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The Natural History of Canna and Sanday, Inner
Hebrides: A Report upon the Glasgow
University Canna Expeditions, 1936 and
1937.

GENERAL EDITOR
D. S. BERTRAM

I.—The Natural History of Canna and Sanday, Inner Hebrides :
A Report upon the Glasgow University Canna Expedi-
tions, 1936 and 1937.

General Editor—D. S. Bertram.

(Communicated by Professor E. Hindle, M.A., Sc.D.)

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INTRODUCTION.

THE original object was to survey the terrestrial life of an island in the West of Scotland, with a view to providing data which would serve as a basis for future ecological studies. By the choice of a relatively small area with well-defined natural boundaries it was hoped to limit the range and the intensity of the effects of some of the factors which would require detailed consideration in future studies upon life-cycles, food-chains, animal numbers and their fluctuations, and other problems which might be attempted.

It is hoped to continue these observations over a period of years, and the present report only embraces our work during 1936 and 1937. The party lived on Canna during both summers, but many excursions were made to the adjoining island of Sanday, and also short visits to Òigh-sgeir and Rhum in July 1936.

The organisation of the first expedition was largely the work of Dr H. B. Cott of the Zoology Department, who made a short visit to Canna in May 1936 to make a rough survey of the island and complete arrangements for the establishment of the Expedition.

The first Expedition, from 26th June to 31st July 1936, comprised D. S. Bertram, R. S. Brown, R. Carrick, A. J. Haddow, W. H. R. Lumsden, W. Macnae, J. D. Robertson, R. C. M. Thomson, A. Todd, and R. A. Blair, and the second Expedition, from 25th June to 9th July 1937, D. S. Bertram, R. S. Brown, A. J. Haddow, A. Todd, W. H. R. Lumsden, W. Macnae, J. D. Robertson, A. Aitken, S. Greenhill, J. W. Morton, Miss H. Muggoch and Miss M. McL. Smith.

The party was accommodated in a large barn—Coroghon House (Pl. IV. B).

During July 1936 the weather was mainly fair, warm and sunny with two wet, windy spells—one during the last week-end of the month and again on the 30th and 31st. Our visit in 1937 coincided with bleak conditions accompanied by strong winds.

Acknowledgments.—For recognition and encouragement in the beginning we are greatly indebted to Emeritus Professor J. Graham Kerr. For a continuation of that recognition and sustained interest and activity on our behalf we record indebtedness to Professor Edward Hindle and Professor J. Walton, who has helped greatly in botanical matters. We are also indebted to Dr W. J. McCallien and Mr W. R. Flett of the Department of Geology for advice on geological matters.

We are greatly indebted to the Carnegie Trustees for the Universities of Scotland for grants towards expenses in 1936 and 1937, and for contributing to the cost of publishing this report.

To the laird of Canna, Mr R. V. G. Thom, we should like to express our heartiest thanks for many courtesies and facilities, and to Mr A. C. Thom for help in our botanical and ornithological studies.

Finally, we should like to express our indebtedness to the staff of the Natural History Department and to Mr A. R. Waterston, the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.