

MAMMALIA IN HAMPSHIRE, 1937.

By F. H. HAINES.

CHEIROPTERA (Bats).

Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus* L.) has occasionally entered the house after dark. It is easily identified by its long ears.

Noctule (*Vesperugo noctula* R. and B.). In previous years it had a favourite beat over the high hill near : on fine evenings flying strongly, swift and high. Individuals this season were noted near Moyles Court, and over the house, until 23rd and 27th of September. The species is known by its comparatively thin wings and their great expanse (up to 15 inches).

Common Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* Schr.). It is not very common here, perhaps because there are few buildings near. It is the smallest British bat and, like a diminutive Noctule, being reddish-brown in colour above. Its wings are only 8 inches in expanse.

Dauberton's Bat (*Myotis daubertoni* Leisl.). A red or dark greyish-brown bat of about 9 inches in wing expanse. It may almost be identified by its habits. It flies just over the surface of Dockens Water on summer evenings.

Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri* Kuhl). A bat, perhaps of this species, entered a lighted room here on 23rd September. Pale yellowish-grey in colour, of about 10½ inches wing expanse, it is easily identified by the comb-like edge of the membrane near the tail.

INSECTIVORA.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus* L.). Two young, only part, perhaps, of a second litter, were found by neighbours in a sodden state when but two or three weeks old a year ago last October. Kept warm in a kitchen, they fed through the winter. Bedding supplied in a box was always moved out and the nest reconstructed on the floor. They disappeared in March. An adult individual which sheltered here one winter took food supplied throughout that season and cannot have hibernated except for a very short spell. Harting's account of the way in which this species kills snakes rather negatives the idea that it is immune to the venom, as had also been stated, too, of cats (even in veterinary works), badgers and mongooses. Many Anglo-Indians hold that this last kills by dexterity and is loth to attack a very active snake, and that all animals are vulnerable.

Mole (*T. europaea* L.). Frequently seen above ground in hot, dry summer weather, especially June. That one should be caught by a cat on 3rd November was rather unusual.

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus* L.). Was not common during the year. No special autumn mortality was noticed. The glands on the sides secrete a fluid offensive to cats.

Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus* L.). It was fairly common and is about two-thirds the size of *S. araneus*, narrower, with slightly different dentition and longer and hairier tail. One was caught by a cat on 15th September and one was found dead on 18th.

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens* Pall.). This handsome large black-backed and white-bellied species was very common along the ditches of the neighbourhood. One was found dead in the garden, 15th November.

CARNIVORA.

Fox (*Canis vulpes* L.). H.L. reported (24th August) that a cub which had been frequenting his neighbourhood (Linwood) was still about and was very tame. Food (milk, etc.) put out for it was taken. It later disappeared.

Stoat (*Mustela erminea* L.). On 17th October one was caught by a cat. It appeared only about two-thirds grown. As young are produced in April and May, and only one litter has been usually noted, it seemed abnormal.

RODENTIA.

Common Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris* L.) and **Dormouse** (*Muscardinus avellanarius* L.) are much scarcer than they normally should be at Linwood. There were practically no acorns nor beech mast last autumn.

Wood Mouse (*Mus sylvaticus* L. var. *intermedius* Millais) were fairly common in April, becoming plentiful, young and old, in October. One specimen, seen, seemed to be very near the var. *wintoni* B.-H. : large and bright coloured with a buff band across the chest.

Bank Vole (*Evotomys glareolus* Schreb.) was common here, especially in August and, later, in September and October. This and the next species were caught by cats one-quarter, one-third and half-grown.

Common Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis* L.) had seemed absent until 21st March, when cats began catching them, and in April in large numbers. At the end of July very young and variously aged Voles were noted in abundance, and many one-third grown in September. Neither species was so numerous as to be a plague in the economic sense.

RUMINANTIA.

Fallow Deer (*Cervus dama* L.). On 7th July a small herd, all does, was seen on Rockford Common outside Appleslade Enclosure. On 19th October a buck was barking (or grunting) near this enclosure at 9 p.m. (S.T.).

REPTILIA IN HAMPSHIRE, 1937.**SQUAMATA.**

Sand Lizard (*Lacerta agilis* L.). It was numerous by 31st March. The fine, hot spell in mid-August caused these lizards and both our common species of snake to be often seen.

Ringed Snake (*Tropidonotus natrix* Sch.) was basking on a hill here on 4th April, and noted throughout July and August, but in no great numbers. H.L. saw one basking at Linwood on 22nd October. It was very alert and glided into its hole, 6ft. away, before he was close.

Adder (*Vipera herus* L.). Was not observed here until July, and even later they were rather scarce.

The **Smooth Snake** (*Coronella laevis* Boie.) does not appear to have been reported from Hampshire for several years. A specimen was taken in 1930 on West Knighton Heath, an old Dorset locality ("Proceedings Dorset Field Club," 1936, p. 79). It preys upon Sand Lizards.

AMPHIBIA.**ECAUDATA.**

Common Frog (*Rana temporaria* L.). Frog spawn was deposited in abundance, locally, as early as 28th January.