3), while 58 at Radipole Lake during Mar was an exceptional peak for this site. Apart from a cold weather movement of 31 birds over the Chesil on 31 Jan, the only coastal activity was reported at PBO with 1 in Feb, 15E 2W in Apr, and 14 Jul-Oct.

### **76 White-fronted Goose**

Scattered records come from the east of the County in Feb-Mar culminating in large parties over Christchurch Harbour, 200 19-20 Feb, 100 2 Mar, 80 5 Mar. Small movements were recorded between 9 Nov and 27 Dec at Radipole Lake, Lodmoor, Poole Park and Christchurch, while a massive cold weather movement on 29 Dec involved 52N over Christchurch, 300W off Hengistbury Head and 28 at West Fleet.

Unidentified grey geese include 6 at Luckford Lake in Jan and 8 over Uploders coinciding with 8 in a snow-storm at Lodmoor on 31 Jan (claimed as Greylags but without descriptive evidence) and followed by singles on 1 Feb over Ferrybridge, Fleet and Uploders. There were also scattered records during Oct- Dec: 2W over Portland Harbour on 9 Oct and 1E on 21 Nov, and 5W off PBO on 18 Oct, and at Shell Bay 3E on 23 Nov and 2SE on 19 Dec.

### **78 Pink-footed Goose/Bean Goose**

2 or 3 Pinkfeet were heard flying SE over Wharam at 23.15 hrs on 31 Jan, and 5 flew over Christchurch Harbour on 22 Feb. There was a Bean Goose at Poole Park on 11 Dec.

### **80 Brent Goose**

Large flocks occurred in Poole Harbour, peaks 200 in Feb, 203 in Dec; also on the Fleet, peak 130 in Feb. There are more reports than usual of coastal movements: after initial movements in Jan-Feb, larger numbers passed between 19-25 Mar with 7 off PBO, 70E off Hengistbury Head, 14E off St. Aldhelm's Head; and there were small movements again during Sep-Dec.

Two Barnacle Geese at Lodmoor 7-8 May can hardly have been wild birds?

### **82 Canada Goose**

Breeding figures have been received only from Poole Harbour where at least 40 young were present in Jul. The Poole Harbour flock, peak 356 in Sep, was smaller than in recent years. The usual pre-breeding wandering was noted on the Fleet, Lodmoor and Radipole Lake while PBO had 4 on 12 Apr and 2 on 30 Apr.

### **84 Mute Swan**

Reports have been received of over 80 breeding pairs: 52 at Abbotsbury, 19 at Radipole Lake, 1 at Littlesea, and 11 from the rivers. Large flocks were reported on the Fleet, 792 in Feb, Poole Harbour, 71 in Dec, and Christchurch, 306 in Jun.

### **85 Whooper Swan**

Four flew NE over Christchurch Harbour on 15 Jan, and 11 flew E over Radipole Lake on 24 Dec.

### **86 Bewick's Swan**

The largest concentration was at Woodsford where 59 were present on 19 Jan and 56 remained until 14 Mar. 10 flew W over W. Bexington on 3 Jan; a single was at Corfe Mullen 25 Jan-1 Feb, and 17 flew E over Merley on 20 Mar. Only small parties occurred in the second winter period: Christchurch Harbour, 2 on 28 Oct; Lodmoor, 3 on 31 Oct; Radipole Lake: 4 on 5 Dec; Corfe Mullen, 5 on 25 Dec; and Ridge, 5 on 31 Dec.

### **91 Buzzard**

It is known that 4 pairs bred successfully and 1 pair failed while 4 pairs probably bred and over 25 pairs were reported. A decrease was noted in three areas, and improved public access may be the cause for the Army ranges. PBO had one definite record in Aug and a probable in Sep. In winter parties of 5 or 6 together are frequent in W. Dorset. Although this is a protected species, persecution continues in some areas, and a dead bird was taken to the County Museum from Martinstown.

### **93 Sparrowhawk**

We have reports of 10 certain breeding pairs and possibly another 14 pairs, but the outcome is known in only two cases where 2 and 4 young flew successfully. Several pairs breed within the town of Bournemouth, frequently visiting both public and private gardens, and regular reports from many areas suggest that the species is well re-established though 4 dead birds were received at the County

Museum. Prey taken includes Dunlin, Blackbirds, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail, Starling, House Sparrows, and a Siskin being chased by a male. Passage at PBO included 4 in Apr, 2 in Aug, 3 in Sep, and 9 in Oct.

#### **94 Goshawk**

Four records, not necessarily of different birds: a female or imm. at Arne on 3 Apr; an imm. at Christchurch Harbour on 10 Apr and a male there next day; and one flying W over Sandbanks on 13 Nov.

MFR has given full details of an unmated female which was present near Milton Abbas from Apr 1975 to Jan 1976, and which built a nest in May 1975. This was not published last year in accordance with our policy for rare species which may establish themselves, but in this case there was no development in 1976.

#### **95 Red Kite**

Adequate descriptions have been received of one near Marnhull on 1 Aug (Mr. and Mrs. James per AH) and one at St. Aldhelm's Head on 13 Nov (WTH). [The Black Kite at Preston on 20 Apr 1975 has not been accepted by RBC.]

#### **98 Honey Buzzard**

Two spring records: one over Verne Common on 23 May and one at PBO on 8 Jun. An unprecedented series of sightings in autumn: one flying over Wakeham, Portland, on 3 Sep; at PBO one on 23 Sep, 2 on 26 Sep, 2 on 2 Oct and 4 on 3 Oct; also on 3 Oct singles over Radipole and Studland.

#### **99 Marsh Harrier**

One at Radipole Lake on 6 May but five sightings in the Poole Harbour area in May, Jun, Jul. None in Aug, but on 26 Sep a male at Littlesea and, probably the same bird, at Arne where an imm. female was seen on 29 Sep and 4 Oct. Up to four different birds at Radipole Lake and Lodmoor on 2 and 3 Oct, including an adult male, a dark female and an imm.; and finally an imm. there on 26 and 27 Oct.

#### **100 Hen Harrier**

At Arne at least 3 females or imm. birds and 1 or 2 males coming in to roost during Jan-Apr, the last male being on 12 Apr but a female on 1 May. Isolated sightings during this period come from Stanpit, Thorncombe Wood, Briantspuddle, Merley, Moreton, Lodmoor and in Purbeck. A 'ringtail' was near Milton Abbas on 4 Aug, a female at St. Aldhelm's Head on 12 Oct, and a male there and at PBO on 30 Oct. Records for Nov-Dec mostly in the Poole Basin area but not recorded at Arne until 19 Nov after which 2 females and 2 males used the regular roosting area.

#### **102 Montagu's Harrier**

A female over the Weymouth/Dorchester road on 23 May; one at Langton Herring on 8 Jun; and a juvenile at Christchurch Harbour on 25 Aug.

#### **103 Osprey**

One flying N over Studland 8 Apr, over Turnerspuddle on 16 Apr, PBO on 17 Apr, and Christchurch Harbour on 21-22 Apr. On 27 Aug one at Christchurch Harbour and an imm. at Langton Herring also the next day. A series of apparently different birds at PBO on 24, 26 and 29 Sep, and one at Christchurch Harbour 25-26 Sep, and one at Radipole 27 Sep. On 16 Oct one over Whiteway Hill, on the Fleet and at W. Bexington were probably the same bird. Finally one in Portland Harbour on 21 Oct.

#### **104 Hobby**

Three sightings on 25 Apr, at PBO, Radipole and Swineham, and two at Upton on 26 Apr. 11 sightings of passage birds in May and one resting on W. Bexington beach on 3 Jun. From 9 known nests, 7 pairs raised a total of 13 young, one failed and one was robbed. In addition 5 other pairs were reported. Autumn passage at PBO involved six birds 31 Aug to late Sep, plus a late bird on 30 Oct, and there are reports from 14 non-breeding areas.

#### **105 Peregrine**

A female visited Arne on 21 Jan, 8 Feb, 5 and 7 Mar, 13 Apr and also the Purbeck cliffs on 21 and 28 Mar. There was an adult male at Monkton-up-Wimborne on 19 Apr. PBO had one record, on 23 May. Brownsea had an imm. on 15-16 Jul, 6 Nov and 27 Nov, while one was at Christchurch and Studland on 22 Sep, one at Radipole on 2 Oct, and one at Verne Common on 12 Nov. Finally an adult female was at Sandbanks Ferry on 12 Dec.

#### **106 Gyrfalcon**

An imm. believed to be of the race *F.r.rusticolus* was seen at Arne on 3 occasions, 25 and 29 Oct and 1 Nov (BPP, M. Robinson) (subject to RBC). This is the first Dorset record for over sixty years, if it is accepted.

#### **107 Merlin**

Rather few records early in the year, with none at PBO but four reports from Christchurch Harbour and various parts of Poole Basin, a male regularly chasing finches near Briantspuddle in Feb, a female at W. Bexington Jan-Feb, and one at Bagber on 13 Mar. No records for Apr-Aug. Sep. records start at PBO with one on 4 Sep and six subsequent dates, at Langton Herring on 5 and 17 Sep, and at East Weare on 22 Sep. From Oct to the end of the year we have 3 records from Christchurch, several from the Purbecks and Arne, 13 from PBO in Oct with 2 on 18 Oct, and several for the Fleet, and W. Bexington.

#### **108 Red-footed Falcon**

At Lodmoor a female on 8-11 May and a male on 24 May (both accepted by RBC).

#### **110 Kestrel**

Breeding successes have been reported for 10 pairs, 2 pairs raising 1 young, 3 pairs 2 young, 2 pairs 3 young and 3 pairs uncertain, and in addition 14 pairs are said to have probably bred though the true total must be much higher for a species which appears increasingly common — though not apparently at Arne. One pair took an interest in a nest-box but finally chose a natural site not far away to raise 3 young, but the male revisited the box in Dec. There are two reports of Slow Worms being taken, and one of a road casualty. Passage at PBO was indicated by the number of bird-days per month: J 20, F 24, M 37, A 72, M 47, J 22, J 12, A 58, S 58, O 61, N 13, D not given.

#### **115 Red-legged Partridge**

Pairs with 3, 5 and 6 juveniles were seen at Winspit, Blandford-Wimborne road, and Langton Herring; and at least 11 other pairs were located, excluding those in NE Dorset where it is said to be fairly common. 12 coveys were reported from widespread areas, several of 10 to 16 birds. It is hoped that this species, and the next, will continue to be well reported.

#### **116 Partridge**

An encouraging increase in the number of records, though positive breeding is known only for a pair with 10+ chicks at Uddens on 17 Jul, and 2 pairs probably bred in SY59 and 3 adults with 11 juvs were at W. Bexington on 13 Nov. Over 30 pairs were located, including 10 in NE Dorset. One at Studland on 4 Mar was considered unusual. Two coveys at Bucknowle joined forces in Dec to total 14 birds, and coveys of over 10 were seen at Seacombe, Winterbourne Kingston, Broadmayne, Maiden Newton, Compton Valence, Langton Herring and W. Bexington.

#### **117 Quail**

A poor year: only a single at PBO on 5 May and a male calling there from 10-17 Jun and possibly the same bird on 22, 23 and 25 Jun.

#### **118 Pheasant**

As usual under-reported. At Arne about 8 pairs, some with young. Successful broods at Compton Valence, about 4 pairs at W. Bexington, and at Merley a male with 5 females on 2 Apr. At Radipole a pair may have bred. 32 were counted near Pentridge on 23 Mar, and 40 along the road from Wimborne to Wimborne St. Giles (11 miles).

#### **120 Water Rail**

Present in the breeding season at Holton, Little Sea, Holes Bay, Lodmoor and Radipole, probably 2 pairs at Arne and a juvenile at Lytchett Bay on 8 May. In the first winter period reported in 21 places, and in the second 13. One dead on the road at Sandford on 11 Mar, and 1 dead at Bere Regis at the end of Feb.

#### **121 Spotted Crake**

At Sutton Bingham 1 seen on 17 Aug and subsequently. At Radipole singles on 26 Apr, on 23, 24 and 30 Aug (when 4 probably present), and 1-11 Sep and 2 Oct. Also one on Lodmoor, 11 May.

#### **125 Corncrake**

On 10 Apr 1 seen at Eyebridge, Wimborne; and at PBO a feather of one found on 3 Oct, which may have been killed by a predator.

#### **126 Moorhen**

Obviously a widespread and successful breeding bird in its preferred habitat; reported in the breeding season at Wool, Bovington, Dorchester — where brood numbers of 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4 and 9 were lower than the 5-11 range given in the 'Handbook'; and at Sherborne, Uploders, Burton Bradstock, Compton Valence, W. Bexington, Langton Herring, Radipole (25 pairs), Moreton, Turnerspudde, Branksome, Throop, St. Leonards, Arne (2 pairs), Middlebere, Littlesea (min of 10 pairs), Upton claypit, Holes Bay and Christchurch. Winter counts of 74 at Merley, 41 Holes Bay, 41 Broadmayne. Singles at Chapmans Pool on 12 Sep and Portland Bill on 26 Jan and 19 Sep.

#### **127 Coot**

Breeding on R. Stour at Throop, Iford and Corfe Mullen, and at Morden, Littlesea, Turnerspudde, and Moreton, with c. 40 pairs at Radipole. Some passage at Radipole in Sep-Oct. Winter concentrations: 1500 mid-Fleet on 12 Jan and 3 Nov, with 93 on 5 Sep and 285 on 12th; 140 Radipole on 24 Oct, 148 Sherborne Lake on 24 Mar, up to 100 Littlesea, and 600 in Jan and 400 in Dec in Christchurch Harbour.

#### **131 Oystercatcher**

Breeding confirmed on the Chesil Beach (5 pairs), but a pair unsuccessful at Christchurch Harbour. The Poole Harbour maximum of 1359 in Jan was the largest since records began (1969) and included 680 on Brownsea. Arne maxima Jan-Dec: 300, 300, 100, 56, 100, 50, 50, 150, 150, 60, 400 and 500. Christchurch maxima Aug-Dec: 94, 118, 83, 46, 30; 30 on 13 May. On Weymouth Beach 10 on 27 Feb and at least 15 on 23 Oct; 12 at Ferrybridge in Apr and Nov. At Kimmeridge up to 44 in Dec; 3 at Sutton Bingham on 28 Jul.

#### **133 Lapwing**

Breeding reports of 6 pairs on Chesil Beach; 1 pair with 1 young at Arne salterns and Langton Herring; plenty around Sixpenny Handley; Compton Valence (2 pairs); Sherborne; Burton Bradstock; singles at Sydling on 13 May and Studland on 14th; pair near Wimborne in Apr, pair at Christchurch, and pair on Lodmoor. Large flocks reported at Abbotsbury, 5000 on 17 Jan and 4000 off the Chesil on 31 Jan; 2220 and 2000 on 23 Dec and 18 Jan at Stoborough; 2000 Marnhull in late Dec, Horton on 15 Jan and mid-Fleet on 18 Jan; 1239 W. Bexington and 1200 Stanpit in Jan and 1100 Christchurch on 14 Feb. A big cold weather movement on 31 Jan included 7000E at Portland Bill, hundreds at Langton

Herring, 400S at Brownsea and 50 at Parkstone.

#### **134 Ringed Plover**

Another reduced count, 43 pairs, for the Chesil Beach population, which was 75 pairs a few years ago, but at Christchurch Harbour 7 pairs and 10 young were each one greater than in 1975; a pair at Baiters on 15 Apr and 28 May, and at N. Holes Bay on 13 Jul, were the only possible Poole Harbour breeding records. Arne monthly maxima were 1 in Jan, May-Oct 4, 8, 8, 85, 69 and 12. The Aug-Sep passage included 85 and 69 Brownsea, 200 and 120 Ferrybridge, and 30 and 116 bird-days at Portland Bill; 1 at Sutton Bingham in late Aug. In the first winter period 70 Studland beach, 150 Christchurch, and 50 Ferrybridge; and 130 N. Poole Harbour, 70 Christchurch, 40 Ferrybridge and 5 Kimmeridge in Dec.

#### **135 Little Ringed Plover**

One at Ferrybridge on 1 May. At W. Bexington 2 on 21 Apr; near Langton Herring 1 on 19 Apr, 1 May and 24 Aug, 2 on 27 and 29 Aug; 1 at Radipole 10-16 Aug; and 1 at Lodmoor on 31 Aug and 25 Sep. At Sherborne Lake 1 on 6 Apr and at Sutton Bingham on 9 Aug; at Christchurch 1 from 4 to 8 Apr, on 22 May and 8 Jul, 2 on 11th, 3 on 23rd and 1 on 24th.

#### **136 Kentish Plover**

A female first seen flying N on the W cliffs at Portland stayed at Ferrybridge 22-26 Apr; 1 seen there also on 29th. A male present at Stanpit 27 Apr to 2 May.

#### **139 Grey Plover**

The increase observed over the last few years continues, with 184, 230, 192, and 162 monthly maxima Jan-Apr on Brownsea; but 7 only there in Nov; other large numbers were 94 and c.100 Shell Bay Jan and Feb with 125 there on 7 Dec, and 111 in Mar and 29 in Apr at Holton. In the Fleet 50 in western portion in Jan, and at East Fleet 2-4 summered, and 76, 105, 30 and 56 maxima there in Feb, Mar, Nov and Dec; with 24 on 21 Feb the Ferrybridge maximum. At Stanpit up to 15 in Feb, 13 in Jun, in autumn 10-25 until 10 Nov, and 6 in Dec. Migrants at Portland occurred in spring and autumn: maximum 4 on 25 Sep. Arne maxima Jan-Dec were 2, 10, 1, 1, 21, 1, 20, 5, 4, 20, 1, 1. A few elsewhere near Poole and in the Fleet; 1E at W. Bexington on 18 Oct and 1 at Chapmans Pool on 27 Apr.

#### **140 Golden Plover**

The largest winter concentration was on grassland and ploughed fields of the chalkland surrounding the upper half of the R. Allen: 400 at Cashmoor in Jan and Horton in Feb, with 689 at Witchampton and 300 at Wyke, Cranborne on 23 Mar; a thorough census yielded the unprecedented total of 1884 in the Horton Inn area on 19 Dec. Other concentrations were 700 Maiden Castle on 1 Feb; 18 Compton Valence on 13 Dec rising to 460 on 21st, 65 near Wyke, Weymouth on 29 Dec; 78W W. Bexington on 25 Jan and 40 on 30th, 39W 15E on 1 Feb and 41 on 9 Mar; small flocks at Powerstock on 30 Jan; 100 Abbotsbury and 200 Langton Herring on 29 Dec; 32 Marnhull on 23 Dec; 30 Dorchester on 28 Jan; 20 St. Aldhelms Head on 22 Mar and 8 Chapmans Pool 24-25 Jul; 100 Winkton on 31 Jan and 200 on 21 Mar at Burton. Smaller numbers widespread. At Portland Bill 14 in cold weather movement on 31 Jan (when 5 at Ferrybridge); up to 12 in early Feb and a few autumn records.

#### **143 Turnstone**

In the first winter period up to 40 at Shell Bay on 18 Jan; 20 to 30 Stanpit; up to 7 on Brownsea; and 13 at Ferrybridge. Passage began with 1 at Portland on 22 Apr, and 5 records there in May; 19 Baiters, Poole on 14 Apr and 18 on 22nd; 17 Stanpit in May; 7 Brownsea on 17 May; 15 Shipstal Point on 10 May; an interesting report of c.10 East Fleet Jun, Jul and Aug. Return began with 1 at Portland Bill on 5 Jul; autumn peaks at Stanpit, Ferrybridge and Portland were 12, 8 and 10; 1 at W. Bexington and Chapmans Pool. Second winter maxima at Studland and Ferrybridge were 12 and 5; at Holes Bay 8 on 10 Nov falling to 2 in Dec were unusual.

#### **144 Long-billed Dowitcher**

One in partial summer plumage at Salterns marsh Arne on 3 Aug, (subject to RBC). This is the first Dorset record of this American wader although it is one of the more regular wanderers to Britain.

#### **145 Snipe**

Drumming reported in the breeding season from West Holme Heath and Studland Heath. In the first winter period up to 210 at Marnhull on 24 Feb and 200 Buckhorn Weston on 6 Mar; 40 Sydling valley and 30 Cranborne in Feb; and widespread reports of small parties, but probably fewer than usual. In the second winter period more numerous: at Marnhull 500 on 28 Nov and 1000 on 23 Dec; at Stanpit 100 in Sep rising to 550 in Dec; 200 Lodmoor in Nov-Dec and Radipole on 2 Dec; 151 Merley on 4 Dec and 60N and 80S of Wareham on 23 Dec. Other reports of small numbers; and occasionally seen on the muddy sands at Ferrybridge. Passage at PBO comprised 10 from 5 to 28 Apr; return on 25 Jul, recorded in each subsequent month, with the maximum of 10 records in Oct.

#### **147 Jack Snipe**

At Christchurch Harbour numbers were 25 on 9 Jan, 15 in Feb, 17 on 21 Mar, and 3, 4 and 6 in Oct, Nov and Dec. Maxima in the first winter period elsewhere were 8 at Lodmoor, 5 at Sherborne Lake, 3 at W. Bexington, and singles at Wyke, Radipole, Upton Heath, S. Brownsea and Arne. One at Portland Bill on 25 Apr and one near Church Ope on 26 Oct. In the second winter period up to 6 at Christchurch, and singles at W. Bexington, Lodmoor, Radipole, Dorchester, Corfe Mullen and Merley.

#### **148 Woodcock**

In the breeding season roding at Affpuddle on 23 May, Morden on 5 May and possibly 2

Turnerspuddle Heath on 7 May; fewer reports this year but no information on Brownsea status. In the first winter period up to 3 at Arne and 2 N. Poorton; singles at Lodmoor, Studland and Canford Heaths, Stanpit, Marnhull, Powerstock, Wootton Fitzpaine, Dorchester, Delcombe, Milton Abbas, the Verne and W. Bexington. Fewer in the second winter period: 2 on 30 Oct at Studland; singles at Marnhull, Abbotsbury, Arne and Radipole.

#### 149 Upland Sandpiper

One at Portland Bill on 15 Sep, (accepted by RBC). This is another 'first' for Dorset, also from America.

#### 150 Curlew

There appear to be more breeding records than usual: 2 pairs successful near Wareham; 1 calling on Povington Heath in early Jun and East Burton in May-Jun; present Morden Heath Apr-Jun; on Turnerspuddle Heath disturbed by drainage work; present Buckland Newton Mar-Jun; probably bred Haydon; and 1 calling N of Christchurch in Apr. Monthly maxima at Arne 240, 100, 50, 70, 20, 100, 300, 200, 400, 200, 130 and 50; and at Brownsea 196 in Jan, 100 in Feb, and Jul-Dec 152, 94, 98, 140, 198 and 87; 106 at Holton in Apr and 100 Holes Bay in Aug. Poole Harbour maximum was 802 in Jan. Up to 20 in the Fleet in Apr and 5 on Lodmoor in Feb, with a peak at Radipole of 4 on 7 Aug; up to 33 at Kimmeridge in Dec; 12 in Feb and 11 in Mar N of Christchurch; otherwise a few scattered reports of 1 to 3 birds.

At Portland Bill a few in winter; 54 bird-days in Apr with 6 on 19th, 2 singles in Jun, and 19 bird-days between 3 Jul and 14 Nov. At W. Bexington 71E 21 Mar-27 Apr; 2 Chapmans Pool on 30 Apr; at Christchurch Harbour rather scarce, with maxima of 11 in May and Jun.

#### 151 Whimbrel

Wintering birds reported from Littlesea on 15 Jan, Goathorn on 14 Feb, and around Brands Bay 4 Nov to 12 Dec. Two summering at East Fleet. Spring passage began on 5 Apr at Christchurch Harbour and 10 Apr at W. Bexington; 2032E in the evenings at Arne 22 Apr to 13 May, with peaks on 28-29 Apr and 177 on 1 May; elsewhere peaks during 20 to 26 Apr. Return passage began with 8 at Holes Bay on 7 Jul. Last records from Arne on 28 Sep and Portland Bill on 11 Oct.

#### 154 Black-tailed Godwit

Maxima for the more frequented Poole Harbour localities are as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arne	100	7	15	200	65	96	35	140	29	200	10	5
Brownsea	450	420	470	460	17	4	27	240	430	220	43	100
Holton	—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	300	172	72	—
Holes Bay	—	180	430	399	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Records of 7 and 29 at Wareham in Feb and Dec, 12 in Apr and 22 in May at Newton Bay, and 152 in Jan in Brands Bay; probably under-reported there and at Wareham. At Christchurch Harbour 8 in May, but otherwise only scattered records. In Mar singles near St. Catherines Hill, Buckhorn Weston, and at Radipole, where there were 18 on 30 Jun, 3 on 17 Jul, and 1 18-19 Jul and 14 to 31 Aug; intermittent at Lodmoor Apr-May, and 1 on 27 Oct.

#### 155 Bar-tailed Godwit

Spring passage apparently began on 19 Apr: at PBO 1110E between then and 5 May, with 705E on 21 Apr and 110E on 29th; 336E in April off Christchurch, with up to 186 in the Harbour, and 145N in May and up to 11 in the Harbour; 165E at W. Bexington on 26 Apr; peaks of 130 mid-Fleet on 19 Apr and 45 on 6 May and at Ferrybridge 30E on 20 Apr, 70 and 53 on 27th and 28-29th, 44 on 2 May; at Radipole 80E on 26 Apr and 45E on 29 Apr; 48 at Holton and 9 at Kimmeridge on 28 Apr. Monthly maxima Jan-Dec on Brownsea 78, 120, 125; 26, 53, 5, 2, 2, 7, 162, 88, 37 and 40; at Arne passage 22 Apr to 23 May with a peak of 40 on 27 Apr; often present Studland Beach and Whitley Bay (Shore Rd.) from which birds probably commute to Brownsea. In the Fleet and Weymouth areas up to 11 in the first winter period and up to 5 in the second. Stanpit wintering maximum was 25, with up to 27 there in Sep. A few in Jun or Jul in the Fleet and at Holton and Brownsea; autumn passage peak greater at Brownsea than at Arne (80), Stanpit (27), Portland, the Fleet, Radipole, or W. Bexington.

#### 156 Green Sandpiper

Widespread wintering: in the first winter period at Dorchester, Lodmoor, Empool, Bovington, Lewell, Bere Regis, Cecily Bridge, Turnerspuddle, Sturminster Newton, Wimborne, Corfe Mullen and Merley, Sherborne Lake, Marnhull, W. Parley (3), and Moors River; and in the second winter period at Winterborne Came, Waddock, Empool, Bere Regis, Turnerspuddle, Radipole, Marnhull and Merley, where a colour-ringed bird present. Extensively reported from watercress beds, marshes, riverine meadows and pools in spring to 14 May; and from early July; autumn passage included 8 at Empool in Aug, with peaks at Radipole of 4 on 18 Aug and 5 on 19th; difficult to separate the end of migration from wintering. A record of 2 at E. Burton on 23 Jun was interesting.

#### 157 Wood Sandpiper

One in spring at Lodmoor on 25 and 27 Apr. Autumn passage from 20 Jul at Radipole, 2 on 31 Jul-1 Aug; from 31 Jul at Rodden Hive, with up to 6 there on 22 Aug and 2 on 27th; 1 at Herbury on 16th. Elsewhere, singles at Brownsea in Aug and on 19 Sep; at Arne on 19 Aug; at Sutton Bingham 2 on 2 Aug, 1 on 17th and 3 on 25th; singles at Lodmoor on 27 Sep and Chesil Cove on 18 Sep. At Christchurch Harbour maxima were 2 on 8 Aug, 3 on 24 Sep and 4 Oct, the last being on 12 Oct; 1 at Burton on 22 Sep.

### 159 Common Sandpiper

Wintering reported at Balaclava Bay, Portland: 2 to 23 Jan and in Nov and Dec, 1 to 17 Feb and from 26 Oct; at Newtons Cove Weymouth until 20 Apr and from 3 Nov; at Chapmans Pool on 25 Nov and 31 Dec; and reports from Wareham on 1 Feb and at Shore Rd. on 23 Jan. Early passage reports from Lodmoor and Sherborne Lake on 5 and 9 Apr respectively; quite a few in spring included 21 at Merley on 5 May; then 1N Portland on 30 Jun and Dorchester on 3 Jul began the Jul-Aug passage; with 25 at Sutton Bingham on 3 Aug and 20 Christchurch on 20 Aug. Late birds at Stanpit on 12 Oct and Hatch Pond on 15 Oct; 3 at Holes Bay on 4 Oct. PBO passage periods were 12 Apr to 12 May and 6 Jul to 16 Oct.

### 160 Spotted Sandpiper

One in Christchurch Harbour 7 to 14 May (accepted by RBC).

### 161 Redshank

On the Chesil Bank between Chickerell and Abbotsbury 15 pairs bred, better than in recent years, although tern wardening facilitated a more efficient survey. At Christchurch Harbour 8 pairs; at Arne c.12 pairs on the salt marshes and 2 on Salterns marsh; present on other saltings in Brands Bay, Brownsea, Holton, and Wood Bar Is, but the numbers breeding not estimated. Inland breeding probably at West Holme, Turnerspudde, Holwell, Wimborne St. Giles and Monkton up Wimborne (possibly 2 pairs), and R. Stour Eyebridge. Monthly maxima Jan-Dec at Arne: 250, 300, 200, 150, 30, 30, 500, 250, 250, 200 and 175; at Brownsea Jan and Feb 740 and 260 and Jul-Oct 37, 120, 440, 450 and 350. A Poole monthly count of 1512 in Feb was the largest since records began in 1969; 750 Holes Bay on 7 Jul indicative of a summer influx. Other large concentrations were 390 Holton in Nov and 380 in Oct; 390, 450 and 400 Holes Bay in Feb, Sep and Nov; 350 Lytchett Bay in Feb and 220 Stoborough in Dec. In the Fleet 30 at Rodden Hive in Feb and 20 East Fleet in Mar; up to 4 on Lodmoor and 7 and 4 at Ferrybridge in Jan and Feb; May-Dec at Radipole where maximum of 16 in Aug; otherwise very few recorded. Up to 50 by R. Stour, Wimborne in the second winter period and 1 at Marnhull; singles Jan to Mar at Gillingham and Sherborne Lake. Christchurch Harbour maximum was 107 in Apr. At Portland Bill recorded in every month until Nov; 23 sightings in May and 25 in Aug. Recorded at W. Bexington 13 Mar to 12 May and in Dec; singles at Chapmans Pool in Apr and in autumn.

### 162 Spotted Redshank

Monthly Maxima for Arne Jan-Dec were 5, 4, 10, 3, 3, 9, 18, 52, 20, 10, 3 and 3; for Brownsea Jan-Apr 14, 3, 3 and 1, and Aug-Dec 2, 51, 1, 10 and 3. Wintering at the Wareham marshes: 9 by the Frome and 6 by the Piddle on 30 Dec; and 1 at Ferrybridge on 29 Dec. Autumn passage: 3 in Aug at Sutton Bingham; up to 3 at Lodmoor in Sep; and 2 at Rodden Hive in Sep; many singles in Aug and Sep at Radipole, with 3 on 18 Sep; and 1 at Whitenoth in Aug. At Christchurch bird-day data were 1 in Feb, 4 and 5 in Apr and May, 4, 5 and 1 in Aug-Oct, but no more than 2 at one time.

### 164 Lesser Yellowlegs

One at Stanpit from 16 to 31 Oct, (accepted by RBC). The only previous Dorset record was in 1963.

### 165 Greenshank

Monthly maxima from the more-frequented localities were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mid-Fleet	—	—	2	3	—	—	8	20	—	9	11	—
East Fleet	10	9	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	10	3
Radipole	—	9	4	1	9	—	1	8	20	2	—	1
Lodmoor	—	2	5	8	—	—	—	6	15	2	—	—
Arne	—	1	—	1	5	1	10	17	14	14	—	—
SE Poole Harbour	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	15	—	1
Christchurch Harbour	—	—	—	3	2	1	3	6	23	1	—	—

Other Poole Harbour reports included 37 at Russell Quay, Arne on 12 Jul and 10 on 12 Sep, 7 at Swineham on 11 Dec and 5 Lytchett Bay on 17 Oct. Elsewhere, singles at Witchampton on 26 Dec, Sherborne on 12 Apr and Chapmans Pool on 30 Apr and 6 May (2 on 7th), and Canford Heath on 12 Jul. Only 3 autumn records at Portland Bill.

### 169 Knot

Records in the first winter period of 21 in Jan-Feb and 33 in Mar from Brownsea, up to 4 on the beach at Weymouth, 1 at Portland, up to 4 at Rodden Hive, 2 Goathorn and 1 Stanpit. April records: 6 at Arne, 13 at Brownsea, 3 at Rodden Hive and 1 there on 27 Jun; 2 at Ferrybridge in May and Jun; 7 at Arne in May. In autumn up to 25 on Brownsea Sep to Oct, 11 Rodden Hive, 8 Stanpit and 6 Arne. In Nov 1 at Ferrybridge and singles in Dec at Weymouth, Arne and Stanpit.

### 170 Purple Sandpiper

At Hengistbury Head monthly maxima Jan to Apr: 8, 6, 6 and 10, 1 on 29 May and 6 in later part of year; at Portland Bill maxima Jan to May 23, 12, 22, 24 and 21; 1 there on 11 Jul, rising to 19 in Nov and 22 in Dec. Up to 3 at the Nothe in Feb and Dec; 3 at Balaclava Bay, Portland on 25 Oct. Singles at Dancing Ledge in Apr, St Aldhelms Head in Nov and Kimmeridge in Dec. A new wintering area at Poole Harbour entrance, with 1 in Jan and up to 3 in Dec; 1 at Southborne on 30 Oct.

### 171 Little Stint

In winter, 1 at Stanpit on 31 Jan. Spring records: 1 Stanpit on 30 Apr; 3 Radipole on 4 Jun, 2 on 5th and 1 on 20th; and 1 Ferrybridge on 5 May and 8-9 Jun. July records from Radipole, with 1 on 28th and 29th, and 2 on 30th. Singles at Rodden Hive and Stanpit, also 4 at Brownsea in Aug. Autumn

passage strongest in late Sep: 19 Sep to 26 Oct at Stanpit, with 20 on 25 Sep; 2 at Lodmoor rising to 4 by 2 Oct; 2 at Ferrybridge on 18 Oct and 1 on 27th; 14 reported at Rodden Hive on 26 Sep; at Portland Bill 2 on 23 Sep and 1 on 2 Oct; 1 at N Holes Bay on 15 Sep.

#### **173 Temminck's Stint**

Two in the early morning at Radipole on 31 May (DI,ISR).

#### **176 Pectoral Sandpiper**

Recorded at Sutton Bingham 14 to 21 Sep (many observers), and on Stanpit on 21 Sep (DNS).

#### **178 Dunlin**

The largest Poole Harbour totals in Jan, Feb and Nov since records kept in 1969 (see Table 3). A large roost at Pilots Point reached 3780 in Jan, with 2070 in Feb and 1000 in Dec; at Holton the maximum was 1000 on 23 Mar; 2300 Holes Bay on 13 Nov and 1800 Stoborough on 23 Dec. Maxima on Brownsea Jan-Dec were 800, 700, 550, 130, 25, 2, 15, 110, 50, 30, 34 and 55; at Arne 400, 700, 650, 15, 35, 0, 0, 5, 35, 235, 600 and 1000. A summer-plumaged bird on 21 Dec NE Poole Harbour. Christchurch Harbour had a 3000 maximum in Jan and Feb, and 2000 in Dec, with 300 on 13 May. Ferrybridge maxima of 400 in Feb and 460 in Dec; and 89 at Radipole in Aug; at Rodden Hive at least 450 in Mar, 500 on 25 Jul and 350 in Aug and Dec, the Lodmoor maximum being 100 in Dec. Elsewhere: 2 at Kimmeridge on 19 Nov, 6S over Canford Heath on 6 Oct, 2 in Mar at Sherborne Lake, 1 at Buckhorn Weston in Mar, Jul and Aug; 4 at Sutton Bingham in Jan, 8 in Jul and 3 in Sep; 10 in Mar and 10E on 24 Sep at W. Bexington. At PBO, bird-days in Jan, Apr, May, Aug and Oct were 1, 12, 5, 24 and 81; 2 singles in Jul, but none in Sep.

#### **179 Curlew Sandpiper**

Rather few this year. At Christchurch Harbour 1 on 10 May and 5 on 27 Jul, with 2 there all Aug, up to 4 in Sep and 1 twice in Oct; 1 on Brownsea on 26 Sep. At Rodden Hive 1 on 19 Apr, 6 on 25 Aug, 4 on 7 Sep and 1 on 24 Sep; 1 at Ferrybridge on 5 Sep and 1 there and at Radipole on 30 Aug.

#### **181 Sanderling**

In the first winter period up to 2 at Christchurch in Jan, 14 on 8 Feb and 2 on 20 Mar; 1 on Studland Beach on 22 Jan and 1 on 15 Feb; 3 on Weymouth Beach on 31 Jan and 1 in early Feb. In the second winter period 31 at Rodden Hive on 29 Dec, up to 3 at Ferrybridge end of Dec, and 1 Studland Beach in Dec. Spring passage at Christchurch included 50E on 21 Apr and 29W on 22 May; at Arne 47 plus 16 at Patchins Point on 18 May, 6 on 25 May and 1 on 28th; on Studland Beach 5 on 17 May, up to 12 Brownsea in May; passage at Ferrybridge 3 Apr-25 May with up to 16 there and 2 on 29 May at Portland Bill. Jun records: 8E Fleet on 12th, 2 Portland on 13th. July records: 7 Studland on 23rd, and 2 on 8th and 6 on 22nd at Ferrybridge. The autumn maximum at Stanpit was 14; 2 on Studland Beach on 12 Sep and 1 at Ferrybridge on 5 Nov.

#### **184 Ruff**

Unprecedented numbers in February. First noted on 30 Jan at Burton, Christchurch but generally on 31st when 8 at Christchurch, 13 Weymouth beach, 6 Radipole, 3 Ferrybridge, 15 Lodmoor and 6 Portland Bill. Detailed numbers for the large Weymouth beach/Radipole evening roost suggest influxes on several days, peaking at 220 on 27 Feb and 232 on 1 Mar and finally 150 on 10th; the Lodmoor peak in Feb was only 10, but 150 there on 6 Mar. In the Stoborough/Bestwall Wareham marshes a large flock peaked at 186 on 24 Feb, with 134 on 29th. Other Feb-Mar maxima were 16 at the Fleet bridging camp; 7 at Rodden Hive; 28 W. Bexington on 10 Feb; 2 at Merley on 7 and 8 Feb; 61 at Burton on 4 Mar, where some present until 24 Mar; 3 Christchurch Harbour, 5 at Marnhull and 3 at Sherborne Lake in Mar. On 17 Jul 1 at Lodmoor. Maxima in Aug and Sep were respectively 1, 1 Radipole; 2, 20 Lodmoor; 0, 2 Portland; 0, 2 Holes Bay; 1, 1 Brownsea; 3, 0 Wareham; and 3, 36 Christchurch Harbour: 10 there in Oct. Other October records: 7 at Weymouth, 4 at Lodmoor and 1 at Portland Bill. In December up to 14 at Radipole, 1 at Lodmoor, 23 at Wareham on 23 Dec and 1 near Christchurch.

#### **185 Avocet**

Last December's 6 present on Brownsea stayed until 15 Jan; numbers there declined until 2 Feb, then 7 on 8 Feb and 8 on 23-25 Feb and 7 until 1 Mar with display and mating on 27 Feb. Up to 9 during 11-16 Mar then numbers declined to 1 on 31 Mar. On 1 Feb, when 2 more arrived on Brownsea, singles arrived at Stanpit and at 8 a.m. at Radipole, where 2 present 2-24 Feb. On 6 Sep 1 on Turlin Moor, Lytchett Bay. One on Brownsea on 28 Nov and 2 on 10 and 20 Dec, but presumably very high water levels unattractive; 1 on Lodmoor on 20 Dec and 1 flying west near Langton Herring on 29 Dec.

#### **187 Grey Phalarope**

Singles at Radipole on 12 and 13 Jan, Stanpit on 6 May, 2 at Chapmans Pool on 15 Oct, 1 at Portland Bill 25-26 Oct and on Lodmoor on 1 Nov.

#### **189 Stone Curlew**

In the eastern section of the County a vigorous survey yielded 1 pair definitely breeding and 3 possibles; 1 seen in central Dorset on 15 May.

#### **194 Great Skua**

One W over the Chesil on 9 Jan. First recorded at PBO on 4 Apr with 20E in spring, max 9 on 13 Apr, and 3 summer birds; also 1 on 11 May at Christchurch. During Aug at PBO there was 1 on 14 Aug, 5+ 21-24 Aug, 2 on 29 Aug, then 9 bird days in Sep and 13 in Oct (see Table 1). Singles were seen from Chesil Cove 26 Sep and 9 Oct, and from Bournemouth 23 Oct.

### 195 Pomarine Skua

PBO recorded 16E 18 Apr-31 May, singles on 10 and 11 Jun, and in autumn 1 on 25 Sep, 10 during Oct, and the last on 2 Nov. Elsewhere, on 2 May 3 off Chesil Cove and 2 at St. Aldhelm's Head, on 15 May one at Langton Herring and 2 or 3 off the Chesil with 2 again on 22 May. Off Hengistbury Head there were singles on 28 Apr, 3, 5 and 7 May, 19 Jun, 22 Sep and 2 on 24 Dec.

### 193 Arctic Skua

The first off PBO was on 10 Apr, followed by 85 mainly E during spring, max 10 on 11 May, then 11 records in Jun and 2 singles in Jul. In autumn PBO had 55 mainly W with 10 on 11 Sep. Elsewhere Chesil Cove had 8 SW on 2 May and singles in May, Jun and Sep. W. Bexington had 7E between 28 Oct and 15 Nov, while Hengistbury Head had 8 birds in May, 11 in Sep and 5 on 2 Oct. At Lodmoor a dark-phase bird was seen on 23 Oct. Unidentified skuas at PBO, probably mainly Arctic, involved 15E in spring, 1 in Jun, and 19 in autumn.

### 196 Long-tailed Skua

An adult was watched for an hour at Grove Point, Portland, on 13 Sep (FRC, BC) (Submitted to RBC as how required).

### 198 Great Black-backed Gull

Though recorded throughout the year Purbeck held at most one breeding pair. Larger counts at PBO were 30 in Jan, 22 imm. in Jul, 96 on 15 Aug and over 100 on 2 Nov; while Lodmoor had c.140 on 23 Oct, and Portland breakwater had c.210 on 11 Jan and over 200 on 20 Oct. Max counts at Radipole always coincided with rough weather at sea: monthly totals Aug 60, Sept 40, Oct c.60, Nov 80, Dec 180. Absent during the breeding season though otherwise numerous at Christchurch Harbour, max 225 on 23 Oct.

### 199 Lesser Black-backed Gull

A pair present at the Verne 21 Mar to 4 Jul were thought to have laid eggs but deserted during the intense heat in Jun. Recorded in every month at PBO, more in Apr and Aug-Oct, over 50 on 10 Oct. At Radipole max counts were 48 in Mar and 60 in Sep, with very few Apr-Jul. Unusually scarce in Christchurch Harbour. Singles and small numbers also noted at or near to the coast elsewhere in east Dorset but no reports from the west.

### 200 Herring Gull

No breeding census at Portland, but eggs were seen by 10 May, and likewise Purbeck was not counted but Winspit had 12 nests on 23 May and Gad cliff at least 15 nests on 7 Jun; also many young were raised from numerous nests on a factory roof at Wyke Regis. No counts from CHOG this year, but roosting flights at Radipole reached nearly 5000 in Dec and other large counts include 340 on 15 Feb and 422 on 14 Mar in Studland Bay, up to 200 roosting on burnt heath at Studland Apr-Jun, 350 storm-driven at PBO on 11 May, over 500 on the Chesil May-Jul, 270 at Radipole on 17 Aug and 1200 at Holes Bay on 11 Dec.

A yellow-legged bird was at PBO on 16 Apr and a young bird marked with orange dye and a green ring at Shell Bay on 17 Oct. A dead bird on Littlesea on 22 Jun had been ringed in the nest on Brownsea in 1968. Adults foot-paddling on wet grass was twice recorded, also birds picking small flies from car roofs in May at PBO, and one pecking at its reflection in a hub cap.

### 201 Common Gull

Easily the biggest count was 20,000 roosting birds at W. Bexington on 22 Mar. Recorded throughout the year at PBO with 220 on 31 Jan, a total spring passage of 436 Apr-May, and a small autumn passage apart from 150 on 30 Nov. 1000 flew SE over Ferrybridge on 28 Apr but easily the biggest monthly total at Radipole was 700 in Nov. Further east, St. Aldhelm's Head had 109E on 30 Apr including only 5 adults; 150 on Studland beach on 3 Feb; also CHOG max were 65E on 31 Jan, 54E on 28 Apr and 150 on 29 Dec. Sizeable autumn and winter parties inland were noted at Bucknowle, Canford Heath and Merley.

### 202 Glaucous Gull

At PBO a second year bird appeared on 27 Mar and singles on 10 and 17 Apr which may have been the same as the second year bird at Ferrybridge on 14 Apr. Likewise adults at PBO on 11 and 24 Sep may well have been the same individual.

### 203 Iceland Gull

One at Christchurch on 27 Jul. The record has been vetted by the CHOG panel for unusual birds.

### 205 Mediterranean Gull

Two second year birds in full hoods at PBO on 16 Apr, a second year on 3 May, a first year on 1 Jul, a second year on 1 Aug and an adult feeding off the Bill on 28-29 and 31 Oct. In the Radipole/Weymouth beach/Ferrybridge area the monthly totals were: Jan 3+, Feb at least 6, Mar 2 or 3, Apr 9, Jun 1, Jul 1, a first year and adult in early Aug, Oct 2, Nov 3+, Dec 4: the figures should perhaps be larger but it is difficult to assess how many individuals are involved, though DJF is preparing a paper on the subject. CHOG records for Christchurch Harbour and Hengistbury Head are 1 on 4 and 10 Jan, 1 on 16 Apr, 2W on 20 Apr, 1E on 21 and 28 Apr, 1 on 13 May, 1E on 11 Jul, 1 on 12 and 30 Jul, 1E on 27 Aug, 1W on 9 Sep and 1W on 2 Oct. Finally Poole Harbour had one on 20 Apr and there was one at W. Bexington in Dec.

### — Ring-billed Gull

At Radipole Lake 1 on 4 Feb and a sub-adult on 29 Apr (both accepted by RBC). These constitute the first and second records for Dorset of this American vagrant.

### **207 Little Gull**

Monthly totals for Portland Harbour/Ferrybridge/Chesil are: Jan 2 adults and 1 imm., Feb 2 and 1 imm., Mar 4 and 1 imm., Apr 1, May 3 imm., and at least 6 different birds from 25 Jul to late Dec. Likewise Radipole had 1 or 2 for Feb-Apr, an imm. in Jun, 6 Jul dates with 2 on 30 Jul, 2 and 1 imm. in Aug, 2 on 4 dates in Sep, 2 in Oct and a sub-adult in Nov; also there were 2 in mid-Fleet 10 Apr, 3 imm. at Langton Herring 23 May, 4 off-shore on 23 Oct and 1E on 16 Dec at W. Bexington. PBO had 8 in May with 4E on 1 May, also 22 bird days in Oct with 6E on 2 Oct. Further east Littlesea had records for May, Jul-Oct, and 8 were in Poole Harbour on 8 Jun, followed by an adult at Holes Bay on 15 Oct and an imm. at South Haven on 17 Oct. Finally at Christchurch CHOG had 1 in Feb, 2 in Apr, 6 on 6 May, an adult in Aug, 1 throughout Sep but 2 on 4 Sep, and 3 on 17 Oct.

### **208 Black-headed Gull**

Breeding at PBO with the first juv on 2 Jul, at Brownsea with 13 pairs, and the 400 pairs at Wood Bar were again pillaged by the blue polythene bucket gang on 19 May though a small number of juvs were seen in Aug. 1080 were counted in Holes Bay on 17 Jan, 4000 at W. Bexington on 22 Mar, 1200 on R. Stour floods near Merley on 16 Oct and at least 10000 between Canford Bridge and Eyebridge, 1900 at Merley on 2 Dec. At Radipole this is the commonest species in winter roosting flights, but the highest monthly total for the Lake itself was 6800 in Nov. No figures from CHOG. A bird marked by dye and coloured rings may have come from the London reservoirs.

### **209 Sabine's Gull**

An immature at sea off Hengistbury Head on 25 Apr has been accepted by the CHOG panel for less usual species.

### **211 Kittiwake**

The hot summer produced a poor breeding result at PBO and probably elsewhere with many young dying on the nests. 203 nests were counted on 11 Jun in 3 colonies between Durlston Head and St. Aldhelm's Head. First ashore at PBO on 29 Feb, then spring passage 508E Mar-May, and in autumn 842E and 635W with peak 243E on 2 Oct. Also 160 on 15 May off the Chesil and a similar number flying E off W. Bexington in May-Jun. CHOG had a few May, Jun, Oct, Dec.

### **212 Black Tern**

The first record was 2 at Langton Herring on 25 Apr; then 1 next day at Hengistbury Head and 2E on 28 Apr; 5E at Chesil Cove 7 May; at PBO 3E 5 May and 2 on 9 May. In autumn the first at Radipole on 29 Jul with several there in Sep, including 7 on 27 Sep, and up to 5 1-12 Oct; PBO had singles on 26 Aug, 24 Sep, 1 Oct and 2 on 13 Sep, 2 Oct; 1 off Abbotsbury 22 Oct; and at Lodmoor 15+ during severe gale on 14 Oct. Further east 7 at Kimmeridge 9-11 Oct and 2 on 16 Oct; at Peveril 2 on 26 Sep, 4 on 2 Oct and 7 on 3 Oct; 3 on 6 Oct at Swanage and 1 at South Haven 17 Oct; 4 on 22 Sep at Littlesea and 1 on 3 Oct; 10+ at Arne on 22 Sep and 2 on 26 Sep; finally CHOG had 10 bird days in Sep, max 6 on 2 Sep, and 3 for 12-18 Oct and singles on 3 dates up to 28 Oct.

### **213 White-winged Black Tern**

One in full summer plumage at Radipole Lake on 23 May (accepted by RBC) and 2 other records probably involving the same bird. An imm. on the R. Avon near Burton and Winton 9-11 Oct and later in Christchurch Harbour 16 Oct to the end of the month (accepted by RBC).

### **215 Gull-billed Tern**

One at Lodmoor on 27 Apr and 1, possibly 2, passed PBO on 12 May (both accepted by RBC).

### **217 Common Tern**

55 pairs nested on Brownsea lagoon and a max of 69 chicks were counted on 9 Jul; about 80 pairs bred on the Chesil beach but the success rate is not known, though many young were being fed by parent birds at Radipole from late Jun having probably come from the Chesil. 5 pairs (one displaying) on the R. Stour near Merley in May. The first passage bird was at Stanpit on 14 Apr and clearly identified at PBO on 19 Apr, where 327 were identified during the year up to 20 Oct. Also 30 at Poole Harbour entrance on 11 Sep.

The first undifferentiated Common/Arctic tern was at PBO on 11 Apr, and spring passage totalled 908 mainly E, max 477E on 5 May on which day 291 passed W. Bexington, but CHOG report a poor passage, the best days being 48E on 22 Apr, 33 on 5 May. In autumn PBO had 477 mainly W Aug-Oct with peaks 96 on 22 Sep and 57 on 6 Oct, while CHOG had 46 on 31 Jul, max 150 in Christchurch Harbour 30-31 Aug, 550W 31 Aug, 100+ on 8 dates in Sep, 297W on 22 Sep.

### **218 Arctic Tern**

Three identified at Ferrybridge on 22 Apr, and the first of only 6 at PBO on 30 Apr, the last being on 18 Sep. 6 probables at Langton Herring on 25 Apr; 1 off the Chesil on 19 Jun, but no evidence of breeding this year; 2 at Lodmoor 17 Jun; and at Radipole 1 on 20 Jul, 2 on 10 Aug and 1 on 4 Sep. There is a good description of a very late bird at the Nothe, Weymouth, on 20 Dec, which may be the same bird as one reported as Common/Arctic at Lodmoor on 23 Dec. In the east of the County, 1 was identified with Common Terns on the Stour on 13 May, and 1 at Bournemouth west cliff on 9 Oct.

### **219 Roseate Tern**

At Christchurch Harbour and Hengistbury Head 2E 27 Apr, 8E 23 May, 1 on 13 Jun, 2 on 19 Jun, 2 on 12 Aug. A possible at Brownsea on 2 May. At W. Bexington 6 fishing inshore on 23 Jun.

### **222 Little Tern**

47 pairs bred on the Chesil beach with unknown success but there were some young at Ferrybridge in Aug-Sep; also at Abbotsbury where 1 pair had been seen scraping on the Car Park on 7 May! First arrivals were 2 on 13 Apr in Portland Harbour and 2 at Arne on 15 Apr where only 2 were seen later

during May; PBO also had few records, singles only on 3 dates in May, 4 on 28 Aug and one on 3 and 9 Oct. Small numbers were recorded at Lodmoor and Ferrybridge including 25 on 27 Apr. Further east Brownsea had a few records but CHOG had more with peaks 63 on 3 May, 45 on 22 May, and max 63 in Christchurch Harbour on 1 Aug.

### **223 Sandwich Tern**

On Brownsea lagoon 53 pairs reared at least 76 young, and 17 clutches held 2 eggs, and 1 held 3 eggs. First recorded at Arne and Studland Bay on 14 Mar; PBO had daily passage from 9 Apr with 165 mainly E Apr-May; CHOG had a few in Apr but 189W in May; at Arne the max was 11 on 17 and 22 Apr; 20+ at Langton Herring 25 Apr; odd birds at Lodmoor 27 Apr-29 May; and 2 fishing 6 km up the R. Avon on 25 Apr. The autumn passage was mainly W at PBO with peaks 50 on 11 Sep and 491 on 1 Nov, and CHOG totals were 430W in Jul, 556 in Aug, 80 in Sep. 2 at Sutton Bingham on 28 Jul. One claimed for Weymouth beach on 11 Dec was not described so might perhaps have been the late Arctic Tern?

### **224 Razorbill**

Ten inshore at PBO on 10 Feb, max 14 in Mar, and perhaps 12 pairs bred leaving the cliffs by 17 Jul. 3 or 4 pairs at Tilly Whim on 19 Apr but only 14 birds counted between Durlston Head and St. Aldhelm's Head on 11 Jun. Portland Harbour held 22+ in Oct, 14+ in Nov and 35 (over 15 on one date) in Dec; and small numbers were reported in winter at Studland Bay, Poole Harbour, the Chesil, Ferrybridge and W. Bexington where 4 were found dead. Passage at Christchurch involved 57 bird days in May, 26E on 29 May, 11 in Jul, and 1-4 until late Dec. See also under Guillemot.

### **226 Little Auk**

One flew west at Portland Bill on 3 Jan, and there is a disputed record for the early date of 11 Sep.

### **227 Guillemot**

Recorded in every month at PBO with 30 inshore on 4 Jan, 50 on 29 Feb, but the breeding colonies on the West cliff were not accurately counted; eggs were seen on 14 May but the hot summer had an adverse effect on young birds with few fledged and the ledges deserted by 26 Jul. The max autumn count at PBO was 16 on 7 Nov. At Tilly Whim *c.* 50 on 19 Apr, and a count on 11 Jun totalled 509 birds including 7 bridled between Durlston Head and St. Aldhelm's Head. There are a few other coastal records including 2 dead at W. Bexington, but only 5 from CHOG including 2W at Hengistbury Head on 20 Nov.

There were lower numbers of undifferentiated auks than usual at PBO with few Jan-Mar apart from 30 on 1 Feb, and in autumn 473E and 149W max 92 on 30 Oct, and a peak winter count of 162E on 31 Dec. At least 40 offshore at W. Bexington on 20 Nov, and CHOG had 1 in Jan-Feb, 6E on 16 Apr, 4 on 22 May and only 11 subsequent records.

### **230 Puffin**

Probably only 2 breeding pairs at PBO, success unknown. Mating pairs seen off the Purbeck coast in Apr and May, and a total count of 23 birds between Durlston Head and St. Aldhelm's Head on 11 Jun plus a further pair feeding young on 27 Jun. First recorded at PBO on 5 Mar, 7 together on 20 Apr, 30W on 12 May, but only 2 in Sep and 1 in Oct. 1W at Hengistbury Head in Apr.

### **232 Stock Dove**

This species seems to be increasing, with more breeding reports from Arne, Hyde Heath, Briantspuddle, Corfe Mullen, Morden Park, Compton Valence, Long Bredy and Portland. Flocks at PBO reached max 420 in Oct, and inland flocks sometimes numbered 30-50. At W. Bexington birds were seen to drink from the sea as in former years. Some passage at PBO mid-Apr and late Oct.

### **234 Woodpigeon**

This very common species is reported mainly when seen in large flocks: 1000s on brassica crops in icy conditions at Compton Valence on 3 Feb; 1400 at W. Bexington on 31 Oct; 800 flew out at PBO on 1 Nov; 680 at Merley in Dec; and 100-300 at Arne, Swanage, East Stoke and Langton Herring. *c.* 18 pairs bred at Radipole Lake, but other breeding reports give no impression of density.

### **235 Turtle Dove**

Fleeting reports from the coast and inland from 20 observers suggest that this species is declining in Dorset. Absent from the Handley-Woodyates area. However pairs were seen in the breeding season at Canford Heath, Gussage All Saints, Briantspuddle, Farnham, Blagdon Farm, and in the west at Chedington woods. In autumn PBO had a max count of 140 on 27 Sep, CHOG reported 40 on 22 Sep, and W. Bexington had 22 on 22 Oct. First date, 20 Apr; last date, 1 Nov, both at PBO. (see also Table 2).

### **— Collared Dove**

Only 12 reports sent in giving a poor idea of the distribution of this ubiquitous species, though there are suggestions of decrease in some parts but increase in the west. Breeding reported from Dorchester, West Parley and Hurn, Corfe Mullen, Woodyates area, Morden, and W. Bexington, which is perhaps a fair sample; also at Burton Bradstock where magpies devour many of the eggs. Maximum flocks of 120 were at PBO in Apr and Nov, 118 at W. Bexington on 20 Sep, and 112 at a roost near Bagber on 16 Nov.

### **237 Cuckoo**

Several first appearances were on 13 Apr, with the majority for 18-21 Apr. Juveniles were seen at Studland Heath (fed by Reed Bunting), East Burton, Kingston Maurward and Portland. 5 pairs seen around Briantspuddle and 3 males calling at Arne, also 4 birds together at Powerstock Common on 28 Apr. A roadside casualty at Cheselbourne. Widespread other sightings, the last at Stanpit on 5 Sep.

#### **241 Barn Owl**

38 observers' reports show that this species is again well distributed and established in Dorset. Breeding confirmed in Purbeck (2 nests), Bucknowle, Hilton and Highstoy. Breeding sites in dead trees which have been felled have now gone, and disturbance in barns, where the drought necessitated much movement of fodder, has made birds look elsewhere for suitable sites. Interesting reports describe one attacking a dummy in an aviary, and another picking up a fishing-line weight perhaps in mistake for a mouse!

#### **246 Little Owl**

24 observers sent in reports of single birds indicating an improved distribution throughout the County, with breeding confirmed at PBO (2), Hurn, West Parley and Morden, and probable at Herbury Gore, Grove area Portland, Sixpenny Handley, Bagber and Bucknowle.

#### **247 Tawny Owl**

Scattered reports from 16 observers suggest that this species is statically distributed, and these are backed up by details of 8 breeding pairs with nests, eggs or young. Arne NR had probably 3 pairs. 4 birds together at Radipole on 31 Aug was unusual. One road casualty reported from Sandford.

#### **248 Long-eared Owl**

Six birds, 5 of which were caught and ringed, were seen by 2 observers at Marnhull Hame in Feb and Mar. 3 were seen roosting together in small bushes at Wootton Fitzpaine on 11 Jan, where they stayed for 10 days. Singles were also seen at Wick Hams on 14 Feb, on the coast road between Bridport and Weymouth on 17 Mar, and on Lodmoor on 10 May.

#### **249 Short-eared Owl**

More numerous this year with 20 yellow forms sent in. PBO had one on 3 dates in Apr, 1 in Aug, 2 in Sep, and max 3 in Oct, and central Portland had singles in Oct and Nov, while the County Museum received a corpse from Portland also. CHOG report singles in Apr, Oct and Nov. Arne had singles on 7 Feb and 11 Apr. At Lodmoor one was present on 3 dates late Mar-9 Apr, again in late Sep, and again 31 Oct-14 Nov. Others: Radipole 5 Sep; Ferrybridge 22 Apr and 6 Nov; Langton Herring 29 Aug; W. Bexington 26 Apr; Charmouth 13 Apr; near Evershot 16 Apr; Brownsea 15, 17 Apr; Studland 7 Feb and 11 Apr; Chamberlayne's Heath 21 Feb; and Turnerspuddle Heath 8 May.

#### **252 Nightjar**

First heard on Canford Heath, 13 May, and Thorncombe Heath, 14 May, but arrivals were generally late. The only confirmed breeding concerns a chick in a nest on Brownsea Island, but singing males held territories on most heathland areas in the east and in a few places in the west: Arne (8), Sherford Bridge (5), Upton Heath (3), Turnerspuddle Heath (3), Rempstone (5), Broadstone, Canford Heath, Stoney Down, Uddens, Wareham Forest, Puddletown Forest, Povington Heath, Thorncombe (3), but absent from Charmouth Forest. One was singing at Sandford on 15 Aug, and the last seen was near Wimborne on 28 Aug. PBO had singles on 22 May, 17 Jun and 4 Aug.

#### **255 Swift**

Early birds were at Radipole on 23 Apr and PBO on 24 Apr, but most arrived in early May when daily totals at Radipole 6-10 May were between 1000 and 5000. Breeding was reported at Brianspuddle, Burton Bradstock, Long Bredy, Lytchett Minster, in old terraced roofs at Lower Parkstone, and at Sturminster Newton. Departures were much as usual, with c.1500 on three Jul dates at Radipole, 500 at Langton Herring on 18 Jul, and 3000 at Christchurch on 3 Aug. In addition to several Sep records and two for 2 Oct, there was one near Blandford on 14 Oct and one at PBO on 30 Oct. A partial albino was at Radipole on 16 May. See also Table 2.

#### **258 Kingfisher**

No less than 35 report forms were sent in this year, suggesting that this bird has been more conspicuous and is increasing in numbers despite the drought. Breeding only reported from West Parley, Brianspuddle, Corfe Mullen and Frampton, but there are many sightings from the Stour, Frome and Piddle valleys, and also less usually from the Lydden, the Moors river and the Gussage stream, but many of these were in autumn. 14 were ringed at Radipole in autumn. Coastal reports are also frequent in winter, and 6 at Swineham Point on 17 Oct is noteworthy. An injured bird with a dislocated beak picked up at Poole Harbour was taken to the Animal Sactuary at Church Knowle.

#### **259 Bee-eater**

On 11 May PBO had its second record, a probable female perched on wires near Portland Bill (accepted by RBC).

#### **261 Hoopoe**

A bird on a bird-table at Thorncombe on 24 Jan may have escaped from Cricket St. Thomas. One was present around Hurn Court in late Mar; one arrived from the sea at Christchurch on 19 Apr, and perhaps the same bird was at West Parley on 25 Apr. One at Holworth on 21 Apr. Perhaps the same bird at Weston, Portland, 9 May, at PBO on 13 May and at the Verne on 20 May. None at all in late summer or autumn.

#### **262 Green Woodpecker**

Good breeding reports involving at least seventeen pairs, mostly with young, were received from many parts of the County, particularly heathland and parks, so perhaps the species is increasing. PBO had only one, on 22 Aug, but others were seen elsewhere on Portland.

#### **263 Great Spotted Woodpecker**

We have reports of at least 11 pairs breeding, mainly in the SE of the County, and it is said to be widespread in the NE. However reports from the west are very few and more information would be

welcome. No evidence of migration, but one at W. Bexington on 15 Aug was the first there since 1971. 5 were seen together at Ower in Nov.

#### **264 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

Pairs were seen in the breeding season at Brownsea, Hammoon (2), Bucknowle, and Sherborne Lake where there was competition between both species of spotted woodpecker; and at Lytchett Bay 2 adults with 4 juvs were seen in Jul. There were 10 other sightings of single birds in the east and 2 in the north, but no news from the west of Dorset.

#### **265 Wryneck**

This was a good year for records, especially in autumn. The only spring birds were at PBO 22-27 Apr and Christchurch 11-12 Apr. PBO had at least 8 from 19 Aug, including 2 on 28 Aug and an exceptionally late bird on 29 Oct. CPRS had 3 at Chapmans Pool, of which 2 were caught and ringed, on 27 Aug and 8-24 Sep. Singles were at Bexington on 29 Aug, 18 and 20 Sep; a very tame bird at Compton Abbas on 29 Aug; Puddletown 29 Aug; Lodmoor 2 Sep; Bridport 7 and 14 Sep; Long Bredy 7 Sep; central Portland 17 and 19 Sep; Arne 26 Sep. Dead birds were found in Bournemouth, near Wimborne and at East Burton.

#### **271 Woodlark**

Not a good year apart from Canford Heath where 3 or 4 pairs bred and Holton Heath where 1 pair probably bred. Singing males were heard on Chamberlaynes and Turnerspuddle Heaths in spring, and one or more were seen near Morden in Jun. Winter wanderers were at West Hurn on 21 Jan, and 17 together on the new by-pass north of Holes Bay in Dec. There are two Apr records of 2 from CHOG, and one at Arne on 13 Apr.

#### **272 Skylark**

An under-reported species: breeding records only from Canford Heath, W. Bexington, Burton Bradstock, and Corfe Mullen river meadows. Resident at PBO with winter flocks max 400 in Nov, and other large counts were 100 at Compton Valence in Jan and 200 at Marnhull Hame in Oct. Odd birds around Radipole in late Jul were perhaps driven by the drought to seek new feeding areas.

#### **274 Swallow**

First on 28 Mar at Woodsford and 29 Mar over Canford Heath, but main arrivals began in the first week of Apr and continued until late May. PBO recorded 300 on 8 and 22 May (see Table 2). Only 11 breeding areas have been reported. Autumn flocks of over 1000 were seen at PBO, Arne, Christchurch Harbour, Lodmoor, Ferrybridge, and at Radipole Lake where the peak was c.7000 at the roost on 18 Sep. Late birds: Radipole 14 Nov, Dorchester 16 Nov, PBO 18 Nov. A freak speckled juv was seen at Bagber in Aug; and on 16 Aug over 100 were walking with Sand Martins on Stubble, apparently feeding.

#### **276 House Martin**

First seen at PBO on 7 Apr, with the majority arriving later that month; peak passage at Radipole Lake was c.2000 on 12 May (see also Table 2). Breeding reported from Throop Mill, Bournemouth (60 pairs), Parley Cross, Bockhampton, West Stafford, Dorchester, Compton Valence, and Hammoon where 11 pairs was the most for 20 years. Autumn peak counts included 400 at Christchurch on 3 Aug, 700 at Radipole 3 and 14 Sep, 1200 at W. Bexington 23 Sep, 600 at PBO 10 Oct. The last record was 3 at Wyke Regis on 26 Nov.

#### **277 Sand Martin**

Arrivals reported from 20 Mar onwards to mid-May: More breeding records this year: Povington (c.55 pairs), Canford Heath (2 sites, c.40 and c.100), East Holme (c.20), Cripplestytle (c.8), West Knighton Heath (c.30), Hengistbury Head (12), and several along the R. Avon at Burton. Large flocks of c.2000 in Aug and c.900 in Sep at Radipole and Langton Herring, and c.900 in Jul at Tuckton, while the roost at Christchurch Harbour held 300-500 birds in Aug. The last 3 were at Radipole on 20 Nov. (see also Table 2).

#### **278 Golden Oriole**

DEW describes a female at Southwell, Portland, on 9 May.

#### **279 Raven**

A poor year, with no breeding since the coastal path in Purbeck was opened. The best reports come from W. Bexington, 7 records involving 16 birds, but again no sign of breeding. PBO had 5 sightings, Feb to Apr, and a few were seen in Purbeck, Jan and Sep. Singles inland were at Powerstock in Apr and at Godmanston in May.

#### **280/281 Carrion/Hooded Crow**

The only Hoodie was at PBO on 31 Oct, apart from the local hybrids around Christchurch. Otherwise a well established breeder which seems to be increasing, sometimes in or close to suburban gardens. Max numbers of 21 at PBO in Sep, and 15 on Canford Heath in Oct.

#### **282 Rook**

Following the 1975 B.T.O. Survey which revealed 732 rookeries in Dorset, total 16427 nests; a further survey contributed to by some 35 observers and organised by Dr. R. Stanford took place in 1976 to give 581 rookeries and 15403 nests, covering 650000 acres. As the coverage was somewhat reduced the conclusion seems to be that the loss of elm trees has not yet had any marked effect, though some rookeries have expanded while new ones have been formed. Individual reports confirm this impression, and also contain some details of roosting movements, e.g. 1023W over Merley on 29 Sep. PBO noted small immigration in Apr and emigration in autumn.

**283 Jackdaw**

Few reports received but some of these indicate extensive breeding both on the coast and inland, for example 50 birds at Gad Cliff. A flock of 350 was at Southwell, Portland, in late Jul, and PBO noted a small emigration in Oct.

**284 Magpie**

This species is a numerous and widespread breeder, causing havoc amongst shrub and tree nesters and endangering some small birds. There are several reports of 16 or more together, and 28 in Christchurch Harbour in Mar; however PBO had singles only on 3 dates.

**286 Jay**

Few reports sent in but these indicate no change in status — fortunately not nearly as numerous as the Magpie, though Arne NR report 10 breeding pairs. PBO had 3 sightings, all in May, the first since 1973; only one seen at Radipole, also in May. In Jan a bird at Bucknowle was watched burying and retrieving acorns.

**288 Great Tit**

Sample breeding records: Studland NR 17 territories in census area (about the same as last year); only 5 nest boxes occupied at Bracketts Copse compared with 10 last year; 10+ pairs at Arne NR (8 last year); at least 6 pairs at N and Central Portland; many young noted at Burton Bradstock; breeding records from a number of other areas. Some evidence of small autumn movement at PBO and Chapmans Pool. At Bagber one roosted Feb-Mar inside a hollow rubber owl on top of a pole in the vegetable garden acting, theoretically, as a pigeon scarer. One feeding with normal birds at Compton Valence in Dec had an extraordinary amount of black on its underparts and breast.

**289 Blue Tit**

Many reports of successful breeding. Sample counts: Studland NR 17 pairs in census area, same as 1975; 21 nest boxes occupied at Bracketts Copse (26 last year); Arne NR show an apparent increase with 21+ pairs located (13+ last year); 20-30 juvs at E. Weare on 11 Jul. Winter parties of c.20 reported in Jan from Ower, Studland NR and Compton Valence. Autumn movements: max of 17 at W. Bexington on 11 Sep; definite increase at Chapmans Pool 28 Aug-8 Sep with max of 27 on 31 Aug and 20 there on 10 Oct; CHOG report an influx from 11-35 on 20 Oct, with a winter population of 26; at PBO max of 11 in Oct.

**290 Coal Tit**

Present in large numbers in the conifer plantations in the Moreton, Bovington and Briantspuddle areas and breeding successfully. Increase reported from Studland NR, including 3 pairs in the census area where none last year. At Arne NR a further increase with 30+ pairs located (13 last year). No spring or autumn movement noted but 1 at St. Aldhelm's Head on 25 Apr (unusual here). 2 of the Continental form at Radipole on 22 Oct.

**292 Marsh Tit**

Breeding reported from Bucknowle; Bracketts Copse — 1 brood in nest box; Briantspuddle area (3 pairs); Kingston Maurward; Arne NR — 6 pairs located (as last year); Studland NR census area — poss. 8 pairs (4 last year). JRC reports nest with at least 6 young in hollow birch stump at side of much used nature trail on Studland Heath. Pair nesting for third year in succession in rotting tree trunk at Bovington Farm. Present throughout the year and probably nesting in Morden Park and in the woods around Broadmayne, and locally in N.E. Dorset. No passage movement noted.

**293 Willow Tit**

No breeding records but birds calling in Mar-Apr at Parley Common, Sherford Bridge, Broadmayne, Bracketts Copse and Corscombe. A party of 4 in woodland near Frampton on 26 Mar. At W. Bexington a family party of 4 on 18 Jul. Present through the year in woods near Hermitage, but not found in N.E. Dorset. Singles reported from a few areas in Jan-Feb. No significant spring or autumn movements noted.

**294 Long-tailed Tit**

Successful breeding reported from a number of well distributed areas throughout the County: no change in census area at Studland NR, with 5 or 6 pairs; at Arne NR also no change with 10+ pairs; a family of eight being fed at Burton Bradstock. One nest torn out by a Jay on Studland Heath. Autumn/Winter flocks and parties reported from East Weares, Verne Common, Bovington Farm (31 on 9 Dec), Briantspuddle (20+ in Dec), Weymouth, Studland Heath, N. Bournemouth, and Southbourne. CHOG report 5 at Stanpit on 18 Oct.

**296 Nuthatch**

At Bracketts Copse 2 broods in nest boxes in Jun but 1 brood died in the box; 4+ pairs breeding at Sherborne Lake; pair at Kingston Maurward in Apr and an adult with 3 juvs at West Stafford in Jun; present through the year in Broadmayne area. At Bucknowle a pair building on 6 Apr in a hole originally excavated by Gt Spotted Woodpeckers but which had been taken over by Starlings for 2 years; Nuthatches feeding young in May and fledged on 9 Jun; on the 20 May the Starlings attempted to re-occupy the hole but were frustrated by narrow entrance and were swooped at by the Nuthatches. Scattered reports over the year from various areas, mostly of singles. Uncommon in N.E. Dorset. No evidence of spring or autumn passage.

**298 Treecreeper**

Breeding: At Studland NR census area no change in status with 5 or 6 territories; pairs in spring at Corfe Mullen, Morden Park and Sherford Bridge; Langton Herring 1 pair; seen with young at East Stoke and at Uploders; common in woodland in the Briantspuddle area and present through the year

in Broadmayne area; widespread, but not common, in N.E. Dorset. Random reports for all seasons from various areas, including 1 near Portland Museum on 16 Oct, but no evidence of any migration movements.

Following the article in "British Birds" for April 1976, reports of Short-toed Treecreepers are suitably guarded: BPP reports from Arne NR "Situation very confused; some spring records were of very brown flanked birds, but most autumn records seemed to be normal type birds." In fact *all* Dorset records of this species since 1970 have now been rejected by the Rare Birds Committee though the decision was border-line in some cases.

### **299 Wren**

Although still reported as a common breeding bird in most areas, Bracketts Copse shows a reduction in territories from 45 last year to 18 in 1976; Arne NR reports a drop in population with a total of possibly *c.* 100 pairs (175+ last year); and at Studland NR, though still the commonest breeding bird, a reduction of 20% was noted this year in the number of territories in the census area; at Burton Bradstock also a 17% reduction in a survey area. On passage movement PBO reports a decrease as shown by the ringing total of 57 against 173 in 1975. At Chapmans Pool autumn figures show 8-10 per day with peak of 20 on 22 Sep, then 15-20 per day until 16 Oct. A December communal roost in thatch is reported from Briantspuddle.

### **295 Bearded Tit**

From Radipole NR the Warden reports "1976 must rank as an outstanding season for this species: 15 pairs bred and *c.* 140 young were fledged; several pairs produced 3 broods." Eruptive behaviour first noted on 17 Sep; by early Nov birds were hard to find and it was thought that there had been quite an exodus, presumably by the juveniles; however by the end of Nov good numbers once again could be seen, the only difference being that pre-Nov it was difficult to see an unringed bird, whereas by the end of Nov there were many unringed birds in the parties. The Ringing Group ringed 101, all but two being juvs; in addition they re-trapped 15 males and 15 females, thereby confirming the breeding census, referred to above. Isolated reports from Lodmoor presumably involve the Radipole birds. Also breeding in an area elsewhere in the County with 5 or 6 pairs (adults carrying food, and young also seen). Movements: In addition to the Warden's report of eruptive behaviour at Radipole, SB reports on 16 Oct there *c.* 40 being very restless, calling, flying up and circling the Lake before returning to the reed beds. On the same date ISR reports the only record of the year at PBO with 7 flying over the Obs area.

### **300 Dipper**

Remains, we hope, extremely under reported. No breeding records for 1976, apart from a pair reported as resident near Uploders, and only a few sightings recorded from Cerne Stream, R. Brit, and R. Frome.

### **301 Mistle Thrush**

Arne NR report an increase to 7 breeding pairs, but only 2 pairs at Studland NR; elsewhere a pair nesting on a laboratory window sill at Holton hatched 3 young; and a pair in a wisteria on a house at Corfe Mullen produced 3 young, and nested again in the same place in May, hatching young in June. Breeding also reported from Compton Valence, Little Bredy, Lodmoor (in Feb), W. Bexington, Parkstone, Bournemouth, Throop, and Cowards Marsh, Christchurch. In late August a large number visited a rowan tree at Corfe Mullen, but otherwise no large autumn or winter flocks reported. PBO report the species as very scarce this year, with 1 in Feb, and 2 and a single in Nov.

### **302 Fieldfare**

No very large flocks reported in the Jan-Mar period, *c.* 200 seems to have been the max seen by most observers. A cold weather movement along the coast produced 85SW on 1 Feb at Hengistbury Head, 70 at PBO on 31 Jan and 242W at W. Bexington on 1 and 2 Feb. Spring passage at PBO from 19 Mar with 39 to 5 May (peak of 14 on 22 Mar), and 1 at N. Portland on 8 May.

First autumn record was an early bird at PBO on 15 Sep, but no more there until 18 Oct, and passage very slight with only 36 in Oct-Nov (max of 14 on 7 Nov); elsewhere singles at Canford Heath 6 Oct and at Chapmans Pool on 16 Oct. First flocks not seen until the end of Oct and in Nov, and general comment is of very low numbers this autumn, possibly due to country-wide prolific berry crop.

### **303 Song Thrush**

Breeding: Studland NR 2 pairs (no change); Bracketts Copse reduction from 9 pairs last year to 5 pairs; W. Bexington, 3 pairs; reports also from Weymouth (nest destroyed and 5 young killed, probably by cat), Dorchester, Bovington Farm, Wool, and Portland. At PBO hard weather brought 40 on 31 Jan and up to 35 in early Feb. Continental birds seen on 20 Mar with 8 records to 29 Apr. Autumn passage at PBO gave total of 750+ from 25 Oct-7 Nov (max of 300 on 29 Oct). 67 Continental birds from 25 Oct-3 Nov. At W. Bexington passage from early Oct, with max of 47 on 31 Oct, including some Continental birds. CHOG records an increase from 10 to 30 on 28 Oct. EDVP reports that a bird caught, ringed, and examined in detail at Chapmans Pool on 13 Oct had all the characteristics of the Continental race (*T. p. philomelos*). There are several comments on the disappearance of this species from gardens during the long hot summer.

### **304 Redwing**

Jan-Mar flocks reported as usual from a number of areas. The cold weather at the end of Jan resulted in some movement: 123 W at W. Bexington on 1-2 Feb; at PBO 10 wintering were increased to 30 on 31 Jan; CHOG report 25NW on 31 Jan and 1 Feb; 25 feeding on rotting fruit, mainly pears, in a Preston garden on 31 Jan. "Hundreds" descended on Burton Bradstock on 1 Feb. A party of 100-200

in "community singing" at Bucknowle on 22 and 23 Feb.

First autumn report is of a small flock at Bucknowle on 2 Oct. At PBO first recorded on 8 Oct, with a total of 724 to 7 Nov (max of 120 on 31 Oct and 300 on 6 Nov). A small roost of *c.* 100 at Radipole NR in early Nov, but up to 750 on the Reserve on 29 Dec (coldweather movement). An almost total albino with white upper and under parts except for red flank streak and head and nape fawn was seen at Merley on 29 Feb.

### **307 Ring Ouzel**

The only arrivals reported are all from Portland, the first being at PBO on 22 Mar, with singles on 23 and 28 Mar; at least 9 recorded there in Apr with 3 on 11th; last seen 30 Apr. At N. Portland 5 recorded from 3 Apr-22 Apr. Autumn records from various places extending from 29 Aug (1 at Chapmans Pool) to 6 Nov (N. Portland), including 1 on 4 Nov at W. Bexington. Peak dates 24 and 25 Oct, when 10 at N. Portland and 4 at PBO.

### **308 Blackbird**

Sample breeding counts: Arne NR 25+ pairs (slight increase); Studland NR 10-12 pairs in census area (about the same as last year; at Radipole NR at least 9 pairs. Early eggs (20-21 Mar) reported from Hammoon and Burton Bradstock. At Bucknowle breeding very unsuccessful, 1 young being fledged from 3 broods by the same pair; by the height of the drought only 1 male in the garden feeding by pursuing flying insects on the lawn; this bird disappeared and none seen there until 14 Oct. Little evidence of spring passage, but considerable autumn movement. Examples: Chapmans Pool 20-30 per day in Aug, Sep and Oct; increase at PBO at end of Oct with max of 300 on 29 Oct and total of 840 in Oct and Nov; CHOG report an increase from 35 to 60 on 14 Sep.

HHC reports an extraordinary occurrence at Burton Bradstock in Sep when an imm. bird was seen to be in difficulty and was found to have a small field vole stuck in its throat; it seemed an impossible task for the bird to swallow this, but it did in fact do so.

### **311 Wheatear**

The only breeding record is of a pair on Canford Heath rearing 3 young. Spring passage: At N. Portland 194 from 21 Mar-8 May; 1 at St. Aldhelm's Head on 21 Mar; a m. had reached Sherborne Lake by 28 Mar; CHOG report very poor passage with a fall of 80 on 9 Apr being the only number above 10; PBO recorded 851 in spring from 18 Mar-8 Jun (max of 100 on 5 May), and in autumn the first there on 2 Aug and then 1898 to 7 Nov when last seen, (see Table 2). Autumn passage at Compton Valence noted as being "heavy and prolonged this year", though CHOG had an even poorer passage than in spring with a max. of 35 on 26 Aug. At W. Bexington passage commenced on 7 Aug; at Langton Herring 65+ recorded from 1 Aug-12 Sep, and at N. Portland 138 from 8 Aug-30 Oct. A late bird seen at Studland car park on 10 Nov. A few Greenland race birds seen at PBO including one on 22 May, and 1 trapped on 13 Oct.

### **317 Stonechat**

From reports received population appears to be on the upward trend and extending its range. Sample breeding counts, or pairs in breeding season: Hengistbury Head (4 pairs); Parley Common (4 pairs); Arne NR (6 or 7 pairs); Studland NR (at least 6 pairs); Radipole NR (3 pairs); Lodmoor (5 pairs); reports from 26 other areas. Again this year successful broods of 4-6 are reported. Spring passage: At PBO max of 22 on 18 Mar, and 85 bird-days in Apr and 83 in May; CHOG report an increase from 5 to 10 on 28 Mar; and CPRS a max of 12 on 4 Apr. Autumn: At Chapmans Pool 20 on 14 Aug, peak of 40 on 29 Aug and dropping to 15 on 31 Aug; PBO had max of 14 on 26 Sep and 30 on 13 Oct; 13 Oct was also the peak count at W. Bexington, with 30; CHOG report an increase rising to 60+ on 9 Oct. Widespread in N.E. Dorset in winter.

### **318 Whinchat**

No reports of breeding. Spring passage: At N. Portland 1 at Verne on 21 Apr and 18 recorded 5-16 May; CHOG report a poor spring with max of 4 on 7 May; on 5 May there was a fall of 25 at the R. Stour valley, Wimborne (exceptional number here); at PBO first on 2 Apr, but no more until 17 Apr then 106 seen with last on 23 May (max 40 on 5 May). In autumn singles at PBO on 10 and 24 Jul but passage from 3 Aug-29 Oct and total of 830 with max 50 on 25 Aug, (see Table 2). Examples of other autumn reports: Long Bredy area, 12 seen on 25 Aug and *c.* 20 in a field on 30 Sep; 6 at Compton Valence on 24 Aug; 6+ at Arne on 26 Aug; 6 at Winspit on 18 Sep; 8 at W. Bexington on 7 Sep; N. Portland, 44 from 20 Aug-16 Oct; CHOG report passage from 24 Jul-4 Oct, with peaks of 12 on 23 Aug, 19 on 26 Aug and 10 on 3 Sep. A late f. at Portland Harbour shore on 13 Nov.

### **320 Redstart**

No breeding records. Spring passage: Noted by CHOG from 9 Apr-7 May (max 3 on 19 Apr); CPRS, 3 on 27 Apr, 1 on 1 May and 2 on 5 May; at N. Portland 32 from 17 Apr-8 May (peak of 14 on 18 Apr); ones and twos noted at several places in Apr and May. At PBO a total of 176 from 6 Apr-9 May (peaks of 35 on 27 Apr and 5 May). In autumn at PBO from 10 Aug with total of 303 until last on 29 Oct, (see Table 2); CHOG recorded passage from 10 Aug-26 Sep with peaks of 5 on 26 Aug and 7 on 13 Sep; at Arne 1-4 on 14 dates in Aug, and last on 14 Oct; at N. Portland 15 from 20 Aug to 13 Oct; CPRS had 12 on 28 Aug then smaller numbers until 14 on 28 Sep; more than ever before in autumn at Compton Valence — unusual here. A m. reported at the Nothe between 4 and 23 Dec; no previous Dec records for this species in Dorset and very few elsewhere.

### **321 Black Redstart**

One to four wintering birds (Jan, Feb and Dec) reported from usual coastal areas from Lyme Regis to Dancing Ledge, but no reports this year from the east of the County. Presumed spring passage

started with singles at W. Bexington on 20 Mar and at Studland NR on 21 Mar; CHOG report singles on 27 and 28 Mar and on 28 Apr; 1 at Brownsea on 16 Apr; 4 recorded at N. Portland 3 Apr-29 May. At PBO passage from 22 Mar with a total of 66 to 22 May (max of 9 on 30 Mar). In autumn singles at PBO on 13 Aug and 11 Sep but passage not until 12 Oct, with 134 to 7 Nov (max of 50 on 25 Oct, decreasing to 12 on 26th and up to 30 on 27th Oct); 1 at Christchurch on 12 Oct and 3 there on 27 Oct; CHOG report 1 on 15 Oct, 4 at Wick Hams on 28 Oct and 1 on 30th; 1-3 at Studland 25-29 Oct; at N. Portland 14 recorded from 13 Oct and at Central Portland 22 from 22 Oct-4 Nov, with max of 8 on 25 Oct; 4 at St. Aldhelm's Head on 31 Oct and singles on 14 and 21 Nov. Only one report from inland: a juv. m. at Corscombe on 26 Oct.

### **322 Nightingale**

Dr. R. Stanford reports the results of the BTO survey: A count of singing males in May totalled 42 birds, mainly in the northern third of the county but a few near the coast, but absence was reported for many regular sites from previous years.

Singing males at Lydlinch (3), Hammoon (2), Chedington woods, Rushmore area, Studland NR (until 7 Jun), Swanage (until 2 Jun), near County boundary at Martin Down, and Hurn Airport (on 16 May). Again not recorded at Bracketts Copse, nor at Delph Wood. One rescued from a fruit cage in a garden at Hammoon on 7 Jul and released. Spring passage: At PBO singles on 22 and 26 Apr and 4 May; 1 at St. Aldhelm's Head 27 Apr, and 1 at Chapmans Pool 11 May; singles at Hengistbury Head on 5 and 22 May. In autumn singles at PBO on 26 Aug and 1 Sep and 2 on 22 Sep; CPRS trapped 1 on 17 Aug; 1 at Herbury Gore on 15 Aug; CHOG report singles on 16 and 31 Aug.

### **325 Robin**

One carrying nesting material at Compton Valence on 23 Jan. Status at Studland NR same as last year (*c.*25 pairs); at Arne NR considerable attention paid to breeding population and at least 65 territories were located. Some spring passage at PBO in Apr, and 15 Continental birds seen from 2 Apr-1 May. Marked autumn passage: CHOG report increase from 6 to 18 on 9 Sep and peaks of 35 on 14 Sep and 45 on 30 Oct; CPRS averaged 8 per day in Aug, and in Sep peaks of 30 on 13th, 40 on 16th, and 30 on 19th and in Oct averaged 10 per day but 15 on 8th and 20 on 9th; at PBO total of 870 from 11 Aug to end Oct, with peaks of 30 on 19 and 25 Sep, 45 on 13 Oct and 50 on 25th.

### **326 Cetti's Warbler**

More records this year. All in autumn except for one possible sight record on Brownsea on 19 Apr (rejected by RBC). Chapmans Pool: 2 trapped on 30 Sep and 1 trapped on 10 Oct, being the first records for the area (accepted by RBC). One on Lodmoor in Oct and Nov, first reported on 26-27 Oct (?not submitted to RBC). On Portland1 in Eight Kings Quarry on 11 Oct was the first record for Portland (accepted by RBC). In the east, near Burton, 1 was present from 31 Oct to the end of the year and was joined by a second bird from 14-17 Nov (accepted by RBC). At Radipole 1 singing 28 Sep-13 Oct, and another between 14 and 20 Nov from a different area of the Reserve (? same bird), then a long period of silence until heard on 31 Dec in the same area as the Nov record, (accepted by RBC at any rate for 4 Oct to 2 Nov).

### **327 Grasshopper Warbler**

No proved breeding but singing males heard in several places in late Apr, May and Jun — e.g. W. Bexington, Lodmoor, Radipole (at least 2), Povington Hill, Tyneham, Wareham area, nr Hermitage, nr Cranborne, Hammoon area, Lydlinch, Ferndown and Lytchett. In a number of these places more than 1 bird was heard and it does seem that the County population may be recovering to some degree, though only small spring and autumn passages noted at PBO, Chapmans Pool and Hengistbury Head. First recorded was on 13 Apr at Southwell, and the last in autumn on 2 Oct at PBO.

### **333 Reed Warbler**

Breeding reported from Cogden Mere; W. Bexington (*c.*6 pairs); Louds Mill (Dorchester); East Burton (6 pairs); Lodmoor (15 pairs); Lytchett Bay (10-20 pairs); Holton (10+ pairs); Arne NR (increase to 35+ pairs); Studland NR (decrease to *c.*5 pairs); R. Stour valley-Merley (5 pairs), Wimborne (14 pairs in area where 17 pairs last year). At Radipole NR perhaps 200 pairs; the Ringing Group ringed 176 new adults, 751 new juvs and re-trapped 170 adults and 621 juvs. Amongst the "controls" was a f. breeding here with a French ring. Spring and autumn passage: Arrivals reported by CHOG on 21 Apr; at Studland NR on 5 May; at Louds Mill on 4 May. At PBO passage from 20 Apr-10 Jun with max of 10 on 5 May, and in autumn from 8 Aug-25 Oct (see Table 2). Ones and twos from Aug-Oct reported from Chapmans Pool, Radipole, Lodmoor and Littlesea. A good autumn passage at Hengistbury Head with max of 60 on 29 Jul and 20 on 7 Aug.

### **334 Marsh Warbler**

PBO: 1, possibly 2, singing in Top Fields on 27 May, and 1 seen well in Obs. Quarry on 2 Jun — first spring records for area since 1960.

### **337 Sedge Warbler**

Breeding: Radipole NR, between 55 and 70 pairs; W. Bexington (prob 2 pairs); Langton Herring (3+ pairs); East Fleet; Lodmoor (10 pairs); Studland NR (poss 2 pairs in census area where none last year); R. Frome valley, 7 pairs from E. Burton to Wool and 8 pairs from Dorchester to Lower Bockhampton; R. Stour valley, 22 pairs Merley, 32 pairs Wimborne area where *c.*31 pairs last year; 12+ birds in reeds near Iford Lane, Southbourne on 10 Jul; 1 bred Cranborne cress-beds. Singing males also reported from Milton Abbey Sherford Bridge and Bucknowle.

Spring and autumn passage: an early record of 1 at Sherborne Lake on 2 Apr; first at Stanpit and Studland NR on 16 Apr, at W. Bexington on 18 Apr, and at N. Portland 6 recorded from 18 Apr-6

May. At PBO from 17 Apr-2 Jun with total of 91 (max 60 on 5 May), and in autumn passage from 28 Jul-13 Oct (max 21 on 3 Sep), (see Table 2). At Arne NR more autumn records than usual with 1-4 on 8 dates in Aug; CPRS report a steady trickle of 2-4 per day to 22 Sep and last 2 on 13 Oct; CHOG had an excellent passage with maxima at Hengistbury Head of 200 on 29 Jul, 50 on 31 Jul and 10 Aug, 30 on 12 Aug, and 70 on 26 Aug.

### **338 Aquatic Warbler**

One in freshwater marsh, Brownsea, 26 Jul (subject to RBC). Imm. at Lodmoor 26 Aug (accepted by RBC); and also at Lodmoor 1 well seen for long periods on top of reed stems 22 Sep, the head pattern very striking (? not submitted to RBC). 1 trapped at PBO on 27 Aug and still present 28 Aug, was the first record for Obs area since 1970; 2 other birds there almost certainly of this species in late Aug and Sep. 1 trapped and ringed by CHOG (? not submitted to RBC). At Radipole NR lower numbers trapped than in recent years, but for the first time an adult f. with a brood patch was trapped on 10 Aug, then singles on 7 dates in Aug, and 2 on 2 dates; (? not yet submitted to RBC).

### **339 Melodious Warbler**

One on 22 May was the first spring record for PBO. In autumn PBO had singles on 13 Aug, 17 Aug, 29 Aug and 2 Oct, while CPRS had their first record at Chapmans Pool on 23 Sep, and CHOG had 1 at Christchurch the day before. Also 1 at Wakeham on 16 Aug may have been one of the PBO birds. There are no certain Icterine Warbler reports this year, but undifferentiated hippolais warblers were at PBO on 21 Aug and at Christchurch on 19 Sep, and there is an unsubstantiated record for Blandford in Jul.

### **343 Blackcap**

More records this year in the breeding season and this may reflect an improvement in the recession noted last year. 50+ reports of pairs, territories, and/or young from Chedington in the west, Sherborne in the north, Cranborne area in the NE to Poole Basin, the Purbecks and the Weymouth area in the south. Radipole NR, 3 pairs; Arne NR, 4 pairs (3 last year); Studland NR 5-6 pairs, as last year.

Spring passage: CHOG report a poor passage — the first on 4 Apr, but only 25 bird days; at PBO first on 7 Apr and 196 to 30 May, max of 40 on 5 May; CPRS had small numbers with peaks of 14 on 28 Apr, 12 on 5 May and 15 on 16 May; at E. Weare 10+ recorded 18 Apr-30 May; reports of single males at Tollard on 13 Mar and Briantspuddle on 22 Mar may relate to over-wintering birds, a habit obviously occurring more frequently as indicated by Jan-Feb or Nov-Dec reports from 14 different areas. Autumn passage: CHOG report passage from 1 Aug-30 Oct with peaks on 1st and 29 Aug, 12, 14 and 22 Sep (max of 20 on 12 Sep); CPRS ringed 685 from 4 Sep-15 Oct with max of 195 from 18-24 Sep; 50+ at Winspit on 18 Sep; at E. Weare 65 recorded 11 Sep-14 Nov. PBO had first autumn bird on 1 Sep and total of 261 to 7 Nov when last seen, max 40 on 13 Oct, (see Table 2).

### **345 Barred Warbler**

PBO report 2 singles in or near Coastguard garden on 2 Sep and 9 Oct, first since 1974.

### **346 Garden Warbler**

No proved breeding but singing males mid-May to Jun reported from Uddens, Edmondsham, Lydlinch, Milton Abbas area, Briantspuddle, Bovington Farm, Woodsford, Moreton, Powerstock Common (2-3), Chedington area (6-7), and Bracketts Copse (1). Did not breed this year at Studland NR. The comment in the last report that the species is either under reported or had a poor season applies equally to 1976. A possible wintering bird (sight record only) reported from Sydling St. Nicholas on 14 Feb.

Spring passage: 1 singing at Corfe Mullen on 3 Apr and 1 at W. Bexington on 19 Apr; CHOG recorded only 11 from 20 Apr and in May; at PBO noted from 21 Apr with total of 44 to 18 May (peak of 26 on 5 May). In Autumn at PBO 190 bird days from 7 Aug-24 Oct (max of 13 on 4 Sep and 2 Oct) (see table 2); at Hengistbury Head autumn passage from 1 Aug-22 Sep (max of 8 on 14 and 29 Aug); CPRS recorded average of 8 per day 14 Aug-6 Sep, 10 on 13 Sep, 6 on 27th and 7 on 28 Sep; last on 17 Oct.

### **347 Whitethroat**

No reports from N.W. Dorset but otherwise status appears to be improving. Breeding, or singing males in breeding season, reported from 25+ separate localities. Sample counts: Central Canford Heath, 3 pairs (none last year); Arne NR, 2 pairs bred and 3 other males held territory but believed not to have bred, an encouraging increase; W. Bexington, 3 pairs; Hengistbury Head, 6 pairs; E. Fleet area, 3 pairs; Langton Herring, at least 5 pairs; N. Portland, at least 10 pairs; Radipole NR, a good year with at least 7 pairs; 1 pair at Radipole had to re-lay 3 times before any success because of destruction of two nest sites by sewer installation work; Lodmoor, 3-4 pairs; Studland NR, possibly 4 territories, still very low number; but numerous in the Bucknowle area. Widespread in small numbers, N.E. Dorset.

Spring: CHOG report a poor passage from 9 Apr; at PBO first on 11 Apr and total of 296 in spring with a massive fall of 170 on 5 May; on the same date CPRS had their spring max with 70. Autumn: At PBO passage from 4 Aug-25 Oct with max of 15 on 3 Sep (see table 2); no major fall at Hengistbury Head but 80 on 29 Jul and c.50 on 3 dates in Aug; CPRS recorded autumn max of 40 on 29 Aug.

### **348 Lesser Whitethroat**

Probably under-reported, but breeding pairs or territories noted in 12 localities, about the same as last year. Reports come from St. Catherines Hill (Christchurch) along the coast to W. Bexington and inland to Milton Abbas and Sixpenny Handley. No breeding reports from Arne NR, and only 1 territory at Studland NR, but 2 pairs holding territory at Radipole NR and thought to have been

successful.

Spring passage: Small numbers at Hengistbury Head from 26 Apr-max 4 on 1 May; singles at Chapmans Pool on 26 and 29 Apr; first at W. Bexington on 24 Apr. At PBO 3 on 23 Apr with total of 42 to 18 May and max 12 on 27 Apr. In autumn at PBO 64 bird days from 8 Aug-2 Oct (see Table 2). At Hengistbury Head 13 bird days in Aug and 8 in Sep, with peaks of 5 on 14 Aug and 4 on 12 Sep; at Chapmans Pool passage from 14 Aug-1 Oct and max of 8 on 16 Sep; W. Bexington recorded max of 7 on 5 Aug.

### **352 Dartford Warbler**

Successful breeding reported from a number of areas in the early part of the year. From Arne NR however BPP reports a considerable decrease in breeding pairs in 1976 and states that the reason for this is not understood. A decrease was also noted in another established breeding area. In neither case could fire be blamed for the decrease, but the terrible heath fires of last summer were of course the most significant factor affecting this species in 1976 by the complete and long-lasting destruction of miles of its specialised habitat. The question is to what degree the Dartford Warbler will re-establish itself in Dorset, and, if so, where. The Dorset Bird Club are organising a survey and by the time the Report for 1977 is compiled it is hoped to have some indication of what has happened to the species.

### **354 Willow Warbler**

Sample breeding records: Arne NR, 27 pairs located, a slight decrease; Studland NR, increase in the woodland census area to c.20 (16 last year); Radipole NR, only two pairs; only 4 pairs again at Bracketts Copse (where there used to be 14); 3 pairs again at Hengistbury Head; at Burton Bradstock a much better year with good numbers.

Spring: First reported at Studland on 30 Mar and also at Weston, Portland, then 1 at Sherborne Lake on 3 Apr. At PBO first on 4 Apr with a good spring passage totalling 1052 to 27 May, including a fall of at least 270 on 5 May; at N. Portland a fall of 420+ on 18 Apr. First autumn bird at PBO was on 23 Jul and a disappointing total of 609 to 17 Oct when last seen, (see Table 2). An over-wintering bird from 1975 at Burton Bradstock sang until 8 Jan 1976, then not seen again.

### **356 Chiffchaff**

Not much information on pairs or breeding. At Arne NR an increase to 12 pairs (6 last year); Studland NR, similar to last year (8-9 territories); Radipole NR, 2 pairs. Considerable reductions noted at Burton Bradstock and at Bracketts Copse, but much more in evidence this year in the Wareham area.

Spring arrivals are likely to have become confused with wintering birds. There are Jan-Feb records from Bovington, E. Burton and from the Weymouth area where 2 in song on 14 Mar; on 21 Mar 10 recorded at Chapmans Pool, and 3 at Louds Mill Dorchester on the same date; 5 in the reed bed at W. Bexington on 22 Mar; at PBO 2 wintered until the cold spell on 18 Jan. First spring arrivals at PBO on 23 Mar with 386 bird days to 3 Jun and max of 80 on 5 May; a bird trapped on 9 Apr was probably referable to race tristis, or Siberian Chiffchaff. In autumn at PBO first seen on 1 Sep with only 198 bird days to 7 Nov (see Table 2). CPRS show max of c.100 on 19 and 23 Sep, 200 on 27 Sep, decreasing to 30 by 13 Oct. Several reports for Nov and Dec from St. Aldhelms Head, Swanage, Weymouth area and Preston; Moreton; Brownsea; and Ferndown. By the end of Dec at least 10 were found at Radipole NR. Four "warblers" seen in ivy near Stinsford on 25 Dec.

Undifferentiated phylloscopus warblers: In spring CHOG report c.500 on 9 Apr, 300 on 11 and 19 Apr, 300 on 1 May and 100 on 5 May. In autumn 100+ on 4 dates only.

### **357 Wood Warbler**

No proved breeding but singing males in May-Jun reported from Cranborne area, Edmondsham, Organford, Morden, Lytchett, Delph Wood and at Holton (this last being thought to be an unmated m.) No marked spring or autumn movements at any of the coastal stations: 1-3 in Apr and May and again in Jul-Sep; last was at Chapmans Pool on 8 Oct.

### **358 Bonelli's Warbler**

One at PBO from 13 Aug-3 Sep; found and trapped in Obs. garden and later took up residence in the Coastguards; originally weighed 6.5gm on 14 Aug and increased to 10.0gm by 26 Aug. Third record for PBO, (accepted by RBC).

### **363 Radde's Warbler**

The bird was trapped by the CPRS on 10 Oct on the top of St. Aldhelms Head and was ringed and released at Chapmans Pool. First for Dorset, (accepted by RBC).

### **364 Goldcrest**

Difficult to assess status from reports received but probably numerous in most Forestry plantations. Young noted at Langton Herring, Moreton, Bovington, Burton Bradstock and W. Bexington. Presence in all seasons noted at various areas in the Poole Basin, and common in conifers in Briantspuddle area, but both Arne NR and Studland NR report decreases, and Bracketts Copse had no territories (6 last year). Decrease also noted at Sandford. Radipole NR had 2 pairs.

Passage: spring movement noted at Hengistbury Head 12 increasing to 44 on 27 Mar and from 20 to 150 on 11 Apr; max at vhapmans Pool was 35 on 1-1 Apr; at N. Portland 30+ on 28 Mar and 67 others recorded to 14 May. PBO reports 185 bird days from 15 Mar-5 May, and in autumn the first there on 4 Sep with only 47 bird days to 7 Nov (see Table 2). Autumn max at Hengistbury Head was 40; at Chapmans Pool 40 on 8 Oct, and at N. Portland 34+ from 16 Sep-end Dec.

### **365 Firecrest**

No breeding records. A few Jan and Feb reports mainly from the Weymouth and Portland area, with

1 at W. Bexington and 1 at Broadstone. Very few spring records: ones and twos at Hengistbury Head on 7 dates from 24 Mar-2 May; at PBO 1 on 26 Mar and 2 from 27-29 Mar; singles in Mar and Apr on a few dates reported from Verne, Abbotsbury, Kimmeridge and Brownsea. In autumn PBO had 75 bird days from 20 Sep-5 Nov (see Table 2), remarkably more records than Goldcrest. At N. Portland up to 4 from 29 Sep-early Dec. Ones and twos on a few dates in Oct and Nov at St. Aldhelms, Winspit, Studland, E. Burton and Hengistbury Head. At Chapmans Pool singles on 4 dates in Oct, 2 on 8 Oct, and 1 on 7 Nov.

### **366 Spotted Flycatcher**

The "patchy" breeding distribution referred to in the 1975 Report is confirmed by 1976 reports. Successful breeding, some with 2 broods, noted at 15 different areas, but nothing west of Abbotsbury or from the northern part of the County. Not mentioned at any of the Reserves (except passage) apart from 1 pair at Radipole NR. Impression of scarcity in the Broadstone/Canford area, and at Compton Valence very scarce indeed this year and probably did not breed at all. At Bovington Sewage Farm an adult was noted feeding a juv with a Red Admiral butterfly. At Hammoon 3 young were removed from a nest by a Jay and the second nest of another pair was destroyed, again possibly by a Jay.

Spring: first at Weston on 22 Apr, 2 at St. Aldhelms on 27 Apr and 2 at Chapmans Pool on 16 May; CHOG report an insignificant passage; PBO recorded the first on 27 Apr and 100 bird-days to 3 Jun. Autumn: PBO recorded 212 bird days from 8 Aug-3 Sep (see Table 2); *c.*150 R. Stour valley at Canford on 31 Aug; "Hedges alive with them" at Long Bredy on 26 Aug; parties of 6-12 reported from 7 other areas in Aug-Sep; CHOG noted passage from 8 Aug-4 Oct with peaks of 40 on 26 Aug and 35 on 22 Sep.

### **368 Pied Flycatcher**

As usual few spring records, but more in autumn. First at Verne Common on 19 Apr, then 1 at Creekmoor on 23 Apr and 2 at Chapmans Pool on 27 Apr. At Bracketts Copse a m. was seen and heard singing on 8 May, but did not stay, neither did a very active m. seen at Upton House on 6 Jun. Singles in Dorchester on 5 May and at Shillingstone on 16 May. Only 3 singles in spring noted by CHOG; and at PBO 2 on 27 Apr, singles on 1 and 3 May and 5 on 5 May were the only records. In autumn ones and twos from 12 different areas reported in Aug-Sep, mostly between W. Bexington and Moreton, but singles on 11 dates and 2 on 18 Aug at Arne NR; CHOG recorded passage from 14 Aug-4 Oct with 129 bird days and max of 20 on 26 Aug; at PBO a good total of 185 bird days from 11 Aug-3 Oct, and max of 20 on 29 Aug, (see Table 2).

### **370 Red-Breasted Flycatcher**

Only records are of 1 at Chapmans Pool on 31 Aug, 1 trapped there on 23 Sep, and an imm. trapped at PBO on 27 Oct.

### **371 Dunnock**

"Resident and breeds" sums up most of the records received. Arne NR located *c.*25 pairs which possibly represents an increase; Studland NR census area was the same as last year with *c.*20 pairs; Radipole NR, 10 pairs. No spring passage recorded and no increase in numbers noted in autumn at Hengistbury Head. Some evidence of passage at PBO, but numbers hard to assess. At E. Weare 30+, including a party of 8, on 21 Aug and 40+ on 29 Aug. Autumn increase noted by CPRS with peak of 30 on 8-9 Oct. A report of 1 singing 0030-1000 hrs at Dorchester in the night of 2 Aug.

### **374 Richard's Pipit**

Two at Bradford Peverell on 26 Mar but inadequately described. 1 at PBO on 19 Apr, the second spring record for Portland, the first being in 1957, (accepted by RBC).

### **375 Tawny Pipit**

CHOG report 1 on 23 Aug, and another on 26 Aug, (accepted by RBC). At PBO 2 spent a brief period on the Common on 24 Aug, (accepted by RBC). There is an unsatisfactory report of 1 at Gillingham on 14 Aug.

### **373 Meadow Pipit**

Obviously under-reported, with only a few breeding records. 35+ pairs at Arne NR (slight increase). Spring passage: CHOG report *c.*500NE on 20 Mar; flock of 35 at E. Burton on 26 Mar; at N. Portland 120+N on 27 Mar; 44 at Lodmoor on 22 Mar; flock of 74 at Merley on 9 Apr (does not breed or winter in the area); 11 in off the sea at W. Bexington on 18 Apr was the largest arrival there in spring. At PBO passage from 13 Mar-6 May with 2233 recorded, and up to 100 grounded on several dates in Mar. In autumn passage at PBO from 31 Aug-2 Nov, with 2533 recorded (see Table 2). Max at Radipole NR was 120 on 13 Sep; at Hengistbury Head between 300 and 800SE on 6 dates in Sep, and 100-200 on 6 dates in Oct; 50+ at Holes Bay on 18 Sep and 80+ there on 25 Sep; at W. Bexington 511E on 25 Sep was the highest count. Flock of 46 at E. Burton on 4 Oct; 55+ at S. Canford Heath on 7 Oct; 88 out S in 2½ hrs at Sandbanks on 24 Oct.

### **376 Tree Pipit**

Pairs observed at Lulworth Ranges (3); Kimmeridge-Gad Cliff (2); Briantspuddle area (3); Canford Heath (at least 6). In addition singing males in May or Jun at Uddens, Turnerspuddle Heath (4), Upton Heath (3), and Cranborne Common; probably bred near Hermitage.

Spring passage: a few at Hengistbury Head Apr-May, *c.*6 on passage over Studland NR on 27 Apr; W. Bexington 2N on 18 Apr, and 1W on 20 Apr; N. Portland 8 recorded 18 Apr-14 May. PBO, 16 Apr to 22 May, with 84 bird days, and in autumn from 13 Aug-25 Oct with 402 bird days (see Table 2). At Radipole NR max of 200 on 31 Aug; N. Portland, 28 from 13 Aug-25 Sep; W. Bexington, passage from 2 Aug-2 Oct with max 22W on 5 Sep; at Hengistbury Head 87 bird days in Sep with max 33SE on 3rd;

ones and twos elsewhere in Aug-Sep.

### **379 Rock/ Water Pipit**

Resident and breeding at Portland Bill. 3 pairs bred at Hengistbury Head. Winter max of 20 at Stanpit. Noted on saltings at Arne NR from beginning of year to Mar 14th and in autumn from 17 Oct-end of year, winter population could be 25-30 birds. Singles at Sandbanks in Dec. 1 at Sherborne Lake on 7 Mar after strong southerlies, feeding by walking on floating water weed (definitely a Rock Pipit and not a Water Pipit — STB).

Water Pipits in Jan-Mar at Lodmoor (max 6); Cranborne cress beds; Tincleton cress beds; Stanpit, 6 on 21 Mar and 6 Apr; a bird in transitional plumage seen at Arne NR on 20 Mar; 1 at R. Crane on 3 Apr. Ones and twos at Radipole and Lodmoor in Oct and Nov and 1 at Portland Bill on 28 Nov.

### **380 Pied/ White Wagtail**

Breeding reported from Holdenhurst; Coy Pond, southern shores of Poole Harbour, Briantspuddle; 8 pairs on two 1 mile stretches of R. Frome; nest with 4 young in Guardroom compound at Bovington Camp for third successive year; N. Portland, prob. 4 pairs, 1 pair fed young continuously on small black spiders caught by hovering over Chesil shingle; several pairs at Burton Bradstock.

Passage movement at PBO shown in Table 2, with peak numbers in Oct. At Hengistbury Head 76W on 20 Oct; at Radipole NR numbers built up from 13 Jul to max of c.300 on 26 Aug falling to 50 by end of Sep, this remaining the strength of the winter roost. Other winter flocks and roosts: Jan-Feb, 48 at W end of Shell Bay, 87 at Radipole car park (for roosting), Autumn and Dec: Salterns marsh at Arne up to 20, 70+ seen there on 18 Nov but probably not roosting; 216 in a reed bed roost at Merley on 29 Sep, 204 there on 30 Sep; at least 60 roosting on top of the glass roof of the main Arcade in Bournemouth on 19 Dec.

White Wagtails (Identified): At Hengistbury Head 3 in Mar, 8 in Apr; Avon valley, ones and twos on passage through late Mar and Apr; W. Bexington, a single on 19 Apr was the only record; R. Stour at Merley, 1 on 23 Apr; singles at Sydling St. Nicholas on 25 Mar and 18 May; Radipole NR, 1 on 18 May.

### **381 Grey Wagtail**

Widespread reports of successful breeding from over 25 places from Cranborne, Canford and Throop in the east to Burton Bradstock in the west and Sturminster Newton in the north. Wintering birds reported as usual from several places at both ends of the year. Movements: as last year very few records in spring: 3 singles at Portland, 1 at Ferrybridge, 2 at W. Bexington, and none at Hengistbury Head. Autumn: 3 records from Wakeham (Portland) by mid-July, unusually early dispersal from breeding areas. At PBO 268 bird days from 15 Aug-30 Oct (see Table 2); at W. Bexington 55 from 4 Sep-10 Oct; N. Portland 33 from 26 Aug-31 Oct; Hengistbury Head 77E and 36W in Sep and small number in Oct.

### **382 Yellow Wagtail/ Blue-headed Wagtail**

Very little information on breeding, except from the R. Stour between Eyebridge and Wimborne, where 6 males held territories. One of these was paired with a mutant resembling the f. of the pair in Norfolk in 1941 illustrated by Stuart Smith in "The Yellow Wagtail", New Naturalist Monograph. Also bred at Stanpit, but no details.

Passage: first seen at Sydling St. Nicholas on 25 Mar, then 1 on 5 Apr at Merley; PBO, first on 9 Apr and total of 168 to 24 May; very scarce at Lodmoor this spring. In autumn recorded at PBO from 18 Jul, with 2323 to 25 Oct, (see Table 2). A number of autumn reports from other parts of the County. At Radipole NR evening roosts from 70 to 31 Jul to 1750 on 18 Aug, then from 24-31 Aug 2000-6500 roosted, with max on 29 Aug; numbers declined to 2400 on 7 Sep, 200 on 9 Sep, and then to 30-40 in early Oct. At Arne NR up to 40 noted coming in to roost in Salterns marsh on 11 Sep; at least 50 on several days in early Sep at Little Bredy; 43 over Moors River (Dorset boundary) on 8 Sep; 32+ at Compton Valence on 29 Aug; 100-150 at Lodmoor on 30 Aug. Hengistbury roost, 300 in Aug, and 115 at Stanpit; Sep roost at Stanpit, 350. Last seen 1 at Uploders on 8 Nov.

Blue-headed: Identified at PBO on 9 May and 7 Aug; a certain m. and an almost certain f. at Merley on 23 Apr.

### **384 Great Grey Shrike**

All records given: Studland NR, 1 present from beginning of year to 3 Apr; 1 on a dead tree Whitesheet Common, 2 Mar; 1 at Worgret Heath 3 Mar; 1 at Morden Bog NR 5 Apr; Turnerspuddle Heath, call and song heard 13 Apr — seen again 19 and 21 Apr, silent and more active. Autumn: 1 at Arne NR 10 and 11 Nov; Studland NR, 1 present from 14 Nov to end of year, seen fairly frequently by many observers, noted in unsuccessful pursuit of a small passerine (prob. Redpoll) on 4 Dec, also seen flying low over the sea with a Meadow Pipit which it dropped in the water, but after three unsuccessful attempts to pick it up by hovering and then plunging down to the sea, it flew off towards the land.

### **388 Red-backed Shrike**

A f. at Hengistbury Head on 9 Jun is the only spring record. In autumn a f. at Wakeham 17 Aug; a f. at Langton Herring on 17 and 20 Sep and a f. at Verne Common on 2 Oct. At PBO singles on 27 Aug and 26-29 Sep. On 30 Aug 3 Dor beetles (*Geotrupes* sp.) were found impaled on a barbed wire fence at cress beds, Bere Regis; all 3 were impaled so that a fence barb entered the beetle's thoracic shield and all were in a horizontal position; was a Red-backed Shrike responsible?

### **389 Starling**

Reports of successful nesting from several well scattered areas in the County. 2 separate reports of partial albinos.

Passage: PBO recorded a small spring passage from 19 Mar to 21 Apr; in autumn from 27 Sep to mid Nov with 9716 recorded and max of 2000 on 24 Oct (see Table 2). At W. Bexington *c.*3000W on 30 Oct and roost of *c.*1000 in the reed bed in Nov. At Radipole NR roost rose to *c.*10,000 on 30 Sep and 12,000 in early Oct, with numbers falling in Nov to *c.*400 as a winter roost. Other roosts and flocks: Morning (E to W) and evening (W to E) flights of 1000+ noted at Dorchester in Feb, Mar and Dec; *c.*3000 at Swineham on 13 Mar; at Arne NR 1000+ came in to roost at Salterns marsh reed bed on Jun 30. In autumn at Compton Valence a roost started on 13 Nov with about 250 in a larch plantation and grew in number until it reached an est. 10,000+; but the major part of the roost was successfully dispersed after Christmas by the use of rockets and rook-scarers because of severe nuisance and damage to the plantation.

### 391 Hawfinch

Only 2 records: 1 at Sherborne Lake on 21 Feb (well described), and 1 at PBO on 26 Jun (first since 1973).

### 392 Greenfinch

Very little information on breeding and presumably status is taken for granted in most areas, except, as in Burton Bradstock, where almost total absence is noted; at Arne NR 9 pairs (slight increase); Radipole NR 4 pairs; breeding also reported at Portland, Turnerspuddle, W. Bexington, Bovington and Dorchester. Flocks of *c.*100 reported in Jan from Compton Valence, Briantspuddle and Arne.

Passage: 45 in at PBO 9-29 Apr and in autumn 267 recorded Sep-Nov. At N. Portland 150+ on 31 Oct, and at W. Bexington 200W on 30 Oct. CHOG recorded peaks of 61SE on 9 Oct and 77SE on 16 Oct.

### 393 Goldfinch

Breeding or pairs reported only from a few areas: Radipole NR 2 pairs; Kinson Common; plentiful between Throop and Hurn with many juvs; Upton Park; W. Bexington, nest robbed at Briantspuddle. Presence in spring and summer noted: S side of Poole Harbour; Sandford; Arne — small numbers only; and W. Parley.

Movements: CHOG, 58NW on 12 Apr, 100NE on 19 Apr; small passage noted N at Studland NR 19, 21 and 26 Apr, and at Arne NR to NW between 13 and 30 Apr. At PBO main passage in Apr-May and Aug-Nov, max of 425 on 20 Apr and 300 on 27 Sep (see Table 2). At Hengistbury Head best numbers in Autumn 300SE on 9 Oct and 240E on 28 Oct. 222S in 2½ hrs at Sandbanks on 24 Oct, and on the same date 122E in 2½ hrs at St. Aldhelms Head. Sep flocks reported include 83 at E. Burton, 90 at W. Bexington, 106 R. Stour valley at Wimborne (unusually high number here), 50 on Verne Common. A few winter (Jan and Dec) parties noted.

### 394 Siskin

Jan-mid Apr: Unusually numerous in Broadstone/Canford area; over 100 at S. Canford Heath in Jan and Feb, *c.*50 in Mar and 4 on 7 Apr; at Arne NR max of 40+ on 18 Jan and up to 10 at Studland NR in Jan; *c.*30 at Queens Park, Bournemouth on 1 Feb; and 30 at Holton Heath on 2 Apr; flocks of up to *c.*20 at Sherford Bridge, Upton Heath, W. Parley, Briantspuddle, Parkstone and Brownsea, where last seen (5) on 25 Apr; 1 at Radipole, 31 Jan. No breeding reports this year, though 1 was heard twice at Briantspuddle Heath in Jun. The only record at PBO was of 4 on 6 Apr, and at W. Bexington, apart from a few in Jan, there was an unexpected record of 1W on 25 Jul. No reports at all for the autumn and Dec period in 1976.

### 395 Linnets

Breeding: Burton Bradstock, a good year; W. Bexington, *c.*6 pairs; Studland NR, breeds in small numbers; Arne NR, *c.*30 pairs; Radipole NR, 4 pairs; East Burton; Chamberlaynes Heath, 6 pairs; Hyde Heath; CHOG area, plentiful breeding. Jan-Feb flocks of *c.*50 at Broadstone, Middlebere and Compton Valence.

Passage: CHOG, max of 350NE on 19 Apr, 100+ at St. Aldhelm's Head on 20 Apr; at PBO from 26 Mar-30 Apr 1496 recorded. In autumn from 17 Sep at PBO with 9034 recorded to mid Nov, (see Table 2); large movement E around St. Aldhelm's Head on 24 Oct — 1630 in 2½ hrs, and on the same date 1814S in 2½ hrs at Sandbanks; at Radipole NR 190 counted on 27 Sep and 150 on 19 Oct; CHOG report 800SE on 9 Oct, 320W on 20 Oct, 600SE on 24 Oct and 200E on 30 Oct.

### 396 Twite

Only reports are of 1 at Hengistbury Head on 4 Jan and at PBO 3 on the East Cliff on 4 Oct and 1 in Top Fields next day.

### 397 Redpoll

Breeding: Arne NR 2-3 pairs in breeding season; Studland NR, 10-11 pairs in census area, as last year. JRC reports a nest in an atypical site in old heather stems on top of a dune heath ridge, *c.*3'6" above path level, 4 eggs on 23 Jun; fledged successfully. Briantspuddle area, 1 pair bred successfully and 2 other pairs seen. Pair may have bred at Holton Heath — 2 with a juv on 3 Aug.

Winter: Jan-Mar: Numbers at Canford Heath 3 times as great as normal, 103+ on 21 Jan, 30+ in Feb, 8 on 9 Apr; at Hurn 50-120 in Jan-Feb; Corfe Mullen 30+ in Jan; smaller flocks up to *c.*20 reported from 17 other areas.

Passage in spring: Singles on one or two dates in Apr and May at W. Bexington and Chapmans Pool; at PBO from 19 Apr-8 May with 18 bird days in Apr and 2 in May. In autumn first recorded at PBO on 10 Oct with 22 bird days to last on 31 Oct; CHOG report small numbers except 129E on 20 Oct.

#### **400 Serin**

The only records come from PBO: a f. on 3 Apr and another f. on 27 May, (both accepted by RBC).

#### **401 Bullfinch**

Reports of breeding or pairs from: Arne NR (at least 5 pairs); Studland NR (8 pairs — as last year); Radipole NR (4 pairs); Corfe Mullen; Sandford; Briantspuddle area (5 pairs); Uploders; Langton Herring; Portland; W. Bexington. The only passage reported was in the autumn: a party of 19W at W. Bexington on 31 Oct; an increase noted at Chapmans Pool with 16 on 10 Oct and 15 on 16 Oct. Autumn max of 10 at Hengistbury Head.

#### **402 Scarlet Rosefinch**

One trapped at Chapmans Pool on 19 Sep; first record for the area and third for Dorset, (accepted by RBC).

#### **404 Crossbill**

No reports of breeding. All records shown: 1 seen and heard flying over Oakers Wood on 8 Jan; Sandford Woods, 1 feeding in a pine tree in garden on 20 and 22 Feb and on 10 and 14 Mar; one on nearby Gore Heath on 21 Mar (? same bird). At Brownsea 1 on 24 Mar, 19 Apr, 2 on 1 May and 1 on 11 Jul; 1 at Holton Heath on 5 Aug; 2 circling over a garden at N. Bournemouth on 28 Aug, pitched for a short time. A party of 20+ feeding in a larch plantation at Milton Abbas on 19, 21 and 25 Sep; 7E at Hengistbury Head on 28 Oct; 2S and calling on 18 Nov at Arne NR.

#### **407 Chaffinch**

Sample breeding counts: Arne NR, a noticeable increase to 80+ pairs; Studland NR census area, 21-22 territories, as last year; Briantspuddle area 8 pairs; Godmanston (census area) 17 pairs; Radipole NR 3 pairs. Winter flocks and parties Jan-Mar mostly 20-40, but 200+ at Arne NR on 31 Jan and 100+ on 3 Feb (cold weather).

No marked spring passage, but in autumn 120W at W. Bexington on 30 Oct and 30W the following day. At PBO first autumn bird on 26 Sep, then none until 2 Oct; total of 268 recorded in Oct with peak of 55 on 31st. In Dec very large numbers at Badbury Rings area, estimated at 600.

#### **408 Brambling**

A number of reports for Jan and Feb, mostly small numbers, but 100+ at Came in Jan; and in Feb 50+ at Kingston Maurward; 100+ at Bockhampton; 120+ at Briantspuddle/Throop; and 50+ at Throop Clump.

Passage: CHOG report 6 spring records, last on 16 Apr and very few in autumn except for 34E on 20 Oct; at PBO passage from 6-25 Apr with 19 bird days, and in autumn only 2 on 31 Oct; 1 at Wakeham on 27 Nov; otherwise no autumn records at all, despite massive beech mast crop.

#### **410 Corn Bunting**

Not very much information on breeding, but singing males noted at Powerstock; on the chalk from S of Bere Regis through Milborne St. Andrew to Blandford and on to the Hants County boundary, including the Cranborne and Sixpenny Handley area and especially at W. Woodyates. On the southern chalk breeding noted in the Dorchester area. At PBO recorded throughout the year with max of 50 on 5 Nov. Other winter parties at Fordington and at the Bridging Camp on the Fleet in Feb. At Hengistbury Head a small wintering party of c.8.

#### **409 Yellowhammer**

Breeding: May be a slight improvement in status, but no information from N, and NW of County, though common in NE. Arne NR, slight increase to 15+ breeding pairs; Studland NR, 3 territories, an increase on recent years; Godmanston, 8 pairs; Turnerspuddle Heath, 6+ pairs; breeding at W. Bexington and a good year at Burton Bradstock in spite of drastic hedge cutting around nesting time; seen with juvs at E. Burton and Bovington; at Hengistbury Head 2 pairs bred.

No large flocks in winter. 30 at Bridging Camp on the Fleet in Jan, and 30+ at Bovington in Dec; up to 20+ at Godmanston in autumn and early winter. At PBO recorded in every month except Jul; no passage movement noted but max of 15 on 17 Apr and 13 on 27 Aug. CHOG report up to 10 present in autumn.

#### **415 Cirl Bunting**

A vanishing species in Dorset where it used to be well established, especially in the Abbotsbury/Portesham area. 3 seen at Compton Valence in Mar, 1 m. and 2 f., but sadly the m. was unable to fly. The only other reports come from Portland of a f. at PBO on 23 Sep, a f. on 4 Nov and at Weston on 5 Nov, and a m. in the Obs garden on 14 Nov.

#### **416 Ortolan Bunting**

At least 6 individuals recorded at PBO in autumn between 24 Aug and 8 Oct. A single at Winspit on 17 Oct.

#### **419 Rustic Bunting**

At PBO on 29 Oct 1 was seen well by a few lucky observers, while most had to watch it fly over, calling, at a great height. The first for Portland and for Dorset, (accepted by RBC).

#### **420 Little Bunting**

A f. trapped at Wick Hams on 1 May, (accepted by RBC). The first for Dorset.

#### **421 Reed Bunting**

Breeding reported from: Radipole NR (28 pairs and at least 90 young known to fledge); Cogden Mere; W. Bexington (2 pairs); Langton Herring (3 pairs); Sydling valley; Turnerspuddle area (2+ pairs); R. Frome (11 pairs on two reaches between Dorchester and Wool); R. Stour (good population Spettisbury to Wimborne); Arne NR (c.15 pairs); Studland NR census area (4 pairs); Holton;

Hengistbury Head (3 pairs), and at Stanpit. Again no information from N. of County, but absent around Woodyates.

Small passage at PBO in spring with 10 bird days 9 Apr-10 May, and in autumn 45 bird days from 21 Sep to 20 Nov when last seen; max of 13 on 31 Oct.

#### 422 Lapland Bunting

CHOG report singles on 9 Jan, 20 Oct and 20 Nov. At PBO singles on 1-2 Oct, 25 Oct and 2 Nov.

#### 423 Snow Bunting

A party at Ferrybridge in Jan seen by many observers and variously calculated as 10-12; last seen there on 5 Apr, a m. in nearly full spring plumage. 1 at Swineham on 11 Apr. Singles at PBO on 15-16 Apr. In autumn 1 at PBO on 12 Oct, 1 at Studland 17 Oct, 1-2 at Stanpit from 20-31 Oct, and at W. Bexington 20, 25 Nov.

#### 424 House Sparrow

Nesting material being carried at Compton Valence on 28 Jan; used nest box there for 2nd year in succession, having enlarged the hole to get in. Otherwise nothing of note.

#### 425 Tree Sparrow

At Bagber a flock of 16 in a disused railway cutting from Jan-Mar and breeding almost certain, but no nests found. Small parties reported from several places Jan-Mar, from W. Hurn in the east to Broadmayne in the west and Cerne, Sturminster Newton and Milton Abbas in the north. More reports from Oct onwards, mostly of birds on the move but *c.*35 at W. Morden and 25+ at Briantspuddle presumably wintering. At Radipole NR a flock of 30 from 12 Dec to end of year. Absent from N.E. Dorset.

No spring passage noted, but considerable autumn movement: (apparently in all directions) e.g. flock of 40 at Church Ope, Portland 10 Oct; W. Bexington, 221W on 10 Oct and 79W on 24th; Verne Common, 124 arrived from N in parties and flew S on 19 Oct; Chapmans Pool, 25NW on 25 Oct; PBO, passage from 10 Oct to 5 Nov with peaks of 160 on 26 Oct and 250 on 28 Oct (see Table 2); Arne NR, birds passing W on 4 dates in Oct, max 40+ on 18th and 30+ on 25th; 25 nr Burton (Christchurch) on 10 Oct; CHOG report exceptional autumn with *c.*550E and 210W between 3 and 26 Oct.

#### Escapes

These include Chilean Greater Flamingo, Chiloe Wigeon, Red-headed Bunting, Golden Pheasant, Red-winged Black Bishop, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, Grey and Ring-necked Parakeets, Budgerigar, Zebra Finch (further details available).

#### Additions to 1975 and earlier Reports (q.v.)

*Accepted by RBC:* Little Bittern (18 May 75); Crane (16 Aug 75); Little Crake (add 8 Dec 75); Roller (16, 18, 21 Jun 75); Red-rumped Swallow (add 22-25 May 75); Siberian Stonechat (24 Oct 75); Savi's Warbler (9-18 May 75); Aquatic Warblers (Jul-Sep 75, trapped); Bonelli's Warbler (19 Aug 74); Woodchat Shrike (31 May 75)

*Rejected by RBC:* Black Kite (20 Apr 75); Short-toed Tree-creepers (*all* Dorset records since 1970).

*Still pending:* Slender-billed Curlew (12-14 Apr 75); Western Sandpiper (24 Aug 75); Semi-palmated Sandpiper (6-10 Sep 75).

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF SEA PASSAGE (PBO)

	Mar-May			Aug-Oct		
	E	W	local	E	W	local
Diver sp.	58	22		9	10	
Manx Shearwater	4031	98		10	3	2
Gannet	1723	373	1319	234	846	3288
Common Scoter	1622	109	83	195	794	17
Bonxie	19			6	13	21
Pomarine Skua	16			4	3	4
Arctic Skua	83	2		9	31	14
Commic Tern	805	18	85	76	258	148
Sandwich Tern	123	19	25	37	245	208

TABLE 2—BIRD DAY TOTALS OF MIGRANTS IN OBSERVATORY AREA (PBO)

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Turtle Dove	0	21	34	4	2	49	481	294	1
Swift	0	2	241	188	401	873	28	1	0
Swallow	0	363	2158	79	42	414	5237	1542	109
House Martin	0	38	256	20	0	111	1819	1078	6
Sand Martin	0	118	49	0	6	323	810	20	0
Wheatear	166	484	201	1	0	846	770	279	3
Whinchat	0	23	83	0	2	428	350	52	0
Redstart	0	132	42	0	0	79	192	32	0

Reed Warbler	0	3	18	3	0	34	17	16	0
Sedge Warbler	0	19	70	2	1	137	57	5	0
Blackcap	0	135	61	0	0	0	60	190	11
Garden Warbler	0	10	34	0	0	65	93	32	0
Whitethroat	0	62	224	10	48	149	181	29	0
Lesser Whitethroat	0	22	20	0	0	14	49	1	0
Willow Warbler	0	618	434	0	25	370	197	16	0
Chiffchaff	12	248	123	3	0	0	113	81	4
Goldcrest	31	140	14	0	0	0	7	33	7
Firecrest	7	0	0	0	0	0	30	35	1
Spotted Flycatcher	0	1	93	7	0	106	95	11	0
Pied Flycatcher	0	2	7	0	0	114	63	8	0
Meadow Pipit	970	1241	22	0	0	35	950	1548	27
Tree Pipit	0	69	15	0	0	258	131	13	0
Alba Wagtail	24	41	19	13	0	5	136	1022	24
Grey Wagtail	1	2	1	0	0	28	201	39	0
Flava Wagtail	0	120	48	3	52	1478	543	250	0
Starling	178	112	0	0	0	0	561	7240	1915
Goldfinch	11	1365	306	10	10	162	974	1493	459
Linnet	30	1466	0	0	0	0	395	8309	330
Tree Sparrow	0	14	8	0	0	3	837	57	0

**TABLE 3—SUMMARY OF MONTHLY WILDFOWL COUNTS—1976**

		18 Jan	15 Feb	14 Mar	12 Sep	10 Oct	11 Nov	12 Dec
Mallard	Poole Hbr	439	118	98	1557	1020	831	1166
	Fleet	283	98	23	3050	304	207	40
	Radipole	85	32	42	149	140	54	80
	Crichel	200	60	50	260	300	80	40
Teal	Poole Hbr	1430	753	732	484	409	382	1501
	Fleet	332	103	19	54	30	100	40
	Radipole	140	23	24	53	235	17	120
	Crichel	23	15	2	4	0	0	0
Wigeon	Poole Hbr	1104	816	201	18	42	291	959
	Fleet	7400	6930	355	860	1000	1400	114
	Crichel	2	2	2	0	0	0	12
Pintail	Poole Hbr	161	116	138	6	21	47	227
	Fleet	100	120	20	20	25	268	62
	Radipole	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Shoveler	Poole Hbr	82	46	37	10	6	38	166
	Fleet	240	254	2	0	0	170	20
	Radipole	42	51	40	25	42	71	90
Tufted Duck	Poole Hbr	358	256	225	2	82	496	485
	Fleet	79	100	30	0	0	0	50
	Radipole	316	247	67	6	7	80	309
	Crichel	113	33	44	0	13	30	24
Pochard	Poole Hbr	60	62	43	1	25	93	126
	Fleet	205	160	45	40	40	90	80
	Radipole	165	43	15	10	35	57	15
	Crichel	97	46	16	0	0	50	48
Goldeneye	Poole Hbr	90	106	47	0	0	35	81
	Fleet-Port Hbr	142	91	36	0	0	10	116
R-b Merganser	Poole Hbr	194	93	123	0	0	194	103
	Fleet-Port Hbr	255	84	180	0	3	50	303
Shelduck	Poole Hbr	2688	2113	1463	95	60	562	834
	Fleet	100	143	179	7	9	1	6
	Radipole	1	7	11	2	0	0	1
Brent Goose	Poole Hbr	170	87	38	0	0	40	203
	Fleet-Port Hbr	45	120	0	0	0	0	0

Canada Goose	Poole Hbr	226	203	7	356	313	286	258
	Crichel	30	28	7	26	19	3	3
Mute Swan	Poole Hbr	6	18	8	62	42	13	71
	Fleet	607	767	543	654	706	604	544
	Radipole	37	25	40	109	19	11	6

**TABLE 4—COUNTS OF WADERS AND OTHER ESTUARINE SPECIES—1976**

After seven years, the B.T.O. Birds of Estuaries Enquiry continues only at a reduced level but it was decided to continue mid-monthly counts in Dorset over the period September to March. Grateful acknowledgement is made of assistance from RW, LMM, MB, KMG, HAL, RM, JL, AHD, BPP, AFC, CEO, PGH, EFCC, CER, DNA, FRC, DAD, JF AND REHR. D.J. Godfrey.

**LODMOOR TO ABBOTSBURY**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Crested Grebe	15	0	1	1	0	2	10
Slavonian Grebe	0	0	6	0	0	1	0
Black-necked Grebe	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Little Grebe	65	42	22	0	35	46	3
Cormorant	56	18	26	6	46	46	20
Shag	0	0	0	0	50	0	0
Heron	9	6	2	3	25	13	4
Water Rail	1	4	0	0	0	1	0
Coot	1381	1118	150	1160	1600	1101	1820
Moorhen	44	23	10	2	132	2	1
Oystercatcher	8	6	9	3	3	6	2
Lapwing	3150	500	0	295	199	512	200
Ringed Plover	75	31	76	122	80	88	30
Grey Plover	52	84	55	0	0	1	0
Turnstone	12	6	0	0	8	5	1
Snipe	10	3	3	1	55	100	3
Jack Snipe	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	2	2	4	1	7	4
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Redshank	46	24	45	3	1	25	30
Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Greenshank	1	7	0	14	0	0	0
Knot	0	1	0	6	0	0	0
Dunlin	892	1113	380	69	24	155	85
Ruff	0	93	0	1	1	6	0
Avocet	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	32	8	16	10	29	73	11
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	1	17	1	7	7	0
Herring Gull	613	166	234	127	76	2282	504
Common Gull	305	47	100	52	53	478	104
Black-headed Gull	1730	554	564	423	506	4338	2000
'Common/ Arctic' Tern	0	0	0	5	3	0	0
Sandwich Tern	0	0	0	39	3	0	0

**POOLE HARBOUR**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Northern Diver	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Black-throated Diver	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-throated Diver	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Great Crested Grebe	4	11	14	11	2	4	12
Slavonian Grebe	27	29	39	0	0	11	23
Black-necked Grebe	0	7	7	0	0	0	10
Little Grebe	3	4	10	6	2	0	10
Cormorant	146	68	105	110	94	201	128
Shag	7	12	12	2	11	14	36
Heron	10	6	10	20	5	11	9
Water Rail	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
Coot	74	97	49	122	170	202	177
Moorhen	31	20	36	43	27	57	58
Oystercatcher	1359	776	400	791	580	305	321

Lapwing	2120	901	234	817	860	283	347
Ringed Plover	73	39	17	83	92	25	141
Grey Plover	175	125	69	0	23	3	5
Turnstone	58	18	19	23	12	25	20
Snipe	11	74	100	2	10	44	20
Curlew	802	600	435	365	221	625	553
Black-tailed Godwit	652	580	448	388	135	0	72
Bar-tailed Godwit	92	223	65	16	43	63	61
Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	1	0	0	7	0	0	0
Redshank	984	1512	1033	927	681	1342	992
Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	22	0	2	3
Greenshank	37	1	0	48	24	1	8
Knot	5	0	19	12	0	0	0
Dunlin	4685	5401	2196	229	90	3922	2884
Sanderling	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Ruff	0	186	0	1	0	0	0
Avocet	6	5	9	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	40	13	18	28	38	60	58
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	7	8	5	32	5	8
Herring Gull	1500	1207	1238	517	588	1279	1838
Common Gull	97	30	56	32	9	47	84
Black-headed Gull	2283	1689	1731	2287	1112	2699	3736
Common Tern	0	0	0	32	1	0	0
Sandwich Tern	0	0	2	52	1	0	0
Black Tern	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

## BIRD RINGING IN DORSET 1976

by Col. E. D. V. Prendergast

The numbers of birds ringed annually in the county once again increased last year. Whereas as recently as 1969 the total was only 3982, during 1976 21,440 birds of 124 species were reported to have been ringed in Dorset, about 6% more than in 1975. The most significant changes were that whilst Portland Bird Observatory had an indifferent season, more birds than before were caught at Chapman's Pool where there was a considerable increase in effort, and returns were received for the first time from a number of places and people, including Abbotsbury Swannery and Decoy, and C. J. Bibby who has just completed a study of the Dartford Warbler on behalf of the R.S.P.B.

Owing to the incompleteness of past records, it is not, in many cases, possible to state positively that some species have never previously been ringed in Dorset, but there is no doubt that the Radde's Warbler, three Cetti's Warblers and the Scarlet Rosefinch, all at Chapman's Pool, and the Little Bunting at Christchurch Harbour were the first of their respective species.

In the table that follows the figures, which include both adults and pulli, for 1975 have also been shown so that comparisons can be made between the two years. However too much should not be made of the differences, as many are due to factors other than the abundance of the birds. For instance, with the recent threefold increase in the price of rings, some ringers have not ringed common birds such as Great and Blue Tits, Dunnocks and Wrens — which probably explains the decrease in the numbers of these — but the significant decrease in Coal Tits is probably due to some other cause. The increase in Blackcaps is due, at least partially, to the success in catching 800 of them — over 10% of the annual national total — at Chapman's Pool where new net sites were used and for a longer season than previously. On the other hand, the increase in Whitethroats may well be an indication that they are at last beginning to recover from the crash in 1969.

Individual totals for the year were:-

### Portland Bird Observatory (PBO). 1965 birds, 56 species.

A decrease of 1215 from 1975. Generally a poor year for ringing, especially in autumn. The best day was 5th May when 350 birds, mainly Willow Warblers and Whitethroats were caught. Unusual species included Redshank, Wryneck (4), Ring Ousel, Aquatic, Melodious (2) and Bonelli's Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Ortolan Bunting. Record totals of 517 Willow Warblers and 175 Chiffchaffs were achieved.

### Radipole Acrocephalus Ringing Group (RARG).

7267 birds, 43 species. The highlight was 3008 Yellow Wagtails, 700 up on the previous best ever in 1975. 936 Reed and 2328 Sedge Warblers made up the bulk of the rest of the catch. Hundreds of hirundines caught with the wagtails were released unringed, or totals would have been much higher. Other species included 14 Kingfishers, 102 Bearded Tits and 10 Aquatic Warblers.

### T. Squire and E.D.V.P. (S & P).

Chapman's Pool. 4606 birds, 58 species, nearly twice the 1975 total. In contrast to Portland, an excellent autumn followed an indifferent spring. Noteworthy species included Radde's, Cetti's (3) and Melodious Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Wryneck (2). 800 Blackcap, 120 Garden and 935 Willow Warblers, 462 Chiffchaff, 196 Whitethroats, 74 Stonechats and 248 Robins were ringed.

Elsewhere in Dorset, mainly Sutton Bingham Reservoir, Marnhull — Bagber — Sturminster Newton. 3251 birds of 69 species, included 2 Buzzards, 4 Sparrowhawks, 41 Common Sandpipers, 5 Long-eared Owls, 13 Kingfishers, 810 Swallows and 943 Starlings.

**Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station (CHRS).**

In spite of an abundance of, particularly, Sedge Warblers in autumn, a dearth of ringers resulted in a disappointing total of 1650 birds of 43 species, very similar to last year. Grey Plover, Black Redstart, Aquatic Warbler and, especially, Little Bunting were interesting species, whilst 187 Reed, 686 Sedge and 375 Willow Warblers made up the bulk of the catch. In contrast to Chapman's Pool no Robins, Blackcaps or Garden Warblers were caught.

**A. T. Bromby (ATB). Brownsea Island.**

664 birds, 46 species. 222 waders included 92 Oystercatchers, 3 Ringed Plovers, 8 Bar-tailed Godwits, 9 Common Sandpipers, 12 Knots and 70 Dunlins. Arctic Tern, Kingfisher (10), Rock Pipit (2) and Redpoll (3) were also noteworthy.

**Abbotsbury Swannery and Decoy (AS).**

341 Mute Swans from the Swannery and 80 duck (11 Mallard, 41 Teal and 28 Pintail) from the Decoy were ringed during the year.

**C. J. Bibby (CJB). Dorset Heathlands.**

A specialist total of 204 birds of only 6 species included 9 adult and 106 pulli Dartford Warblers, 40 Stonechat pulli and 2 Nightjar pulli.

**K. W. Parker (KWP). Lodmoor and Weymouth.**

132 birds, 22 species included 2 Ruffs and 1 Brambling.

**S. E. & T. J. Christmas (C & C). Bournemouth.**

325 birds, 27 species including 76 Mallard, 16 Canada Geese, 11 Black-headed Gulls and 13 Siskins.

**P. Christie & I. Alexander (C & A). Upton.**

4 Redwings and 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker were the best of 215 birds of 14 species.

**B. P. Pickess (BPP). Arne.**

137 birds of 19 species were mainly Reed and Sedge Warblers, but also included 2 Hobbies and a Kingfisher.

**J. Allsop (JA). Bournemouth.**

308 Pied Wagtails, 14 Canada Geese, 21 Redwings and a Tawny Owl formed part of a total of 603 birds of 19 species.

In addition to the individuals already named, I am also indebted to the following for kindly supplying information concerning ringing and recoveries; C. Cook, J. Rees Cox, J. Fair, D. T. Ireland, J. H. Morgan, M. A. Ogilvie, I. S. Robertson.

**TABLE OF BIRDS RINGED 1976**

Figures for 1975 are included for comparison.

Species	1975	1976		
Shag	—	1	Knot	3 12
Heron	2	—	Little Stint	2 —
Mallard	13	94	Dunlin	212 100
Teal	29	61	Curlew Sandpiper	16 —
Pintail	—	28	Ruff	— 3
Tufted Duck	3	—	Great Black-backed Gull	1 —
Shelduck	2	2	Herring Gull	1 3
Canada Goose	6	30	Little Gull	1 —
Mute Swan	—	346	Black-headed Gull	17 18
Buzzard	4	2	Arctic Tern	— 1
Sparrowhawk	11	8	Sandwich Tern	1 —
Hobby	—	2	Stock Dove	24 11
Kestrel	10	4	Woodpigeon	8 1
Water Rail	5	3	Turtle Dove	1 2
Spotted Crane	1	—	Collared Dove	16 3
Moorhen	24	40	Cuckoo	— 3
Coot	23	12	Barn Owl	11 5
Oystercatcher	84	92	Little Owl	3 1
Lapwing	5	36	Tawny Owl	1 1
Ringed Plover	13	3	Long-eared Owl	1 5
Grey Plover	—	1	Nightjar	— 2
Turnstone	1	—	Kingfisher	20 43
Snipe	25	59	Green Woodpecker	10 11
Jack Snipe	1	4	Great Spotted Woodpecker	5 2
Woodcock	—	1	Wryneck	1 6
Curlew	1	7	Skylark	16 5
Black-tailed Godwit	1	—	Swallow	1192 973
Bar-tailed Godwit	2	8	House Martin	58 15
Green Sandpiper	—	1	Sand Martin	348 192
Common Sandpiper	49	58	Carrion Crow	— 2
Redshank	66	27	Rook	— 5
Greenshank	1	1	Jackdaw	4 10

Magpie	9	5	Greenish Warbler	1	—
Jay	3	2	Wood Warbler	3	2
Great Tit	373	110	Bonelli's Warbler	—	1
Blue Tit	1082	561	Pallas's Warbler	1	—
Coal Tit	98	33	Radde's Warbler	—	1
Marsh Tit	33	19	Goldcrest	810	193
Willow Tit	8	2	Firecrest	42	16
Long-tailed Tit	183	75	Spotted Flycatcher	77	89
Bearded Tit	66	102	Pied Flycatcher	42	40
Nuthatch	1	2	Red-breasted Flycatcher	—	2
Treecreeper	11	5	Dunnock	317	263
Wren	483	227	Meadow Pipit	62	45
Mistle Thrush	24	15	Tree Pipit	1	4
Fieldfare	39	1	Rock/Water Pipit	6	5
Song Thrush	189	157	Pied/White Wagtail	299	573
Redwing	99	59	Grey Wagtail	13	16
Ring Ousel	1	1	Yellow Wagtail	2317	3053
Blackbird	664	424	Starling	813	980
Wheatear	7	4	Greenfinch	781	704
Stonechat	68	142	Goldfinch	157	211
Whinchat	11	22	Siskin	6	14
Redstart	26	77	Linnet	393	328
Black Redstart	2	4	Redpoll	4	3
Nightingale	3	11	Bullfinch	136	118
Robin	379	435	Scarlet Rosefinch	—	1
Cetti's Warbler	—	3	Chaffinch	164	132
Grasshopper Warbler	18	26	Brambling	2	1
Reed Warbler	829	1310	Yellowhammer	40	108
Sedge Warbler	3270	3348	Corn Bunting	7	8
Aquatic Warbler	17	12	Girl Bunting	1	—
Melodious Warbler	2	3	Ortolan Bunting	—	1
Icterine Warbler	3	—	Little Bunting	—	1
Blackcap	376	956	Reed Bunting	277	201
Garden Warbler	143	189	House Sparrow	2	60
Whitethroat	270	454	Tree Sparrow	17	11
Lesser Whitethroat	73	55			
Subalpine Warbler	1	—	Total	20239*	21440
Dartford Warbler	12	116	Species	119*	124
Willow Warbler	1578	2142			
Chiffchaff	639	780	* Amended totals.		

## RECOVERIES OF RINGED BIRDS

Space forbids the publication of details of every ringed bird, over 150 in all, whose recovery was notified during the year, so only the more interesting are listed. Further details of those ringed or controlled by Portland Bird Observatory, the Radipole Acrocephalus Ringing Group and Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station may be found in their respective annual reports.

### Arrangement of entries

For each bird recovered, under the species name is given the ring number followed on the same line with the ringing details, viz age and sex if known, date and place of ringing. On the following line are the recovery details, namely a symbol denoting the manner of recovery, the date and the place. Where a bird was both ringed and recovered in the United Kingdom, the approximate distance and direction are shown. Where birds were ringed or recovered abroad, the overseas latitude and longitude are normally given.

The name or initials of the person or organization in Dorset who ringed or recovered each bird is given, except when this is obvious from the information given at the beginning of this report on who operates where, e.g. PBO at Portland, ATB on Brownsea Island, etc.

The latest report on Bird-ringing issued by the British Trust for Ornithology covers the period up to the end of 1974. Comments on recoveries of various species in the ensuing paragraphs therefore normally do not take into consideration any records which may have occurred subsequent to this.

### Key to Symbols and Terms

Age. The symbols refer to the calendar year in which the bird was ringed, e.g. a bird aged as '3' in 1975 was born in 1975.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | pullus or nestling                              |
| 2 | full grown, age unknown                         |
| 3 | out of nest, definitely born in year of ringing |

4	hatched previous year or before
5	definitely born in year before ringing
6	hatched 2 or more years ago
m	male
f	female

#### Manner of Recovery

V	controlled, i.e. caught alive and released with ring
+	shot or killed by man
X	found dead or dying
()	caught alive and not released
?	manner of recovery unknown

#### Gannet

1082972	1	7.7.70	Bass Rock (East Lothian)
	X	29.1.76	West Bexington. 600km S (C. Cook)

#### Teal

EF53372	2m	31.12.75	Brownsea Island
	+	31.1.76	Launceston (Cornwall) 168km W.

#### Mute Swan

Z34040	5m	12.2.74	Christchurch
	V	8.3.76	Marnhull Hame, Sturminster Newton 47km NW

#### Buzzard

HW51453	1	29.6.75	East Lulworth (S&P)
	V	15.5.76	Christchurch 32km ENE

Found sick (poison?), dosed and released next day. Shows possible interchange of South Dorset and New Forest populations.

#### Oystercatcher

SS72528	4	9.10.67	Brownsea Island
	V	22.1.77	Brownsea Island
FS33697	6	24.10.72	Brownsea Island
	X	-7.76	Lynfey Island (Sognog Fjordane) NORWAY 60° 59' N 4° 36' E

#### Ringed Plover

BV08542	3	1.9.76	Brownsea Island
	X	29.10.76	Studland (Dorset)
BX43451	4	17.8.74	Snettisham, Kings Lynn (Norfolk)
	X	29.10.76	Studland 295km SW

These two, together with a third with an indecipherable ring, were amongst 6 found dead by J. Rees Cox with no visible injuries, after a missile had been exploded by the Bomb Disposal Unit near Pilot's Point.

#### Snipe

CH76972	4	23.2.74	Marnhull
	+	1.12.75	Godisson, Nonant-le-Pin (Orne), FRANCE 48° 41' N 0° 15' E

#### Curlew

SS94461	4	18.3.69	Brownsea Island
	X	18.4.76	SW of Armager (Sjaelland), DENMARK 55° 31' N 12° 34' E

There are only 15 published recoveries from Denmark.

#### Dunlin

BC17472	2	29.8.65	Newton-by-Sea (Northumberland)
	V	5.1.76	Stanpit Marsh, Christchurch 530km S
BX37641	2	13.10.73	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	V	5.4.75	Stanpit Marsh (CHRS)
BB85785	3	13.10.72	Brownsea Island
	V	20.9.73	Posthuiswad (Vlieland), NETHERLANDS 53° 16' N 4° 59' E
Pol. Varsovia			
G295634	2	2.9.71	Mikoszewo (Gdansk) POLAND 54° 21' N 18° 57' E
	V	7.1.76	Stanpit. Re-ringed BX80053
Pol. Varsovia			
JA05634	3	28.8.75	Mikoszewo
	V	11.9.75	Brownsea Island

Two recoveries from Poland are noteworthy, the latter within a fortnight of being ringed.

**Black-headed Gull**

Arnhem			
318.8870	1	15.6.73	near Zandvoort, HOLLAND 52° 20' N 4° 32' E
	X	31.8.76	Radipole, Weymouth (D. T. Ireland)
Heligoland			
504.5832	1	11.7.73	Nordsee near Kiel, GERMANY 54° 16' N 10° 4' E
	V	16.5.76	Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour (C&A)
Arnhem			
1052282	1	6.6.68	Europort (Zuidholland), NETHERLANDS 51° 57' N 4° 8' E
	X	19.7.76	Stanpit
504.5832			was found sick, released but its survival is doubtful.

**Common Tern**

CH29398	1	7.7.73	Brownsea Island
	+	17.12.73	Songaw Lagoon (Ada), GHANA 5° 48' N 0° 28' E.

Just reported. A common wintering area for terns, particularly Common and Roseate, and where many are trapped and killed.

**Long-eared Owl**

GP85730	4	22.2.76	Marnhull
	+	4.5.76	Hinton St Mary 5km SE
Riga			
C002.319	2	1.10.75	Pape (Liepaja), LATVIAN SSR 56° 9' N 21° 2' E.
	X	24.4.76	Thornford, Sherborne (Dorset)

Found dead, emaciated. Only the third Long-eared Owl from the Soviet Union in UK. The second was recovered one month earlier near Cambridge, and both formed part of the exceptional 1975/76 winter invasion.

**Swallow**

KJ32528	1	18.8.76	Chapmans Pool
	V	26.9.76	Luzarches (Oise), FRANCE 49° 7' N 2° 25' E

**Sand Martin**

JX83252	3	19.8.74	Radipole
	V	23.6.76	Bullwas, Ironbridge (Salop) 220km N
KA60300	3	4.7.75	Downham Market (Norfolk)
	V	11.7.76	East Lulworth 285km SW (S&P)
Paris			
2137949	3	26.8.74	St Valery-sur-Somme, FRANCE 50° 11' N 1° 38' E.
	V=4f	5.6.76	East Lulworth

It is interesting to speculate whether the last bird was British-bred and caught on its first journey south, or a French bird which met up with British ones in winter quarters.

**Blue Tit**

JX82529	3	20.9.74	Radipole
	V	31.1.76	Lanivet, Bodmin (Cornwall) 160km W

Less than 1% of Blue Tits that are recovered have moved this sort of distance — or less than 1 in every 10,000 ringed.

**Redwing**

CH05623	6	19.1.74	Hinton St Mary, Dorset (S&P)
	X	-.12.75	Santarem (Ribatejo), PORTUGAL 39° 14' N 8° 40' W
XA57102	5	15.3.75	Duncliffe Hill, Shaftesbury (S&P)
	?	2.11.75	Alzaga, Beasain (Guipuzcoa), SPAIN 43° 4' N 2° 11' W
BV41583	3	16.12.75	Bagber, Sturminster Newton
	X	9.4.76	Bukowo, Czlurowskie (Bydgoszcz), POLAND 53° 56' N 17° 23' E

The exact fate of XA57102 is unknown, as no one at the BTO was able to translate the details given in Basque. Offers of help would be appreciated. There is no previous published record of a British-ringed Redwing being recovered in Poland, though about 40 have been found further east in Russia.

**Stonechat**

KC72576	3m	3.9.75	Chapmans Pool
	X	22.12.75	Mallorca, BALEARIC ISLANDS 39° 35' N 3° 12' E

The first British-ringed Stonechat to be recovered in the Balearic Islands.

**Redstart**

KA92918	2f	25.8.76	Portland
	+	14.9.76	Arizaleta (Navarra), SPAIN 42° 46' N 1° 59' W

**Robin**

KP03954	3	7.9.76	Radipole
	X	19.9.76	Sainte Pazanne (Loire-Atlantique), FRANCE 47° 6' N 1° 49' W

Probably a migrant from Fenno-Scandia caught on passage, but possibly home bred.

**Sedge Warbler**

Radipole provided 22 out of the 30 records, 2 of them being recaptured by a Radipole Acrocephalus Ringing Group expedition to the area of Lac de Grand Lieu, south of Nantes.

JK87683	3	25.8.72	Radipole
	V	5.8.76	Le Mignon (Loire-Atlantique), FRANCE (RARG)
KH00606	3	11.8.75	Radipole
	V	15.8.76	Lac de Grand Lieu (Loire-Atlantique), FRANCE (RARG) 47° 5' N 1° 40' W
KH00570	3	11.8.75	Radipole
	X	5.5.76	Le Peel (Guernsey), C.I. 49° 28' N 2° 35' W
KC81718	3	14.8.76	Wick, Christchurch
	+ (cat)	19.8.76	St Andrew (Guernsey), C.I. 49° 27' N 2° 34' W
KK91865	3	24.8.76	Radipole
	V	29.8.76	Grouville Marsh (Jersey), C.I. 49° 12' N 2° 3' W
KH00056	4	5.8.75	Radipole
	V	23.5.76	Duddington, Edinburgh 590km N
JX31179	4	14.5.75	Copeland Islands (Down), N. Ireland
	V	29.7.76	Radipole 495km SE
KJ62354	3	5.8.76	Silverdale, Carnforth (Lancs)
	V	9.8.76	Radipole 400km S

There are very few previous recoveries from the Channel Islands, so 3 in one year from one county is noteworthy. The three recoveries within the UK are the furthest north and north west, and the fastest movement.

**Reed Warbler**

13 controls and recoveries were reported by RARG, 4 by S&P, 2 by CHRS and 1 by C&C. Details are awaited of a Morocco-ringed bird controlled at Radipole. Within UK, out of 15 Reed Warblers caught by S&P at Sutton Bingham, 3 had already been ringed elsewhere, a very high proportion; 2 were from Chew Valley Reservoir and 1 from Newbury. Otherwise, a Radipole bird (RARG) was controlled at Upton (C&C) and an Arne bird (BPP) at Chapmans Pool (S&P) — who also controlled a Radipole Sedge Warbler (RARG).

**Blackcap**

KR94050	4m	5.7.75	North Berwick (East Lothian)
	V	16.10.76	Chapmans Pool 605km S
KN71830	3m	25.9.76	Chapmans Pool
	+	12.10.76	Portugalete (Viscaya), SPAIN 43° 19' N 3° 1' W
JP29099	6m	24.4.74	Portland
	( )	4.2.75	Los Barrios (Cadiz), SPAIN 36° 11' N 5° 30' W
Paris			
515.561	3m	2.11.75	Merchouch (Kenitra) MOROCCO 30° 31' N 2° 27' W
	V	5.5.76	Portland

Note that JP29099 and Paris 515.561 were caught in their wintering areas.

**Garden Warbler**

JP29296	3	2.8.74	Portland
	V	14.5.76	Surhuisterveen (Friesland), NETHERLANDS 53° 11' N 6° 10' E

**Willow Warbler**

759844	2	16.8.74	Portland
	+	8.9.75	Torrelavege (Santander) SPAIN 43° 21' N 4° 3' W
039694	4	5.5.76	Portland
	X	7.5.76	Higher Poynton (Cheshire) 315km N
580312	4	21.4.74	Skokholm (Pembroke)
	V	30.4.76	Chapmans Pool 250km SE
196297	3	30.7.75	Lodmoor, Weymouth (KWP)
	V	28.4.76	Bardsey Island (Caernarvon) 280km NNW

**Chiffchaff**

039774	4	12.4.76	Portland
	V	22.9.76	Skokholm (Pembroke) 235km NW
955135	2	3.9.75	Sutton Bingham Reservoir
	?	5.10.75	Jerez de la Frontera (Cadiz) SPAIN 36° 41' N 6° 7' W

**Pied Flycatcher**

JA90607	1	7.6.70	Parkend, Forest of Dean (Glos)
	Vf	27.4.76	Portland 145km S
	V	7.5.76	Parkend
KJ32088	4m	27.4.76	Chapmans Pool
	V	12.6.76	Moccas Park (Hereford) 175km N

Both birds were breeding when controlled, the former on a nest with one egg, near where it was originally ringed.

**Pied Wagtail**

JJ15643	3	28.10.71	Madjeston, Gillingham (S&P)
	X	26.10.76	Holm Mills (Inverness) 725km N

In addition a Radipole bird (RARG) was controlled at Sutton Bingham (S&P)

**Yellow Wagtail**

Apart from 12 controls, all from elsewhere within UK, RARG reported 7 recoveries of birds ringed at Radipole including

JR54862	3	23.8.75	
	+	11.9.75	Murtosa (Beira Litoral) PORTUGAL 40° 45' N 8° 40' W
JR55417	3f	20.8.73	
	?	11.4.76	Casablanca, MOROCCO 33° 38' N 7° 35' W
KH04567	3	7.9.75	
	()	8.4.76	Ain Harrouda, MOROCCO 33° 38' N 7° 27' W
KK93121	3	18.8.76	
	V	30.8.76	Lonueville (Jersey), C.I. 49° 11' N 2° 5' W

**Starling**

Date of ringing, age and sex of birds ringed at Marnhull and recovered overseas were

20.12.75	2mX	-6.76	Westmalle (Antwerpen), BELGIUM
4.1.76	4mV	8.5.76	Svisloch (Grodno), BIELORUSSIYA SSR
24.1.76	4mV	23.4.76	Wieckawice (Bydgoszcz), POLAND
24.1.76	4fX	27.3.76	Dzerebene (Cesis), LATVIAN SSR
31.1.76	4mX	18.10.76	Nidzica (Olsztyn), POLAND
31.1.76	4m?	26.7.76	Polnica, Slupsk (Koszalin) POLAND
31.1.76	4fX	-4.76	Hognas Kalla (Oland) SWEDEN
5.2.76	4mX	-7.76	Chlebow, Turek (Poznan) POLAND
15.2.76	4fX	-5.76	Wiesenaus, Eisenhüttenstadt (Frankfurt/Oder) EAST GERMANY

In addition a Dutch-ringed and a Belgian-ringed bird were controlled. All these recoveries were from the normal area of origin of Continental birds which winter in this country.

**Greenfinch**

BS11047	4f	23.4.75	Wrotham (Kent)
	V	19.3.76	Talbot Woods, Bournemouth 160km SW (C&C)

**Goldfinch**

JJ81765	2	26.8.72	Wick, Christchurch
	()	7.11.76	Villafria (Burgos) SPAIN 42° 22' N 3° 35' W
JX66770	2	29.9.74	Marnhull Hame
	()	9.11.75	Arciniega (Alava) SPAIN 43° 7' N 3° 8' W

Both from areas where cagebird trappers operate.

**Linnet**

KA92775	3	25.7.76	Portland
	X	14.10.76	Leon (Landes) FRANCE 43° 53' N 1° 18' W

Another area best avoided by finches.

In addition to recoveries of the foregoing species omitted for reasons of space, recoveries of the following were also received during the period:- Mallard, Herring Gull, Kingfisher, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit.

## DORSET RAINFALL, 1976

D. J. PAXMAN, M.A.

### STATISTICS

The general rainfall in Dorset in 1976 was 33.09 inches, which is 90 per cent of the recent average of 36.84 inches.

#### Monthly summary:

	Rainfall in inches	Average for 1945-69
January	.6	3.5
February	1.9	2.7
March	2.2	2.6
April	.2	2.2
May	1.1	2.6
June	.2	2.1
July	.7	2.3
August	.6	3.1
September	7.4	3.6
October	8.1	3.7
November	5.2	4.2
December	4.9	4.1

The wettest station was Minterne with 41.63 inches and the driest was Swanage with 27.07.

### GENERAL REPORT

1976 will long be remembered for widespread water shortage in many parts of England and Wales. In Dorset the year's total rainfall was only 10 per cent below average, but that was because of the almost unbroken wet weather from September to the end of the year. Those four wet months produced 78 per cent of the year's rainfall. In the earlier part of the year, up to and including August, rainfall was only a third of what it normally is. These eight exceptionally dry months followed a dry period which began in December 1974 and persisted through 1975, a year in which only three months saw more than their average rainfall. During the 21 months from December 1974 to August 1976 the actual rainfall in Dorset was 38 inches where 67 inches would have been normal. The shortfall was 24 inches, or 38 per cent. It was this prolonged dry weather that gave rise to the acute water shortage of Summer 1976. However, by the end of the year the water situation was well on the way back to normality and the continuing wet weather in the early months of 1977 completed the process.

There was no snowfall of any significance. The deepest cover reported was 1¼ inches at Dorchester on February 2nd but this, like other minor falls reported, was ephemeral.

#### The dry months:

It was the driest January in the Dorset records, the previous driest being 1964 with .63 inch.

April was the driest since 1954. The driest April on record is 1938 with .06 inch.

June was marginally drier than June of last year and now stands second only to the .16 inch recorded in 1925.

1976 also had the driest July since 1935 and the driest August since 1940.

Although only one month established a clear record there has never been a year since our records began in 1856 in which the total rainfall for the first eight months of the year approached the low figure of 1976. In such conditions it is not surprising that a new drought record should be set up. I am indebted to Mr E. Nimmo for drawing my attention to surviving records of the Spring drought of 1893 in which 37 days of drought were recorded at Parkstone<sup>(1)</sup> and 43 days at Bournemouth, though the latter place did not then form part of Dorset. I know of no recorded droughts longer than this. In 1976 the longest drought was of 45 days, from July 15th to August 28th, at Milton Abbas. This figure is the more remarkable and 1976 is placed in quite a different class from 1893 when it is remembered that this long period of drought was preceded by three shorter ones: 17 days in April, 22 in May/June and 19 in June/July. Bridport and Corfe Mullen had 44 days of drought (July 16th to August 28th) and seven stations had 43 days (July 16th to August 27th). They were Bournemouth (Alderney Reservoir), Branksome, Mapperton, North Chideock, Swanage and the two stations at Weymouth.

The general extent of the drought will be seen from the following summary of the 37 stations whose

observations were in sufficient detail to make possible an exact measurement of the length of the drought. It will be seen that the Parkstone figure of 1893 was exceeded almost everywhere:-

Length of longest period of drought (days)	Number of stations
45	1
44	2
43	7
42	0
41	1
40	2
39	8
38	12
37 or less	4

The wet months:

The wettest calendar month was October whose total of 8.13 inches is the highest for that month since the record of 10.10 inches was established in 1960. However the 1976 figure has been exceeded on five other occasions and the figures for the other three wet months have all been exceeded since 1970. It is when we consider the combined rainfall of all four months that we find it exceeded only once, in 1960.

The real core of the wet autumn was a period of 15 days from September 21st to October 5th. At many stations a third of the rain of the wet months, a quarter of the year's rain, fell in this short period. At Minsterne, the station with the highest rainfall for the year, six of these fifteen days had more than an inch of rain. Although the synoptic situations giving rise to the rainfall were essentially frontal, and can be described in terms of fronts and pressure systems, there were thunderstorms on five of these days showing that the intensity of the rain was the result of instability. Indeed, a notable feature of 1976 was the very late occurrence of thunderstorms. The last ones in Dorset were on 30th and 31st December.

#### HEAVY FALLS OF RAIN

August 28th & 29th

August 28th saw the drought broken at many stations and on 29th there was rain everywhere, with thunderstorms and a locally very heavy rainfall of 2.21 inches at Mapperton.

September 10th to 14th

At 0600 on 10th a depression of 988 millibars was centered at 59N 19W with its warm front approaching the west coast of Ireland. By midnight the centre was over SW Wales and the fronts had cleared Dorset giving substantial rain throughout the county. Mapperton had 1.38 inches and falls of more than an inch were recorded at a third of the stations.

The depression became complex and then filled over the North Sea by the end of 12th. It was followed by other centres and their fronts on 13th and 14th. Purbeck had very heavy rain on 13th (1.56 inches at Furzebrook, 1.49 at Corfe).

By 14th low pressure extended from Norway to the Mediterranean and a shallow centre formed over the southern half of England. There were locally heavy outbreaks of rain: an inch at Swanage, and an inch at Dorchester accompanied by a thunderstorm.

September 21st

This day saw the beginning of the particularly wet period already noted. At 0600 a depression of 988 millibars was centered 400 miles SW of Iceland. It was stationary and filling while the associated fronts were moving slowly into western parts of Britain. Twenty-four hours later the main occluded front, orientated north-south, had just cleared eastern Dorset and become quasi-stationary. A small centre of 1016 millibars had formed over Dorset and Hampshire. This slow-moving system gave general rainfall of variable quantity in Dorset, but locally very heavy. The larger falls were in the western half of the county, west of a line from Gillingham to Lulworth. The heaviest recorded falls were 1.89 inches at Weymouth, 1.76 at Forston and 1.74 at Martinstown.

September 25th

The next development was the formation of a deep secondary depression to the one SW of Iceland. By 25th the secondary had also become stationary 400 miles SW of Land's End, where it survived to the end of the month, maintaining a warm moist southerly airstream over the British Isles. An associated cold front with widespread thunderstorms moved northwards from Biscay into SW England and crossed Dorset in the early hours of 25th. A wave formed on this front causing it to return across Dorset as a warm front during the afternoon. By evening a small centre had formed over the English Channel and the front crossed Dorset yet again during the night. In this situation there was a good deal of thundery activity and the distribution of rainfall over Dorset bore no relation to the relief of the land. Marnhull had 2.48 inches, the heaviest 24-hour fall at any Dorset station during the year, Winfrith recorded 1.93 inches and Bryanston 1.90. Further east the fall was only half an inch. Elsewhere in central and west Dorset it was 1½ inches.

September 30th

The secondary depression already described now appeared on the Atlantic chart as a small centre of 1004 millibars, lying off SW Ireland and forming part of a complex shallow area of low pressure affecting the British Isles, Spain, central Europe and the Mediterranean. During the evening of 30th a frontal system moved north across Dorset giving heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms. Again the rainfall was not governed by relief. Most of the county, except the east and an area in the south-west, had over an inch of rain. An area extending from north of Dorchester to Blandford had 1½ inches. The heaviest falls were 1.96 inches at Owermoigne and 1.91 at Forston.

October 1st

The old shallow depression remained more or less stationary in the western English Channel with Dorset just on the northern side of the centre. Heavy showers with thunderstorms gave more than an inch of rain over about a third of the county. A particularly heavy outburst over a small area of West Dorset gave falls of 2.31 inches at Mapperton and 2.09 at Beaminster.

October 3rd & 5th

The fifteen days of exceptionally wet weather came to an end with the arrival of new systems from the Atlantic initiating a return to westerlies. Fronts on 3rd gave high rainfall in West Dorset. More than an inch fell in an area extending from the coast at Abbotsbury towards Sherborne. The highest falls were 1.72 inches at Melbury and 1.45 at Cattistock.

A warm front on 5th gave widespread heavy rain, the heaviest falls being 1.52 inches at Minterne and 1.42 at Melbury.

November 29th

By 0600 a small, vigorous and fast-moving depression, which had come eastwards across the Atlantic, was in the south-west approaches. By midday the centre had just cleared the coast of East Anglia and the cold front had crossed Dorset. By the end of the rain-day, in a rapidly changing situation, rain from another Atlantic frontal system was already spreading into SW England. During the day an area of Dorset south of a line Abbotsbury-Dorchester-Wimborne had more than an inch of rain. The heaviest falls were over Poole Harbour (1.48 inches at Poole Gasworks). A thunderstorm was reported at Swanage.

#### RAINFALL STATIONS

The station at Stour Provost (Diamond Farm) has closed.

(<sup>1</sup>) Proc. Dorset N.H. & A.S., Vol. 14 (1893), 207.

Rainfall in Dorset 1976

STATION	OBSERVER	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		Days Days with with .01 inl in or or more more		DEPTH OF RAINFALL IN INCHES												Total for Year	
		Depth	Date	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.				
		1.49	25/9	135	5	.41	1.59	2.33	.24	.92	.10	.52	.47	7.08	6.87	4.65	3.95	29.13	
		2.09	1/10	147	6	.88	1.86	2.59	.39	1.43	.15	.72	1.37	7.20	11.31	4.48	4.81	37.19	
Abbotsbury (Rodden Row)	Miss A.M. Hutchins	1.90	25/9	129	3	.62	1.88	2.01	.22	.85	.16	1.02	.53	7.94	8.47	4.81	5.65	34.16	
Beaminster (East Street)	W.A. Stiby																		
Blandford (Bryanston)	Miss A.M. Jaques	1.14	29/11	126	3	.38	1.61	1.82	.14	.89	.15	.40	.54	5.27	6.83	5.74	4.88	28.65	
		1.40	29/11	127	3	.40	1.61	1.47	.29	.84	.17	.40	.50	5.18	6.69	5.89	4.85	28.29	
Bournemouth (Alderney Reservoir)	B'mouth & Dist. Water Co.	1.56	25/9	131	4	.62	1.39	2.36	.36	1.13	.13	.51	1.18	7.06	8.05	4.69	4.22	31.70	
Branksome (Bourne Valley)	W.R. Coles	—	—	—	—	.77	1.69	2.23	.41	1.35	.14	.39	.56	6.74	8.13	3.95	4.36	30.72	
Bridport (East Road)	E.J. Hine	—	—	—	—	.60	2.03	2.58	.20	1.21	.14	.74	.55	8.05	9.21	4.73	5.41	35.45	
Bridport (North Chideock)	H.J.F. Smith	1.55	25/9	133	10	.89	2.35	2.74	.43	.89	.20	.95	1.32	8.19	11.63	5.72	5.54	40.85	
Buckland Newton (Brockhampton Gate)	Major A.M. Hall	1.91	30/9	138	8	.55	2.18	2.60	.25	1.04	.18	.78	.52	9.35	9.75	5.62	4.87	37.69	
Cattistock (Manor Farm)	R.J. Bere	1.49	13/9	129	4	.54	2.29	1.69	.13	1.33	.19	.38	.26	8.64	7.28	6.47	5.38	34.58	
Charminster (Forston Pumping Station)	E.R. Fox	1.44	21/9	142	6	.52	2.28	2.85	.32	1.05	.15	.92	.56	8.25	8.45	5.96	4.93	36.24	
Corfe Castle (Waterworks)	Wessex Water	1.52	21/9	—	5	.61	2.35	2.54	.31	1.11	.13	.88	.58	7.96	7.44	5.97	5.07	34.95	
Dorchester (Alfred Road)	J.R. Oliver	1.94	21/9	136	6	.63	2.24	2.76	.17	.99	.14	.98	.64	8.94	8.38	5.95	5.15	36.97	
Dorchester (Queen's Avenue)	Miss A.M. Yeatman	1.55	21/8	133	4	.43	1.90	2.73	.21	1.03	.17	.89	.50	8.00	8.41	5.29	5.14	34.70	
Dorchester (Martinstown)	Mrs E.S. Symonds	1.72	3/10	—	7	.69	1.81	2.20	.32	1.23	.15	1.23	.81	8.51	11.99	4.18	5.27	38.39	
Dorchester (Waterworks)	R.S. Rendle	1.50	1/10	142	6	1.07	1.39	3.01	.29	1.00	.30	.54	.78	6.53	11.44	4.28	5.27	35.90	
Evershot (Melbury House)	W. Wright	2.31	1/10	133	6	.93	2.61	2.60	.47	1.67	.22	.69	2.30	7.92	11.46	4.78	4.56	40.21	
Forde Abbey	G.D. Roper	2.48	25/9	162	3	.89	1.88	1.93	.26	.93	.41	.62	1.03	8.02	6.95	4.25	5.38	32.55	
Mapperton	V. Montagu	—	—	—	—	.57	2.23	2.35	.18	1.30	.17	.89	.61	8.85	8.83	4.86	3.70	34.54	
Marnhull (Great Down Lane)	Mrs E.M. Payne	1.53	21/9	147	8	.78	2.33	2.87	.37	1.15	.26	.91	.77	8.60	12.14	6.20	5.25	41.63	
Milton Abbas (Gate House)	Miss Wansbrough	1.58	1/10	150	3	.76	1.61	2.40	.37	1.51	.17	.68	1.10	6.72	9.67	4.38	4.68	34.05	
Minterne	The Lord Digby	1.59	25/9	134	4	.50	1.59	1.87	.17	.56	.24	.50	.41	6.42	9.30	4.18	5.74	31.48	
Netherbury (The Garden House)	J.K. Newsom Davis	1.96	30/9	141	4	.35	1.61	1.93	.11	.87	.09	.83	.53	7.82	5.45	5.99	4.76	30.34	
Okeford Fitzpaine (Pumping Station)	Wessex Water	1.33	29/11	141	2	.38	1.39	1.60	.21	.81	.18	.36	.38	5.54	6.28	5.66	5.03	27.82	
Owermoigne (The Mill House)	J. Whatmoor	—	—	—	—	.31	1.54	1.47	.15	.75	.08	.46	.33	5.75	6.91	5.70	4.97	28.42	
Parkstone (Lilliput)	R.J.O. Crew	1.53	25/9	136	5	.44	1.52	2.07	.15	.85	.21	.78	.60	7.24	8.85	4.47	5.58	32.76	
Poole (Pitwine's Gasworks)	W.R. Coles	1.13	17/9	129	4	.43	1.75	1.05	.18	.96	.13	.39	.50	6.06	5.29	5.72	4.61	27.07	
Shillingstone (Green Hills)	E. Nimmo	1.37	30/9	135	6	.48	1.87	2.21	.14	1.07	.16	.80	.46	7.00	6.76	5.14	5.69	31.78	
Swanage	K. Moore	1.56	13/9	118	5	.54	2.19	1.71	.18	1.38	.21	.88	.43	8.23	7.92	6.31	4.95	34.93	
Wareham (East Stoke, River Laboratory)	J. Morgan	1.70	25/9	136	2	.51	2.32	1.80	.16	.83	.13	.88	.35	6.74	7.02	4.88	5.95	31.57	
Wareham (Furzebrook Research Station)	D.C.P. Malt	1.89	21/9	116	4	.33	1.61	2.11	.14	.74	.08	.52	.57	7.26	6.49	4.82	4.09	28.76	
Wareham (Trigon)	Mrs J.D. Sturdy	1.48	21/9	126	3	.40	1.63	1.90	.16	.85	.13	.63	.57	7.37	6.30	4.35	4.32	28.61	
Weymouth (Cranford Avenue)	H.F. Middleton	—	—	157	—	.53	1.81	1.72	.20	1.08	.29	1.31	.52	6.44	6.40	6.07	5.53	31.90	
Weymouth (Westham)	G.B. Smith	1.35	29/11	136	4	.51	1.31	1.87	.12	1.03	.25	.90	.41	7.01	7.17	6.42	4.32	31.32	
Wimborne (Clevedon Lodge)	Dr E.H. Markby	1.24	30/9	130	2	.41	1.65	1.90	.16	.92	.15	.89	.33	6.62	6.72	5.82	4.61	30.18	
Wimborne (Corfe Mullen, Central Avenue)	A.H. Dunn	—	—	—	—	.59	1.63	1.62	.15	.94	.32	.63	.72	5.59	6.71	5.81	4.19	28.90	
Wimborne (Corfe Mullen, Pumping Station)	Wessex Water	1.06	5/10	139	1	.45	1.63	1.71	.15	.92	.23	1.34	.46	5.76	7.03	5.74	5.09	30.51	
Wimborne (Stanbridge Mill Pumping Stn.)	B'mouth & Dist. Water Co.	1.93	25/9	125	4	.39	1.87	2.12	.14	.85	.13	1.30	.44	7.73	6.70	5.47	4.90	32.04	
Wimborne (Walsford Bridge Pumping Stn.)	B'mouth & Dist. Water Co.																		
Winfrith (Atomic Energy Establishment)	D.C. Fraser			136	5	.57	1.85	2.16	.23	1.05	.17	.75	.64	7.39	8.13	5.21	4.94	33.09	

AVERAGE FOR THE COUNTY

## GEOLOGY

---

JOHN C. W. COPE

### SUBMERGED FOREST AT CHARMOUTH

The following note on the submerged forest was contributed by Miss J. B. Lang. "The forest reappeared for a short time (from 12th. – 18th. December 1976). This was immediately east and west of the western groyne on the fore-shore; four or five tree trunks were exposed. That week the extreme mouth of the river Char had turned westwards just below the eastern groyne, so that the rush of water swept the shingle away from around the western groyne, thus exposing the forest. The westward turning of the river mouth was only temporary and due to the piling up of shingle just east of the eastern bank of the river." Miss Lang goes on to point out that field notes made by her father (the late Dr. W. D. Lang, former editor of the Geology report) make no mention of shingle as a cause of change of direction of the river mouth in the periods of exposure of the forest in 1926 and 1948.

A further note from Miss Lang is a report on the abnormal wetness of Black Ven cliffs after prolonged rain in January and early February. Her field notes record that all the gullies on the cliff were running with streams of liquid mud, and on February 9th she also witnessed a larger rockfall there.

## BOTANY

---

PROFESSOR R. D'O. GOOD

Botanically the year 1976 was chiefly remarkable for the prolonged and severe drought which lasted until the very end of August and which greatly affected the later-flowering wild plants.

There was one new county record, of the so-called Tall Wallflower Cabbage (*Rhynchosinapis cheiranthos*), a casual of south-west England and South Wales, which was found by Mrs. V. Follett at Sandbanks.

An unusually interesting record was that of the Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*) in the lawn and other parts of his garden by J. V. Boys at Broadstone, because this is the second time within a few years that this plant, now extremely rare in Dorset, has been found in similar circumstances (see Proc. vol. 91, 1969).

The Field Fleawort (*Senecio integrifolius*) is reported just within the county boundary due north of Cranborne by R. Burt who also found the Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis annua*) in a locality in Purbeck whence it has been recorded occasionally for many years past. He also recorded the Fly Orchis (*Ophrys insectifera*) from what seems to be a hitherto unrecorded locality north-north-east of Sixpenny Handley.

## LAND ARTHROPODS OTHER THAN LEPIDOPTERA

---

A. J. BROWN

1976 will be remembered for the long, hot summer. The effect on insects was noticeable. Many species produced extra broods, and single-brooded species, such as Orthoptera, were early in reaching maturity, and survived adulthood for only a short time, due probably to an increased rate of metabolism caused by high temperatures.

### INSECTA

#### ORTHOPTERA

J. R. Cox reports that *Chorthippus albomarginatus* has been found at Studland in a locality from which it was absent in the 1930's when the area was surveyed by Capt. Diver.

*Acheta domestica*; recorded by J. R. Cox at Swanage, and on Hartland Moor NNR; a record has been passed to me from West Knighton, on 25 ix 76, recorder unknown.

## ODONATA

J. R. Cox has recorded 17 species in the Studland area. He reports that several of the breeding pools at Studland dried up, but the effect of this on the various species is not known.

## COLEOPTERA

Dr. C. Nield has undertaken the task of trapping beetles in various woodland sites in the county. He has so far recorded 62 species.

Ladybirds were abundant this year, and were often reported in the Press when they started biting people. J. R. Cox recorded *Coccinella undecimpunctata* and *C.septempunctata* at Shell Bay "in hundreds", occasionally biting visitors.

Mr. Cox also noted several Glowworms at Studland NNR.

## DIPTERA

The Syrphid, *Volucella zonaria* was recorded twice; Lodmoor, "1976" (L. Diaper) and Wyke Regis, 28 ix 76 (Mrs. J. Johnstone).

## HYMENOPTERA

Two species were recorded: *Mutilla europea*, Studland, 27 v 76, 1 male (J. R. Cox). *Vespa crabro* (Hornet), Upton Park, 9 x 76, on edge of wood (J. Beddoe).

## ARACHNIDA

J. R. Cox reports three species from Studland, namely *Argiope brunnechii*, *Thomassiss onustus* and *Dolomedes fimbriatus*.

## VERTEBRATES

### FISH

---

DR. M. LADLE

Again this year most of the fish recorded are those which I have been able to verify personally. A small number were confirmed from photographs and interesting reports of spawning activities of trout and lampreys from M. Lawson are included. Perhaps surprisingly, there were few reports of fish mortalities caused by prolonged high temperatures in the summer. Any records of fish will be welcomed in the coming year and as usual I shall be pleased to identify or confirm the identity of any specimens.

### MARINE FISH

#### SCYLIORHINIDAE

*Scyliorhinus stellaris* (L) Nurse hound. 11 November, a fish of 12 lb. was reported from the vicinity of Old Harry Rocks.

#### SQUATINIDAE

*Squatina squatina* (L) Monkfish. 15 and 29 August. Large specimens of 42 lb. 6 oz. and 33 lb. 14 oz. respectively reported from off Bournemouth.

#### RAJIDAE

*Raja clavata* (L) Thornback ray. 5 July. A small specimen of 3 lb. was taken from 3 fathoms in Swanage Bay.

*Raja brachyura* Lafont. Blonde ray. 23 May. 24 lb. 12 oz. "off Poole".

#### CONGRIDAE

*Conger conger* (L) Conger eel. 8 June. 10 lb. Swanage Bay.

#### GADIDAE

*Trisopterus luscus* (L) Pouting. All months. Generally distributed.

*Trisopterus minutus* (L) Poor cod. All months. Generally distributed.

*Gadus morhua* (L) Cod. 26 February. 14 lb off Ballard Point.

#### SERRANIDAE

*Dicentrarchus labrax* (L) Bass. March to July. Twenty specimens examined including three of 8½ lbs. each. Hordle - Weymouth.

## SPARIDAE

*Spondyllosoma cantharus* (L) Black bream. 18 April – 5 July. Six large (to 2 lb. each) unspawned female fish were taken in Swanage Bay on 11 June and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. female was still unspawned when captured on 5 July.

## LABRIDAE

*Crenilabrus melops* (L) Corkwing. 20 June, several specimens Worbarrow Bay.

*Labrus bergylta* Ascanius Ballan wrasse. 20 June. Several specimens Worbarrow Bay.

## MUGILIDAE

*Crenimugil labrosus* (Risso) Thick-lipped mullet. 8 June to 27 July. 21 specimens examined. Swanage to Kimmeridge. In June numerous small mullet were observed in rock pools at Clavells Hard and Freshwater Bay. The fish which were one to two inches in length swam around in small shoals. On being disturbed the shoals dispersed and individual fish were found concealed in crevices and under stones.

## CYCLOPTERIDAE

*Cyclopterus lumpus* (L) lumpsucker. 22 January. Boscombe Pier.

## BOTHIDAE

*Scophthalmus maximus* (L) Turbot. 27 August. A specimen of 20 lb. 10 oz. was reported from Dancing Ledge.

## PLEURONECTIDAE

*Limanda limanda* (L) Dab. 11 November. A large dab of 1 lb. 1 oz. was caught off Southbourne.

## FRESHWATER FISH

### PETROMYZONIDAE

*Lampetra fluviatilis* (L) Lampern. 8 and 15 April. Lamperns were reported spawning in the River Asker at Knowles Farm.

### THYMALLIDAE

*Thymallus thymallus* (L) Grayling. January to March. 11 specimens to 1 lb. 8 oz. River Frome.

### SALMONIDAE

*Salmo salar* (L) Salmon. Of 26 salmon caught from the River Frome at East Stoke between 9 March and 12 July only two weighed more than 10 lb. This is an indication of the exceptionally poor catch of small summer running fish (grilse) which may have been associated in some way with the exceptional summer.

*Salmo trutta* (L) Trout. A "sea trout" of 5½ lbs. was caught in the River Frome on 17 September by Mr. N. Gibbs. Between 2 and 9 January, trout were observed spawning in the River Asker at Knowles Farm. The water temperature at the time was 48°C.

### ESOCIDAE

*Esox lucius* (L) Pike. Whole year. 36 specimens from 1 lb. to 15 lb. from River Frome at East Stoke.

### CYPRINIDAE

*Gobio gobio* (L) Gudgeon. 14 January. River Frome, East Stoke.

*Tinca tinca* (L) Tench. June-July. Small specimens from clay pits in Creech area. Numerous tench were reported dead in a ditch south of and parallel to the River Frome at Wareham, probably the result of deoxygenation under blankets of duckweed during the long hot summer.

*Phoxinus phoxinus* (L) Minnow. Numerous in rivers Frome and Piddle.

*Rutilus rutilus* (L) Roach. Several specimens of over 1 lb. observed caught from the River Frome in autumn.

*Leuciscus leuciscus* (L) Dace. Numerous in River Frome.

## AMPHIBIANS

---

ROBERT V. SKINNER

### COMMON FROG. *Rana temporaria* – L.

Spawn found in garden ponds at Kingsbere Crescent, Dorchester on 13th February. The same ponds had spawn on 11th January 1975 (M. Keats).

COMMON TOAD. *Bufo bufo* – L.

Plenty of spawn in two garden ponds in Corfe Mullen in early April. (A. H. Dunn).

REPTILES

---

ROBERT V. SKINNER

VIVIPAROUS LIZARD. *Lacerta vivipara* – Jaquin.

First seen on Studland Heath on 1st March (J. R. Cox).

SAND LIZARD. *Lacerta agilis agilis* – L.

Earliest sighting for Studland Heath was of a male and female on 23rd March. The last recorded date for the species in this area was 29th August. (J. R. Cox)

SLOW WORM. *Anguis fragilis* – L.

One found dead on the Arne Road near Ridge on 10th August. (A. H. Dunn). Earliest record for Studland Heath was 4th March when two specimens were found beneath a sheet of metal. (J. R. Cox). In the Milton Abbey area the first sighting was on 8th February on the Delcombe Road. Two were seen on 4th May, one on Bovington Heath and one in Delcombe Woods. Two more were sighted at a stream near Milton Abbey Lake on 10th May and one on 11th May at Delcombe. On 4th June two were seen at Green Hill and another on 6th June on the Monk's Path. A single specimen was observed in the school grounds on 8th June (P. King – Milton Abbey School).

GRASS SNAKE. *Natrix natrix helvetica* – Lacepède.

A very thin juvenile, approximately 3 feet long found near a garden pond in Corfe Mullen on 5th August. On 20th August a large adult was seen swimming across the River Stour at Corfe Mullen. It had not been disturbed and was swimming strongly with its head held high and producing a "V" shaped wash (A. H. Dunn). First sightings from Studland Heath were on 1st March when four specimens were seen and the last was by E. S. Brodie who observed a single specimen on 31st October. (J. R. Cox). Several sightings made in the Organford and Sherford Bridge area. One 4 foot specimen seen at Organford on 8th May. (J. Lockwood).

ADDER. *Vipera berus* – L.

One large grey coloured specimen seen in Morden Park on 26th July. Very scarce in the heather at Corfe Mullen (A. H. Dunn). Two seen on Studland Heath on 22nd February which was the earliest record. Last record was for a single snake on Studland Heath on 5th November (J. R. Cox). Frequently seen near Sherford Bridge during May (J. Lockwood). One seen at the Keeper's Cottage, Milton Abbey School on 29th March. Several observed on 8th June and another seen on 10th June at St. Thomas' Hill (P. King – Milton Abbey School).

TORTOISE.

A medium sized specimen found on the road to Arne, near the turning to Halfway House. It was very active similar to wild ones which the finder had seen in Turkey. It was removed from the road for safety and stayed in the finder's garden for two weeks. (A. H. Dunn).

MAMMALS

---

MRS. E. M. KEATS

I am most grateful to the few recorders who have sent in reports on Mammals for 1976 and some of these reports are printed below. The establishment of a Biological Records Centre at the Dorset County Museum has encouraged some new recorders to submit their observations on Mammals. All items reported including those not printed here are filed in the Biological Records Centre at the Dorset County Museum.

The following have submitted reports:- R. M. Alcock, W. Stuart Best, Mrs. E. Blanchard, A. Bromby, Mrs. A. Challis, P. Darley, A. H. Dunn, J. Fair, Mrs. A. Ferguson, W. M. Grange, Mrs. A.

Hughes, A. D. Hutchings, M. Lawson, Milton Abbey School Natural History Society, D. J. Moxom, F. J. Old, Mrs. K. B. Parkyn, S. Perry, G. Pett, Miss J. Pleavin, M. F. Robertson, S. Slade, R. Tucker, Mrs. J. C. Walton.

The check list numbers and scientific names are as listed in *The Identification of British Mammals*, by G. B. Corbett, British Museum, (Natural History) 1969. In addition to the records of species listed the following species were also reported:- 2. Mole, *Talpa europaea*. 3. Common Shrew, *Sorex araneus*. 31. Badger, *Meles meles*. 43. Sika Deer, *Cervus nippon*. 44. Fallow Deer, *Dama dama*. 57. Grey Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*. 62. Long-tailed Field Mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus*.

1. Hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus*. During many nights in the hot summer of 1976 Mrs. Parkyn observed hedgehogs in her garden in Oakdale, Poole. She started to put out saucers of milk and bread in June and by September was feeding up to 7 every night. She marked the hedgehogs with a blob of white paint when she suspected there were several hedgehogs, she marked three small ones, two medium and two large animals. Several others turned up without markings. One or two of the larger ones, their blobs of paint almost worn off, were still coming almost nightly throughout the later months of 1976 and into January 1977. Two small ones were killed on successive nights in the summer, one on Mrs. Parkyn's lawn and one next door, where the neighbour was convinced that a Magpie which was seen with the hedgehog was actually killing it.
4. Pygmy Shrew, *Sorex minutus*. Dead specimens of this species were taken to the Dorset County Museum from Hammoon, Halstock Leigh, Dorchester and Beaulieu Wood. They were also seen in the Milton Abbas area.
18. Noctule, *Nyctalus noctula*. Two were seen west of Woodbury Hill, Bere Regis on 4th June 1976 and one at Beechy Clump, Lytchett Matravers on the same date.
24. Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*. Many records of foxes have been reported and in particular in the Milton Abbas area a number of observations were made on their feeding habits and general behaviour. Foxes were frequently seen in daylight during the summer drought, often drinking at cattle troughs or mousing and grubbing in the fields. Six foxes were seen together at Chetnole in January, screaming and barking. They have also been reported from Godmanstone, Corfe Mullen, Lytchett Matravers, Morden Park, Winterborne Whitechurch, Portesham, Verwood, Moreton, Weymouth, Ridgeway between Weymouth and Dorchester and Littledown Rd., Bournemouth.
27. Stoat, *Mustela erminea*.
28. Weasel, *Mustela nivalis*.
30. American Mink, *Mustela vison*. An owner in the Cerne valley has suffered heavy game losses and suspected mustelids as the culprits. He carried out a systematic trapping scheme on his 1200 acres, catching over 100 weasels, over 30 stoats and 7 mink by the River Cerne. One wonders if the small rodent population will build up following the trapping.
32. Otter, *Lutra lutra*. There have been several reports of sightings of otters and some of overnight scent trails and of footmarks. Reports have been sent in for Rivers, Stour, Piddle, Crane, Frome and Asker, the Caundle Brook and one report from the Fleet area and one from Poole Harbour. These records over a wide area do not indicate a large number of otters although the otters still seem to be present on a number of our rivers.
45. Roe-deer, *Capreolus capreolus*. This species still seems to be widespread, with reports of it being fairly plentiful in the Cerne valley and other records from Black Down, Arne Peninsula, Corfe Mullen, Lytchett Minster, Milton Abbas and Verwood.
53. Brown Hare, *Lepus capensis*. Large numbers of hares were seen at Chescombe Farm, near Winterborne Whitechurch in January. Reports were also received for Tarrant Rawston, Charborough, Wimborne and Corfe Mullen, including one seen swimming the River Stour at Corfe Mullen in May.
55. Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. Large numbers of rabbits are reported from two areas at Corfe Mullen, from Lytchett Beacon, the Milton Abbas area, Verwood, along the disused railway line between Abbotsbury and Portesham and on the Chesil Beach between Ferrybridge and Abbotsbury. On the beach the rabbits burrow under fishermen's huts and the Shrubby Seablite.
56. Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*. Mrs. Parkyn reports that Brownsea was closed to the public on 17th August because of the drought and grave fire risk and it remained closed until the end of the season, only a few volunteers were off duty during this period and therefore the number of observers was reduced. Mrs. Parkyn considers that the squirrels quickly adjusted to the absence of crowds of humans and became bolder. The figures for sightings for the year were well up, only once since 1967 have they been slightly higher than in 1976, 133 in 1972 compared with 128 in 1976. Mrs. Parkyn has supplied a large map of the Island showing local names and the grid numbers, this will be deposited, with the detailed records of sightings, at the Biological Records Centre in the Dorset County Museum.
59. Dormouse, *Muscardinus avellanarius*. A female with four juveniles was found in a dried grass nest in a garden hedge at Corfe Mullen in August. The nest had to be moved because it had been exposed by hedge clipping and the female dormouse moved each juvenile to a new area. In woodland in the north west of the county Dormice occupied one tit nest box during May and June and made a breeding nest, in December seven tit boxes contained winter nests of Dormice.
68. Water Vole, *Arvicola terrestris*. This species has been seen swimming in the lower lake Morden Park in January, in the River Stour at Corfe Mullen and in the Bourne in the upper part of the gardens at Bournemouth in October. As in 1975 the water voles have been very active and frequently seen in the old mill stream of the River Frome just north of Dorchester.

# LEPIDOPTERA

ALAN T. BROMBY

A mild winter, followed by an exceptionally hot summer made 1976 a season to be long remembered by entomologists. Many observers commented on the general abundance of butterflies and very large catches of moths were taken in mercury vapour light traps.

1976 was possibly the best year since 1872 for *Nymphalis antiopa* and at least one reached Dorset. It is pleasing to note that *Strymonidia w-album* was widely recorded in the County, but, in spite of the fine warm summer, *Colias croceus* hardly appeared at all.

Turning to the moths, I must especially mention the records of *Limantria dispar*, *Coscinia cribraria* and *Hadena albimacula* at Arne, and *Leucania vitellina*, *Rhodometra sacraria* and *Eupithecia phoeniciata* at Furzebrook.

Dr. N. R. Webb and Mr. D. C. Malt, have been light trapping at Furzebrook regularly since 1970 and this has provided a yardstick by which one may measure the annual abundance of lepidoptera. I have their permission to quote the following figures:-

During 1976 91,879 moths were caught, which is three times the annual total for any previous year, their previous average being 27,371. 370 species were recorded at Furzebrook in 1976, compared with a total of 301 species in an average year. The largest single catch was on the night of 28th June, when 3466 moths of 109 species were taken, 2005 of these moths were *Agrotis ipsilon*.

I should like to thank all those who have helped by supplying the records from which this report has been compiled:-

J. Rees-Cox et al; A. H. Dunn; Mrs. C. M. Field; Dr. D. J. Godfrey; H. Halahan et al; Dr. J. K. Hasler; D. K. Ireland; J. Lockwood; D. C. Malt; B. P. Pickess; M. F. Robertson; Mrs. J. Walton; Dr. N. R. Webb; A. J. Wise et al; Baron C. de Worms, the Dorset Biological Records Centre.

<b>Anthocharis cardamines L.</b>	<b>Orange-tip White</b>	
Iwerne Courtenay	Numerous on 9.5.	(C.M.F.)
Radipole	Recorded between 10.5 and 29.7.	(D.K.I.)
Cranborne	2 on 10.5.	(A.H.D.)
Corfe Mullen	8 between 12th and 25th May.	(A.H.D.)
	Several in May.	(C.M.F.)
Studland Heath	3 only this year.	(J.R-C.)
<b>Leptidea sinapis L.</b>	<b>Wood White</b>	
Reported from 4 localities in the county		(H.H. et al)
<b>Colias croceus Fourc.</b>	<b>Common Clouded Yellow</b>	
Powerstock	12.7.	(H.H. et al)
Brownsea	26.9.	(A.J.W.)
<b>Pararge megera L.</b>	<b>Wall Brown</b>	
Corfe Mullen	23.5, 26.5.	(A.H.D.)
East Morden	31.7.	(A.H.D.)
Organford	Few in May, larger numbers from later broods in July, August and September	(J.L.)
Studland Heath	At least 12 individuals present.	(J.R-C. et al)
Sightings in 10 areas in the county		(H.H. et al)
<b>Aphantopus hyperantus L.</b>	<b>Common Ringlet</b>	
Bloxworth	2 on 18.7.	(A.H.D.)
Sightings in several localities in the	Blandford area.	(H.H. et al)
<b>Apatura iris L.</b>	<b>Purple Emperor</b>	
Dorset	28.6, locality withheld.	(H.H. et al)
<b>Limnitis camilla L.</b>	<b>White Admiral</b>	
Sightings in various localities in the	Blandford area between 4.6 and 11.7.	(H.H. et al)
Puddletown Woods	About 2 dozen on 5.7.	(J.K.H.)
Corfe Mullen	4.7.	(A.H.D.)

Arne	4 on 12.7.	(A.H.D.)
Bloxworth	18.7	(A.H.D.)
Morden	26.7.	(A.H.D.)
Brownsea	A good year for this species.	(A.T.B. & A.J.W.)
Arne	An average year for this species.	(B.P.P.)
Studland Heath	Daily maximum of 15.	(J.R-C. et al)
<b>Vanessa cardui L.</b>	<b>Painted Lady</b>	
Brownsea	10.6, 11.6, 14 between 23.7 and 14.8.	(A.J.W. et al)
Recorded on 10 dates from H.H. et al	in various localities earliest 25.6.	
Organford	26.6.	(J.L.)
Arne	Recorded on 8 days between 23.7 and 7.9, mostly singles.	(B.P.P.)
Dorchester	On buddleia 7.8, 8.8, 19.8, 21.8 and 23.8.	(J.K.H.)
Studland Heath	29.8, 5.9, 8.9.	(J.R-C. et al)
<b>Nymphalis antiopa L.</b>	<b>Camberwell Beauty</b>	
Ferndown	21.8.	(D.B.R.C.)
<b>Aglais urticae L.</b>	<b>Small Tortoiseshell</b>	
Poole Harbour	26.12, flying over water.	(D.J.G.)
<b>Polygonia c-album L.</b>	<b>Comma</b>	
Sturminster Newton	29.3.	(A.H.D.)
Recorded on numerous dates and in various localities in the Blandford area between 29.4 and 6.8.		(H.H. et al)
Buckland Newton	1 in June.	(J.W.)
Corfe Mullen	2.7, 6.7, 10.7, 12.7, 20.7.	(A.H.D.)
Puddletown Woods	2 on 5.7.	(J.K.H.)
Bloxworth	18.7.	(A.H.D.)
Hinton St. Mary	22.7.	(A.H.D.)
Parkstone	4.9.	(A.H.D.)
Dorchester	2 on 16.9, 11.10.	(J.K.H.)
Studland Heath	Daily maximum of 8.	(J.R-C. et al)
<b>Argynnis paphia L.</b>	<b>Silver-washed Fritillary</b>	
Brownsea	Mostly singles between 14.7 and 16.8.	(A.J.W. et al)
	Maximum of 5 on 23.7.	(A.T.B.)
Buckland Newton	No date given.	(J.W.)
Green Hill Down	4+, no date given.	(J.W.)
Arne	A good year including some valezina.	(B.P.P.)
	26 males and 3 females 12.7, including 1 valezina.	(A.H.D.)
Puddletown Woods	24+ on 5.7.	(J.K.H.)
Studland Heath	28 recorded with 3 valezina.	(J.R-C. et al)
Lychett Matravers	10 on 18.7.	(A.H.D.)
Morden	2 on 26.7.	(A.H.D.)
Blagdon	10.8.	(A.H.D.)
<b>Argynnis cydippe L.</b>	<b>High Brown Fritillary</b>	
Corfe Mullen	7.7.	(A.H.D.)
Radipole	30.7.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Argynnis aglaia L.</b>	<b>Dark Green Fritillary</b>	
Swanage	Common on 26.6.	(J.L.)
Recorded from several locations in Blandford area on 26.6 and 11.7.		(H.H. et al)
<b>Clossiana euphrosyne L.</b>	<b>Large Pearl-bordered Fritillary</b>	
Sixpenny Handley	7 on 17.7.	(A.H.D.)
Milton Abbas	No dates given.	(M.F.R.)
Recorded from 6 localities between 7.5 and 15.6.		(H.H. et al)
<b>Clossiana selene Schiff.</b>	<b>Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary</b>	
Studland Heath	3 or 4 this year after absence of 5 years.	(J.R-C. et al)
Milton Abbas	No dates given.	(M.F.R.)
Recorded in 4 localities in Blandford area between 1.6 and 27.6.		(H.H. et al)

<b>Hamearis lucina L.</b> 13 recorded between 5.5 and 17.6, localities withheld.	<b>Duke of Burgundy</b>	(H.H. et al)
<b>Thecla quercus L.</b> Brownsea Arne	<b>Purple Hairstreak</b> 5 between 3.7 and 7.7. 2 on 12.7.	(A.J.W. et al) (A.H.D.)
<b>Strymonidia w-album Knoch.</b> Bryanston Highdon Kimmeridge Charity Wood Hod Hill Corfe Mullen Fiddleford Mill West Houghton Washers Pitt Milton Abbas A good year for this species.	<b>White-letter Hairstreak</b> 1.7. 2.7, 4.7. 3.7. 4.7. 5.7. 7.7. 8.7. 14.7. 16.7. No date given.	(H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (M.F.R.) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (A.H.D.) (A.H.D.) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (M.F.R.)
<b>Callophrys rubi L.</b> Stubhampton Higher Houghton Powerstock Hod Hill Franci Firs Holton Studland Heath	<b>Green Hairstreak</b> 20.4, 4.5. 6.5. 15.5. 29.5. 1.6. 2.6. Daily maximum 14.	(H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (D.J.G.) (J.R-C.)
<b>Plebejus argus L.</b> Holton Brownsea Arne Studland Heath 7 sightings — various dates and localities between 4.7 and 18.8.	<b>Silver-studded Blue</b> 14.6. Singles on 28.7, 31.7 and 1.8. Good year for this species. Daily maximum of 6. Daily maximum of 6.	(D.J.G.) (A.J.W. et al) (B.P.P.) (J.R-C.) (H.H. et al)
<b>Lysandra coridon Poda.</b> Radipole Present in numbers in all suitable habitats.	<b>Chalk-hill Blue</b> 24.7.	(D.K.I.) (H.H. et al)
<b>Lysandra bellargus Rott.</b> Bokerley Dyke Ballard Down	<b>Adonis Blue</b> Good numbers on 30.5. 6 on 23.8.	(H.H. et al) (H.H. et al)
<b>Celastrina argiolus L.</b> Morden Sturminster Newton Corfe Mullen Studland Heath Radipole 18 sightings on various dates and localities.	<b>Holly Blue</b> 2.12. Female 29.4. 4 between 2.7 and 6.7. Maximum of 4 on 15.7. 4.8.	(A.H.D.) (A.H.D.) (A.H.D.) (J.R-C. et al) (D.K.I.) (H.H. et al)
<b>Cupido minimus Fuessl.</b> Littledown Bokerley Dyke Littledown Hod Hill Bokerley Down Milborne Wood Higher Houghton	<b>Small Blue</b> 9.5. 23.5. 25.5. 29.5, 17.6. 200 on 30.5. 15.6. 22.8, 25.8.	(D.J.G.) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al) (H.H. et al)
<b>Pyrgus malvae L.</b> Littledown Holton	<b>Grizzled Skipper</b> 2 on 9.5. 2 on 20.5.	(D.J.G.) (D.J.G.)
<b>Erynnis tages L.</b> Littledown	<b>Dingy Skipper</b> Common on 9.5.	(D.J.G.)

<b>Thymelicus lineola Ochs.</b>	<b>New Small Skipper</b>	
Female taken in Wimborne area in 1973, ova obtained and successfully reared. (H.H. et al)		
<b>Thymelicus acteon Rott.</b>	<b>Lulworth Skipper</b>	
Durlston	8.8.	(H.H. et al)
<b>Acherontia atropos L.</b>	<b>Death's-head Hawk</b>	
Lulworth Camp	2.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Creech	6.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Wareham	21.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Owermoigne	Lava on potato 2.8.	(D.B.R.C.)
Dorchester	lava 25.8.	(D.B.R.C.)
Dorchester	12.10.	(D.B.R.C.)
Fordington	18.10.	(J.W.)
<b>Herse convolvuli L.</b>	<b>Convolvulus Hawk</b>	
Furzebrook and 25.9.	6 between 24.8 and 27.8; 4 between 21.9	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Langton Matravers	24.8.	(D.B.R.C.)
Radipole	24.8.	(D.K.I.)
Swanage	26.8.	(D.B.R.C.)
Broadstone	24.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Queens Park	30.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Hazelbury Bryan	30.9.	(D.B.R.C.)
Winfrith	1.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Milton	2.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Swanage	3.10.	(J.R-C.)
Fordington	21.10.	(D.B.R.C.)
West Knighton	October.	(D.B.R.C.)
Bradford Peverell	Mid-October.	(D.B.R.C.)
<b>Sphinx ligustri L.</b>	<b>Privet Hawk</b>	
Furzebrook	40 between 5.6 and 17.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	19 between 8.6 and 4.7.	(B.P.P.)
Milton Abbey	30.6, 1.7, 3.7, 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
<b>Hyloicus pinastri L.</b>	<b>Pine Hawk</b>	
Furzebrook	33 between 30.5 and 23.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	51 between 8.6 and 9.7; 10 between 11.7 and 6.8, 18.8, 20.8.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Macroglossum stellatarum L.</b>	<b>Humming-bird Hawk</b>	
Brownsea	13.6 and 28.8.	(A.J.W. et al)
Greenhill Down	1 in June.	(J.W.)
Buckland Newton	1 in June.	(J.W.)
Arne	1.7 and 1.9.	(B.P.P.)
Langton Matravers	6 between 5.8 and 30.9.	(D.B.R.C.)
Brownsea	4 on 22.8.	(A.T.B.)
Furzebrook	Many singles between 5.9 and 8.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Swanage	Present between 14.9 and 22.10 with 2 on 29.9.	(J.R-C. et al)
Corfe Mullen	26.9.	(A.H.D.)
Dorchester	Seen on numerous occasions.	(J.K.H.)
<b>Hemaris fuciformis L.</b>	<b>Broad-bordered Bee Hawk</b>	
Arne	Recorded on 16 days between 29.5 and 10.8, mostly singles.	(B.P.P.)
Studland Heath	Common this year, 3 on 5.6. Several singles between 17.5 and 18.6.	(J.R-C. et al)
Brownsea	14 between 14.6 and 11.8.	(A.J.W. et al)
Morden	26.7.	(A.H.D.)
<b>Harpyia furcula Clerck.</b>	<b>Sallow Kitten</b>	
Furzebrook	146 between 30.6 and 17.8 and 13 between 17.9 and 27.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Stauropus fagi L.</b>	<b>Lobster Prominent</b>	
Furzebrook	89 between 28.5 and 7.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)

Arne	35 between 8.6 and 5.7.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Drymonia dodonaea Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Light Marbled Brown</b> 32 between 11.5 and 16.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Chaonia ruficornis Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Lunar Marbled Brown</b> 88 between 12.4 and 15.5.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Notodonta trepida Esp.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Great Prominent</b> 71 between 30.4 and 8.6. 8.6, 9.6 and 10.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Odontosia carmelita Esp.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Scarce Prominent</b> 29 between 2.5 and 24.5.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Clostera curtula L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Large Chocolate-tip</b> 5 between 25.5 and 28.5; 3 between 5.8 and 14.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Clostera pigra Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Small Chocolate-tip</b> 13 between 6.8 and 22.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Thyatira batis L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Peach Blossom</b> 9 between 21.6 and 3.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Tethea duplaris Schiff.</b> Arne	<b>Least Satin Lutestring</b> 27.6, 2 on 30.6, 7.7, 14.7, 16.7 and 1.8.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Polyploca ridens F.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Frosted Green Lutestring</b> 22 between 7.4 and 6.5.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Dasychira fascelina L.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Dark Tussock</b> 2 on 5.7, 7.7, 10.7; 9 between 18.7 and 6.8. 15 between 10.7 and 26.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Euproctis chrysorrhoea L.</b> Radipole Furzebrook	<b>Brown-tail</b> 10.7. 18.7.	(D.K.I.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Lymantria dispar L.</b> Arne	<b>Gipsy</b> 7.8.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Trichiura crataegi L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Pale Eggar</b> 28.8 and 14.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Lasiocampa trifolii Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Grass Eggar</b> 3.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Gastropacha quercifolia L.</b> Furzebrook Radipole Arne	<b>Common Lappet</b> 5 between 1.7 and 12.7. 4.7. 16.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (D.K.I.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Saturnia pavonia L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Empress</b> 21.4 and 8.5.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Drepana cultraria F.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Barred Hook-tip</b> 15.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Nola cucullatella L.</b> Furzebrook Arne Radipole	<b>Short-cloaked Black Arches</b> 26.6 and 28.6. 28.6, 2 on 30.6 and 1.7. 4.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.) (D.K.I.)
<b>Nola albula Schiff.</b> Arne Furzebrook Radipole	<b>Kent Black Arches</b> 29.6. 7.7. 19.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (D.K.I.)

<b>Celama confusalis H.-S.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Least Black Arches</b> 6 between 7.5 and 20.6 (all singles). 24.5, 31.5 and 21.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Celama trituberculana Bosc.</b> Radipole	<b>Scarce Black Arches</b> 25.7.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Atolmis rubricollis L.</b> Milton Abbey Furzebrook	<b>Red-necked Footman</b> 29.6. 2.7.	(M.F.R.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Coscinia cribraria L.</b> Arne	<b>Black-speckled Flunkey</b> 29.6.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Diacrisia sannio L.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Clouded Ermine</b> 8.6, 9.6, 20.6, 21.6 and 2 on 23.6. 4 between 23.6 and 1.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Arctia villica L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Cream-spot Tiger</b> 1.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Panaxia dominula L.</b> Swyre Furzebrook	<b>Scarlet Tiger</b> 12.6. 3 between 30.6 and 6.7.	(D.B.R.C.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Apoda avellana L.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Festoon</b> 76 between 15.6 and 6.7. 18 between 29.6 and 15.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Zeuzera pyrina L.</b> Furzebrook Arne Milton Abbey	<b>Wood Leopard</b> 26 between 24.6 and 7.7. 5 on 28.6, 2 on 1.7, 2 on 2.7. 28.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.) (M.F.R.)
<b>Cossus cossus L.</b> Arne	<b>Goat</b> 26.6.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Euxoa tritici L.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>White-line Dart</b> 34 between 2.7 and 12.8. 177 between 3.7 and 30.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Agrotis vestigialis Hufn.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Archer Dart</b> 5 between 10.7 and 10.8. 7 between 12.7 and 28.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Agrotis clavis Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Heart and Club</b> 26 between 30.6 and 17.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Agrotis ipsilon Hufn.</b> Furzebrook  Arne	<b>Dark Dart</b> 44 between 8.5 and 2.6; 685 between 22.6 and 25.11. 319 between 8.6 and 29.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Actebia praecox L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Portland Dart</b> 2.7, 4.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Peridroma porphyrea Schiff.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Pearly Underwing</b> 17.8, 18.8, 17.9. 7 between 1.10 and 30.10.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Graphiphora augur F.</b> Radipole	<b>Double Dart</b> 15.6.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Amathes agathina Dup.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Heath Rustic</b> 101 between 20.8 and 28.9. 302 between 10.9 and 3.10.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)

<b>Amathes castanea Esp.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Grey Rustic</b> 90 between 13.8 and 28.9. 4 between 16.9 and 22.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Amathes baja Schiff.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Dotted Clay</b> 21 between 17.7 and 27.8. 47 between 22.7 and 31.8.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Amathes ditrapezium Schiff.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Triple-spotted Clay</b> 19.7. 7 between 20.7 and 13.8.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Axylia putris L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Flame Rustic</b> 69 between 14.6 and 19.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Anaplectoides prasina Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Green Arches</b> 22 between 21.6 and 9.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Euschesis orbona Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Lunar Yellow-underwing</b> 76 between 22.7 and 30.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Polia nebulosa Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Grey Arches</b> 73 between 18.6 and 4.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Hada nana Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Light Shears</b> 26 between 2.6 and 28.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Hadena albimacula Borkh.</b> Arne	<b>White-spot Coronet</b> 14.6, 25.6.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Hadena rivularis F.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Campion Coronet</b> 12 between 2.6 and 8.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Meliana flammea Curt.</b> Radipole	<b>Flame Wainscot</b> 20.6.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Leucania pudorina Schiff.</b> Radipole Arne Furzebrook	<b>Striped Wainscot</b> 20.6. 20 between 29.6 and 11.7. 4 between 3.7 and 11.7.	(D.K.I.) (B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Leucania l-album L.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>White L Wainscot</b> 55 between 9.9 and 31.10. 5 between 12.9 and 23.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Leucania vitellina Hubn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Delicate Wainscot</b> 22.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Stilbia animala Haw.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Anomalous Wainscot</b> 13 between 22.8 and 20.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Arenostola pygmina Haw.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Small Wainscot</b> 64 between 6.8 and 13.10. 22.8, 27.9 and 29.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Arenostola phragmitidis Hubn.</b> Arne Radipole Furzebrook	<b>Fen Wainscot</b> 20 between 1.7 and 15.7. 8.7. 15.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.K.I.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Nonagria algae Esp.</b> Radipole	<b>Reed Wainscot</b> 28.7.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Nonagria sparganii Esp.</b> Radipole	<b>Webb's Wainscot</b> 26.7.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Nonagria typhae Thunb.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Bulrush Wainscot</b> 29.7, 21.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)

Arne	23.9.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Nonagria geminipuncta Haw.</b> Radipole Arne	<b>Twin-spot Wainscot</b> 29.7. 7 between 25.7 and 9.8.	(D.K.I.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Coenobia rufa Haw.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Rufous Wainscot</b> 4 between 15.7 and 19.7. 4 between 4.8 and 13.8.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Chilodes maritima Tausch.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Silky Wainscot</b> 12.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Caradrina ambigua Schiff.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Vine's Rustic</b> 873 between 9.8 and 17.9. 1361 between 13.8 and 17.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Apamea furva Schiff.</b> Radipole	<b>Confused Brindle</b> 6.8.	(D.K.I.)
<b>Eremobia ochroleuca Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Dusky Sallow Rustic</b> 21.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Petilampa minima Haw.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Small Dotted Buff</b> 4 between 25.6 and 1.7, and 1 on 27.7. 4 between 26.6 and 30.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Cosmia pyralina Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Lunar-spotted Pinion</b> 7 between 30.6 and 18.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Cosmia diffinis L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>White-spotted Pinion</b> 9.8 and 14.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Zenobia retusa L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Double Kidney</b> 2.8 and 7.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Zenobia subtusa Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Olive Kidney</b> 22.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Apatele leporina L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Miller</b> 16 between 29.6 and 10.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Apatele alni L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Alder Dagger</b> 13.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Craniophora ligustri Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Crown</b> 3 between 2.7 and 12.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Cucullia umbratica L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Common Shark</b> 15 between 8.6 and 4.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Lithophane semibrunnea Haw.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Tawny Pinion</b> 11.4 and 7 between 9.10 and 3.11. 25.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Lithophane socia Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Pale Pinion</b> 17.3, 12.4, 17.4, 18.4, 5.5, 3 on 24/25.6, 20 between 18.9 and 26.11.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Lithophane leautieri Boisd.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Blair's Pinion</b> 331 between 30.9 and 4.12. 9.10 and 24.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Lithophane ornitopus Hufn.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Grey Shoulder-knot</b> 10.1, 11 between 28.9 and 18.11. 30.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Xylena vetusta Hubn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Red Sword-grass</b> 24.11.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)

<b>Aporophyla lutulenta Schiff.</b> Arne	<b>Deep Brown Rustic</b> 21.9.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Brachionycha sphinx Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Common Sprawler</b> 10.12, 17.12.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Aporophyla lunula Stroem</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Black Rustic</b> 70 between 17.9 and 29.9. 548 between 20.9 and 24.11.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Griposia aprilina L.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Common Merveille-du-jour</b> 93 between 30.9 and 22.11. 5 between 12.10 and 28.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Eumichtis lichenea Hubn.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Feathered Ranuncule</b> 5 between 25.9 and 10.10. 13 between 28.9 and 9.10.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Parastichtis suspecta Hubn.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Suspected</b> 140 between 30.6 and 20.7. 35 between 1.7 and 17.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Dasypolia templi Thunb.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Brindled Ochre</b> 27 between 1.10 and 21.11.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Eupsilia transversa Hufn.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Satellite</b> 24 between 21.9 and 2.11. 3.1, 25 between 7.10 and 31.12.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Dasycampa rubiginea Schiff.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Dotted Chestnut</b> 25.10. 34 between 3.3 and 6.5, 9 between 24.11 and 19.12.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Conistra ligula Esp.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Dark Chestnut</b> 5.1, 18 between 6.10 and 3.12.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Tiliacea citrigo L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Orange Sallow</b> 18.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Bena prasinana L.</b> Arne Furzebrook	<b>Green Silver-lines</b> 37 between 12.6 and 3.7. 28 between 28.6 and 21.7.	(B.P.P.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Earias clorana L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Cream-bordered Green</b> 48 between 8.6 and 8.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Eustrotia uncula Clerck.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Silver Hook</b> 1.7, 2.7. 28.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Colocasia coryli L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Nut-tree Tuffet</b> 14.8, 17.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Plusia gamma L.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Common Silver Y</b> 1051 between 22.5 and 8.12. 314 between 9.6 and 24.10.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Lygephila pastinum Treits.</b> Furzebrook Arne	<b>Plain Blackneck</b> 9 between 18.6 and 17.7. 2.7, 4.7 and 11.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.) (B.P.P.)
<b>Comibaena pustulata Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Blotched Emerald</b> 3 between 27.6 and 6.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Rhodometra sacraria L.</b> Arne	<b>Vestal</b> 9.10.	(B.P.P.)

<b>Nycterosea obstipata F.</b> Arne	<b>Narrow-barred Carpet</b> 16.7.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Perizoma flavofasciata Thunb.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Sandy Carpet</b> 6 between 26.6 and 8.7.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Rheumaptera undulata L.</b> Milton Abbey Furzebrook	<b>Shell Scallop</b> 28.6. 4 between 5.8 and 19.8.	(M.F.R.) (D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Acasis viretata Hubn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Brindle-barred Yellow</b> 5 between 28.5 and 11.6, 17.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Orthonama lignata Hubn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Oblique Carpet</b> 9.8, 10.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Eupithecia succenturiata L.</b> Arne	<b>Bordered Pug.</b> 1.7, 3.7 and 7.7.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Eupithecia abbreviata Steph.</b> Arne	<b>Brindled Pug.</b> 18.4.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Eupithecia phoeniciata Ramb.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Black-streaked Pug</b> 2 on 6.8, 4.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Deuteronomos fuscantaria Steph.</b> Arne	<b>Dusky Thorn</b> 8 between 20.7 and 7.8, 4 on 19.9, 23.9, 25.9.	(B.P.P.)
Furzebrook	168 between 23.7 and 30.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Selenia tetralunaria Hufn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Purple Thorn</b> 83 between 6.3 and 11.5, 152 between 2.7 and 25.8.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	11 between 16.7 and 1.8.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Apeira syringaria L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Lilac Thorn</b> 13 between 17.6 and 17.7	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	12 between 23.6 and 4.7.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Plagodis dolabraria L.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Scorched-wing</b> 15 between 4.6 and 27.6.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	79 between 8.6 and 3.7.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Cleora cinctaria Schiff.</b> Arne	<b>Ringed Beauty</b> 2 on 21.5, 1 on 23.5.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Pachygnemina hippocastanaria Hubn.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Horse-chestnut Longwing</b> 18 between 18.1 and 19.4.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	1014 between 26.3 and 16.11.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Gnophos obscurata Schiff.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Common Annulet</b> 3.9.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
<b>Dyscia fagaria Thunb.</b> Furzebrook	<b>Grey Scalloped Bar</b> 2 on 24.5.	(D.C.M.&N.R.W.)
Arne	10 between 21.5 and 25.6.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Nomophila noctuella Schiff.</b> Arne	<b>Rush Veneer Pearl</b> 7 between 11.8 and 2.10.	(B.P.P.)
<b>Udea ferrugalis Hubn.</b> Arne	<b>Rusty-dot Pearl</b> 21.9, 29.9 and 30.9.	(B.P.P.)

## MARINE INVERTEBRATES

---

J. B. HAWTHORNE

The Manpower Services Commission job creation schemes have benefitted Dorset marine biology in two ways. One is the professional aid given to the development of the Biological Records Centre at the County Museum for which groundwork had been done by volunteer members of the society under the heading of Environmental Records Centre. As reported last year, members are encouraged to send their observations of marine organisms to the Centre. The other is the provision of the Dorset Underwater Survey, started during the winter months in the Kimmeridge Bay area, the site recommended for nature reserve status by the Dorset Naturalists' Trust. Results of this survey will be available through the County Museum. Job creation schemes are short lived, so it is important that the investment put into this survey is not wasted and that comparative work in other areas and in the same area in future years is supported — perhaps most appropriately by the Nature Conservancy Council.

These notes frequently refer to organisms cast up on Weymouth Beach after easterly storms. Lists have been given in Vol. 84 (for 1962) and Vol. 95 (for 1973). Poor species variety was reported in Vol. 91 (for 1969), but specimens cast up with very large quantities of algae at the beginning of February 1976 showed a wider variety than has previously been reported here. The following records are for Weymouth Beach, 2.2.1976:

*Calliactis parasitica* — a few still attached to Buccinum shells of hermit crabs.  
*Sagartia (troglydytes?)* — numerous small anemones in poor condition.

*Aphrodite aculeata* — a single specimen in good condition.  
*Nereis fucata* — from a hermit crab Buccinum shell.

*Balanus crenatus* — embedded in *Phallusia mammillata* test.  
*Balanus sp.* — two specimens on the underside of the carapace of a *Pisa gibbsi*.  
*Cancer pagurus* — several damaged specimens.  
*Carcinus maenas* — numerous, mostly large.  
*Corystes cassivelaunus* — three females, one male.  
*Eupagurus bernhardus* — in Buccinum shells, numerous, some females in berry.  
*Galathea dispersa* — one specimen, identified from photograph.  
*Hyas araneus* — right legs only.  
*Macropodia rostrata* — two collected.

*Maia squinado* — a male, 5cm across carapace carried algae and a small amount of cloth.  
— a female, 4cm across carapace carried a piece of cloth and a few small algae.  
*Pisa gibbsi* — a short legged 'spider crab' not normally found on the shore; each specimen is of interest:  
(i) — female, carrying a piece of yellow cloth and algae.  
(ii) — female, carrying sponges, algae and a tangled length of cotton.  
(iii) — female, damaged first right walking leg carrying a serpulid tube, and with two barnacles growing under the right edge of the carapace.  
(iv) — male, carrying sponges.  
(v) — male, carrying cloth.

*Portunus depurator* — numerous, most represented by limbs, possibly as a result of seagull activity.  
*Portunus puber* — several large specimens.  
*Squilla (desmaresti?)* — several on cast up algae.  
*Xantho incisus* — one damaged specimen, but useful confirmation of the extent of the range of this western species of crab.

*Buccinum undatum* — numerous adult whelks and egg masses.  
*Crepidula fornicata* — very numerous.  
*Nassarius reticulatus*.  
*Natica catena*.  
*Anomia ephippium* — on a live Buccinum shell.

*Cardium (tuberculatum?)* — one 21mm long apparently in its first season, one 47mm long apparently in its second season.  
neither bore tubercles.

*Ensis arcuatus*.  
*Lutraria lutraria*.  
*Mactra corallina*.  
*Ostrea edulis* — c.5cm across, good condition.  
*Pecten maximus* — 50mm across, carrying a serpulid worm.  
*Venerupis pullastra* — numerous.

*Echinocardium cordatum* — numerous, all damaged.

*Ascidia mentula* — numerous.  
*Ascidella aspersa* — numerous.  
*Phallusia mammillata* — with several *Balanus crenatus* embedded in the test and a few colonies of a small white sponge.

All the preceding specimens were alive or fresh dead.

Dead shells were found of:

<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	<i>Cardium edule</i>	<i>Cardium tuberculatum</i>
<i>Anomia ephippium</i>	<i>Lutraria lutraria</i>	<i>Mactra corallina</i>
<i>Ensis siliqua</i>	<i>Venerupis pullastra</i>	<i>Venerupis rhomboides</i>
Oyster (old)		
<i>Venus striatula</i>		

Notably absent were shells or specimens of *Gibbula magus*. These normally are cast up at the southern end of the beach which was not searched on this occasion. Specimens may have been under the hundreds of tons of gaie. No specimens of *Eupagurus cuanensis* were seen.

The return of species affected by the 1962/63 winter has been a continuing theme of these notes. The small cushion star, *Asterina gibbosa*, had only been recorded since 1963 from Small Mouth at Wyke Regis. It reproduces by live birth — apparently adapted to avoid young from being washed away from the shore, but thus limited in its power of dispersal. A young specimen was found on a holdfast of *Saccorhiza polyschides* cast up at Kimmeridge Bay, 14.9.76. These holdfasts may travel considerable distances in winter months and perhaps play a significant part in the occasional dispersal of otherwise relatively sedentary forms.

*Sargassum muticum* — Japweed — continues to threaten the established patterns of our shores and shallow waters. Please consult posters describing it, and if you think you have found some, take a small sample for expert identification. Please do not remove all you can find — some of our less common attractive algae are easily confused with young growths of Japweed.

JBH 3.4.77

## OBITUARY

The Natural History section of the Society suffered a loss this year by the passing of Miss Dorothy Meggison who died in April just before Easter.

Miss Meggison spent nearly the whole of her life in Dorchester where her father was a doctor with his house at Top o' Town. She was educated at the school of Mrs. Kitcat and for a time gave private teaching lessons. She was always a keen botanist and collector and was one of those who helped Professor Good when writing his book on the Flora of Dorset. She joined the Society in 1938 and until she found walking difficult was a prominent member at field meetings where botany was studied. For several years she acted as the recorder for botany, and she lectured widely on the Dorset Flora with particular reference to orchids.

She was very active in her work for the Red Cross in Dorchester at the centre for blood transfusion. She was also much concerned with the welfare of St. Mary's church and contributed reminiscent notes on its history to the "West Fordington Review" (Golden Jubilee Number 1962). Many of her botany books were left to the Society after her death.

J.K.H.

A. D. Mills, *The Place-Names of Dorset, Part 1, The Isle of Purbeck, the Hundreds of Rowbarrow, Hasler, Winfrith, Culliford Tree, Bere Regis, Barrow, Puddletown, St George*. English Place-Name Society, Vol. LII, (English Place-Name Society, 1977).

Anthony D. Mills, the author of this latest volume to be published by the English Place-Name Society, is a scholar with an established reputation, a Council member of the Place-Name Society, a member of the DNHAS, and particularly well known in this County as the Editor of the Dorset Lay Subsidy Roll of 1332. Fägersten's well known volume on Dorset Place-Names, published in 1933, upon which we have all relied, is now in process of being replaced by these projected volumes, of which this is the first.

This volume deals with the place-names in the south-east of the County: the Isle of Purbeck, the Frome and Piddle valleys, and the towns of Wareham, Weymouth and Dorchester. Subsequent volumes will deal with the east, the north, and the west of the County, in that order. The concluding volume will deal with the County name and the river and road names. Altogether, there will be a work which will be more comprehensive and detailed than Fägersten's volume, and considerably more valuable to the historian and lover of Dorset.

Place-name study has a fascination in itself, and those who are curious to know simply for the sake of knowing will find here much pleasure and interest. The reader with a scholarly intent will find that Dorset place-name etymology has a significant contribution to make to the County's history. Many place-names were bestowed during centuries when written records were rare or non-existent. Saxons and Scandinavians adopted the Romano-British names, corrupted them, and added to them as new settlements were created, new fields cleared, and additional features identified. Hutchins and Fägersten provided pioneering efforts in Dorset place-names, and we were presented with generally uncontroversial analyses of major place-names. This work by Mills lists, with infinite care, every significant etymological source, and particularly deals with controversial derivation. The result is a carefully edited, scholarly work which may be occasionally used by the general reader, but which will certainly delight the Grammarian's eye.

There is a highly commendable original attempt to list the origins of minor place and field names. I have no doubt that the problems of etymology which the author has encountered in a country where no cadastral records exist, and where local idiosyncrasy often inspired field names, will be reflected in the controversy which must now be expected. This opening of a new antiquarian door may be the least welcomed part of this place-name survey. If serious attempts are now made, as, for example, they have been in the West Riding, to relate surnames to minor localities, then a valuable new dimension may be added to Dorset studies. If, however, the doubtful etymology of some field names gives rise to amateur, penny-packet contributions in local publications, then Mr. Mills will simply have encouraged the growth of a new antiquarian industry. Certainly there are some puzzling field names which will immediately attract the casual searcher. Why should West Stafford celebrate the battle of Bunker Hill? *Fat Ox* one can accept as a complimentary name for a productive field, but why is *dripping pan* a complimentary name, and *Long Friday* a nickname for unproductive land? On page 325, *Wopses' Castle* surely refers to wasps, and is not a description of a 'scrubby plot'; and *New England*, page 167, as a field name is not, one would have thought, merely a dismissive name for a distant field. Certainly some field names will amuse, because our ancestors were deliciously bawdy: *Scratch-Arse* and *Ring Bum* are obvious; *Hennox Lane* as 'the Oak tree frequented by dogs' is delightful, while the mind boggles at *Whore's Meadow*! That we are at present more prudish clearly troubles an author who delivers a gentle rebuke to the inhabitants of Shitterton.

This is a veritable Anglo-Saxon feast with very few Celtic guests. It is also a strangely land-locked etymology even near the coast-line. With such a weight of evidence against it seems churlish to ask why *Brenscombe* is not derived from *bryn*, or the *Lugger Inn* on page 205 must be assumed to be derived from a surname not a lugsail vessel. The very few modern derivations show that place-names were given when the land was first cleared, and the earliest settlers were concerned with land-holdings and the identification of settlements. The references to more modern derivations are few, and *Brandy Bay*, and the few references to Newfoundland are among the few modern contributions.

When the volumes are complete they will not be among the easiest books to consult unless the final volume contains a detailed index to the series. At present only the parishes are indexed, and page numbers are included only to those parishes appearing in volume one. Presumably, the final volume will contain references for all Dorset's parishes. What will be done to assist readers seeking information on minor place names? If this series is to have as its *raison d'être* the study of minor place names (and field names), then surely some final indexing of these will be essential. Eventually, the author will have to strike an acceptable balance between user and compiler, and it may well be that a more comprehensive index will be the answer.

Complimentary phrases spring easily to mind when one handles a fine work such as this. Sufficient to say, however, that anyone interested in Dorset's history will quickly secure a personal copy of this volume, and wait with interest for the completion of the series.

G. J. D.

J. W. Perkins, *Geology explained in Dorset* David and Charles, £3.95

This book is one of a series which aim to provide the amateur with a useful introduction to the appreciation and understanding of the geology of various areas of Britain. The cover of the volume suggests that it will be useful to the professional too, but here it falls sadly short of its target.

The author has clearly familiarized himself with some of the classic works on the Dorset coast, notably G. M. Davies' Guide published in 1935 and the Weymouth Memoir of Arkell (1947). It is from this basis that the author makes a traverse of the Dorset coast (surely the title of the book should be "Geology explained in *South* Dorset") and it is on this count that the book falls short of expectations, for no account has been taken of much of the work on the geology of Dorset published in the past thirty years.

If we thus bear in mind that the book is seriously out of date and therefore not of real value to the professional, how does it fare as an introduction to the geology of the county for the amateur?

The conducted tour of the coast is, on the face of it, well presented and readable; the diagrams are mostly clear and some are very successful, but one or two are very confusing. The drawings of the fossils vary; many are untidy, the best are probably of the ammonites (but these are not the author's original drawings). The naming of the fossils is far from consistent: how would an amateur know that *Extracrinus briareus* (p. 29) is the same thing as *Pentacrinites fossilis* (p. 37), that the *Subplanites* zones (p. 63) are now some of the *Pectinatites* zones (p. 214), or that *Paltoleuroceras* (p. 41) is the same as *Pleuroceras* (p. 216)? *Lucina* is called a brachiopod (p. 114), and *Lingula* and *Orbiculoidea* are called bivalves (p. 64). *Cyrena* is stated to be a gastropod (p. 115).

No thicknesses are given for many of the successions so that they lose much of their value. Where thicknesses are given there are some major errors — for instance at Burton Cliff there are reputed to be only 61cm of Fuller's Earth (p. 44), but the diagram on the next page shows at least 6m of it. Metrication of thicknesses has led to some almost comical statements, for example that a slip was 410m wide, or that it spread for 91m (p. 27), or "about 236m west" (p. 111), or "could well have been 182m deep" (p. 125). Clearly these figures result from metrication of original imperial approximations.

Some of the mistakes in the book no doubt arise as a result of the author's attempt to simplify his subject matter. Thus the impression is clearly given that *Nautilus* is a modern representative of the ammonites (p. 17). Other errors, however, cannot be thus explained. Where, for instance, did the author get the idea that there were no ammonites in the Corallian Beds — perhaps he could be referred to Arkell's monograph of Corallian Beds' ammonites, in which many of the figured specimens are from Dorset. One must also mention the quotation (twice!) of *Amoeboceras* and *Promicroceras* as occurring in the Watch Ammonite Stone (Lower Lias). The former genus is Upper Oxfordian and Lower Kimmeridgian and the latter is confined to beds below the *oxynotum* Zone. The Watch Ammonite Stone in fact yields *Echioceras*. There seems no doubt, though, that the author is referring in reality to another horizon altogether, the Ammonite Marble of Marston Magna, probably represented on the coast by the Flatstone Nodules.

The reasons for drawing the Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary at the horizon of the Cinder Bed are clearly not understood by the author. He does not seem to support this idea yet he then places *all* the Purbeck Beds in the Neocomian (p. 214).

On the sedimentological side too there are errors, but again the major problem is due to the author being out of touch with modern sedimentological work (the sole concession in this direction appears to be to Hallam's work on the Blue Lias, but there is no reference to work by D. K. Davies, W. G. Townson, or R. C. L. Wilson, for example). Thus the phosphatized ammonites of the Upper Greensand are reputed to indicate "fairly deep anaerobic water" (p. 116). On p. 96 it is clear that the author believes that the Chloritic Marl is chloritic (it is in fact glauconitic). Ammonites are quoted as the reason for concluding that the Abbotsbury Iron Ore is a sedimentary deposit (one should not, presumably, look at the coliths or the bedding of the rock).

The arrangement of the chapters follows no discernible pattern. After beginning, logically enough, in the west and working eastwards, confusion sets in as the reader is shuttled from the east Dorset boundary near Barton to Weymouth, then along to Worbarrow, back to the Vale of Marshwood, on to Whiteways Hill (just inland from Worbarrow), etc. A thoroughly confusing picture results. To one who knows Dorset well this is bad enough, but to the person paying an initial visit? This 'hopping' also causes a major omission; having arrived at the Watton Cliff fault from the west, the author then moves on to examine the Bridport Sands and Inferior Oolite at Burton Cliff. This makes sound enough sense, but the author then forgets to go back to Watton Cliff and therefore misses out the finest section of the Fuller's Earth and Forest Marble in Dorset.

The old myths in the earlier geological guides persist here too. For instance, that the Portland Clay only exists on the northern part of Portland Isle; clearly the author, like many before him, has not examined the sections further south. He also repeats the myth that the smell of Kimmeridge Bay is due

to the bituminous shales. Having spent many months in that vicinity I can assure him that the smell emanates from piles of rotting seaweed.

In times of increasing awareness of the problems of conservation one wishes that more emphasis had been placed on this rather than just a brief mention in the introduction. Here the author also says "do not collect from Sites of Special Scientific Interest". He clearly does not know that virtually the whole of the Dorset coast is thus designated. Rather than give directions on how to collect starfish, the author should have instructed readers not to collect them.

One regrets that more attention is not paid to safety in the field. Much of the glorious coast of Dorset is dangerous to admire from below, as recent tragedies have confirmed. Nowhere is the danger of rockfalls pointed out, the dangers of trying to cross mudslides or of hammering flints are also ignored and the dangers of incoming tides on certain stretches of coast (e.g. Charmouth — Seatown) not sufficiently stressed. There is no warning about the dangers of climbing the cliffs, yet each year holidaymakers and others are injured in that pursuit.

One feels regrettably that a great opportunity has been lost here. There is need for a thoroughly up to date book on the geology of Dorset, one of the most popular areas for geological fieldwork in Britain. Although this book contains much useful information and some good diagrams it does not fill this need. One is left with the impression that the author does not really know Dorset well, and the front cover tends to confirm this. It purports to show Old Harry and Old Harry's Wife (photograph by the author). According to reliable information, Harry's Wife collapsed and was drowned in 1896!

J. C. W. C.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LOCAL HISTORY, DORSET

In this, and subsequent issues of the *Proceedings* it is hoped to publish a bibliography of material which will supplement the *Handbook to Local History Dorset* by R. Douch, which covers the period before 1960. Articles appearing in the *Proceedings* will not be included, and readers are referred to the separate, cumulative indices of the *Notes and Queries, Somerset and Dorset*.

### HISTORY

- Adams, Victor J. *Dorchester's Old Theatres*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 98-110
- Andrews, A. E. *Memorial of a Fontmell-born inhabitant*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 79-82
- Axenskold, Ann, J. *Portesham: a changing Village*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 135-9
- Barnes, T. G. *In My Young Days*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 123-5
- Beamish, D. & Hillier J.  
& Johnstone H. F. V. *Mansions and Merchants of Poole and Dorset*  
Poole Historical Trust 1976
- Bredin, A. E. C. *The Dorset Shrine of the County Regiment: the Lady Chapel, Sherborne Abbey*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 37-44
- Burnett, David *A Dorset Camera, 1855-1914*  
Dovecote Press 1974
- Burnett, David *A Dorset Camera, 1914-1945*  
Dovecote Press 1975
- Carter, Geoffrey H. *The development of Elementary Education in the Parishes of Weymouth, Melcombe Regis and Wyke Regis, 1870-1902.*  
University of Bristol M.E.d diss. 1973
- Carter K. & Pitman, E. V.  
(compilers) *Dorset. A catalogue of the books and other printed materials on the history, topography, geology, archaeology, natural history and biography of Dorset, in Dorset County Library.*  
Dorset County Council, 1974
- Chiplen, John *Land ownership and the Abbotsbury landscape.*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 63-5
- Carver, M. *Old Customs and Reminiscences*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 66-8
- Cockburn, J. S. (Ed) *Western Circuit Assize Orders, 1629-1648, a calendar.*  
Camden Fourth Series SVII, Royal Historical Society, 1976
- Cooper, Allan T.P. *The year nineteen hundred and one.*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 5-11

- Cooper, Lettice A. *Two 17th Century Dorset Inventories*  
Dorset Record Society publication No. 5 1974
- Cull, Edgar F. *Midsummer in Dorset: 1889*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 154
- Cull, Edgar F. *The Portland Year Book and Island Record of 1905: a commentary*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 79-82
- Davies, Glanville J. *Evidence against John Wesley (c. 1636-70)*  
*Wesley Historical Society Proceedings*  
No. 40 Oct 1975 p. 80-4
- Domoney C. R. *Radipole*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 13-19
- Dunning, Brian *Land of Swans and Smugglers. Behind the Chesil Bank, Dorset.*  
*Country Life*, 157 30 Jan 1975 p. 250-2
- Ellisdon, E. Francis *A memory of Corfe Castle*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 85-7
- Fairman, M. F. D. *The Powys Family*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 19-21
- Flay, A. L. *Five Organs in the Borough of Poole, Dorset.*  
*Musical Opinion*. 97 June 1974 p. 389, 391, 394
- Flay, A. L. *Dorset's one Minster and three Abbeys (Wimborne Minster)*  
*Musical Opinion* 98 Nov. 1974 p. 87
- Flay, A. L. *Bournemouth St Peter's Church Organ*  
*Musical Opinion* 99 Sep. 1976 p. 563-5, 567, 589
- Gooding, Michael *Poole*  
*Planner*, 61 Jan. 1975 p. 16-17
- Harper, Ruth *The Church of St Nicholas, Ashmore, Dorset*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 83-9
- Hinchy, F. S. *Sherborne*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 75-8
- Hinchy, F. S. *Shaftesbury*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 53-7
- Hoskins, W. G. *Landscapes of England, Ancient Dorset.*  
*Listener*, 95 22 Jan, 1976 p. 71-2
- Kay-Robinson, Denys *The Lower Longpuddle Mystery*  
*Thomas Hardy Year Book*, 4 1973/4 p. 77-80
- Knott, Olive *Tales of Dorset*  
Friary Press, Dorchester 1976
- Litschi, Fredy *Sutton Poyntz: the earliest details of its history*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 69-72
- Little, Bryan *Building on Dorset's Gibraltar, the Isle of Portland*  
*Country Life*, 160 22 Sept 1976 p. 533-52
- Machin, R. *Probate Inventories and Manorial Excepts of Chetnole, Leigh and Yetminster*  
University of Bristol Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies. 1976
- Malton, J. V. *A continuing connexion, 1874-1974*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 99-102
- Martin, Peter E. "Regular" or "irregular": Pope's description of the groves at  
Sherborne Castle  
*Notes and Queries*, 22 Nov 1975 p. 490-1
- McKee, Eric *The Lerrets of Chesil Bank*  
*Mariner's Mirror*, 63 Feb 1977 p. 39-51
- Pearson, Edith McCall *The Wesley Family and Dorset*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 8-12
- Philpott, Olive M. *The Well*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 13-17
- Philpott, Olive M. *The centenary: Moorside Methodist Chapel*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 58-62
- Philpott, Olive M. *A scrap of Dorset history: Shaftesbury's Prize Besom, the Byzant*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 5-7
- Philpott, Olive M. *A Dorset Story*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 158

- Popplewell, Laurence A traditional folly: Dorset in the time of Napoleon.  
DYB 1974/5 p. 102-4
- Ricketts, Eric *The Buildings of Old Weymouth. Part I Wyke Regis to the South Harbourside*  
1975
- Ricketts, Eric *The Buildings of Old Weymouth. Part II. Melcombe Regis and Westham*  
Longmans (Weymouth) 1976
- Scott, C. H. B. *As I recall it then . . .*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 134-7
- Shepherd, Michael *In Dorset skies thirty-three years a-gone: the Battle of Britain*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 121-33
- Sherry, D. L. W. *Bournemouth – a geographical study*  
University of Manchester M.A. diss. 1969
- Thomas, S. J. P. *The schools of Dorset*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 43-4
- Weinstock, M. B. *A visit to Weymouth in 1840: by the Russell family of Gloucester*  
DYB 1974/5 p. 35-6
- Weinstock, M. B. *A Dorset lady's account book: kept by Mrs. John Bond of Grange, 1754-1762*  
DYB 1973/4 p. 41-2
- Wheare, K. C. Crichel Down revisited  
*Political Studies*, 23 July/Sep 1975 p. 390-408
- Wilson, G. *The Old Telegraphs*  
Phillimore 1976
- Wright, Michael Anniversary of a Royal Borough: 1200 years of Lyme Regis, Dorset  
*Country Life*, 155 20 Jun. 1974 p. 1606-8
- Abbreviation*  
DYB Dorset Year Book

## ARCHAEOLOGY

- Bowen, H. C. 'A Romano-British Site Off Brownsea Island', *The National Trust Year Book 1975-76* (1976), 42-43
- 'Pattern and Interpretation: a view of the Wessex Landscape from Neolithic to Roman Times', in P. J. Fowler (1975), 44-45
- Bradley, R. 'Maumbury Rings, Dorchester: the excavations of 1908-1913', *Archaeologia*, CV (1976), 1-97
- Catherall, P. 'Excavations at Litton Cheney, Dorset, 1974', in C. Burgess and R. Mickett (edd.), *Settlement and Economy in the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C.*, British Archaeological Reports no. 33 (1976), 81-100
- Champion, T. 'Britain in the European Iron Age', *Archaeologia Atlantica*, 1.2 (1975), 127-45
- Daniel, G. (Cerne Giant), *Antiquity*, L (1976), 93-94
- Dennell, R. W. 'Prehistoric Crop Cultivation in Southern Britain: A reconsideration', *Antiq. Journ.*, LVI (1976), 11-23
- Evans, J. G. *The Environment of Early Man in the British Isles* (1975)
- Farrar, R. A. H. 'Prehistoric and Roman Saltwork in Dorset', in *Salt, the Study of an ancient technology*, Colchester Archaeological Group (1975), 14-20
- Field, N. H. 'The discovery of a Roman fort at Shapwick near Badbury Rings, Dorset', *Britannia*, VII (1976), 280-83
- Fowler, P. J. (ed.) *Recent Work in Rural Archaeology* (1975)
- Fulford, M. G. *New Forest Pottery: manufacture and distribution, with a corpus of pottery types*, British Archaeological Reports no. 17 (1975)
- Gem, R. D. H. 'Documentary Evidence for the Early History of the Buildings of Sherborne Cathedral: 705 to 1122', Appendix to J. H. P. Gibb (1975), 105-110
- Gibb, J. H. P. 'The Anglo-Saxon Cathedral at Sherborne', *Arch. Journ.* CXXXII (1975), 71-105
- Hedges, J. *et al.* The Excavation of a Barrow and associated urnfield at Fairway Caravan Park, Bournemouth', *Rescue Archaeology in Hampshire*, iii (1975), 5-34

- Hinton, D. A. 'Late Anglo-Saxon metal-work: an assessment', *Anglo-Saxon England*, IV (1975), 171-180
- Johnston, D. E. *The Wareham by-pass, its archaeological implications* (1975)
- Machin, R. 'The Unit System: Some Historical Explanations', *Arch. Journ.*, CXXXII (1975), 187-194
- Painter, K. S. 'The Designs of the Roman Mosaic at Hinton St Mary', *Antiq. Journ.*, LVI (1976), 49-54
- Palmer, R. 'Interrupted Ditch Enclosures in Britain: the use of Aerial photography for Comparative Studies', *PPS*, XLII (1976), 161-86
- Palmer, S. 'The Mesolithic Habitation site at Culver Well, Portland, Dorset: Interim Note', *PPS*, XLII (1976), 324-7
- Roe, D. 'Some Hampshire and Dorset handaxes and the question of 'Early Acheulian' in Britain', *PPS*, XLI (1975), 1-9
- R.C.H.M. (Eng.) 'Sherborne Abbey, the Early Church', Addendum to *Dorset*, I, West, (1952), reprinted 1975, li-lvii
- Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group *Interim Reports 1975* (1975)  
*Interim Report 1976* (1976)
- Wainwright, G. J. 'Religion and Settlement in Wessex 3000-1700bc' in P. J. Fowler (1975), 57-71
- Wainwright, G. J. & Switsur, V. R. 'Gussage All Saints—a chronology', *Antiquity*, L (1976), 32-39
- Walton, J. 'The English Stone-slater's Craft', *Folklife*, XIII (1975), 38-53
- Wilson, D. R. 'Causewayed camps and interrupted ditch systems', *Antiquity*, XLIX (1975), 178-86

