

Biological Records Centre,
Monks Wood Experimental Station,
Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon.

October, 1970.

Dear Recorder,

I usually write to you about Christmas time, but this year I am writing earlier for a number of reasons.

First I would be most grateful for your help with the Holly and Mistletoe surveys which were launched last winter. Due to a series of accidents with printers over which we had no control, the cards and instructions went out far too late for most people to do anything before spring arrived to hide the plants and making recording much more difficult. Can we therefore make a big effort to complete the survey this winter?

I have found, in my own county, particularly with Mistletoe, that a great deal of help can come from an appeal for information to the general public. A letter in my local paper produced several useful replies telling me about considerable populations in parks and gardens which I was unaware of. These reports can be combined together on a "master card" for each square which should show tetrads from which records have been received and species on which it has been reported as growing.

The B.S.B.I. Easter field meeting next year (April 8-12) is to be held in Hereford where the main object will be the mapping of Holly and Mistletoe in the county. Mrs. Whitehead, the County Recorder, and I will be leading it: it would be nice to see you there.

The meeting of Recorders in Edinburgh was most successful with over 50 members present. However, only 40 of our 152 vice-counties were represented and I am hoping that there will be a higher proportion in the future. The next meeting will probably be in Dublin in 1972 - so how about a botanical holiday in Ireland that summer?

The papers read in Edinburgh are being edited and produced in booklet form by Hugh McAllister of Newcastle University. In due course you will be receiving a copy. The main item I want to tell you about in advance is the Sunday afternoon discussion session following Geoffrey Halliday's paper on editing plant records. It was agreed that it would simplify the procedure for everyone if, in future, all new and other county records which meet the criteria for publication were submitted on the new type of Individual Record Cards now coming into use at the Biological Records Centre. I am, therefore, enclosing a supply with instructions on their use. Those intended for publication in Plant Records should be sent to Geoffrey Halliday who will forward them to me when he has prepared his manuscript. Any other records worthy of Individual Record Cards, particularly of determinations of critical material by experts, should be sent direct to me.

A new list of Referees and Specialists will be published in the next number of *Watsonia*. A new list of Recorders is also due, but it has been agreed that a "County Guide" should be published in future which contains in addition to the

name and address of the Recorder, an account of the recording work which is going on, and what Floras or papers if any, are available for sale about the county. I shall be preparing this over the next two months and, if there is time, I will send you a copy of the account for your county for you to check. I think that would be safest - and ensure that the list is accurate and up-to-date.

I hope the card indexes are growing apace. Please let me know if you need any more cards, or would like to have xerox copies of the 10Km Master Cards, or to borrow cards for particular sites which could give you records for 2x2 or 5x5 Km squares.

By now you should have received an updated list of the localities of the nationally rare species which occur in your county with a request to help with the completion of population forms. This request has a new urgency now that the S.P.N.R. Conservation Liaison Committee, on which the B.S.B.I. is represented, has decided to bring out a booklet summarising the present status of the rare and endangered plants and animals of Britain. No exact localities will be given but we do need to know how many localities are still extant and get an overall assessment of the threat to the species. When completing the population forms, could you add as a note your assessment of how accessible the locality is to --

- a) The General Public - is it near a road or much used footpath or bridle way, or on an open space?
- b) The unscrupulous botanist - could the plant be easily picked or do you need to be a mountaineer?

With best wishes for a fruitful 1971.

Yours sincerely,



F.H. Perring.

P.S. The following Floras published in 1970 have recently come to my notice.. I'd be glad to hear of any others.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Plants of Pembrokeshire. | T.A. Warren Davis | 10/8d. post free from |
| | West Wales Naturalists' Trust, | Haverfordwest. |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Wild Flowers of Kirkcaldy. | G.H. Ballantyne | 7/6d. from 3, Asquith St., |
| | | Kirkcaldy. |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF 80-COLUMN RECORD CARDS

These cards are designed so that they can be punched directly to give the "punched card" which forms the permanent record. They must not be taken into the field and should not be folded or fastened together with any form of paper clip. If at all damaged we cannot use them.

Only one species must be recorded on each of these cards. They can be used for field records, museum records, or records based on specimens in private collections and for literature records (e.g. from County Faunas or Floras, Natural History Society lists, journals etc.).

The area at the top of the card above the double black line and all cross hatched areas are for official use only.

Date:- Insert day, month and year, e.g. 23rd. August 1966

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Rec. No. (Recorders number):- In the case of a field record this will be the personal code number of the person who has seen the species and is filling in the card. In the case of a museum or literature record it will be the number of the person filling in the card.

Recorders Name:- In the case of a field record this is the name of the person who saw the specimen and is filling in the card. For a museum specimen it will be the name of the collector which appears on the label. For a literature record it will be the name cited.

Genus and Species:- Name, preferably scientific.

Sub-species:-

Hybrid:-

Variety:-

Name

Name

Name

Name

In many cases these will be blank.

Locality:- Enter the name of the town or village marked on the appropriate 1" O.S. map or the distance and direction from such a place. If possible this should be stated in twenty letters or less. e.g. 3 km S.W. Kimbolton or 5 mls. N. Cambridge.

Altitude:- When known this should be stated in feet or metres, e.g.

| | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 1000 ft. | | | |
| | | | |

feet

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | 3 | 5 | 7 |

metres

Grid Reference:- Using the 8 spaces provided fill in the grid reference from the 1" O.S. map (see separate instructions for grid references) e.g. 52/231746

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Vice County:- Name and number, e.g.

| | | | |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| South Devon | | | |
| | | | 3 |

Habitat:- Describe the habitat in which the specimen is found.

Location of Voucher Material:- Insert the name of the museum in which the voucher material can be found with the standard abbreviation if known, e.g.

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| British Museum | | | |
| B | M | | |

Expert:- Name of the expert who determined the material, e.g.

| | | | |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| E. R. Smith | | | |
| | | | |

Rarity, Status, Source, Stage:- These are recorded by placing a diagonal line through the appropriate box.

The abbreviations are as follows:-

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| RARE | = | rare |
| EXT. | = | extinct |
| CONF. | = | confidential (to be crossed through when you wish us to keep the record confidential) |
| NAT. | = | native |
| INT. & Pl. | = | introduced and planted |
| ESC | = | escape |
| MIG | = | migrant |
| ACC. CAS | = | accidental or casual |
| FLD. | = | field |
| MUS. | = | museum |
| LIT. | = | literature |
| ♂ | = | male |
| ♀ | = | females |
| ♂ | = | worker or hermaphrodite |
| OVA | = | ova |
| LARV. | = | larva |
| PUPA | = | pupa |
| SKIN | = | skin |
| SKEL. | = | skeleton |

Additional Data:- Place a diagonal line through the box if there are any additional data, and write these data or the reference to them on the back of the card

Comments and Compiler:- Any comments you may wish to make, together with the name of the person filling in the card.

Please ensure that nothing is written anywhere on the card except in the boxes provided. Always give the data in the form requested. Additional information, e.g. number of specimens, should be written on the back of the card (See Additional Data).