

CORRESPONDENCE

THE EDITORS,
THE SCOTTISH NATURALIST

DEAR SIRS,

In the interesting article on "The Mountain Hare in Scotland in 1951" in *The Scottish Naturalist*, vol. 66, No. 2, the species is described as rare in Perthshire particularly towards the Argyll border. This description is not quite accurate for parts of central Perthshire. In 1952, 1953 and 1954, hares were abundant on the high ground between the head of Glen Turret and the river Almond at Newton Bridge. As an indication, at least 10 halts were made to examine some object and on each occasion over the six-mile stretch, not less than 10-12 hares were seen running off in all directions. Certainly there was no suggestion of these hares being herded in front of the walker, and I estimate that the bare minimum population was 120 hares, the impression being a much larger population which extended to the lower ground near Monzie. Hares were also seen on the Braes of Doune stretching east to Braco but appeared to be fewer in number but not rare.

I am,

Yours truly,

P. W. SANDEMAN.

SUCKING LICE FROM HARES

DEAR SIR,

I am anxious to get specimens of the sucking louse, *Haemodipsus lyriocephalus* (Burmeister) from the blue hare (*Lepus timidus*) as we have no authenticated specimens from this host. They will probably be found near the skin, but where the host has been dead for some time they may move to the surface of the fur; females which are the larger sex are about 2.5 mm. in length. Any specimens from *Lepus timidus* or *Lepus europaeus* in 70 per cent. or 80 per cent. alcohol (no cotton wool) would be most welcome. If alcohol is not available they can be sent dry in slips of paper.

THERESA CLAY,

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