

February 9<sup>th</sup> 1946.

My dear Ron.

I do so strongly agree with you  
the Phenological Committee must be dull - and  
stupid as well - to say that the ground is  
already pretty adequately covered!

It is certainly true that there is a  
big scheme, run by a Captain Danneather,  
R.N., for recording migrant-butterflies, as well  
as Williams' studies on migration. But there  
is not a lot more that ordinary observers  
could undertake: and one wants some alternatives,  
not everyone will find his chief interest in  
migration.

I am not quite clear what types  
of observation are covered by a Phenological  
Committee of the R. Meteorological Society.

However, Gale's mentions observations on seasonal  
problems, so I suppose the range is fairly wide.

As you rightly say, there would be

good deal of interest in extending the known observations now appearing in Entomological journals on times of appearance etc.

A few others strike me as I write (and of course there are lots more). No doubt some of the following are not appropriate.

Meteorological observations relating to nights on which moths visit baits of various kinds; in particular, those other than light-traps (It is certainly known that a good night for "light" is not necessarily a good one for "sugar", etc.; but the qualifications are quite uncertain).

Observations on the occurrence and spread of melanism in the moths of S.E. England. Several species are becoming melanic in this area (e.g. Homophila abruptaria near London; Megamphra oxycanthae, apparently widely). There are also those curious insects which are normal except for one small rural area (say one hood) in the S.E. where

They are predominantly melanic (but - what is the real proportion there, and does it change?)

We want more information on the proportions of the dimorphic ♀'s of Colias croceus (throughout its range) and of Argynnis heppia; in Britain, <sup>the latter is</sup> dimorphic only in the New Forest. (It would be fun to start a colony elsewhere with the rare - valentina - form of ♀ and see what happened).

In this ~~case~~ one would wish to know absolute numbers. If work on the absolute numbers of some populations were not too much for such observers, there could be a big field here.

There are also dimorphic moths (e.g. Ptychoptera aeneata), and one would like to know proportions here also.

If relevant to this Committee, one would

like to have observations on the scents of  
butterflies and moths and on the attraction  
of the ♂ by the ♀.

Lots of other points would occur to the  
mind, I think. But these immediately  
strike me.

I have had influenza which nearly  
turned to pneumonia, but am much better  
now.

Jones Sr.  
Henry

N.S. Copy of marked paragraphs sent to Yalin, 12/2/46.