

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

No. 148.]

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1859

[PRICE 1d.]

LOCAL FAUNAS.

WE called attention last week to a work which had recently appeared on the Natural History of Huddersfield, in which twenty-eight pages are devoted to the Botany of the district, a complete list of the plants occurring there being given, with the localities of all the more local species.

A similar list is given of the Lepidoptera of the district, and as this extends to twenty pages, it must be a great boon to the entomologist residing near Huddersfield, several of whom have contributed their quota to swell the list.

We certainly deduce from the perusal of this list that Storthes Hall is a good locality; but we quite agree with the Editor that many *Micros* will yet reward a successful searcher there. For instance, we see no mention of our little friend *Asychna terminella*; yet there are damp woods at Storthes Hall, and *Circeæ lutetiana* growing in them. If Mr. Inchbald, or any one else who has access to these woods, will critically examine the leaves of that plant towards the end of next

month we believe he will find the concentric, spiral mines of the little gem *Terminella*.

Again, *Ægopodium podagraria* is plentiful at Storthes Hall, and we entertain no doubt that *Chauliodus Illigerellus* is likewise domiciled there. We might multiply similar observations *ad nauseam*, but our desire has simply been to call the attention of the Huddersfield collectors to the fact that this list, serviceable as it is, is far from complete, and that, aided by the list of plants given in the volume, it ought to be an easy matter to add thirty or forty species to the list annually for some time to come.

At the same time we must caution the younger readers of the book not to believe every statement they see in print there; for instance, at p. 148, we read that of *Demas Coryli* the female is apterous; now this is either a mistake or an extraordinary effect produced on the species by the climate of Huddersfield. We are aware that soil and climate are apt to cause great variety in the colour and sometimes in the size of insects, and Mr. Wollaston has shown that in Madeira some species actually lose their wings, yet

we cannot fancy that the female of *Demas Coryli* really is apterous at Huddersfield, and we think the remark must have been intended for the species which follows, *Orgyia antiqua*.

THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER may be obtained

WHOLESALE of E. Newman, 9, Devonshire Street, Bishopsgate, and of W. Kent & Co., 51 & 52, Paternoster Row.

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At York, of Robert Sunter, 23, Stonegate.

 Country Newsvenders who have this paper on sale are requested to send us their names and addresses to be added to the above list.

All communications to be addressed to MR. H. T. STAINTON, Mountsfield, Lewisham, near London, S.E. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

MR. STAINTON will be "at home" on Wednesday next, August 3, at 6 P.M., as usual.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—My address for the future will be—REV. HERBERT BREE, *Harkstead Rectory, near Ipswich; July 19.*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Having left 8, Church Street, Arlington Square, my address is now—JAMES BRYANT, 63, *Old Broad Street, London, E.C.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. S., K.—For collecting-boxes we can recommend no first-rate shop; for cork we recommend cork-cutters.

G. D.—Your insect is *Selenia Illunaria*, the summer variety; formerly called *Geometra Juliaria*.

Erratum.—In last week's 'Intelligencer,' p. 135, second column, line 5, for after read afterwards.

CAPTURES.

LEPIDOPTERA.

Capture of a singular Variety of Apatura Iris.—The upper surface is devoid of the white markings, as also the iris, with the exception of the white spots

near the tip of the superior wing; under side without the white band and eye-like spot, but there are traces of the band of a reddish colour, so that altogether it is a very extraordinary male variety. Its capture was effected by my son, a boy under fourteen years of age, on an oak, by means of the usual net for that purpose, as also two others; but, like some other Emperors of the present time, they had been engaged in a conflict, and he has a small bit out of the tip of his wing. I regret I cannot send you a sketch, but shall be happy to show it to any scientific gentlemen who may think it worth their while to come to see it.—JOHN TYRER, *Melville Hospital, Chatham; July 23.*

Deilephila Galii.—On Monday last, the 18th inst., I found a beautiful specimen of this insect at rest on a post, at Reach, a village, a few miles from here.—W. FARREN, *King's Old Gateway, Cambridge; July 21.*

Deilephila Galii.—One of my children last night captured a specimen of this insect on honeysuckle at dusk. Although unfortunately it is a very faded one, he considers the occurrence one of great importance.—REV. W. WHALL, *Thurning, near Oundle; July 19.*

Cosmia Fulvago.—In looking over my captures of the past year, I see I have a specimen of this insect, which was taken in Warwickshire, I believe in the month of June.—ARTHUR HENSMAN, *Spring Hill, Northampton; July 23.*

Pterophorus Ochrodactylus.—I have of late been taking this insect rather freely. In their flight they remind much of the crane-flies, and are truly fantastic-looking creatures.—WILLIAM HOLCROFT, *Up-holland, Wigan; July 19.*

Captures near Abbey Wood.—On taking a trip to the above place we made the following captures:—

Hipparchia Hyperanthus. Most abundant, flying in swarms about every bramble-bush.

Thecla Quercus. Although very abundant I only caught nine, as they flew on the tops of the elms and oaks.

Vanessa Polychloros. One; saw three others.

Vanessa Atalanta. Plentiful.

Argynnis Adippe. Two, one of which kindly laid me five eggs.

Argynnis Paphia. Saw two.

—H. RAMSAY COX, 1, *Gloucester Villas, Lewisham High Road, S.E.; July 18.*

Captures of Larvæ.—On walking out this afternoon I found several batches of *Lychnis dioica* and *Silene inflata*, and succeeded in taking larvæ of *Dianthæcia Capsincola* and *Cucubali* and the beautiful little *Eupithecia Venosata*. The same night I took five specimens of *Acidalia Inornata*, three males and two females; one of the latter has laid a batch of eggs. Can any of the readers of the 'Intelligencer' inform me the plant they feed on, for I should be extremely obliged for any information on the subject, as I have a great desire to breed it from the egg.—J. BATTY, 133, *South Street, Park, Sheffield; July 18.*

Captures at Flowers.—On the evening of the 16th we visited a field covered with *Scabiosa Columbaria*, *Ononis arvensis*, &c., and found *Inopiana* abundant, together with plenty of a new brood of *Pyrausta purpuralis*, in splendid condition. The pretty little *Nematois Scabiosellus*, which had been abundant for some time, was still sitting in almost equal numbers on the flowers of the scabious, among which we also started a species of Plume, which is at present unknown to us. As it became dusk we observed some Noctuæ flitting before and settling on the flowers of the wood sage (*Teucrium Scrodonia*), and by sweeping and netting the moths as they appeared we managed to capture a fair number of Noctuæ. On getting home we found we had taken in this manner *Noctua Ditrapezium*! (in beautiful condition), some beautiful specimens of *Baja*, *Conigera*, *Morpheus*, *Cythe-*

rea, Blanda, &c. This is quite a new locality for the extremely local *Ditrapezium*, which I imagine will be with us *the* capture of the season: having turned it up we shall be on the *qui vive* for it the next week or so. It may perhaps prove useful to the readers of the 'Intelligencer' to know the attractions of the *Teucrium*, for when the moths *won't* come to sugar (and such I believe has universally been their conduct this season), a knowledge of their "peculiar vanity" is valuable. My brother found *Stenia punctalis* swarming, a few days since, on some cliffs near Braunton Burrows.—MURRAY A. MATHEWS, *Raleigh, near Barnstaple*; July 18.

Since writing the above we have met with *Noctua Dahlii* here, also at flowers.—IBID; July 22.

Captures near Deal, from the 3rd to the 20th of July.—

Colias Edusa (on the increase),
Argynnis Aglaia,
Deilephila Galii (one flying in the hot sunshine),
Lithosia Complanata,
 „ *Complanula*,
Spælotis Catalaëa,
Eremobia Ochroleuca,
Plusia Orichalcea,
Odontia Dentalis,
Spilodes Sticticalis,
 „ *Pæalis*,
Eriopsela Fractifasciana,
Stigmonota Leplastriana,
Argyrolepis Badiana,

with a number of common species. After this date correspondents will please to address their letters to my London residence. — H. J. HARDING, "*Noah's Ark*," *Peter Street, Deal*; July 23.

Captures at Bridge of Allan.—*Thecla Quercus* has appeared abundantly here this summer, strange to say nearly all females (out of twenty-two specimens captured yesterday only three were males). *Lithosia Complanula* seems also

to be rather abundant; I found three specimens yesterday on nettle, drying their wings, just emerged from the pupæ. I have lately met with a pair of *Geometra Papilionaria* and one *Plusia Bractea*.—J. WINGATE, *Dunallan Cottage, Bridge of Allan*; July 22.

Captures near Lynmouth.—During a few weeks stay at Lynmouth, North Devon, I met with the following species:—

Colias Edusa (tolerably common),
Hipparchia Semele,
Cynthia Cardui,
Argynnis Aglaia (abundant),
 „ *Adippe*,
 „ *Selene*,
Melitæa Athalia,
Notodonta Ziczac (larvæ),
Euplexia Lucipara,
Caradrina Blanda,
Pseudopterna Cytisaria,
Asthena Luteata,
Acidalia Incanata (beaten from fern),
 „ *Imitaria*,
Larentia Olivaria (common),
Melanippe Galiata (do.)
 „ *Unangulata*,
Ypsipetes Elutata,
Eupithecia Pumilata (common),
Cidaria Picata (just out),
Eubolia Plumbeolaria,
Anaitis Plagiata,
Odezia Chærophyllata,
Aphomia Colonella,
Botys Terrealis (one specimen unfortunately much rubbed).

Noctuæ seem scarce this season. I did not sugar, but observed very few when mothing.—W. G. RAWLINSON, *The Chestnuts, Taunton*; July 21.

Captures in South Wales.—I have had the pleasure of seeing *Colias Edusa* flying over some fields here. I have as yet been unable to capture any, but hope to do so soon. *Grapta C-album* is almost as common as *Atalanta*. As far as I can see the present season seems likely to

rival, if not excel, the last, in the number of rare insects it produces. I have also captured here within the last month *Aporia Cratægi* and *Arge Galathea*.—J. B. FOWLER, *Llandaff Place, Llandaff, Cardiff, South Wales*; July 19.

OBSERVATIONS.

Acherontia Atropos.—Larvæ of this Sphinx promise to be still more abundant in this neighbourhood than they were last year, and have made their appearance earlier in the season. I have had several brought me, some of which are already about to undergo their change into the pupa state. I shall endeavour to profit by last year's experience in my treatment of pupæ of this species; and accordingly, when cold weather sets in, I shall place them in a moderate degree of artificial heat, for I found that last autumn at least five out of every six, if not a still greater proportion, had been forced on by the high temperature which prevailed till they had become so far developed as to be on the very point of assuming the perfect or imago state, when a low degree of temperature, which suddenly occurred, caused them to perish. Now there is little doubt but at this juncture the timely application, for a few days only, of artificial heat would have brought the whole number safely out.—S. STONE, *Brighthampton*; July 18.

Zeuzera Æsculi.—Having had a female of this insect sent me in a box, I found it had laid some eggs. I shall be much obliged if any person can inform me as to the time of hatching, and also the best plan of rearing the larvæ.—REV. GEORGE RUDSTON READ, *Sutton-on-Derwent*; July 19.

Eulepia Cribrum bred.—On the 12th of this month I had the great pleasure of finding in my breeding-cage a beautiful specimen of this insect; yesterday two

more and one to-day. The eggs were brought by my friend Mr. Hydes last July; they hatched the last week in that month. The larva is black and hairy, but when full-grown lead-colour down the back, with black shining warts on each segment; underneath and sides brown. It should be looked for in April or May amongst heath; it feeds at night. The first changed to pupa on the 21st of June.—THOMAS HAGUE, "*Dog and Partridge*," *Staleybridge*; July 16.

Bucculatrix maritima.—Yesterday I went over to Barnstaple from here, and, accompanied by Messrs. M. A. Mathews, G. F. Mathews and G. R. Crotch, visited some extensive salt marshes near there. The principal saline vegetation was *Aster tripolium*, *Plantago maritima* and *Statice limonium*. Never having had a good turn at a salt marsh before I went with tolerable expectations, which on the whole were certainly not disappointed. Nearly every leaf of the *Aster tripolium* was mined, and most leaves were marked by four or six mines at least; here then was an opportunity of working at *Bucculatrix maritima*. Three of the party were soon prostrate before the *Bucculatrix*, but that goddess was coy, and for some time nothing but empty mines rewarded her humble admirers. At length Mr. Crotch found a larva in cocoonet, preparing to part with its skin; this raised the hopes of the party, and after another hunt of two or three minutes a second larva, likewise in a horse-shoe form, was turned up. All this time, as the mines were in such profusion and all empty, we were racking our brains to solve the problem, why didn't we find the cocoons. Presently a feeding larva in its mine was detected; next an external-feeding larva was dislodged, and then several larvæ were observed in the act of feeding externally. According to my previous observations the May brood of this larva hardly ever feed externally, but continue to mine till they are full fed; the July brood have

evidently (at least on the banks of the Taw) a different habit, and much of their jaw-work on the leaves is performed from the outside. After we had been at work very nearly half an hour a cocoon was found, not on the *Aster*, but on a piece of grass. Then Mr. Crotch started a small *Coleophora*, which he wished to box; the *Coleophora* hopped about and crawled about, as those insects will, we of course intently watching its movements; it alighted on a rush stem, and crawled upwards, thereby attracting our attention to the point of the rush where there was a *Bucculatrix* cocoon. Indeed, we now found that the cocoons were on grass, or on rushes, but always near the tip; hence at least six inches higher up than were we had been looking for them, amongst the lower leaves of the *Aster*. We turned our attention to this phase of the subject, and had soon collected a hundred or so, and of course, had we wished, we could have got a thousand. The only other insects we noticed were *Gelechia instabilella*, *Crambus selasellus*, and a *Eupæcilia*, which was in excessive abundance, and which I presume must be either *Affinitana* or *Vectisana*.—H. T. STAINTON, *Glen Tor, Bideford*; July 26.

Wasps' Nests.—I have just read the concluding portion of Mr. Stone's paper on wasps' nests, and have derived much pleasure in so doing: it is full of minute and valuable information. I only demur to one assertion; I do so because it does not accord with my own observation of wasps, if I rightly understand the paragraph. At p. 85, Mr. Stone says, "The basis of the material employed is wood, one species using sound wood, another that which has become decayed." I should be obliged if Mr. Stone would name the species which uses *sound wood* and also that which uses *decayed wood*. I have noticed that *Vespa vulgaris* uses a different material, or I should rather say kind of material, in constructing the outer envelope of her nest, when the nest is an

under-ground one, to that which it uses when constructing it in an outhouse or other sheltered situation; but Mr. Stone's observation is new to me, if I am to understand him literally, as speaking of distinct *species*, not of different *individuals*.—FREDERICK SMITH, 27, *Richmond Crescent, Islington, N.*

EXCHANGE.

Bucculatrix maritima.—This insect is plentiful on some salt marshes near here, and is now in the pupa state. I shall be happy to forward cocoons to any gentleman who is desirous of breeding this interesting insect. Almost every leaf of the *Aster tripolium* here has been mined by several larvæ of this species, and there must be literally thousands of it on the marshes here.—G. R. CROTCH (*at present stopping at*) *Raleigh House, Pilton, near Barnstaple*; July 25.

N. Senex and *H. Uncana*.—My stock is exhausted. I have still left a few *L. pudorina* (good, but unset) and fine *E. Vespertaria*, also two or three females and ova of the latter. I have duplicates, varying in number, of the following (numbered as in the 'Manual') :—36, 37, 40, 60, 61, 64, 71, 89, 137, 141 (pupæ), 146 (ovæ), 159 (and ovæ), 180 (pupæ), 224, 233, 237, 258, 259, 273 (and ovæ), 295, 307, 310, 322, 329, 330, 336, 340, 352, 354, 356, 357, 360, 361, 364, 367, 368—370, 373, 376, 384, 410, 412, 413, 420, 426, 430, 431, 440, 461, 488, 495, 497, 608, 613, 628 (♂ & ♀), 634 (♂), 721, 761, 767, 791, 934. I should be glad, were it possible, to effect the transmutation of the foregoing, or some of them, into some of the following :—4, 20, 24, 42, 43, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58, 59, 62, 63, 69, 70, 86, 88, 90 to 102, 108—110, 113, 115—117, 119, 121—123, 125, 131—134, 136, 140—143, 151, 155, 157, 174, 175, 183,

192, 194, 202, 203, 207, 215, 221, 229, 230, 232, 235, 238, 241, 243, 244 to 253, 255, 264 to 270, 272, 275, 276, 279, 306, 311, 321, 323, 326, 327, 331, 334, 339, 345, 353, 355, 362, 375, 377, 378, 383, 385, 388, 394, 395, 399, 414, 417, 425, 435, 441, 442, 444—449, 452, 454 to 460, 463, 465, 466, 469, 484, 489, 492—494. My old correspondents, whom I shall be happy to supply, will probably note what I have to spare, as above.—J. BIRKS, York; July 25.

MR. WALTON ON CURCULIONIDÆ.

To the Editor of the 'Intelligencer.'

Sir,—Mr. J. Walton having placed in my hands forty copies of his paper on Curculionidæ, I have, at his request, forwarded them to as many Coleopterists as the limited number would supply; those who have received copies are solely indebted to the liberality of John Walton, Esq., of Bayard's Lodge, Knaresborough.

Yours, &c.,

F. SMITH.

British Museum;

July 22.

ENTOMO-LOGIC.

SCENE.—THE RECEIVING-ROOM AT A PROVINCIAL POST OFFICE.

Letter-carrier No. 1.—Hollo, Jem! here's a mess o' maggots in the bag!

No. 2.—Maggots! where? Ah! shoot 'em out here, and I'll just set my heel on 'em!

No. 3.—Stop, you! I know what they are; they are caterpillars for Mr. Blank, and have crept out of the box. Here, put 'em in this paper, and I'll carry 'em all right.

No. 1.—What does Mr. Blank do with them things?

No. 2.—Why, I guess he's a bit of a quack, and makes pills or salve on 'em, for he has a sight of pill-boxes sent him.

No. 3.—Salve—no! what do you think he's 'Olloway's Ointment-man? No; they comes into butterflies!

No. 1.—What do you mean by "they comes into butterflies?"

No. 3.—Why, butterflies comes out on 'em; he show'd me last Christmas, when I got my Christmas-box, drawers upon drawers full.

No. 2.—Pshaw! "they comes into butterflies!" and "butterflies comes out o' them!" Don't be poking fun at us, Bill!

E. T.

HOW TO KILL INSECTS.

The "gathering" sung in last week's news
For catching insects rare,
If you will once again peruse,
You'll find "behind the fair."

Pray listen to 't, and why I'll tell;
It speaks of killing flies
With "leaves!" and "formic" stuff as
well!

To every Ent.'s surprise.

Parade it to the Entom. class
With Triton power and skill,
An agent nothing can surpass
Will insects instant kill.*

For preservation too as well
This wondrous agent let me tell,
Five drops or ten of nothing but
Essential oil of cajeput.

W. H.

* For the field one or two drops at the bottom of a stoppered bottle creates an atmosphere of the agent sufficient to cause death.