Casey A. Wood Collection

June 5th 1924

Dear Madam

Please convey to Dr. Casey Wood my sincere thanks for sending me a copy of his recent Travels. I have read his letter with very great interest & profit.

I am enclosing a cutting from the Local Paper giving an account of our all night Ramble to hear the Nightingales sing. It was only a few miles distant from where the Doctor heard them singing when in England a couple of years ago. With renewed thanks

Yours very sincerely

Fredk W. Headley

Miss C. Raymond

A NIGHT ON THE DOWNS.

Casey A. Wood Collection

Nature Lovers' Nocturnal Ramble.

(By Fredk. H. Elsley).

The most successful ramble ever organised by the British Empire Naturalists' Association took place on Saturday evening last.

The naturalists, who numbered 72, were drawn from all parts, one man coming from Chelmsford, and met at Clandon Station at 11 o'clock. The evening was beautifully light and warm, and we left for a long tramp of eight hours in the best of spirits. Two police constables watched us into the wilds, and once we were challenged by a keeper.

There was a sharp shower early in the morning, and we had to seek shelter under the beech trees, and it was then that we heard our first nightingale, who sang joyously to us all through the shower.

"Deep in the dusky night
One bird is calling;
Lonely and beautiful
Her notes are falling."

We resumed our tramp towards Newlands Corner, where we had a halt and partook of light refreshments. All round us the nightingales sang magnificently. Is it any wonder that the poets have heard in the Nightingales' songs all the beauty of lamentation?

Whilst waiting for the dawn, we explored the old chalk quarry near the Silent Pool, for here last year we heard the prince of songsters all by himself. There was no nightingale here this time, but a "Nomad of the road" taking his repose, and I am sure he must have felt that his last hour had come to see more than twenty persons emerge upon his seclusion so suddenly!

We retraced our steps to the higher ground, to wait patiently for the first bird heard singing at the dawn. As usual, it was the skylark, at 3.47 (summer time).

Birds they Heard.

It may interest readers to know what other birds were heard, and so I am giving the complete list, which is as follows:—

Little Owl, 2.30; Nightjar, 2.40, Skylark, 3.47; Cuckoo, 3.51; Red Legged Partridge, 3.55; Blackbird, 4.7; Hedge Sparrow, 4.13; Robin, 4.15; Song thrush,, 4.23; Pheasant, 4.26; Wren, 4.28; Tawny Owl, 4.29; Rook, 4.33; Garden Warbler, 4.40; Great Tit, 4.45; Common Whilethroat, 4.46; Willow Wren, 4.50; Yellowhammer, 4.51; Chiffchaff, 4.57; Blue Tit, 4.59; Blackcap, 5.1; Grasshopper Warbler, 5.4; Marsh Tit, 5.14; Wood Wren and the Turtle Dove, 5.28; Goldcrest, 5.51.

We heard more than twenty nightingales during the ramble, and discovered a nest of the nightingale containing five eggs, and also a number of other birds' nests.

We resumed our tramp in the direction of Hockhurst Downs about 4 a.m., and all finished a perfect night's ramble (with the exception of two ladies) at the Clock House, Abinger Hammer, at 7.30 a.m., and sat down to breakfast, to which ample justice was done.

As we wished each other "Goodbye," we all re-echoed the sentiments that we might meet again under such delightful conditions and in such congenial company in May, 1925.

Regret was expressed on all hands that Mr. E. Kay Robinson, one of the greatest living authorities on the nightingale, was not present. He it was who gave the address at last Monday's broadcasting. We were all pleased to have his son, Mr. W. Robinson, who is worthily following in his father's steps.

Cricket News

Cricket in Guildford and the surrounding district was played under ideal conditions on Saturday. Everywhere there was activity, and while the ball once again generally gained the advantage there were several instances of high scoring, notably at Charterhouse, where Shalford exceeded the double century.

* * *

Guildford won their first match of the season with 15 runs to spare over the Queen's. The honours of the game went to T. Fergus, who, besides being top scorer with 22 runs to his name, took four of the soldiers' wickets for 20 runs. Pte. Miles had the best figures for the Queen's, of four for 24. The keeping was particularly good on both sides, only 10 extras being recorded in the whole match.

* * *

Declaring with 210 for five on the board, against Charterhouse Maniacs, Shalford owed their runs to J. Barringer (57), W. J. E. Jenner (54), and C. A. Stewart (43 not out). Both the former hit eleven 4's, and Jenner also got three of the Maniacs' wickets for 23, before the match was left drawn in Shalford's favour.

* * *

After losing five wickets for 18, Merrow Downs recovered against West Clandon and scored 43 in all, J. Roke taking five for 12, and F. Hunt five for 18; but West Clandon won easily by 34, G. Grover getting 30.

* * *

Tangley were beaten by Merrow Downs by 12 runs, Symmonds (4 for 2) and H. Taylor (3 for 11) bowling well. Curiously enough, the last three wickets of each team fell without an addition to the score.

* * *

In their opening match, the Royal Grammar School lost to Mr. Broatch's XI. by 41 to 93—the first defeat of the School since July, 1922.

* * *

On account of the wet state of the ground, low scoring ruled in the British Legion v. Caxton match at Shalford, and the former owed their victory of 11 runs to the bowling of Adlam and Cooper, while F. Wills got five wickets for 12 for the losers.

TO-MORROW'S CRICKET.

GUILDFORD TEAM AT THAMES DITTON.

To-morrow Guildford are away at Thames Ditton (2.30), but the "A" Eleven are entertaining West Horsley on the Sports Ground (2.30).

FIXTURES AND TEAMS.

GUILDFORD v. THAMES DITTON.

At Thames Ditton (2.30).

Guildford.—P. L. Williams (capt.), J. A. Broatch, C. C. Cork, T. Fergus, S. Pendry, W. Holden, A. G. Woods, W. E. Philpott, A. B. Thurlow, W. F. Winship, W. Watkins.

Umpire, W H. Ward. Scorer, J. L. Playfoot.

GUILDFORD "A" v. WEST HORSLEY

At the Sports Ground (2.30).

Guildford "A."—J. E. B. Gee (capt.), T. Layton, W. J. Knight, H. Colebrook, H. C. Ford, W. Brunning, E. R. Page, W. Knowles, E. J. Norris, W. Higgins, H. Ayres. Reserves, Woods, Winter, Parker.

Umpire, L. J. Pl[illegible]