

Foreword

The following chapters describe some of the species of birds, insects, plants and mammals that occur in Dry Drayton parish at the close of the twentieth century. It is not intended to be an identification guide since there are plenty of excellent books available for this purpose, but more a popular natural history, for everyone to enjoy and savour.

Throughout the accounts I will inevitably draw comparisons with Walker's natural history where appropriate. It will be hard not to do so, for among the losses since his time there have been one or two surprising gains. As an appendix, I have also provided a list of species identified in our parish today at the time of publication, in order to have as complete a record as possible. It is hoped that this list will be extended in the future, as more species come to light or are identified. This is more likely for some of the insect groups, as well as the non-flowering plants, lichens and fungi.

Any help from people with expertise in identifying the more difficult groups would be especially welcome. I would also be very grateful to receive any records from our parish that are not covered in these accounts.

Val Perrin, 13 Pettitts Lane, Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire CB3 8BT