

A NOTE ON THE HABITS OF THE COMMON LIZARD,
LACERTA VIVIPARA JACQ.

In August, 1941, Mr. G. P. Farran and I were engaged in the task of examining a number of small lakes in the region of Maam Cross, Co. Galway. About seven o'clock in the evening, after a warm day, we were endeavouring to obtain a fairly representative sample of water from Loughaunierin. To do this I jumped on to a large rock, situated in two or three feet of water, some six feet from the margin of the lake. In order to obtain the sample it was necessary for me to assume the prone position and as I was washing out the Winchester Quart, intended to hold the sample of water, I was surprised to see a few inches from my face a Common Lizard, *Lacerta vivipara* Jacq. I drew Mr. Farran's attention to the animal and neither of us had any doubt, from the general situation of the rock and its surroundings, that the lizard had reached the rock by swimming. For a short time we watched the animal which was all the time keeping me under close observation. After two or three minutes I made an attempt to catch the lizard which immediately jumped into the water and commenced to swim slowly under the rock. This lizard appeared to be as much at home in the water as most newts I have observed. I had not thought that the matter was of any interest until Mr. Stelfox of the National Museum, Dublin, suggested that I might place it on record in *I.N.J.*

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TADPOLES IN AUGUST.

When Mr. R. Maxwell Savage, of London, was investigating factors controlling the date on which frogs commence spawning I visited a number of ponds frequently each spring. The highest of these was situate at Corr, Cornafean, at an altitude of over 400 ft. Invariably spawning commenced earlier in that pond than in any of the others I watched. From this elevation down to 180 ft. spawning commenced progressively later. One of Mr. Savage's correspondents resided in the South of England and came to the same conclusion, that in spawning the rule in some localities appears to be "the higher the earlier."

I did not see the Corr pond for some years until 16th August, 1942, when I was greatly surprised to find many quite young tadpoles. I cannot explain their presence at so late a date as I ascertained that the pond did not dry up in the drought of June, 1942.

Cauhoo, Cavan.

R. C. FARIS.

WOOD WHITE BUTTERFLY AND SECOND BROOD OF
COMMON BLUE IN CO. CAVAN.

The former of these butterflies, *Leptidea sinapis* L., is of rare occurrence in the northern half of Ireland, and it is not recorded for County Cavan. I did not see it in the county until 6th June, 1942, when two males were seen along the avenue leading to the Pleasure House at Killykeen, on Lough Oughter. One was captured and its identity confirmed by Mr. A. W. Stelfox.

It appears from Col. Donovan's *Catalogue of the Macrolepidoptera of Ireland* that the Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus* Rott. is single-brooded in the northern counties of Ireland. On 11th September, 1942, I saw a specimen on the avenue at Cauhoo and I suppose it belonged to a second brood. Even the first brood is rare in Cavan, as I have noticed it only at Gartnareddress, Gartanoul (on L. Oughter) and Kilmore on dates between 28th June and 15th July.

Cauhoo, Cavan.

R. C. FARIS.