

## LOCAL ANIMAL AND PLANT NAMES IN N.E. HANTS.

By Miss M. W. E. FOWLER.

The following short list of provincial animal and plant names, in use in and about the immediate neighbourhood of Liphook, is here offered, the subject being one of wide and general interest. The number of such names is much less than might be supposed, only the commoner species being thus distinguished. I would also add that such names can only be elicited in the course of ordinary conversation; children and local folk having a special sensitiveness and objection to being "drawn"; they "go in," and become at once reticent on suspicion of such a process.

It is obvious that the villagers, when speaking of the commoner forms of plant and animal life, must distinguish them by names, and the proper ones in many cases being unknown, by degrees a local nomenclature is formed, arising mostly from the following causes:—

1. Some striking characteristic or fancied resemblance, as shiver-grass, sleep-mouse, shirt button.
2. From the use to which the animal or plant is put, as canary-seed, quid-worm.
3. Corruptions of other local names or of proper names, as Lady Anthra graninum, black spem, Virgin Mary.
4. From superstitions or stories connected with the animal or plant, as Our Lady's thistle, weather-glass, bird's-eye.

Many names have been handed down which in the process of time have lost their meaning or have been wrongly applied, and so their connection or derivation is difficult, and in some cases impossible to determine, as hemmin' and sewin', smell-smock, or lavender-snips, the latter being applied to a yellow flower with no smell. A small purple toadflax may originally have owned this name.

### FLOWER NAMES.

Bee flower	..	..	..	..	Scabiosa arvensis
Bird's eye	..	..	..	..	The larger Veronicas
Black spem	..	..	..	..	Asplenium Trichomanes

*Black spem, Lady Anthra graninum,* are both attempts at the botanical names; the former at the English, "Black spleenwort;" the latter at the Latin, "Adiantum nigrum."

FLOWER NAMES—*Continued.*

Bloody fingers	..	..	..	See lords and ladies
Bread-and-cheese	..	..	..	Malva sylvestris
Bugles	..	..	..	Echium vulgare
Canary-seed	..	..	..	Plantago major
Because canaries are so much fed upon it.				
Cats'-eyes or birds'-eyes	..	..	..	Veronica
Cats'-tails	..	..	..	Typha latifolia
Caves	..	..	..	Fir cones
Cloves	..	..	..	Dianthus (garden variety)
Cuckoo-sorrow	..	..	..	Rumex Acetosa
Cuckoo flower	..	..	..	Cardamine pratensis
<i>Cuckoo flower.</i> —Because it blossoms when the cuckoo comes.				
Dead man's hands	..	..	..	Orchis mascula or maculata
Anyone who has seen the root of <i>O. maculata</i> will at once detect in its white, fleshy, palmate tuber the source of this name. Both orchids bloom in spring, are closely similar in appearance, and grow in the same situations; they have thus become confounded.				
Devil's nightcap	..	..	..	Delphinium consolida
Hedge lilies	..	..	..	Convolvulus sepium
Herts	..	..	..	Vaccinium Vitis Idæa
Hemmin' and sewin'	..	..	..	Achillea Millefolium
Horses and carriages	..	..	..	Delphinium
Lady Anthra-graninum	..	..	..	Asplenium Adiantum nigrum
See Black spem				
Ladies' shoes	..	..	..	Lotus corniculatus
Lavender snips	..	..	..	Linaria vulgaris
Lords and ladies	}	..	..	Arum maculatum
Bloody fingers				
The plants with pale coloured clubs are the "ladies," the dark red ones "lords"; the flowers in general "lords and ladies."				
Morning star	..	..	..	Ornithogalum umbellatum
Poison weed	..	..	..	Sedum (any kind)
Penny winkle	..	..	..	Vinca minor
Profolium	..	..	..	Armeria maritima
Pussy-cats	..	..	..	Catkins
Rush cane or cats' tails	..	..	..	Typha latifolia
Sailor button	..	..	..	Any of the Campions
Shirt button	..	..	..	Stellaria holostea
Shiver grass	..	..	..	Briza media
Smell-smock	..	..	..	Oxalis Acetosella
Snake fern	..	..	..	Lastrea filix mas
Time tables	..	..	..	Taraxacum officinale
Virgin Mary	..	..	..	Pulmonaria officinalis
This name is a corruption of "Joseph and Mary." The flowers are of two colours, pink and blue. The pink flower is Joseph, the blue Mary. This is an old name, and few if any of the country folk who now use it know its origin.				
Vern	..	..	..	Pteris aquilina
<i>Vern.</i> —No doubt originally "fern," or fern in general, is now used to distinguish bracken from black spem or any other fern.				
Weather-glass	..	..	..	Anagallis arvensis
White thorn	..	..	..	Cratægus Oxyacantha
<i>White thorn.</i> —There is a curious superstition connected with this flower, namely, that with it come seven days of cold and north wind, after which is no more frost. This week is called "white thorn winter." A man				

said to me a short time ago, speaking of some seedlings—"He mustn't be planted out while after white thorn winter, he mustn't; I seed some white thorn buds bustin' yes'day, so another week will do for he."

Whitsuntides .. .. . Stellaria holostea  
Yellow spit .. .. . Chelidonium majus

*Yellow spit*.—From the yellow juice which exudes from the broken stem.

## BIRD NAMES.

Blood lark .. .. . Tree pipit  
Brown dove .. .. . ?  
Bunt or bent lark .. .. . Corn bunting  
Fork-tail .. .. . Swallow  
Furze-chucker .. .. . Win-chat  
Mudlark .. .. . Skylark  
Screamer .. .. . Swift  
Scutty .. .. . Wren

*Scutty*.—The nest as well as the bird bears this name.

Tree Creeper }  
Wet-your-neck } .. .. . Wood pecker

## MAMMALS, FISH, REPTILES, ETC.

Blight .. .. . Caterpillar  
*Blight*.—In the eyes of the villagers anything which destroys garden produce is "blight." A woman, speaking of the larva of a death's head moth, three inches or more long and as thick as two of her fingers, said—"He be another of them blight;" the said blight having eaten her potatoes.

Bobs .. .. . Lice in the head

*Bobs*.—In Lincolnshire called Dicks.

Cheese pill or ball .. .. . Woodlouse (Armadillo)  
Flutter mouse .. .. . Bat  
Heath effe (eft) .. .. . Brown lizard  
Nine eyes .. .. . Leech  
Quid worm .. .. . Centipede

*Quid worm*.—So named because they are put down the throats of cows "as can't chew their quid (cud)."

Scruggy .. .. . Squirrel  
Seven sleeper }  
Sleepmouse } .. .. . Dormouse  
Stone rocker }  
Chubby head } .. .. . Lampern

The above list, considerably augmented from a communication to "Nature Notes," February, 1890, contains several names not found in the Rev. C. Swainson's "Folk Lore and Provincial Names of British Birds," and Messrs. Britten and Holland's Dictionary of English Plant Names." It will no doubt admit of further additions and corrections if members of the H. F. C. will kindly send to the Editor any other names they may meet with in the course of their observations.