NEWSLETTER 7. MARCH 1995.

WILTSHIRE BOTANICAL SOCIETY

(W.B.S.)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - MRS RITA GROSE, THE SMITHY, SMITHY LANE, WOODBOROUGH, PEWSEY, WILTS. SN9 5PL. 01672 851244

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EDITOR'S NOTES.

After 3 years as Newsletter Editor I feel it is time for a fresh approach and as Michael Ponting has offered to take over the editorship I have decided to retire. I have appreciated the contact it has given me with members of the Society and I am sure you will enjoy the change. Please send all future comments or articles to the following address:-
Michael Ponting, The Old Post Office, Manton, Marlborough,Wilts. (01672-512361)

Katie Long has also retired and Jean Wall has taken over the post of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Future subscriptions (£5 per Member or £7.50 per Family) should be sent to her at:-
Withy Beds, Dark Lane, Malmesbury, Wilts SN16 OBB (01666-823865)

The 'tail-ender' summer meetings completed a wide-ranging and interesting programme. On 1st October Jack Oliver talked about the water survey - which will be concluded at the end of the 1995 season. If anyone wishes to join this very important survey, please get in touch with Jack (01672-861251). He would appreciate offers to survey rivers of 10m (or more) in width. Jack also announced the conclusion of the Aster survey in December 1994.

It was a fine morning on 5th October when Jack led a group through the very varied and mainly introduced conifers in the small but extremely interesting Savernake Forest Arboretum. A useful morning was spent studying the characteristics of the various species. There is a specimen of Pinus aristata (Bristle cone pine) one of the longest lived plants, a specimen in North America is known to be over 4 thousand years old.

Finally on 8th October Martin Cragg-Barber showed slides and discussed Plant Aberrants. These can vary from unusual colour changes in the petals to extremely strange distortions of the plants themselves. Some Society members expressed uncertainty about recording and verifying aberrant plants. Martin has clarified this point later in the Newsletter. If you are interested in aberrant specied take note of the weekend course he is running at Swanage on 12th' to 14th May.

RITA GROSE.

LONGLEAT WOODS. 19th NOVEMBER 1994

The forecast rain held off and nine members led by Dave Green enjoyed a warm and generally dry morning stroll through part of Longleat Woods.

Initially we headed into an area of Secondary woodland planted on former heathland where we saw many acid loving plants including Vaccinium myrtillus - Bilberry, Carex binervis - Green-ribbed Sedge, Molinia caerulea - Purple moor-grass, Blechnum spicant - Hard Fern, Dryopteris affinis - Scaly Male Fern and Athyrium filix-femina - Lady Fern. We were able to try our hand at identifying various conifers, among them, Pseadotsuga menziesii - Douglas Fir, Sequoia sempervirens - Coast Redwood, Picea sitchensis - Sitka Spruce and Pinus nigra.

Moving on we came to an area where the trees had been felled and saw Juncus tenuis - Slender Rush, Juncus bulbosus - Bulbous Rush, Polygala vulgaris - Heath Milkwort and a rush thought to be a hybrid between Juncus inflexus and Juncus effusus.

Before returning to the cars, we walked a short way along an old track - Cannimore Road - which had some very impressive ancient boundary pollarded oaks growing along it.

JEAN WALL.

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RED DESERTS. 3rd DECEMBER 1994

Barbara and Dick Last may be the two most adventurous members of the WBS. Barbara showed us beautiful slides of the geology and flora of the raised sandstone basin (a mile high) between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada range. There were rivers such as the Colorado and Green rivers, a mile deep; wind-sculpted 'cowboy film' shapes, mesas and buttes; and great views of Utah and Nevada State and National parks - Arches - Canyonlands - Natural Bridges - Bryce Canyon - and strangest of all, Goblins. These were ancient deposits from Triassic and Jurassic times to the end of the Cretaceous period,225-65 m.y.a. We were also told of evidence of the extinct Anasasi Indians, and of an elderly couple who became lost in the desert when Barbara and Dick were there. The husband has still not been found.

Plant slides included Opuntia erinacea and Mammillaria spp (Cactaceae); Oenothera cespitosa, primiveris and pallida (Onagraceae); Cryptantha confertiflora and jamesii (Boraginaceae); and the beautiful Calochortus flexuosus and nuttallii (Liliaceae, the second being the State flower of Utah). Halogeton glomeratus (Chenopodiaceae) is an undesirable naturalized alien from Iran which poisons sheep. A native pest, Astragalus mollissimus (Fabaceae) is the 'Loco weed' which makes horses go wobbly, mad, then die ('-plumb loco' from the cowboy films again). Even more evocative was the Purple Sage-brush, Artemisia tridentata (Asteraceae), reflecting sunlight from silver hairs. This plant has extensive lateral roots and a deep tap root, and is deciduous in the summer droughts. Another composite was the tallish yellow-flowered Chrysothamnus nauseolus, rejected by rabbits on account of repulsive smell and taste.
Conifers included Juniperus osteosperma (Bark used by Indians for pillows, nappies and wadding), Pinus edulis (large edible seeds), and the 'Joint Pines' (Ephedra viridis was shown, the source of the sympathomimetic drug ephedrine). The 5 foot Yucca harimania (Agavaseae) attracts rodents, birds and other life, and is pollinated exclusively by the Yucca moth. It can metabolize nitrogen and ammonia from animal and insect excreta and corpses, and has been used as a deodorant in piggeries.

The photography was of colour magazine standard, and also included two species of pollinating humming birds, and sequences worthy of David Attenborough of a chipmunk mother defending her nest over two hours from a bull snake.

JACK OLIVER.

THE FLOWERS OF WINSLEY

Seventeen Members attended this illustrated talk by John Presland in a newly refurbished auditorium in the Marlborough College Science Laboratories on 28th January 1995.

His slides were really excellent, especially the close-ups of the smaller flowers, e.g. hedge bedstraw and spindle.

His subject was his own garden or within quarter mile of it and is one of four talks so we can look forward to the following ones. The slides showing the stamens of glowing yellow plants such as lesser celandine, creeping cinqfoil were particularly good and detailed - also those of dandelion flowerheads and clocks and the green veined orchid.

Variations of the same genus in the area were cranesbills and speedwells. I should also mention the first larkspur growing in disturbed ground. Slides of untreated lawn weeds, such as buttercups and daisies, speedwell, selfheal and hoary plantain made us think of not using weed killers. Lovers of slender speedwell, daisies and yellow trefoil might agree.

Berries of spindle, bryony and wayfaring-tree made a very colourful autumn finale.

CHRISTINE McQUITTY.

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A CORRECTION.

I am grateful to Maureen Ponting for her complimentary report (Newsletter 6) of the field meeting which I led on 28th June 1994. There is one small but important correction, Lycopodiella inundata (Marsh club moss) is not rare in the New Forest. The site I pointed out was the only site in Wiltshire.

ROGER VEALL.

W.B.S.SUMMER MEETINGS 1995

We welcome members and friends to our meetings whether you are a comparative beginner or more experienced. If you have any queries or suggestions for the future please contact *Joy* Newton
1, Grasshills, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wiltshire.SN8 2EH Telephone 01672-40356

1. Tuesday 4th April 10.00am (Morning only) SAVERNAKE FOREST ARBORETUM.
   Leaders Jack Oliver and Maureen Ponting G.R.SU 225668
   Meet at Eight Walks. Very little walking.
   A follow-up to our Autumn meeting for those who missed it and those who would like to learn more.

2. Sunday 9th April 11.00am THE AVON GORGE.
   Leaders Mark and Claire Kitchen G.R.ST 563718
   Meet at Kennel Lodge Road which is one of the roads into Ashton Court Estate.
   Distance 8 km but flat walking. Strong footware recommended. TAKE LUNCH.
   The Avon Gorge has long been recognised as a mecca for botanists. It is particularly notable for its wealth of spring flowers, some of which occur nowhere else in Britain.

3. Saturday 29th April 10.30am PEWSEY NEAR MARLBOROUGH
   Leader Rod Stern G.R.SU 164601
   Meet at Bouverie Hall car park in Pewsey. Turn West off North Street by the Post Office in Public Car Park. TAKE LUNCH.
   BRYOPHYTES. We will collect specimens in the morning and examine them in Marlborough College Science Laboratories in the afternoon.

4. Sunday 21st May 10.00am LANGLEY WOOD.
   Leader Phil Wilson G.R.SU 218204
   Park at small layby on North side of Redlynch - Hamptworth Road.
   Distance very flexible. TAKE LUNCH.
   A return to square-bashing! We will start to make a systematic flora list in this ancient woodland.

5. Saturday 27th May 10.00am WALKERS HILL.PEWSEY DOWN NNR.
   Leader Dave Green G.R.SU116638
   Park in car park on East side of Lockeridge - Alton Barnes Road
   Approximately 5 km walk. TAKE LUNCH
   We will attempt to record numbers of Early Gentian and Burnt-tip Orchid on this very good downland.

6. Wednesday 14th June 10.30am (Morning only) SMALLBROOK MEADOWS.
   Leader Ann Sawyer. G.R.ST 880443
   Turn South off the B 3414•(A36) down Prestbury Drive. Turn right along Southleigh View and left into Smallbrook Road. Car park is just past the second sharp bend on left.
   This is a local Nature Reserve which consists of a number of interesting wet meadows.

7. Wednesday 28th June 10.00am (Morning only) SIDBURY HILL.
   Leader Audrey Summers G.R. SU 234513
   Meet at the bottom of the tank crossing at Leckford Cross on the Collingbourne-Tidworth Road.
   An opportunity to visit sites in the SAlisbury Plain Training Area.

8. Monday 10th July 11.00am KENFIG NNR - SOUTH WALES.
   Leader Barbara Last. G.R.SS 822815
   Leave M4 at Exit 37. Go *NW* on 4229 then West over motorway and South to Kenfig car park. Meet at the Visitors Centre in car park.
   Wonderful dune system with incredible flora. TAKE LUNCH.

W.B.S.SUMMER MEETINGS 1995 Continued.

9. Wednesday 12th July 10.00am (Morning only) SOMERFORD COMMON.
Leader John Grearson G.R. SU 028867
We will do some flora recording and compile a plant list for this very important area of woodland. Also very good for butterflies and birds. There is a small Forestry Commission car park and some space on verges. Distance optional.

10. Tuesday 18th July 10.00am (Morning only) KNAP HILL.PEWSEY DOWNS NNR
Leader English Nature G.R. SU 116638
Park in car park on East side of Lockeridge - Alton Barnes Road.
Very good downland. 3 km.

11. Saturday ?th August 10.00am (Morning only) COATE WATER,NEAR SWINDON.
Leaders Jack Oliver and Joy Newton G.R. SU 177827
Turn South off Coate Roundabout at G.R SU 177830 and meet in car park.
There is a small parking charge. 3 km. Wellingtons advised.
Unusual Sedges and Water plants in this local Nature Reserve.

12. Thursday 7th September 10.30am - 3.30pm BRAMSHAW AND CADNAM COMMONS
Leader Roger Veall G.R. SU 285163
Park at Furzley Common at side of road to Bramshaw. TAKE LUNCH
Unusual plants of acid heathland. Wellingtons advised.

EXTREME SIZES

The Savernake Forest Bracken frond measured by Eileen Rolls, Audrey Summers and myself in 1989 (BSBI News No.51, April 1989) was 4.32 metres (14'5"). It had lost 10 - 20 cms as we pulled it down through Oak and Hawthorn, but was still represented as Europe's longest leaf. However a longer frond (?16') may have been found at Ruislip.

South East of Bodenham by the River AVon in the extreme South of Wiltshire, I measured a Dog Rose after pulling it down through the branches of riverside Sycamores. It was, on 1.11.1994, just over 9 metres long (30'3"), but had been longer and was in danger of snapping in two places on account of brittleness.

Finally at the same Bodenham site, I detached a STinging Nettle stalk from its rhizome under the rising waters of the Avon, also on 1.11.1994, when it had appeared to be an emergent plant. I've kept and measured this stem which is 3 metres 38 cm (11'3¼") long.

Have any members of the WBS found, or do they know of bigger specimens of the

PHOTOGRAPHING PLANTS 3: PLANTS IN CLOSE-UP

By John Presland

This third article in the series concentrates on photographing small plants or small parts of plants to show their finer structure, Plants as little as five inches high can be photographed quite satisfactorily by some of the techniques described in the previous two articles, Anything less than that and other techniques need to be considered. The same applies to photographing individual flowers, small inflorescences or other small parts.

Effective close-up photography requires a macrolens, This can normally take photographs which are life-size on a slide. It may help to say that, at life-size, a ten pence piece would fill the entire height of the picture. Technically, this is referred to as one-to-one magnification. My own lens - a Micronikkor 105 mm - goes down only to one-to-two (i.e. half life-size) on its own, but it is specially designed for close-up photography and I can fit distance rings to it which give the same result as one-to-one,

If you use film of ordinary speed for close-up photography, there is a problem, At close range, there is usually not much depth of focus, So if you focus on one part of a flower, other parts of it could be out of focus, It is particularly important, therefore, to compose your picture so that everything you want it to show clearly is in the same plane, If you can do that, you will get an acceptable result, However, it can be very difficult to achieve. The deeper the structure of the flower, the greater the problem.

To overcome the focusing problem, it is necessary to have a smaller aperture, since this givees a greater depth of focus, With bright natural light and a fast film, small apertures can be achieved, A macrolens can then be used directly and relatively easily for close-up photography, However, fast films don't give the sharpest pictures and the best colours, and in dim light they may still not permit a sufficiently small aperture. So whilst fast films will result in some pleasing photographs, they are only a partial answer.

Another way of achieving a small aperture is to increase the illumination, This is the method I use and I do it with flashguns. I, actually use two, but many pictures obtained from straightforward use of a single flashgun can be very acceptable, For aperture settings, the instructions with the flashgun should get you fairly near, and a little trial and error with careful recording enables you to build up your own list of exposures for different magnification ratios and distances. Both the latter can be read directly off the macrolens when you have focussed on the subject, Your list needs to take account of the fact that aperture settings for subjects of average brightness need to be decreased by about half a stop for lighter flowers such as pink or yellow and by about a whole stop for white flowers,

Flash does bring other problems, however. The first is that the very bright light it produces casts strong shadows. This can be overcome by using two flashguns, a stronger one to illuminate the subject and a weaker one from a different direction to lighten the shadows, The illuminating power of flashguns is indicated by their guide numbers, My two flashguns have guide numbers of 20 and 14 (in metres for 100 ASA film), but other combinations are possible, I have them mounted on a specialised flash bracket which allows a wide range of positions for the flashguns. It is called the Kennet Macroflash, but is not currently in production, An alternative is the James Dean Flexi-arm System (SRB Film Service, Luton). I am told there is another from a firm called HAMA.

Once you have such a system, how do you know what exposure to use? The answer is that you may have to find out by trial and error, keeping careful records until you have a list of the best settings. Again your flashgun instructions should get you fairly near, and you need to adjust the exposure for flowers of different brightness

as above. I would be happy to advise further on an individual basis, Indeed, if you happen to be using Kodachrome 64, a 90-105 mm macrolens and flashguns with the same guide numbers as mine, I may have an almost perfect answer.

It should be borne in mind that the depth of focus is still not very great for very close shots, and it is important to keep the subject exactly in focus. Whether using one flashgun or two, it is best to focus near the front of the flower since depth of-focus falls off more sharply nearer than farther. Maintaining this focus may be diffficult. It is not easy to hold a camera and macrolens steady by hand. Even if you can be bothered to carry and use a tripod (which I can't), the flower itself may move in the wind. The duration of a flash is so short that side to side movement is not registered, However, if there is also strong natural light, the movement will be registered and you may get a double image - or even a blur between two positions. This can be avoided by setting the length of exposure to be as short as the flash and camera instructions allow for flash use. On mine it is 1/125 of a second, which makes the natural light negligible. Side to side movements then don't affect the picture, so long as it stays in the viewfinder, Backward or forward movements, however, will put it out of focus. It is important, therefore, to hold the camera as still as possible and to press the shutter at a moment when the wind is not blowing the flower backwards or forwards.

The above measures have other consequences which need to be considered, Flash illumination decreases very rapidly with distance, This means that anything more than a short distance further than the subject will either be poorly illuminated or in total darkness. A flower with nothing immediately behind it will, therefore be pictured against a totally black background. This is not necessarily a problem - some of my pictures of, for instance, blackthorn flowers, photographed in this way are, in my view, more effective than they would be against a natural background. However, if some parts of the flower are very dark in colour, as in fly orchid, or if it's a darkish brown fruit you are taking, they will not show up clearly against the background. There are a number of solutions to this. One is to photograph them against a very near background - on a steep grassy hank, for instance. Another is to place a large leaf immediately behind the flower in as natural a pose as possible, Another depends on the conditions, and that is to use a longer exposure. Provided the natural light is not too strong and the air is still, that should give a more illuminated background without affecting the reproduction of the flower, An exposure of 1/60 usually presents no problem in any natural light, but I've never got round to trying 1/30,

A blue filter is more or less essential for some blue or violet flowers, which would otherwise come out pink (though, thankfully, gentians don't suffer from this problem). As mentioned in the first article, an 82C filter gives a small blueing effect and an 80C a more marked one. The bluish green colour this imparts to the green parts is less of a problem in a close-up, where you can fill most of the picture with the blue subject, than it is with a whole plant portrait.

When taking water plants, the flash needs to be well to the side and come in at the largest possible angle so that you do not. photograph its reflection, A polarising filter should also help because it reduces reflections. It should be used at 30-40 degrees to the water for best results.

Another problem I have encountered is with yellow flowers such as buttercups and biting stonecrop, where the yellow stamens and stigmas are lost against the yellow petals. With these I find it best to use a single flashgun, since the shadows help to define these parts more clearly.

Some flowers are so small that even one-to-one magnification is not sufficient. I have used a zoom slide copier to get a greater magnification (but beware - it's a complicated process). This works well for red, blue or yellow flowers, but not for white, which, according to the amount of light used, come out either blurred or with dark grey patches on them. The greens come out too dark and bluish, but this may not

matter if they are not the major focus of the picture. Another device for further magnification is to project the slide on to a screen and photograph a part of the projected picture. There are similar problems to those with the slide copier and the definition is not as good. However, some of the pictures are worth having.

At last, we reach the end of this series, But please feel free to contact me if you want to find out more.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NOTICING PLANT ABERRATIONS.

The ideal way of recording an aberration is with a photograph. The traditional botanical method of collecting a speciman for subsequent pressing has many disadvantages when applied to aberrations. Most often the particular feature of interest is destroyed or obliterated in the pressing process. When double flowers are involved it is worth noting whether petals have merely increased in number or replaced stamens, i.e. stamens may be lacking. On occasion the three-dimensional nature of a specimen may be preserved in a solution of formaldyhide and I keep a number of paste and jam jars in stock for this purpose.

If the observer feels that it might be of some interest to know whether the aberration is sustainable and stable, the option of propagating may be considered - either seed collected or perhaps cuttings taken. Of course this would only apply to our commonest native plants and it is fortunate that the best sources of aberration and variation seem to be amongst this group, such as foxglove, ribwort plantain and water avens. Each species will have its own susceptibility to cultivation; some such as beech cannot be taken by cuttings but may be grafted. I would be happy to advise on this, initially by telephone.

MARTIN CRAGG-BARBER.

01666 - 837369

'THAT PLANT'S ODD' - THE WEEK-END

Anyone interested in pursuing the study of aberrations in the native flora might be stimulated by a week-end course we are running on 12th to 14th May this year at Swanage in Dorset, numbers permitting. It is, I believe, the first time a course has been run devoted to this subject. No previous knowledge assumed. Programme details from Martin Cragg-Barber, 1, Station Cottages, Hullavington, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 6ET.
OUr Newsletter devoted to such aberrations is now having its fourth number compiled. Subscription to 'That Plant's Odd' is £2 for three issues.

WILTSHIRE PLANT RECORDS IN 1994

The full list for 1994 , including a few from earlier years, has 570 records from 50 botanists. The Committee decided to make this list available to members at cost. Copies can be obtained at the AGM, price 50p or by post from M Hardstaff, price 75p. (address: Bradbourne, Cold Harbour Lane, Marlborough, Wilts. SN8 1BJ). Selected records are listed alphabetically below. I am indebted to Dave Green and Ann Hutchison, BSBI Recorders for VC 7 & 8, for comments which have enabled me to compile these notes.

NOTEWORTHY VC7 **RECORDS**

Anagallis tenella (Bog Pimpernel), found by the English Nature Survey Team at Derry Hill Farm in 1993. This is only the 3rd recent VC record

Astragalus glycophyllos (Wild Liquorice) is another ENST 1993 record, at Lyneham, and is the 5th recent record.

Blechnum spicant (Hard Fern) found by P Darby in Webbs Wood is the 5th recent VC record for this species and only the second time this has been seen in the Braydon Forest area.

Callitriche obtusangula & C. platycarpa (Water Starworts) were reported by N. Holmes in the Kennet in 1981 and 1993. This is an underirecorded group and these are all first recent VC records.

Catabrosa aquatica (Whorl-grass) , at West Overton roadbridge over the River Kennet, N. Holmes, 1993, is the second recent VC record.

Cirsium dissectum (Meadow Thistle) has been recorded by English Nature Survey Team, PDarby(2), & JFraser, taking the number of sightings from 6 to 10._ (sites: Grittenham, Cricklade, Pond Hill Farm, Townfield Farm).

Cochlearia danica (Danish Scurvygrass) is a coastal species which has spread inland along salt-treated roads. The first Wiltshire records were those of S. Leach in 1990 and 1991 on the central reservation of the M4. Patches were found west of Burton and west of Leigh Delamere Services, In 1993, N. Leach found it on the A429 near Kington Langley traffic light . PAndrew has a 1994 record on the A420 near South Marsden. These are all new records for the county.

Colchicum autumnale (Autumn Crocus) is seldom seen outside woodland. ENST found it in 1993 at Oatridge Farm, Eastcourt. This is only the third pasture record in Wiltshire. J. Newton recorded it in 1994 on the track to Puthall Park Farm.

Dactylorhiza incarnata (Early Marsh Orchid) was found by D. Green and SWhitworth growing on gravel at Somerford Keynes. This is the 5th recent VC record..

Dactylorhiza incarnata ssp, pulchella was spotted by G. Goodfellow in North Meadow, Cricklade. This is the 1st VC record.

Rosa micrantha (Small-flowered Sweet-briar) seen by J. Newton on the Chiseldon-Marlborough railway line and by P. Darby at Luckington.

Scandix pecten- veneris (Shepherd's-needle) found by P. Andrew in a freld at Easton Down is the frrst recent VC record.

Spergula rubra (Sand Spurrey) is recorded by J. Newton in Savernake Forest. This is the second recent VC record.

Trifolium striatum (Knotted Clover) turned up at The Warren, Spye Park: D. Green found it on a recently constructed reservoir.

Ulex gallii (Western Gorse) was recorded by D. Green in Spye Park. This is a refind of the Babbington location in the Supplement to the Flora Bathoniensis, 1839.

Ulex minor (Dwarf Gorse) found by M. Hardstaff in a new site in Savernake Forest, is the second recent record. Apparently, there is very little gorse in VC7 and most of this is U. europaeus.

Valerianella dentata (Narrowifruited Cornsalad) a single plant found by J. Oliver in West Woods is the third recent VC record.

NOTEWORTHY VC8 RECORDS

Calamagrostis epigejos (Wood Small-reed) RM Veall found this beside a small stream to the west of East Grimstead.

Catabrose aquatica (Whorl-grass) was seen by B Last and S Grinstead at Broad Chalke.

Centaurea cyanus (Cornflower) was recorded by J Notman at Aucombe Marsh.

Cirsium x medium (Hybrid Tuberous Thistle) found by D Green on Sherington Down.

Cuscuta campestris (Yellow Dodder) This exciting record by D. Bayes is the first VC8 record. He found the parasite on scabious near the ruins of Clarendon Palace.

Cyperus longus (Galingale) recorded by A Dale at Hurdcott, presumably introduced.

Dactylorhiza fuchsii var, rhodochila (a very rare form of Common Spotted Orchid) was seen by R. Laurence near Upton Cow Down.

Dactylorhiza praetermissa var. junialis was seen by RM Veall and several other botaniists at Jones's Mill, Pewsey .

Draba muralis (Wall Whitlowgrass) found by ESB & AH Rollinson at Stratford Tony church is the first VC8 record for c. 60 years of a Nationally Scarce plant.

Fumaria vailiantii (Fewiflowerd Fumitory) was found by BG Harris on Brouncker's Down, Coulston Hill, (see App.IV, FW p.109).

Lycopodielia inundata (Marsh Clubmoss) was one of a number of interesting records by RM Veall. This was in wet heathland at Plaitford Common.

Monotropa hypopitys (Yellow Bird's Nest), a single plant was found by PM Woodruffe in 1993 and 1994. Langley Wood, a beech - Scots pine plantation) is a new locality for the species and only the third recently recorded site.

Orchis ustulata (Burntitip Orchid) was recorded by B Last at Ebsbury.

Picea abies (Norway Spruce) is not a rarity but JE Oliver points out that the spread of this and similar plantation species by selfisown seed tends to be overlooked. Lots of seedlings were seen by JEO and other WBS members in Bentley Wood in June 1994.

Populus nigra (Black Poplar) has been recorded extensively, thanks chiefly to the efforts of D Green, B Last and A Summers . Most finds were in VC8, most notably D Green's "more than 180 trees in the Upper Avon valley between Upavon and Amesbury ".

Tephroseris integrifolia (Field Fleawort) spotted by G. Steven on Fovant Down is a new tetrad record and a refind of a 60 year-old site record.

Thesium humifusum (Bastard Toadflax) was refound by PM Woodruffe on Pepperbox Hill where it has not been seen for many years. (Pat also reports the persistence of Carex humilis in the car park in spite of or because of wear and tear on the ground by vehicles.)

Ulex gallii (Western Gorse) was seen by D Green and other WBS members on heathland, Redway Plain, Longleat in November 1994.

Urtica galeopsifolia (Fen Nettle) has now attained species rank. It was frrst seen in VC8 in 1992 by Dr. AW McDonald who found it on the bank of the river Wylye at Fisherton In 1994 she showed the site to Ann Hutchison and Barbara Last. Barbara's photograph was suffrciently clear for Dr. JR Akeroyd to confrrm the find.

Veronica catenata (Pink Waterispeedwell) found by DJ Wood at Harnham Water Meadows, Salisbury. This is only the 5th post 1984 record. It appeared in the summer of 1994, following channel dredging in the previous winter.

List of Recorders (and number of records received) Please let me know if I have incorrectly identified the owners of initials

AD A Dale(6), AH A Hutchison(7), AS A Summers(5), AT A Tanner(1), BGH BGH Harris(1), BL B Last(39) DB D Bayes(11),
DF D Forbe(2), DG D Green(43), **DJW DJ** Wood,(1) DOG DO Graiff(2), EGG EG Gauge(10), ENST English Nature Survey Team(21), EO E Overend(3), GG G Gains(3), GGO G Goodfellow(1), GN G Nichols(1), GY G Yerrington(1), IR I Radnor(1),
JA Jennifer Acornley(3) , JBJ Baston(1), **JCM J** C McQuitty(1), JEO JE Oliver(161), JF J Fraser(1), JG J Grierson(1), JH J Hodgkinson(18),
JLP JL Presland(13), JN J Newton(50), NO J Notman(1), JP J Power(1), JW J Wall(5), LW L Wild(2), **MH** M Hardstaff,(7)
MW M Wood(3), NH N Holmes(19), NL N Leach(4), PA P Andrew(6), PD P Darby(33), PMW PM Woodruffe(6),
RC R Chapman(3), RG Rita Grose(1), RMV RM Veall(51), RW R Whitlock(1), SG S Grinstead(2), SL S Leach('), SW S Whitworth(1),
TM T McGrath(2), UMW U Milne-White(2), VH V Hopkinson(1), WBS Wilts Botanical Society(3),

Malcolm Hardstaff