Milton Keynes Natural History Society

Journal 3

1977

THE
MILTON KEYNES
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
JOURNAL

Acknowledgements

The Journal this year was printed on the Bradwell Abbey Field Centre Trust offset litho machine. Although the finished article does not have quite the same professional finish of the previous years' Journals, it is nevertheless a neat, acceptable copy and we have achieved a major reduction in costs. Special thanks go to Mike Towns for his efforts in persuading the various authors to publish, and for printing the Journal. Thanks also to Brian Goodenough for generous assistance in the arrangement of some of the papers, and to David Thackeray for the cover design.

Finally, many thanks once more to Elaine Cook for her skilful typing and presentation of the papers.

Instructions for contributors

Papers will be accepted on any natural history subject in North Bucks. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor. Papers from non-members may be accepted, but members' papers will receive preference.

Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor by February of each year, and should preferably be typewritten, but neat handwritten copies will be accepted.

The Editor,
Milton Keynes Natural History
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Milton Keynes.

THE MILTON KEYNES NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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President: G. Osborn Vice-President: J. Royston
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CONTENTS

O B I T U A R Y

REG MILLS

It was with great sorrow that the Natural History Society learnt of the death in July 1977 of their most senior member, Reg Mills, aged 84 years. He was one of the quartet who were the founders of the Society in March 1968 and had been a Vice President since the first Annual General Meeting. Until a short time before his death he took a keen interest in the affairs of the Society and in the early days often took the Chair at Committee Meetings.

His artistic ability as a painter of wild animals in their natural habitat, his knowledge of the mammals of Africa and the breadth of his imagination which brought to life scenes from pre-historic days were skills that made Reg unique. Of particular importance in a Society such as ours was his considerable interest in the younger members, who always enjoyed his company and had a deep respect for the extent of his knowledge, imparted in such an unselfish manner during the many practical sessions that he presented. Others outside the Society also had the opportunity to marvel at his expertise when they joined with us in admiration of the background scenes he painted for the Society's stands at several Arts and Crafts Exhibitions.

The loss to the Society and to his many friends of a gentle, kindly man, so highly respected by all, leaves gaps in our knowledge and in our hearts which we will find difficult to fill.

In respect for his memory, the Committee has decided to inaugurate a Reg Mills Memorial Lecture to be delivered annually by a distinguished guest speaker. The Society is grateful for the gift of Reg's paintings, some of which will be displayed from time to time and are available for lectures by members if required - see Bernard Frewin. The opportunity will be taken to display a selection of his works at the Memorial Lectures.

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATUS OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN MILTON KEYNES

J. Mander
(Recorder for Reptiles and Amphibians)

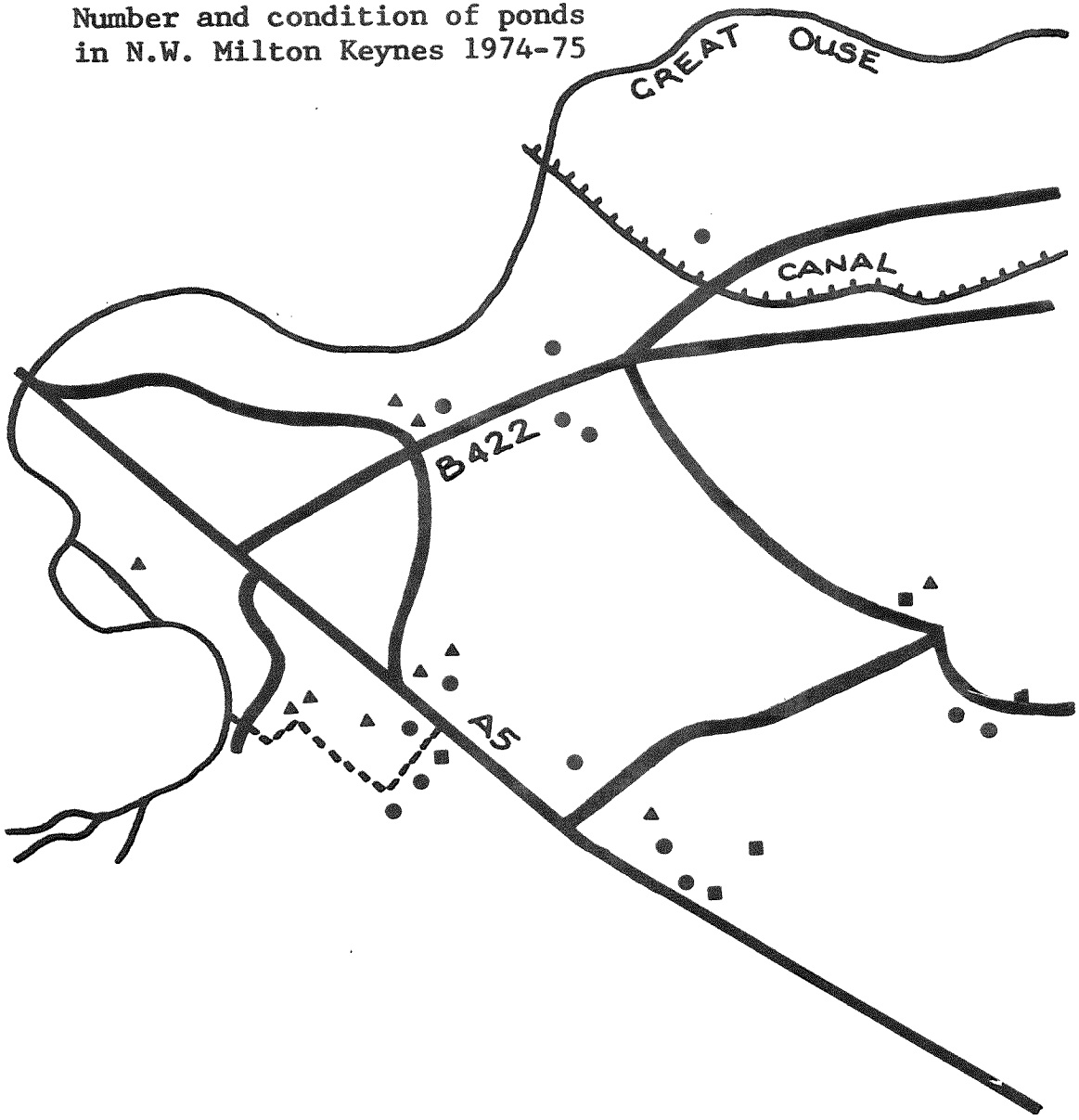
Past records for reptiles and amphibians in North Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are few. The most detailed historical notes on the status of species appear to be those of the Victoria County Histories published in 1905.

The local geology is diverse with Greensand south of Milton Keynes, Boulder Clay and Oxford Clay on the plains with large deposits of river gravels and numerous outcrops of limestone. This geological variety supports in turn a diversity of habitat and as might be expected in 1905, five out of the six British reptiles and all the British amphibians were recorded. The Smooth Snake was unrecorded but was noted as being present at Ascot, Berkshire. But even then the V.C.H. reports that "reptiles are gradually disappearing and snakes are killed on sight". The author was informed that "half a century before, the Ringed Snake (Grass Snake) and the Slow-worm were abundant in many parts of the county where they are now infrequently seen or have disappeared altogether". A Mr. T. D. Phillips of Aspley Heath informed the author "that very few reptiles were now to be found in Woburn Sands and the adjoining districts". (These areas would then have been predominantly open heathland rather than the coniferous plantations that we know today). The country belief that lizards (dry efts) and newts (wet efts) could sting was responsible for the destruction of a great many of these creatures, especially the lizards which even then were comparatively rare in the county.

Today, our records show that reptiles and amphibians are still generally distributed although many have declined considerably in numbers and three species, the Adder (Vipera berus berus), the Sand Lizard (Lacerta agilis agilis) and the Natterjack Toad (Bufo calamita) have disappeared altogether. In Milton Keynes

Fig. 1

Number and condition of ponds in N.W. Milton Keynes 1974-75



▲ Ponds filled in

● Ponds dried up

■ Healthy ponds

development is obviously causing considerable losses of ponds and wetland habitat and further decline can be expected although this will in part be offset by the creation of the new balancing lakes. A pilot survey of the condition of ponds in north west Milton Keynes illustrated the extent of this loss of habitat. Figure 1 shows the condition of the 28 ponds in the area. Of the 28 ponds, 9 had silted up and become overgrown, 10 were lost to development by infilling and 5 were filled with rubbish or polluted by cattle. Only 4 appeared ideal for amphibians and in fact amphibians were recorded for 3 of them.

If these findings are representative of the whole of Milton Keynes, then of the estimated 250 ponds in the area, less than a third are likely to be suitable for amphibians and many of those will be in danger of infilling for development.

The species list shows that records are still needed from many areas and I would like to appeal for more records from members.

The following lists detail the records from the Milton Keynes area for 1973 to 1976. The descriptive notes from the 1905 Victoria County Histories is given for each species. Grid references are given where possible.

REPTILES

Common or Viviparous Lizard (Lacerta viviparia)
V.C.H. - There is little doubt that this lizard is generally distributed over the county.
M.K.N.H.S. - Only one record from an area near Bletchley.

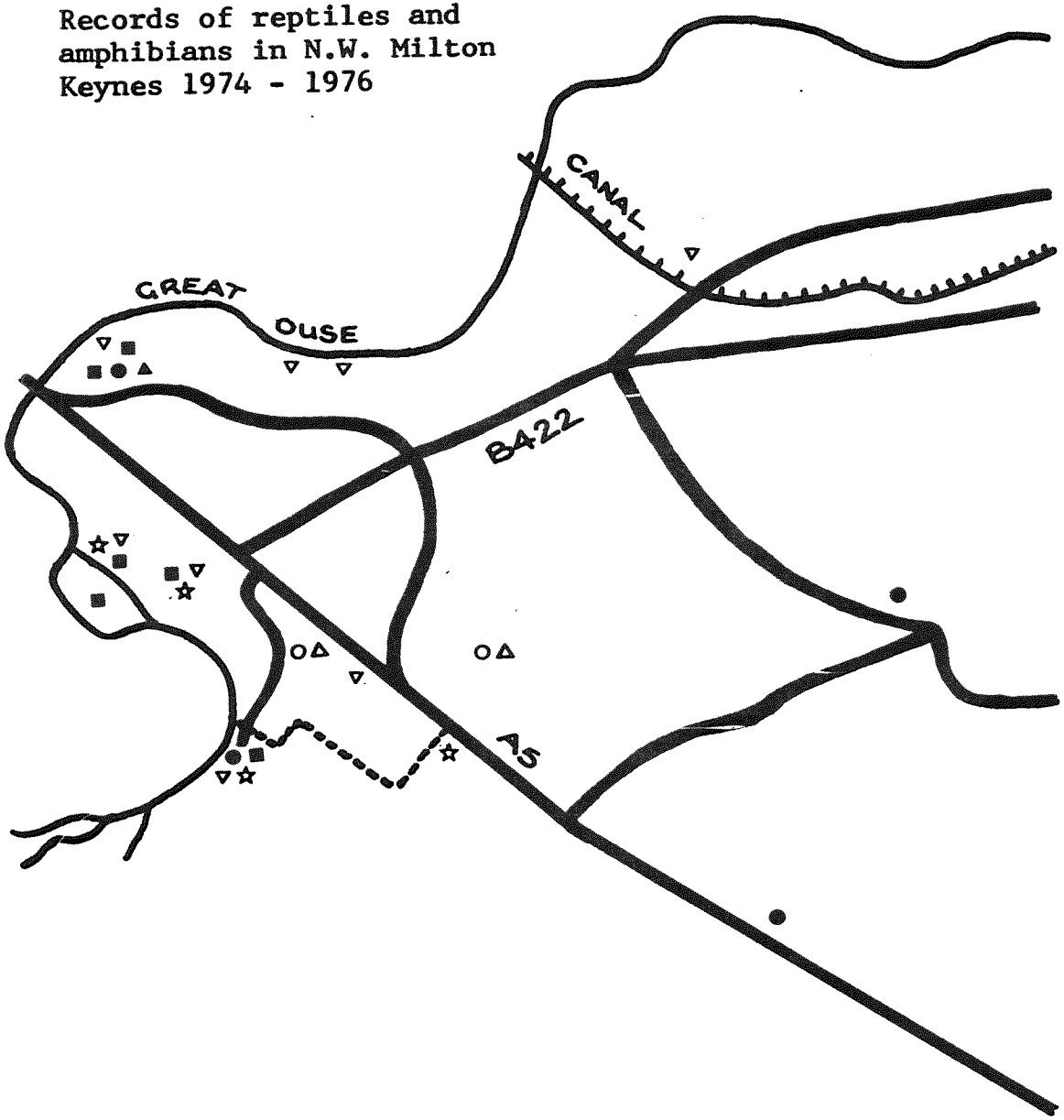
Sand Lizard (Lacerta agilis agilis)
V.C.H. - Reported as occurring "not commonly".
M.K.N.H.S. - No records.

Slow-worm (Anguis fragilis)
V.C.H. -"The most common reptile in many parts of the county", stated to be the "commonest reptile on the Bedfordshire border".
M.K.N.H.S. - Only two records. One from Stony Stratford (7940) and the other from Walton (8836).

Ringed or Grass Snake (Natrix natrix)
V.C.H. - Appears not be be common.

Fig. 2

Records of reptiles and amphibians in N.W. Milton Keynes 1974 - 1976



☆ Toad

● Common newt

○ Common newt *

■ Frog

▽ Grass snake

△ Great crested newt

* Record before pond filled

M.K.N.H.S. - Our most recorded reptile: Stony Stratford (7839) (7840) (7841) (7941) (7939) (8041); Howe Park Wood (8334); Shenley Church End (8236); Newton Longville Pit (8531) (8532).

Adder or Viper (Vipera berus berus)

V.C.H. - Generally present but not now common. Their decline being attributed to their usual haunts, woods and heaths, being more frequented by people than formerly and consequently being killed in large numbers.

M.K.N.H.S. - No records.

AMPHIBIANS

Common Frog (Rana temporia)

V.C.H. - Abundant everywhere.

M.K.N.H.S. - Generally distributed: Bradwell Abbey (8239); Bletchley (8533) (8731); Blue Lagoon and Water Eaton Pits (8632); Coldharbour Pit (8435) 8436); Howe Park Wood (8334); Jubilee Pit (8631); Little Woolstone (8739); Loughton Pit (8536); Linford Gravel Pits (8342) (8442); Mount Farm Lake (8734) (8735); Newport Pagnell Gravel Pits (8844); Newfoundout Pit (8633); Newton Longville Pit (8531) (8532); Stony Stratford (7841) (7840) (7839); Simpson (8836); Tongwell Lake (8642); Walton Lake (8837); Walton (8936); Wavendon Tower (9037); Willen (8740)(8840).

Common Toad (Bufo bufo)

V.C.H. - Abundant and general distribution.

M.K.N.H.S. - Generally distributed: Bradwell Abbey (8239); Bletchley (8731); Bleak Hall (8536); Blue Lagoon and Water Eaton Pits (8632); Coldharbour Pit (8435) (8436); Calverton (7839); Howe Park Wood (8334); Jubilee Pit (8631); Linford Wood (8440); Little Woolstone (8739); Loughton Pit (8536); Newfoundout Pit (8633); Newton Longville Pit (8531) (8532); Shenley Brook End (8335); Stony Stratford (7840) (7939); Tongwell Lake (8642); Tinkers Bridge (8736); Walton Lake (8837); Water Hall (8831); Woughton (Grand Union Canal) (8737).

Natterjack Toad (Bufo calamita)

V.C.H. - Although far from common it is found in certain places on the north-eastern borders of the county. Known locally as the "golden-back".

M.K.N.H.S. - No records.

Warty or Great Crested Newt (Triturus cristatus cristatus)

V.C.H. - Abundant but less so than the common newt.

M.K.N.H.S. - Scattered records from Milton Keynes but in small numbers: Blue Lagoon (8632); Coldharbour Pit (8436); Linford Wood (8440); Newton Longville Pit (8532); Shenley Church End (8236); Stantonbury (8340); Stony Stratford (7841) (7939).

Common or Smooth Newt (Triturus vulgaris vulgaris)
V.C.H. - Abundant.
M.K.N.H.S. - Records from most of the Milton Keynes area, present in larger numbers than the Warty Newt: Bradwell Abbey (8239); Coldharbour Pit (8436); Howe Park Wood (8234); Linford Wood (8440); Loughton Pit (8536); Milton Keynes Village (8938); Newfoundout Pit (8633); Stony Stratford (7839) (7841) (8038); Walton Lake (8837).

Palmate Newt (Triturus helveticus)
V.C.H. - Present throughout the county.
M.K.N.H.S. - Only one record from Milton Keynes.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people for providing records: P. J. Alderman, P. J. Chapman, S. Cousins, J. Day, R. M. Mandale, W. G. R. Stott, M. J. Towns, J. Wickham, and I would like to thank Mr. B. Frewin for providing maps from which were plotted pond positions.

References

Victoria County Histories Vol.1 (1905) Reptiles and Batrachians, pp 125-127.

THE PLANTS OF THE COLDHARBOUR CLAY PIT

R. Maycock

Since the cessation of the removal of clay from the Coldharbour Pit a wide range of habitats has developed in the area. The pit must have filled quite quickly with water and despite its steeply sloping edges has a good fringe of marginal vegetation. The areas where unusable overburden was dumped show many stages in plant succession from open grassland to dense scrub. There are also two small copses, one of elm (Ulmus procera) close to the A5 which succumbed to Dutch Elm disease in 1975 and another of Crack Willow (Salix fragilis) completely enclosing a large pond. There are also streams and ditches.

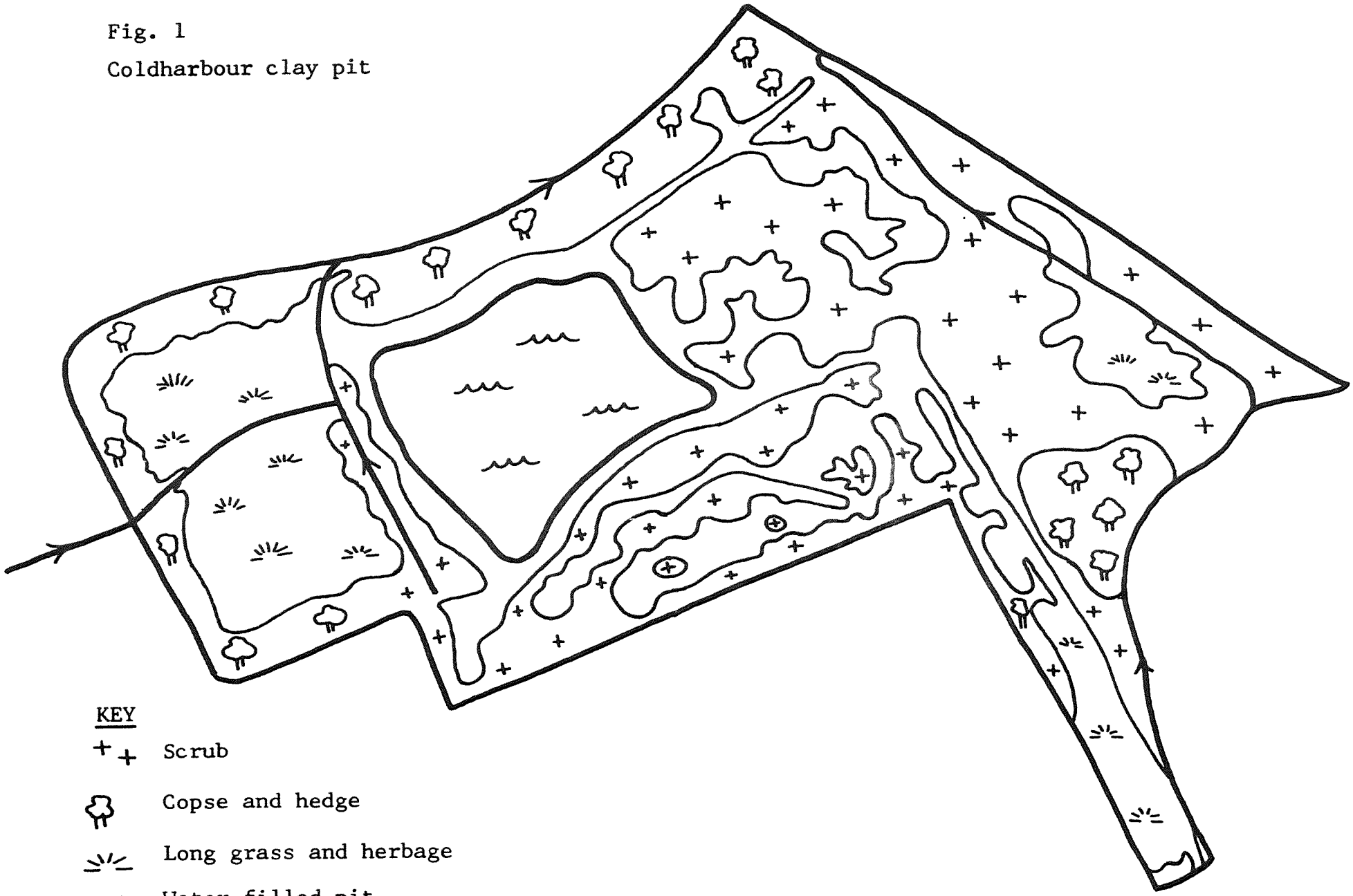
In 1973 the owners of the pit, the London Brick Company, drained the pit and constructed an access track in preparation for the dumping of rubbish. The water table, however, proved fickle and the pit was suddenly flooded before dumping could start, submerging a lorry, a hut and a pump! Since then the pit has been left undisturbed. The future of the pit is still uncertain but it may become part of a balancing lake complex. If this entails more excavation there will be an opportunity to expose areas of bare clay for natural colonisation, for it is the early colonising plants and the plant successions which give the area its great interest.

This survey was conducted in 1972 and since then there have been some changes in habitat. Dutch Elm disease has killed a great many trees in the area, and in 1976 some areas were destroyed by fire, setting back the growth of scrub.

EQUISETACEA		
Equisetum arvense		Common horsetail
RANUNCULACEAE		
Ranunculus	acris	Meadow buttercup
R.	repens	Creeping buttercup
R.	ficaria	Lesser celandine
R.	aquatilis	Water crowfoot

Fig. 1

Coldharbour clay pit



KEY

+ + Scrub

Copse and hedge

Long grass and herbage

Water-filled pit

Unmarked areas are short turf and grass areas

CRUCIFERAE	
Sinapsis arvensis	Charlock
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's purse
Alliaria petiolata	Jack-by-the-hedge
RESEDACEAE	
Reseda luteola	Dyer's rocket
VIOLACEAE	
Viola odorata	Sweet violet
V. riviniana	Wood violet
HYPERICACEAE	
Hypericum tetrapterum	Square-stemmed St. John's wort
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	
Silene vulgaris	Bladder campion
Cerastium holosteoides	Mouse ear chickweed
Stellaria media	Chickweed
S. graminea	Marsh stitchwort
Moehringia trinervia	Three-veined sandwort
LINACEAE	
Linum catharticum	Purging flax
GERIANACEAE	
Geranium dissectum	Cut leaved cranesbill
G. robertianum	Herb robert
ACERACEAE	
Acer campestre	Field maple
LEGUMINOSAE	
Ulex europaeus	Gorse
Ononis spinosa	Restharrow
Medicago lupulina	Black medick
Melilotus altissima	Tall melilot
Trifolium dubium	Lesser yellow trefoil
T. campestre	Hop trefoil
T. repens	White clover
T. pratense	Red clover
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's foot trefoil
Vicia cracca	Tufted vetch
V. sativa	Common vetch
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow vetchling
ROSACEAE	
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Rubus caesius	Dewberry

ROSACEAE cont'd	
Rubus fruticosus agg	Blackberry
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
P. reptans	Cinquefoil
Geum urbanum	Wood avens
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony
Sanguisorba officinalis	Great burnet
Rosa arvensis	Field rose
R. canina	Dog rose
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
ONAGRACEAE	
Epilobium hirsutum	Great hairy willow-herb
E. tetragonum	Square-stemmed willow herb
Chamaenerion angustifolium	Rosebay willow-herb
HALORAGACEAE	
Myriophyllum spicata	Water milfoil
CORNACEAE	
Thelycrania sanguinea	Dogwood
ARALIACEAE	
Hedera helix	Ivy
UMBELLIFERAE	
Chaerophyllum temulentum	Rough chervil
Anthriscus sylvestris	Hedge parsley
Sison amomum	Stone parsley
Torilis japonica	Chervil
Pimpinella major	Greater burnet saxifrage
Angelica sylvestris	Wild angelica
Pastomaca satova	Wild parsnip
Heracleum sphondylium	Keck
Daucus carota	Wild carrot
POLYGONACEAE	
Polygonum aviculare	Knotgrass
P. amphibium	Amphibious bistort
P. persicaria	Persicaria
P. convolvulus	Black bindweed
Rumex acetosa	Sorrel
R. crispus	Curled dock
R. obtusifolia	Broad-leaved dock
URTICACEAE	
Urtica dioica	Nettle

CANNABACEAE	
Humulus lupulus	Hop
ULMACEAE	
Ulmus procera	English elm
CORYLACEAE	
Corylus avellana	Hazel
FAGACEAE	
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Quercus robur	Oak
SALICACEAE	
Salix fragilis	Crack willow
PRIMULACEAE	
Primula veris	Cowslip
Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping jenny
OLEACEAE	
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Ligustrum vulgare	Privet
BORAGINACEAE	
Myosotis arvensis	Forget-me-not
M. palustris	Forget-me-not
CONVOLVOLACEAE	
Convolvulus arvensis	Bindweed
SOLANACEAE	
Solanum dulcamara	Woody nightshade
SCROPHULARIACEAE	
Scrophularia aquatica	Figwort
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow rattle
Odontites verna	Red bartsia
LABIATAE	
Mentha aquatica	Water mint
Clinopodium vulgare	Marjoram
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge woundwort
Glechoma hederacea	Ground ivy
PLANTAGINACEAE	
Plantago major	Great plantain
P. media	Hoary plantain
P. lanceolata	Ribwort plantain

RUBIACEAE

Galium mollugo	Hedge bedstraw
G. verum	Ladies bedstraw
G. uliginosum	Marsh bedstraw
G. aparine	Goosegrass

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Sambucus nigra	Elder
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring tree
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle

DIPSACEAE

Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel
Knautia arvensis	Field scabious
Succisa pratensis	Devil's bit scabious

COMPOSITAE

Senecio erucifolius	Hoary ragwort
S. squalidus	Oxford ragwort
S. vulgaris	Groundsel
Tussilago farfara	Coltsfoot
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	Dog daisy
Cirsium vulgare	Spear thistle
C. arvense	Creeping thistle
C. acaule	Stemless thistle
Centaurea scabiosa	Large knapweed
C. nigra	Knapweed
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort
Leontodon autumnalis	Hawk's bit
L. hispidus	Hawk's bit
Tragopogon pratensis	Goatsbeard
Sonchus arvensis	Field sow thistle
S. oleraceus	Sow thistle
S. asper	Sow thistle
Crepis capillaris	Smooth hawksbeard
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion

POTAMOGETONACEAE

Potamogeton natans	Floating pondweed
P. lucens	Shining pondweed

JUNCACEAE

Juncus bufonius	Toad rush
J. inflexus	Hard rush
J. effusus	Soft rush
J. articulatus	Jointed rush

DIOSCOREACEAE	
Tamus communis	Black bryony
ORCHIDACEAE	
Ophrys apifera	Bee orchid
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Spotted orchid
ARACEAE	
Arum maculatum	Lords and ladies
LEMNACEAE	
Lemna trisulca	Ivy-leaved duckweed
SPARGANIACEAE	
Sparganium emersum	Burr reed
TYPHACEAE	
Typha latifolia	Reed mace
CYPERACEAE	
Eleocharis palustris	Deer grass
Schoenoplectus lacustris	Bull rush
Carex acutiformis	Pond sedge
C. flacca	Carnation sedge
C. hirta	Hammer sedge
C. otrubae	False fox sedge
GRAMINEAE	
Phragmites communis	Reed grass
Glyceria fluitans	Flote grass
Festuca rundinacea	Tall fescue
F. rubra	Red fescue
Poa annua	Annual meadow grass
P. pratensis	Smooth meadow grass
P. trivialis	Rough meadow grass
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's foot grass
Cynosurus cristata	Crested dog's tail grass
Briza media	Quaking grass
Zerna erecta	Upright brome
Z. ramosa	Hairy brome
Bromus mollis	Soft brome
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Selder false brome
Agropyron caninum	Bearded couch grass
A. repens	Cough grass
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow oat grass
Arrhenatherum eliatus	False oat grass
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted hair grass
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent

GRAMINEAE cont'd	
Phleum bertolonii	Timothy grass
P. pratense	Timothy grass
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow foxtail

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Clapham, A. R., Tutin, T. G., & Warburg, E. F. 1962. Flora of the British Isles, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press.

BREEDING BIRD COMMUNITY OF THE NEWTON LONGVILLE BRICKPIT

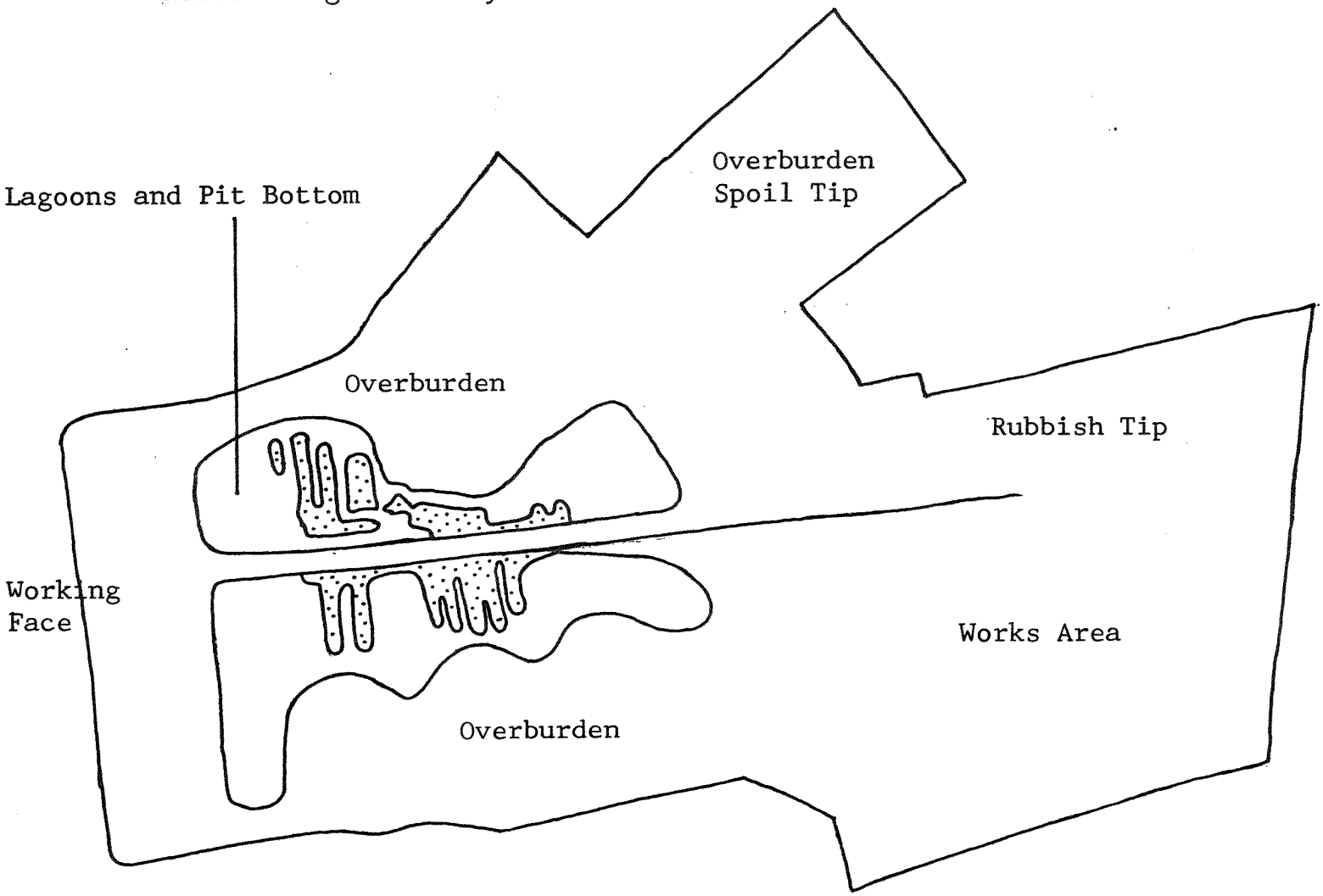
P. J. Alderman

About 1890 Thomas and John Read opened a small traditional plastic brick works on a 5 acre site half a mile north of Newton Longville near the Oxford to Bletchley railway line (S.P. 8532 8632) and employed about a dozen men. Richard Andrews joined them later and the firm of Read and Andrews was formed. Around 1919 Read and Andrews were joined by W. T. Lamb and Sons and the Bletchley Brick Company was founded in 1923. A year later the company changed over to the new method of 'Fletton' brickmaking and progressed steadily until 1929 when the London Brick Company and Forders acquired the company from Read and his colleagues. It was in the early 1930's that the present new works were erected on the opposite side of Newton Road. Early excavations on this site are at present (1977) being used as a refuse tip.

The common bird census study area, where excavations commenced in the mid-1940's is still active in the extraction of clay for brickmaking and at present measures approximately 933 yards long by an average of 633 yards wide, covering some 125 acres. It has now developed into a pocket of simulated moorland sandwiched between the urban sprawl of Milton Keynes and rural North Buckinghamshire with the tree-clad Brickhill hills skirting the eastern horizon.

Fig.1

Newton Longville Clay Pit



From the large expanses of barren Oxford clay at the workface the natural succession begins with coltsfoot (Tussilago farfara) being the dominant plant covering several acres interspersed with grasses, docks, crucifers, ragworts and willow herbs. The coltsfoot eventually gives way to further acres of coarse grasses holding selfheal (Prunella vulgaris), yellow wort (Blackstania perfoliata), thistles (Cirsium sp.), poppies (Papaver sp.), vetches, birdsfoot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus), evening primrose (Oenothera biennis), teasel (Dipsacus fullonum), umbellifers, goats rue (Galega officinalis), Ox-eye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum), two small areas of gorse (Ulex europaeus) and a few patches of medium mixed scrub. In the older parts of the pit the Common Spotted orchid (Dactylorhiza fuchsii) is abundant, followed by Early Marsh orchid (D.incanata) and two sites contain Bee orchid (Ophrys apifera) plants. Adder's Tongue fern (Ophioglossum vulgatum) can be found on the hills of clay spoil and in 1977 over 2000 plants were located.

There are several natural rainwater drainage channels which have cut their way down to the pools in the pit bottom. The channels stay wet throughout the year; they yield a substantial crop of hardrush (Juncus inflexus) over their lengths and support Common and Jack Snipe in winter. The pit floor, generally speaking, is very rugged.

It will be seen from the habitat map the amount of water generally allowed to remain in the pit bottom. This should be taken as a mean level and according to weather conditions will vary very rapidly in depth and to a much lesser extent in area. This level is regulated by pumping. Phragmites communis is the common reed and supports Reed and Sedge Warblers, Little Grebe, Reedbunting, Moorhen, Coot and Mallard nesting in summer and provides for large roosts of Reedbuntings and Pied Wagtails in winter where the reed has taken over shallow ponds. Reedmace (Typha sp.) is scattered to a lesser extent in pockets around the pond edges. The pool edges in the less vegetated areas of

the pit bottom provide large muddy shores and have attracted breeding Redshank, Little Ringed Plover and Yellow Wagtails in summer and Lapwings all the year round, also Common and Green Sandpiper and Wheatears on passage. Black Redstart are usually seen both in spring and autumn on passage but in 1973 stayed on to breed in a disused brick kiln. Large shoals of small roach are contained in the larger ponds and these areas are frequented by Herons and Kingfishers. A few pike roam in the waters too.

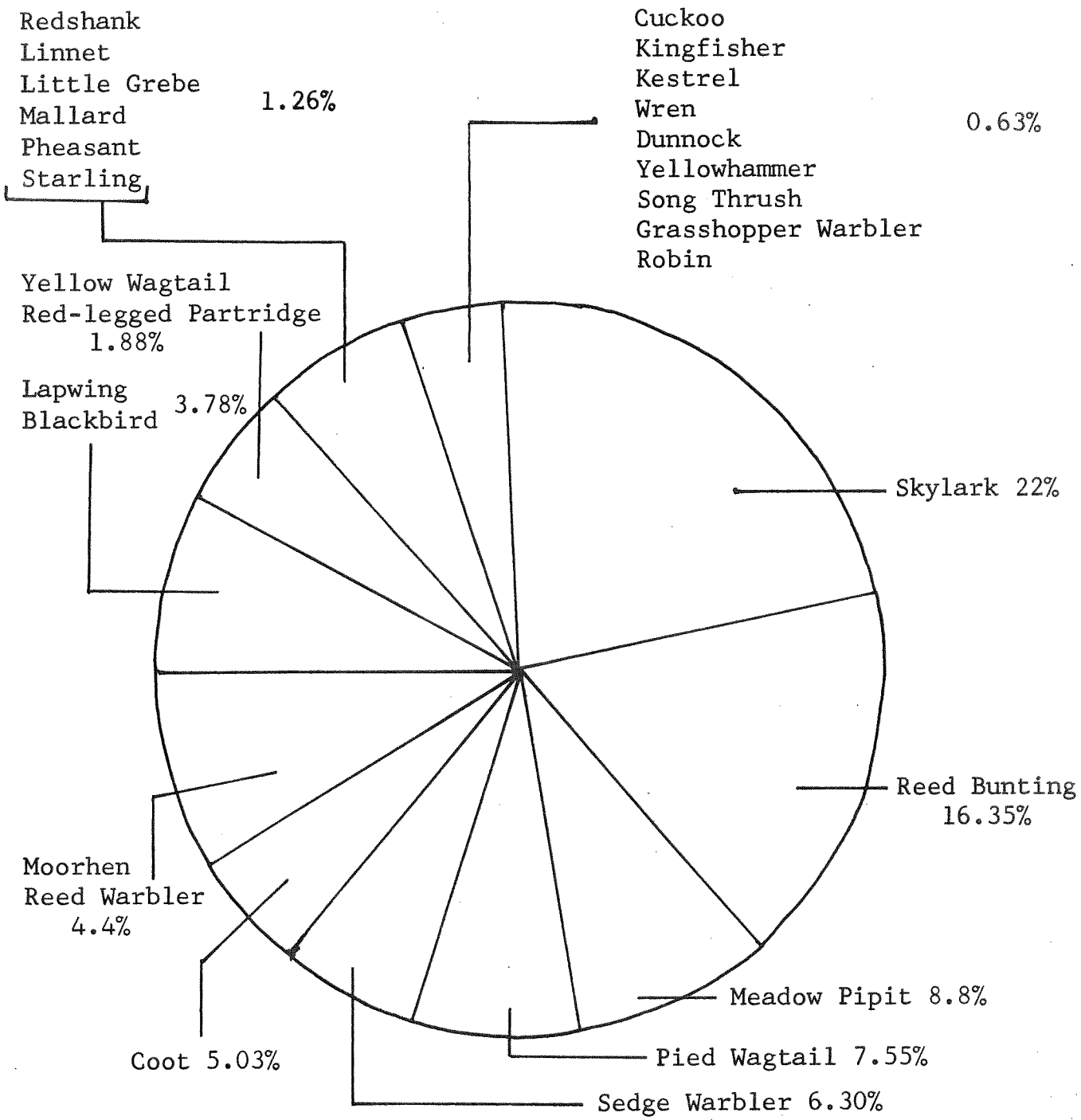
The site has attracted Woodcock regularly in winter, the occasional Hooded Crow and in 1974 and 1975 a male Ferruginous Duck. In the summer of 1977 Curlew were heard calling on fields adjacent to the site. On the 28th April 1974 after a gradual build-up during the month, a flock of Goldfinches exceeding 500 was seen feeding on the early crop of coltsfoot seed.

The workshops provide nesting sites for Starlings.

Bramble (Rubus fruticosa) patches and hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) are in well-developed small pockets supporting Blackbird, Linnet, Wren, Dunnock, Robin and Songthrush. Sycamore (Acer pseudoplat.), elder (Sambucus nigra), horse-chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum) and willow (Salix sp.) are all in earlier stages of development. The barren clay of 70 ft. cliffs at and immediately adjacent to the workface provide roosting for several hundred Lesser Black Back Gulls and several dozen Feral Pigeons. Red-legged Partridges favour the cliff edges as song-posts and Carrion Crows and Kestrels dog-fight on the up-currents of air from the cliff faces.

Swifts, House Martins and Swallows use the centre conveyor embankment area of the site for feeding, their combined numbers often reaching 150.

Brown hares and foxes frequent the area and there is a small colony of rabbits under a patch of medium scrub. Weasels, stoats, water voles, at least two species of bat, grass snakes, crested newts, toads and frogs are all found on the site and Muntjac deer are regular visitors to the area.



BIRD COMMUNITY STRUCTURE
BRICKWORKS CLAY PITS AT NEWTON LONGVILLE
1975.

N.B. Percentage figures refer to <u>each</u> species named

A pair of Kestrels breed regularly in a dead oak just a few yards outside the census area and there is strong evidence to suggest that Barn, Tawny and Little Owls possibly hold territory within the study area during summer. Two Short-eared Owls spent at least four weeks in the coarse grass area of the site in March 1975. Hobbys have been seen hunting over the study area in both 1974 and 1975, and a Peregrine on passage in the autumn of 1974.

The hills of clay spoil adjacent to the pit area provide a diverse breeding habitat; from Lesser Spotted and Green Woodpeckers to Reedbuntings, Willow Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats, Garden Warblers, Grasshopper Warblers, Willow Tits, etc.

The whole study area is being excavated from arable farmland and is bounded to the north by Milton Keynes, to the west by hills of clay spoil with bush scrub, dominated by the brick factory with its towering chimneys. The open country to the south and east is farmed with arable crops.

Large flocks of Carrion Crows and Lesser Black Back Gulls and to a smaller extent Jackdaws and Rooks pass over the study area daily to feed at the refuse tip at the western end of the brickworks site. On January 3rd 1976 after exceedingly strong gales an estimated 3000 mixed Gulls were found sheltering in the pit bottom.

TABLE 1

Species list for the Newton Longville Clay Pit

P=passage, B=breeding, S=summer/non-breeding, W=winter.
Number order: 1=1-9, 2=10-99, 3=100-999, 4=1000-9999.

	P	B	S	W
Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus)	1			1
Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis)	1			1
Cormorant (Phalacorax carbo)	1			
Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea)			1	1
Mallard (Anas platyrhychos)		1	2	2
Shoveller (Anas clypeata)	1			
Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula)			1	2

Table 1, cont'd

	P	B	S	W
Pochard (Aythya ferina)				2
Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)				1
Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)				2
Hobby (Falco subbuteo)			1	
Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)	1			
Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)		1		1
Red-legged Partridge (Alectoris rufa)		1		2
Partridge (Perdix perdix)		1		1
Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus)		1		1
Corncrake (Crex crex)	1			
Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)		2		2
Coot (Fulica atra)		2		2
Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)	3	2	1	3
Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula)	1			
Little Ringed Plover (Charadrius dubius)	1	1		
Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)	2			
Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)	1			2
Jack Snipe (Lymnocryptes minimus)				1
Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola)				1
Green Sandpiper (Tringa ochropus)	1			
Common Sandpiper (Tringa hypoleucos)	1			
Redshank (Tringa totanus)	1	1		
Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)	1			
Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)				2
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus)	3		1	3
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)				3
Common Gull (Larus canus)	1			2
Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)			3	4
Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)	1			
Stock Dove (Columba oenas)		1		1
Woodpigeon (Columba palumbus)		2	2	3
Turtle Dove (Streptopelia turtur)	1	1		
Collared Dove (Streptopelia decaocto)			1	
Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus)		1		
Barn Owl (Tyto alba)				1
Little Owl (Athene noctua)			1	1
Tawny Owl (Strix aluco)		1	1	1
Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus)				1
Swift (Apus apus)	3		2	
Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis)	1			1
Green Woodpecker (Picus viridis)		1		1
Great-spotted Woodpecker (Dendrocopus major)		1		1
Lesser-spotted Woodpecker (D. minor)		1	1	1
Skylark (Alauda arvensis)		2		2
Swallow (Hirundo rustica)	3		2	
House Martin (Delichon urbica)	3		2	
Carrion Crow (Corvus corone)		1	3	3

Table 1, cont'd

	P	B	S	W
Hooded Crow (Corvus corone cornix)				1
Rook (Corvus frugilegus)			3	3
Jackdaw (Corvus monedula)			2	2
Magpie (Pica pica)		1		1
Jay			1	
Great Tit (Parus major)		2		2
Blue Tit (Parus caeruleus)		2		2
Marsh Tit (Parus palustris)		1		1
Willow Tit (Parus montanus)		1		1
Long-tailed Tit (Aegithalos caudatus)		1		2
Treecreeper (Certhia familiaris)		1		1
Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes)		2		2
Mistle Thrush (Turdus viscivorus)	2			2
Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris)	3			3
Song Thrush (Turdus philomelos)	2	2		2
Redwing (Turdus iliacus)	3			2
Blackbird (Turdus merula)	2	2		2
Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe)	2			
Stonechat (Saxicola torquata)	1			1
Whinchat (Saxicola rubetra)	1			
Black Redstart (Phoenicurus ochrurus)	1	1		
Robin (Erithacus rubecula)		2		2
Grasshopper Warbler (Locustella naevia)	1	1		
Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus scirpaceus)		1		
Sedge Warbler (Acrocephalus schoenobaenus)	2	2		
Garden Warbler (Sylvia borin)	1	1		
Whitethroat (Sylvia communis)		1		
Lesser Whitethroat (Sylvia curraca)		1		
Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus trochilus)	2	2		
Chiff-chaff (Phylloscopus collybita)	1	1		
Goldcrest (Regulus regulus)				1
Spotted Flycatcher (Muscicapa striata)	1	1		
Dunnock (Prunella modularis)		2		2
Meadow Pipit (Anthus pratensis)	3	2		2
Water Pipit (Anthus spinoletta)	1			
Pied Wagtail (Motacilla alba)	3	2		3
Grey Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea)	2	1		
Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)	3	2		3
Greenfinch (Carduelis chloris)		2		2
Goldfinch (Carduelis carduelis)	3	1		2
Linnet (Acanthis cannabina)	2	2		3
Redpoll (Acanthis flammea)	1			2
Bullfinch (Pyrrhula pyrrhula)		2		3
Chaffinch (Fringilla coelebs)		1		4
Brambling (Fringilla montifringilla)				1
Corn Bunting (Emberiza calandra)		1		1
Yellowhammer (Emberiza citrinella)		1		2

Table 1, cont'd

	P	B	S	W
Reed Bunting (Emberiza schoeniclus)		2		3
House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)		3		4
Tree Sparrow (Passer montanus)		1		3
Ferruginous Duck (Aythya nyroca)				1
Ring-necked Parakeet				1

Total species recorded.....108
Passage..... 45
Breeding..... 55
Summer/non-breeding..... 19
Winter..... 74

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MUSEUM RECORDING

J. Royston
(County Museum, Aylesbury)

We all know that Buckinghamshire has a good variety of interesting habitats and would have no difficulty selecting a walk for a visitor. Each of us also knows where some rarity lives and could take an interested friend to see Coralwort, Deadly Nightshade or to hear a Nightingale sing. We have a lot of knowledge in our heads about the general, and some of the specific, aspects of Buckinghamshire wildlife. Some of it gets written down in our field notebooks but only some of this gets to a place where the information is useful. Also, the places which are not exceptional but which have a good variety of common plants and animals in ecological balance often tend to get ignored, yet these may well be the best areas to conserve as reservoirs of genetic material for the future. How many of us know which stretch of the local river, or which length of hedge has the best variety of common plants and animals? The evaluation of sites is not an easy task, but we really need to be able to designate local nature reserves,

educational sites, recreational areas and expendable areas, at least secretly, before being confronted with a planning application. For this, we need information about all parts of Buckinghamshire, interesting and apparently uninteresting, written down and in a retrievable system for use when needed.

The information can be obtained from a variety of sources: the heads of naturalists, their field notebooks, society field trip records, various publications, or by designing fieldwork projects to answer specific gaps in our knowledge. This is quite a big job requiring tact and co-operation from everyone. Then the information has to be stored somewhere where it is readily accessible. Over the past few years there has been much thought given to this at a national level, with the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood leading the way. What has emerged is a network of local record centres, ideally associated with a museum service because of the information already stored there (as specimens, including voucher collections), and because there are usually full time staff with relevant academic knowledge. There is always the danger of data being wrongly assessed if it is done by people unfamiliar with the content - at least one local authority advertised for a planner to interpret biological data!

The methods used for storage and retrieval are at the moment being systemised and a booklet is to be produced giving the basic common ground as a guide for establishing new centres. In this county, the Buckinghamshire County Museum has been recognised as a biological and geological records centre by the Nature Conservancy Council.

Archaeological recording is already underway, so the museum is a potential interdisciplinary information resource. Current users of records are the N.C.C. themselves, the Biological Records Centre, the County Trust, the Forestry Commission, research workers, atlas compilers and teachers, and the

information should be useful for planning enquiries.

The information in Buckinghamshire is stored in two ways. Firstly by species cards, on to which any isolated sighting is put. Secondly, by a site index, where each site has an envelope containing all the information obtained. The envelopes are filed according to 10 kilometre squares, and each site within the square has a name and number. Access to the envelopes is via a map with sites marked and numbered for use if the locality is known, or through a habitat card index if the name of the site is known. As the amount of information available is still very small, the greatest needs are for a full-time biological records officer and a geologist. The system could then have more information fed into it by increased contact with naturalists, site visits and copying of existing records now scattered all over the county, so that it would become really valuable. Teaching sessions to encourage good observation and recording could be given. The system, when up to date, would be able to provide information in suitable form to answer the various enquiries. It is perhaps pertinent to note that there is a secret file for rare species and sites, and this is not generally made available. As retrieval techniques develop and the volume of information increases, there is a possibility of museums in the South East of England sharing a communal computer and microfilm and fiche reading apparatus.

Nothing happens very fast, but I think the part the museum will be playing in wildlife conservation is increasingly one of storage of information. However, we all have a part to play in this. It is not easy to make yourself write down things when and where you see them, but that degree of discipline would make a valuable contribution. I will always be glad to receive information about sites and species, and hope this sort of co-operation will increase so that the best bits of Buckinghamshire wildlife will be preserved for their own sake and for ours.

THE SPIDERS OF SOME ROADSIDE VERGES

M. J. Towns

Introduction

Despite the enormous acreage of roadside verge running literally the whole length and breadth of Britain, little work has been undertaken to assess their invertebrate fauna. This seems odd, in view of the botanical richness of many verges. Why shouldn't such sites be equally rich in invertebrates? In Milton Keynes our roadside verges lie predominantly on calcareous boulder clay. At the margins of the city some verges overlie limestone and greensand. There are also cuttings, areas of scrub, woods, embankments and rough grassland, all of which contribute to a great variety of habitat. For the survey three verges were sampled; a well established typical verge of the area and two newly created verges. The survey was carried out from December 1974 to December 1975.

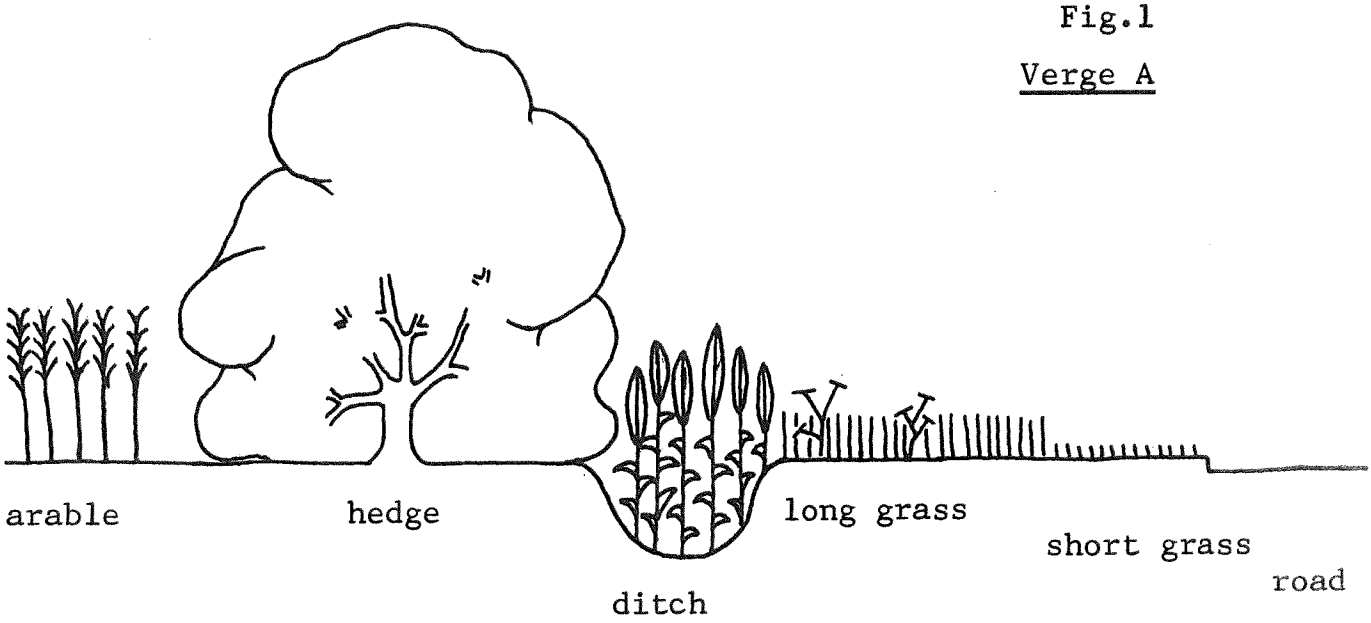
The Study Verges

Three roadside verges were sampled, one intensively (Verge A) and two intermittently (Verges B and C). Verge A, grid ref: SP8837, on the B557. This section of road will eventually be absorbed into the Open University Campus. The soil was boulder clay with no apparent top-soil but it seemed it had been sown at some time in the past with a standard Ministry of Transport grass mix, although a number of other plants had invaded. This verge was 6 metres wide with a ditch, hedge and an arable field beyond (Fig. 1). Hedge species included hawthorn (Cratageus monogyna), elm (Ulmus sp.), ash (Fraxinus excelsior), dog rose (Rosa canina) and bramble (Rubus fruticosa). The hedge was regularly trimmed with a mechanical hedge cutter. The ditch was heavily overgrown with hairy willow herb (Epilobium hirsutum). Knapweed (Centaura nigra) and hogweed (Heracleum sphondylium) were prominent in the long grass. The main grass species in the rest of the verge were Festuca rubra, Poa annua, Poa trivialis,

Lolium perenne, Arrhenatherum elatius, Poa pratensis, Dactylis glomerata. There were few flowering plants, but most frequent were Trifolium medium, Medicago lupulina and Taraxacum officinale. The verge seemed to be cut on a zoning system with the first 2 metres from the road cut once a year and the remainder perhaps once every two years. The ditch was cleared periodically by the local farmer. There was little surface litter even though most of the grass clippings remained in situ.

Fig.1

Verge A



The two other sites were new verges along the recently constructed grid road, H9 (Groveway). Both verges overlay boulder clay, but had been top-soiled to a depth of six inches. At the time of sampling both sites were in relatively open country and both verges were over 15 metres wide. Verge B was along a stretch of the road that had been opened in 1972 while verge C was a stretch of road that was opened in 1973. Both verges had been sown with a standard M.o.T. grass mixture but at the time of the survey verge B had heavy growths of clover while verge C was virtually

bare ground.

Verges B and C were included in the sampling to provide some comparison between established and newly created verges.

Sampling Method

Verge A

Ten jars, with mouths 8 cms wide were spaced one metre apart and sunk up to their brims in the soil (pit-fall traps). They were charged with a five per cent formalin mixture and emptied once a week for a period of one year. The jars were sited along the mid-line of the verge, 3 metres from the roadside edge.

Verges B and C

On these verges a much less intensive sampling procedure was employed. Only five jars were placed at each site and sampling was only carried out for the months of March and May. The jars were sited 3 metres from the road edge.

The Results

Verge A

Forty-six species were taken over the course of the year and by and large they are representative of rough grassland. Most of the species taken are those which can be found in a variety of sites in most places. Some species are indicative of calcareous soils and some were 'poached' from adjoining habitats. Three species are new additions to the county list (Table I). Sampling directly from the hedge and ditch would undoubtedly have produced more records.

Four species, Pachygnatha degeeri, Pardosa prativaga, Centromerita bicolor and Lepthyphantes tenuis together made up 72% of the catch. They are all very common and occur in a wide variety of habitats.

Over half of the species recorded had so few individuals taken that they fell below 1% of the total catch from the verge.

TABLE I

Species list and numbers of spiders taken at Verge A

		♂	♀	Total	%
Dysderidae					
h	Segestria senoculata	4	-	4	0.12
Gnaphosidae					
	Micaria pulicaria	3	-	3	0.12
Clubionidae					
	Clubiona reculsa	2	-	2	0.07
*	Agroeca proxima	2	-	2	0.07
Zoridae					
	Zora spinimana	1	-	1	0.03
Thomisidae					
	Xysticus cristatus	28	22	50	1.8
Lycosidae					
	Pardosa pullata	34	18	52	1.9
	Pardosa prativaga	203	470	673	24.0
o	Pardosa palustris	70	21	91	3.2
	Alopecosa pulverulenta	20	20	40	1.4
d	Trochosa ruricola	51	51	102	3.6
	Trochosa terricola	12	9	21	0.7
Pisauridae					
	Pisaura mirabilis	1	-	1	0.03
Agelenidae					
h	Agelena labyrinthica	1	-	1	0.03
Mimetidae					
	Ero furcata	-	1	1	0.03
Theridiidae					
*	Episinus angulatus	-	3	3	0.12
	Robertus lividus	7	-	7	0.25
	Phlocomma gibbum	1	-	1	0.03
Tetragnathidae					
d	Pachygnatha clercki	5	3	8	0.28
	Pachygnatha degeeri	341	425	766	27.2
Linyphiidae					
	Ceratinella brevipes	1	-	1	0.03
	Walckenaera acuminata	2	1	3	0.12
	Walckenaera antica	1	-	1	0.03
	Dicymbium nigrum	6	3	9	0.30
	Gonatium rubens	3	7	10	0.35
*	Tapinocyba praecox	9	-	9	0.30
	Gongylidiellum vivum	3	-	3	0.12
	Micargus herbigradus	15	17	32	1.1

TABLE I cont'd

		♂	♀	Total	%
Linyphiidae cont'd					
c	Micargus subequalis	1	1	2	0.07
	Savignyna frontata	5	-	5	0.18
c	Diplocephalus cristatus	1	-	1	0.03
	Erigone dentipalpis	27	10	37	1.3
	Erigone atra	68	9	77	2.7
	Ostearius melanopygius	-	1	1	0.03
	Meioneta rurestris	24	13	37	1.3
c	Meioneta saxatilis	3	4	7	0.25
h	Centromerus sylvaticus	59	15	74	2.6
	Centromerita bicolor	173	238	411	14.6
	Bathyphantes gracilis	17	20	37	1.3
c	Diplostyla concolor	6	11	17	0.6
h	Floronia bucculenta	-	1	1	0.03
	Lepthyphantes tenuis	77	121	198	7.0
	Linyphia clathrata	1	-	1	0.03
d	Linyphia pusilla	2	2	4	0.14
	Pocadicnemis pumila	1	-	1	0.03
	Lepthyphantes pallidus		1	1	0.03
			Grand total:	2808	

* New county record
h From the hedge
o From the field
d From the ditch
c Calcareous grassland species

Table II shows the number of species of each genera occurring each month. Peak species months were May, June and July. Several species of Linyphia are present each month and their small size enables them to be successful winter species. Their peak was in the months of February and March. In contrast, the large Lycosid spiders largely confine their activities to the warmer summer months when food is more plentiful.

Although there is marked ecological separation between spider species, competition for food must still be intense and it is interesting to look at the pattern of monthly captures for the four main species (Table III). Each species peaks at a different time of year. This is particularly important with P. deegeri, C. bicolor and L. tenuis which would probably compete with each other for available food supplies.

TABLE II

Number of species of each genera occurring each month

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Dysderidae					1	1						
Gnaphosidae				1	1	1						
Clubionidae						1	1		1			
Zoridae					1							
Thomisidae	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1
Lycosidae			1	2	6	6	5	6	3	3	1	
Pisauridae							1					
Mimetidae								1				
Theridiidae	2					2	1	1				
Tetragnathidae	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
Linyphiidae	8	12	14	11	11	9	10	8	7	5	7	10
Total number of species	12	15	17	17	23	23	20	18	12	9	10	12

TABLE III

Pattern of monthly captures for the four main species

	Av.size (mm)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Pachygnatha degeeri	2.5-3	3	3	15	160	260	157	38	24	31	14	6	11
Centromerita bicolor	3-3.5	108	49	19	17					1	5	31	181
Lepthyphantes tenuis	2-2.5	3	3	3	4	1	2	12	46	31	29	37	27
Pardosa prativaga	4.5-6					113	202	240	115	11	2		

TABLE IV

Showing the periods when species were active

Verge B

Only nineteen species were taken at this verge but collections were restricted to March and May. Five species were not recorded from verge A, Oedothorax apicatus, Oedothorax fuscus, Oedothorax retusus, Milleriana inerrans and Cornicularia vigilax. The Oedothorax species are widely distributed in a variety of situations in moss, grass and undergrowth. O. apicatus is not common. C. vigilax is not common and is generally found in wettish places in heaths or fens. It is conceivable that this specimen was a 'stray' from the Brickhill heaths nearby (3 km distant), but two specimens were also taken from verge C. It could be that the short, open nature of the vegetation provided a temporary heath substitute. Milleriana inerrans is another uncommon species which prefers wet meadows.

TABLE V

Species list and numbers taken from Verge B

		♂	♀	Total
Thomisidae				
	Xysticus cristatus	1	-	1
Lycosidae				
	Lycosa imm.			1
Tetragnathidae				
	Pachygnatha degeeri	41	41	82
	Pachygnatha clercki	2	2	4
Linyphiidae				
*	Walckenaera vigilax	1	-	1
	Dicymbium nigrum	1	-	1
	Oedothorax fuscus	5	41	46
*	Oedothorax retusus	5	18	23
*	Oedothorax apicatus	1	2	3
	Savygnia frontata	3	2	5
*	Milleriana inerrans	1	-	1
	Erigone dentipalpis	40	30	70
	Erigone atra	32	19	51
	Meioneta saxatilis	2	-	2
	Centromerita bicolor	-	2	2
	Bathyphantes gracilis	2	-	2
	Bathyphantes nigrinus	1	-	1
	Meioneta rurestris	9	4	13
	Lepthyphantes tenuis	1	6	7
			Grand total:	316

Verge C

Only fifty-two individuals from eleven species were recorded from this verge. All species were also recorded from verge B. Arable land, and this site could fairly be considered to show the characteristics of arable land, as a habitat is not particularly suitable for spiders so the very low figures were to be expected. Most of the species taken were also common aeronauts i.e. disperse by means of gossamer threads spun into air currents which lift the spiders and may carry them for many miles.

TABLE VI

Species list and numbers taken from Verge C

	♂	♀	Total
Thomisidae			
Xysticus cristatus	1	1	1
Linyphiidae			
Walckenaera vigilax	1	-	1
Oedothorax fuscus	-	7	7
Millerians inerrans	1	-	1
Erigone dentipalpis	5	4	9
Erigone atra	11	4	15
Bathyphantes gracilis	1	2	3
Meioneta rurestris	9	-	9
Dicymbium nigrum	1	1	2
Lephyphantes tenuis	1	1	2
Tetragnathidae			
Pachygnatha degeeri	2	-	2
		Grand total:	52

Conclusion

A total of 51 species were taken from the roadside verge sites. Of these a few were comparatively uncommon and seven were new county records. Sampling directly from the ditch and hedgerow at verge A would undoubtedly have produced more records. The new county records are a reflection of the general lack of recording in Buckinghamshire. Although the bulk of the species

taken are common and found in a variety of situations, the diversity of species is quite high.

As communities, the verges sampled showed a picture of rapid exploitation of changing habitat and circumstance. The earliest colonisers were, as might be expected, aeronauts, but there were also indications of invasion from neighbouring habitats. If verge B represents a later stage in colonisation than verge C, it seems that the increase in numbers of species and individuals is rapid. This is almost certainly connected with the denser growth of vegetation at verge B. Taller herbaceous vegetation is known to increase spider species numbers.

As habitats, roadside verges appear quite simple but they can, in fact, be complex: verge A contained several micro-habitats a hedge, a hedge bottom, a ditch, a dense herbaceous field layer, a short field layer, some large patches of moss, bare ground and a metalled gateway entrance. Species able to exploit all of these niches were taken in the traps. Roadside verges are also representative of a wide mixture of habitats that may be found in a locality and in some instances will provide habitats which otherwise may not be present e.g. providing grassland and wood-edge habitats in closed canopy woodlands.

Clearly, roadside verges are an important reservoir of common and sometimes not so common species. Their value for nature conservation in a hard-pressed environment must be enormous and sympathetic management to maintain and increase this value is a vital need.

NORTH BUCKS BIRD REPORT FOR 1976

C. Emary

I should like to thank the following people for supplying records for this report: P. Alderman, R. Arnold, G. Balkwill, A. Frost, R. Mandale, G. Stockton, J. Day, Mr. & Mrs. Hood, W. Pedley, J. Mander, N. Stone, P. Chapman, D. Dunham, R. Marsh, J. Cox, B. Frewin, J. Davies, B. Jackson, R. Stott, R. Maycock, M. Towns, G. Garlick, G. Lambert, D. Turnbull, P. Emery, S. Barry, A. Harding. I would also like to thank H. Mayer-Gross for supplying the ringing records.

Counts: In the tables the winter of 1975-76 is treated as a whole. The count dates were as follows:- Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 16th, Dec 14th, Jan 18th, Feb 15th, Mar 14th. NC = No count. G.P. = Gravel pit; B.L. = Balancing lake.

RED THROATED DIVER (Gavia stellata). One, slightly oiled, at Calvert G.P. between Sept 13th & 16th. Also reported on 22nd.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (Podiceps cristatus). Resident, breeding species.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Calvert G.P.	NC	4	0	6	3	7	23
Foxcote Reservoir	20	29	26	15	13	9	7
Hyde Lane G.P.	9	7	7	2	6	8	16
Linford G.P.	7	15	4	6	10	18	10
Newport Pagnell G.P.	6	10	16	16	7	9	24
Willen B.L.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Other 1976 records of interest: Foxcote Reservoir Nov 14th & 21st - 43; Linford G.P. Jan 4th - 23.

LITTLE GREBE (Tachybaptus ruficollis). Resident, breeding species. Records from numerous localities.

LEACH'S PETREL (Oceanodroma leucohoa). One found injured at Drayton Parslow Nov 24th, died Nov 28th.

CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo). Irregular visitor. Fewer records than 1975. Records received from: Calvert G.P. Aug 4th & 24th - 1, Sept 12th - 3; Cow Common Farm Oct 24th - 1 over; Foxcote Reservoir April 28th - 1, Sept 7th - 1; Linford G.P. Feb 15th - 2, Dec 12th - 1.

SPOONBILL (Platalea leucorodia). A single bird at Willen B.L. June 28th.

MALLARD (Anas platyrhynchos). Resident, breeding species and winter visitor.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Calvert G.P.	NC	19	1	10	12	9	2
Foxcote Reservoir	72	400	334	250	307	116	26
Linford G.P.	516	242	486	386	303	252+	150
Willen	256	900+	273	205	289	172	70

Other 1976 counts of interest: Foxcote Reservoir Nov 7th - 550, Dec 29th - 700; Willen B.L. Sept 18th - 1380.

TEAL (Anas crecca). Regular, winter visitor.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Foxcote Reservoir	18	10	2	3	2	3	0
Linford G.P.	6	10	13	69	15	7	21
Willen B.L.	4	6	5	178	5	188	24

Records were also received from: Calvert G.P.: Cosgrove; Great Horwood; Jubilee Pit, Bletchley; Marsh Gibbon; Stowe. A maximum of 211 were noted at Willen B.L. on Sept 12th.

GADWALL (Anas strepera). Recorded at Foxcote Reservoir, Linford G.P. and Willen B.L., with sightings in Jan, Feb,(max. 8 at Linford), April, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec.

WIGEON (Anas penelope). Common winter visitor.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Calvert G.P.	NC	4	0	2	3	9	0
Foxcote Reservoir	0	0	0	12	12	68	22
Linford G.P.	0	2	15	70	194	353	200+
Willen B.L.	0	7	11	58	145	9	60

Other 1976 records of interest: Calvert G.P. Feb 4th - 29; Foxcote Reservoir Feb 4th - 180, April 4th - 4, Dec 27th - 200; Tongwell Jan 18th - 160, Feb 15th - 185; Willen B.L. (first of 1976-77 winter Aug 30th - 14).

TUFTED DUCK (Aythya fuligula). Resident and winter visitor.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Calvert G.P.	NC	22	28	45	36	21	9
Emberton	37	66	72	82	81	97	23
Foxcote Reservoir	21	45	10	183	72	67	26
Hyde Lane G.P.	46	28	163	126	51	160	116
Linford G.P.	93	162	205	180	341	176	129
Newport Pagnell G.P.	27	115	81	94	143	214	62
Willen B.L.	64	50	25	10	50	24	100

TUFTED DUCK cont'd

Broods noted at a number of N. Bucks sites. A brood of 8 noted at Willen B.L. July 14th.

COMMON SCOTER (Melanitta nigra). A male at Tongwell B.L. Dec 28th.

POCHARD (Aythya ferina). Common winter visitor.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Calvert G.P.	NC	6	2	29	15	9	2
Emberton	0	30	0	25	32	23	7
Foxcote	82	192	150	162	146	93	51
Linford G.P.	28	85	178	167	196	123	43
Newport Pagnell G.P.	1	10	28	11	0	13	7

GOOSANDER (Mergus merganser). Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Recorded at Calvert G.P.; Foxcote Reservoir: Linford G.P.: Willen B.L.

GOLDENEYE (Bucephala clangula). Annual winter visitor.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
Willen B.L.	0	0	0	3	10	14	16

Records were also received from: Calvert G.P.: Foxcote Reservoir; Hyde Lane G.P., with max. of 4,Mar 6th; Linford G.P., max. of 4, Jan 17th; Mount Farm; Tongwell B.L., max. of 3,Nov 27th; Willen B.L., max. 3,Dec 27th.

BRENT GOOSE (Branta bernicla). Two at Willen B.L. between April 3rd & 10th.

SHELDUCK (Tadorna tadoina). Records received from: Foxcote Reservoir Feb 15th - 1, Mar 18th - 3, Linford G.P. April 10th - 2, June 5th - 2; Tongwell B.L. Feb 28th - 1; Willen B.L. Jan - max. 4, 31st; Feb - max. 42, 29th, March - max. 14, 19th, April - max.9, 3rd, May - max. 3, 1st & 22nd, June - max 3,19th, a juvenile noted on 23rd & 24th July, Sept - max. 16, 16th.

WHOOPER SWAN (Cygnus gygnus). Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Hyde Lane G.P. January all month, max.10, Feb all month,9 (4 adults), March 1st - 23rd, 9, to end of month decreasing to 2, April 1st - 3rd, 2, Nov 18th - 31st, max. of 8, December all month, max. 9; Tongwell B.L. Jan 2nd - 4th, 1.

BEWICK SWAN (Cygnus bewickii). Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Buckingham Nov 13th - 10; Foxcote Reservoir Dec 4th - 2; Hyde Lane G.P. Jan 13th - 31st, 5; Feb all month - 5, March 1st-14th, 5, then 3 on 17th, Dec, max.4; Linford G.P. Jan 1st -

BEWICK SWAN cont'd

7 (4 adults), Feb 21st & 28th - 5 (3 adults), March 14th - 5; Tongwell B.L. Jan 3rd - 18th - 14 (4 juv), 30th - 25, Feb 15th - 23.

BUZZARD (Buteo buteo). Two records received. One over Buckingham Sept 1st, one flying south over Foxcote Dec 19th.

SPARROWHAWK (Accipiter nisus). Rare. A single at Deanshanger Sept 5th, a single at Newton Longville Oct 24th.

Ringing recovery

EF 55307	Pullus 4/4 killed against window	11.7.75 5.10.76	Near Tring, Herts Milton Keynes, Bucks. 30 km N.

HOBBY (Falco subbeteo). A single bird chasing house martins over Dadford Sept 5th.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT (Chrysolophus amherstiae). 20 calling May 2nd, Brickhills.

OYSTERCATCHER (Haematopus ostralegus). Irregular visitor. Willen B.L. Sept 12th - 1, Oct 26th -2.

LAPWING (Vanellus vanellus). Resident breeding species and winter visitor. Breeding noted at Deanshanger G.P.; Linford G.P.; Newport Pagnell G.P.; Willen B.L. Largest flocks: Jan 18th 5000 est., Linford: 1000 Leckhampstead; 1000+ Newport Pagnell G.P.; Oct 10th 2500+ Greenway Farm.

RINGED PLOVER (Charadruis hiaticula). Records from: Foxcote Reservoir; Linford G.P.; Newport Pagnell G.P.; Willen B.L., with max. 24 Sept 26th. Two pairs bred at one site in N. Bucks.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (Charadruis dubius). Passage migrant and breeding species. Breeding proved at two sites in N. Bucks.

GOLDEN PLOVER (Pluvialis apricaria). Winter visitor. Recorded at Marsh Gibbon with max. 300 in Jan; 50+ Hyde Lane G.P. Dec 5th.

TURNSTONE (Arenaria interpres). Only recorded Willen B.L., May 22nd - 4, May 28th - 1, Sept 25th & 26th - 1.

COMMON SNIPE (Gallinago gallinago). Records from 16 sites in N. Bucks, with max. 33 Newton Longville Jan 11th.

JACK SNIPE (Lymnocryptes minimus). Records of single birds at Newton Longville Jan, Feb, Mar; Tongwell B.L. Feb; Willen B.L. Dec.

WOODCOCK (Scolopax rusticola). Occasional records of single birds Brickhill Woods; Calvert G.P.; Cosgrove; Wicken Wood.

CURLEW (Numenius arquata). Up to 3 noted at Yardley Gobion bet. March - July. Single birds noted Foxcote Reservoir; Hyde Lane G.P.; Leckhampstead; Willen B.L.

WHIMBREL (Numenius phaeopus). Autumn passage only. Willen B.L. Aug 29th - 1, Sept 3rd - 2.

BLACK TAILED GODWIT (Limosa limosa). Passage migrant. Willen B.L. June 17th - 1, July 10th -16th - 2.

BAR TAILED GODWIT (Limosa lapponica). Passage migrant. Willen B.L. May 2nd - 2, May 9th - 1.

WOOD SANDPIPER (Tringa glarola). Birds noted on autumn passage only at Willen B.L. Singles Aug 23rd, 25th, 28th; 2-Aug 30th; 3-Sept 26th, single Oct 2nd.

GREEN SANDPIPER (Tringa ochropus). Passage migrant, winter visitor. Jan: singles Calvert G.P.; Willen B.L. Feb: single Great Horwood. Mar: singles Old Wolverton; Great Horwood. Apr: single Willen. July:single Willen, 2 Walton. Aug: records from 4 sites, max. counts 5 Willen 11th, 5 Deanshanger 23rd. Sept: records from 4 sites, max. counts 3 Willen 7th & 13th. Oct: singles Willen B.L. 3rd, 27th, 30th. Nov: single Willen 20th.

REDSHANK (Tringa totanus). Records from every month, with breeding noted Linford G.P.; Willen B.L., suspected Deanshanger G.P. Highest count 10 - Linford G.P. Apr 3rd.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (Tringa erythropus). Willen B.L. June 17th - 1, Aug 11th - 1; Foxcote Reservoir Sept 4th & 5th - 1.

GREENSHANK (Tringa nebularia). Passage migrant. Spring passage: records Cosgrove; Foxcote Reservoir; Willen B.L., max. 3 May 6th. Autumn passage: records Cosgrove; Deanshanger; Foxcote Reservoir; Linford G.P.; Walton B.L.: Willen B.L., max. 11 Aug 8th. Wolverton, 6 over Aug 17th. Late record, single bird Willen B.L. Nov 20th.

KNOT (Calidris canutus). Willen B.L. June 12th, single bird.

LITTLE STINT (Calidris minuta). Only recorded Willen B.L. June 3rd - 1; Sept 24th - 30th - 1; Oct 2nd - 5; Oct 3rd - 3.

DUNLIN (Calidris alpina). Recorded in all months of the year except April. Main concentrations at Willen B.L., max. monthly counts: Jan 18th - 20, Feb 29th - 17, Mar 6th - 15+, Aug 4th, 7th & 15th - 10, Sept 26th - 46, Oct 3rd - 44, Nov 27th - 30, Dec 4th - 11. Also noted Foxcote, Linford G.P., Walton B.L.

RUFF (Philomachus pugnax). Passage migrant. Spring passage: noted Linford G.P., max. 3 - Mar 27th; Willen B.L. max. 2 - Mar 6th. Autumn passage: Dadford Aug 10th - 2 flying over; Willen B.L. max. counts: July 14th - 6, Aug 23rd - 4, Sept 18th & 30th - 18, Oct 3rd - 14. Single bird noted Foxcote Reservoir Nov 20th.

COMMON SANDPIPER (Tringa hypoleucos). Passage migrant. Noted at numerous sites on both spring and autumn passage. Max. counts: Foxcote Reservoir May 2nd - 2, Aug 10th, 15th & 22nd - 2; Blue Lagoon, Bletchley May 4th - 3; Stowe - Aug 10th - 5; Willen B.L. May 6th - 5, July 6th - 6, Aug 18th - 10, Sept 1st - 7; Black Pit Farm Aug 18th - 4. Latest record Willen B.L. Oct 27th - 1.

AVOCET (Recurvirostra avosetta). One flying over Willen B.L. Nov 21st.

GULLS Roosts noted Calvert G.P.; Foxcote Reservoir; Linford G.P.; Willen B.L.

LITTLE GULL (Larus minutus). Occasional visitor. Foxcote Reservoir April 29th & 30th - 1, May 6th - 2, May 11th - 1, Aug 25th - 1 juv.; Willen B.L. Sept 27th - 2.

BLACK TERN (Chlidonias niger). Passage migrant. Fewer recorded in 1976. Foxcote Reservoir May 6th - 10, May 23rd - 50+, May 24th - 4, Sept 29th - 2; Hyde Lane G.P. May 17th - 4; Linford G.P. Sept 12th - 1; Willen B.L. May 24th - 2, Sept 26th -1.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN (Sterna hirundo/paradisaea). Passage migrant. Earliest record: Foxcote Reservoir April 21st - 3. Records from Blue Lagoon, Bletchley; Calvert G.P.; Foxcote Reservoir, with max. counts of 10 May 25th & 29th; Hyde Lane G.P.; Linford G.P. Latest record Old Linslade Oct 2nd - 1.

WOOD PIGEON (Columba palumbus). Common resident breeding species.

Ringing recoveries

FS 09784	Pullus	9.8.70	Howe Park, Bletchley, Bucks.
	shot	28.3.76	Bow Brickhill, Bucks. 7 km E.

WOOD PIGEON, cont'd

Ringing recoveries, cont'd

FS 09789	Pullus	25.8.70	Howe Park, Bletchley, Bucks.
	shot	13.3.76	Castlethorpe, Bucks. 11 km N.N.W.

TURTLE DOVE (Streptopelia turtur). Summer visitor.

Ringing recovery

DA 03766	Pullus	14.7.75	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	-	? 10.76	Soustons, Landes, France.

COLLARED DOVE (Streptopelia decaocto). Resident, breeding species. Increasing in numbers. Great Horwood Feb 22nd - 50+, Nov 7th - 61.

CUCKOO (Cuculus canorus). Summer visitor. Earliest record: Foxcote Reservoir April 29th - 1.

LONG EARED OWL (Asio otus).

Ringing recovery

GP 02280	Pullus	2.6.74	Dungeness, Kent
	found dead	24.4.76	Lavendon, Olney, Bucks. 180 km N.W.

SHORT EARED OWL (Asio flammeus). Reports from two sites. Willen B.L. Single bird April 23rd, all Oct, Nov 8th & 9th, 3 on Nov 27th, 2 on Dec 4th. One Whaddon area May 14th.

NIGHTJAR (Caprimulgus europaeus). Summer visitor, breeding species. Records only from one N. Bucks. site.

SWIFT (Apus apus). Summer visitor. No early records received. Latest record Wolverton Sept 18th - 1.

KINGFISHER (Alcedo althis). Resident, breeding species.

Ringing recovery

SE 47181	Age unknown	11.6.74	Grimsbury Res, Banbury, Oxon.
	controlled	13.11.66	Dadford, Nr. Buckingham, 21 km E Bucks.

BEE-EATER (Merops apiaster). One Buckingham May 8th. Record accepted by Rarities Committee.

GREEN WOODPECKER (Picus viridis). Most commonly recorded of the three woodpeckers with records from 17 sites.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (Dendrocopos major). Reports from: Linford Wood; Brickhill Woods; Howe Park Wood; Foxcote Res.; Dadford; Great Horwood.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (Dendrocopos minor). Records from 8 sites: Black Pit Farm, nr. Silverstone; Dadford; Foxcote Res.; Great Brickhill; Leckhampstead; Linford Wood; Newton Longville; Stowe.

WRYNECK (Jynx torquilla). Single bird Calvert G.P. Sept 12th.

SWALLOW (Hirundo rustica). Common summer visitor, breeding species.

HOUSE MARTIN (Delichon urbica). Summer visitor, breeding species.

SAND MARTIN (Riparia riparia). Summer visitor, breeding species. Earliest record: Cosgrove April 2nd - 4. Latest record: Newport Pagnell G.P. Sept 12th - 3. Breeding colonies reported Deanshanger G.P.; Linford G.P.; Stowe.

HOODED CROW (Corvus corone). Newton Longville Mar 21st - 1.

GREAT TIT (Parus major). Resident, breeding species.

Ringing recovery

BR 62398	Pullus 2/2	8.6.74	Wytham, Berks.
	controlled	18.3.76	Buckingham, Bucks.
	as male		33 km N.E.

BLUE TIT (Parus caeruleus). Resident, breeding species.

Ringing recovery

JV 30772	1st year	1.2.75	Tring, Herts.
	controlled	18.2.76	Great Brickhill, Bucks.
			19 km N.

FIELDFARE (Turdus pilaris). Common winter visitor. Latest record: Foxcote Reservoir May 28th. Earliest record: Linford G.P. October 17th - 1.

REDWING (Turdus iliacus). Winter visitor. Earliest record: Wolverton October 19th - 1.

STONECHAT (Saxicola torquata). Recorded Jan-Mount Farm, Linford G.P.; Aug-Newton Longville; Oct-Foxcote Reservoir,

STONECHAT, cont'd

Blue Lagoon, Bletchley, Hyde Lane G.P.: Nov-Blue Lagoon, Bletchley, Cosgrove, Hyde Lane G.P., Newton Longville, Willen B.L.; Dec-Loughton, Tongwell B.L., Willen B.L.

WHINCHAT (Saxicola rubetra). 3 records only: Quainton Aug 4th - 1; Willen B.L. May 8th - 1, Sept 12th - 1.

COMMON REDSTART (Phoenicurus phoenicurus). Summer visitor. Brickhill Woods May 28th - 1, June 6th - 2; Little Brickhill Aug 7th - 1; Linford G.P. May 22nd - 1, July 12th - 1 juv.; Walton B.L. Sept 4th - 1.

BLACK REDSTART (Phoenicurus ochruros). Summer visitor. One female Newton Longville Apr 11th.

NIGHTINGALE (Luscinia megarhynchos). Only recorded Foxcote Reservoir May.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (Locustella naevia). Summer visitor. Recorded 3 sites: The Brickhills, Hyde Lane G.P., Whaddon.

REED WARBLER (Acrocephalus scirpaceus). Summer visitor, breeding species. Colonies noted Dadford, Hyde Lane G.P., Linford G.P., Stowe.

Ringing recoveries

JS 09003	Pullus	3.6.73	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	controlled	16.6.76	Marsworth Reservoir, Herts.
			28 km S.
JX 61236	Pullus	28.7.74	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	controlled	3.7.76	Headington Hill, Oxon.
			50 km S.W.
JX 61275	Pullus	4.8.74	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	controlled	2.8.76	Burghfield, Reading, Berks.
			75 km S.S.W.
KB 47641	Adult	27.7.75	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	controlled	5.8.76	Marsworth Reservoir,Herts.
			28 km S.
KJ 33889	Pullus	12.7.76	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	stunned	6.9.76	Ongar, Essex.
	against window		75 km S.E.
JH 35086	Pullus	26.6.71	Defford, Pershore, Worcs.
	controlled	11.7.76	Stowe, Buckingham, Bucks.
			70 km E.

SEDGE WARBLER (Acrocephalus schoenobaenus). Summer visitor and breeding species. Earliest record: One at Newton Longville April 18th.

Ringing recovery

KJ 33455	Pullus	9.6.76	Newport Pagnell
	controlled	26.7.76	Marsworth Reservoir, Herts

BLACKCAP (Sylvia atricapilla). Common summer visitor. Earliest record: Hyde Lane G.P. April 16th - 1. Latest record: Stowe Sept 19th - 1 male.

WILLOW WARBLER (Phylloscopus trochilus). Common summer visitor and breeding species. Earliest record: Cosgrove March 28th - 1. Latest record: Oct 2nd - 1 Buckingham.

CHIFFCHAFF (Phylloscopus collybita). Summer visitor and breeding species. Earliest record: Cosgrove March 21st - 1; Latest record: Wicken Wood Sept 18th - 2.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (Muscicapa striata). Summer visitor and breeding species.

WATER PIPIT (Anthus spinoletta). A single bird at Newton Longville April 16th.

PIED WAGTAIL (Motacilla alba). Common resident. 300 roosting Dadford between Jan & March, and from Oct to Dec over 300 noted at same roost. Other roosts reported at Calvert G.P. and Newport Pagnell G.P.

GREY WAGTAIL (Motacilla cinerea). Winter visitor. Recorded up to May 1st when 1 at Dadford, and again regularly from Aug 22nd when 1 at Hyde Lane G.P.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (Motacilla flava). Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Earliest record: Foxcote Reservoir April 4th - 2. Latest record: Lakes Estate October 10th - 1.

SISKIN (Cardvelis spinus) Winter visitor recorded only in Brickhill area. Maximum count 230 on Jan 4th.

LINNET (Acanthis cannabina). Resident, breeding species.

Ringing recovery

KB 47550	Pullus	1.7.75	Great Brickhill
	killed	25.10.76	Macau, Gironde, France

REDPOLL (Acanthis flammea). Resident, breeding species and winter visitor. Reports of small numbers from various sites. Large flock of 250 reported Great Brickhill Oct 30th.

Ringing recovery

KB 47553	Pullus	27.6.75	Newport Pagnell G.P.
	controlled	18.7.76	Grimsbury Reservoir, Banbury, Oxon 40 km W.

CORN BUNTING (Emberiza calandra). Recorded throughout the year at a number of sites in North Bucks. Large winter roost of up to 200 at Dadford 1975-76 and 1976-77 winters.

REED BUNTING (Emberiza schoeniclus). Common breeding species. Winter roosts at: Calvert G.P.; Hyde Lane G.P.; Dadford; Newport Pagnell G.P.; Stowe.

Other species recorded in the Milton Keynes Natural History Society area during the year:

Grey Heron; Greylag Goose; Canada Goose; Mute Swan; Kestrel; Red-legged Partridge; Partridge; Pheasant; Moorhen; Coot; Stock Dove; Barn Owl; Little Owl; Tawny Owl; Skylark; Carrion Crow; Rook; Jackdaw; Magpie; Jay; Coal Tit; Marsh Tit; Willow Tit; Long-tailed Tit; Nuthatch; Treecreeper; Wren; Mistle Thrush; Song Thrush; Blackbird; Wheatear; Robin; Whitethroat; Lesser Whitethroat; Goldcrest; Dunnock; Meadow Pipit; Starling; Greenfinch; Goldfinch; Bullfinch; Chaffinch; Brambling; House Sparrow; Tree Sparrow.

THE ORDER followed in the systematic list is that of:
A Species List of British and Irish Birds (BTO Guide No.13 Pub.1971)

THE ORIGINS AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE MILTON KEYNES NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

R. Maycock, Chairman

It is now ten years since the formation of the Milton Keynes Natural History Society and this article covers the early years of the Society's history before written records were kept.

On February 8th 1968 the then Bletchley Gazette carried an article with a photograph about Mr. Don Freeman, who had hatched some stick insects. The article also publicised his hopes to form a natural history group to run in conjunction with the West Bletchley Community Association. His aims for the group were to foster an interest in and to conserve the wildlife of the Bletchley area. As a result of this Mr. Reg Mills, Mr. Bernard Frewin and Mr. Don Freeman attended a meeting on Friday March 29th to discuss ideas for the formation and running of a society. The next meeting, at the West Bletchley Community Centre, was also attended by Mr. Roy Maycock, together with about twenty children. Each adult talked to a group of children on a particular topic. Topics were 'Taxidermy', 'Snakes', 'Plants' and 'Prehistoric Animals'. The last, led by Reg Mills, proved very popular, so early on he established himself as a children's favourite.

Mrs. Day, Warden at the Community Centre, was a valuable supporter of the Society's cause and gave considerable encouragement to the youngsters, but most of the organising work fell on the shoulders of Don Freeman. After the talks to the children, lively discussions among the adults could always be relied upon, which often continued into the late evening - a trait that still seems to be with us!

In June 1968 an exhibition to publicise the Society's work was held in the Co-op Hall in Albert Street, Bletchley, and marked the beginning of a steady increase in membership.

Two early outings for members were to Tring Museum and to the

Natural History Museum in London. The coach trip to London at that time was only 8/- (40p) per head! Later in 1968, when a more regular attendance at meetings became established, some re-organisation took place and a Constitution was drawn up. Don Freeman became Chairman, Ron Arnold Secretary, Bernard Frewin Treasurer and Roy Maycock Minuting Secretary. At the same time the Society changed its name to the Bletchley and Milton Keynes Natural History Society, a mouthful of a name which remained with us until 1973, when the Society left the aegis of the West Bletchley Community Association and became the present Milton Keynes Natural History Society. The first Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in March 1969, when Reg Mills became Vice President and Jill Royston, of the County Museum at Aylesbury, became President.

During the past ten years the Society has grown from an original membership of four to its present membership of almost seventy and has more than fully realised its original aims. Today, our work, enthusiasm and interest stretches across the whole of North Buckinghamshire and we can hope for many more successful years in the future.

THE
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CONTENTS