ECTOPARASITES

By Gordon B. Thompson

The following report is based on a small collection from twenty different host specimens representing nine species of birds.

Hippoboscidae (Bird Flies)

Host	*Ornithomyia*		*Date*
	fringillina	*avicularia*	
Chiffchaff	1 (female)	—	16/9/52
Cuckoo—juv.	—	1 (male)	29/7/52

The record from the Chiffchaff adds yet another host to the already long list of hosts of the two British species of *Ornithomyia.*

Mallophaga (Bird Lice)

In the present state of our knowledge of the bird lice a considerable amount of material is necessary in order to work out the species involved. Any specimens collected at the observatories will add materially to our knowledge of this fascinating group of ectoparasites. The following species were collected at the Observatory.

Host	*Parasite*
Sky Lark	*Philopterus sp.*
Blackbird	*Menacanthus sp.* *Philopterus merulae* (Denny).
Song Thrush	*Philopterus turdi* (Denny).
Swallow	*Philopterus* sp.
Dunlin	*Actornithophilus* sp.

Ixodoidea (Ticks)

The extent to which birds act as hosts of the immature stages of ticks in the British Isles has proved quite considerable as a result of collections made at the bird observatories etc. When sufficient data are available it will be possible to correlate the habits and movements of the birds with the distribution of the ticks. Notes on the position of the ticks on the birds are interesting and it is an established fact that birds do de-tick themselves with the result that almost all the ticks are collected from areas outside beak range, i.e. the head. Instances of ticks attached to the eyelids thus impairing their host's sight have been recorded. *Ixodes reduvius* (L.) (=*ricinus* L.) was the commonest species on the Lundy Island birds. This tick requires three hosts upon which to feed in the larval, nymphal and adult stages. The immature stages are not commonly found on birds.

The following table contains the records from nine birds representing three species during the 1952 season.

Host	*Date*	*Postition of parasite*	*Species of tick*
Whitethroat	7/9/52	Gape	*I. frontalis* (Panzer) 1N*
,,	12/9/52	—	*I. reduvius* (L.) 1N
Willow Warbler	26/7/52	Gape	*I. reduvius* (L.) 1N
,, ,,	14/8/52	Gape	*I. reduvius* (L.) 1L†
,, ,,	25/8/52	Eye	*I. reduvius* (L.) 2L
,, ,,	–/8/52	—	*I. reduvius* (L.) 1L
,, ,,	–/8/52	—	*I. reduvius* (L.) 2L
Blackbird	29/7/52	Eyes and beak	*I. reduvius* (L.) 7L
,,	5/3/52	Gape and eye	*I. reduvius* (L.) 15N

* N=nymph † L=larva

I am indebted to my friend Dr Don R. Arthur for his help with the identification of the ticks.

A STUDY OF THE VEGETATION OF THE COASTAL SLOPES OF LUNDY

By P. D. Gabbutt

The aim of the investigation, initially, was to analyse differences in the plant populations of the east and west coasts of Lundy (Part I). From this preliminary work two, later, lines of research were undertaken to investigate :—

(a) the differences in the Bracken, *Pteridium* population on the two sides of the island (Part II).

(b) the plants associated with the Thrift, *Armeria* in the gullies of the west coast (Part III).

Geology

Excellent accounts of the geology of Lundy can be found in several papers (1, 2, 3 and 4). Quite simply, the island is of volcanic origin, consisting for the most part of granite with a small area of slate at the South-East tip. All the areas investigated were on the granite formations.

Climate

The climate of Lundy, as might be inferred from its position, is peculiar. The prevalent wind is from the west and naturally it is the west side of the island which receives the full weight of the gales and storms from the Atlantic. The east coast is for most of the year, the lee-side and only suffers from the rare easterly gales. It is therefore comparatively sheltered.

Despite the strong winds and gales, the general climate is equable. Although maximum temperatures are 7 to 10 F. lower than those recorded on the mainland, the minimum temperatures