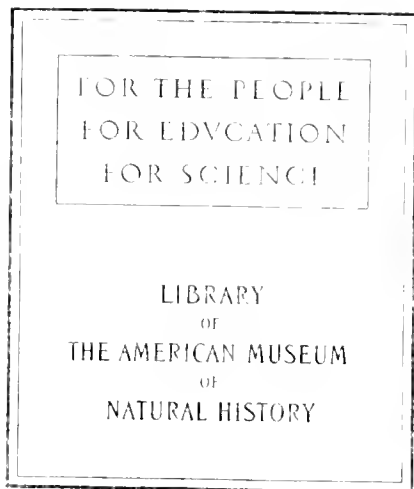


LORD LILFORD ON BIRDS





the man claims our attention as much as, or more than, the biology of the birds. In addition to this we find a chapter of nearly 50 pages devoted chiefly to two contributed papers on Otter-hunting and Falconry. The result is a fairly large volume, published at a fairly large price, and containing a good deal of heterogeneous information, of which in the main it may be said that to the general reader much of the ornithological side will be wearisome, while the expert will find a great portion of the book given up to matters which, though full of their own special interest, he had hardly expected to find in a work "on birds." The plates, however, illustrating various kinds of birds, are excellent; the papers on Otter-hunting and Falconry are bright and inspiring, and sufficient in themselves to kindle a flame of enthusiasm in the breast of the uninitiated; while the study of a character at once so sympathetic and exact as that of the late Lord Lillford cannot fail to be of the greatest benefit to any reader. And to those, and they must be many, to whom it is a pleasure to linger over the scattered notes of a careful observer of the facts of natural history whereby they will gain both instruction and delight this book may be fairly commended. But it cannot be regarded as a serious contribution either to ornithology proper or to science at large. This is not to say that the notes themselves are at fault, or even useless; but they are notes only, such as may be pigeon-holed or even gathered up into coherent form

within the pages of some scientific journal, but such as should never find their way into book form until the time comes when they may serve their purpose as illustrations of general principles. W. F. L.

Glasgow Herald.
Jan. 29th 1903.

W. F. Lanchester

January 1903.

LORD LILFORD ON BIRDS



Lord Jeffrey in his study

ORD LILFORD ON BIRDS

BEING A COLLECTION OF INFORMAL AND
UNPUBLISHED WRITINGS BY THE LATE
PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS'
UNION . WITH CONTRIBUTED PAPERS UPON
FALCONRY AND OTTER HUNTING, HIS
FAVOURITE SPORTS

EDITED BY

M.A., F.L.S., ETC.

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

AND ILLUSTRATED BY

ARCHIBALD THORBURN

London :

Paternoster Row



1903

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PREFACE

ORNITHOLOGICALLY this book falls into three natural divisions, each with its own particular appeal.

The Mediterranean Journals with their lists of birds obtained or seen would be valuable, if only as models of careful work; but beyond this, such a companion as their recorder must surely add delightful interest to any voyage in the narrow sea.

None of the natural history has been left out; the Editor has only ventured to remove (as not in any way material to the record) the greater part of the weather log, with purely personal or social references.

Although the systematic position and the scientific names of some of the birds have changed since the diaries were written, they are easily recognisable by an ornithologist as they stand: it has therefore seemed well in the great majority of instances to leave them unaltered.

The letters on his own countryside are, it is true,

almost entirely concerned with the small occurrences of every day; but all our knowledge of the ways of living creatures has grown from careful records such as these, and the subject is one of unfailing interest; if it begins with Gilbert White, it ends—where?

The same thought applies to the *Aviary Notes*; how sure a welcome awaits these—the record at first hand of a master ‘aviarist’—is sufficiently brought home to us by the reflection that a periodical has been successfully run for years in this country, devoted to nothing else than an interchange of experiences among those who keep living birds.

All the letters, unless it is otherwise stated, were written from Lilford Hall. They are not always given under order of dates; it has often seemed better to group them about the leading subjects with which they are concerned.

An opinion entitled to great respect was expressed to the Editor, that otter hunting and falconry, Lord Lilford’s favourite sports, might need some introduction to the general reader; that otter hunting is not, like fox-hunting, ‘everybody’s’ sport; and that, indeed, the idea not uncommonly obtains that the otter is still barbarously despatched with the spear. Falconry, it was pointed out, was a still more restricted pursuit. The Editor has therefore ventured himself to write a short account of otter hunting, and has been fortunate in obtaining a

description of falconry from the pen of the Rev. Gage Earle Freeman.¹

Nearly all of the pictures which illustrate this volume are studies of individual birds in the collection at Lilford.

Our thanks are rendered to Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo for his help in reading through the proof-sheets, and his kind interest in the preparation of the book.

¹ Author of *Falconry: its History, Claims, and Practice*. We have much pleasure in quoting in this connection a passage we find in a letter written by Lord Lilford to Mr. Freeman in 1895:—
“You have done more to keep English falconers in the right way than any man now living. No such practical work as yours has been written on falconry this century.”



LORD LILFORD'S FAVOURITE FLOWER.

LORD LILFORD'S PUBLISHED WORKS.

Coloured Figures of the British Birds.

The First Edition of this work, which was issued in parts by subscription, commenced in October, 1885, and the second in April, 1891. 'Edition' is really a misnomer; for when in 1891 it was decided to admit a further set of subscribers (at rather a higher rate of subscription) only some eighteen (or so) of the plates had yet appeared. These were retouched and, in the opinion of many good judges, actually improved. Thenceforward the First and Second Editions were identical, running together and ending simultaneously.

Notes on the Birds of Northamptonshire and Neighbourhood.

This book was published in 1895. Some parts of it had already appeared in the form of communicated papers (see below) and some had been printed for private circulation.

But besides these books Lord Lilford's literary labours include a variety of articles in the *Zoologist*, the *Ibis*, and elsewhere. Certain chance notes—*e.g.*, in the *Field*—are omitted, otherwise the following list is believed to be complete:—

In the *Ibis*.

Under the name of the Hon. Thomas L. Powys.

1860. Notes on birds observed in the Ionian Islands, and the provinces of Albania proper, Epirus, Acarnania, and Montenegro. Pages 1-10, 133-140, 228-239.

Under the name of Lord Lilford.

1862. On the extinction in Europe of the common francolin (*Francolinus vulgaris*, Steph.). 352-356.
1865. Notes on the ornithology of Spain, 166-177, pl. V. (*Aquila neevioides*). Ditto 1866, 173-187, 377-392, pl. X. (eggs of *Aquila pennata* and *Cyanopica cooki*).
1873. Letter on *Calandrella brachydactyla* and *Numenius hudsonicus*. 98.
1880. Letter on *Larus audouini* and other Spanish birds. 480-483.
1883. Letter on *Otis tarda* and other Spanish birds. 233.
1884. Rare birds in Andalusia. 124.
1887. Notes on Mediterranean ornithology, 261-283, pl. VIII. (*Falco punicus*).
1888. Preface to Dr. F. H. H. Guillemard's "Ornithological notes of a tour in Cyprus," 1887. 94.
1889. A list of the birds of Cyprus. 305-350.
1892. Letter on *Turnix nigricollis*. 466.

In the *Zoologist*.

Under the name of the Hon. T. L. Powys.

1850. Occurrence of the smew (*Mergus albellus*) in Northamptonshire. 2775.
1850. Nest and eggs of the rose-coloured pastor (*Pastor roseus*). 2968.
1851. Occurrence of the Caspian tern near Lausanne. 3209, 3210.
1851. Note on birds entrapped at a magpie's nest. 3275.
1851. Occurrence of black grouse and quails in Northamptonshire. 3278.
1852. Note on the kite and buzzard trapped at Blenheim. 3388.
1852. Occurrence of the black redstart near Oxford. 3476.

1852. Occurrence of the ring dotterel (*Charadrius hiaticula*) near Oxford. 3476.
1852. Occurrence of the glossy ibis in Ireland. 3477.
1852. The shore lark (*Alauda alpestris*) breeding in Devonshire. 3707.
1852. Occurrence of the blue-throated warbler (*Sylvia suecica*) in South Devon. 3709.
1852. Occurrence of the pratincole (*Glarzola torquata*) in Devonshire. 3710.
1854. Occurrence of various birds in Oxfordshire. 4165.
1854. Note on the late abundance of the spotted crane (*Crex porzana*). 4165.
1855. Occurrence of the bittern and goosander in Northamptonshire, and of the red-throated diver in Plymouth Sound. 4762.
1855. Occurrence of Buonaparte's gull (*Larus Buonapartii*) on the Irish coast. 4762, 4809.
1861. Note on the alpine chough as observed in the Ionian Islands. 7352. (In *Ibis* II. 136.)

Under the name of Lord Lilford.

1877. Purple gallinule in Northamptonshire. 252.
1879. Green shag in Northamptonshire. 426.
1879. Manx shearwater in Northamptonshire. 426.
1880. White-fronted goose in Northamptonshire. 66.
1880. Solitary snipe in Northamptonshire. 444.
1881. Ornithological notes from North Northamptonshire. 24, 61.
1881. Roseate tern on the Norfolk coast. 26.
1882. Ornithological notes from Northamptonshire. 16, 392.
1883. " " " " 26.
1883. Note on the ornithology of Northamptonshire. 425-429, 466-468, 502.

1883. Common scoter inland. 495.
1884. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire. 192-194,
450-455.
1885. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire. 181-183.
1885. Hoopoe in Northamptonshire. 259.
1886. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire and neighbour-
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1887. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire and neighbour-
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1887. A puffin in London. 263.
1888. Magpies attacking a weakly donkey. 184.
1888. Pallas's sand grouse in Spain. 301.
1888. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire and neighbour-
hood. 456-466.
1889. Hawks devouring their prey on the wing. 185.
1889. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire and neighbour-
hood. 422-430.
1890. Large race of great grey shrike. 108.
1891. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire. 41-53.
1892. " " " " " " " 201-210.
1892. Variety of *Grus cinerea* in Spain. 265.
1893. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire and neighbour-
hood for 1892. 89-97.
1893. Purple gallinules in Norfolk and Sussex. 147.
1894. Notes on the ornithology of Northamptonshire and neighbour-
hood for 1893. 210-221.
1894. Pheasant nesting in a tree. 266. *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, London,
1881-1890.
1882. Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a skin of *Emberiza rustica*,
caught at Elstree reservoir. 721.
1888. Exhibition of a specimen of *Aquila rapax* from Southern
Spain. 248.

Mammalia. In the *Zoologist*.

1884. Notes on Mammalia of Northamptonshire. 428.
1885. Dormouse in Northamptonshire. 257.
1886. Albino badgers. 363.
1887. A few words on European bats. 61-67.
1887. The bank vole in Northamptonshire. 463.
1890. Hedgehog *v.* rat. 453.
1891. The polecat in Northamptonshire. 342.
1892. The polecat in Northamptonshire. 20, 224.
1894. Barbastelle in Northamptonshire. 187.
1894. Barbastelle in Huntingdonshire. 395.

For the above list the Editor is indebted to Dr. Paul Leverkühn, C.M.Z.S., of the Scientific Library and Institution of H.R.H. The Prince of Bulgaria, Sophia. His compilation of Lord Lilford's papers was published in the *Ornith. Monatschrift des Deutschen Vereins z. Schutze der Vogelwelt*, XXI., 1896, No. 9, pp. 262-264.

NOTE.

The full title of Lord Lilford's well-known book, always spoken of as "Coloured Figures of the British Birds," and so referred to throughout this volume, is "Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands."

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CORRIGENDUM

Page 83. Five lines from foot: for "are pendulous, and have no aftershaft" substitute "are pendulous but single, having *no* aftershaft."

LORD LILFORD ON BIRDS

INTRODUCTION

THOMAS LITTLETON, fourth Baron Lilford, was born in 1833. In 1867 he was elected President of the British Ornithologists' Union, a position which he held until his death, in 1896. Such, in a word, is all that need be said here. For this is not a biography; the personal history of the late Lord Lilford has already been written by one whose title to the task was clear. That picture, built on the intimate memories of a sister's affection, necessarily stands alone.

But in the days of his travels and activity, and no less in those long years in the chair of an invalid, Lord Lilford acquired a large store of exact and absolute knowledge, which must needs have for inquirers in the same field a value too great to be missed.

His, too, was a keen enthusiasm and a wide kindness of heart; his constant daily endeavour was to encourage interest in living creatures and (quite humbly and simply) to help others through what he himself had learnt. The more widely could he have been helpful the better would

he have been pleased. It is in the certainty of this assurance that the letters have been contributed which herein appear.

The present book is, then, of Lord Lilford as naturalist—as sportsman also, but primarily as naturalist—revealed in his own informal writings. Entrusted to the Editor's hands with words whose very graciousness was their command, it has been till now delayed; yet a book of this kind may gain, perhaps, not lose, in the perspective that a few years give. Be this as it may, all pains bestowed upon his task are but an imperfect measure of the Editor's true admiration for and grateful memory of this most charming of naturalists and kindest of friends.

We should not visit him at Lilford till we have been with him in the Mediterranean which was his inspiration, or we shall miss the key to his later interests.

For this reason are given parts of his old diaries when abroad. The diaries were recorded on a yacht, the letters were written with crippled fingers which scarce could hold a pen. These strictly natural history extracts give necessarily but an imperfect impression of how the letters really ran. Though all spontaneous and unstudied, those who received them used to think them something more than clear: they seemed marked by a simple grace of diction which gave them a distinction quite their own.

Our duty has been to pass on to others a naturalist's thought and work, and we have attempted nothing more. Yet, as one looks again over these pages, one cannot

but wonder how much they may also perhaps convey of Lord Lilford's character and personality to those who did not know him. One cannot tell; he was too little self-conscious ever to pose, ever to attempt self-portraiture. There were no mannerisms, conceits, or eccentricities to seize upon for 'genius'; he was a sane, single-hearted, keen, accomplished English gentleman. In all the letters we have had before us he writes but one thing of himself, and with that one thing we will end:—

“My life-history is soon summed up. I have, I fear, been an idler, devoted more to my own amusement than anything else, till I have learned, by physical suffering, the lesson that the real value of existence here below consists in the good that we may be able to do for others.”¹

¹ To Mrs. Owen Visger.

CHAPTER I

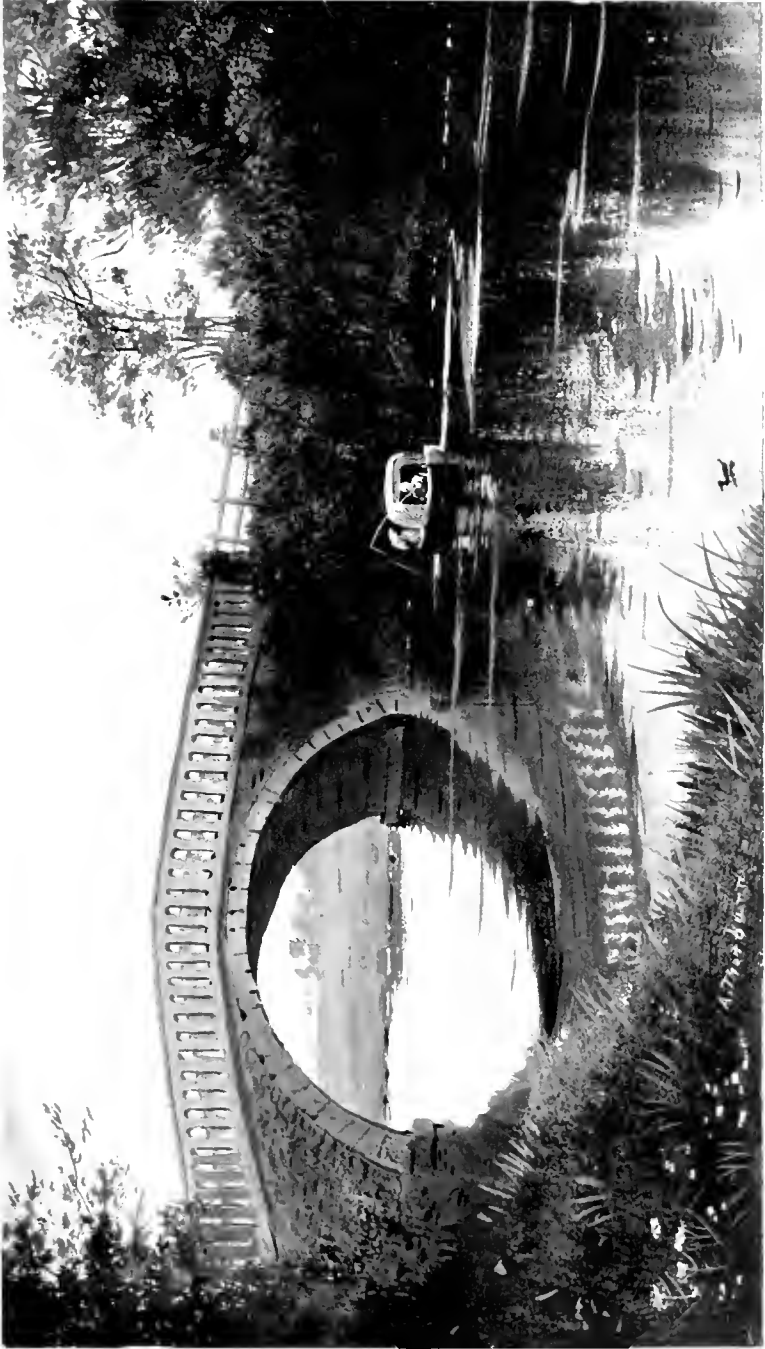
The Surroundings of Lord Lilford's Home

THE life and work of Lord Lilford was to so great an extent inseparably related to his home, that it seems necessary to give some idea of this from the point of view of a visitor.

The nearest town to Lilford of any pretensions is Oundle, which lies on the Midland Railway, about half-way between Kettering and Peterborough; for Lilford is in the north-west corner of Northamptonshire, on the borders of what was once Rockingham Forest. It is in the valley of the river Nene, which, rising near the Haddons, runs the length of the county, and crosses the junction of Lincoln, Norfolk and Cambridge to enter the Wash.

“Ours,” writes Lord Lilford (August 5th, 1860) “is a deep, slow-moving, muddy, weedy stream, producing pike, perch, eels, roach, carp, tench, dace, bream, ruff, rudd, chubb, bleak and gudgeon, and very rarely a trout.”¹

¹ To the Rev. Canon Tristram.



FISHING ON THE NINE

And again (January 23rd, 1889):

“ I never saw or heard of a barbel in any part of the Nene, certainly not in the neighbourhood of Lilford, as I own, more or less, some twelve miles of river and tributary brooks; in my father's time the river was systematically dragged for the whole length of our domain in February and March, and I have bottom-fished every inch of it with every variety of bait at various times of year between 1840 and 1888, and never caught, seen, or heard of a barbel: in fact, I believe that our river produces every English river fish *except* barbel, grayling, and possibly one or two fishes of the family *Salmonide*. Perch have perhaps increased in number in our river, but certainly diminished in average size very palpably. In my early fishing days we used to catch many of 2 lbs. and over, and 3-pounders were not *very* rare; but it is quite exceptional now to catch a perch of 1 lb.”¹

Northamptonshire is commonly spoken of as a flat and rather uninteresting county; but about Lilford, at any rate, it is neither the one nor the other. If not conspicuously striking, it is characteristically English, and as such is full of charm. It is a rolling, almost a hilly country, and is closely wooded with singularly fine timber. With the botany of this neighbourhood we are not acquainted; probably its botany is not very distinctive, though henbane grows there (and not only on rubbish-heaps). Bladderwort

¹ To Dr. Albert Günther.

(*Utricularia*), too, is found in a backwater of the Nene; and bladderwort, as a natural trap for living organisms, gives interest to any stream.

The park at Lilford, though not in reality very large, appears to be so; for, by means of sunk fences cunningly set, it merges insensibly into the surrounding country. It supports some three hundred head of fallow deer.

But the glory of the park is its growth of trees. One does not often see in the same area so many noble trees of different kinds as here. The elms—characteristic Northamptonshire trees—have attained magnificent proportions, and the chestnuts, ash, beech and oak are not far from being as fine as they can be. The box grows strongly at Lilford; it appears to do there almost as well as on its native chalk hills. It forms a hedge on either side of the road that brings you to the gates, and gives a warm look to the coverts. But a visitor to Lilford, especially if he went late in May, would probably bear away with him the memory of the hawthorns more than all of these, and he would be right. In many places in England, in old park and forest lands, thorns with larger holes may be seen—old giants these, but commonly stunted and going back. But very seldom do thorns run up so high as at Lilford, or fall over from the top so gracefully, or reach so low and far with the tips of their fingers, and with such a foam of bloom.

A country like this, of hollow elms and old oak woods, is always a favoured one for tree-loving birds—though, alas!

they are not always protected with so strong a hand and such loving interest as here. The hawfinch, always a local and capricious bird in its choice of a breeding-place, was long waited for, but nested here at last.

“Till the spring of the year 1870,” Lord Lilford writes,¹ “we only knew the hawfinch in the neighbourhood of Lilford as an occasional, and by no means a common, winter visitor. On April 4th of the year just named I observed some half-dozen or more of these birds haunting the old thorn bushes on our lawn; they remained about for some days, but in spite of minute and protracted search in the most likely localities we could not discover that they attempted to nest with us, and they had all disappeared before the middle of April. A pair or more, however, undoubtedly bred not far off, for in July and August I constantly observed some of the species about our kitchen garden. In the very severe weather of December, 1870 and 1871, we were visited by very large flocks of hawfinches; and since the date last named some of these birds have nested regularly about our pleasure-grounds, and have become only too well known to our gardeners and cottagers from their constant and serious depredations amongst the green peas and other vegetables.”

Curiously enough, as against the establishment of hawfinches there was a gradual falling off in the numbers of

¹ *The Birds of Northamptonshire*, i., 185.

green woodpeckers, a bird to whose habits the district was well adapted. This is difficult to explain, but was possibly connected with a recurrence of very severe winters, which kill these birds in great numbers by preventing them from feeding on the ground, as they are much in the habit of doing. On the other hand, the lesser spotted woodpecker, in many parts of England regarded as rare, is at Lilford the commonest species of the three; and Lord Lilford has this interesting note upon them:¹—

“In the first sunny days of February, and sometimes even earlier, the loud, jarring noise produced by this species may be heard amongst the tall elms and other trees closely surrounding Lilford, often proceeding from two or three birds at the same moment, and continued at intervals from daylight till dusk. From long and close observation we long ago convinced ourselves that this noise is a call, and has nothing to do with intentional disturbance of insect food, as has often been supposed and stated; nor is it produced, as we with many others formerly imagined, by the rapid vibration of the bird’s beak in a crack of rotten wood, but simply by a hammering or tapping action which the human eye cannot follow. On a calm day, or with a light, favouring breeze, the sound then produced may be heard at a distance of quite half a mile, or even more.”

¹ *The Birds of Northamptonshire*, i., 271.

But, much as Lilford owes to its woodlands, it owes still more to the river Nene. This stream is a direct highway to and from the sea, and by it come many birds to visit or stay near Lilford's coverts and park. Some, flying high in air, follow it inland as a clue when they come from over seas. Perhaps the hobbies come that way: they appear in the Lilford woods about the middle of May, to lay their eggs in the old nests of the magpie or the carrion crow; for the hobby is a wise little falcon, and waits for the clothing of the woods in leaf to make concealment sure. Probably the redwings and fieldfares also keep an eye on the river when they cross from Scandinavia in the autumn, and visit for food the Lilford thorns. Sandpipers and curlew also follow the Nene valley as they come south. The river brings in many wildfowl, and from time to time an individual or two of an uncommon species: thus, in January 1876 sixteen Bewick's swans came down near Lilford, and remained for several days; while the tufted duck, pochard, scaup, and golden-eye are on the list of winter visitors.

Apropos of the different behaviour of wildfowl on the wing, Lord Lilford writes: ¹—

“I noticed a peculiarity in the habits of this species (the gadwall) at the sunset flight: whilst the mallards would circle cautiously several times around their feeding-place before settling, the teal come dashing in over the

¹ *The Birds of Northamptonshire*, ii., 175.

tops of the reeds, and the shovellers drop in quietly in small parties, the gadwalls came straight over at a considerable height, and without any preliminary circumvolution, always turned suddenly and came pouring in from the direction opposite to that of their first approach."

These observations were made while sporting in Epirus.

CHAPTER II

Local Observation

THE letters which follow speak for themselves. They are instinct with the spirit of the old first-hand observers, the spirit of Gilbert White. Remarks on the weather, on the hay crop, on spring and autumn migrations are followed by observations on particular birds, the success of experiments with little owls, or encouragement to friends away abroad.

He was indeed the good genius of every would-be ornithologist, generously giving, out of his great knowledge and experience, help and information on even the smallest points. Anybody who heard a new note, found a strange egg, saw a doubtful species; anybody who had a new bird 'fad' or a new bird 'cause' came to him. To "write to Lord Lilford" seemed to such persons as inevitable as to others to "write to the *Times*." And for all his shrewdness of intellect, sense of humour, impatience with folly and gift of satire, ignorance, if the right endeavour underlay it, was never rebuffed. Such kindness brought him an increasing volume of chance correspondence ;

yet his letters were always promptly answered, unless he were absolutely ill in bed. It is wonderful now to look back on this, and having even a very small fragment of his correspondence before one, to reflect on the resolution such work, so minutely and conscientiously done, must have entailed. As was but natural, his most regular correspondents were those who, like himself, were keepers of birds, or naturalists travelling in his old haunts.

“July 16th, 1888.

“Birds of all kinds are numerous here this year, but at least two-thirds of a wonderful hatch of partridges are drowned. We have at least three times our usual—very small—number of swifts, and the small waders, lesser white-throats, willow wrens, chiffchaffs, sedge and reed warblers are in very great force. The meadows are swarming with landrails.”¹

“July 31st, 1888.

“The finest hatch of partridges on record in these parts is virtually extinct, and a fair hay crop has gone the same way.

“Waders are passing over every night, and if the rain goes on for another week we shall have many snipes, spotted rails, whimbrels, and possibly a ruff or two. Black tern and green sandpiper have already appeared.”²

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

“ October 14th, 1888.

“ I am exceedingly obliged to you for yours of the 13th, and the interesting information therein contained, as well as for the paper on the sand-grouse in the Spurn district.

“ I do not know of one of these wanderers having been killed in this county this year, but I have good authority for the appearance in this neighbourhood of three together, and two solitary individuals. The first of these passed over the head of my informant within fifteen yards, with its feet hanging from the weight of the clay adhering.”¹

“ Bournemouth, October 31st, 1888.

“ The first woodcock positively seen near Lilford was on October 18th, the first grey crow on October 1st. Fieldfares, earlier than in any previous record, on September 29th. I have authentic information of a flock of some twenty felts in Cambridgeshire on September 5th.

“ I have heard of the great crested grebes breeding on several of the reservoirs in the southern division of our county for some years, and latterly on a large pond in the northern division, and also close to our frontier in Rutland.”²

“ December 19th, 1889.

“ This has been a very peculiar autumn, in its average extraordinary mildness. We had snow and a few days of sharp frost in many places, but now foggy mornings,

¹ To John Cordeaux, Esq.

² To the same.

and generally bright, sunny afternoons. I have not heard of any great number of woodcocks anywhere, but it has been a good autumn for visitors on the east coast. I have heard of redbreasted fly-catchers, ortolans, fire-crest, and several two-barred crossbills. There was a marvellous invasion of common crossbills in Portugal and Andalusia in September and October; the King of Portugal told me that for three days they were passing over some pine woods on the coast where he was shooting, in tens of thousands, and a great many appeared in the Campo de Gibraltar at Seville and at Malaga, where they were previously all but unknown. There was a great catch of hawks at Valkenswaard,* but L—— tells me that *all* were small birds. A Buffon's skua † was picked up near Lilford alive on November 1st and sent to me.”¹

“January 6th, 1891.

“I have so far, by living upstairs in a room with double windows and a very big fireplace, managed to keep myself, a hoopoe, a Madeira blackcap, and one of the genus *Turnix*, ‡ which ornithologists nickname the ‘Andalusian

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* Valkenswaard—a village in North Brabant—has long been a favourite place for the capture of hawks when on passage, by means of decoys and a bow-net. See article on Falconry later on in this book.

† Buffon's Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). This bird belongs to a group of the gulls, known (from their livelihood being largely gained by pursuit and robbery of other gulls) as ‘robber gulls.’ Buffon's is a characteristic Arctic species.

‡ The quails.

hemipode,' in very fair good health. Burghley tells me the small fishes find it so cold in the water that they jump ashore, in proof of which he has brought me two baskets full for my piscivorous birds."¹

" December 17th, 1891.

"I should very much like to have your otter, but as my principal object in view is a mate and playfellow for my female, I fear it would break her heart to part with him again, so that I must decline your offer with many thanks. I hear of very few woodcocks (we never have many) hereabouts, and singularly few snipes. Our valley has been more or less under water since the middle of October. We have had a good many ducks, and, for us, an unusual lot of teal. No end of fieldfares; a good many arrived in September, about six weeks earlier than usual."²

" February 17th, 1892.

"You are doing better out of this country at present; for after some ten days of lovely mild weather, with wood-pigeons cooing, rooks building, and thrushes in full song, on Monday last, 15th, we had a fall of six inches of snow on the level, and last night the thermometer in our kitchen garden registered 30 degrees of frost. The Campo de Gibraltar, Cork Woods, Sierra del Niño, Plaza de Levante, etc., are delightful, and I am very glad that you enjoyed your three days there.

¹ To the Rev. W. Willimott.

² To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

“I am very anxious to have some of the marsh owls alive ; they ought to be breeding now.”

“*May 19th, 1892.*”

“I have only been out of the house once since October last. I am told that most of our spring birds are here in very unusual numbers, and most of them earlier than usual. A pair, if not two, of little owls have taken their young off safely at no great distance. We have a great many hawfinches nesting close to the house, and a nest of long-eared owl and snipe (both deserted) have been found for the first time in my recollection in this immediate neighbourhood.”¹

“*May 21st, 1892.*”

“I have not heard recently of any little owls * at a distance, and of no *nests* at more than two miles from this. I am told of two nests of tawny owls with the young still in them, and we have seven or eight barn owls sitting. Can you spare me any young long-eared ? I want to establish them at large here.

“A nest of little woodpecker was found on our lawn yesterday ; the bird is common enough, but the nest is very hard to find. A kite was identified on competent authority about sixteen miles from us on the 2nd, and I hear of

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* The Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), a Continental species. Lord Lilford [see later] liberated at different times many of these birds.

a "gurt ork"* (not a great auk) recently seen at about the same distance in another direction."¹

"September 6th, 1892.

"These summer excursions and incursions of crossbills are very remarkable and unaccountable. The crossbill (*curvirostra*) is an exceedingly rare bird in this county, but the way in which hawfinches have colonised our neighbourhood is a caution and warning to gardeners. We always had, and I am glad to say, still have, great numbers of goldfinches in this district, where agriculture has never advanced since the Restoration."²

"October 10th, 1893.

"Your mention of the abundance of hawfinches at Rope Hill is to me very remarkable, as, although last year we had at least ten or a dozen nests about our lawn and pleasure grounds, this year we could not discover one, and the birds were, comparatively, *very* scarce at pea-time.

"With the exception of redwings, which arrived about a fortnight earlier than usual, all our migrants are late; but a great tide has set in during the last few days, and our beech trees are full of travelling woodpigeons, chaffinches, and some bramblings, whilst flock after flock of pipits, linnets, skylarks, starlings and peewits are passing to the S.W. up our valley."³

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

* Great hawk.

Note from "Aviary Record."

"January 10th, 1894: Green woodpecker (*Gecinus viridis*)* pulling out thatch from roof of schoolhouse, Lilford (Edwards)."

"December 17th, 1894.

"We have scarcely any hawfinches in our neighbourhood this summer, and I have heard of very few during the autumn. Before 1870 we looked upon them as very irregular, but occasionally abundant *winter* visitors; now they are sometimes extremely abundant breeders, and scarce after the month of September."¹

"January 26th, 1895.

"Three little auks, one of them captured by a cat, were brought to me from this neighbourhood the day before yesterday; two were picked up in the county, and one of them brought to me alive about October 13th ult., and I heard of another found just over our frontier in Beds about the same time. G. L—— tells me of two in the New Forest on Monday last. Doctor H—— told me of the 'auk-storm' on the Yorks coast.

"The only other remarkable birds that I have heard of as occurring recently in this neighbourhood are my bimaculated duck, or drake, on our decoy, on 21st ult.,

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* The Green Woodpecker is less of a purely tree bird than our other woodpeckers, often seeking its food (ants, etc.) on the ground. This bird was probably looking for insects.

three smews on our river, near the house last week, and a waxwing female, shot at Brighton on 21st inst.”¹

“April 25th, 1895.

“We had not *much* snow here, but the glass went down to below zero on several nights. I did not hear of many dead birds found here, except starlings and a few fieldfares.

“We seldom have many song thrushes after the beginning of November, but two came constantly to be fed. There is no doubt that this species has suffered more than any of *our* common birds. I have only once heard its song, and I only hear of some half-dozen nests about our pleasure grounds, as against a usual average of twenty-five to thirty.

“I do not perceive or hear about any noticeable diminution amongst our blackbirds, but starlings and robins are remarkable for their comparative scarcity just now.

“We had a great many fowl about the middle of the frost—mallard, wigeon, pochard, ten tufted ducks, a few teal, pintail, and three smews; only one small lot of pinkfooted (?) geese. The most remarkable ornithological occurrences were those of a great northern diver that was killed near Northampton in December, and is now in my possession; eight whoopers* that remained here for

¹ To John Cordeaux, Esq.

* The Whooper Swan (*Cygnus ferus*), a winter visitor which breeds in Iceland.

two days, March 16th-17th, and a grey-hen killed on 18th *id.*"¹

"May 3rd, 1895.

"I cannot even hear of an occupied nest of owl of any sort hereabouts. It is true that almost all our favourite tawny owl trees were uprooted in the fall of March 24th, but we have some left, and plenty of the owls. Here three eggs is the rule, but I have known of four.

"Our first swift appeared yesterday, and all our regular spring birds are now in, except turtle-dove, hobby, and nightjar. The ciril bunting is almost unknown in the county. I remember seeing several one summer between Southampton and Hamble, and — used to see them at Hythe."²

"April 20th, 1892.

"I take it as most friendly and obliging of you to give me the very welcome news of the kites' nest in your county,* and I sincerely hope that your most praiseworthy efforts may be rewarded by your having the satisfaction of seeing some seven or eight kites circling in the air. I wish there was a chance of the return of this fine bird to its ancient haunts in the great woodlands

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

* The Common Kite (*Milvus iclinus*), once the scavenger of London, is now only just not extinct in this country. Not many years ago several were wantonly slaughtered in a Welsh district, where now, as Mr. Phillips informs us, but a single bird remains.

of this country. I can just remember the days when it was still tolerably common.”¹

“*January 13th, 1893.*

“I am much obliged to you for yours of 11th, and am very glad to have your experience about the kites remaining in Wales through the year: this is not the case in Inverness-shire.”²

“*January 24th, 1895.*

“I do not think the kites would drive away the young during the year of their birth, but it is quite probable that they might object to the new building of a fresh pair within the limits of their hunting district. In my experience in Spain we seldom found a nest of red kite within a mile of another of the same species. The black kite, on the other hand, we often found in small scattered colonies of half a dozen nests, perhaps within a radius of 500 or 600 yards.”³

“*April 25th, 1895.*

“Thanks very much for yours of the 21st. I am very glad that you enjoyed your visit to my beloved old haunts in Glentromie and Guich so much. We used to call the loch below the lodge, Loch'n Sheillach—the Lake of the Willows. I grieve to hear of four *stuffed* eagles. All our spring birds as yet arrived are pretty

¹ To E. Cambridge Phillips, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

well up to their average dates. We have a good many plovers' eggs here, and a good many from Green Bank. There are, I am assured, two pairs of redshanks nesting in Achurch meadow, but the eggs are as yet undiscovered.¹

“That hill-fox hunting is not bad fun, and I hope that your party will *kill* all of them, and not send any cubs south for sale alive. I shall be very glad indeed if you can find a nest of goosanders* and send me one or two eggs; don't take them all. I should very much like also some young mergansers alive. I suspect that you will have to watch very close to find a nest of goosanders among tree roots near water, or in a hollow tree.²

“Four golden plovers in full summer plumage, with black waistcoats, have been for some days haunting Achurch and St. Peter's meadow; but these golden plovers do not lay till May, and of course the chances of their doing so are very small, † but whatever their intentions may be, they are evidently paired, and apparently

¹ To Walter M. Stopford, Esq.

² To the same.

* The Goosander (*Mergus merganser*) and the Merganser (*M. serrator*) belong to the tooth-billed division of the ducks, *i.e.*, their mandibles have a saw edge—a provision designed to enable them to catch the fish on which they feed. They nest on the lochs in the north of Scotland, where the former is by far the rarer bird of the two.

† The Golden Plover (*Charadrius pluvialis*) nests on high moorlands and high, open hills.

unwilling to desert their friends the peewits. We have fine weather, with bright sun, but bitterly cold winds.

“I hear that the damage done by the hurricane in Norfolk is a thousand times worse than here, and it is woeful enough here.

“If your goosanders are not mergansers, do all you can to find a nest, as but few have been found in Great Britain. The mergansers breed in all suitable localities in the Highlands.

“The first pheasant’s egg in the pens yesterday; but there have been ‘wild’ ones for the last week or more.

“Siskins ought to nest on Speyside.

“The Boughton keeper tells me of a sparrow-hawk taking a woodcock there on the 9th.”¹

“*May 6th, 1895.*

“A pair of herons built a big nest in Piper’s spinney just above Braunsea bridge, but they have not yet laid! Well-regulated herons have young on wing before this. The last arrival in spring birds was a turtle-dove on the 3rd. All others are in except butcher bird, hobby and nightjar. There are no end of nightingales; very few song thrushes; numerous corncrakes; a good sprinkling of cuckoos, tree pipits, chiffchaffs; and more wood warblers than I ever knew of before.”²

¹ To Walter M. Stopford, Esq.

² To the same.

“June 24th, 1887.

“I am exceedingly obliged to you for your very interesting letter, which reached me here yesterday, and for the very perfect nest and eggs of wood warblers that came safely to hand this morning. The only one of my people here who knows this bird assures me that there are two pairs within a short distance of this house (they are by no means common just hereabouts),* but that he cannot find a nest. We are not much troubled by collectors in these parts, probably because we have no heaths or commons, and, as far as is generally known, no ornithological specialities.

“We have a fine crop of barn owls, but not quite so many tawnies as usual. What do you say about the male owls sitting in a wild state? I have known of more than one instance of a tawny male, and scops, ditto, shot from the nest.”¹

“January 21st, 1896.

“The black-throated diver recorded by me in last *Field* is the only unusual bird that has occurred to my knowledge in the district of late. We had thousands of fieldfares, and our usual number of redwings; about our average of woodcocks (a very small one), hardly any snipe, and no wild-fowl except mallard, in any number.

“The woodpigeon malady of diseased primary feathers

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* Because the Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) is a beech-loving species.

was very noticeable here, but having devoured the few acorns, the survivors have left us for some time. Hawfinches and storm thrushes have been very scarce.”¹

“August 3rd, 1888.

“My falconer took two very young hobbies* yesterday from a big nest in a tall oak tree about 150 yards from that out of which he took three on July 28th in 1886 and 1887. The woodman averred that four young kestrels were hatched in, and flew from this year’s nest about six weeks ago. These two young birds are the largest that I ever saw for their age; they are entirely down-clad, except tips of tail and wing feathers. There was a woodpigeon’s nest, with two small young, in the same tree as the hobbies.”²

“September 6th, 1891.

“I have had a glimpse of what I believe to have been an osprey here, but I was at the moment engaged in a fight with a pike, and the bird disappeared behind some high trees, and I saw it no more.”³

“September 6th, 1892.

“I only know positively of one brood of little owls hatched out this summer hereabouts; we have every reason,

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

* The Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*). This little falcon is a summer visitor to Britain, arriving after the appearance of the leaf on the oak-trees, in which it usually nests.

short of certainty, to believe that another lot have come off successfully.

“I have a pair of young bearded vultures flying at hack.*”¹

“June 14th, 1892.

“I had no idea that there were even three pairs of ernes † now nesting in our islands; but, three or thirty, I would subject people attacking them to losing their right hand, their left ears for an osprey, and their noses for a kite.”²

“February 20th, 1892.

“You may be interested in hearing that we have a little owl (*Athene*) sitting on five eggs in a hollow tree not far off. I have turned out a great many of these birds during the past few years, and this is the fifth nest of which I have had positive information.”³

“December 17th, 1894.

“T—— B—— was here for a few hours on Saturday, and told me of your redwing-killing kestrel. It is only curious to me that a ‘raptor’ with such comparatively

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To E. Cambridge Phillips, Esq.

* Young falcons, before being taken into training, are allowed to live at liberty so long as they will come regularly to take the food placed for them by the falconer. This is called flying ‘at hack.’ See article on Falconry later on.

† White-tailed Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*).

powerful feet as the kestrel does not more often pick up birds from the trees, bushes, and in air. Of course, we know that he takes a certain number on the ground. I have only twice in my life seen a kestrel go for a bird with apparently murderous intention: * in the first instance at a missel thrush, which baffled him entirely in a thick tree, and as I believe, scared him off by chatter; in the second instance, curiously enough very near the same place, I was standing forward under a fence about up to my shoulder for partridges, and a covey rose at perhaps five hundred yards from me on a big pasture field, and were coming skimming the ground towards me, when one of the kestrels that I had noticed circling and hovering high in air, shut its wings and made a really grand stoop at these birds (they were hardly big enough to shoot), and put the whole lot except the old cock (who came on to me and met his fate) into some long grass and rushes. The stoop was so fine that I thought that I must have been deceived as to the stooper, but there was in fact no mistake whatever about it.

“Do your redwings suffer from the kestrel in the air? And do you notice any other birds taking the holly berries? We have very few hollies in this neighbourhood, and I cannot discover that any birds save redwings, and rarely other *Turdi*, even touch them.”¹

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* The Kestrel or Wind-hover (*Falco tinnunculus*), like the barn-owl, habitually feeds on mice and voles.

“September 6th, 1891.

“With regard to the hybridisation of pigeons. I received last spring, from a neighbouring parson, a bird that I believe to be one of the persuasion known as ‘Antwerp carriers.’ It was caught, unable to fly, near his house, and he, thinking it might have escaped hence, let me know about it, and eventually sent it over to me as a present. It has a metal ring round one leg, with a date, letter and number. After a few days I put this bird into the aviary with the Bolle’s, the laurel and trocaz,* besides a male stockdove. This latter has paired with the carrier, and they are now taking turn and turn about on two eggs. I am very curious to see what the produce, if there is any, will be like. They have been sitting about six days.”¹

“January 13th, 1893.

“Are you quite satisfied that some of the birds imported by Mr. H—— did actually come direct to him from Asiatic Turkey? In the only district in Albania in which we found pheasants, their chief diet consisted of acorns, Indian corn, hips, privet berries, and of course insect food.

“The variety, not only in size and weight but also in markings and in habits, between grey partridges from different parts even of our own islands, is indeed most

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* Pigeons: *Columba tollii*, *C. laurivora* and *C. trocaz* (see later).

remarkable. In Northern Spain the common grey partridge ranges up to and breeds at 5000–6000 feet above the sea, and very rarely comes below 2000 feet. It is a small, dark-coloured bird with nearly black legs, and is by no means common, *Caccabis rufa* being the partridge of the country.”¹

“June 14th, 1892.

“There is in my opinion no harm whatever in killing the old male bustards* at any time up to the end of May, and no excuse whatever for killing hens after March; but supposing that every British officer from Gibraltar killed every bustard he shot at between September and May 31st, I do not think that it would materially affect the breed in Spain; for Andalucia is constantly reinforced from Estremadura and La Mancha, and the natives really trouble very little about those birds, though they will shoot at them or at anything else, from the nest or not, when they get the chance.

“If any real harm is done to the breed of bustards in Andalucia it is in the marisma, where almost every herdsman carries a gun and squirts at everything.”¹

¹ To E. Cambridge Phillips, Esq.

² To the same.

* The Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), once an inhabitant of open cultivated and uncultivated lands in Britain, now only an irregular visitor to this country, is shot by ‘driving’ on the Andalucian plains.

“ March 12th, 1887.

“Are you aware that, about the year 1808, a gamekeeper of the name of Agars, then in the employ of W. Thos. St. Quintin, Esq., of Lowthorpe and Scampston Hall (Yorkshire), secured eleven great bustards, as the result of one shot from behind a stalking horse?”¹

“ September 22nd, 1895.

“Three polecats were killed near this place early this year. I can remember them nearly as common as stoats, but of late years we seldom get hold of more than two in three or four years. No marten has been killed in this county to my knowledge for some ten or twelve years, or for some thirty before that. They used to be quite common some seventy years ago, in the forest of Rockingham.”²

“ Decemb. r 12th, 1895.

“With regard to peregrines about Salisbury cathedral, I can only say that seven is a very unusual number to be seen together, but there is no impossibility about it.

“I am glad to hear of the proposed arrangement on the spire in favour of our friends, the peregrines.”³

“ March 16th, 1895.

“I knew that a pair of peregrines occasionally bred upon the spire of Salisbury cathedral, but I had no idea that they

¹ To W. H. St. Quintin, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the Rev. W. Willimott.

did so regularly, and am delighted to find that the good dean takes such a warm interest in them. It is remarkable that the red-throated diver at Northampton should have been considered as worthy of record in the *Times* and *Standard*, whilst the much rarer great northern diver (killed in the same neighbourhood) and given to me in November last, passed, so far as I know, without public record of any sort.”¹

“*December 26th, 1894.*

“The only ornithological event of much interest that has recently taken place in this neighbourhood, to my knowledge, was the capture on our decoy, a few days ago, of a most lovely hybrid (male) between mallard and teal. I never before handled one of this cross.”²

“*March 3rd, 1891.*

“White and pied stoats are exceptionally rare here, but four out of some nine or ten of these little beasts, brought to me during the last few weeks, have been more or less white, one very nearly quite white; all these varieties were of the gentler sex.”³

¹ To the Rev. W. Willimott.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

NOTE.—Mr. Willimott writes, *July 11th, 1896*: “Lord Lilford corresponded with me off and on for some thirty years. I first had the privilege of meeting him when Robert Barr was falconer to the old hawking club, when he was fairly well and strong, and could ride as well as most of the party.”—*Letter to Hon. Mrs. Drewitt.*

“July 3rd, 1890.

“Your young Cornish squire, as a protector of eagles and falcons, deserves to be known and appreciated far and wide. I rented a forest in Inverness-shire for several years, and looked upon the golden eagles which bred there annually, not only as my good friends on account of their destruction of blue hares, which are pestilential nuisances in stalking, but also on account of the wholesome dread they inspired in the breasts of the grey crows, which will follow and mob the sea-eagle, but sneak off the moor directly a golden is in sight. A young falcon was caught alive in October last on the Norfolk coast, in a shore net, and taken uninjured to a friend of mine, who sent her off at once to an ardent falconer friend in Herts; the latter immediately took her in hand and flew her at rooks, at which she flew very well. In April last she sailed away and was lost, and *mirabile dictu*, was shot by Lord Coke in the park at Holkham, not more than a mile from where she was originally taken, within twenty-four hours after she was lost. Lord Coke, curiously enough, sent her body to my friend who had first received her alive.”¹

“Bournemouth, March 11th, 1890.

“The bearded vulture* or *Gypaëtus* is to be met with in all the sierras of Spain, but certainly does not breed

¹ To the Rev. W. Willimott.

* The Bearded Vulture (*Gypactus barbatus*) ranges over lofty mountain chains from Portugal and Spain to the Himalayas. For an account of Lord Lilford's domesticated pair, see Presidential Address, p. 39.



THE TAMM LÄMMERGEIERS.

in the neighbourhood of Valencia, which is more or less of a flat garden for miles. Poor Rudolph was always in such a tearing hurry that he never gave himself a chance of becoming really acquainted with the birds of Spain; of course, as *Gypaëtus* does not breed in colonies, never lays more than two eggs, and is by no means a wary bird, it can hardly be said to be 'common' anywhere in Europe; but my experience has been to the effect that a pair, sometimes two pairs, are always to be found breeding in Spain, not amongst, but very near to the many colonies of griffons. I believe that you will find that all the most birdy localities on the Danube, above Belgrade, are in the hands of private owners, who, however, especially in Hungary, are most civil and obliging to English naturalists. Let me know if you think I can be of any sort of use to you."¹

"April 15th, 1888.

"I do not remember to have heard of *golden* eagles hatched in captivity, or, as far as I recollect, even of their laying eggs in those circumstances. The truth, as I am firmly convinced, is that in these large species of eagle, the birds are not really 'mature' till they have completed their fifth or sixth year, and in a wild state some never acquire the fully mature dress, though they may live for a hundred years; and another curious fact is that a pair of old eagles that have bred and driven off

¹ To Col. H. Barclay.

their young in one season, will often pass a year or two in the same locality, and use the nest as a resting-place, without any attempt at reproduction, and resume the process in another season. I must say that I have never seen anything more confirmatory of the passage of small birds on the backs of large ones, than the presence of enormous numbers of *Motacilla flava*,* amongst several hundreds of freshly arrived storks in South Spain, in 1872. We saw this as we went by steamer down the Guadalquivir: the wagtails were scarce till we came down to the spot upon which the storks were drilling and consulting, and *there* the little birds were swarming.”¹

“October 4th, 1889.

“I had a letter two days ago from the Crown Prince of Portugal, describing a marvellous passage of crossbills over a sandy, pine-grown district on the coast of that country, where the bird was previously entirely unknown. He says that he and his companion shot a hundred and fifty, and were only deterred from shooting several thousands by the fact that they had butchered more than they wanted. By the same post I had a letter from Seville, telling me that there are now large numbers in that neighbourhood, where hitherto they have been, to say the least of it, very uncommon.”²

¹ To Dr. Albert Günther.

² To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

* The Blue-headed Wagtail.

"December 19th, 1889.

"Did you shoot any of the Hierro ravens? And do they in any way differ from the ordinary type?"

"I presume that Hierro is the least-known island of the Canarian group; from your account it would not be a very eligible residence for any length of time, but in my younger days I would have made acquaintance with those big lizards,* or known the reason why."¹

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* *Lacerta simoni*, Simony's Lizard.—A very large lizard that is confined to a small rocky island—little more than a rock—off the coast of Hierro. There are two of these rocks, the Zalmones, on only one of which the lizard lives—viz., that farthest from the shore. Owing to almost continuous surf it is rarely possible to land. This lizard feeds on crabs.

The Hierro raven is *C. tingitanus*, the Tangier raven.—
E. G. B. M-W.

CHAPTER III

Ponds, Paddocks, and Aviaries

As is well known, Lilford was celebrated during the late peer's lifetime for one of the most remarkable—in some directions the most remarkable—collections of living birds in any private hands. Carefully as birds may be attended to (and the management of the Lilford aviaries was little short of perfection), it is inevitable that in a large collection losses and additions must make constant changes in the list. But Lord Lilford's presidential address to the members of the Northamptonshire Field Naturalists' Club, which follows here at length, so admirably describes the chief features of the collection at that date, that it needs but a few words of introduction.

Lilford Hall is a dignified and comfortable-looking Jacobean house, built of grey Ketton stone, and a little raised above the river Nene.

The hall door faces a gravel, balustraded sweep, which formed a favourite parade-ground of the ravens, Sankey and Grip. The south—the drawing-room side—looks on to a terraced lawn, where the falcons sat on their blocks,

grouped about an old cedar. Beyond this, and towards the right, stretch other lawns and shrubberies. Here was the long line of large aviaries devoted to waders, doves and other birds. Opposite these again, and partly sheltered by overhanging trees and scrub, where Mantell's apteryx hid from daylight and laid its egg, was a large natural shallow pool, in which flamingoes waded and a few wildfowl swam.

On the opposite side of the house the ground falls quickly to the river, and here, close to the wall, was the twisted beech tree in which the ravens made their nest; and a little farther on, the summer enclosure of the elephantine tortoise which it took five men to lift.

Directly behind the house is a wide courtyard, about which were situated a variety of living things. Here the Spanish bear lived in its corner; and close by it the pair of bonxies, or great skuas ('robber gulls') shared a subdivided enclosure with great bustards and Bewick's swans. In another corner was the eagles' aviary, and near it a long glass-covered house, where the lemurs were, and long rows of cages containing beautiful and rare finches, blue jays, jay-shrikes, the grakles, and other birds described in the presidential address.

On the same side, but away beyond the house, about two acres of ground had been completely enclosed, and were known as the Pinetum. It contained fine timber trees, shrubberies, grass, and water, and was entirely surrounded with a high iron fence and wire netting. This netting was made cat-proof and fox-proof, by splaying

the barbed wire top towards the outside, so as to throw back any marauding climber.

The great glory of this large enclosure was the collection of cranes, for such a collection had almost certainly never been got together before. Also in this paddock were the pelicans. The water was divided into two areas by a grass-covered causeway which ran across it, and was a great sunning-place for the ducks.

At the sides of this enclosure were aviaries which held several varieties of partridge and francolin, and others in which lived a wild cat and the large dormice.

So much for the general situation of the birds' homes. We will now visit the collection itself under the only possible guide ; for no memory of visits to Lilford stands out like that of the gentle master of all 'our show' (as he used to call it), wheeled about among his birds. Here one day he halted to point out, and very cautiously, a willow wren's nest in a thick shrub on the lawn, built most unusually at a height above the ground. Presently he called attention to a dark hole where the apteryx was hidden with her egg ; and soon he was nursing in his arms another apteryx, which had been taken from its hiding-place ; for this bird is so strictly nocturnal that you would never see it at all were you not sometimes to extract it from its chosen haunt.

The following account of the Lilford collection was given by Lord Lilford, as his Presidential Address, on

the occasion of a visit (in February, 1894) from the members of the Northamptonshire Field Club.

“It occurs to me that, as I have virtually recorded, in our *Natural History Journal*, all of importance that I had to communicate with regard to the occurrence of birds in Northamptonshire, and as, to my very great regret, I am (as I long have been) unable to occupy the presidential chair and address the meeting in person, it may interest and amuse some of those present to listen to a few notes upon some of the inmates of our *vivaria* at Lilford.

“It is probable that some of those present have already visited Lilford, and to these I sorrowfully announce that my old raven, Sankey, whom they will remember as one of the most amusing of our living creatures, went blind some years ago, and died last year. His companion of later years, Grip by name, is quite as amusing, but not so familiar and sociable as the ‘late lamented,’ whose name he constantly repeats, and has apparently taken to himself. Since the death of Sankey, Grip has had, as a mate, another raven, from Spain, and is rapidly instructing it in every sort of mischief and ‘devilment.’ One afternoon in November last, I heard these ravens making a very unusual clamour close in front of the house, and on looking out of the window, perceived that they had got hold of, and nearly killed a peregrine falcon; I sent out a servant, who secured the falcon without difficulty. We found that it was an old wild bird suffering from a sort of asthma

known to falconers as the 'croaks,' and somewhat poor in flesh. I would willingly have tried to keep this falcon alive and restored it to liberty, but the ravens had injured it so severely that it was only common mercy to kill it. How or why it allowed itself to be seized and worried by its antagonists we can never know.

"Our Spanish bear will also probably be remembered by any who have come to Lilford during the ten years that she has been here; I am glad to say that she is still well, though occasionally subject to rheumatism, resulting from an injury to one of her legs on her journey to this place. In connection with this animal a rather amusing incident occurred some years ago: I was anxious to provide her with a companion of the other sex, and, having heard of several of these in the possession of a dealer, during my absence from home entered into negotiations for the purchase of a young male bear from Russia. The dealer in question accepted my terms without sending me a reply, and the next news of the matter that reached me at Bournemouth was a telegram from Lilford announcing the arrival there of a *female* bear, without any previous warning or advice of despatch. Upon this I telegraphed to the dealer, saying that the animal sent was of the wrong sex, and would be returned to him at once. It will hardly be believed that on receiving this message my enterprising friend sent off a second bear to Lilford without notice, and again a female, so that for one night there were three she-bears

on the premises! My old bear is very good-tempered as a rule, but on one or two occasions has shown great fury to strangers, without any apparent cause. She is now so accustomed to solitude, as regards her own species, that I should hardly like to introduce a younger and weaker bear of either sex into her company. It is perhaps worthy of note that this bear is particularly fond of the leaves of the elm, but either wholly rejects or shows no liking for those of any other of our common trees.

“Another four-footed lady at Lilford for whom I am anxious to find a mate, is the otter, caught some years ago when not half-grown, near Warmington, and now living in and about a small tank in our kitchen garden.

“My collection of *mammalia* is small; perhaps to the general public the most interesting of this order of animals, now living at Lilford, would be the ruffed lemur, from Madagascar, a beautiful nocturnal animal, allied to the family of monkeys, with fine, long, black and white fur. Two collared fruit-bats have been here for some years, but as these beasts spend the whole of the day hanging head downwards from the top of their cage, I can hardly expect that the ordinary visitor should care much about them; their bodies are, roughly speaking, about the size of a moderate-sized common rat, the outstretched wings would measure about three feet, perhaps more, from point to point. This species breeds annually in the Zoological Gardens, whence I procured my specimens; it is found

in Egypt, Palestine, and Cyprus, where it commits great ravages upon dates and other fruit. I have living specimens of the four European species of dormouse, but have nothing of any general interest to record about them, except that one species, known as the 'garden dormouse,' does not exhibit the drowsy tendencies of our common English dormouse or the two others of this family in the day-time, but is always remarkably active, and ready to bite and scratch whenever handled. We have during the last two years bred a good many of the exceedingly pretty striped mouse of Africa, known as the Barbary mouse, from a pair procured for me by a friend in Morocco. We have not taken the trouble to make special pets of any of these mice, but they are not only very tamable but also capable of a considerable amount of education : a lady who paid us a visit last year brought one of these little animals with her, and had taught it to sit up on a doll's chair, open a little cupboard, take sugar from a drawer, hold up and drink milk or tea from a teacup, sham dead at her command, and perform other tricks ; in fact, this mouse displayed quite as much intelligence, in his degree, as an average lady's lap-dog.

“Although we have had many losses among the birds of prey, some of the oldest denizens of our aviaries are of this class ; in fact, the most ancient living creature in the collection is a white-tailed or sea eagle, taken from a nest in the south of Ireland in the early spring of 1854,

and therefore now very nearly forty years of age. It is only of late that she has shown any signs of old age, in a certain lack of activity that causes her to remain much upon the ground instead of perching; but she is still in very fine plumage, and it would, I think, be extremely dangerous for a stranger to venture into her compartment. This species of eagle has been so persecuted and killed down in its former breeding-haunts in Scotland and Ireland that I may say with certainty that not more than three pairs, at the outside, now nest in the United Kingdom. A few stragglers visit our country irregularly on passage, probably from Norway, and meet with no mercy, being, with few exceptions, shot or trapped at once, and almost invariably recorded in the newspapers as 'magnificent specimens of the *golden eagle*.' This golden eagle is far more common in Scotland than the sea eagle, but fortunately seldom travels to any very considerable distance from its mountain haunts. Northamptonshire is one of the few English counties that can lay claim to an occurrence of the golden eagle within its limits, whilst nearly every English county is guilty of the blood of the sea eagle. A very fine immature female of this latter species was killed at Oakley, near Kettering, in February 1891, and I am acquainted with several other occurrences in Northamptonshire. In my opinion there is no sense or reason in the destruction of an eagle in our country but so long as *British* bird-collectors offer long prices for specimens slaughtered within the limits of the four seas,

every loafer with a gun will very naturally shoot every feathered thing that offers him a chance.

“Mr. Cosgrave,* my chief in charge of the Lilford collections, assures me that the birds that afford, perhaps, most amusement to our numerous visitors are a black and a griffon vulture, that have been here since 1865 and 1867, and were both taken in my presence from their respective nests in Spain. The former bird is a female, and for the last twelve or thirteen years has annually made a large nest and laid from one to three eggs. Since the griffon (of whose sex I am uncertain) has been in the same compartment with this black vulture, it has annually taken a share in making the nest, and displayed quite equal ferocity on the approach of human visitors. The first egg is generally laid during the first week of March. As I considered the pairing of these two birds, though extremely improbable, as not entirely impossible, I have once or twice left the eggs in the nest, but although assiduously incubated by both birds, they have invariably proved infertile. However, for months after the eggs have been removed, the black vulture, when any one approaches the front of the

* Clementina Lady Lilford writes: “Richard Cosgrave entered Lord Lilford’s service as falconer and keeper of the aviaries in November 1893. His intelligence and his interest in birds, increased by constant friendly intercourse with, and instruction from Lord Lilford, soon made him a most valuable and reliable assistant, and one whose unflinching devotion and trustworthiness were deeply appreciated by his employer.”

compartment, goes through a variety of most grotesque antics that provoke the most stolid of visitors into roars of laughter, and must be seen to be believed in—at all events I should be extremely puzzled to do them adequate justice with pen and ink. During this performance of its companion the griffon vulture frequently assumes very absurd attitudes of defiance, possibly of admiration, but does not take any very active part in the ‘show.’

“We have two fine bearded vultures, or *lämmergeiers*, one of which (with a companion that has died very lately) enjoyed complete liberty since its arrival here as a nestling till a few days ago, when I was obliged to have it caught up and confined, on account of very conspicuous breaches of decency about the roof of the house and our flower garden. I extremely regret this necessity, as the sight of these large birds soaring about the place, generally pursued by a cloud of rooks, was certainly unique in England, and afforded to me, who am well acquainted with the *lämmergeier* in its native haunts, a constant source of interest and pleasant memories of localities that are still to a great extent unspoiled by man. These birds of mine were very tame and perfectly harmless; indeed, with the exception of a few playful attacks on trousers, gaiters, petticoats and boots, I never heard of any malice on their part towards any living creature. Their natural food consists of carrion and garbage of all sorts, tortoises, and other small reptiles; and I hold the many stories that are current on the Continent, of their carrying off

children, lambs and kids, as very nearly, if not entirely mythical.

“Amongst the most beautiful of our recent acquisitions in raptorial birds is an adult white-bellied sea eagle from Australia : this is the first of its species that I ever possessed, and its strikingly contrasted plumage of pure rich grey and white render it a very great ornament to the collection. I have many other eagles of great interest to myself, but not calling for special notice in notes intended for a more or less public meeting.

“Of my favourite birds, the owls, I have at this time of writing some twenty different species alive. I may mention, as special varieties amongst them, a very fine Nepaul wood owl, a South African eagle owl, and four Ural owls ; I believe these birds to be the only living representatives of their respective species now in England.

“Whilst on the subject of owls I may add that for several years past I have annually set at liberty a considerable number of *the* little owl, properly so called (*Athene noctua*), from Holland, and that several pairs of these most amusing birds have nested and reared broods in the neighbourhood of Lilford. It is remarkable that, although this species is abundant in Holland, and by no means uncommon in certain parts of France, Belgium and Germany, it has been rarely met with in a wild state in our country. I trust, however, that I have now fully succeeded in establishing it as a Northamptonshire bird, and earnestly entreat all present, who may have the

opportunity, to protect and encourage these birds; they are excellent mouse-catchers, very bad neighbours to young sparrows in their nests, and therefore valuable friends to farmers and gardeners. The nest of this owl is generally placed either in a hollow tree at no great height from the ground, or in vacant spaces in the masonry of old buildings. The parent birds are very bold in defence of their young, and a neighbour of ours has had his hat knocked off by one of these little owls as he passed near the ash-tree in which there was a brood of young—a fact of which he was quite unconscious. I confess that when this story was originally told to me by a third person I had my doubts as to its truth, but last summer I had an opportunity of enquiring from the aforesaid neighbour, who assured me that not only was this story perfectly true, but that he had been again attacked last year, in a different locality, by a little owl, which no doubt had young ones in the roof of an old church hard by. These little owls are very easily tamed, if taken in hand whilst quite young, and, besides their taste for mice, are very efficient in the destruction of cockroaches and other beetles.

“I cannot help once more taking up a text that I have, I fear, worn almost threadbare already; it is—never destroy or molest an owl of any sort. I consider all the owls as not only harmless, but most useful, and the barn, white, or screech-owl as perhaps the most serviceable to man of English birds. I think that farmers and game-

keepers have discovered that in destroying owls they are murdering their best friends, but as long as women persist in disfiguring themselves by wearing owls' heads and wings as ornaments, and dealers will give a price for these birds to make up into screens (for which they find a ready sale), so long will the idiotic destruction of owls continue.

“To revert to the collections at Lilford, we have a large number of caged birds of many different species, amongst which I may specially mention as sweet singers, a blue rock-thrush that we took from the nest on the coast of Sardinia nearly twelve years ago, and two of a small dark race of blackcap from Madeira, that have passed five winters at Lilford, and are both singing in the room in which I am now writing.

“I must not forget the very beautiful Indian birds commonly known as ‘shâma,’ of which I have two. The natural notes of this bird are very varied and powerful, many of them extremely sweet, and they readily imitate the songs of other species, and indeed almost any other sound that they can compass. To those of you who care about birds, and are not acquainted with the shâma, I may say that this bird is larger than a redbreast, to which it has a certain resemblance in shape; but it has a tail longer in relative proportion than that of our common magpie. Roughly speaking, the upper parts of the plumage, head and throat, are glossy black, the breast of a tawny orange colour, and the long tail black and white. No

more charming cage-bird than this can be found; but, alas, it is not very long-lived, and is very susceptible of cold and damp.

“Another cage-bird worthy of notice from its rarity, beauty, and pleasant song, is the so-called ‘Teydean’ chaffinch. The natural habitat of this species is strictly limited to a high zone of the Peak of Teneriffé; it has never been met with elsewhere. I may briefly describe this bird as considerably larger than our common chaffinch, and of a general fine grey colour.

“I have recently lost another bird of great interest from its rarity, and the locality from which it was forwarded to me: I allude to the chestnut-winged grackle (*Amydrus tristrami*). This bird, the only one of its species that has ever been seen alive in this country, is of a family allied to the starlings and crows, and was procured from the neighbourhood of the monastery of Mar-Saba, not far from Bethlehem. The monks protect and encourage these birds, which become quite tame, and nest in the caverns and fissures of the cliffs in the gorge of the ‘Brook Kedron’ and similar localities in Southern Palestine. Mar-Saba is somewhat difficult of access, but is frequently visited by tourists in the Holy Land, to whom the bird to which I am referring is generally known as the golden-winged blackbird. Canon Tristram tells us that the male has a loud and melodious whistle; but my bird was a female, and almost silent.

“Amongst my most beautiful cage-birds I must note

two species of South American jay, the common blue jay of North America, the so-called 'blue robin' from the same country, the green leaf-bird from South India, and a troupial from Brazil.

"In what we at Lilford specially designate as *the* Aviaries I have a considerable variety of birds from different parts of the world. Amongst those most likely to arrest the attention of visitors unlearned in birds are a group of avocets, with their curiously delicate upturned beaks, their plumage of pure black and white, and their long grey legs and half-webbed feet. These pretty and interesting birds were formerly common in certain parts of England, and bred in considerable numbers upon the coast of Norfolk, but have now become scarce from the persecution of gunners and egg-stealers. My avocets were sent to me from Holland. We have also several sea-pies, better known perhaps as oyster-catchers, and a good many other small wading birds, such as curlew, godwits of both species, ruffs and reeves, redshanks and knots. The antics of the ruffs during May and June are most amusing.

"As I believe that the breeding of the wood-pigeon in captivity is not a common occurrence, I mention that a pair of these birds nested and laid four times last year, in the compartment of the aviary nearest to the house at Lilford, and reared three young birds to maturity. I have a fine pair of the wood-pigeon peculiar to the island of Madeira (*Columba trocaz*), and many of the very beautiful crested doves of Australia, which breed freely in the bushes

of the aviary. Another very brilliantly plumaged bird of the pigeon family is the green and gold Nicobar pigeon ; but this bird has no attraction, except the brilliancy of its plumage ; it is sluggish, and often remains crouching under a bush for hours together.

“Some fine purple porphyrios, or water-hens, with red beaks and legs, are pretty sure to attract notice ; the birds of this family now in the aviary are from Cochin China.

“We have four species of ibis : the brilliant scarlet ibis from South America, the black and white sacred ibis from the Upper Nile, the Australian ibis that very closely resembles it, and a small flock of the European glossy ibis. These last-named birds were sent to me from Spain ; and it may amuse some of you to hear that in the winter of 1892 I sent out a list of birds to an agent in Seville, who has for some years been in the habit of collecting live birds for me. In making out this list, I wrote opposite to the Spanish name of the glossy ibis (which is not in most seasons a very common bird in Andalusia), two Spanish words that might be liberally translated as meaning ‘a good many.’ My amazement may be imagined when I inform you that, in June 1893, I heard from my agent aforesaid that he had ninety-five of these birds awaiting my orders ! I told him that I did not want more than twenty or thirty at the outside, but he nevertheless shipped sixty of them from Gibraltar, all of which were landed alive and in good condition in London, and twelve of them forwarded to Lilford. These birds have a very

peculiar habit of taking the sun by elevating one wing to its full extent towards the sky and drooping the other to the ground, in an attitude that I have never seen in any other bird.

“In the central division of the aviary are a small flock of Alpine choughs, very active and noisy birds, with black plumage, yellow beaks, and red legs. Many of this species have nested and laid eggs in their compartment, but in the few instances in which the eggs have been hatched out, the parent birds have entirely abandoned their young after the first or second day. I have had many of that beautiful species, the red-legged or Cornish chough, but although they thrive well in complete liberty I have found it impossible to keep them in health in the aviary for any length of time.

“Other most lively and amusing inmates of this part of the aviary are the nutcrackers—rare and irregular stragglers of the crow family to our country, but common enough in many of the forests of Central and Northern Europe ; these birds in their native haunts commence laying in March, whilst the snow still lies deep upon the ground. Whether from this or some other cause, it is comparatively speaking only of recent years that the eggs of the nutcrackers have become generally known to ornithologists, and I had offered a high price for the living bird to English and foreign dealers for thirty years before I could obtain even one of them. During the last few years I have been offered many more of these birds than I require.

The seeds of various coniferous trees, especially those of *Pinus cembra*, are the favourite food of the nutcracker.

“The farthest division of the aviary, divided into three compartments, I have devoted principally to aquatic birds, amongst which a small group of flamingoes are perhaps the most remarkable, not only from the beautiful roseate colour of the upper parts of their wings, and their extravagantly long necks and legs, but also from the extraordinary and apparently unnatural positions that they constantly assume. On one occasion a damsel who visited the flamingoes with a large party, on seeing these birds, was heard to exclaim to her mother: ‘Oh! Ma, do just look at these great geese; wouldn’t they just make fine giblets?’ We have never put the necks of these birds to culinary use, but the flesh of their bodies is tolerably good eating, and there is a tradition to the effect that their tongues were considered as great delicacies by the epicures of old Rome. I have seen many acres of marsh thickly covered by flamingoes in Southern Spain, and the effect of the rising or setting sun upon a dense flock of these birds on wing is indescribably beautiful, giving at a distance the effect of a floating roseate cloud.

“A pink-headed duck from India, in this part of the aviary, is one of the rarest birds in my collection; during my forty years of live bird collecting I have only obtained three of this species. The present survivor is a female, and by no means a handsome or conspicuous bird. A small flock of marbled ducks from Spain are

worthy of notice as exceedingly rare in living collections, though common enough in Andalusia and North-west Africa. Perhaps the most beautiful of the web-footed birds in this portion of our aviaries are the Japanese teals; but with these little ducks, as indeed with almost all others of the duck family, we have been grievously disappointed in our hopes of nests and eggs; in fact, in the case of the two last-mentioned species, I am not aware of the production of even a single egg. We have a fine pair of the blue wavy or white-necked goose from North America, and of the white snow-goose from the same country.

“In the central aviary will be found two very beautiful species of small herons, the little and the buff-backed egrets. My specimens came to me from Spain, but the latter bird is also very abundant in Egypt, and is constantly pointed out by the guides to British tourists as the sacred ibis of the ancient Egyptians, a bird that has for many years been almost unknown in Lower Egypt. These egrets are most adroit fly-catchers, and my birds feed themselves to a great extent on these pests during the summer months. I have at this moment a dominican gull that has been here for more than twenty years, and has reared several broods of young hybrids, produced by a cross with the common British herring gull. An Australian thick-knee, or stone curlew, is a very great favourite with us, from its tameness and quaint attitudes; this is a handsome bird, considerably larger than the

thick-knee or stone curlew of this country, with a delicately contrasted plumage of various shades of brown and buff, and brilliant yellow irides.

“In the courtyard, in a wired enclosure adjoining the domicile of the bear, are two of the great skuas (*Stercorarius catarrhactes*), a dark-coloured bird of the gull family; these birds were sent to me from the island of Foula, in Scotland, which island is, with the exception of one other locality in the same group, the only British breeding-place of this species.

“A few years ago an enterprising youth at Birmingham issued a circular proposing the formation of a syndicate, whose members should invest various sums as shares in a fund to enable the advertiser to visit the Orkney and Shetland Islands to collect birds' eggs, the plunder to be divided according to the respective amount of subscriptions. The eggs of the great skua were specially mentioned, as likely to be the most valuable result of this looting adventure. In the interest of birds in general, and of this bird in particular, I at once sent the circular above mentioned with an indignant protest to the editor of the *Times*; Mr. Wilson Noble, M.P. for Hastings, with whom I had no acquaintance or correspondence, did the same, and a strong leading article on the subject of the destruction of rare birds appeared in the *Times* simultaneously with these communications. The result of all this was that the editor of one of the leading papers in Birmingham received an evening visit from

the author of the circular, who, in fear and trembling and dread of incarceration in the Clock Tower at Westminster, begged that his advertisement might be withdrawn from circulation, and confessed that it was only a scheme to obtain funds for a private holiday excursion to the North for egg collecting.

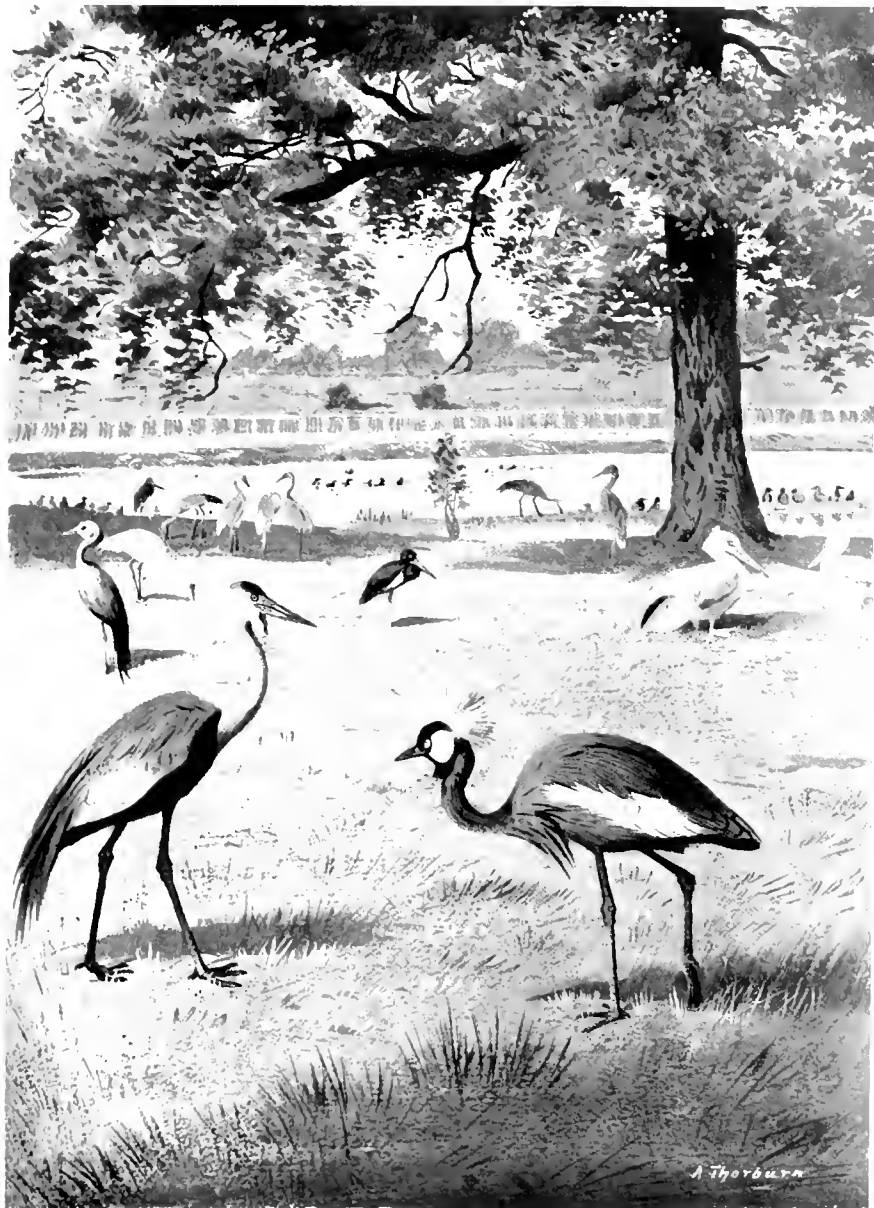
“These skuas were sent to me in charge of a native of Foula, a small island that lies at some eighteen miles distant from the mainland of Shetland. This individual had never seen a tree worthy of the name till he took the train from Aberdeen on his way to Lilford; and although he spoke excellent English, was evidently of pure Scandinavian descent, and to me, as a naturalist, more interesting even than the birds that he brought with him. The proprietor of Foula, who sent me these skuas, is very anxious to protect the breeding birds, but the high price offered for their eggs by unscrupulous collectors, often, I fear, proves too great a temptation to the few inhabitants of this rocky and unproductive island. The old skuas, or ‘bonxies,’ as they are called in Shetland, are very powerful and courageous birds, and in defence of their young will attack, not only eagles and other birds of prey, but also any four-footed animal, and even human beings. They live principally by robbing other gulls of their prey, and, as I was assured by the Shetlander before mentioned, frequently catch and devour the smaller gulls themselves; for this purpose their sharply curved claws are well adapted.

“In the enclosure next to the skuas is a group of great bustards, from Spain, all birds of last year. This fine species, as most of you are probably aware, was formerly well known, and not uncommon, as a resident in various parts of England, notably in the open districts of Norfolk, Suffolk, the downs of Sussex, Hampshire and Wiltshire, and the wolds of Yorkshire; but enclosure, high farming, and the increase of population have driven the bustards away, and in England nowadays we are only occasionally visited by a few stragglers, that very rarely escape the fate of all uncommon birds. In Spain the great bustard is still very numerous, and is not much molested by the natives, who do not esteem its flesh highly; yet a young bustard is, in my opinion, excellent for the table, and even the old males, which not infrequently weigh 30 lb., can be made into first-rate soup. From the nature of the country that they inhabit, and their exceeding wariness, these birds afford most exciting sport. On this subject I cannot do better than refer any of those present who may be interested in sport or natural history to a work entitled *Wild Spain* by Messrs. Abel Chapman and W. Buck.

“In conclusion of our round of inspection at Lilford, we next come to what no doubt will prove to ornithologists the plum of the collection, in an enclosure in the park behind the house known as the Pinetum. Here we have a pond with various species of ducks and a

pair of crested pelicans, taking their pleasures thereon ; but the main interest centres in the large collection of that very graceful family, the cranes. Till within a month ago I was the proud possessor of specimens of all this family save one, the wattled crane of South Africa ; but, alas ! my three beautiful Stanley cranes all drooped and died within a week, leaving a lamentable gap in the beautiful group. The rarest of these cranes is the hooded crane from Japan (*Grus monachus*) ; and unfortunately the only individual of this species that I have been able to obtain broke a leg last summer, but is in perfect health ; this is not a very striking bird, either in colour or size, when compared with other cranes. In my opinion the very acme of bird beauty is reached by the Manchurian, or sacred crane of Japan, which is so commonly represented in Japanese paintings and embroidery ; and I think that the great white crane of North America comes as a very close second in elegance of shape and grace of movement. But all the cranes are beautiful—from the stately sarus of India, which reaches to a height of six feet, down to the demoiselle, of about the size of a thin goose.

“ Before leaving the Pinetum I must relate an occurrence in connection with birds, that amused me vastly at the time, and may raise a smile now. A visitor to Lilford, who evidently took a great interest in our birds, was just leaving, when he suddenly turned to his conductor and said : ‘ By the way, I saw in the papers



THE PINEYUM.

In the foreground a Wattled and a Crowned Crane. Behind, from left to right, a Stanley and a Sarus Crane, a Black Stork and African Pelicans.

some time ago that Lord Lilford had given a very long price for an egg of the great auk. I trust that he was successful in hatching it.' To those present who are aware that the great auk has been virtually extinct in this world for some fifty years, the humour of this inquiry is apparent.

"I have this moment received a telegram informing me that an egg of the great auk was sold by auction in London this afternoon for three hundred guineas."

The greater number of the letters which follow were written to a correspondent, himself a most successful breeder of birds. Like Lord Lilford, he placed the owls among his first favourites, and had for years successfully bred the eagle owl of Europe (*Bubo maximus*), and had been also very fortunate with the snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) and many other species. Hence the constant references to owls. This gentleman was spending many successive winters in the Canary Islands, and because of his thorough and admirable work done there, came justly to be the acknowledged authority on the birds of those islands.

But though their letters do not here appear, Lord Lilford had correspondents in many European countries, and men whom he set to find him birds.

It is—not without its side of pathos—delightful to think of this kind naturalist, sitting in his study (his hand, so to say, on the ornithology of Europe), spinning

the threads which wove into such interesting and valuable results, the blue rock-thrush and the little Madeira blackcap singing by his chair the while.

"June 24th, 1887.

"I am glad to hear that some buzzards have flown, and hope that the Montagus* may do likewise.

"I grieve to say that *all* the nests and young birds in my aviaries with one or two worthless exceptions came to grief this year. The Alpine chough hatched three young, but after feeding them assiduously for several days suddenly gave up all care of them, and my man failed in his efforts to bring them up by hand. The eagle owl's eggs were bad—went rotten as they do with me three times out of four. The tawny owl ate the only young one hatched.

"I am much obliged for your offer of the young eagle owls, but I have no room for them. I will try to place them for you if you wish to dispose of them. I should think that the Duke of W——, who encourages eagles and almost all wild birds on his forest, would like to try the experiment of turning out these grand birds.

* In reference to the nesting of the Common Buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*) and Montagu's Harrier (*Circus cineraceus*) in Hampshire. Both these fine and interesting birds endeavoured, with varying success, through many years to bring off their young. But in spite of the most energetic efforts to protect them, it is found difficult to evade the collector of *British*-taken eggs.

“The polecat ferrets are first-rate ratters, but are rather big for the job. I have not found them particularly savage. If your young badgers are not too old, you will find that by keeping a good-tempered young dog or two with them, and never allowing them to hide themselves up in the day, they will become as tame and playful as otters.”¹

“June 24th, 1888.

“I congratulate you on your tame shrike: I lump together all the great grey shrikes, *L. major*, *L. excubitor*, *L. meridionalis*, *L. algeriensis*, *L. lahtona*. All grey birds have a tendency to isabellinism under a hot sun and dry surroundings. T——, S——, D——, and others would, if they could, make species of the sun and moon.”²

“August 24th, 1888.

“I am no ‘chattist,’ and do not know *Pr. borbonica* at all. I write entirely without book, and of course know nothing of the habits and voice of your bird,* but being a ‘lumper’ am at present induced to look upon it as a good race, or sub-species of *Pr. rubicola*—quite as good though, as a species, as *Parus britannicus*, *P. cypriotes*, and many more.”³

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

* A true stonechat (*Pratincola dacotiæ*), peculiar to the island of Fuerteventura, in which island even it is very local.—E. G. B. M-W.

"July 28th, 1888.

"I have very great pleasure in offering for your acceptance two Lapp owls (*S. lapponicum*),* of which species I received ten young birds last night from Helsingfors, with two of *S. uralense*, eight *S. ulula*, and five *S. iengmalmi*. If these two last lots thrive, I could, and should be glad to send you one or two of each."¹

"July 31st, 1888.

"Alas ! I wrote to you in the first exultation of the receipt of the owls that arrived late at night. I was not able on account of the incessant rain to get out to see them on Saturday, but seized an interval between showers on Sunday to be wheeled round to inspect them; and am sorry to say that all of the Lapp owls have evidently been taken from the nests much too soon, and with one or two exceptions, have one wing broken, besides a good deal of cramp and general debility. Two of them drowned themselves in a shallow pan ; of the eight left, I fear that I must lose *one*. The others are all flourishing and as tame as can be.

"P.S.—It has not rained for nearly two hours, and I have just been to look round. The Lapps have, with one exception, improved immensely since Sunday on warm rats and rabbits. I do not know that *any* of these owls,

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* One of these Lapp Owls given me by Lord Lilford in 1888 is still alive, September 1902, and in perfect health; it is a male, and has always had one stiff wing. These Lapp owls are the only individuals of the species that have ever been imported into Britain.—E. G. B. M-W.

except Tengmalm's, have been seen alive in England before; certainly *S. uralense* has not. The hawk owls fly to hand, and feed thereon. I am quite certain that they might be trained to take young rabbits and rats."¹

"August 29th, 1888.

"These Lapps were evidently taken too young from the nests, and no doubt were hustled and crowded in panniers on their journey by pony and boat to Helsingfors from the breeding-place. I believe that you will find a brail very useful; we put brails on the whole lot when they first arrived, and all the survivors are very much improved.* My experience is that all these wood owls eat but little at a meal, comparatively speaking, but require a good deal of food before the first moult. I have a very rare and beautiful large wood owl from Nepaul (*S. newarensis*) that came to me in the down three years ago, and is now one of the finest birds that I ever saw in captivity. During the first months of his sojourn here he would devour a whole full-grown rabbit during the twenty-four hours, but never more than two or three mouthfuls at a time; now a small, young rabbit, or two or three little roach suffice him for the day, and I notice much the same thing with the downy owl (*S. perspicillatum*) from S. America."²

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same.

* A brail is a strip of leather with which falconers confine one wing of a hawk so that it cannot be moved.

“April 16th, 1889.

“The poor fellow who sent me the consignment of Scandinavian owls last year died about three months ago, and I heard this morning from his widow that all the owls in that part of Finland have failed this year, many old birds having been picked up dead, many young found dead in the nests, and endless rotten eggs in abandoned nests. In fact, I gather that out of fifty nests only one contained living young, and those in such a weakly state that the finder would not take them. I fancy this account refers chiefly to the hawk owl (*S. funerea*) and Tengmalm’s (*S. tengmalmi*) and in a less degree to the Lapp owl (*S. lapponicum*), but I have asked for further details.”²

“October 2nd, 1889.

“I have had a long letter sent to me in Swedish by the widow of the poor fellow who procured the Scandinavian owls for me last year, written to her by her cousin, who was the main agent in finding and forwarding the birds from Lapland. He attributes the failure of the owls this year to the death of small rodents and snipes, caused by the protracted snows. I imagine that by ‘snipes’ he means small waders of all kinds, which of course would be prevented from nesting in the morasses of Scandinavia by snow lying on their usual feeding-grounds. It would seem that last year there was an

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

unusual abundance of all small rodents in those parts, though this writer does not specially mention the lemmings. I am sorry to hear of the death of your Lapp; my two survivors are doing well. I believe that one of them, if it lives, will become pure white; they have both developed a very curious note, something like the rapid half bark, half growl of a little deep-voiced beagle puppy. My three-toed woodpecker* only lived for about a fortnight, though he fed on ants' eggs, hard-boiled egg and breadcrumbs, flies, gentles, etc., and tapped vigorously till the end. The grey-headed one was at the point of death, but has entirely picked up again; he has been put into a large den, and liberally supplied with great clods of earth containing ants' nests.

"I have had many hoopoes; they became absurdly tame, but I do not think it possible to keep them through the winter in this country, except by letting them fly in a sanded room in a temperature of 70°—80°.

"I have two young rollers,† tailless but healthy, very jealous of each other and quarrelsome; one of them is quite tame." ¹

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* *Picoides tridactylus*. A Continental species not on the British list.

† The Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), a bird allied to the woodpeckers and kingfishers, is a straggling visitor to Britain. It is nearly the size of a jackdaw, and is wonderfully coloured in chestnut and many shades of clear blue.

" Bournemouth, February 14th, 1889.

"The quail is a partial resident in all countries in which it is found, certainly in the British Islands and Spain, Greece and North Africa. We have had some sharp spells of frost, then about ten days of bright, mild weather, birds singing and some of them nesting, then, during the last week, a tremendous snowstorm. Snow never lies here, but I hear of eight inches at Lilford and six in London; and in Holland dams have burst and flooded great extents of country. Now we have a cold and pouring wet thaw. I heard of two whoopers yesterday at Lilford. The death of Rudolph, of Austria, is a very great loss to ornithology, and one of the most shocking tragedies I ever heard of. I knew him slightly. Every one is full of those never-to-be-sufficiently-condemned county councils, and the most shameful persecution of the Bishop of Lincoln. I fear that the *Columba bollii* * that you were good enough to give me are all cocks, as I do not hear of any sign of their pairing or nesting. In fact, two of them set upon and bullied the third to such an extent that they had to be separated. I have some interesting desert birds alive here in the shape of two thick-billed larks (*Ramphocoris clot-bey*) and an Algerian horned lark (*Otocorys bilopha*). They came from Oran to the Zoological Gardens with

* Bolle's Pigeon (*Columba bollii*), a true wood-pigeon, confined to the virgin laurel forests of the Western Canary Islands, its natural food being solely the fruit of these trees.—E. G. B. M-W.

some trumpeter bullfinches. If —— and —— are not kept in permanent quarantine or put into the *presidio*, pray greet them cordially and tell the former that he shall drink a bottle of old port that he knows of at Lilford for every courser that he brings to me alive. (I have only nine bottles left, but this need not limit his endeavours.) What enemies beside man have the houbaras* in Fuerteventura? Are there any predatory wild mammalia?

“I had a sharpish touch of the enemy some two months ago, but am now fairly well. I have not been out of the house for more than ten weeks. I wish that you could send us some of the Canarian air in stone bottles at (?) per dozen.”¹

“April 16th, 1889.

“Am greatly obliged for the female titmouse, and still more so for the two young *bollii*, which came to me from the Zoological Gardens this evening. I had already put a supposed pair of *C. bollii* into the aviary, where they seem to be perfectly happy and contented, but have as yet shown no signs of wishing to nest. The titmouse †

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* The Houbara Bustard (*Otis undulatu*) is an African species, which occasionally visits Andalucia. It is considerable smaller than the Great Bustard (*O. tarda*) (for which see Presidential Address, p. 39), and with one other, Macqueen's Bustard (*O. macqueeni*), is distinguished by a ruffed neck.

† *Parus palmensis*, a new species of blue tit, with a white breast, peculiar to the island of La Palma; it is almost entirely confined to the pine forest.—E. G. B. M-W.

has already been figured for the *Ibis*, to my mind most indifferently. The pair of Canarian chaffinches (*F. tinillon*) are real beauties, and very pleasant, cheerful birds; if they thrive through the winter I think that there is little doubt but that they will nest."

"June 3rd. 1889.

"I shall greatly value the eggs of courser* that you are good enough to spare to me. I should say you would find an old courser easier to keep alive than young ones. I presume that these birds feed principally upon coleopterous insects and small mollusca, and if so, would, I should think, readily 'train off' upon flies, cockroaches, and shreds of boiled or raw liver or other lean meat thrown to them upon sandy ground. F—— kept a courser alive from the end of August till November at Tangier on grasshoppers, after that on the larvæ of beetles; he kept the *one* alive from August 1851 till October 1859, when he was forced to leave Tangier, and found that it had died before his return thither in April 1860. This bird laid thirty-two eggs, and supplied many European collectors, but *not* your present correspondent.

"I have no doubt you are right about the male houbaras helping in the rearing of their young. I suppose that this sub-genus is not polygamous, as the great bustard, to a certain extent, certainly is. I am very

* See note on p. 203.

glad you have well established your new chat by finding its nest and eggs. Your new titmouse sounds a good thing also.

“All the blue and ultra blue tits are rather difficult to keep; but the best chance is to give them flies, mosquitoes, gnats, oven-dried ants and their eggs, and any sort of small caterpillar. Perhaps as good a plan as any would be to give them a growing tree or shrub with free access for the *Aphides*, upon which I think *our* tits principally feed in summer. The Spanish tits make very free with the cochineal bug. The best seed is crushed sunflower and reed seeds, but no *seed* is good for tits for a continuance.”¹

“Bournemouth, December 19th, 1889.

“I have three of *Curruca heinekeni* alive, sent home last year to me from Madeira by Dr. G——. They are charming little birds, and all sing well. I have one of them here at my side as I write. Is it a fact that no one has seen a female of this race? You probably know the Madeira myth that these birds are hatched from every fifth egg laid by *S. atricapilla*.

“Another race of *Parus* in such a limited group of islands as the Canaries is very singular and interesting. It is most kind of you to promise me some specimens of this and a male of *P. palmensis*—you have the best of good right to propose a scientific name for this new discovery.

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

“I have a beautiful white-necked crane alive here, *Grus leucauchen* from Japan, and at Lilford one of the still more rare hooded cranes (*Grus monachus*) from the same country, the second that has come to Europe alive.”¹

“ January 1st, 1891.

“We have had, and are still having, the most severe spell of frost and snow that I ever remember, the temperature varying from 10° to 26° of frost at night for the last three weeks, and on several occasions as low as 20° at noon. This will no doubt account for your wigeon, and probably for the large migration of buzzards also. I seldom read of more cold-blooded atrocity than what you tell me of the ancient Canarian and the sitting partridges.

“My birds have been suffering dreadfully during the long frost, but, curiously enough, it is the northern birds that have suffered the most. I have lost four snowy owls, and have no male bird left. My nutcrackers are dying daily, yet all the Canarian survivors are flourishing. One of the laurels* has paired with a Bolle male and laid two eggs; one was broken, but she now sits assiduously

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* Canarian Laurel Dove (*Columba laurivora*), a very fine wood-pigeon, found only in certain *very* precipitous forests in the islands of Gomera and La Palma (Canaries). It differs much from the true Wood Pigeon in its habit of spending most of its time on the ground. Its food consist principally of the fruit of the Til-tree (*Oxodaphne fatens*) and the viñatigo (*Persea indica*).

on the other, and I have separated the Bolle and put him with the other laurel. I keep all the pigeons indoors in a temperature of from 50°—65°, and so far they have done well. I may say the same of all the houbaras.

“I think that the Teydean chaffinches (*F. teydea*) are very hardy, but I do not expose them to the open air in this fearful weather. My Madeira blackcaps are in full song, and the trumpeters* are all well. My wife’s pet bullfinch was constantly bullied by his mate till a merciful Providence removed her. I then gave him a male *F. teydea* for company, and they have become fast friends and both as tame as birds can be.

“This severe weather has driven no end of wildfowl in upon our eastern and southern coasts, but I hear of very few varieties. Some great bags of woodcocks have been made in Ireland; here we have nothing really uncommon.”¹

“April 20th, 1891.

“A bittern, one of four, in a sort of shed cage in our courtyard here, visible to frequent passers at all hours of the day, has twisted some straw into the semblance of a nest, and laid an egg, upon which she sits steadily, and allows herself to be stroked with perfect equanimity. She is one of two procured in 1889, and has apparently paired with a young bird of 1890, as her original com-

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* The Trumpeter Bullfinch (*Erythropsiza githaginea*).

panion got to be very nasty, and was always bullying the others.”¹

“*April 29th, 1891.*

“You will be glad to hear that one of the bitterns sits steadily upon four eggs in courtyard.”²

“*May 1st, 1891.*

“The bittern now sits steadily upon five eggs.”³

“*May 31st, 1891.*

“Alas, all the bittern’s eggs were addled, and I am greatly disappointed. I have four bitterns, and, never dreaming of their laying, kept them in a sort of shed, previously inhabited by badgers, in our courtyard, where people are constantly passing with horses, carriages and dogs, that the birds might become tame.”⁴

“*December 17th, 1891.*

“I have four little bitterns doing well, but in my eyes *the* gem of my live stock now is a great black woodpecker, in splendid condition and perfectly tame. Two broods of little owls were reared in this neighbourhood last summer. Reeves’s pheasants did excellently well in this county, but would not stay in my coverts, so I

¹ To W. H. St. Quintin, Esq.

² To A. Thorburn, Esq.

³ To the same.

⁴ To W. H. St. Quintin, Esq.

gave up rearing them ; they are bad birds to bring up to a flushing point, and very fond of going back ; they wander immense distances in single file and run for ever.”¹

“ *May 3rd, 1893.*

“ I shall be much interested in hearing of any success with the water-shrews. I should suggest waiting till they have young, digging out the nest, and putting it with the young into a “live” mouse trap.

“ Do you care for any British bats alive ? ”²

“ *April 21st, 1893.*

“ About harvest mice : I have kept many, and have five, recently received from Surrey, in the room from which I am writing. I have found that the best way to keep them for observation is in a large glass jar, such as they pickle snakes and fishes in at South Kensington. I put a perforated zinc top upon this and give reeds or straws for the mice to scramble up and amuse themselves with. It would be well to have a removable zinc bottom or tray to facilitate cleaning and feeding. The cage that Groom made for me was, if I remember rightly, not for mice but bats. I cannot say that I ever had much luck with my harvest mice, as they have a nasty habit of eating each others’ tails, and, as I suppose, finding these palatable,

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the Editor.

of killing and devouring one another. I have found this to be the case even when I had only a pair together.

“The only animal of the shrew family that I ever attempted to keep was a Spanish trumpet shrew (*Mygale pyrenaicum*), and he declined all food, and died in a day or two; but no doubt the thing is to be done, and I should suggest some arrangement of the nature of a small aquarium.”¹

“April 25th, 1893

“I do not think that any variety in food would alter the vicious propensity in the harvest mice; I used to give my former captives of this species meal worms, flies, moths, beetles, besides their usual food of wheat, in grain and green, and every sort of garden produce. I may mention that my present lot were sent to me by my old friend F. H. Salvin (of whom you probably know something), from his place near Guildford. With perforated zinc tops, I do not think you need fear any condensation in glass cases; I only use the jar to have the pleasure of seeing the harvesters run up and down the stems of seed and long grasses.

“I think that your sexual theory *in re* harvest mice is very likely correct, but I do not pretend to pronounce positively.”²

¹ To the Editor.

² To the same.

“May 1st, 1893.

“Expect two ‘Barbarians’* to-morrow, they were bred here in October last.

“I trust that the pink-foots at Holkham will pull off a legitimate brood, but geese are given to illicit amours. A white-fronted female on my pond, in spite of having an apparently healthy male of her own species in company, last year took up with a bean gander and brought three goslings into the world, but unfortunately only one of them survived the process of pinioning. He is a splendid bird now, all ‘bean,’ except a white-fronted patch.† At last we have a nice sprinkle of rain.”¹

“June 23rd, 1893.

“You may be interested to hear that I received three young great black woodpeckers (*P. martius*) last night, and that I have two last year’s lämmergeiers (*Gyp: barbatus*) flying about at complete liberty. We have, thank God,

¹ To the Editor.

* Barbary mice (*Mus barbarus*).

† Of the three species of wild goose mentioned here the Whitefronted (*i.e.* white forehead) Goose (*Anser albifrons*) is a winter visitor to Britain. Its principal breeding quarters are in Arctic Russia. The Bean Goose (*A. segetum*), which breeds also in Arctic Russia, and in Novaya Zembla and in Scandinavia, likewise comes to us in winter. The third species of grey goose, to which reference is made by Lord Lilford as ‘pink-foots,’ is the Pinkfooted Goose (*A. brachyrhynchus*), which breeds in Iceland and Spitsbergen, but apparently not in the district named above.

had a steady, soft rain of some eight hours' duration in the past night, and there are signs of more to come." ¹

"July 2nd, 1893.

"Two of the young black woodpeckers are doing well on a diet of ants' eggs and wasp grubs, of which latter we have a superabundant supply this year. I have kept *Gecinus viridis*, *G. canus*, *P. martius*, *P. leuconotus*, *P. major*, *P. tridactylus*, and the golden-winged pecker of N. America, but I cannot say that *any* have done really well with me except *P. major* and the last named. With all the others there is a great difficulty in training them off insect food, but *P. major* takes readily to various fruits, chopped meat, crushed hemp seed, and hard-boiled eggs. The young black woodpecker only differs from the adult in having, in both sexes, the whole of the crown scarlet. A friend of mine came to us the other day direct from a visit to the Farnes, and reported very full, breeding colonies.

"My infirmities have prevented me from seeing the Zoological Gardens since 1884, but I hear woeful accounts of the condition of many of the living animals there. I fear that financial 'tightness' has something to do with this.

"Your story of *Syrnium cinereum* is most interesting.*

¹ To the Editor.

* This refers to the securing of a Great Grey Owl (*Syrnium cinereum*) in North-West Canada, by the simple ruse of hiding in the grass, squeaking like a rat, and throwing forward a brown cloth cap. The owl stooped at this, seized it, and was shot as it was carrying it off.

I wish that you would publish it, or allow me to do so. I have no acquaintance with this species, but have a fine pair of his near relations (*S. lapponicum*) here since 1888."

"July 4th, 1893.

"All the woodpeckers mentioned in my last may be kept in fairly good health for some months, especially if taken when adult, but they generally go wrong in the moult.

"There are many recorded occurrences of *P. martius* in our islands, but not one has been satisfactorily authenticated, and specimens are not infrequently to be found in Leadenhall Market, sent over with consignments of Scandinavian game, capercaillie, willow grouse, black-game, hazel grouse, etc.

"I am very sure that your grey owl adventure, with date and locality, would be welcomed by the editor of the *Zoologist*, if not by him of the *Ibis*. At all events, if you do not care to send it yourself, I should be most happy to do so on your authority."¹

"August 20th, 1893.

"Snipes at this time of year live to a great extent on gnats and other small flying insects, and the maggots that they find in the dung of cattle and sheep. I have very frequently found the fragments of shells of *mollusca* in them at all times of the year. In my opinion a snipe is hardly eatable before November.

8

¹ To the Editor.

“I have a common gull that was picked up in a perishing condition some three years ago, and now lives with flamingoes and other birds, in an enclosure with a circular stone basin through which a little stream of water constantly runs. I have never seen him on the basin except for washing purposes.”¹

“October 28th, 1893.

“October 7th is very late for a hobby anywhere in British waters, still more so off Flamborough, as this little hawk is by no means common to the north of the Trent.”*

“I should be glad to have as many of the Archangelic cats † as you can possibly procure, and am prepared to pay a good price for them.”²

“October 10th, 1893.

“I have only one Lapp owl now left, and he also looks droopy. The Ural’s egg came to nothing.”³ †

¹ To the Editor.

² To the same.

³ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* Referring to a Hobby Falcon (*F. subluteo*) that had alighted on the rigging of a ship in which the editor was coming from the White Sea.

† The domestic cat of Archangel is blue in colour and is shaped like the old Egyptian cat. It is also very distinct from our own in its ways. The Editor brought home from Archangel in 1893 three kittens of this kind, one of which is still (1902) thriving, and the mother of a numerous progeny, but not one of them resembles herself. Lord Lilford had one years ago in his rooms in Tenterden Street.

‡ See p. 86.

Note from "Aviary Record."

"October 27th, 1893: Lapp owl, *Syrnium lapponicum*, last survivor of ten from Finland in 1888, died."

"August 16th, 1889.

"I am sorry to say that my black shahîn (*F. peregrinator*) died a few days ago from a tumour on the breast-bone. She was moulting when I received her, and going on satisfactorily in that way. We never put her on the wing, as our country is so enclosed and full of high trees that if she raked off in pursuit of quarry she would hardly have found her way back, at all events in this summer-time. She was just a very small, very dark peregrinoid falcon, very docile and as tame and as playful as a kitten."¹

"April 25th, 1895.

"The most remarkable additions to my live stock are two of the giant tortoises from Aldabrà, the male weighing 346 lbs., a nice little covey of Madagascar francolins, ten of Tristram's grakles from Palestine, and, lastly, a very fine wild cat from Germany.

"I am very glad to hear of the young pheasants in Teneriffe. Alfonso XIII. should give you the Grand Cross of Carlos III. I have heard nothing of any Scandinavian owls, except snowy, but I hear that, as usual in a lemming year, the fields are alive with rough-

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

legged buzzards. Merlins *do* now and then rest in trees. I know of one instance in Hants, and I believe that in Norway they frequently do so.”¹

“ December 17th, 1891.

“ The only Canarian bird that I have lost of late is one of the trumpeter bullfinches two days ago, from some unknown cause, in very fair condition. The *Laurivora* shows no desire to nest : she is fairly tame. Two of the *C. bollii* have paired, nested, and laid an egg within the last few days, but my man tells me sit so irregularly that there is little chance of hatching. The surviving houbara is well, I am assured ; but as my hybernation commenced at the time of my upset on October 25th, and lasts till May as a general rule, all my outdoor bird news is derived from others.

“ I should think that Reeves’s pheasants would do admirably well in Palma. I know they are exceedingly hardy, as Père David, the Jesuit missionary who did so much ornithology in North China, assured me that these pheasants haunted pine forests at 5000 and 6000 feet above the sea during the summer, living principally upon mountain berries and small fir-cone seeds, and only came down in the winter to the tea-gardens in the mountain districts.

“ I should think that you will enjoy your months in Morocco greatly, but I fear that you will have to go for

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

a long distance from Tangier to get any *good* shooting. Our Vice-Consul at Saffi knows something about falconry, and has many Arab falconer friends. From what he tells me, it seems that the Arabs only train two species of falcon—‘Nebli,’ which I take to be the typical peregrine, and ‘Buhari,’ which must, I think, be *F. punicus*, not *F. barbarus*. I cannot make out that he is acquainted either with *barbarus* or the lanner (*F. feldeggi*), both of which are common and breed in Morocco.

“My own chief requirements in Morocco are the marsh owl (*Phasmoptynx capensis*) and the great horned owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) and, above all, the francolin (*bicalcaratus*), in any numbers, alive. I have for some time been working hard to try and get some of these latter for the Comte de Paris, to turn down in his cotos in Andalucia, where I am sure that they would do well.”¹

“July 19th, 1892.

“The most interesting events in my live-stock collection have been the birth of a *Galago demidoffi** about two months ago, doing well; the laying of eggs by some Australian peewits (*Sarciophorus pectoralis*), ditto by Madagascar bush-quails (*Turnix nigricollis*); the nesting of a pair of night herons, several eggs laid; the death of many of my nutcrackers and of the laurel pigeon that you sent me last. (Female by dissection.)

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

* A little lemuroid animal.

“My surviving pair of trumpeters laid two eggs on floor of cage, and broke one of them, but are now nest-making in a box, and I hope mean business.”¹

Note from “Aviary Record.”

“September 17th, 1893: Raven, ‘Sankey’ (*Corvus corax*) taken from nest near Santander in May 1876, died.”

A mate for the survivor was obtained, with the following successful result:—

“April 3rd, 1894.

“The ravens have a new nest and three eggs in the big beech tree at the west corner of the house.”²

Note from “Aviary Record.”

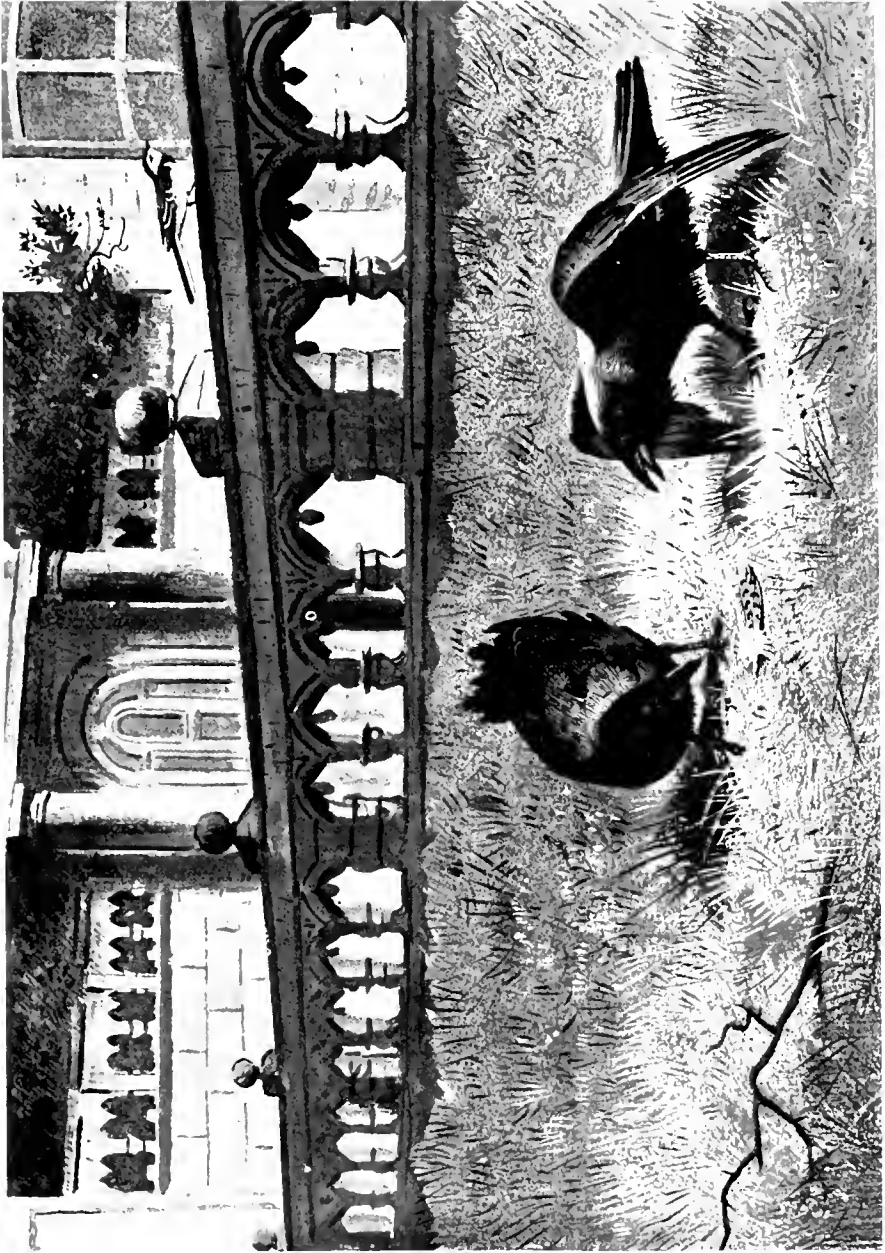
“April 20th, 1894: Four ravens (*Corvus corax*), hatched out at Lilford. Now about three days old.”

“April 11th, 1895.

“I have reason to fear that both of my ravens are males. They built a huge nest and lined it carefully. The smaller, younger bird was actually sitting in the nest for some time, but he (or she) was so terrified by the awful hurricane of March 24th that, having nearly full use of its wings, it went away to the

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To Walter M. Stopford, Esq.



SARKLY AND GIEP

plantation near Cosgrave's house, and it was some time before it was caught and clipped. In the meantime old Grip carried up a lot of stones and arranged them about the walls of the nest; now, though they both keep about the tree in which the nest is, they seem to have given up all attention to their edifice."¹

"February 23rd, 1895.

"The ravens have built a huge nest in the same place as last year, and are busily employed in lining it, though Cosgrave seems persuaded that the substitute for the deceased mother of last year is a male."²

"June 2nd, 1896.

"I am not quite sure if *Apteryx oweni** has ever had an egg in this country before, or not; I know that *A. mantelli* has done so. I should, however, think that ours is the first instance of an egg of *Apteryx* laid in this country in perfectly natural circumstances."³

¹ To A. Thorburn, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

* The *Apteryx* (Kiwi of the Maories) is a wingless bird peculiar to New Zealand. Itself no larger than a common fowl, it is related to the gigantic extinct Moa (*Dinornis*). Its feathers, like those of the Emeu, are pendulous, and have no 'aftershaft.' It has a long, curved bill for probing the earth, and is strictly nocturnal in its habits, showing shrinking and resentment when disturbed in its hiding-place during the daytime. The bird in question laid its egg at the end of a burrow by the side of the garden pond where the flamingoes were.

“May 25th, 1889.

“I turned down about forty little owls, about the house here and over a radius of some three or four miles in the neighbourhood, early in July last. Several were too young to feed themselves, or, rather, to find their own food, and we recaptured more than half of those originally put out. A very few were found dead. Several were constantly seen about; during the summer and autumn of 1888 many disappeared entirely, but three or four were seen, and often heard, throughout the winter. On April 23rd, 1889, one of my keepers discovered a nest in the hollow bough of a high ash tree in the deer-park. The old bird would not move, but on being gently pushed with a stick, two eggs were visible. On May 10th two young birds about a week old could be made out, and on the 22nd, four or five, all of different sizes. The keepers tell me that it is impossible to see anything from the open end of the bough, but there is a cleft near the nest from which, in certain lights, the old bird and her produce can be partially seen. Her mate haunts a crab tree, at a short distance from the nest. This is encouraging, and I shall invest largely in little owls this summer, and adopt somewhat different treatment. Similar experiments have been tried, to my knowledge, in Hants, Sussex, Norfolk and Yorkshire, but I do not know of a brood having been reared in a genuinely free condition in this country, till this lot of mine. The little owl will nest freely in

captivity, but generally the parents devour their young. One of my night-herons laid an egg this morning on the top of a box bush, trodden to a sort of flat form by a stork. Those night-herons have been here for three years, and I have great hopes of a brood.”¹

“June 22nd, 1893.

“It would be interesting to know where the Scoulton gulls get their mice,* and of what species the latter are.

“I envy your seeing the gadwalls and ‘short-billed culloos’ † at such close quarters in their native homes.

“*A propos* of the ferocity of owls, a cottager in this neighbourhood found a well-feathered young tawny on the ground below the nesting hole in April last, and carried it home to his cottage at a short distance. Two nights afterwards, as he was feeding this owlet, one of the old ones dashed at his head and clawed him nastily about the nose and eyes.”²

“June 23rd, 1893.

“Last year we had a nest of little owls (*Athene noctua*), of which I have turned out a great many, in an ash-stump about two miles off. The tenant of the farm was passing the place unawares one evening when the

¹ To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

² To the Editor.

* In this very dry summer the Brown-headed Gulls brought many voles to their nests.

† The Thickknee or Norfolk Plover (*Ædicnemus scolopax*).

young were about half-grown, and the old bird came at him from behind and knocked his hat off. I may mention that we have a home-bred family of these little owls just now able to fly in our deer-park.

“One of my Ural owls (*S. uralense*) laid an egg this spring, but did not seem disposed to sit, so we put the egg into a nest of barn owl, containing five of the owner’s eggs, but the Ural has, I am sorry to say, ‘gone scatt,’ as they say in Devon.

“I have a bittern in the aviaries sitting upon three eggs.

“We have a return of almost overpowering, breezeless heat; no pleasure out of doors after 6 a.m. or before 5.30 p.m.”¹

“June 30th, 1894.

“The most interesting addition to my live stock of late is a fine, healthy *Hyrax capensis*, first cousin to *H. syriacus*, the coney of Scripture, of Lev. xi. 5, Deut. xiv. 7, Psalm civ. 18, and Proverbs xxx. 26. The nearest ally of this small, rock-dwelling genus is the rhinoceros.”²

“November 13th, 1866.

“I have a very fine specimen of *Falco norvegicus* alive; he was brought from Norway last year, and has moulted out very clean and fine; it is the first of its species that I ever saw alive, and is most decidedly a

¹ To the Editor.

² To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

very different bird from either *islandus* or *candicans*. This falcon has much more of the peregrine about him in make and appearance.”¹

“February 26th, 1885.

“Alas! I fear that all personal locomotion, except that I can share with ‘inert matter,’ is out of the question, though I am, thank God, very fairly well in general health. I am quite out of the swim, ornithologically, and entirely dependent upon the compassion and sympathy of my birdy brethren for information. My old blue rock-thrush taken from the nest in the Strait of Bonifacio in May 1882 moulted in September last, very thoroughly, into a plumage much resembling, but rather an exaggeration of, a nestling bird, all the breast and flank feathers edged with dirty white, and the plumage of those parts unusually downy and thick; within the last three weeks he has begun to moult again, and some few of the wing coverts are all broadly tipped with a slightly rusty white.”²

“April 16th, 1894.

“The sparrow-hawk does good service by taking hard-billed birds, as *Passer impudicus* (Mihi), *Damnabilis* (Irby), *Papisticus* (Tristram), *Sanguineus* (agricolæ), and other grain-devourers.”³

¹ To the Rev. Canon Tristram.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

“August 26th, 1894.

“My most interesting live-stock acquisitions of late have been *Hyrax capensis*, a batch of *Caccabis melanocephalus* from Aden, and a splendid *Grus carunculata*, the one species that was lacking in my collection of cranes.”¹

“May 20th, 1896.

“I thank you very much for your most welcome congratulations on the important addition to our vivaria,* and the neat and suitable label for the recent acquisition. If I thought that your label would inspire an ornithologist’s tastes, I would try and persuade the happy mother to attach it permanently to her infant, but there is another and sterner lady in temporary possession, who would, I am sure, reject any such suggestion.”²

“May 30th, 1896.

“Thank you for yours of the 28th. I sent you no ‘harpy’ in the usually accepted sense of the term, but a fine old white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), sent to me some four or five years ago from Melbourne, with a younger bird of the same species, which still survives. I am very glad that, as cruel fate snatched her from me, she is acceptable to you.

“I told Cosgrave on Friday to send you the remains of a burrowing-owl, bred here last year. I believe that

¹ To the Rev. Canon Tristram.

² To the same.

* Birth of a grandson, May 8th, 1896.

the present bird was shipped at Buenos Ayres, but about this I am not sure. In the meantime our grass lands are being regularly scorched up, and our trees given over to the caterpillar and cankerworm."¹

But in addition to his correspondence, Lord Lilford set himself the daily task of entering a register of the arrivals of new birds and the general progress of his collection. How carefully and fully this was done, when health permitted, will be gathered from Appendix I. It is the record for the first eight months of 1893.

¹ To the Rev. Canon Tristram.

CHAPTER IV

Notes on Illustrations

THE following letters to Mr. Thorburn relate to that artist's work for *Coloured Figures of the British Birds*. They show the infinite pains Lord Lilford took to have each plate, not only perfect as a representation of the bird in question, but perfect also as a reflection of the natural surroundings in which it lived. The beauty and fidelity of Mr. Thorburn's work may be seen in those volumes, and need no other tribute; but it must have been a true pleasure to himself to have received such letters and to be thus assured of the high appreciation of this gifted and minutely critical judge.

"April 15th, 1888.

"As regards the surroundings of the birds that you mention, the oyster catcher should be on a sea beach of shingle and sand, with indication of a flock of same species in the background; the ruff and reeve on grassy marsh land with any marsh flowers that you may think

suit the picture—marsh marigold, meadow-sweet, forget-me-not, etc.; white-fronted goose, one of a flock—flat sea coast; bernicle, I think, *swimming*—in foreground sea, high mountains in background; whooper, flock on a wild highland loch; Bewick's swan off a flat coast; puffin, a group in full summer dress on steep slope of short turf over sea; cliff honeycombed with burrows—rabbits, sea pinks; razorbill, a black cliff or chalk cliff face, rows of birds—gulls indicated."

"*July 8th, 1888.*

"The angle of eye in teal is rather too acute."

"*August 10th, 1888.*

"Is not the toe of oyster catcher in the water—I mean the inner toe of right foot—a little too much fore-shortened, and ought not the bill to be rather more yellow near the point?"

"*Bournemouth, November 10th, 1888.*

"I have some floating ideas that I had rather not have mentioned at present of bringing out a quarto work of the birds of Spain. I should like to have about ten or twelve full-page plates of characteristic Spanish species as illustrations, namely bearded vultures, white-shouldered eagle, booted eagle, blue-winged magpie, Irby's titmouse, Andalusian short-toed lark, great bustard, black vulture,

flamingo, marbled duck, and possibly one or two more ; and if my present idea takes shape should be most happy to entrust the illustrations to you. In any case I should be glad if you would make me a drawing of *adult* bearded vulture. Your sketches from the bird at Lilford would do admirably for attitude, but I should like to represent the deep tawny-red throat and breast of the wild bird. I want as much of a 'picture' as you think the colourists are likely to reproduce satisfactorily—a single bird on a pinnacle of mountain limestone, looking over a wild rugged valley far below, with a snowy range in the far background, would I think do well."

"January 28th, 1889.

"I do not remember at this moment if you took a sketch of my old white-tailed eagle at Lilford, or not ; if not it might be as well to defer finishing sketch of adult till you have an opportunity of taking her portrait, as she is thirty-five years old, and has always moulted out very clean ; alive or dead you could hardly have a more perfect specimen.

"I do not know whether it would be possible to convey in a drawing the pearly bloom on the plumage of this bird—at all events I have never seen an attempt at it ; but you have succeeded so admirably with the *plum* bloom on a golden eagle and a buzzard that I am inclined to think that you would not be beaten by this peculiarity."

“April 17th, 1889.

“The eagle is perfect with the exception of the iris, which should, I think, be a shade lighter in colour.”

“May 5th, 1889.

“The white-shouldered eagle (*A. adalberti*) should be represented on a dead top bough of Lombardy poplar or willow, in an open country with scrubby vegetation, cistus, rosemary, lentiscus, myrtle, and a belt of dark firs in extreme distance; patches of yellow sand amongst the scrub, a distant rabbit, very intense blue cloudless sky.

“The booted eagle (*A. pennata*) in pine forest on hillside, the trees bare of bough to a considerable height.”

“February 14th, 1890.

“I received your note of the 12th with the drawings last night. The mergansers are quite perfect, and I think that your sketch in your letter for their attitude will be excellent. I would put them on a fresh-water mountain loch, in preference to the sea. About the black guillemot—I think the best plan would be to figure the adult bird sitting in something of the attitude of your sitting sketch sent, but looking downwards instead of upwards, and a young bird (that is, one in the plumage that you have figured) flying off to a small flock in the background on the sea. You could put the old black bird on a great seaweed-covered stone close to the water at the foot of a cliff.

“I enclose two little crakes (*Crex parva*) just received from Spain, and should be glad to have a drawing for the book taken from it. The beak in the March-killed specimen should be green, with red at base; irides pale currant red, legs and toes green, of a somewhat darker shade than beak. In the September bird the only difference is that the beak and legs are not so brightly coloured. The surroundings should be a very watery marsh; in fact, you might make one of the birds swimming. In action these little birds exactly resemble our common water-hen, and jerk up their tails in walking and swimming just in the fashion of that species.”

“*May 2nd.*

“We are both delighted with your beautiful picture of the eagle, which has just arrived. You have not only admirably portrayed the characteristic aspect of the bird, but thrown an element of Highland poetry into the work that is not often attained, and it deserves all praise. I most gladly retain it, and shall always treasure it, for my heart is very often in the Highlands amongst the eagles and the wild deer.”

“*August 21st.*

“The colour of neck and breast of water-rail is, I think, now quite right. I presume that you took the colour of irides from authority; I must confess that I never saw them so bright, and should have been inclined to say that reddish hazel-brown was the usual colour.”



A. Therby VII

GOLDEN EAGLE'S NEST IN THE ALPINE

“*February 19th, 1892.*

“I fear that you will be sick of spotted eagles, but I write to say that I am sending you the Subborne specimen just as I received it last night from Messrs. Pratt of Brighton. It is one of the most beautifully marked of its species that I ever saw, and I shall be much obliged if you will make a careful drawing of it for the book. It would be well to put some life into it. I think as it had a water rat in its stomach when killed, I would put one in its talon in the drawing, and to give the bird an expression of seeing something far off after catching his vole. This I leave to you, only asking you to make the drawing in attitude quite unlike the bird at Cambridge.”

“*May 19th, 1893.*

“The osprey drawing has only one slight defect, and is otherwise quite perfect: namely this, that the principal figure is rather too broad—thick—and gives to me a certain impression of heaviness. I do not know if you can alter this by not showing quite so much of the right wing, or ‘drawing’ in feathers of lower belly, and showing more of the legs. I should be sorry to have this beautiful figure *much* altered, but you will understand me when I say that the aspect is too ‘buzzydy.’ The osprey is a particularly wide-awake bird in look and in fact.”

“*August 7th.*

“The cream-coloured courser is quite perfect. A faint indication of strong rufous in the head of the distant

falcon would indicate a lanner—the most probable falcon of the North African desert.

“The great snipe is also excellent, but I should be glad if possible if you could show a little of the white on the wings and spread the tail slightly.

“The irides in a black Montagu’s harrier received alive on Saturday are *dark*, as in a true falcon, otherwise this drawing is quite perfect.

“*Bartramia* is only a sandpiper in name; it is a plover that in summer frequents the dry uplands and feeds on grasshoppers. I think it would be better to cut out the water and to make the surroundings a somewhat sunburnt grass prairie, indicating a second bird or two on wing or on foot in the far background.”

“November 29th.

“I am sending you a good skin of storm petrel that I received some time ago in flesh from W. Eagle Clarke of the Edinburgh Museum. He especially wishes to call my attention and yours to the peculiar shape and elevation of the forehead, which he says has never been properly indicated in drawings. I should like to have this bird drawn *in flight*, in the trough of a heavy rolling sea, unless you consider that too bold an attempt. If so it would perhaps be best to make him skimming the water with legs at their full length and toes extended; in fact, running on the water with wings extended. What I want to try is the very striking effect of these little black birds against a deep blue ocean sea and foam.”

“ December 9th.

“The storm petrel drawing is lovely, and I can suggest no alteration. The brown snipe is equally good, but with regard to the proposed figure in the background, I would suggest putting the bird on *both* feet; I like the attitude delineated, but certain captious subscribers have objected to some pictures on account of this one-legged attitude.”

“ Bournemouth, January 20th, 1896.

“I return the drawing of the grebe, which, good as it was before, is now, I think, much improved. Dabchick or little grebe was, I think, amongst the names I sent you, and I think that those two with horned and eared grebes would make a good set of four. I have a fair specimen (British) in Princes Street of eared grebe shot by Lord Clifton in my presence in Weymouth Bay in April 1876, but no doubt you will be able to obtain more fully adult birds. In the drawing of this species I should like to introduce nest and eggs. I have plenty of the latter, which when first laid are of the usual greenish-yellow white, but in Spain soon become very deep unbroken chocolate colour, from the constant covering with rotten weeds in a hot sun; but, as I think of it, the eared grebe has never been known to breed in this country, so perhaps the dabchick's nest (which as the spring advances you will be able to study from nature in St. James's Park) would be the more appropriate for this work.”

CHAPTER V

Otter Hunting, Falconry, and Shooting

A CONTEMPLATED article by Lord Lilford opens with the following words upon sport :—

“ The word sport is untranslatable, and I must confess that I find it almost equally indefinable, but I wish in the following remarks to show to what an extent the term is commonly abused or misunderstood.

“ To begin with the form of sport with which I am, or rather was most intimately acquainted — shooting, ‘good sport’ is generally applied to a considerable bag ; and certainly, if the number of head slain in a day’s shooting in itself satisfies the sporting inclination, the term is legitimately applied. But I contend that ‘sport’ may be enjoyed in the highest degree in the pursuit of wild animals by fair means, without the attainment of success in the death of any beast, bird or fish, and that disappointment should only enhance the keenness of the real sportsman. Here I feel sure I shall meet with the assent of hunting men, but I am doubtful if my brother gunners

and anglers will entirely go with me. I look upon fox and otter hunting, falconry and fly-fishing, as the highest kinds of sport to be enjoyed in this country, simply because in the first instance science is assisted by horse and hound ; in the second the falcon is reclaimed with infinite pains to serve man by its natural instincts ; and because in the third you can only rely for success upon your own skill and knowledge of the habits of the creatures to be captured.

“ Let me say at once that, with all due respect to the lover of racing and athletic games, I look upon these as more or less excellent forms of amusement that do not legitimately come under what I hold to constitute ‘ sport ’ in its true sense.

“ I quite admit that to watch a number of thoroughbred horses doing their best, and fairly ridden, is a ‘ joy for ever ’ ; and a good match at cricket or football, or an evenly contested yacht or boat race are full of charm to the lookers on ; but in all these three there is lacking the interest of outwitting wild animals, with the odds against the pursuer, and this latter condition is, in my humble opinion, the one essential constituent of real ‘ sport.’

“ A great many gallant followers of foxhounds go out simply for the excitement of a glorious gallop and plenty of jumping, not a few simply to display their horsemanship and cut down others ; and these objects are obtainable without hounds or fox. But the joy and pride of hunting is, to those who know the habits of the fox,

and delight in cultivating the natural instinct of the hound, in driving on a hot scent, and elaborately picking up a cold one—in fact in the exercise of the full powers of brain and instinct in biped and quadruped. The good or bad run depends almost entirely upon the qualities of fox and hounds. The best huntsman cannot make a bad fox run straight, and with the best of foxes bad hounds are useless. All this is strikingly applicable to otter hunting, in which most delightful sport the object of pursuit has very long odds in his favour.”

While we are very far from saying or supposing that the last word has been spoken on sport in the abstract, or sport as it is carried on in this country, such a contribution to the question as this must needs be full of interest. It was written by one who was not only a singularly clear thinker, but was himself the best example of his own creed.

Of all forms of English sport, none agree with the postulates of ‘natural conditions’ and ‘fairness’ in quite such an absolute degree as the sister sports of hunting, fishing, and falconry. The opinion which Lord Lilford held of fox hunting may be read in the tribute he has paid to it above. And, although the claims of otter hunting held his first homage, the foxhounds were ever welcomed by him with the heartiness of a true sportsman, and no one was more delighted than himself when they went away from his coverts on the line of a good stout

fox. But to otter hunting, 'the dearest joy of my heart after falconry,' as he called it,¹ he was early devoted, and he never swerved in his allegiance.

In this 'most delightful sport,' as he truly wrote, 'the object of pursuit has very long odds in his favour.' And here, as there must needs be many to whom the opportunity of seeing otter-hounds at work has been denied, a few words upon this particular form of sport may not be out of place, and it is for these alone that they are written.

OTTERS AND OTTER HUNTING.

The otter is said to be a 'nocturnal animal.' This must not be taken to mean literally that it is never abroad in the daylight, but that it seldom is. When the sun is dying behind the last turn of the shoulder of the hill, when the woof of whitening vapour begins to form over the withies, when the cattle cough in the chilling meadow lands and the peewits come dropping in silently over the gateway where the hay hangs caught by the high thorn hedge, then it is that the otter wakes from its sleep in the reeds, or under the roots of an oak or alder, and begins to move for food.

Otters are great travellers, ranging very far up and down stream on their nightly quests. They swim very quietly, slipping into the water as if it were oil. Though you listen never so carefully, you do not hear much that

¹ Letter to the Editor.

tells you the otters are moving, excepting a whistled call which comes now and then from the reed-beds. Masterly as the otter is in the water, supreme as are its powers of swimming and diving, it no more cares for unnecessary hard work in its hunting than other animals. When going up stream, especially if the current is swift, it frequently lands, and often cuts the bend of the stream by travelling across the land from corner to corner. A practised eye will easily notice these spots where the otter lands and runs up the bank; for otters, like most other wild creatures, follow one another's lead. Causes which the eyes of human beings may not detect are no doubt answerable for the claims of one landing-place over another. It may be the set of the eddy from a half-sunk willow stub, the angle at which the bank rises, the chances of cover and concealment—any one or all of fifty points may determine the advantages of a particular landing-place; but at all events, if otters are abundant, it will be paddled into a regular run. Here you will see the otter's footprints in the mud, the prints of four round toes like no other creature's track. This footprint is called by otter hunters, the 'seal.' Other signs, such as remains of digested food (in hunting parlance 'spraints'), will be noticed on hillocks of the grass or on stones which show themselves above the water.

Although some streams are more favoured than others, there is probably not one in the country that is not visited at times by otters, and the attention of even unob-

servant persons is occasionally arrested by the spectacle of a partly eaten fish lying on the bank. The otter first begins to eat those parts about the head, except when dealing with an eel, when it commences with the tail end.

Because of its cautious and secret manner of life, an otter will often continue to frequent a stream for a long time, and be unsuspected. Indeed many a stream has held otters from time immemorial, and yet no one has guessed this, until the coming of a pack of otter-hounds has 'shown the varmint up.' Even that omniscient person, the dusty miller, in spite of his peculiar opportunities, was scarcely prepared to find in the thatch of his own outhouse one of its favourite sleeping-places. Yes, otters often choose strange quarters, and though their usual 'holts' are drains, caves, rocks, holes under tree roots, and withy beds, we have known one to frequent an ivied tree, and have bolted another from under a barn floor.

The hounds throw light on obscure points like these, and by attentively observing the behaviour of hounds much may be learnt.

No spear is ever used in this hunting—that barbarism has long died out; either the quarry goes scot free, or there is an honest kill by hounds. Every one is familiar from the engravings with the look of traditional otter-hounds. But alas, that picturesque animal, with his wiry coat, shaggy eyebrows, long ears and deep bell-like voice, is now in a minority in many packs. It is a pity that

it should be so, but his own failings have led to this result. He is generally a babbler, throwing his tongue without good reason, or without reason sufficiently good ; if tired, he insists on speaking to an old scent, and it is particularly exasperating when you want hounds to get on quickly, to have a particular individual hanging over a worn-out scent. Further, the rough coat of the otter-hound holds the water, so that he grows chilly sooner than the foxhound. On the whole, therefore, in spite of tradition, the old otter-hound has given place in these packs to the foxhound. It is a little difficult to enter foxhounds to otter, but, once entered, the foxhound proves himself second to none in reliability and patience, in pluck, in facing the water, and in enduring wet and cold.

We are now ready for a morning's hunting, and by this we mean early morning, for the scent soon grows faint on the drying grass, and so the otter hunter must be up betimes. We will join the master at the kennels, and go with him and his hounds to the meet, five miles off, at Mill Bridge.

A cold, clear rift is just beginning to widen in the eastern sky as we set off with the pack—twelve couple of good hounds, as fit as exercise and the most thoughtful care can make them.

At the mill itself a small field is waiting, which includes one or two ladies. Most of them are dressed in the colours of the hunt. Everyone carries a long ash pole

tipped with metal. This pole is used as a help in getting over hedges and ditches, for sounding depths, and for 'poking about' generally. The upper end of the pole is nowadays fitted with a small ring, in place of the old spear head.

A few cheery "Good mornings," and hounds are moved off. Into the drenching dew of the meadows we go, and up the side of the stream.

There are disappointments in otter hunting as in everything else, and there are even blank days. Red-letter days there are also, as that described by the late Mr. Collier in 1884, when his hounds, finding close to Lyndhurst, took right away from the river and over the hills, and killed at the end of sixteen miles. We will, however, discuss no extreme instances, but take an ordinary typical day.

It is not long before a hound opens, and immediately the whole pack rallies to him, and is soon feathering over a patch of grass, where it is evident an otter has come out and rolled. Then up the stream they go, first one hound and then another giving tongue, as they pick up from point to point a fairly good scent. They are 'hunting a drag,' or in other words, puzzling out the course followed by the otter in its wanderings of the previous night. This at least is the hope of all concerned, though it is of course possible they may be 'running heel'—drawing away from their otter instead of up to him.

But now there is a louder crash than hitherto, and the whole pack swings to the line. That is beautiful; it is true music, the deep voices of the few rough ones just supplying what is wanted to make the perfect chord. Up the stream they go for a mile or more, now flashing through a reed-bed, now cutting the corners and over the grass, till at last—some in the water, some on the bank—they cluster like bees about a dark hole under the gnarled roots of a pollard oak. They have marked their otter home. The otter is found now, and there are a few minutes of breathing-time before the next move. Meantime, to some one of experience falls the duty of taking up a position at the first shallow below the pool, while the shallows above are watched in the same way, and plans are laid for circumventing the quarry. A terrier may be used if there is one with the pack game enough for the task. But a simple and usually effective plan is for some of those present to stand in a group above the 'holt' or 'hover,' and at a given signal to jump in unison. The vibration so caused is usually too much for the otter's nerves. He quickly moves. As soon as the otter is bolted, the watcher will need all his attention fixed on the water, for it swims so rapidly and silently that in less than even a foot of water it may easily pass unobserved. Until then, if he has an artist's eye, he may for those few moments linger over a picture that in itself is a pure delight.

What is the most characteristic country for otter hunting

it is hard to say. Wales, Devonshire, Surrey, Hampshire, Northamptonshire, any country where streams are hunteable, that is to say, not deep or with heavy water, is equally good for the sport. On the left of our present stream rises a bank of young wheat, fringed with grass and early flowers. Above this runs a line of woodland, bright green in its young dress, but softening in outline and dimming into blue shadows as it stretches away, till it turns the shoulder of the hill to form the rampart of another vale. But here, on this side of the river, all is flat. The water meadows lie here, runnelled in all directions by 'carriers'—cuts where the water is guided for the irrigation of the land. Here and there the water-gates are closed and the little streams shut back; and so in places the water floods over the edges and away among the grass roots, till there comes up a rank green swathe that makes the first early summer crop. Between the grasses the running water glistens and sparkles in the morning sun, and all across the water meadows stretches a web of rising mist; here in lines of bluey whiteness, there in banks of smoke-like billows, curling up to lose themselves in vapour under the growing warmth.

A little farther down, a backwater leaves the stream, and leads into a tract of grass and rushes that mark the position of an old duck decoy. It is many a year since the decoy was worked, yet some of the old screens still show themselves among the rushes, though the channels and pipes are silted up. It is a marvellously peaceful

spot. Girdled round with gnarled pollard oaks and gigantic silver poplars, it is a natural reserve for many kind of birds, and, excepting when the hounds come, it lies almost unvisited throughout the year. There is not a heronry here, but the place is constantly haunted by herons, and even now a pair of these magnificent birds, startled by the noise of the hunting, rise heavily and sail away. Here water-rails nest every year, and when you come down quietly in the evening you may hear their piping in the grasses, and perhaps catch sight of them running along the little tracks which they and the water-hens keep open, and looking as they run more like some small mammal than a bird. The paired redshanks also, who run along the cattle-rails, or fly calling incessantly in their resentment of intrusion, do much to give a sense of wildness to the scene.

But now the otter is away, bolted from his hiding-place by the stamp of many feet. He is into the river like a flash, and the water is broken into waves and circles by the first rush of the hounds.

Is he up or down? Down it is—a watcher at the shallow below tallies him as he glides over the stones in a foot of water, with no more disturbance than is made by a fish.

It is indeed a beautiful sight to see the hounds. Now an old hound gives tongue as he swims, taking the scent off the top of the water from the bubbles that come up from the otter's coat. That is Woodman, an old

rough-coated dog, a little too prone to throw his tongue on a stale scent, but a good hound nevertheless. See how Bellman, that hound with the tan ears, is examining every stone that shows above the water. Our quarry is still going down stream, but has not been sighted again. Suddenly, at the point of a little spinney, the hounds leave the stream and dash off along a hedgerow. True enough the otter has landed, and is bent on making a point across country. He is viewed now and then, but close as the hounds are at times to his stern, they cannot do more than keep him moving, for he is running a line of stout old thorn trees. Now into the stream he goes again. On we go; speak to him, Bugler! There is a shallow below which must be lined. A human chain is formed across it; shoulder to shoulder stand some of the field (the younger ones generally, who have never had rheumatism), and endeavour to prevent him from going down. Twenty yards before he reaches them he leaves the water again, under cover of a bed of willow herb, and cutting a corner, runs right between the legs of the rector of the parish and is into the water again. He is now in heavy mill water, where we may leave him. For, once an otter reaches water such as this, he has it all his own way. He has but to float about, just keeping his nose above water, or coming up at intervals to breathe, and hounds can do nothing with him. And if they do not take him to-day? What then? This very night he will probably

be off floating down on the top of the water, until he reaches the main river, and even perhaps the sea. But no good sportsman minds, so long as hounds are not too often disappointed; the drag-hunt is the prettiest part of it, and many regret the kill.

This outline of the otter and his ways has not been written for any of that company of light-hearted Englishmen who already know the joys of otter hunting. Of these forbearance is asked, with a description which does but imperfect justice to the sport they love. It will have been written, nevertheless, to little purpose, if it does not go to show those who are less fortunate, that here is a form of sport pre-eminently demanding patience, skill, and all the best qualities that true sport needs. Not alone in the mystery that veils the otter's movements, but in the natural conditions of the hunt, dwells an unique charm. The scent of the early morning, the dew that lies heavy on the grass and stars the spiders' webs, or whitens the long reaches of the river under the first spell of the sun; the wildfowl that whip up from the small side streams, rise high overhead, and circle round lower and lower till they drop for rest at last into the quiet of the old decoy; the gaunt grey heron, startled from the shallows, and croaking a hoarse protest as he labours off to other fishing-grounds; the water itself—emerald here over beds of water starwort, here broken into spinning, hissing foam-globes, or pressing smooth as melted glass between the gates of the

weir—all these and a hundred other joys of morning speak straight to the heart of the otter hunter, and cannot die from his memory for any vicissitudes of life.

No wonder Lord Lilford should place this only second to the noble art of falconry itself. It appealed not only to his sporting instincts, but to that love which was in him for all that was beautiful and free. His letters are full of references to the otter and his ways.

“June 1st, 1893.

“I am thankful to say that I am, and for a long time have been as well as I can ever expect to be, and was able about a fortnight ago to assist at an hour and a half’s otter hunt in my chair, from find to finish, of a dog otter, small, but very game, with the Bucks otter-hounds.”¹

“June 2nd, 1896.

“We had a kill with the Bucks otter-hounds at Barnwell Mill, on Saturday, and a lovely drag from a short distance above Shill Mill, right up to the Stone Bridge island. I grieve to say that this drag ended in the chopping of a small cub, upon which I had set my heart, hoping to secure him alive as a pet; but the poor little beast lay fast asleep on the bank, when the hounds suddenly came upon him, instead of being, as I hoped, securely up the old lawn drain, whence we could

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

easily have bagged him alive. However, he has a brother or sister left, and quite able to take care of itself. We killed the dam here on the 12th May after a fine hunt of about an hour.”¹

And again, in reference to scent in animals:—

“Scent, in what we humorously call the lower animals, is, and must always remain a mystery. I once was otter hunting on a stream in South Devon. After a quick, short drag, we put down two otters from the roots of an old oak, overhanging the water. The larger otter took up stream, and I ran off as hard as I could go, to try and see him go over a shallow stickle, while the hounds followed the smaller otter down stream, for some ten minutes before they could be stopped. My gentleman just put his nose up in mid-stream opposite to me. I tallied him, but it was certainly more than a quarter of an hour before the hounds came tearing along the bank, on my side, quite mute; immediately that the leading hounds reached me they opened with a crash, though the stream ran swiftly, and they were running down wind. This happened about 7 a.m., and we did not handle the other otter till after 5 p.m.”²

“April 12th, 1895.

“Don’t let them *kill* or injure their otter, but coax him or her into a pigsty or a byre, a bothy or a

¹ To Hon. Mrs. Crichton.

² To T. Buckley, Esq.

OTTER HUNTING, FALCONRY, SHOOTING 113

‘shielin wast,’ and throw a sack over him. In the meantime I have, within the last few days, had very good news of otters hereabout.”¹

“*April 25th, 1895.*

“The otter-hounds had a grand day from Brock Hall, near Weedon, on Tuesday—three-mile drag, two and three-quarter hours’ swimming work, killing a dog otter of twenty-two pounds at the end of it.”²

“*May 6th, 1895.*

“The otter-hounds were here on Saturday, but did not find till they got to Wadenhoe. The water is too high and too thick to do any good, and they could not hunt a bit. They met this morning at Elton Mill to draw up the Fotheringhay brook, and were to go to Stamford to-night.”³

But hunting the otter, as we have already seen from Lord Lilford’s own words, yielded one place in his estimation to falconry—‘the noble mysterie’ as he was wont to speak of it, using the phrase of an old writer. The allusions in his correspondence to the beautiful art of training falcons, are for the greater part of too technical a character for the general reader. We, therefore, attach but

¹ To Walter M. Stopford, Esq.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

a single letter, which shows that, even in his captivity as an invalid, he was able to do a little at his favourite sport.

“November 30th, 1893.

“I have not been able to hold a gun, to stand, or to walk a yard since January 1886, but I do, or did, see my young goshawk fly often during September and October last. She has bagged well over three hundred rabbits since August, when first on the wing. I should guess that it was a falcon that *knocked* down the pheasant that you tell of, if ‘knock down’ is the correct term for the performance. We have had singularly few wild falcons here this year, probably owing to the scarcity of teal, but as you take in the *Field* you will probably see the account by me, of a very singular capture of a falcon close in front of the house here on 24th inst.* I have a very fine Iceland falcon, with alas! a damaged wing-joint, flying as well as she can to the lure. I am able to watch this performance from my window.”¹

The country round Lilford Hall, though suitable enough to the goshawk, is far too much enclosed, and too much wooded for successful flights with falcons after rooks, and in any case Lord Lilford, as an invalid, would not have been able to follow a flight. None the less he kept many peregrines, partly for old associations’ sake,

¹ To the Rev. G. E. Freeman.

* See Presidential Address, p. 39.



TRAINED GOSHAWK ON THE FIST.

and partly for the joy of seeing them fly to the lure, in itself one of the most beautiful exhibitions that a man can wish to see. Lord Lilford says in one of his letters, that all that he knew of falconry he learnt from 'Dear old Clough Newcome's' practice in the field. Mr. Newcome, of Feltwell Hall, Norfolk, the secretary of the Loo Club and the Old Hawking Club, was 'the ablest and most skilful amateur falconer of the present century.' *

We will now pass on to a sketch of falconry from an able pen, designed to lead the unlearned, or unpractised, to a better understanding of 'the noble mysterie.'

It is written by the Rev. Gage Earle Freeman, well known as an accomplished falconer. †

FALCONS AND FALCONRY.

Of falconry, Lord Lilford's favourite sport, very little indeed is known in the present day, and such knowledge as exists is confined to but a few sportsmen.

Upon its antiquity I will say only a few words; and, to give but two or three facts, I shall have to learn what I myself taught in *Falconry, its Claims, History, and Practice*, which was published in 1859.

"Mr. Layard, in the second volume of his *Nineveh*, tells us that he found in the ruins of Kharsabad a bas-

* *Falconry* (Badminton Library), by the Hon. G. Lascelles, p. 339.

† Mr. Freeman wrote for many years on hawking matters in the *Field*, under the pseudonym of 'Peregrine.'

relief, 'in which there appeared to be a falconer bearing a hawk on his wrist.' Aristotle, in his *Animated Nature*, says: 'When the hawks seized a bird they dropped it among the hunters'; and, in a work ascribed to Aristotle, we find: 'Hawks appear when called.' I find that I copied the following from Turner's *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, vol. iii., chap. vii., p. 65:— 'Hawks and falcons were also favourite subjects of amusement, and valuable presents in those days, when, the country being much overrun with wood, every species of the feathered race abounded in all parts. A King of Kent begged of a friend abroad two falcons, of such skill and courage as to attack cranes willingly, and seizing them to throw them on the ground.' Spelman, in his *Glossarium Archaeologicum* says that 'the art of falconry was invented more than a thousand years before'; he writing in 1629."

I will conclude what I have to say concerning the antiquity of the sport by a short quotation from a passage I wrote so many years ago. It refers to the practice in Europe: "We may gather from all this that falconry was tolerably well established as a leading sport in Europe, and possibly in these islands, at a very early period of our history—between the fourth and sixth centuries perhaps; England, however, being later than Germany in adopting it."

So much for the facts concerning the antiquity. What was the *spirit* of those times with regard to the sport? May I quote myself once more?

“The love of this sport had now become a perfect passion—nay, a mania. Europe was inflamed with it. Monarchs, nobles and knights, disdainful of the moderate draughts of its pleasures, drained them to intoxication, and lived for them, as for their fame. If a gallant were in prison he would carve falcons on the walls; if in a court, or in a church, he would bear them on his glove; if in the grave, they would be figured on his tombstone; nay, his bride took a merlin to the altar on her wedding day. . . . Not to love hawking was a proof of the grossest vulgarity of disposition, and of many drops of churlish blood.”

And all this has passed into tradition. However, we must not forget that, in the last century, there was an unquestionable revival of the sport, in which the Old Hawking Club, of which Lord Lilford was a member, was conspicuous. One could wish the revival were on the increase, but that is hardly so.

Lord Lilford would certainly not have wished the destruction of one sport for the sake of another. He was fond of shooting; it could well go hand-in-hand with falconry. I have shot with him, and (though he was even then somewhat lame) it was a lucky grouse that escaped his gun.

But it is time that something was said about the *practice* of falconry.

Falconers divide the hawks which they train into two classes—viz., long-winged and short-winged hawks. Of

long-winged hawks we have the following:—Peregrine ; jer- or gyr- falcon (these names include the Iceland, Greenland, and Norway falcons); lanner ; sacre ; Barbary falcon ; hobby ; merlin. Of short-winged hawks :—Goshawk and sparrow-hawk.

1.—*Long-winged Hawks.*

It may be well to say at once that falconers of the present day do not use the lanner, sacre, or the Barbary falcon (though the last kind, I should think, would be found excellent for partridges); and the gyr-falcon* is very seldom to be found in training now.

Let us begin with the peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), a bird to which I, at least, owe more than half the pleasure of my life, and one to which Lord Lilford was devotedly attached.

Peregrines taken from their nests in the crag are called eyesses ; those caught in their after-life, in the bow-net, are haggards, if in the adult plumage ; if in the first plumage, red hawks. All hawks, in fact, are either eyesses or 'wild-caught.'

Eyesses must be hacked ; this is quite necessary with the peregrine, and hardly less necessary with the merlin.

What is hacking? It is this :

A hamper has arrived, from Scotland, let us say ;

* Lord Lilford once had a Greenland falcon, which he much liked.—G. E. F.

it contains several peregrines just taken from the eyrie; and, let us hope, only *just* taken. If they have been carried from the nest when they were little more than masses of white down, reared by the cragsman at his home for many days, and despatched to the falconer when some feathers have appeared, they will be simply worthless. They will, when trained, scream and fly round their trainer's head, looking to *him* only for food. What should be done is this: the young hawks must be left in the nest till they can nearly fly (I have known one that was found some distance from the nest, and was caught by the hand on the rocks), and then packed off at once. Care should be taken also that the journey be as rapid as circumstances admit. Then comes the hack; a period of liberty for eyesses which lasts some weeks. The object is to teach them to fly, to expand and exercise the muscles of the wings; to put them, in short, when the time is over, in very much the same position they would have been in, as far as strength and adroitness are concerned, had they not been captured.

There are two ways in which the hack can be arranged: the first is as follows:—

When the young hawks are able to leave the loft where they were placed, they find a large board to which meat is tied, and they readily feed. As day follows day, they go farther and farther from the house, but return to the board at feeding-times.

Should they be very forward when they are received, they are fastened to the blocks near the board until they thoroughly recognise it as the place where they will find food. When this happens, they are quietly released. It is considered essential, by those who adopt this form of hack, that the hawks should see as little of any human being as possible. The fear is that, should they recognise their feeders, they will scream and fly low.

The second arrangement is this :

The hawks are placed on a platform in the loft with straw, not hay, for their bedding. As soon as they can tear food for themselves, it is offered to them on lures, one lure for each hawk. The falconer whistles loudly while they feed. Presently they fly down to the floor to feed from the lures ; then the loft door is opened and they fly out, settling probably on the house or on the nearest tree. They soon go a couple of miles or so away, but return at feeding-times at the sight of the lures and the sound of the whistle.

This was my own plan ; it was the plan of my old friend William Brodrick, whom I knew in 1850. I never had a case of screaming or low-flying, unless by accident I had received a bird taken from the eyrie when it was too young. Such a bird I should not keep for a day ; and no one ever saw one of my entered eyesses fly low when 'waiting on,' or heard it scream. There is this obvious advantage, too, in this second plan—that the

birds when taken up know the lure and the whistle. And, as for wildness—a good thing at *this* time—it is as necessary to use the bow-net for taking up these as it is in taking up those which have been fed from the hack-board. In either case, the eyesses, on being put into the loft, have been furnished with bells and jesses, the bell being somewhat heavier than that used when the training is over, which should be as light as possible. I myself am for a very long hack, even up to the point of danger of the birds being lost. Be bold, I say; you had better have four good than five indifferent hawks.

We now come to wild-caught hawks—*i.e.*, haggards and red hawks, both ‘passage hawks.’ These are yearly taken in Holland, as I shall show at once by an extract from *Reminiscences of a Falconer*, an excellent work by my late friend Major Charles Hawkins Fisher, of the Castle, Stroud, Gloucester.* The extract shows the means of capture; the place is in the neighbourhood of Valkenswaard, Eindhoven, Holland.

“The method adopted is intricate and interesting, and can only be briefly described here. The so-called ‘huts’ are pits dug out, walled with sods, and roofed with sods and heather, so as to be very undistinguishable from the surroundings. The occupant, who is frequently by

* They are taken in England also. Lord Lilford sent me a fine haggard caught on his own property in Northamptonshire. He named her Miss Hardcastle, because he hoped she would ‘*stoop* to conquer.’ To my great sorrow she broke her swivel when in the process of training and I never saw her again.—G. E. F.

profession a cobbler, is provided with provisions, water and schnapps, and a sack of boots and shoes to mend. As his vision is but circumscribed he depends greatly upon a little living sentinel who lives in full sight of his hut in a little turf cabin or cage outside. This sentinel is the larger butcher-bird or shrike.

“The moment he perceives any bird of prey, however far off, and however high (I am told beyond the power of human vision), he becomes highly agitated and calls and attracts the attention of the occupant of the hut. . . . In addition to this sentinel, the hawk-catcher is supplied with a pigeon, who lives in a little turf hut at the foot of a pole, to the top of which is attached a cord reaching to his hand. Another pigeon, similarly lodged, about one hundred yards from his hut door and close to a carefully concealed bow-net, working easily and well, also from inside the hut, completes his devices. The butcher-bird’s actions denote the approach of the migrating hawk—species, age and sex unknown—and the hawk-catcher pretends to be able to determine the distance and quality of the approaching migrant, by the different intensity of the terror of the sentinel. When deemed sufficiently near, the hawk-catcher pulls the string of the pole-pigeon, and causes him to flutter forth from his shelter, but so that he can instantly regain it at need. This lure is frequently sufficient to attract the passing hawk (probably sharp-set) from the clouds, and is often instantly followed by the rush of the lofty and violent stoop—most grateful of all sounds

to the patient ear of the concealed cobbler. In a moment the lure pigeon is gone, safe once more in his little hut. The disappointed hawk wheels round, whereupon the cobbler pulls the other poor, devoted pigeon out of *his* shelter and leaves him exposed. Down comes the hawk very often (seeing nothing wrong) and kills, and soon begins to eat his prey. . . . The delighted cobbler takes a good hold of the cord or wire that throws the bow-net (a most clever contrivance) and with one masterly pull the hawk and pigeon are therein, from whence there is no escape."

The hawk, whether 'passage' or eyess, is now out of the bow-net, and in the falconer's hands for training. Taming, however, comes first. It is not my business in this little essay to say *how* this or that matter is accomplished; I have only to say what is done, and what must be done.

A leash is supplied in the case of the eyess, who has worn jesses during hack; leash and jesses to the wild-caught bird. Then comes carrying on the gloved left hand, the persistent persuasion to feed from it; breaking to the hood; accustoming the unhooded hawk to the presence of strangers; jumping to fist from the screen or block; flying some yards to the lure, a creance (a long string tied to the ground) having been fastened to the leash; and ultimately flying at liberty to the falconer's call and lure.

The hawk is 'reclaimed'—I trust it is understood

that I am now speaking only of the peregrine—and is in a condition to fly game. We are on the moors, hoping soon to fly and kill a grouse. This quarry, as a rule, we attack only with the female bird—the ‘falcon.’ Yesterday we took out the old pointer who has helped us on many a day’s game-hawking, but to-day we had only beaters and markers. What was our plan yesterday? This, put shortly:—There were only two of us, and one falcon; our time was short, and the moor close to the house. Old Don ranged well, but carefully; a dead point—no hare *that*; grouse to a certainty. The hawk is cast off; she rises in wide circles; give her plenty of time: will she get any higher? No; well then, put up the grouse. Don knows his business, and up get the birds. Poor Don! every one complains that we have spoilt him for shooting. The hawk, though high, was a considerable distance from the rise, but she answered to the ringing shout, “ho-ha, ha!” and spun down upon the five birds which had risen. The distance was too great, however, to admit of her cutting one over at once; the flight was something like a stern chase. A ‘put-in’? We feared it, and it was. In other words, the grouse had dashed into thick cover. But she ‘waits on’ well above them. We and the dog rush on; it is a considerable distance, but she is a fairly patient bird. Up gets one of the grouse; he is cut over at the first stoop, and the falconer, lifting the grouse on his gloved hand, the hawk being on the quarry, lets his bird eat the head and neck, and some fresh and

tender beefsteak which he takes from his pouch. She was, in fact, 'fed-up,' for we had to go home.

So much for yesterday. As far as to-day is concerned, we have been hawking, as I have said, without a dog, for this is what happened. Don was left at home. A pointer, as will be seen, is not necessary, but I strongly recommend a dog at heel, to put out birds which have been 'put in.' Well do I remember the want of one. The memory plagues me even now. A falcon was 'waiting on,' and I could not find a grouse; at last, up got a snipe, and there was a splendid ringing flight; the snipe was soon out of sight in the sky, and the hawk, if I saw her at all, did not look bigger than a butterfly. At last, they came down; the hawk had compelled her quarry to do that. It was a 'put in,' only a hundred yards or so from where I stood, in deep heather. I was soon on the spot, as far as I could make it out; but I was alone, and the hawk was waiting above me; she was most patient. Oh for a dog! At that moment I would have half ruined myself for only the loan of a dog. I was on my hands and knees turning over the heather, and examining every hole; and this, perhaps, a dozen or twenty yards from where the snipe had hid itself; I could not mark the spot nearer. At last the hawk left me, and went home, not half a mile away; she could stand it no longer. But this is a long digression.

On the day I am writing about there was no dog, but I had markers and beaters. The moor was small,

and the ground very uneven, hilly in fact. The markers were placed on the high ground, the beaters were with me; the falcon was waiting on. "Now, my lads, off with you; get them up as fast as you can." They dash off; and in a moment, as it happened, a single grouse got up. The falcon was just above, but very nicely high. A shower of feathers, as if the grouse had been struck by small shot; she is on it, waiting till I come up. We did not 'feed up' this time, but killed another before we went home. The markers helped in that case; the 'kill' was out of my sight, and they let me know it had happened, and where it was, by throwing caps in the air and pointing, like signposts, to the place.

But this is hawking on a small scale. On a larger moor, and with the assistance of professionals, six or eight hawks may be taken out on the cadge, and a whole day spent on the sport.

I have spoken of eyesses and of wild-caught hawks. Falconers agree that for grouse, rooks, and certainly for heron, wild-caught birds are the better.

A word, and but little more than a word, on partridge-hawking. The tiercel, or male bird, one-third smaller than the female, is certainly to be chosen for this sport. It is grouse-hawking in miniature as regards the size of the hawk used, that of the quarry, and the extent of land ranged over. It is very pretty sport, and is conducted in precisely the same way as that of grouse-hawking. Partridges are often 'put-in' to ditches, or the bottom

of a thick hedge, and a small dog accustomed to the hawks, and one they know well, is necessary. Still, the majority of kills, if there is luck, take place in the open. But if one wished to make a man a falconer, he should be taken on to the moors. He would recollect many a good day's shooting to dogs, his own favourite pointers and setters; how well they ranged, how thoroughly steady they were to points, and to 'down-charge,' how proud he was to show them to his friends. He might remember, too, his patience at the butts till the pack came over, and the splendid rights and lefts.

No doubt this is very fine, but you will show your friend something still finer. And, in writing this, I may in some trifling measure repeat what I have just written. You and he have been *running* over heather, you both have positively drunk the mountain-air; fragrance, the very strength of a life-giving fragrance, has been the breath of your nostrils. More than that! Up in the cloudless sky has circled the bird, who you know has watched your every movement, has waited for your help as patiently as you have waited for hers. She could have left you, and have been twenty miles away in almost as many minutes. She chose *you* before that. What will your friend think of this sport? How marvellously patient she is! You pause; the partridges lay close, but they are off now. One flash from above, the bright sun on her wings; the shout that called her still ringing! The leading old cock spins from the stroke of her foot; she is

on him in the heather ; she looks for your approach, as proud as you are.

People know nothing of the sport, or they would honour it. Could a man see such a flight as that I have just described and not do all he knew to become a falconer ?

Rook-hawking next. It is heron-hawking in miniature. In both, to carry out the sport properly, the ground must be free from trees. The quarry, whichever of these it may be, is looked for on the 'passage,' going for food, or returning with it. The falconer carries the falcon on his glove ; the leash, of course, has been removed, and she is held by the jesses ; she is hooded. When a rook comes fairly near—a hundred yards, if you like—the hood is removed, and the hawk cast off. Two are often flown at a rook ; two always at a heron. They have no mean quarry to attack, for a good old rook will shift from the stoop with very great dexterity, and the flight may be a very long one ; a good horse is necessary if the whole, or anything like it, is to be seen thoroughly. When there are a few trees on the hawking ground, it is well to carry a pistol, loaded with blank cartridge, to be fired immediately under the tree where the rook has taken refuge ; this will often, but not always, dislodge it. But one of the difficulties in rook-hawking is to induce the hawk to fly the quarry. Naturally, she very much dislikes the flavour of the flesh. A few falcons will take to rooks at once, but they are

the exception; 'entering' is the remedy. A rook is offered in a creance to a very sharp-set hawk, she takes it, it is killed at once, and the falconer adroitly fastens the greater part of a newly killed pigeon, still warm, under the rook's wing, having taken care to remove the pigeon's wings, and any feathers likely to betray the fraud. "If this is rook," thinks the falcon, "all I can say is that I have slandered the poor bird very much, and I shall certainly fly the first I see."

Magpie-hawking is very good sport indeed. The falconers, ladies perhaps among them, should be on horse-back. Of course, the country must be free from woods, but there may be bushes and some hedges if the fields are large. There should be some few beaters with the party, so that the magpie may easily be driven out of the cover to which he has taken when pressed by the single tiercel, or cast of tiercels, which are after him. The crack of a whip is sometimes, but not often, enough to send him again into the open.

But I must remember that space is limited, and that I have yet, amongst long-winged hawks, to say something of the merlin and hobby. The merlin (*Falco aesalon*) is the smallest of British hawks; an exquisite little creature, a pet and a companion for ladies, a bird capable of showing the falconer excellent sport. It is very handsome, too, and the male, when in the adult plumage, has a beautiful blue back; he would be worth having if he were only to be looked at. But these birds are

more than beautiful ; they may be made the companions of your walks, following on the wing, and coming to the glove when called. I have known a little male bird which had received a few mouthfuls of food in the morning and was then thrown out of the window, meet his master or mistress a couple of hours later, his presence being intimated by his settling on one of their heads ; then he would of course be fed, and would probably be carried on the glove till the walk was over.

Taken from hack, or wild-caught, these birds are treated in the same manner as that described in the case of the peregrine ; they become tame very soon, and I once had a fine wild-caught hen bird, which knew the lure, and followed me in the fields, one fortnight after she had been taken out of the birdcatcher's net.

As to the quarry at which they are flown, they will take blackbirds, thrushes, ring-ouzels—any small bird, in fact ; their only fault, notwithstanding their extreme tameness, being a disposition to 'carry.' With most birds, however, this can be overcome, and the falconer will go up to his hawk with confidence that she will wait for him, content that he shall have the quarry just killed, and knowing that he will feed her from it.

But *the* quarry for the merlin—there is only one of consequence—is the skylark. Here—and this has been often said—we have heron-hawking in miniature. In both, the 'ringing' flight is the great matter. In grouse-hawking, as we have just seen, the hawk comes

down from a height in "one fell swoop"—'stoop' as we call it in these days; in heron-, rook-, and lark-hawking, she goes up, hawk and quarry 'ringing,' till they are nearly, or quite, out of sight. A stranger to the sport would say, "We shall never see that bird again!" But the fact is that you could probably see it in a few seconds. Well I remember, when I began falconry, William Brodrick scolding me for calling a merlin "out of sight." She was just disappearing in the sky, and to have lost her in those days would have made me melancholy for a week, so I whistled, threw up the lure, and she came.

Such is the merlin. Then we have the hobby (*Falco subbuteo*). I only wish I could say anything complimentary of this hawk. There is a great beauty, no doubt; but is there not an old adage, 'Handsome is that handsome does'? The hobby to look at is the very perfection of a falcon; the length of wing by which, amongst other signs, a falcon is known, is longer in proportion than that of any other member of the family; the general appearance is, in fact, wonderfully typical. The bird is a little larger than the merlin. They are migratory and difficult to procure. Surely, considering their perfect form, they *could* fly! They ought to beat a merlin, but they don't, nor, indeed, at all equal it. Lord Lilford told me that he had offered a good price for one that would fly larks well, but the difficulty is to get one that will fly them at all. There

is a mystery about the bird; it might cry, as a certain lady cried: "The curse has come upon me." For, look at the difference between then and now! We find Latham, whose *Falconry* was published in 1633, writing of the hobby in terms of enthusiastic praise. He says: "She will show herself a hawk to please a prince, for you may fly her twenty times in the afternoon when no other hawks will fly, but must be waited on." In short, he says that the hobby will fly partridges, quails, larks, and all in the most perfect manner. So much for 'then'; 'now' the very best merlin trainers can't make a hobby go fifty yards after a lark, nor, indeed, can they make her care for any quarry. Is there yet a chance? Will some one read up Latham and other old hawking books, try if they can extract a hidden hint, and give their whole mind to practice in the field?

I have now done with the long-winged hawks, except that I ought to add that falconers keep them on blocks, or on the screen, the former, in my opinion, being the better resting-place, as on the screen the feathers not infrequently get damaged. Like all hawks they must be often offered a bath.

II.—*Short-winged Hawks.*

There are two short-winged hawks, the goshawk and the sparrow-hawk. The goshawk is by far the larger bird, but they resemble each other very much in other respects, except that the goshawk has stout legs and



HOBBY, WITH LEASH AND BLOCK.

feet, while the sparrow-hawk has slight ones. However, ornithologists have separated them very widely, neither genus nor species being the same. The goshawk is *Astur palumbarius*, and the sparrow-hawk *Accipiter nisus*. They are separated, too, in their habits; the goshawk, on the whole, preferring fur, and the sparrow-hawk confining itself to feather.

The bow-perch is generally used for these birds instead of the block, though the latter is well enough suited for the sparrow-hawk. This perch is a simple contrivance; it is made of a length of pliant wood, ash perhaps, and it becomes a 'bow' by being bent, and for a bowstring, strong string, or what is far better, strong wire is used. The *ends*, however, differ from those of an ordinary bow; they should be a foot in length beyond the place where the bowstring is fastened, and this in order that they may be most thoroughly and firmly buried in the ground. A substantial ring has been run up the wood before the bow was fashioned, it moves easily up and down, and to it the leash is fastened. Blocks and perches must, of course, be on grass, or well surrounded with straw when under cover, or the hawk, when bating, will injure its plumage.

Goshawks may sometimes be procured by advertisements. The best come from Norway, but they are found also in France and Germany. England will have none of them now; there was a time when it was their

home. Like other hawks, they may be taken as nestlings or they may be wild-caught. Colonel Delmé Radcliffe once warned me against having a haggard, but the bird in its first plumage, although wild-caught, is very good, and as a rule to be preferred to an eyess. In training, a hood, so contrived that food may just be seen through it (food and nothing else) can be used; but the bird should be accustomed very soon to feed 'from the fist' without it, and to endure the presence of strangers. This part of the business is a trying time to the falconer, for goshawks and sparrow-hawks have a fearful temper. It is only to be overcome by time and constant attention, the goshawk, at any rate, becoming at last very fairly amiable.

As with other hawks, the entering to quarry is done by degrees: there is no greater mistake than hurry in the training. At first a dead rabbit, opened so as to show the flesh about the shoulder, may be given at the bow-perch: a couple of days after, the hawk being very sharp-set, a live rabbit in a short creance should be offered; on it being taken, the falconer will kill it, and allow the hawk to feed from the shoulders as before—and so by degrees the bird will fly wild rabbits. Half a dozen may be taken in a morning's or afternoon's walk; more in fact, but it is well not to repeat large numbers day after day. It was my custom at first to stab the rabbit at once, but I think there is a better plan. Have a man or boy behind you, carrying a dead rabbit, skinned

towards the head ; take this and pass the live one to him to be adroitly killed by the usual neck-breaking process : allow the hawk to take a mouthful from the dead rabbit, and whilst she is eating lift her on the glove, holding the jesses firmly : she is then ready for another flight. Some goshawks will take hares, but if they are used for that quarry, they must not be allowed to fly rabbits ; if they are, they will look for the easier flight, and scarcely care for the more difficult.

The female bird only is used for hares and rabbits. The male will fly pheasants well, and indeed partridges, but he is hardly fast enough to be *quite* relied on for a strong full-grown partridge, at any rate in flight : he may drive his quarry into low cover where a dog may take it.

A goshawk must be in 'yarak' before she is flown. Unless this is so, leave her on her perch, for she will be of no use whatever. What therefore is yarak ? I quote from my little book, *How I became a Falconer*. A goshawk in yarak is : " simply when she is in a good temper, decidedly hungry, and eager for quarry. She gives two or three screams at your approach, and probably bates towards you ; she sets out her feathers, making herself look large ; has a peculiar look in her yellow eyes—a sort of mixture of earnestness and amiability . . . beware of the opposite symptoms. It is no use taking her from her perch if she gives a chirping sound, very different from the scream ; if she has a wild eye, with contracted pupil ;

if she makes herself look small by closing all her feathers tightly round her."

The short-winged hawks fly 'from the fist,' as it is called ; in fact, so does the merlin. In other words, they do not 'wait on' ; any one who knew the goshawk would think the notion that she could do so a very comic one indeed. Carried unhooded, they at once see their quarry and dash after it.

I have always liked the goshawk ; when she thoroughly knows you she is very friendly. I had one once—my close friend and companion—for more than nine years ; she died on my hand, of aneurism. I have mentioned this, I am sure, in other essays on falconry, but it may be interesting in this place. She was wonderfully stuffed for me by Mr. Brodrick, and is in this house now, almost as lifelike as when she lived.

I must now write a few lines about the sparrow-hawk. I don't think that Lord Lilford took much interest in this bird, though he was certainly fond of the goshawk : and indeed the sparrow-hawk is hardly one of the most interesting hawks. She requires an immense deal of patient attention, and when she is in flying order she must be flown often. The male (musket), as well as the female, may be made to fly blackbirds well, and blackbird-hawking is really an exciting sport. Two or three people should join in it, for the hedges must be well guarded and beaten, as it is necessary to drive out the quarry as soon as it is 'put in' by the hawk. The sparrow-hawk, like the

goshawk, should be made to fly to the fist ; that is essential, especially with the former bird, but it is well also that they should understand some sort of lure ; one of these hawks may take its 'stand' in a tree, and obstinately remain there : a lure will often bring it down when the 'fist' has little attraction.

The female bird will fly three-fourths-grown partridges, and will sometimes take an old one : water-hens, too, she will take, when they can be found far enough from water ; for landrails she was always famous, and a quail would be excellent quarry for either the male or the female bird.

The sparrow-hawk, like the goshawk, may be broken to the hood, but it should be rarely used. The bird must be carried without it on days when she flies and when she does not. And just one hint as to carrying on the glove : it is absolutely necessary, day after day, but it must not be made a toil to the hawk : a *little* bit of food—the leg of a pigeon with the feathers off, for instance—should be in the right hand, so that when the bird becomes impatient and disposed to be cross, just a glimpse and a very small taste may be offered.

As to the kind of food, one must be specially careful with both merlins and sparrow-hawks : even fresh and tender beefsteak, excellent with peregrines and goshawks, and very proper on occasion with the smaller hawks, must be given sparingly. Sheep's heart and birds should be the usual food. All hawks require castings two or three times in the week—*i.e.*, feather or fur with their food.

Perhaps a word or two should be said about disease and medicine.

The *croaks* is a kind of cough : bruised peppercorn may be given in the castings.

Inflammation of the crop. The food is thrown up. Give a little powdered rhubarb in the morning ; but there is little chance of recovery.

Worms. River-sand with the meat and occasionally rhubarb.

I wonder if our ancestors did better than this with their wonderful remedies !

The following is from the *Gentleman's Recreation*, A.D. 1677 :

“Take germander, pelamountain, basil, grunmel-seed, and broom-flowers, of each half an ounce ; hyssop, sassafra, polypodium, and horse-mints, of each a quarter of an ounce, and the like of nutmegs ; cubebs, borage, mummy, mugwort, sage, and the four kinds of mirobolans, of each half an ounce ; of aloes succotrine the fifth part of an ounce, and of saffron one whole ounce.” This is to be “put into a hen’s gut, tied at both ends.” I hope it may be found agreeable.

Moulting. This occurs once a year. The seventh feather in the wing is generally dropped first, and that not long after the middle or end of March. During moult the birds must be kept fat, or the new feathers will be poor ones. They are not flown at quarry, but should have some exercise. Moults is not over till the autumn.

Imping is the mending of a broken feather. A falconer will have hawk's feathers by him. He chooses one which belonged to a hawk precisely like, in every way, to the bird whose wing or tail he is about to imp. The imping needle is a short piece of steel wire filed into a triangular shape; it is dipped in brine to cause rust and therefore adhesion. Suppose the third feather in the wing is broken; take precisely the same feather from those you have in reserve; be sure of the exact length in cutting: do that at an angle; pass half the needle into the false feather, half into that of the bird you are imping, close tightly, and scarcely a mark of the junction will be seen.

"My task is over," concludes Mr. Freeman. "It has been a pleasant one indeed. I am delighted at having had the pleasure and the privilege of contributing to this book, for Lord Lilford was, through a great number of years, my constant and most kind friend."

But in addition to otter hunting and falconry, there were few forms of sport in which Lord Lilford had not graduated, and the following extracts from letters throw a pleasing light upon the genial spirit he brought to these pursuits.

He writes, under date October 22nd, 1895 :

"The cleverest retriever, and certainly one of the most charming and sympathetic companions of my early manhood, was a cross between collie and setter. For

nearly thirteen years she was always with me, and knew my little manners and habits better than any human being. I lost her one day, in Sardinia, about twenty miles from Cagliari, at a spot to which I had gone on wheels the previous evening. Old Nellie lay under our feet in the buggy in which we drove, so that she could not possibly have seen any landmarks, or stopped to sniff at any spots where other of her species had left their traces. We slept, the night of our arrival at the village, in an old tumbledown country house, Nellie under my bed. The next morning we sallied forth early, and for two or three hours had capital sport with Barbary partridges, quails, and a few hares. It was about the middle of October, very hot, and Nellie was thirsty. She disappeared about 11 a.m., and I whistled for and sought her in vain, the whole of the afternoon. My host of the R.Y.S. Schooner *Claymore* was anxious to leave Cagliari for Palermo on the evening of the day following, so I returned disconsolate to the yacht by 9.30 p.m. My good friend, knowing how I loved my Nellie, kindly consented to stay till the following morning.

“I spent a miserable day, and turned in early. My host and our other companion went ashore to the opera ; I was conscious of the gig shoving off to bring them aboard about 11 p.m., and the next thing that I knew of was Nellie’s jumping up into my bunk, and licking my hands. She had found her way back twenty miles through an unknown country, and evidently came straight down to-

the quay, and jumped into the yacht gig directly it came alongside. This could hardly be a case of scent.

“This Nellie several times brought me two partridges together, and on one occasion a hare and a partridge. Here, in our shrubberies, Nellie would often ‘tree’ a cat, and give me notice by a low bark, quite different from her usual note or ‘mark’ at a rabbit in its burrow. If I took no notice, she would soon come to me with all her hackles up, and growl, wagging her stern all the time. I once knocked down a woodcock in pretty thick covert, and sent her to fetch it. She was a long time away, and came back without it, but she looked into my face, evidently anxious to tell me something. I tried her again, but she would not move till I pushed into the thorns myself, when she yapped with pleasure, and went gently ahead of me through the thick stuff, stopping at last and looking upwards, with her stern going. I looked up into the trees and bushes, but could see nothing for a time, till at last I caught sight of the tip of wing projecting from a broken stump at about four feet from the ground, and found my woodcock caught thereon. In this case, I feel sure that she had seen, not scented, the bird. Many a time she left me to go to a distance, and pick up a bird that she had watched till it fell, in many cases when I did not know of its being wounded. Peace to her ashes, and a truce to this long yarn.”¹

¹ To T. Buckley, Esq.

“ October 20th, 1887.

“ I never enjoyed fighting in perfection except in Epirus and Tunis. Imagine, after a good day with the woodcocks, wading into water knee-deep; birds around, mallard, gadwall, shoveller, teal, pintail, wigeon, pochard, tufters, golden-eye, with eagle owl booing from rocks close by, bitterns almost brushing one's face, snipe 'scaping' in every direction, and woodcock flipping round like bats.

“ A neighbour of ours found an old hare, in a neat and well-used form in his strawberry bed. His garden was walled on three sides, to a height of perhaps fourteen feet, and on the fourth side to about three feet, with a drop on the outside of some five feet or more to a little stream, the opposite bank of which was about level with the foot of a low wall, and quite four feet from it at the narrowest part. At one end of this low wall was a little latched gate, opening upon a plank bridge over the stream. My friend, on first finding the hare amongst his strawberries, called a garden lad, posted himself at the gate, and told the boy to put the hare up. She came leisurely up to the little gate, but, on finding my friend there, turned, and tried the low wall in several places. On the approach of the boy, she at last jumped on to the wall, and tumbled headlong into the stream, in which there were only a few inches of water. She scuttled along the bottom, and disappeared. The next afternoon she was again in her form, and, on being touched with a stick, hopped off

to the gate, stood on her hind legs, quietly pressed down the latch, and crossed the bridge. After this my friend virtually left her alone, only now and then taking a friend to let him see old Sarah open the gate.

“I had a Siberian hare for two or three days in my rooms in Tenterden Street, who did battle with any one who attempted to touch him, and finally turned cat and housemaid out of the room.”¹

“September 9th, 1887.

“One of the best pointers I ever owned *never* failed, but would always poke up his first bird or coney; if he was far ahead he would look round, and if I were not in shooting distance, would steal up, put up his birds, and then come crawling up to me, to be scolded. I never hit him, for he was perfectly conscious of his offence; except with the first bird of the day, I never saw him make a mistake. In Scotland, on broken, hilly ground, directly I had loaded and waved my hand to him he would run off down wind, and go clean out of sight, ranging rapidly towards me if he found the birds and thought I could not see him, as was very often the case. He would come tearing along his original down-wind line, and directly he saw me, wheel sharply round and point in the direction of the birds that he had found, wait till I came up to him, and would take me to the spot without any attempt to get the

¹ To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

wind again, and an expression that said, as plainly as any words, that he was guided simply by memory. Up-wind he ranged not very wide, but in the most perfect form that I ever saw.”¹

That Lord Lilford never wrote publicly upon sporting matters may perhaps have been due to his inherent fondness for all living creatures. Be this as it may, in this direction he has committed little to writing beyond passing allusions in his diaries or letters.

Thus on January 11th, 1896: “Although, as you know, I was a very ardent gunner in my time, I would rather see a real good flight with a good hawk at any feathered quarry than take part in the slaughter of any number of tame-bred pheasants.”²

That ‘tame-bred’ pheasants are no less *difficult* than wild ones to shoot, no one knew better than himself, or had more contempt for the absurdities that are written in the Press and elsewhere on this subject. The distinction he draws between the two forms of sport lay in the instinctive and unsportsmanlike shrinking from the *idea* of the non-natural culture of the pheasant.

“With regard to rabbit shooting,” he writes on March 3rd, 1891: “I fear that I cannot claim ever to

¹ To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

² To the Rev. G. E. Freeman.

have been a really first-class shot at them or anything else ; but I did get a knack of killing them stone-dead, which seems to be rare nowadays. In the open, with a bunny going all he knew, there was no art in this ; but in thick cover, with the object cautiously hopping about, my view was always to hustle him into rapid flight, and seize the right instant to put the whole charge behind his ears. One seldom gets a shot in thick cover at rabbits at more than fifteen or twenty yards, and the main object should be not to blow them to pieces. For this sort of work I always preferred a twenty-bore. The right moment to fire came upon one by instinct, after some practice.”¹

¹ To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

CHAPTER VI

Notes from Mediterranean Journals

THE extracts which follow are Lord Lilford's journals of cruises in the Mediterranean in the years 1874, 1878-1879, and 1882.

This does not, however, exhaust the voyages he made ; the absent links are, therefore, very kindly supplied as follows by one who was often his companion at sea, and in many ornithological days in Spain.¹

" 1869, *April 20th.* Lilford met me at Seville, having come from London. On the 23rd we drove very early to Algaba, a small pueblo east of Seville, and each killed our first great bustard. On the 26th we started by steamer at 5 a.m. for Coria, a town some few miles down the Guadalquivir, and thence drove with Manuel and his sons in a carro to the Palacio of the Coto del Rey, a wearisome journey, lasting till six in the evening ; the carro was a covered country cart with wooden wheels, which creaked without cessation, and the covering was so low we had to squat or lie on the poles, which formed the floor, a painful position. The Palacio was a ramshackle place, once a shooting box of the Royal Coto, capable of accommodating eight sportsmen. Our cooking, etc., was done by Lilford's

¹ Lieut.-Colonel L. Howard L. Irby, author of *The Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar*.

courier. Pan and a French bird skinner came with us. The mosquitoes were in such swarms that we had to burn dried rosemary, nearly suffocating ourselves.

“Here we stayed till May 1st, getting many, to us, new birds and eggs, among them the eggs and young of the Spanish imperial eagle. Some of these young eagles were brought to England and lived for many years at Lilford, one surviving to 1893.

“We returned to Seville, as I had to return on the 6th to Gibraltar, where Lilford came on the 4th of June, staying there with me till the 13th, when he left for England in the P. and O. steamer *Massilia*.

“1872. In this year Lilford next visited Spain, when he and Lady Lilford arrived in the *Poonah* at Gibraltar, stopping there from February 6th till the 17th, when they left for Seville, where I joined them from March 29th till April 5th, when we went after bustard.

“On May 1st, 1876, Lilford, Dr. O'Connor and myself left Plymouth at 8 a.m. in the *Zara*, a three-hundred-ton schooner. With a very favourable wind we reached Santander in sixty hours, a very quick passage.

“We remained in Santander harbour till May 23rd, daily going out after birds, amongst others getting a nest of young ravens, one of which became the celebrated ‘Sankey.’ On the 23rd we trained to Torre la Vega, thence driving to Unquera, sleeping there. We drove the next day to Potés, going through the Desfiladero, a grandly picturesque pass between Panes and Potés. We stayed in a posada at the latter place until June 13th, having got a good many birds, including great black and middle-spotted woodpeckers, seeing some capercaillie.

“From June 1st to 7th we had various, and alas! unsuccessful beats for bears, we saw their tracks, but never got a shot; however, the scenery was magnificent and the country interesting, though so excessively steep and broken that you couldn't have found a spot level enough for a cricket pitch.

“On June 13th we drove to Comillas on the coast, returning to Santander through Santillana, of Gil Blas fame, and Torre la Vega. We remained in Santander harbour on board the *Zara* till the 21st,

on which day we started for Bordeaux, but with adverse winds only got so far as Royau on the Gironde, thence going by rail to Bordeaux on the 25th, leaving next day for Paris, where I left Lilford."

January to June, 1874

GENOA

"*January 28th, 1874.* Went up to see the Museo-Civile on the Acquabola. The Marchese Giacomo Doria, who is curator, proposed to the municipality some five years ago to present his collections in various branches to that body, if they would find him house room for them and appoint him curator. They consented and gave him a villa, which he has arranged as a museum on a most excellent plan. The principal part of the collection is still in skins, but a considerable number of mammalia and birds are stuffed and mounted. Doria made large collections in Persia and Borneo, but the chief interest to me lies in the local collection, which is very rich in ornithology. The chief rarities in that

branch are Audouin's gull (*Larus audouini*),* *E. aureola*, the little bunting (*E. pusilla*), *E. cæsia*, and the Eleonora falcon (*Falco eleonoræ*),† all killed in the neighbourhood of Genoa. The collection is also rich in bats (*Cheiroptera*), of which order Doria has met with fourteen species in this neighbourhood. He is an excellent fellow and most obliging, kindly presenting me with Salvadori's work on the birds of Italy, two numbers of *Proceedings* of this museum society, and some reptiles. He told me very many interesting facts: *viz.*, the present abundance of the ibex in the Royal preserves near Aosta, the occasional visits to Genoa in large numbers of the rose-coloured starling and the nutcracker, and the abundance of a seal (*Phoca monacha*) on the islet of Cervoli, south of Elba. In the gardens attached to the museum there are a few living animals; for example a fine tiger, a puma, a Sardinian red deer, and a male and female moufflon, and an eagle which I take to be the spotted eagle (*Aquila nevia*). He has a very fine male specimen of the francolin (*F. vulgaris*), which he obtained about four years ago from Sicily, where it formed part of a collection made

* Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouini*), an extremely beautiful gull with a black-banded coral-red bill, and eyelids of the same colour. Lord Lilford (see later) recorded it from Vacca, off the S.W. point of Sardinia, its most westerly known breeding-place. When the Editor visited this little island in 1896 he found it much infested by rats.

† La Marmora's, or the Eleonora Falcon (*Falco eleonoræ*), is a member of the hobby group of falcons. It is an inhabitant of lands on the southern border of the Mediterranean, and Lord Lilford (see later) records it from Toro, near Vacca.

by a doctor in some village not far from Girgenti; no one knows when it was killed. He assures me that the Greek partridge (*Caccabis græca*) is not very common in this neighbourhood, where the red-leg (*Caccabis rufa*) is the common species, while the common partridge (*Perdix cinerea*)* is not rare. My steward has found the two latter in some numbers in the market here, as well as the Barbary partridge (*Caccabis petrosa*) from Sardinia. Many gulls frequent the harbour, apparently all herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) or their Mediterranean representative,† and the brown-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*).”

SPEZIA

“January 31st—February 3rd. A great many gulls, chiefly the brown-headed gull, frequent the bay during the daytime; they collect together about sunset, and fly out seawards, probably to some favourite rock, on which they pass the night.

“February 3rd. We sailed from Spezia, and got into Leghorn about daylight.”

* The group *Caccabis*, to which our Red-leg Partridge belongs, differs from *Perdix* (the Grey Partridge, of which our common partridge may be regarded as the type) in the presence of knobs (rudimentary spurs) on the legs of the males; and, generally, these partridges tend towards the true gallinaceous birds.

† The Mediterranean Herring Gull, constantly referred to here as *Larus leucophæus*, is better known as *L. cachinnans*. It differs from our Herring Gull by having yellow, instead of flesh-coloured legs and feet, an orange-red ring round the eye, and a darker mantle.

LEGHORN. PISA

“*February 4th.* Drove to Pisa and back.

“*February 5th.* Sailed for Naples.”

Birds seen between Leghorn and Pisa, February 4th

“*Tinnunculus alaudarius, Corvus frugilegus, Columba œnas, Passer italiae, Fringilla carduelis, Alauda cristata, Motacilla alba, Fringilla œlebs.*”

Birds seen at Sea

“*Larus argentatus, L. ridibundus, L. canus, L. melanocephalus, Puffinus* (sp. ?), *Uria* (sp. ?), *Tringa* (sp. ?). Two small flocks of some sandpiper flying low towards the land, apparently coming from Corsica.”

NAPLES

“ We remained at Naples till March 4th, having had an accident to the yacht, and generally very cold wet weather. We stayed at Lady Holland’s house, the Palazzo Mocella, and made as many excursions as the weather would permit. I hardly ever saw any country, except some parts of France, so entirely devoid of birds, saving the gulls in the port. Game of all sorts is scarce in the market and very dear, almost all the shooting being in private hands. The king has some fine shooting in the neighbourhood, particularly at Licola, where there is an immense quantity of wildfowl. The chief information on sport I had was from the Cavalier Mario Matuno, who is grand veneur to the king. He tells me that bears are still found in some parts of the Abruzzi, and that wolves are not uncommon in the mountains, red and fallow deer

in the preserves, and roe deer in all the large woods. Hares are pretty numerous, rabbits less so. The grey partridge is common in the plains, and in the hills *Caccabis saxatilis* is found; this last appears to be the only species of its genus in this part of Italy; the Barbary partridge is sent to the market from Sardinia. Wild boars are very abundant, and foxes, martens and porcupine more or less common in the country.

“I shot two good specimens of the Adriatic black-headed gull (*Larus melanocephalus*), one common gull (*L. canus*) immature, and one brown-headed gull (*L. ridibundus*)* from deck of yacht in the harbour.”

Other Birds seen about Naples

“*Accipiter nisus*, *Fringilla carduelis*, *F. serinus*, *F. chloris*, *Passer italiae*, *Motacilla alba*, *M. boarula*, *Phyllopneste rufa*, *Erethacus rubecula*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *S. atricapilla*, *Troglodytes europæus*, *Anas crecca*, *A. boscas*, *Fulica atra*, *Podiceps minor*.”

Birds seen in the Market at Naples

“*Garrulus glandarius*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *F. chloris*, *F. serinus*, *F. carduelis*, *Alauda arvensis*, *Columba torquata*, *Saxicola rubicola*, *Perdix cinerea*, *Caccabis saxatilis*, *C. petrosa*, *Crex porzana*, *Scolopax rusticola*, *S. gallinago*, *S. gallinula*, *Machetes pugnax*, *Limosa melanura*, *Vanellus cristatus*, *Charadrius pluvialis*, *Anas boscas*, *A. strepera*, *A. clypeata*, *A. crecca*, *Mareca penelope*, *Fuligula ferina*, *Mergus albellus*.”

* The Brown-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), sometimes called the Black-headed Gull—though its hood is chocolate-coloured—belongs to the group of hooded gulls, which include the Adriatic Gull (*L. melanocephalus*). The gulls which annually visit London belong to this species; they nest on inland pieces of fresh water.

“February 10th. Bought a fine blue rock-thrush* and two hill mynahs† in Naples. In the king’s aviary at Capo di Monte I saw several hybrids between common and golden pheasants.

“February 26th. Noticed many bats flying in bright sunshine about Pozzuoli. One that I knocked down with the carriage whip near the Lago d’Aguana proved to be Schreiber’s bat (*Vespertilio schreiberi*), but we saw other species. Many lizards in sunny places, I think chiefly *Lacerta muralis*.

“In one of the dark chambers of Pompeii I knocked down four specimens of *V. schreiberi* and a dead horse-shoe bat, I think *Rhinolophus euryale*, but the other bats devoured him.

“There is a collection of birds and other animals at the University, but nothing very remarkable, and the specimens are crowded and badly arranged. There is a male Sicilian francolin. I made acquaintance with one of the professors, G. Palma, who has a small private collection. He showed me some gulls which present many characteristics of the Adriatic black-headed gull (*L. melanocephalus*) and the brown-headed gull (*L. ridibundus*), and are very puzzling. I cannot help thinking that they must be hybrids. He has a young pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), ‡ shot near Naples, which he considers *P. onocrotalus*. §

* See Presidential Address, p. 39.

† See Aviary Notes.

‡ The Dalmatian Pelican.

§ The Common or Egyptian Pelican.

“*March 4th.* Went by train to Torre del Annunziata, whither I had sent the yacht a few days before for good air and water, as the men were suffering from want of these requisites at Naples. Sailed thence March 7th, with a fair breeze, which left us becalmed just off Capri. Crept along with occasional light breezes till the afternoon of March 9th, some miles south of Stromboli, when a very strong head wind met us blowing directly out of the Straits of Messina, with occasional fierce squalls. As wind and current were against us, we did not attempt to push through the Straits, but brought up in a little bay to the north of the Faro. Fierce squalls through the night. Came into Messina early on morning of March 10th, where we remained till 16th. Very cold, wet, snowy weather, with occasional furious squalls of wind.

“At Torre del Annunziata, M—— shot a good specimen of *Larus melanocephalus*, getting the black head, and I a specimen of *L. ridibundus* in the same condition. We saw many ducks, and several flights of peewits going northwards. M—— reported swallows, but I saw none. I saw several skylarks at sea off Stromboli, and some cranes passed us at night. Many shearwaters* and a few gulls seen at sea.

* The Shearwaters (*Puffinus*) are sea-fowl belonging to the Petrel family (*Procellariidae*). They lay their eggs in the end of underground burrows or of deep splits in the rock. The true Great Shearwater (*P. major*) probably nests far south of the Equator; the “big” shearwaters, to which Lord Lilford refers later as *nesting*, being *P. kuhli*, and his “smaller” shearwaters probably the Manx Shearwater (*P. anglorum*), or *P. yelkouan*.

MESSINA

“*March 12th.* Went out to the Faro in the cutter. Thousands of gulls, chiefly *L. melanocephalus*, also *L. argentatus*, *L. ridibundus* and *L. canus*. Saw a very large shearwater, and a few terns,* the Sandwich tern, I think (*Sterna cantiaca*), near the Faro. Saw the first house martins. At the little salt lakes at the Faro, they stick up wooden herons as decoys; it appears that the common and the purple heron (*Ardea cinerea* and *A. purpurea*) pass in great numbers in spring. Many of the *L. melanocephalus*, of which I shot three, have the black head nearly perfect, others show very little trace of it.

“About Capo Sant’ Andrea, saw the common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), the blue rock-thrush (*Monticola cyanea*), black redstart (*Ruticilla nitys*), kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and gulls. Between Messina and Taormina, saw several little gulls (*Larus minutus*), and two or three flights of cranes (*Grus cinerea*). Young R—— brought me off two bottles of lizards, apparently all of one species (*L. viridis*), but one (*Gecko platydactylus*?).

“Saw ten vultures going north at an immense height in the air.”

TAORMINA

“*March 16th.* A bright sunny morning. Sailed for Taormina, where we anchored. Beautiful scenery all

* Popularly known as ‘Sea-swallows.’

along the coast on both sides of the straits. Took cutter and went round to the caves and holes in the cliff, about Capo Sant' Andrea, where many pigeons are reported, but where few seem to exist.

“We sailed for Catania about 11 a.m., light airs of wind and heavy swell, and did not get into Catania till about 6 p.m. The whole coast, with grand views of Etna, very fine indeed. The harbour of Catania is small and crowded, exposed to south winds, but pretty secure from all other quarters.”

CATANIA

“*March 18th.* Beautiful day. My 41st birthday; they dressed ship for me. We went ashore and tried in vain to see the Biscari Museum, which is shut up at present. In the market a great many fish and some birds. Catania is a fine town, with wide streets well paved with lava, and an air of prosperity about it, and not so many beggars as usual in Italian cities. Went up to the old convent of the Benedittini, an immense building with some splendid marbles in the church and a fine library and small museum of antiquities. Curious picture (date 1536) of a saint with a white-headed duck (*Anas leucocephala*) and a common francolin (*Francolinus vulgaris*).^{*} No artist's name. Saint being fed by an angel.”

* The francolins are allied to the partridges. *Francolinus vulgaris* is the Common Francolin of Europe.

"In the market of Catania saw *Fulica atra* in some quantities, one *Porphyrio*, *Machetes pugnax*, *Anas boscas*, *A. querquedula*, *Mareca penelope*, *Fuligula rufina*, *Scolopax gallinago*. A great many calandras in cages, and greenfinches, goldfinches, serins, and linnets in the live bird market. Not a great many gulls in the harbours. Great quantities of fish of many species in the market—mullet, tench, and eels from Lentini, and endless varieties of sea fish. In the gardens of the Benedittini convent were many *Passer salicicolus*, *Fringilla carduelis* and *F. chloris* and many lizards; I think *L. muralis*. They call the *Porphyrio* 'Faccianu,' i.e. pheasant."

"*March 19th.* Went to see the Botanical and Zoological Gardens; at the latter there are a few beasts and birds. Tried fishing just out of the harbour and caught a few very small fish."

"*March 20th.* Drove out to Nicolosi, about twelve miles; the whole country a mass of lava, well cultivated; olives, carobs, vines, oranges and lemons, wheat, prickly pear, lupins, etc. Round Nicolosi lies a frightful waste of black lava, with here and there scrub oaks, squills, and other shrubs, with a good deal of Spanish broom. We took mules and rode up to the Monte Rossi—an old crater, whence there is a splendid view of Etna and the whole plain of Catania. Very few birds."

"*March 21st.* Beautiful day. We took the cutter and went away to the mouth of a canal about eight or ten miles to the S.W. Fine sheets of water and marshes and sandhills. A great many birds. I cannot walk and M—— cannot shoot, so we did not do much."

“Saw the following birds:—Kestrel, marsh harrier, kingfisher common swallow, blackbird, song thrush, black-headed warbler, fan-tailed warbler, Cetti's warbler, sedge warbler, marsh warbler, white wagtail, yellow wagtail, skylark, crested lark, calandra, short-toed lark, Spanish sparrow, chaffinch, linnet, goldfinch, jackdaw, magpie, quail, spotted crake, Baillon's crake, water-rail, water-hen, coot, Kentish plover, greenshank, redshank, wood sandpiper, ruff, common snipe, jack snipe, curlew, wigeon, red-crested whistling duck, pochard, tufted duck, Sandwich tern, black-headed gull, herring gull, and several *tringæ* that I could not be sure about. We only shot 1 quail, 1 snipe, 1 spotted crake, 1 Baillon's crake and one Sandwich tern. Killed a snake, I think *Trepidonodus natrix var.*, without yellow mark at the back of head; several seen. Saw many lizards and a rabbit.”

“*March 23rd.* Fine day. We took a carriage at 6.30 a.m., and drove to the Lake of Lentini, about fourteen miles, first across the great plain of Catania, cultivated and now flooded, to the river Simeto; crossed by a ferry boat, then over about six miles of undulating stony hills. The lake is a great sheet of water with a thick fringe of high reeds. We got a boat which was of no use. Great quantities of fish, mullet and tench, jumping all about us. Did little, for the reasons before mentioned. We remained at and about Catania till March 30th, when we sailed for the mouth of the Pantani river, where we went ashore to shoot; got boats upon the lake on the proper left of stream and penetrated some distance into the reed jungle at the northern end thereof.”

“Besides many of the birds before mentioned, saw golden plover, peewit, solitary snipe, bittern, common heron, teal, garganey, black redstart, green sandpiper, and cormorant. Heard porphyrio and saw a

flock of wild geese and a few common wild ducks; also a hare. We shot 3 snipes, 1 teal, 1 peewit, 1 golden plover, 2 spotted rails. Saw also common starling."

"*March 27th.* On the Simeto river shot 1 bittern, 2 snipes, 1 golden plover."

"*March 28th.* Pantani. 1 curlew, 1 solitary snipe, 4 full snipes, 1 jack snipe, 4 spotted rails, 1 wild duck, 1 garganey, 2 black-headed gulls, 1 calandra, 1 quail."

"*March 30th.* 13 coots, 2 garganey, 2 white-eyed ducks, 5 snipes, 2 waterhens."

"*March 31st.* 13 coots, 1 mallard, 1 white-eyed duck. Lost 2 mallards and 2 garganeys, besides some coots."

PANTANI DI CATANIA

"*March 30th.* In a stack near the house where we hired out boats the cutter's crew found a quantity of snakes, chiefly *Coluber natrix*, which swarms all about the marshes, and I fancy one or two of the black variety of *Lamenis atrovirens*. Poland found a nest in the reeds, I fancy of sedge warbler (*Schanobænus*), with three eggs."

CATANIA.—LENTINI, AGOSTA, AND SYRACUSE

"*March 31st.* The yacht lay off and on all last night, and we landed at the same place to shoot; lost several things in the dense reeds. I found a nest of a porphyrio* in a heap of growing flags, containing one egg. The nest is exactly like that of a common water-hen, or perhaps not quite so high-sided as some nests of that

* The Porphyrios are 'water-hens.' Many of them are coloured blue or bluish-purple, and have red legs, feet and bills.

bird. This porphyrio is very common, and is to be heard all day and night, but very seldom seen. I only caught a glimpse of one during the whole two days we spent amongst the reeds and flags. The most abundant ducks are now garganeys and white-eyed; I also saw mallard, gadwall, pintail, shoveller, pochard, red-crested whistling and white-headed ducks. Marsh harriers* very common, one or two grey harriers which look like *C. pallidus*, no other birds of prey, except a few kestrels and an odd kite or two about the Pantani, magpies in swarms nesting in the tamarisks with which the reed marsh is dotted, ravens, hooded crows, and jackdaws. We saw great numbers of warblers (particularly Cetti's), yellow and white wagtails, coots in thousands, and great numbers of water-hens, water-rails, spotted and Baillon's crakes. The marshes are now drying and the snipes and other waders becoming scarcer and scarcer. Saw several bitterns, common herons and an occasional lesser egret; sandpipers (*Totanus stagnatilis*, *T. hypoleucus*, and *T. glareola*) common. Many curlews (*Numenius arquatus* and *N. tenuirostris*). Heard a Scops owl calling near Lentini. One of our boatmen

* The harriers (*Circus*) are raptorial birds, which, though included in the *Falconidae*, may perhaps be regarded from their flight and certain superficial characters (e.g. arrangement of head-feathers) as intermediate between that family and the owls (*Strigidae*). As a rule they nest on the ground. The Marsh Harrier (*C. aeruginosus*) is practically extinct with us as a breeding species, but the Hen Harrier (*C. cyaneus*) and Montagu's Harrier (*C. cineraceus*) still nest in Britain. The Pallid Harrier (*C. pallidus*) is an inhabitant of South-eastern Europe.

had heard of francolins as an extinct bird by the name of Trétari; he says no herons except the purple (*Ardea purpurea*) and night heron (*Nycticorax griseus*) nest about the Pantani.

“Yacht went round to Agosta. We, after shooting, took mules and rode to Lentini, about eight miles through a pretty country. After great wrangling with our muleteers we got a carriage to Agosta, and, starting about 8 p.m., drove through what must be beautiful country by Carlentini and Villosmundo to Agosta, where we arrived about 11.30 p.m., nineteen miles from Lentini. Found the yacht and went on board. Beautiful, bright, hot weather and splendid moonlight nights. The country abounds in wild flowers, a small crimson stonecrop in some places being very conspicuous.”

SYRACUSE

“*April 1st.* We sailed from Agosta with a head breeze, which freshened up, and beat into the harbour of Syracuse. Agosta seems a dilapidated, wretched town, but the bay is splendid. Syracuse is, as all the world knows, a fine harbour, but not nearly so extensive, or I should say so well sheltered, as that of Agosta. A guide, one Valerio, came off to us soon after we arrived, and I commissioned him to employ every one that he could lay hands upon to bring in birds, bats, lizards, snakes, etc.”

“*April 4th.* The villani sent out to collect began to come in, and brought a various assortment of snakes,

lizards, and bats. We took a boat up the Anapo river to the fountain of Cyane in the afternoon. Fine snipe marshes, but very little in them now. The papyrus flourishes all along the upper part of the river, which is a narrow, insignificant stream, swarming with mullet. The fountain of Cyane is the head-spring, a beautiful deep blue, clear pool. More arrivals of animals in the evening."

"The collecting expeditions brought in three species of bat, *Rhinolophus bihatatus*, and, I believe, *R. euryale*, possibly *R. diavosus* and *Vespertilio kuhli*; some *Pyrgita petronia* alive, two or three species of snakes, *Coluber natrix*, and *Zamenis atrovirens*, and several species of lizards, one I believe *Lacerta muralis viridis* (?) and another a *Gecko*, and *Gougylus ocellatus*, besides a great variety of beetles, centipedes, frogs, woodlice, etc., etc."

"April 5th. The steward brought in a specimen of *Vesp. schreiberi* from the Greek tombs.

Magpies nesting in papyrus on banks of Anapo.

Villani brought off five rock-sparrows (*Pyrgita petronia*), alive, two of which soon died, also various reptiles."

"April 6th. A man came with some hundred bats, caught in a cave to the southward, almost all *Rhinolophus euryale* I think, perhaps some *R. diavosus*, five or six *Vesp. schreiberi*, and one *Vesp. murinus*. Out at the Saliné I shot one snipe and one little kestrel (*Falco cenchris*). Saw the western black-throated wheatear (*Saxicola stapaizina*),* a few ducks, herons, a spotted crane, and some species of

* The wheatears (*Saxicola*) belong to the thrush family, allying the thrushes with the chats. The Common Wheatear (*S. oenanthe*) of our downlands nests in rabbit holes or in stone walls. The Black-throated Wheatear (*S. stapaizina*), a South European species, has very rarely visited us.

plover (*Charadrius*). M—— shot a greenshank, and a little ringed-plover in the bay.”

“*April 7th.* A great concourse of villani on board bringing bats—*Rhinolophus egnorium*, *R. euryale*, *R. biiastatus*, and birds alive—hoopoe, golden plover, spotted crane, the latter of which I kept; some snakes, of which I kept three *Zamenis atrovirens* var. *carbonarius*, three *Gougylus ocellatus*. The lizards seem to like small snails, of which we find any quantity ashore, chiefly on the squill plants. At the Saliné very few snipes left. I only shot six jack, two Spanish sparrows, one crested lark. Many kestrels about, *F. tinnunculus* and *F. cenchris*. Saw *Saxicola ananthe*. Saw an egret (I think *Ardea alba*). Men ashore with a pair of common kestrels, and some more black snakes (*Z. atrovirens*). A kite (*Milvus regalis*), hangs about the shipping in the bay.”

“*April 10th.* Went with M—— to the Saliné, or salt pans at the head of the bay; birdy-looking places, but too many people about for much bird-life. In the afternoon to see the catacombs and old subterranean church, where, they say, St. Paul preached on his stay here. These catacombs are of immense extent, and not half explored. They are all hewn out of the solid rock, I suppose by the early Greek colonists, but were afterwards used by the Christian inhabitants.

“At the Saliné, a marshy flat to the proper right of the Anapo river, intersected with streams and ditches, we found two or three snipes, a good number of little ringed-plover (*Egialitis curonica*), of which we shot five, some common sandpipers (*T. hypoleucus*), of which we shot four, two snipes, and one spotted crane

(*Crex porzana*). Saw a few common wild ducks, a red-shank or two, Alpine swift, some sedge warblers, of which I shot one for identification, a great many larks (*Lauda calandra* and *A. cristata*), etc. Saw a fine kite on shore of bay, several kestrels, some pipits (?) and a whitethroat, I think the lesser whitethroat. Found a *Vesp. schreiberi* in the catacombs. In some lemon groves, near the Orecchio di Dionisio, it seems that all the sparrows (*P. salicivola*) of the neighbourhood come in to roost; they kept streaming into this from all quarters for about an hour in thousands, and made a deafening noise, which ceased immediately for an instant or two upon the crack of a whip, and then redoubled. A sparrow-hawk was soaring over them. A peasant brought a curious *longicorn* beetle,* found in hollow wood, and another beautiful young snake, which is, I fancy, *Z. hippocrepis*. E—— saw a hoopoe fly across our bows in the morning, and one was brought off to us alive, but badly wounded, at night, which M—— bought.”

“*April 11th.* We were induced by a report of quails having arrived, and the Syracusan nobility having gone in pursuit to the Isola Bianca, to go out to the Scala Græca to try our luck, but we only found two or three *paisani* and had no sport.

“On the way to the Scala we saw several common

* *Longicornes.* A group of beetles characterised by the extreme length of their antennæ.

and black-throated wheatears (*S. ananthe* and *S. stapaizina*), which appear to have just arrived. Saw a male grey harrier (sp. ?), only two or three quails, evidently birds that have passed the winter here. Found several *Gougylus ocellatus* under stones in the wheat fields, also a large centipede. A peasant brought off a dormouse (*Myoxus*), the same as the Spanish species, but too much damaged to be worth keeping. Another fine specimen of *Z. atrovirens* brought in the evening."

"April 12th. Sunday. Drove out in the afternoon to the convent and Tornia degli Capucini. Immense extent of quarried rock, with a great variety of wild plants and ferns.

"April 13th. Many bats brought off, chiefly *R. ferrum eq.*, some *V. schreiberi*, two or three *R. biiastatus*, and one that I am not sure about, but think is *V. megapodius*. Round the bay we saw many kestrels (chiefly, I think, the lesser kestrel,* *F. cenchris*), some Alpine and common swifts, a hoopoe, two stone curlews, great flights of yellow wagtails, a small flock of stilts, a large flock of some diving duck, which looked like tufted,† but were too far off to make out. Shot a common whitethroat."

* This little falcon, much smaller than our Kestrel (*F. tinnunculus*), is very abundant in summer in Andalusia. Very many may be seen flying about the cathedral in Seville.

† The Tufted Duck (*Fuligula cristata*).

“April 14th. M——, at the Salin , found many wood sandpipers (*T. glareola*), of which he shot five, two spotted crakes (*Crex porzana*), and one red-throated pipit (*Anthus cervinus*). He reports many yellow wagtails, some with black heads.”

“April 16th. Just off Muro di Porco saw a roller (*Coracias garrulus*), very tired, making in for the land. A yellow wagtail and a swallow came on board. Saw several of these, and many shearwaters. Scops owl brought on board.”

“April 17th. A turtle-dove came on board early, and rested a long time on our mainstay. Saw many cranes, common herons, and some little egrets bound northwards. Great many shearwaters off Malta. Steward reports many quails and small birds in the market, also a purple heron; he brought off two Scops owls.”

MALTA

“April 18th. We went with Admiral Drummond and a large party on board the *Antelope* to Gozo; picnicked at the Torre degli Giganti, an old Phœnician town much after the fashion of the Murhags in Sardinia. Made acquaintance with Mr. C. A. Wright, editor of the *Malta Times*, the ornithologist of Malta. He has a good collection of birds, all killed in the island. Got several birds from the market.”

The only birds I saw and heard out in the country were, common bunting, swift, swallow, yellow wagtail, fantail warbler (*Sylvia cisticola*). Steward bought a fine white-backed rock-thrush (*M. saxatilis*) in the market. I saw nothing therein in the evening but quails, hoopoe, turtle-dove, common bunting, short-toed lark, and thick-knee.

“Wright’s principal treasures are a very fine specimen of the Eleonora falcon (*Falco eleonoræ*), in, I should say, third year’s plumage, very perfect and bright in colouring, a good specimen of Bartram’s sandpiper and of the white-winged plover, also a fine *Saxicola leucocephala*, killed not long ago. He has a few reptiles, amongst others, a curious, dark variety of *Lacerta muralis*, found in Filfola; of this he gave me a specimen, as also a young snake, which he says is *Coluber leopardinus*, but I think it must be *Z. hippocrepis*. It seems that *C. leopardinus* and *Zamenis atrovirens* are the only two snakes of Malta. He gave me a bat, I think *V. kuhli*, but am by no means sure. *V. murinus* appears to be common. Wright gave me two good specimens of little stint.”

“Birds heard of, observed, and obtained from market at Valetta from April 17th to May 7th, 1874.

Falco vespertinus.

F. cenchris.

Circus æruginosus.

C. pallidus.

Strix flammea.

Scops giu.

Cuculus canorus.

Merops apiaster.

Caprimulgus europæus.

Cypselus apus.

Chelidon urbica.

Hirundo rustica.

Muscicapa collaris.

Turtur auritus.

Ortygia coturnix.

Monticola atricapilla.

Petrocincla saxatilis.

Ruticilla titys.

Saxicola stopazina.

Sylvia cinerea.

S. curruca.

S. melanocephala.

Phyllopneuste sibilatrix.

Budytes flavus.

Motacilla alba.

Calandrella brachydactyla

Emberiza miliaria.

Passer salicicolus.

Oriolus galbula.

Coracias garrulus.

<i>Crex porzana.</i>	<i>Larus leucophæus.</i>
<i>Glareola pratincola.</i>	<i>Upupa epops.</i>
<i>Agialitis fluviatilis.</i>	<i>Ædicnemus crepitans.</i>
<i>Himantopus candidus.</i>	<i>Tringa terminki.</i>
<i>Titanus glottis.</i>	<i>Scolopax maior.</i>
<i>T. glareola.</i>	<i>Ardeola minor.</i>
<i>T. hypoleucus.</i>	<i>Ardea purpurea.</i>
<i>Puffinus kuhli.</i>	<i>Phœnicopterus roseus.</i>
<i>Tringa subarquata.</i>	<i>Puffinus anglorum.</i>
<i>Muscicapa collaris.</i>	

PALERMO

“May 13th. In the Universita is a fair collection of Sicilian birds, with a few mammals and several bats which were too high up to examine closely; but I made out *Dysopes rueppellii*, *V. marinus*, *V. auritus*, *Barbastellus*, and there are a good many other species. Professor Doderlein tells me that the fallow deer (*C. dama*) is still found wild in some of the forests of Sicily, also the roebuck (*C. capreolus*), but the latter is rare. Wolves (of which there are specimens in the collection) are still found in the island. I noticed the dormouse (*Myoxus glis*) and *M. nitela*, pine marten, polecat, and weasel (*not* the stoat), fox, badger, and porcupine. Amongst the birds the great rarities are three very fine specimens of Audouin's gull (*Larus audouini*), apparently fine adult birds, two slender-billed gulls (*Larus tenuirostris*), two cream-coloured coursers (*Cursorius gallicus*), and four common francolins (*Francolinus vulgaris*), about which Doderlein gives full particulars in his book. He tells

me that the hemipode (*Turnix sylvatica*)* is very common in certain parts of the south coast of Sicily. He showed me a falcon about which he was doubtful, which I consider undoubtedly a specimen of the true lanner (*F. lanarius*, Schlegel).† It very much resembles some of those which I obtained the year before last from Mogador; it was killed near Palermo. He gave me some interesting particulars of the ornithology of Ustica and Pantellaria, from the latter of which he has just returned. Marmora's warbler (*Sylvia sarda*) is very common there, and in Ustica a falcon breeds, which must I expect be *F. eleonore*. The lämmergeier (*Gypaëtus barbatus*) and griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) are not uncommon in Sicily. *Caccabis græca* is the only partridge, and the red-rumped swallow (*Hirundo rufula*) is by no means rare. I had no time to go into the subject of bats and reptiles, and must, if possible, go again."

"May 14th. Saw many bee-eaters and some woodchats at the Favorita."

"May 16th. Several swallows came about us in the gale, and a poor turtle-dove got knocked into the sea by our mainsail."

"May 17th. During the day we had a wood shrike (*Lanius rufus*), a swift (*Cypselus apus*), some dozen of

* One of a group of quails known as 'bustard-quails.' The hind toe is absent in this group. (See Presidential Address, p. 39.)

† The Saker. (*Gennea sacer* or *lanarius*.)

common swallows, a house martin, a wheatear (*Saxicola oenanthe*), two wood warblers (*Phylloperone sibilatrix*), a garden warbler, a redstart (*R. phoenicurus*), and several doves (*Turtur auritus*) on board and about us. Many shearwaters about."

CAGLIARI

"May 19th. Fine morning with a south-west breeze. We went away to the Stagno de la Scaffa in the cutter, but could not get her about much, owing to want of water. Landed on the island. Found a very old friend, Antonio Fanni, whom I knew here in 1862, and engaged him and his boat for to-morrow.

"A nightjar (*Caprimulgus europæus*) flew close past the yacht from the sea, and lit amongst the stones under the sea wall. We saw marsh harriers in abundance, kestrel, hoopoe, rose-backed shrike, many warblers (*Sylvia melanocephala*, *S. cinerea*, *S. curruca*), calandra and short-toed larks in great abundance. There were many quails, but it was almost impossible to flush them in the thick scrub on the island. We also saw common wild duck, thick-knee, turtle-dove, a few small waders, *Larus leucophæus*, Sandwich tern (*Sterna cantiaca*) and *S. leucoparia*, and coots. Only shot 1 rabbit, 2 coots, 2 quails, 2 short-toed larks, 1 common bunting, and 1 young shag."

"May 20th. Fine morning, strong wind. We went away to La Scaffa, took the boats, and went right away to the far end of the Stagno.



STANLEY CRANI.

“Saw black vulture,* flamingo, purple and squacco herons, red-crested whistling duck, and hooded crow, besides birds seen yesterday. Found many nests of the last-named in the tamarisks by side of river; one contained two young, which we brought home; only one flamingo seen. We shot two young *L. leucophaeus*, and two coots. M—— found a nest of the short-toed lark with three eggs.”

“*May 21st.* Lowering gloomy day. We drove out to Quarta to see the festa of S. Helena, the patroness of the village. There was a fear of rain, so the women were not nearly so gorgeously arrayed as usual at these festas. About seventy yoke of oxen decked with flowers and little holy pictures, lemons, etc., marched in the procession of the saint. We were taken by the host, Signor L. Rossi Vitelli, into his house, and introduced to his wife and family; all most civil. We saw the procession from his upper windows. It blew hard at night.”

“*May 22nd.* Gloomy, threatening day, with sirocco wind. I went off to La Scaffa about 9 a.m., got Antonio

* The vultures of Spain—other than the Lämmergeier—are three in number: the Black Vulture (*Vultur monachus*), a solitary, tree-nesting species, which lays but one egg; the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), which nests colonially on rocks, and lays one, or more rarely two eggs; and the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), which nests in rocks, sometimes on disused nests of other large birds, and usually lays two eggs; but in no species are these nesting situations invariable.

with his boat and went away to the isolotti. Found many birds and eggs; an interesting day, and no rain to speak of. I brought Antonio and his nephew on board. He tells me that all the stagni were once terra firma and cultivated, but that during some war in the time of the Pisan dominion, some one or other enemy let in the sea water and drowned the country. (*Quien sabe?*)

“On the isolotti we found a good many nests and eggs of the common tern. We took about sixty eggs of this species, and also eggs of the little tern. These are the two most abundant species. The sandwich tern is also common, but we found no eggs of it. Saw one solitary black tern (*Sterna fassipes*). Found several nests of the common wild duck with eggs, one with young ones, and one nest of three eggs of the Kentish plover, too hard-sat to blow. Prince caught a young duck about half grown, and an old one on the nest. I saw the following species:—

“Osprey, black vulture, marsh harrier, falcon, kestrel, grey crow, calandra, skylark, short-toed lark, stonechat, common bunting, fantailed warbler, Kentish plover, coot, water-hen, wild duck, red-crested pochard, herring gull, Sandwich tern, common tern, little tern, black tern, flamingo, and cormorant. I shot 4 Sandwich tern, 4 common tern, 3 little tern, 2 herring gulls, 2 Kentish plovers, 2 wild ducks. The red-crested pochards are in large flocks, and do not seem to be breeding as yet. Prince caught the coots just hatched.”

"*May 24th*. Rounded C. Spartivento about 2 p.m. Beautiful coast. Wind ahead, so we ran in and anchored behind Isola Rossa, in the Bay of Teulada, where we found a Neapolitan brigantine, full of passengers, bound to Boria and Algiers. The captain thereof asked me to go fishing with him; I declined. He brought us off a few small rock fish, and I gave him a bottle of Monica-Sauterian wine from Old Cara. The Isola is a rocky island overgrown with scrub.

"Made out on the Isola Rossa a great number of rock doves, shags, Alpine swifts, common swifts, a peregrine falcon, one or two Eleonora falcons, some kestrels, and herring gulls."

VACCA

"*May 25th*. Beautiful morning. Went away to the Isola Rossa between 5 and 6 a.m. Found and shot a good many birds. The yacht got under way about 7.30, and stood off and on for us. Went aboard about 9 a.m., and stood away with light head breezes round Cape Teulada. Bore away for the island of Vacca, about two or three miles from Cape Sperone. The yacht lay to and we went off to the island, a high black precipitous mass of apparently volcanic rock. Found a place where the two men could scramble ashore on the east side. Great ornithological success. On board again about 7 p.m.; head wind, so ran about three miles up the Bay of Palmas towards San Antioco,

and anchored in a snug bay in about ten fathoms, and had a quiet night. Vacca is covered with ice plant on the steep parts, and at the top are flat places overgrown with coarse grass and other plants. On the south side the rock overhangs the sea; the west side is quite precipitous, and weather-worn to an appalling extent."

"*May 25th.* On the Isola Rossa, which is very rough, rocky, and overgrown with various bushes and grasses, we found a vast number of shags (*Carbo desmaresti*), some young of which were still in the nests, on the east side of the island, which is steep and craggy, as is the north end. It slopes down to the south and west and there are many places where a landing can be effected. M—— reports a spring of fresh water. Besides the shags we saw peregrine falcon, kestrel, rock dove, Alpine and common swifts, rock martin (*Cotile rupestris*), blue thrush, and herring gull. The swifts are in vast numbers, and there are a good many rock doves. We shot 3 adult and 1 young shag, 1 peregrine falcon, 1 kestrel, 6 rock doves, 3 Alpine swifts, and 1 rock martin, of which I only saw a pair with their nest under a shelf of rock, not very high but quite inaccessible. Jem Poland, who went ashore, reported many lizards and several empty gulls' nests. He brought away one egg of herring gull, which was too hard-sat to blow. M—— found and broke an egg which I suppose to have been a shag's.

“Last night after dinner I was on deck and heard strange moaning sounds from the rock, which I attributed to wild cats or perhaps seals, but am now convinced that they proceeded from the big cinereous shearwater, of which, however, we did not see any about the rock. On nearing Vacca we could distinctly make out amongst hundreds of gulls a large number of *Falco eleonora*; of which more anon. The shags on and about the island were in incredible numbers, quite fringing the little rock of Vitello and sitting on every coign of vantage on the rock of the island itself. We saw a great many shearwaters in the Bay of Palmas and four griffon vultures about Cape Teulapa. Two of the men went ashore at a cleft on the east side of the island. The Eleonora falcons kept swooping over us; I got one, and M—— three (brought to bag), but I knocked down another, and he says he shot three more. Only one of those bagged was in the hobbyish plumage, all the rest were sooty. They found several big shearwaters (*Puffinus kuhli*) on their nests under the débris in the aforesaid cleft, and caught three and got their eggs. Some swifts, but not in vast numbers. Several pigeons and one turtle-dove. We shot four *F. eleonora*, five rock doves, and caught the three shearwaters mentioned before. The rock is inexpressibly wild and grand, and the multitude of birds makes it most interesting. Saw a very large seal close to us.”

VACCA AND TORO

" *May 26th.* Beautiful morning. Went off in the cutter again about 6 a.m. to Vacca; did not find so many birds, but landed several of the men who brought off many eggs. The yacht got under way about 8.30 a.m., and stood down towards us with a light north-west breeze; we went on board about 9 a.m. and ran down to the lee side of Toro (some seven miles perhaps). Toro is of an entirely different formation from Vacca; it is higher and apparently composed of hard sandstone very much fretted and broken by weather; the northern side slopes in a sort of succession of broken terraces to the sea. The eastern side is chiefly precipitous, with masses of sea-beaten rock at the foot of the steeps. The island is overgrown with a plant bearing a bright yellow flower. The western side, exposed to the blowing north-west wind, we did not explore. Owing to the height of the rock we did not reach many birds, but I had my greatest ornithological triumph. We got on board again about 1 p.m., and it immediately came on to blow very hard from the north-west, so we, being rather in want of supplies, ran on to the bay of Palmas, and anchored off San Antioco. I stayed on board and blew eggs. The wind fell, and we had a very quiet night, with occasional heavy showers.

Additional Entry

" On Vacca this morning we found that the Eleonora falcons had, to a great measure, left the rock,

and those we saw were shy; I succeeded, however, in shooting two, one a splendid black bird, the other was one of yesterday's wounded birds, and unfortunately fell on a ledge to which the men could not clamber. The rock doves also made themselves scarce, and we only shot two. The men scoured the island, and brought off several dozen of herring gulls' eggs and twelve eggs of the great shearwater, with seven of the parent birds, caught on the nest about the cliffs at the south end of the rock. I saw many Alpine swifts, but not the swarm that was at Isola Rossa; on the west side, which is very grand, a few kestrels; shags really in thousands. The common swifts have a settlement on the low crags at the north-east end. I shot a very fine raven, one of two seen. The men brought down two young herring gulls.

“On Toro we found a great many Eleonora falcons, but they flew so high, and were so shy, that I only got one, a beautiful specimen, very black. M—— and some of our boys having landed with some difficulty on the north side, Tait, James Hills, and I lay in the boat on the west side. I noticed several gulls on their nests on a weed-grown slope on the north-east side, not very high up, and directly they took wing I saw that they were not the herring gull (*Larus argentatus*). One gave me a good chance, and I brought him down dead on the rock close to us; Hills went to pick him up, and what was my delight when I found he was a splendid specimen of *Larus audouini*. I immediately sent Hills to the nests;

he found six eggs, one nest containing two, and four others one egg each. The eggs are like those of the herring gull, but considerably smaller. I fired several shots, but did not get another; they are very shy and wary, and I only had No. 4 and 6 shot. There appeared to be a colony of, perhaps, eight or ten pairs in the particular spot mentioned.

“We had seen a great many gulls at the north-west corner as we sailed up, but the wind and swell were so dead on that I did not care to go round there. The men brought off one young gull alive, but I had told them that I did not want eggs of herring gull, so they did not take any. I noticed at least two pairs of Barbary falcons,* but they flew high about the precipices, screaming and chasing the Eleonoras and gulls, and did not give a chance. We saw no rock doves, no swifts, and few shags on Toro. The men reported many lizards, but caught none. On Vacca they saw also many lizards, and many snakes, but were afraid to handle them; Jem Poland also reports on Vacca a small, dark bird, probably *Sylvia sarda*; he found two empty nests built of grass in the scrub on that island. I told the steward to examine the crops of the falcons: he found in the dark bird the remains of some small, dark coleopterous insect, and in the hobby-coloured bird a yellowish, transparent-winged insect.

* *Falco barbarus*, a small red-naped North African form of the Red Shahin (*F. babylonicus*).

“On going off to Vacca in the morning, we found a great many shearwaters sitting on the water, amongst which were some of the smaller species, but we found no eggs of this bird. On Toro is none of the ice plant, which covers the slopes in Vacca. These Eleonora falcons have a cry quite different from the peregrine or kestrel, and, indeed, from the hobby—a sort of hoarse chide, something like that of the true lanner (*F. lanarius*). The shearwaters, on being caught, make a sad, moaning noise, and sometimes throw up green, oily matter. I found the eggs of Audouin’s gull almost all hard-set, and had to make ghastly holes in some of them. The shearwaters’ eggs were all fresh.”

BAY OF PALMAS

“*May 27th.* We ran down to about our anchorage of Monday night last, a bay on the west side of the Bay of Palmas, where we found a number of coral fishers, Genoese and Neapolitans, who had run in there for shelter from the gale. They told us they dredge the coral in about fifty to sixty fathoms. The country round our little bay consists of low hills, with a thick growth of lentiscus and euphorbia. The white sand in the bay is most beautiful, and the water wonderfully clear; there is a small winter stream, now only a chain of shallow pools, with tamarisks and other shrubs growing about it; some cultivation. Conversed with some native goatherds, who gave us some milk fresh from the nanny-

goats. We took our guns, but did nothing; the hills are most grievous walking, being covered with loose and sharp-edged stones.

“In this little bay, which I call Success Bay, we saw but little in the bird way; one snake eagle (*Circæetus gallicus*),* a few blackbirds, linnets, goldfinches, many buntings, two or three ravens, a gull or two, and black-headed warblers were about all. W—— R——, who had no gun, put up a pair of partridges. I got two small, young gulls from the coral fishers, taken, they say, on Toro, which I believe to be *Larus audouini*; we bought also some red mullet, caught in this bay, and a fair bit of coral. One of the Sonde goatherds, on my asking about tortoises, said he had seen one that morning, and conducted me to a shallow pool in the little stream, where he soon grubbed out an *emys* with his hoe, which I pocketed. Some of the coral boys had a sparrow’s nest, with eggs, and a nest of young blackbirds. I find almost all the herring gulls’ eggs hard-sat, and very difficult to blow.”

“May 28th. Very fine morning; stood out for Toro about 10.30 a.m. with a light north-westerly breeze. Found a very heavy sea outside, which broke so hard upon Toro that though M—— and I went off in the

* The Snake Eagle (*Circæetus gallicus*) is common in Andalusia during the summer, but on the approach of winter, as the snakes and lizards, on which it feeds, retire, it migrates into Africa.

cutter I hardly liked to attempt landing any of our boys; yet we had, for the very short time we were away, great success. We ran back with a fresh breeze to our anchorage of Monday 25th, *i.e.* the first bay on the west side of the Bay of Palmas, inside an old watch tower."

"Off Toro we shot two very fine specimens of *Larus audouini* and a good dark *Falco eleonoræ*, of which we saw a great many. The gulls (*L. audouini*) do not make much noise, and their cry is not so hoarse as that of *L. leucophæus*."

VACCA. TORO. SAILING FOR PORT MAHON

"May 29th. About 6 a.m. we stood away for Vacca, with many volunteers in the cutters, to explore the island. Some success. Came on board again and went away for Toro. Landed M—— and the captain, with many of the men.

"On Vacca we got two *F. eleonoræ* in the hobbyish plumage, fine specimens, and recovered by aid of a rope the remains of the specimen lost on the 26th; this had been picked to pieces by the ravens. M—— shot a fine male raven, and the men got a nest of these birds containing three callow young. There were a good many Eleonora falcons and rock doves about on the south and south-west sides of the island. The men got a tin box full of lizards (*Gongylus ocellatus*) alive, and a shearwater and egg. Tait found the wing feathers of a common nightjar in a little cave. We bagged 2 *F. eleonoræ*, 3 rock doves, 1 raven, 1 shearwater, and the young

raven and lizards before mentioned. A large black snake reported, apparently in pursuit of a quail. On Toro we found a very great number of *F. eleonore*, more than I have seen together before, but *Larus audouini* had made himself scarce, and I am not quite certain that I clearly made out a single bird of that species; the men, however, found six of its eggs, which I emptied with very great trouble, as they almost all contained young birds, dead and within a day or two of hatching. I repeatedly saw and had two or three very long shots at a beautiful Barbary falcon, but I only knocked out a wing feather or two. I think from the action of this bird that the nest is somewhere in the precipices near the extreme summit of the island on the east side. The men report thousands of green lizards, but could not catch any. We bagged five *F. eleonore*, six eggs of *Larus audouini* and a young shag, cut over by Jem Poland with a boat's stretcher."

"*May 30th.* The steward found the remains of some small bird in the crop of one of the hobby-plumaged Eleonora falcons. The rest of those shot yesterday contained several species of beetles, dragon-flies, grasshoppers, and an animal something like a diminutive boiled shrimp. Saw a great many porpoises and a turtle."

PORT MAHON

"*May 31st.* Some flying fish seen off Cape Negro. In the harbour of Port Mahon saw kestrel, swift, swallow, herring gull, and heard quails."

“*June 1st.* Dull, gloomy day, strong south-west wind outside the island, which, however, we hardly felt in our sheltered nook here. I spent the greater part of the morning and a good deal of the afternoon in blowing herring gulls’ eggs from Vacca, a very nasty job, as they were almost all either just ready to hatch or rotten. The Consul’s interpreter tells me that he is the happy owner of the Isla del Ayre, some five miles from the entrance to the harbour, and that on said *isla* are many rabbits and a quantity of perfectly black lizards; this we must investigate when the wind permits. Took the cutter in the afternoon, and rowed about the north side of the harbour into several little snug bays, where we found natives fishing with nets and lines, catching large round-banded fishes with the former and ‘*lisa*’ with the latter.”

ISLA DEL AYRE

“*June 2nd.* Fine, bright, warm day. The Consul’s interpreter gave us leave to go to his island, the Isla del Ayre, to the south-west, and shoot some rabbits. We had to row all the way to the island, some eight or ten miles, as there was no wind. Too much swell on the cliffs of Minorca to attempt shooting pigeons, of which we saw several. The Isla del Ayre is a jumble of rock overgrown in some places with samphire and thistles. Found the three lighthouse men, an Alavese, an Iviçan, and a Mallorquin, very civil and intelligent. M—— shot some rabbits.

“We saw a kite (*Milvus regalis*) hanging about the north side of the harbour, many cormorants (I think *Ph. carbo*), and herring gulls. About the cliffs and caves some rock doves, many swifts and kestrels. On the island a good many rabbits, some pied with white and some sandy, a pair of ravens, an eagle, which looked to me like *Circaëtus gallicus*, a few rock doves, a gull or two, and some blue rock-thrushes. The lizards, which are shining glossy black above and blue beneath, seem to me to be the same variety of race of *Lacerta muralis* as that found in Filfla, Malta. The lighthouse men say that there are no snakes whatever on the island, and that many birds kill themselves against the light at passage times.”

CAHERA

“June 4th. Fine morning. Just as I went on deck at 6 a.m. a breeze sprang up from the east-north-east, and we spun away round Cape Salinas to the lee of the island of Cahera, which is high and precipitous with wood and scrub in many places.

“At the west of the island, a fine range of weather-worn limestone precipices, we saw very few birds; a kite, two or three shags, some swifts, herring gulls (one of which was shot), a blue rock-thrush, and a large brown hawk, possibly an osprey, were about all. Saw a beautiful flying fish as we came off to the yacht. I noticed a great many of the smaller shearwaters at sea, which look very dark on the back compared to the others. Saw



RUFFS FIGHTING.

three very large cetaceans out at sea and some stormy petrels. The few goats we saw on Cahera appeared to be quite tame. It is said that there are wild goats on the island."

IVIZA

"*June 5th.* Anchored in the Bay of Iviza. The town of Iviza stands on a rock of the north side of the bay in a rather good situation, but looks a poor place. A pretty amphitheatre of hills with fine cultivation in the valleys. We got away with a breeze from east-south-east; very heavy sea till we got through the passage between Iviza and Formentera. Here we found the water perfectly smooth, and slipped merrily along past Vedra, a high and curiously shaped little island, into the Bay of San Antonio of Puerto Magus, and brought up about 4.30 p.m. in five fathoms close to the little village of San Antonio. I heard several quails calling. No rock doves, which I had hoped for. Beautiful warm evening.

"Apparently a singular absence of birds all round the coast of Iviza. We saw nothing, but a very few yellow-legged herring gulls (*L. leucophæus*), and a very few shearwaters. A good many flying fish."

"*June 6th.* A man of San Antonio assured me that on the islands Correjera and Bledas are many *black* lizards, which are not found on Iviza; he also declares that there are no snakes at all in Iviza. Several tunny fish followed close under our stern for a long time; one

of them was struck deep by Tait with the harpoon, but wrenched it out. Saw three or four stormy petrels."

"*June 9th.* Started in the cutter about 4.30 a.m. for the Dehesa ; cloudy morning. We landed on the beach near where the pines begin, and wandered about amongst them with no result ; took boat and went down some three miles farther on. No sport. It came out very hot and we took a long siesta in the shade.

"The paucity of bird life in the Dehesa is remarkable. We only saw about half a dozen rabbits, two or three kites, several woodchats, many buntings, crested larks, greenfinches, black-headed, passerine and fantail warblers, two or three kingfishers, and a ringed-plover. M—— saw some lizards, but could not secure any. Many sweet plants, myrtle, thyme, rosemary, lentiscus—and wild flowers in abundance, quantities of butterflies, and insects of all kinds. Not many lizards. Saw one large snake, I think *Calopetta lacertina*. I found a nest of common bunting with six, and a nest of black-headed warbler with four eggs. Quantities of shells."

AT SEA

"*June 12th.* Beautiful day. We had light airs of wind and calm all day, and made but little way. Passed the Columbretes island, which rather made my mouth water, as there are reported to be many snakes and no doubt many birds there.

“Many porpoises, two sharks, and two turtles seen. Vast numbers of small, snake-like fishes drifting past us all day.”

November 1878 to May 1879

PLYMOUTH

“*November 1st.* Arrived in *Glowworm* at Plymouth about 11 last night, after a fair run from Lynton Roads, which anchorage we left under steam and sailed about 8 a.m. yesterday. Saw some gannets* and a great many guillemots on our way. Fine, bright, frosty morning. I hear of three inches of snow at Lilford, and they say there has been some on Dartmoor, and that woodcocks have come in in some numbers. T. shot the only one seen of this species in Oxon Wood on Monday last.”

“*November 2nd.* Fine moonlight night with slight haze, just the weather for woodcocks on migration.”

“*November 3rd.* A common gull (*L. canus*) has for some years frequented the garden of the Vicarage at Ivybridge, where Mrs. G—— feeds him, and has

* The Gannet (*Sula bassana*) also called the Solan Goose, breeds, as is generally known, in great numbers on the Bass Rock and on Ailsa Craig. It is not a ‘goose,’ but is allied to the cormorants and the pelicans. It is only a winter visitor to the Southern Atlantic.

become quite tame. He sometimes disappears for several days; I saw him this afternoon sitting on the top of one of the chimneys of the Vicarage. He does not seem specially to affect the little pond."

AT SEA

"*November 7th.* It fell calm early, so we got up steam and proceeded easily all day. Very fine and much warmer. We saw a great quantity of two species of porpoise, one of which Calmady* shot dead with a No. 4 cartridge, but though we went about to pick him up, we could not find him, and I presume he sank. I shot a large shearwater. Saw large numbers of sea birds—gannets, gulls, shearwaters, guillemots, and two small dark-coloured skuas.

"A migrating fieldfare, very tired, flew around us several times, but would not come aboard."

AT SEA AND GIRONDE

"*November 8th.* A good many lesser black-backed gulls and laughing gulls in the Gironde. Saw one flock of wigeon; also crows, and some small birds, larks or pipits, crossing the river."

PAULLAC

"*November 9th.* Went off in the cutter to the other side of the river, where we saw some mud

* The Captain.

creeks and backwaters, but almost entirely devoid of bird life. We landed on the Ile Philippe and found a beautiful bit of snipey, reedy ground, but we only saw two of the desired birds, and only one shot was fired, without result. Saw a few fowl and other things."

SANTANDER

"*November 20th.* Took cutter away up Ria de Cubas in search of woodcocks. Not much luck, as, though we found three, we only had a shot at and killed one. A good many fowl, and mud birds about, but very wide awake."

"*November 21st.* Fine morning. Spent the day at the harbour birds. The flat space inside sea at top of harbour is now all wet and swampy, and swarms with fowl of sorts."

"*November 22nd.* Went and visited O'Connor's sands for dunlin with some success, then Rio de Cubas. Tried Bosque del Coronel: only saw one woodcock; no shot at him."

"*November 24th.* Squally gusts from south-west but very warm. A flock of thirty wild geese seen."

"*November 26th.* Wild windy morning, but fine overhead and very warm. Started in steam launch towing dinghy about 11.30 a.m. and proceeded up Curlew

Creek. Had several exciting chases after scoters,* but were unlucky in losing two that we knocked down, and also a fine male hen-harrier, at which I fired, but it fell into a piece of Indian corn near Maliano, and was not to be found. We lunched at Port Plover, and afterwards went away up Quarantine Creek. Very little sport, but good fun cruising about."

"*November 28th.* Left for the O'Connor sands, upon the north side of which the sea was breaking grandly, the wind having shifted to north-west. I shot a young herring gull and had one long crack at a great northern diver, who did not like it, dived, and as far as we were concerned, never came up again. We landed on the sands, and finding no birds thereon proceeded to the Venta de Soma and across the hill to the left of it. Found a beautiful-looking woodcock covert just behind the village, but no woodcock in the part of it that we tried. Met a don with a dog, who told us that there had been a vast number of woodcocks some days ago, but that he feared that this southerly wind had taken them all away. He directed us to a weedy lake just south of the village of Paredo, where he said there were some snipes. We went on there, and found several. I was tired and sat about, and only got two or three long shots. Calmady tramped the marsh boldly and had several shots, but

* The scoters are sea ducks, although they come inland at nesting time. The birds referred to were probably the Common Scoter (*Edemia nigra*).

somehow was out of form and only shot one jack snipe. Minna flushed two or three water-rails out of shot."

"*December 4th.* Bright morning, heavy squalls of rain and hail. Went away in steam launch and dinghy down to sand-spit, shooting a scoter on the way. We were rather too late for the dunlins, as, when disturbed, they knew that the muds at head of harbour were bare, and made off there. We had two long exciting and eventually successful chases after a great northern and red-throated diver."

"*December 5th.* Went away as usual with steam launch and dinghy to the sand-spit, but found the dunlins, though in great numbers, unapproachable. Had the extraordinary luck to kill two great northern divers in three shots."

"*December 19th.* Glowing morning. Got under way soon after 8 a.m. and steamed out. Got a north-east breeze for a few hours; rainy squalls. Saw a grey phalarope sitting calmly on the waves after the fashion of a gull."

VIGO

"*December 24th.* Scenery very fine; rugged granite mountains all around, with patches of fir and oak wood in places, and cultivation here and there. I was much reminded of the West of Scotland and its lochs. We

went right away as far as we could get, some eight miles or so, to a little marsh below Villa Boa. We saw myriads of wild-fowl in the bay, but quite unapproachable. Found a few snipes, but awkward to shoot. A nice alder tarn, most likely-looking place for woodcock, but saw none."

"*January 2nd, 1879.* Beautiful morning, but very red sunrise—a bad omen. The doctor and I went off after breakfast in cutter across the bay to a wooded point and wandered about through fine woods intersected at short distances by granite walls very wearisome to surmount; not much undergrowth, but here and there patches of brambles and boggy springs. We only saw one woodcock, which escaped us. The doctor had a shot at what he calls grouse-red-legged partridges. We cruised along the north shore after luncheon and shot a few water birds."

"*January 7th.* Strong wind in morning, rather better about 11. Started in cutter, but it came on to blow and rain furiously, and we could not do much. Conversed with a native sportsman who lies up on one of the rocky islands; he tells me that he sometimes gets a heavy shot at sleeping ducks wafted down to him by wind on tide. He knows of only five sorts of ducks—mallard, wigeon, teal, scoters, and mergansers. I noticed several peculiarities of the Gallician dialect—*e.g.*, the 'g' strongly aspirated, as Vijo for Vigo, etc. He always addresses me as 'sinore' instead of señor, and put many u's in place of o's."

“*January 13th.* Went off in cutter to north side of bay, landed near Cangas; very pretty, but, in the way of shoot, quite unproductive country; shores fringed with reefs of rock.

“Saw great northern diver, sparrow-hawk. Vast flights of wigeon going out seaward, and two or three adult gannets in the bay.”

LISBON

“*January 24th.* Went ashore about noon and up to see the Natural History Museum. Made acquaintance with Barboza du Bocage, who was most civil and did the honours of the collection. There are many interesting things, but the birds are dreadfully badly stuffed. Many comparatively common Spanish birds seem to be absent from, or rare in Portugal—*e.g.*, *Passer salicicolus*, *Caprimulgus ruficollis*. Bocage showed me a specimen, a very bad one, of the blackcap from the Azores, with a black hood, apparently very distinct from the common form, and a new triton, lately discovered in Portugal. The cream of the collection are the birds from the Portuguese African possessions.”

“*January 25th.* I never noticed gulls so tame as here, chiefly *L. ridibundus*, with a few *L. fuscus*, *L. argentatus*, or *L. leucophæus*.”

“*January 28th.* Very fine bright morning. We waited for a pilot, who was engaged to come on board at

6 a.m., till nearly 8. Got another man, almost wholly unintelligible; steamed a few miles up under the north bank. Dense fog came on that soon passed off. About 12 Saurin and I went off in the cutter up the river: a long, fruitless pull, as we found it quite impossible to get anywhere near land, immense flat muds stretching in all directions. It came on showery. We did at last manage to land on an island, where I had an ineffectual shot at a short-eared owl, the only thing I saw within shot. There are a vast number of wild-fowl and marsh birds, but no means of getting at them. Saw marsh harrier, merlin, short-eared owl, cormorant, wild duck, wigeon, shoveler, teal, spoonbill, (?) egret, curlew, redshank, whimbrel, heron, dunlin, grey plover, meadow pipit, ringed-plover, skylark, crested lark, white wagtail, avocet, goose (sp. ?), snipe."

"*January 29th.* Very bright morning. Started in steam launch a long way up the river Tagus, landed on various islands, saw a great many wild-fowl and some snipes, but totally unapproachable. Met an old shooter in a little canoe, who told me that he had been shooting wild-fowl and catching eels with a bunch of worms for sixty years. He only had one teal."

CADIZ

"*February 3rd.* Went away in cutter to the Trocadero, and some way up a creek on river towards Puerto Real. Great flats with salt pans, not many birds."

"*February 14th.* Bright morning, strong north-west wind. After breakfast and writing several letters we went ashore and found Juan Espinar and his brother Pepe waiting for us, the former having brought a mare from la Marismilla lent to me by the administrator. I mounted her, and with Pepe's horse set off for the Cara de la Marismilla, where I found Juan's daughter Maria now married to a carabineer, looking very pretty. We went on thence to the edge of the marisma, found some beautiful snipey-looking places, but did not see a single snipe, or anything else shootable within range except a few rabbits, at one of which the captain shot and missed. They all say that this is about the worst season for small game that they ever had. Last year the partridges and rabbits died of drought. There has been no cold this winter to send in snipes or woodcocks, and the Marisma is so full that nothing can be done.

"Saw imperial eagle,* common kite, kestrel, raven, magpie, blackbird, song-thrush, chaffinch, serin, black-headed warbler, robin, pipits, white wagtail, red-legged partridge, whimbrel, flamingo, wild duck, etc."

SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA

"*February 18th.* A white owl shrieks round the vessel every night. Heard chiffchaff in Alcazar gardens. Large flock of wild geese passed over at night."

* *Aquila adalberti*, also called the White-shouldered Eagle. A tree-nesting eagle, generally distributed in suitable localities in Western Andalucia.

“*February 17th.* Saw, for the first time this course, great bustard, crane, white stork, calandra lark, besides quantities of peewits, golden plover, curlews, and small waders, marsh harriers, ravens, etc., etc.”

SEVILLE

“*February 22nd.* Fine morning, very high wind. Took carriage, with T. and Saccone, the interpreter, to Coria del Rio. The road between San Juan and Triana is almost impracticable, a complete slough of despond—mud, water, and ruts, deep enough to bury a regiment. However, we arrived safely, and T. went off after snipes with Manuel's son and got thirteen, chiefly jacks. I went with old Manuel to his hut about a mile off, but my shooting was stopped by a tremendous squall of rain and wind, which forced me to shelter again in the hut, where T. eventually came, and we lunched. We started towards Seville about 4.30, and had to walk from San Juan to Triana.

“Saw neophron and common kite. T. saw a good many snipes, but chiefly jacks. Old Manuel has four lanner's* eggs for me; also a bottle of snakes and lizards in spirits.

* The Lanner (*Falco feldeggi*). This falcon was formerly much used in falconry, and has been trained in England of late years with qualified success. It does not moult the striped feathers of the breast into 'bars,' as the peregrine does, but the longitudinal stripes of the immature bird remain longitudinal.



FLAMINGOES IN THE AVIARY POND.

“Ruiz brought his cousin, Rafael Mena, of Malaga, to see me in the evening. This seems a very intelligent man; he tells me that three more trumpeter bullfinches have turned up at Malaga, and that the cream-coloured courser has occurred there three times in his recollection. He knows of a young *Gypaëtus* now in the nest.”

“*February 24th.* Started in steam launch with T. and captain for Algaba; arrived about 10 a.m. Took Perico, his brother-in-law, two sons, and two horses after bustards. Went a long way, only saw nine, and only got one long ineffectual shot.

“Saw griffon vultures, bustards, cranes, storks, sand martins, kingfisher, Cetti’s warbler, Bonelli’s eagle, peewits, one snipe, great number of larks—calandras, skylarks, and crested. A very few *Calandrella*. Multitudes of kestrels T. shot a hoopoe.”

“*February 25th.* In steam launch to Algaba, picked up Perico and a pilot for Alcatá del Rio, arrived about 10.30. Saw a great many bustards, but our only shots were at impossible distances.”

“*February 26th.* Fine bright day. We took steam launch at 9 a.m., and proceeded to Coria. Met Manuel and son with a horse; along river-side to Puebla, behind which village are many likely snipey places. We found a good many, but the full snipes were very wild, and those we killed were mostly jacks. The golden plovers afforded good sport. Bag: 12 golden plovers,

14 snipes, 2 peewits, 1 ringed plover, 1 green sandpiper, 2 thrushes. Saw serpent eagle."

"*February 27th.* Another brilliant day. We went down in steam launch to San Juan de Alfarache, whither a carriage came to meet us, and took us on to Puebla. We beat much the same ground as yesterday, and had fair sport. Bag : 18 golden plovers, 16 snipes, 3 peewits. Saw stone curlews."

"*March 8th.* Perico came from Algaba with accounts of many bands of bustards thereabouts. Settled to go out thither to-morrow.

"Started at 6.30 a.m. in a carriage to the Venta de Rio Palo, about a mile beyond Italica, on the road to Badajoz. Perico and others met us there. We found a great many bustards, but they came very high, and we only got one, a young male. Saw myriads of cranes on their way north, several hoopoes, stone curlews, etc., nothing new. Found old Manuel on board, with a very fine adult peregrine, a wigeon, and a pintail from the Isla."

"*March 12th.* T. and I took cutter, and had a drive after fictitious bustards in the Isla Mayor, then on to the huts at entrance to La Corta, where we found Manuel's sons and Vincente Anchorèn. Went ashore and drove some cranes, of which we saw many. I got one, a long shot. Saw some bustards."

“*March 13th.* Fine morning; to La Corta, Guadalquivir. We got away in steam launch about 7 a.m., and were conducted down the main river and posted out in the open by Manuel and sons, who also took up positions. The Algaba people drove the country from La Corta towards us. A great many cranes came over, but high, and none fell, in spite of several barrels from T. and captain. At last a large flock of bustards, apparently mostly, if not all, old males, came at us, and low. T. knocked down one, and one at which I fired two barrels, fell some way behind us and was found. It threatened rain, and thunder growled in the distance, but the weather held up. We had several drives, and altogether managed to bag eight fine old male bustards. Great sport, making up amply for all our previous disappointments in the shooting line.

“By far the majority of the bustards, of which there are a very great number, are old males, and fly quite low; some of them have good beards already, and the necks puffy.* Saw a good many pintailed sand grouse, a few snipes, peewits, teal, and a small falcon, which I suggest was a lanner, ♂. None of the spring *pajaros de marisma* as yet. Cranes still in vast herds, trumpeting in every direction.”

“*March 14th.* We found a good many bustards,

* The male Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) develops in the breeding season a tuft of bristly feathers at the base of the bill, and also a gular (throat) pouch which can, at will, be greatly distended.

and they came well except to me. We went a little way up the Brazo del Este, but had no luck whatever owing to muffishness. Several heavy showers, during the worst of which we sheltered in a shepherd's hut and lunched. As we were sitting in the boat at the huts, close to the yacht, after having given up shooting, a female bustard was weak enough to fly past; she received four barrels from T., Frost, and self, and fell a victim. Saw many pintailed sand grouse."

"*March 15th.* We started about 7, and took much the same line as yesterday. Found a good many bustards, but again the shooters were at fault. I killed two, an old barbon, and a young male of last year, the only two which presented themselves to me.

"Saw vast flocks of white storks. T. shot a fine male pintail and a mallard (of which we saw several); also a green sandpiper, one of three. Saw a few teal, not many cranes, and a good number of vultures."

"*March 17th.* Fine morning, wind veering north-east at daybreak, but glass going rapidly down. We took up the Brazo del Este, and made nearly the whole circuit of the Isla Menor. We saw one or two large lots of bustards, but none of us had a shot at them, and the only animal bagged was a hare, shot by old Manuel. A great quantity of griffon and Egyptian vultures and common and black kites about some dead horses in the marisma of Palacios. Every sign of rain

at nightfall. Saw a good many mallards and garganeys and some marsh birds, I think ruffs and black-tailed godwits."

"*March 18th.* Heavy rain. It was rather better in the afternoon, and T. went ashore with the captain, and shot two black-bellied sand grouse. They went again after dinner, and took one alive, with light and bell. T. had a shot at bustard, without result."

GIBRALTAR

"*March 23rd.* T. walked up to the signal station afterwards with M—— and saw Bonelli's eagle on her nest.

"Went down to see Mr. V—— at the Waterport guard; he is much vexed at this new prohibitory law about shooting in Spain. He goes out to-morrow to look after a Bonelli's* nest in some crags near Castellar. He tells me that the ospreys are already sitting at the east side of the rock."

"*March 29th.* Have heard Scops owls these last few days about the rock."

"*March 29th.* It is remarkable that amongst hundreds of gulls at the slaughter place at the back of the rock

* Bonelli's Eagle (*Nisaetus fasciatus*) is with the Booted Eagle (*Nisaetus pennatus*) representative in Europe of a small group of long-legged eagles. They are neat-looking and active birds; the former nesting on ledges of rock, the latter in cork and pine-trees in Morocco and Andalusia.

I did not see one herring gull. All *L. fuscus*, *ridibundus*, and, I think, a few *melanocephalus*, but cannot be quite certain."

"*April 3rd to April 23rd.* Between these dates I was kept on board by an attack of gout. The weather was very unsettled and showery, with cold winds."

"*April 21st.* V—— took an egg of neophron from a nest of *Circaëtus gallicus* in cork wood; this is the first instance I ever heard of of the former species breeding on a tree.

"V—— and T. took a nest, with five eggs, of blue rock-thrush (*M. cyanus*) from hole in wall in Charles V. rampart.

"V—— caught a kite (*M. regalis*) on her nest, in a trap, and took two eggs in a tall pine tree."

MALAGA

"*April 25th.* Started in a carriage for a spot to the left of road to Torre Molinos, some three miles off, where M—— expected to find some crakes, but none were seen. The greater part of the flat country is covered with sugar canes, and almost all this part belongs to the Hesedias, who have a large sugar factory, iron foundries and cotton mills. We lunched at the house of their administrator, a very civil individual, from Estremadura, who gave me wonderful accounts of the number and variety of birds near Caceres.

“In the institute at Malaga the most remarkable things are an immature specimen of *Larus audouini*, without date (but Mena says undoubtedly killed near the town, probably seven or eight years ago), and a specimen of *Cursorius gallicus** killed near the town. Mena tells me that he knows of two other occurrences of this species, and a fine specimen of the little bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*).

“Mena had a skin of plover, which I bought, having little doubt that it is a specimen of *Charadrius fulvus*, the Asiatic golden plover, killed near Malaga, May 21st, 1878. Several fine flamingos just brought in, and a great many eggs of *Gyps fulvus*; I also bought Richards's pipit (*Anthus richardi*) and the pallid swift (*Cypselus pallidus*).”

ALBORAN

“April 26th. Beautiful bright day. Got up steam and started about 8 a.m. to explore the island of Alboran, some ninety miles south-east by east. I had often heard of the abundance of sea birds there, but a lighthouse has lately been built, and I had fears. We saw the back fins of several sharks and one or two shearwaters. We sighted the island and lighthouse about

* The Cream-coloured Courser (*Cursorius gallicus*). These are desert birds, allied to the pratincoles, and through them to the true plovers. They are exceedingly active birds, both on the wing and on foot, and feed on insects, being especially fond of grasshoppers.

2 p.m., and on getting within a few miles saw several small whales spouting and blowing all around us. We anchored on the south side of the island about 5.45 p.m., in eight fathoms sand and weed, and Ruiz, T., and I went off to a landing-place just below the lighthouse, speaking two of the inhabitants on our way, fishing, or rather setting a trot. One of these men told us that there were no birds but gulls (of which we could see a good many), and only one kind, now laying.

“The island is, I should say, rather more than half a mile long, and apparently only some few hundred yards across. It is all low cliff, some fifty feet high, of a yellowish sandstone, with here and there big stones imbedded therein, and with many caves and fissures and flat reefs lying off it. The lighthouse stands close to the western end of the island. Several of the natives, or rather inhabitants of the lighthouse, came down to speak to us, and told us the lighthouse has only been built three years; that there were four families, no spring of water, only one sort of gull (of which they had eggs), no rock doves, many seals, and sometimes a good many birds of passage, quails, turtle-doves, hoopoes, and larks. T. and Ruiz landed to explore whilst I cruised round in the cutter. I saw herring and lesser black-backed gulls, and fancied that I made out Audouin's gull by its great length of wing, but I did not get a shot. Saw one turnstone, two or three common sandpipers and whimbrel, two or three redshanks and two stilts, evidently on migra-

tion, and puzzled whither to go. T. and Ruiz appeared on the top of the cliff with a gull, which T. had shot, and I went round to wait for them at the landing-place, where they soon joined me. T. had bagged two fine specimens of *Larus audouini* and a whinchat, and told me that he had knocked down two more of the gulls, which fell out at sea; he had a shot also at a hawk, which escaped. Ruiz had taken three gulls' eggs, but certainly not those of *L. audouini*. The only other bird they saw was a pipit.

“The lighthouse people brought us down several gulls' eggs, but they were either those of *L. leucophæus* or *L. fuscus*. On seeing our gulls they declared that they were the most common species, but they seemed to know very little on the subject, and to care less. The sun was going down and a breeze springing up, so I was very reluctantly obliged to go back to the yacht, and hope for a calm day to-morrow; but it was not to be. Mr. M—— caught a small shark from the yacht's deck about three feet long. A strong breeze from the west got up, and we rolled and strained at our anchor most uncomfortably all night.

“The only vegetation on the island except sea weeds is a short heathery plant, of which T. brought off a specimen. The nearest land is Cape Tres Forcas, in Morocco, which is plainly visible; the nearest point in Spain they told me was Adra. We could also see the Spanish land. They depend upon Almina for all their

supplies, had only had three visits from vessels, except their supply boat, in the last three years, and have been twenty-seven days now expecting this last. They have turned out a few rabbits, which they say are doing well."

VALENCIA

"*April 29th.* Talked of going into Alicante, but it fell nearly calm at night, and as we were still some way from that port at daylight of 30th, I decided on going right on to Valencia; so we got up steam and ran along the coast, which is very wild and barren—high rugged peaks, here and there a bay, with a village and some cultivation. Curious Gibraltar-like rock, near Calpe. Saw a gannet, the first I ever recollect to have seen in the Mediterranean, except at the back of the rock of Gibraltar. We did not see more than three or four gulls during these last two days, or any other sea birds, though some parts of the coast seem well suited for them."

"*May 2nd.* Don Manuel Cabelle, who tells me that the Crown Prince of Austria is expected, and wants to shoot on the Albufera, where, as there is no shooting to be done at this time of year, they propose to get up a mullet fishery for him."

"*May 3rd.* In Museum best things in birds are *Aquila nevia*, *Sylvia melanogaster*, *Tichodroma murarias*, *Totanus fuscus*, *T. stagnatilis*, *Oidemia fusca*. I find that *Emberiza citrinella* is common here. I merely mention the above birds as all having occurred near Valencia while not common in Spain."

BIRDS SEEN AT ALEUFERA

"*Neophron percnopterus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Hirundo rustica*, *H. urbica*, *Cotyle riparia*, *Cypselus apus*, *Sylvia cisticola*, *S. turdoides*, *S. provincialis*, *Ardea cinerea*, *A. purpurea*, *Oriolus galbula*, *Totanus calidris*, *T. hypoleucus*, *Egialitis* (?), *Anas* (sp. ?), *Budytes flaccus*. Many warblers of sorts."

"May 5th. Fine bright morning. Tracey came to me about 6 a.m. and announced that the Crown Prince of Austria had arrived, and about 8 a.m. told me that he and his people were all landing with guns. Shortly afterwards came Don Manuel Cabelle in a great state of agitation to tell me that they were all going off immediately, that nothing was prepared, and that the Prince invited me and T. to join him in the expedition. We jumped into our shooting things, and went ashore. Found that the Prince and his people had started in four carriages a few minutes before; we followed at once in a small 'bus with Don Manuel, who kept on repeating that it was folly, nothing was prepared, nothing would be shot, and so on. We soon overtook the other carriages, which were very badly horsed, and on getting within about half a mile of Salar, the fishing village of the Albufera, the Prince lost patience, as the road and horses were so bad, and jumped out. I got out and introduced myself and T. to him. He is a very slight, tall boy, not the least like the portrait which he sent to me. He was most cordially civil, introduced me to his brother-in-law, Prince Leopold of Bavaria, and the rest of his suite, amongst others one of the Brehms, who accompanies him

as naturalist to the expedition. I put him—the Prince—and his brother-in-law into our 'bus, and we struggled on to Salar, where the whole party embarked in five flat-bottomed boats, and went off to a spot called la Franca, where there are dense, strong reed beds.

“We saw but few birds. We talked ornithology and shooting—French with the Prince, and English with Brehm. These two went off in a little punt in amongst the reeds, where we could not follow, so we waited their return outside the reed beds. T. knocked down a purple heron, but it could not be retrieved. In the meantime two Guardias Civiles came off and said that their colonel wanted to present himself and pay his respects. The Prince and Brehm came back having shot nothing, and we all landed on the Dehesa. The party marched in line back towards Salar. I tramped along the path by the water-side with the G. C. colonel, a very civil, fine-looking fellow, with the boats following, till we reached a sort of muddy canal, which is only passable at each end, and cuts right across the Dehesa. A good many shots were fired by the party.

“At this spot they came to the boats and re-embarked rather disgusted, and we went spinning away under sail past Salar, to a spot on the canal whither we had sent on the carriages; got into them again and went to a place on the river, whence there is a short cut by foot to the Grao. On our way we found a clap-net set, and several wretched swallows pegged down as decoys.

The Royalties immediately cut these adrift and let them go."

IVIZA

"*May 9th.* Ran through the Frena and anchored in Iviza harbour about 7 a.m. on morning of 9th. A pretty bay and tolerably snug anchorage formed by several islands; a sort of amphitheatre of hills with scrubby vegetation, the plains at foot of them apparently well cultivated and dotted with flat-topped houses. My principal object here is to try to get over to explore Formentera. The Consul tells me he has property and a salt lake there, but there is no possibility of lying anywhere there with this detestable wind. We heard of some salt pans in Iviza, which sounded likely for birds, and went about with the son of the Consul to try and find the officer of the Civil Guard to give us leave to shoot, but he was not to be found. The town is crowded on a rocky hillside with a fort and church at the top. Good market places. We bought a pound of tunny brought in this morning from Formentera. People talk a curious sort of Valencian *patois*. Red caps *à la Catalan* seem to be much the fashion here."

"*May 10th.* Fine and bright, wind still strong but not so cold. We all went away after breakfast in cutter, skirting the shores to the south-west, chiefly rocky, with here and there stretches of sandy beach. We landed first at the foot of a range of sombre hills and

found a great flat with some pools of water, shallow, and full of fish, but not many birds about. The captain went right away to the westwards and reports a great salt lake near the sea on other side the island but very few birds. Ruiz took a stroll on the hillside and shot a few small birds. T. hung about the pools and shot a fine osprey. We lunched on the beach and proceeded round a rocky point where we disturbed a raven from her nest. Landed on a sand-hilly spot with strong growth of juniper and lentiscus. Found great salt pans again. T. and Ruiz shot a few birds and I saw one which utterly puzzled me.

“Seeing some respectable-looking youths cruising wistfully round the yacht, I invited them on board and showed them over her. They gave me a good deal of information on the zoological capabilities of Iviza.”

“*May 11th.* These boys say that there are martens and genets in the island, no foxes or weasels or other *animal dañino*; hares very scarce; rabbits abundant; a great many bats of various sizes, some of them white. They told me that many gulls breed in the islands of Espandelle and Espalmador, and that when they go ferreting there they bolt from the burrows many birds which they call ‘virots’—shearwaters. These are also caught and eaten by the fishermen in great numbers. They say that there are a great many partridges in Iviza, and in the winter many woodcocks and snipes. The birds

they specially mentioned were hoopoe, bee-eater, quail, landrail, coot, heron, flamingo, and peewit. Curiously enough, they all professed to recognise Dresser's plate of *Chettusia gregaria*,* and said that it was found here (?)!"

BIRDS OBSERVED IN IVIZA

<i>Pandion haliaetus.</i>	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla.</i>
<i>Falco peregrinus.</i>	<i>Emberiza miliaria.</i>
<i>F. subbuteo</i> (?)	<i>Passer domesticus.</i>
<i>F. tinnunculus.</i>	<i>Fringilla chloris.</i>
<i>Hirundo rustica.</i>	<i>Linota cannabina.</i>
<i>H. urbica.</i>	<i>Carduelis elegans.</i>
<i>Cypselus apus.</i>	<i>Turtur auritus.</i>
<i>Cotyle riparia.</i>	<i>Ædicnemus crepitans.</i>
<i>Muscicapa grisola.</i>	<i>Ægialitis cantianus.</i>
<i>Phyllopnuste trochilus.</i>	<i>Strepsilas interpres.</i>
<i>Sylvia phragmitis.</i>	<i>Hamatopus ostralegus.</i>
<i>Turdus merula.</i>	<i>Totanus glottis.</i>
<i>Monticola cyanea.</i>	<i>Totanus calidris.</i>
<i>Saxicola oenanthe.</i>	<i>Tringa</i> (?)
<i>Pratincola rubicola.</i>	<i>Numenius</i> (?)
<i>Parus</i> (sp. ?)	<i>Larus fuscus.</i>
<i>Lanius rufus.</i>	<i>L. leucophæus.</i>
<i>Buāytes fluxus.</i>	<i>Upupa epops.</i>
<i>Galerida cristata.</i>	<i>Puffinus cinereus.</i>

BARCELONA

"May 14th. A nightjar came on board in early morning. Several laughing gulls† in the harbour."

* The Black-bellied Lapwing, an eastern bird.

† *L. ridibundus*. So called from its call. It is also known as the Brown-headed Gull.

February to May, 1882

SEVILLA

"February 5th. Old Manuel Llanos came, bringing with him a good specimen of the imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*) in the sandy mottled plumage of immaturity, two grey-lag geese (*Anser ferus*), and two Spanish magpies (*Cyanopica cooki*). He says that owing to the abundant rains a great number of birds nested in the marisma and cotos last year, amongst others the glossy ibis, which had not done so before to his knowledge; of this species he got some three clutches of eggs, all of which, except that one sent to me, were destroyed by mice. P—— went to the Museo and Casa de Pilatos, and I—— to see old F. Barlow, who is quite laid up. Noticed willow wren (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) in orange trees in the Plaza under our windows.

"Manuel also brought a young imperial eagle alive, insisting that it was of another species, which only appears in these parts during the winter.

"Drove out (in afternoon) along Las Delicias and away back by the Cañas de Carmona on the road to Alcatá de Guadaira. Lovely bright warm day."

"Noticed the following birds:—*Cirrus cyaneus*, *Hirundo urbica*, *Ruticilla titys*, *Passer domesticus*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Fringilla serinus*, *Carduelis elegans*, *Anthus campestris*, *Alceda cristata*, *A. arvensis*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Turdus musicus*, *Grus cinereus*, *Pratincola rubicola*, *Motacilla alba*, *Emberiza miliaria*."

"February 8th. Left by train for Cadiz. All the marisma about Las Alcantarillas seems to be perfectly dry."

"Noticed the following fresh birds:—*Milvus regalis*, *Otis tarda*, *O. tetrax*, *Hirundo rustica*."

CADIZ

"February 9th. Saw the following birds (in the harbour):—*Larus fuscus*, *L. leucophæus*, *L. canus*."

SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA, GUADALQUIVIR

"February 10th. Under sail for the Huelva river, but, finding a heavy sea, ran in under shelter of Chipiona Point, got a pilot, and waited till the tide served, and we got over the bar of San Lucar without difficulty."

"Birds seen:—*Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Puffinus*, two species, *Alca torda*, *Fratercula arctica*."

"February 11th. Started up the river just before the tide made upwards, and with one or two temporary groundings, anchored at the lower end of the Corta, in the Isla Menor, about 6 p.m. We saw great numbers of wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), some pintail (*Anas acuta*), mallard (*Anas boschas*), geese (*Anser ferus*) in great quantities, some curlews (*Numenius arquatus*), whimbrel (*Numenius phæopus*), redshank (*Totanus calidris*), dunlins (*Tringa variabilis*), and other small waders, besides several species recorded before."

LA CORTA, GUADALQUIVIR

"February 12th. Fine bright day with north-west breeze. We moved up early to the upper end of the

Corta, taking the ground several times, but getting off without much difficulty, and anchored about 10.30 a.m. Vicente and Manuel's two sons, Miguel and Francisco, appeared about midday with horses, and said that their father would be here to-morrow morning. They brought with them a very fine disembowelled wild cat (*Felis catus*), which they killed a short time ago in the Coto del Rey. We saw various birds new to our this year's list.* We saw many geese, a few bustards and cranes. Perico de Algaba turned up, and gave a most woeful account of the floods of last spring at his village: his house was completely destroyed, his donkey and pig drowned, many of his *vecinos* were in a still worse plight, and many took refuge in the tower. All the wheat was destroyed, and the vines and olives ruined. This year there is hardly any water in the marisma. Francisco went out and brought in a couple of grey lag geese,† which he killed by stalking with the horse. He sat for some time with us in the cabin after dinner, and I showed him some of Dresser's plates of ducks, etc., of which he gave

* "*Gyps fulvus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Corvus corax*, *Ægialitis hiaticula*."

† The Grey Lag Goose (*Anser ferus*) is commonly held to be the chief originator of our domestic goose. It is the only wild goose which nests in Britain (Scotland). Although it is said to nest very occasionally in Andalusia, the birds here referred to would be winter visitors. The name means (Prof. Skeat) the *lagging* goose, *i.e.*, the lagging-behind goose—staying to nest—when other species leave in the spring.



THE GREAT SKUAS

A Thorburn

me the local names.* He recognised the white-headed duck (*Erismatura leucocephala*) as one of a species which appeared at Santa Olalla this year for the first time to his knowledge. We laid our plans for an early start after the geese to-morrow morning."

"*February 13th.* Intent on wild geese, I—— and I rose about 5 a.m., and started in the steam launch with the captain and the *gente* to a spot some two miles down the river in the Isla Menor. The *hijos* de Manuel and Perico borrowed a big hoe and soon dug me out a hole in the open field, the captain and I—— concealed themselves as best they could farther along, and Miguel and Francisco went away to stalk with the horse and try to put the geese (of which many hundreds were feeding in sight of us) over our heads. These *niños* went a long way, and we waited more or less patiently for some three hours, but the geese passed over I—— and T., quite out of shot, although they both fired. One flock of some fifteen or sixteen great bustards passed out of shot and settled not very far behind us, and when the *niños* came back with one goose we went and took up position along the bank of the river for them. Perico went round to put them over, and before they got up some geese came, and, passing close to the captain, he bagged two at one

* "*A. boscas*, 'Pato real'; *A. acuta*, 'P. rabudo'; *A. marmorata*, 'Ruilla'; *A. clypeata*, 'Sardinero'; *Q. crecca*, 'Sarcereta'; *Q. circea*, 'Carrañaca'; *Tadorna cornuta*, 'Ansereta'; *T. rutila*, 'Pato tarro.'"

shot. The bustards gave one of the *niños* a shot, which had no effect, and a big cock bird separated from the others, and was coming well for I——, but the captain fired at it when quite out of shot and turned it away. Beautiful bright day, with easterly wind. Old Manuel arrived. We started again about 4 p.m. to try fighting for geese, but they all passed too high. The *niños* found a wounded one, which they brought on board alive. A great many griffon vultures about a dead horse some way down the river. Vicente tried to tow it up to give T. some amusement with the vultures, but the ebb tide was too much and he had to leave the beast moored for to-morrow.”

“Fresh birds seen: *Pterodis arenarius*, *Totanus glottis*.”

LA CORTA, GUADALQUIVIR

“February 14th. Beautiful morning with easterly breeze. We started in the steam launch about 9 a.m. and went away through the Corta to the Brazo del Este, some way up which I—— got out and beat part of the bank on proper right for snipes, I cruising along in the launch. We did not find many. After a while we picked up I—— and took him to a spot higher up on proper left bank, whence he sallied with Miguel and Francisco to look for snipes at the wet places in the direction of las Alcantarillas. I cruised backwards and forwards, shooting at whatever offered itself on the river, which was not much, though we saw enormous numbers of

wigeon and a few mallard and teal. About 4.30 p.m. I—— rejoined us and said that he had found very few snipes, but had seen swarms of geese and various duck fowl. On our way back we shot some wigeon crippled by the shore gunner, and also some small waders. Our bag consisted of one goose, caught alive, one wigeon, one teal, three peewits, five snipes, one little stint, and some twenty ringed plover, Kentish plover, and dunlins.”

“Fresh birds seen: *Totanus hypoleucus*, *Vultur monachus*, *Charadrius pluvialis*, *Aegialitis cantiana*, *Scolopax gallinago*, *Linota cannabina*, *Tringa minuta*.

“Reported by I——: *Hirundo riparia*, *Anas clypeata*, *Pterocles alchata*.”

“February 15th. Most beautiful day. I—— and I sallied with *la gente* about 9 a.m., and had several attempts at the bustards, but entirely without success, and we came home absolutely empty-handed. We noticed in a flock of geese, one very considerably smaller than her companions, possibly the little white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*), which has occurred in these parts. Vicente reports having seen hoopoes (*Upupa epops*) a day or two ago. We saw a good number of bustards and, I think, more geese than we had seen before, swarms of wigeon and a few black-bellied sand grouse. The vultures decline to come to our dead horse.”

“Fresh birds seen: *Falco peregrinus*, *Ædienemus crepitans*.”

“February 16th. Another beautiful, bright day, but a coldish wind. I—— and I went away down the river,

but had no chance at the bustards, of which we did not see many. We had a little bit of sniping about the mouth of the Brazo del Este and a soft place just below it on the right bank of Isla Mayor. We got one golden plover, one peewit, eleven snipes, thirteen dunlins, two ringed-plover, one Kentish plover. A lad from Coria brought me a young otter (*Lutra vulgaris*) caught near that place, small and very tame."

"February 17th. Very fine, hot day. We went away in steam launch about 8 a.m. for la Campania, the spot where the Brazo del Este leaves the main river. Saw very few snipes, and those few very wild. Some way down the *brazo* we came to an island covered with thick brambles, reeds, and white poplars, out of which we startled many birds—*e.g.*, kites, marsh harriers, barn owls, sparrow-hawk, water-hen, common heron, and wild duck. I—— and Francisco landed, but found an impenetrable jungle, full of old nests, which Miguel declares to be those of the night heron (*Nycticorax griseus*) and purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*). We proceeded down the *brazo* and had some tolerable sport, bagging altogether four mallard, two wigeon, one teal, four golden plover, two peewits, one water-rail, three snipes, one quail, two marsh harriers, and a water tortoise (*Emys*, sp.?) captured alive. On our way home we flushed a regular bouquet of marsh harriers out of some high reed, and bagged two of them."

"Fresh birds seen: *Accipiter nisus*, *Strix flammea*, *Ardea bubulcus*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Rallus aquaticus*."

"February 18th. Perhaps the most perfect of the many lovely days that we have had. We landed on the Isla Mayor, and went away to the western *brazo* of the river to look for snipes; saw very few, but we only brought home one bustard and a blacktailed godwit* (*Limosa belgica*), which last was the only fresh species which we met with. We saw a good many bustards, cranes, a great many golden plover, five pintailed sand grouse, some curlews and redshanks. We were unlucky altogether, and I, to my shame, managed not to kill a bustard which gave me a fair chance. Sent the yacht down to the lower end of the Corta; she left the steam launch for us at the huts at upper end. Bade farewell to *la gente* at sundown, and rushed down la Corta with a swinging ebb tide; found the vessel right away below the mouth of Brazo del Este, having had a very narrow escape of being run down by a Spanish steamer at her moorings above. Good Spanish proverb from Vicente: "Al cazador leña y al leñador caza."

"List of birds observed in Andalucía, February: *Fultur monachus*, *Gyps fulvus*, *Neophron percnopterus*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Buteo vulgaris*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Milvus regalis*, *Falco peregrinus*, *F. tinnunculus*, *F. cenchris*, *Strix flammea*, *Turdus musicus*, *Ruticilla titys*,

* A wading bird belonging to the *Scolopacidae* (sandpiper, snipe, and curlew family). It has ceased to breed in England since the draining of the fens. A winter migrant to Andalucía.

Pratincola ruficollis, *Erithacus rubecula*, *Phylloscopus minor*, *Ph. trochilus*, *Cottia cottii*, *Cisticola cursorans*, *Melospiza alba*, *M. flava*, *Anthus pratensis*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Chelidon urbica*, *Cotile riparia*, *Carduelis caryans*, *Serinus hortulanus*, *Passer domesticus*, *P. salicicolus*, *Fringilla coelebs*, *Lineta cannabina*, *Emberiza miliaria*, *Galerita cristata*, *Alauda arvensis*, *Calandrella* (sp. ?), *Melanocorypha calandria*, *Sturnus vulgaris*, *Cyanopica cooki*, *Corvus corax*, *Upupa epops*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Ardea cinerea*, *Ardea bubulcus*, *Ciconia alba*, *Anser ferus*, *Anas boschas*, *A. clypeata*, *A. creaca*, *A. acuta*, *Mareca penelope*, *Pterocles arenarius*, *Pt. alchata*, *Coturnix communis*, *Rallus aquaticus*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Grus cinereus*, *Otis tarda*, *O. tetrax*, *Ædicnemus crepitans*, *Choridrius phueialis*, *Egialitis cantiana*, *A. hiaticula*, *Vanellus cristatus*, *Scelopax gallinago*, *Tringa alpina*, *T. minuta*, *Totanus hypoleucus*, *T. calidris*, *T. glottis*, *Numenius phaeopus*, *N. arquatus*, *Sterna* (sp. ?), *Larus ridibundus*, *L. canus*, *L. leucophaeus*, *L. fuscus*, *L. marinus*, *Lestris* (sp. ?), *Puffinus* (two sp. ?), *Alca torda*, *Lomvia* (sp. ?), *Fratercula arctica*."

SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA

"February 19th. A most lovely morning. In the steam launch for San Lucar about 9.45. Very pleasant run; read a good deal of *Spain and the Spaniards* by Azamat Batuk. Saw vast numbers of geese and wigeon, and six sheldrakes (*Tadorna cornuta*), and two grey plovers (*Squatarola helvetica*), both species new to our present list of birds seen in Andalusia. Arrived at San Lucar at 3.25 p.m."

CADIZ TO GIBRALTAR

"February 24th. Fine bright morning. As it did not seem to blow so hard we started about 8.20 a.m. for Gibraltar; met a very heavy sea and fresh breeze outside,

and ploughed slowly through it till off Tarifa, when Tracey stood over under the African land and got smooth water and strong current in his favour. I—— reports two birds fresh to our list—viz., gannet (*Sula bassana*), and a petrel, probably Bulwer's petrel (*Oceanites bulweri*).* Bonelli's eagle reported as sitting near the signal station. We remained at Gibraltar till the end of the month."

MALAGA

"*March 1st to 11th.* Had several visits from Rafael Mena, who said that it had been an exceptionally bad winter for birds of all sorts. I—— made an expedition with said Mena to *el chorro* in search of lämmergeiers (*Gypaëtus barbatus*), but could not find the nesting place or get a shot at the birds, of which they saw one. He brought back one chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*), of which they saw many, and also reported golden eagle (*Aquila fulva*), black chat (*Saxicola leucura*), and blue rock-thrush (*Monticola cyanus*). T., I——, and Peck made several

* The petrels belong to a large division of birds distinguished by tubular nostrils (*Turbinares*), which frequent every sea and ocean of the world. This division includes many and varied forms, from the giant Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) to the little Storm Petrel (*Procellaria pelagica*). The shearwaters, as before said, also fall into this weird, restless group of birds. Some of them never touch land but at nesting time; and they have the general habit of wandering the waters like lost spirits. *Ames damnées* of the Bosphorus; *yelkouan* of the Arab, from the Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) of the Arctic to those of the Southern seas they have impressed every voyager in the same way.

boating expeditions in the bay and found numbers of scoters (*Oidemia nigra*), razor bills (*Alca torda*), brown-headed (*Larus ridibundus*) and lesser black-backed gulls (*L. fuscus*), sandwich terns (*Sterna cantiaca*), one diver (*Colymbus*), several skuas (*Lestris* sp. ?), the great and small Mediterranean shearwaters (*Puffinus kuhli* and *P. yelkouan*), common herons (*Ardea cinerea*), two grebes (*Podiceps* sp. ?), and an osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*). They brought in one specimen of skua alive, which is, I think, undoubtedly Richardson's skua (*Lestris richardsoni*), in the nearly uniform brown plumage. Mena made me a present of a hemipode (*Turnix*) alive, which seems well used to a cage."

"*March 12th.* We let the skua out for a walk and wash on deck."

"*March 15th.* Fine, but the wind still easterly. Mena called, bringing the shearwaters' skins. It is remarkable that *all* those of the smaller species are females. Mena told me that he could always distinguish between common (*Cypselus apus*) and pallid swifts (*C. pallidus*), by their manner of going under the tiles to their nests, the former flying straight in, and the latter always pausing at the entrance. He also told me that he had seen the first of this species this year on 13th inst."

AT SEA

"*March 16th.* We left Malaga about 8 a.m. A hoopoe came aboard in the morning. We saw many

lesser black-backed gulls, shearwaters, some porpoises, and near Adra a flight of cranes making the Spanish coast from the southward."

VALENCIA

"*March 21st.* Senor Arévalo told me that *Sylvia melanopogon* is not uncommon here, but was formerly much more so (*sic*) near Malaga, and that its eggs vary quite as much in colour as those of *Cisticola*. He also told me of the occurrence on the Albufera of the African pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), and of a specimen of *Chelidon*, which they cannot determine."

"*March 22nd.* Don Manuel Cabelle came and sat with me for some time. He says that this has been a wonderfully good season for wild-fowl on the Albufera; he asked T. to go out and join him at the fishing village at the Albufera to-morrow evening, to shoot the next day. He tells me of a bird three times the size of a swan! entirely white!! and about five feet high!!! shot near here, and now to be seen stuffed at the Casino de los Cazadores; this must surely be a myth, but requires investigation."

"*March 24th.* Don José Arévalo, bringing with him the unknown *Chelidon*, which is, as far as I can see, nothing but a common house martin (*Chelidon urbica*). Don José stayed some time, and gave me a memento in the shape of a sketch of the head of a pallid swift

(*Cypselus pallidus*). T. came back about 6.15 p.m., with Don M. Cabelle, after a fair day, for the time of year, at the Albufera; they brought back thirty-four fowl, shovelers, garganeys, pintail, wigeon, teal, and pochard, and a very fine adult common heron, alive, wounded in the wing."

MINORCA

"*March 26th.* Being Sunday, and all of us wanting rest, I decided on going into Port Mahon, and, running up, anchored before the town about 1 p.m.; not another ship in the harbour, except a steamer under repair. Noticed a great number of shearwaters, some shags (*Phalacrocorax graculus*), an osprey, many gulls, and another bird of prey (I think a common buzzard) about the entrance of the harbour. It is remarkable that *all* the gulls here appear to be the Mediterranean herring gull (*Larus leucophæus*). I do not see either black-backed or laughing gull."

PORT MAHON

"*March 30th.* Saw several common kites. We found a heavyish sea outside, but very light breeze from southwest; steamed along, rolling gaily. More shearwaters than I ever saw before together. Saw a puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) alone some miles out from Port Mahon. Most lovely sunset and fine moonlight night."

AT SEA

“*March 31st.* Saw the first black-headed gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) of this cruise. Two or three tired robins (*Erithacus rubecula*) came on board. At 12 a.m. we were twenty-six miles from Cape Caccia, in Sardinia, the nearest land. Very soon afterwards we made Cape Argentiera and Asinara; at 6 p.m. we were off the lighthouse at the latter spot. Very light westerly breeze. Many porpoises; lovely moonlight night. We ran fast through the Strait of Bonifacio, and about midnight rounded the light on the island of Razzoli.”

“*April 1st.* At about 8.30 a.m. the captain reported no sign of a breeze, so I ordered steam for 10 a.m., and we ran along the coast of Corsica; a lovely morning, with the faintest of ripples from the south.”

SPEZIA

“*April 3rd.* Drove in afternoon to Porto Venese; very pretty views over the bay, but country much spoiled by the masses of olives. Birds exceedingly scarce; I only noticed chaffinch, great titmouse, and kestrel, besides a few gulls. We went afterwards for a drive to the valley of the Magra, over a low col. To the north-east, a wild river torrent bed, with very little water in it now; picturesque villages perched on hills round about. Heard and saw sparrow, crested lark, ciril bunting, blackbird, swallow, house martin.”

"April 7th. An old fellow in a sort of coracle shot into a flock of black-headed gulls, and bagged two of them, which he brought on board alive. He informed me that he shot from *la passione*. Great shoals of small fishes playing round the vessel after dark."

LEGHORN

"April 14th. We beat into Leghorn and anchored in the outer harbour. Three United States men of war moored at the mole. We got leave to go into the inner harbour, and found the R. Y. S. s.s. *Golden Eagle* there. Went ashore and drove about the town—clean, wide streets and large squares, but rather a melancholy place. Many gulls in outer harbour."

"April 15th. I took train for Pisa at 10.42 a.m. The line runs through the forest of Tombolo, a very gamey-looking locality with pines, oaks, ilex, and thick under-covert of brambles, thorn, heather, fern, with great stretches of fine-looking snipe ground in the open spots. Saw a troop of camels, but nothing in the way of birds, except kestrel, magpie, skylark, crested lark, fantail warbler, and common heron. Arrived at Pisa at 11.9 a.m. and went straight to the Natural History Museum, which is chiefly rich in fossils and minerals; they have a good great auk (*Alca impennis*), and apparently a fair collection of local birds, but they are not kept apart from the others, and some are without labels, others placed so

high as not to be distinguishable. There are some very well stuffed groups—viz., a fine wild boar with a lance-head in his shoulder and two dogs, a party of rose starlings (*Pastor roseus*) and golden orioles (*Oriolus galbula*) on a cherry tree, and penduline titmice (*Ægithalus pendulinus*) with nests. I then went to bookseller's to try and find Salvadori's *Italian Ornithology*, which was not to be had. I saw the first number of Giglioli's book on *Italian Birds*, something in the style of Bettoni. I bought a good copy of Aldrovardi's *Birds* for 7 francs 50 cents."

ELBA

"April 19th. We went into Porto Longone, at the eastern end of Elba, but it looked anything but aviferous, so we went round Capes Fina and Calamita. We, however, found that the wind, which had been apparently dying away in the Piombino channel, was coming down like steam off the high hills, and though parts of the coast looked very good for pigeons, boat work would have been unpleasant to say the least of it. On the east side the island is well cultivated, and full of iron mines; the outline of the hills is very picturesque; on the south side there is a good deal of cliff and some fine bays, in one of which we anchored. A gentleman's house and some scattered cottages are placed at the head of this bay, with a sandy beach and vines; high land all around. The name of the place is Acona on the charts. Some natives, two of them exceedingly handsome young fellows,

came off to us in a boat, and said that there was nothing to be procured here except wine ; no fish, no vegetables. There are, they say, some pigeons about the rocks. The wind dropped at night."

"*April 20th.* We went away in the cutter after breakfast and cruised along the rocks to the westward as far as the eastern point of the bay of Campo. Saw rock doves (*Columba livia*), but not in any great numbers and very wild. I got two, but only by lying up and sending boat to stir them up. Ran across the bay of Campo, where we took boat and went to the westward, but only saw two rock doves, of which we got one. Beautiful distant view of Corsica, with a great deal of snow on the high tops ; Pianosa, low as it is, distinctly visible. We came back and explored the southern point and eastern side of the promontory which separates the bays of Acona and Stella. Saw more rock doves, but they were very wild, and we only managed to bag one more. The rocks of this promontory are of the colours red, green, black and yellow. We came round and took up our anchorage of last night in the bay of Acona."

(Written later.) "The rocks of this southern side of Elba present to the unlearned every variety of colour, stratification, and apparently geological formation ; in places they are certainly limestone, in others red and some black conglomerate, with here and there blocks of black

marble with white veins, whilst there are patches of bright green and brilliant yellow sandstone in some spots.

“The absence of sea birds is very remarkable. We only saw four gulls and two shags. The ravens have a nest in what appears to be a tolerably accessible spot on the eastern side of the promontory mentioned. When I shot the first two rock doves, several of their feathers floating in the air were caught and carried off by the crag martins which are very numerous.

“The doctor reports two pair of partridges (*Caccabis rufa*).”

“Birds seen: *Neophron percnopterus*, *Falco tinnunculus*, *Falco* (sp. ?), *Corvus corax*, *Cotile rufestris*, *Monticola cyanus*, *Chelidon urbica*, *Columba livia*, *Larus leucophæus*, *Phalacrocorax graculus*.”

“April 21st. Another lovely day. The doctor landed with gun and Zulu at the head of the bay on east side, and T. and I went away in the cutter round the east side of our promontory. We saw few pigeons; they were very wild, and we did not bag one. We attempted a siege of the ravens' nest, but the cliff was so friable that it was a service of danger, and we had to abandon it. The yacht came round to us. We saw a common tern (*Sterna fluviatilis*). Steered off to the eastward; coast full of iron, worked in many places. We went away in cutter again to the south-east: splendid cliffs full of caves, but we only saw two pigeons far out of shot; saw a peregrine falcon, no gulls, no shags, no seals. Came

round and anchored in Porto Longone, a pretty harbour, with high hills and a good deal of cultivation."

MONTE CRISTO AND GIGLIO

"*April 22nd.* Most beautiful cloudless morning. Steered for Monte Cristo with a light air from the north. The eastern side of this island is a sloping mass of grey rock, with patches of green scrub here and there, and one or two watercourses. We steamed slowly along the northern side, near the western end of which is a cove and valley, with a few houses and an old ruined convent on a peak above them; a good deal of cultivation, vineyards, figs, and ilexes. We went away in the cutter and explored the whole of the western side, but did not see a single rock pigeon. We found a good many herring gulls, apparently breeding on a bit of table land at the top of the cliffs, two or three shags, and two pairs of peregrines which evidently had nests in the crags, which are very high and full of most suitable ledges and holes. We came off to the yacht about 1 p.m., and steamed slowly along the south side; the whole island is extremely picturesque. We made away for Giglio from the south-east end.

"Giglio on the west side is high and rocky, but for the greater part sloping to the sea, every available spot terraced with vineyards and dotted with white cabins. An ancient village lies on the top of the ridge; the south-west point is low, with a lighthouse, on rounding

which we went away in the cutter and explored the whole of the southern side of the island, which is formed of cliffs of moderate height with small caves and crannies. We found several (not a great many) rock doves, and shot four of them and a green sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*), which seemed quite out of his locality amongst these rocks. A pair of peregrines had a nest, which we could see in a hole of the cliff, not far from the lighthouse. Saw a pair of Alpine swifts (*Cypselus melba*), kestrels, and one or two blue rock-thrushes. The falcons seem to be of the small Mediterranean race. We steamed across and anchored off Port Ercole on the mainland. We also saw a common sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucus*) on Giglio."

PORT ERCOLE

"April 23rd. We caught a small fish, apparently of the *Scomber* family, but with three anal or ventral fins, the first sharply armed, a short prickly dorsal and long caudal fin above tail very forked, and a row of prickles on either side of the posterior half of the body. Eye very large, snout somewhat long in proportion, bony, colour light green on back with darker mackerel-like markings, under parts silvery white. Tail fine, yellow, about seven inches in total length. Can find nothing to compare with this specimen in Couch's *Fishes of Great Britain*.

"Port Ercole is a small bay at the southern foot of

Mount Argentaro ; a small walled town and fort are situated on its west side, a conical hill with fort on the other, and a small marina at the north-east end of the bay. Peck and T. went ashore, and describe a pretty, well-cultivated, English-looking country, with good road hedgerows of whitethorn, brambles, etc., and a profusion of wild flowers, of which they brought off a good many."

GIANNUTRI

"April 24th. Very fine morning. We steamed over to Giannutri, about eleven miles, let go our anchor about 9 a.m. in the little gulf of Palmatoja, a snug harbour in westerly, northerly, or southerly winds ; fifteen fathoms close to the shore. The island consists of undulating limestone hills, for the most part overgrown with thick scrub. On the eastern side the sea cliffs are low, very much water-fretted, red, grey, and black. There was such a very heavy swell that we could not do any good with the boats on western side. T., Peck, and captain landed, but shot nothing and saw very little ; were warned off by lighthouse people, who said that the northern half of the island was rented and preserved for shooting by some Livornese.

"A fine specimen of sub-alpine warbler (*Sylvia subalpina*) picked up on deck dead.

"The fishermen brought off a greater forkbeard (*Phycis blennoides*), another fish which I take to be

Pagellus erythrinus, some small *muræne* (*Muræna helena*) and a curious fish of apparently the *Cottus* family. Later on they brought a basket full of small fishes, amongst which the most conspicuous were some brilliantly coloured little fishes, which I take to be the rainbow wrass (*Coris julus*), or a nearly allied species. Many small specimens of various species of the *Labrus* family were brought to us, and some blennies and other fishes. These fishermen spoke a Neapolitan jargon, which I found very difficult to understand, but they lied freely on many subjects. They had a few fragments of pink coral.

“The gulls are breeding; the men brought off nine eggs in the evening. The doctor caught two small lizards (*Zootoca muralis*, I think). The lighthouse men said that there are no rock doves on the island, that formerly there were many wild boars, now plenty of rabbits and many wild cats, and that red-legged and grey partridges come here in the winter!! that there are two pairs of ravens, and that the lessee has turned down some pheasants. There is no fresh water, except in tanks, on the island. The men set a trot, and caught some small conger; a line was carried off by some fish from the vessel's side.”

“Birds seen: *Falco peregrinus*, of which T. shot a fine adult female as she was feeding on a rock on north side. We also saw the male bird. *Upupa epops*, *Phenicura rutililla*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Cypselus melba*, *C. apus*, *Cuculus canorus*, *Totanus hypoleucus*, *Larus leucophæus*, *Turtur communis*, *Linota cannabina*, and other small birds not distinguished.”

GIGLIO

“*April 25th.* Fine, bright morning, but a heavy south-westerly swell prevented our going round to the west side of the island to see the caves and grottoes. The men got some more gulls’ eggs, and caught some of the fishes before mentioned in the trammel. The captain and the doctor landed and walked about the southern end of the island, but shot nothing, and only reported a solitary quail. T. and I loafed about the bay in the cutter; saw a beautiful female peregrine. Went aboard again to luncheon, got up steam, and ran over to the little port of Giglio, a nook under high hills, where we fondly dreamed that, with this westerly swell, we might lie snugly; but the swell came in from the south-east, and we had a very rolly evening and night. Smart young port officer reports no birds of any kind except on passage, but the boys in boats say that there are many rock doves in the cliffs close by, and probably know more than the official.”

SAN STEFANO

“*April 26th.* Ran across to San Stefano, where we found an excellent harbour on the north side of Mount Argentario. There is very little said about this place in the *Sailing Directions*, but we could not have a better place with southerly winds. The town lies on a little bay on a slope of the mountain, with a good deal of cultivation about it, and iron mines and foundries not far off.



GREENLAND FALCON.

There is a tunny fishery just in front of the town; we saw them haul their net once with no result, but in a subsequent haul they took three large tunnies (*Scomber thynnus*) and a sword fish (*Xiphias*). In the afternoon we went off in steam launch with a view of trying to get into Lake Orbitello, but the entrance is barred with mullet traps; so we coasted for a little way along the sandy strip which separates the lake from the bay, and then away as far as the heavy sea would let us towards the west under high cliffs."

"*April 27th.* Bright morning, but the glass very low and stormy, squally wind from south-west, with a very heavy sea running outside. Many shearwaters of both species scudding about the bay. T. shot three of the larger sort from on deck."

STRAITS OF BONIFACIO. MADDALENA

"*May 1st.* We crept round Razzoli with its lighthouse, past Santa Maria, Budella, Spargio, Spargiotto, into Maddalena roads off the town, and anchored about 1 p.m. These islands are very rocky and barren-looking, but the Sardinian coast is green and wild. We saw Garibaldi's house on Caprera. The strong east wind prevented any sort of pleasure. I went to the town, which seems clean and well-built. I find that the people decline to be considered as Sardes, but call themselves 'islanders,' and say that they are all of Genoese or Corsican extraction.

“A few swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) came on board. Peck reported a quail flying past the vessel. A harrier (*Circus cineraceus*, I think) was nearly blown foul of us off Razzoli. Saw no other birds except kestrel, one shag, gulls, shearwaters, and two terns. One old native seems to recognise my description of Audouin's gull.”

MADDALENA

“*May 2nd.* Received a note from the man who keeps the café, and with whom I had a talk yesterday, that he had found an individual who knew the places for various birds and the soundings, so we fetched off this Trojan, an old shipwright, and went away in steam launch to some small rocky islands in the channel which divides Maddalena from Caprera, in front and rather to the north-west of Garibaldi's house. We did not do much, but the day came out fine and hot, and it was very enjoyable. We held away round the south-west end of Caprera to a small island which they call Porco, but found next to nothing. Came back through the channel between San Stefano and the mainland of Sardinia; called at Parao, Sapari, and elsewhere. Heaps of charcoal and a fine spring of water.”

“Birds seen and heard: *Falco peregrinus*, *Nisactus bonelli*, *Pandion haliaetus*, *Corvus corax*, *Merops apiaster*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Troglodytes pareulus*, *Columba livia*, *Caccabis petrosa*, *Larus leucophæus*, *Phalarocorax graculus*, *Sterna fluviatilis*. Our old Trojan seemed to know Audouin's gull by my description, and called it ‘Cirulia.’”

“Maddalena, Caprera, and the little islands which lie between and about them, seem to be entirely composed of granite, and to produce very little natural vegetation except *macchia*, i.e. low scrub. I think that the islands visited by us had been harried before, as we only found two nests of herring gull with hard-set eggs, and on Porco all the shear-water's nests were empty. We found a few rock pigeons and two of their nests without eggs. On coming on board we found that Goodridge, the first mate, had killed a fine Audouin's gull from the yacht's deck with a rifle ball at three hundred yards on the wing !! and that this is the 'cirulia' of our Trojan, who is a very decent old fellow and seems to tell the truth. The shag is abundant, and we shot several without any sign of a crest, and saw two white-bellied young birds which almost looked like products of this year. The osprey seems to be common, gulls not very abundant, and terns very few. Our Trojan said that Porco and some of the other small islands are so infested with enormous rats, which he calls 'pontici,' that it is unsafe to sleep there !!! I am told that all the forests in the north of Sardinia have been, or are being, destroyed for charcoal, and that from that cause and the number of professional pot-hunters, who come from Italy, game both small and large is becoming very scarce.”

“*May 3rd.* I was called on deck by news of a 'red-billed gull' just before breakfast, and found a fine Audouin hovering under our stern, but having large shot in the

small gun and the bird being near I managed to miss, or at all events, not to bag him. Some Neapolitan fishermen came alongside, with an enormous skate, a nurse hound (*Squalus canicula*), a large fish of the shark family, which I cannot make out, and some fine lobsters. We found a falcon's nest, with young, in a hole of the cliff near the south-west point of Maddalena, and saw one old and the young birds, but had not the means for a siege. Several rock doves, of which T. shot one, and as we lay off the rocks an Audouin's gull hovered over us and fell to T.'s gun. We saw another of these at a distance, an osprey devouring a fish on a big boulder stone, a Bonelli's eagle high in air, and a blue rock-thrush. After we came aboard another Audouin fell to T.'s gun over the stern. All these three specimens, although apparently in fully adult plumage, are somewhat smaller than those from Toro and Alboran, and the legs and feet are of a dusky olive green instead of dark lead colour, as in the former specimens. They are by no means abundant, but seem to be much less wary *here* than the herring gull.

“We went away to the falcon's nest mentioned before, and then cruised off round a point on the mainland into the bay of Trana and back again, lunched in a little cove on eastern side of this point, where the telegraphic cable lands from Maddalena; went away to a sandy beach at the head of Agincourt road, shoved the dinghy over the beach into a small river and proceeded as far as we could get up it, but were soon stopped by shallow water. This

spot is known as Mezzo Sciffo. The banks of the stream are fringed with spike rushes, tamarisks, flags, reeds, and green scrub, and altogether it looks likely for wild-fowl, snipes, a woodcock or two, and perhaps a pig; but it is crossed at a short distance from the sea by a bridge and carriageable road to Tempio."

"*May 4th.* The falcon's nest was easily got at by our trusty climber going hand over hand up a rope lowered from above. It contained two fine young birds, male and female, which we took and sent on board. Found very few rock doves, and only shot two saw two Audouins in the bay of Trana, but could not bag them. At Mezzo Sciffo T. shot a purple heron, which looks like a bird of last year."

"The birds new to our Maddalena list were: *Circus æruginosus*, *Emberiza miliaria*, *Turdus merula*, *Linota cannabina*, *Anas boschas*, *Ardea purpurea*, and *Gallinula chloropus*."

"*May 5th.* Saw several Alpine swiffts hawking over the town. One Audouin's gull seen off San Stefano, from which island the goatherds brought off a nest of blue rock-thrush with five eggs in the evening.

"The young falcons feed themselves ravenously"

"*May 6th.* After luncheon, Peck, the captain, and I went away in steam launch with the old Trojan to the coast of Caprera, where the latter tried for conger, seeming to know every hole amongst the stones. He threw in

some very fragrant little fishes as ground-bait, and let down a strong line and hook baited with a small sea perch. It was very amusing but not successful.

“The San Stefano shepherds brought off two very young rock doves. Tracey shot another very fine Audouin from on deck. Saw *Sterna cantinaca*, *Buteo vulgaris*, *Fringilla carduelis*, and heard *Emberiza cirrus*.”

“Birds, new to list, shot on San Stefano: *Melizophilus undatus*, *M. sardus*, *Muscicapa luctuosa*. T. shot another Audouin from deck.”

“May 8th. Tracey shot another beautiful Audouin, ♀, from deck.”

“May 11th. Very fine and warm; light air from north-east. We went away with steam launch for the Barretini islands, exploring several small islets on our way, without great result.

“Boys brought me a nest with four young blue rock-thrushes. We found a good many rock doves, and took eight of their eggs from a small islet off the west side of Maddalena, where common swifts were also breeding, but the only nest of this last species found was empty. On another islet we found several gulls' nests, with young, and eggs ready to hatch. Peck brought off an egg, remarkably small for *L. leucophæus*, but, as we did not see a single Audouin all day, I feel very doubtful about it. On the nearest Barretini island, which is high, were a great many herring gulls, some rock doves, and a raven, but the

gulls' nests have been harried, and, as a party of Neapolitan fishermen were at the same game on the outer island, I did not think it worth while going to it. Almost every islet has its pair, or more, of blue rock-thrushes."

"*May 12th.* T. shot an Audouin off the coast of Caprera. We saw two or three more of these birds off the coast of Sardinia, but from their manners, and the eggs in the ovaries being very small, I fancy that they have not begun to lay yet. T. shot a fine raven on the island Capucini. We saw two or three ospreys, but nothing new to our list, except grey crow (*Corvus cornix*), shot at head of the bay of Arraguena; saw many common terns. Explored one or two nests of bee-eater,* without result. Peck caught a small snake, I believe *C. viridoflavus*. On Porco we found the nests of shearwater, empty; some evidently destroyed by rats."

SPARGI AND SPARGIOTTO

"*May 13th.* Explored Spargi and Spargiotto. The eastern side of Spargi slopes to the sea, and ends on low, broken cliff and boulder stones, with here and there patches of white sandy beach. We found some ten or twelve pairs of Audouin's gulls on one of these

* The Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*). This brilliantly plumaged bird is familiar to those acquainted with the countries of the Mediterranean, as it flies about the gardens and fields hawking for flies, after the fashion of the swallow. It nests colonially, excavating burrows like those of the Sand Martin (*Cotile riparia*).

spots, and T. shot three of them, and might have shot more, but I do not wish to exterminate them; on being disturbed they flew a short distance, and settled on the water in a body. I heard for the first time here their cry, which is something like the anger note of *L. leucophæus*, but not so hoarse, and more plaintive. Our old Trojan and others landed and searched for eggs, but, although they found a few nests, one broken egg-shell was the only result. We cruised round the northern and western sides of Spargi, which are for the most part high and rocky; saw a good many rock doves, of which T. shot one. We went off to Spargiotto, a small island about a mile to the west of Spargi, consisting of immense blocks of granite in the wildest confusion; here were many rock doves and common buzzards and a pair of ravens, but we could not bag anything; returned to western side of Spargi. Discovered a falcon's nest in an apparently almost inaccessible hole in high cliff; had an ineffectual chase after two young shags, which could not fly; went back round northern end of Spargi; lunched in a cove where there is some fresh water; saw a raven pursued by two kestrels, and two or three ospreys, one of which carried a fish. We found the Audouins at the same spot, and T. shot one more. A further search only resulted in a few broken fragments of egg-shells; the nests are evidently plundered as fast as the eggs are laid, either by rats, ravens, or pigs, of which there is a herd on the island."

MADDALENA

“*May 15th.* T., Peck, and captain went off to Spargi for Audouin’s eggs, but only found a few broken egg-shells, the ravens having been beforehand with them. We went after luncheon to the islands between Maddalena and Caprera; saw nothing except an osprey carrying large fish. The old Trojan shot another specimen of Sardinian warbler; some Neapolitans brought a fine specimen of dusky perch (*Serranus gigas*) weighing 22 lbs. from Tavolara. Boy brought *Passer salicicolus* alive. Trojan and captain brought two nests with eggs and several birds—*Melizophilus sardus*,* also woodlark (*Alauda arborea*)—new to list.”

“*May 16th.* Saw several vultures (*V. monachus* and *G. fulvus*). The captain and the old Trojan went round the western end of San Stefano to inspect the bones of a whale which was cast ashore on the northern side of Maddalena and towed to this spot. Secured and brought off the two jaw-bones.”

“*May 17th.* The captain went off before daylight to the haunts of Audouin on Spargi, but found nothing but broken egg-shells. The whale must have been a monster; nothing now left but bone. Trojan shot several *Melizophilus sardus* and caught a young one alive, well

* La Marmora’s Warbler. See p. 253.

feathered. Fishermen brought two bass, 11 lbs. and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs."

WEST COAST OF CORSICA. SAGONA

"May 18th. We rounded Maddalena, found heavy sea and fresh breeze; held away through the straits, passed close to Bonifacio and crept along the western side of Corsica into a calm. Ran into the bay of Sagona and anchored in a sheltered nook at the head on north-east corner thereof in about eight fathoms. This coast of Corsica did not please my eye so much as the other, but it is full of bays, and clouds hid the mountain tops.

"Saw a flock of white birds flying along the coast, which I believe to be *Ardea garzetta*."

"May 19th. A tired turtle-dove flew round us several times and tried to alight on our rigging."

NICE

"May 22nd. Louis Galle had many night herons (*Nycticorax griseus*), purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), one little bittern (*Ardetta minuta*), one red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*), several lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*), whiskered tern (*Hydrochelidon fissipes*), lately killed near Nice. He told me that last spring he had obtained a good specimen of the Caspian tern (*Sterna caspia*) here; he had various reptiles, of which I bought a beautiful specimen alive of *Coronella girundica*. He had

also *Colepeltis lacertina*, *Lacerta ocellata*, and *L. viridis*. I found that our turtle eats fish readily, which reminds me that Galle had a pure white turtle-dove (*Turtur communis*), a variety which I do not recollect to have before met with."

* * * * *

Lord Lilford maintained to the last a devoted attachment to that land of his old delight, Spain, whose tongue he spoke like a pure-bred Castilian. You could touch him to enthusiasm in a moment by any reference to experience in his magic region of Andalusia. The editor's father had early 'entered' his sons to Don Quixote, who was to him less a hero of the imagination than a living personality. So it chanced that years ago in Andalusia we had set ourselves to find a helmet as near as possible the counterpart of that the Don wore. It meant a long search, - because, although miniature basins of the same form still hang as signs outside the barbers' shops, the full-sized old brass basins have long given place to copies in crockery. At last in a rubbish shop in the purlieu of Granada the veritable thing was found— one of old red brass that took a polish like gold, and was all dented over as though from the many encounters of the poor mad knight.

It was a great delight to be able to send this to one who, on his travels, had been wont to keep a copy of the great book in his pocket, and knew it by heart, so to say, in the original text.

“*Jun^o 8th, 1895.*”

“I delayed a reply to yours of 5th till the *felms de Mambrino* should appear, and now I fear that you are off to Sweden.

“The celebrated head-piece arrived this morning *sin novedad*, and I am sincerely obliged for this *recuerdo* de España, Cervantes, our Don, and many happy associations of days gone by.”

CHAPTER VII

Tributes to Knowledge, Kindness, and Sympathies

HIS own written words perhaps bring out more faithfully than any outside tribute could, what manner of man this naturalist was.

And yet there are claims, the claim of long acquaintance really to know, of distinguished attainment fairly to judge, which cannot be disobeyed, but rather gratefully allowed. And more: happy as Lord Lilford would have been that what he wrote on birds should be put within the reach of any who shared his love for that study, a greater happiness would have been for him in this, namely, the appreciation of his lifelong work by men whose opinion he especially respected, as of himself by men whom the years had made him love.

The following letters were written to the Hon. Mrs. Drewitt, sister to Lord Lilford, shortly after his death.

From the REV. H. B. TRISTRAM, LL.D., D.D.,
F.R.S., *Canon of Durham.*

Author of *The Fauna and Flora of Palestine*, and many other works.

“It is not an easy task to write my impressions of the character of your dear brother, because an outsider might set down much that I would wish to say of him as the result of personal friendship, and, therefore, exaggerated. But he was one whose amiability and goodness of character it would be impossible to exaggerate in the various aspects under which I knew him.

“Our acquaintance began soon after his return from Tunis in 1858, and it very soon ripened into intimacy; for we had, as I soon found, far more subjects of common interest than merely our cognate tastes in natural history. In society, as a young man, I should say his marked characteristic was placid cheerfulness, and this, as you well know, was a marked feature to the last, and sustained him during years of constant suffering, such as it pleases God to visit very few men with. I remember a mutual friend, who was not a Christian in any real sense, remarking to me: ‘What a wonderful religious faith Lilford must have, to be so cheerful under his sufferings! I am sure I could not stand them without feeling resentment against Providence.’

“His faith was childlike, and his whole demeanour proved it. He was so pure and reverent in thought and word. No one in his presence ever dared an

irreverent or profane jest or innuendo, and this not because he would have lectured or even rebuked him. It was simply the reverent purity of his presence, if I may so speak.

“Then, in his intercourse with the humblest of his social inferiors, he was unaffected and simple, without being patronising, and won not only their respect, but their affection. I remember his noticing a sickly-looking young woman, who used to work in Porter’s bookbinding shop, and being told that it was a case of incipient consumption, unasked, he paid for her voyage to Australia, which, I believe, restored her to health. This is only one instance of many; yet, with an utter absence of hauteur, no one could ever take a liberty with him.

“As a naturalist, he was a typical *field naturalist*. His powers of observation were great. Nothing ever escaped him, however minute, in the habits and ways of animals, especially of birds, and he could describe them. He exemplified his favourite saying, that, in spite of all that has been written, accurate personal observation will always be of infinite value.

“He modestly deprecated the idea of his being a *scientific* naturalist, but he was really far more so than he would allow, though his love for nature was far too *fresh* to allow him to enter into the wrangles about nomenclature and such dry-as-dust topics, by which many try to bring themselves into notice. But for all

that, no man had a clearer or more satisfactory grasp of the principles of classification, though he never wrote on structural anatomy. He would say that writing a full account of the human skeleton was not writing a history of *man*. That is, the history of the *living* man, his habits, ideas, mode of life, art, and family relations; and so it should be with the history of lower creatures. I can only add that my friendship with him was one of the happiest episodes of a happy life."

From ALBERT GÜNTHER, M.A., F.R.S., M.D., Ph.D.,
President of the Linnean Society.

Late Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum of Natural History.

"From the first day of our acquaintance Lord Lilford exercised upon me the same power of attraction which has been felt by all who had the good fortune of coming into contact with him. His handsome, open, and intellectual face, animated by cheerful conversation, gave you the impression of a thoroughly sincere character, with whom one could be at ease from the first moment, and to whom one could open one's thoughts without reserve. Devotion to sport and love for nature were common to both of us. As to the former, and as to all matters referring to birds, he was my master, and he found in me a ready pupil; in other zoological subjects I was able to give him some assistance in return. From his travels in the South of Europe he brought back with him a keen

interest in every kind of European mammal and reptile. As to fishes, he restricted his interest to those found in his own river.

“Within the first hour of my first visit to Lilford (how well do I recollect that glorious day in July!) we were exploring the uppermost accessible parts of the house in search of bats; and the early morning of the next day (about 2 a.m.) found us on the river trying for bream, which never would bite, giving us ample leisure for discussion of their curious habits. In conversation, whilst he was apparently searching for instruction, he imparted from his rich store of knowledge most valuable information, inasmuch as he never made any statement which was not based upon, or confirmed by, his own observation. I never knew a more accurate or more reliable observer; and as he devoted almost the whole of his life to the study of nature, he knew some parts of it to perfection. He often would say that he was not a scientific naturalist. This was true in that sense, that he cared comparatively little about branches beyond his own special field of study, that he never made himself acquainted with the internal structure of animals, their classification, or with technicalities of zoology. But if the accurate and systematic observation of the habits of animals, if searching for the facts in nature without entering the mazy ways of hypothesis or imagination, may be called science, he could claim the title of scientific naturalist with any other in the land. Often, when he

was engaged in the examination of specimens, I had the opportunity of admiring his power of discrimination, as well as his judgment in appreciating real or so-called specific characters. His long experience and intimate acquaintance with living animals gave him immense advantages in forming a sound opinion on doubtful questions, or in the identification of museum specimens. His caution in delivering an opinion on subjects not studied by himself was remarkable, and may be an example to many a 'scientific ornithologist.' Thus also in his writings he invariably distinguishes his own observations from information received by him from other sources.

"His amiable nature made him friends in every grade of society; and he seemed to be particularly attached to those who were in sympathy with his love of nature. In my own recollection I never saw him so happy as when he started in the morning for the day's shooting, in company with his old friends, or when, in the evening, he could smoke with them his after-dinner pipe and 'talk shop.' A fluent conversationalist, never at a loss for the most appropriate expression, it was a pleasure to listen to him, especially as he blended his conversation with touches of exquisite humour. As he talked, so he wrote. He was the most punctual correspondent; to every letter addressed to him, even to such as required no reply, the next post brought one in response. To those whom he reckoned among his friends, he gave his love unstintedly; he wanted to know all about their life, and shared their

joys as well as their sorrows. Nothing touched him more unpleasantly than any disagreement between them.

“He is gone now ; but whoever had the happiness of knowing him intimately, will retain in his heart a corner for his loving memory ; and when the present generation has passed away, the monuments which he has built for himself, by his works, will last for ever.”

From HENRY DRESSER, F.Z.S., F.L.S., *etc.*

Author of The Birds of Europe.

“I have looked over your late brother’s published notes on European (chiefly Mediterranean) Ornithology, and though there are very many most interesting notes, there is nothing of great novelty recorded. His best find was, I think, that of *Larus audouini* which he found breeding on Vacca (*Ibis*, 1875, p. 31), and he also recorded it from Corfu (*Ibis*, 1860, p. 356). He also found Marmora’s warbler (*Melezophilus sardus*) nesting on Spargi (*Ibis*, 1887, p. 282), which is worthy of noticing, as these are the only authentic eggs I know. Also he first recorded *Sylvia melanothorax* from Cyprus, and procured a new titmouse (*Parus cypriotes*) there, through his collectors, and I described and exhibited this bird for him, as he could not come to town to do so. Also he was the only person who has obtained *Numenius hudsonicus* (an American whimbrel) in Spain (*Ibis*, 1873, p. 98).

“You will, I fear, find no record respecting the many kind actions your late brother so often did, as he was

one who carefully avoided all allusion to any good he did, and I believe destroyed all letters on the subject, but those who knew him well were cognisant of very many kindly and generous actions. I need only name one that concerned myself. When I undertook the publication of the *Birds of Europe*, I was rather troubled about ways and means, for had it proved a failure, it would have entailed a heavy loss on me. I talked matters over with him, and he encouraged me to go on, assuring me that my friends would stand by me. Later on he made me a formal offer to lend me money, should I need it, adding that if it were lost I should not be called on to refund it, and that it was not to bear any interest in any case. I promised that, should I ever need it, I would avail myself of his offer, but determined not to do so unless hard pressed, and I am thankful to say that I managed without having to come to him for assistance; though, at the same time, I felt, and still feel, as grateful as if I had borrowed the money. I do not find any letters on the subject, and doubtless have destroyed them. I find one letter, however, written February 23rd, 1870 (a year before the publication was commenced), in which he says: 'I would offer, if not interfering with your plans, to share some of the expenses of publication, plates, etc. If you accept my offer, I should not for an instant think of interfering with your ideas on the management or form of the publication, or be in any way offended or hurt if you decline my offer.' "

From The REV. MURRAY MATTHEW.

Author of the *Birds of Somerset*, etc.

“It would be impossible for any one, who had for a long time enjoyed the privilege of correspondence with the late Lord Lilford, not to have formed a very sincere regard for him, as his kindness and goodness were as plainly revealed in his letters, as his high attainments in the natural history subjects, with which they were chiefly concerned. His consideration for his dependants; for the poor people upon his estates; his anxiety to administer his church patronage as a sacred trust; his impatience of modern politics; his readiness and courtesy to impart information; his liberality in helping students with specimens from his aviaries and large collections; his general sympathy in all that befell his friends and correspondents: all these are matters which were brought out in the course of his letters, which may be truly stated to have been such clear exponents of his character that his views beforehand on any question brought before him could be surely anticipated. He was so real and thorough himself that he had a hearty impatience of all shams. I believe he only once addressed the House of Lords, and that was to support a Bill for the protection of his favourites during the nesting season, when he was gratified by receiving Lord Beaconsfield’s approval of the manner in which he had stated his case. It must also be added that he possessed a great sense of humour, and enjoyed nothing better than hearing or

receiving a good story, and in repeating it. Anything bearing upon folk-lore; any quaint sayings of the peasantry, especially from the west country, were very dear to him; as was also anything illustrating the doings or history of the gypsies, in whom he had become deeply interested while travelling in Spain. A spirit of cheerfulness, with a determination to make the best of everything, is also apparent in his letters. His long illness and infirmity were patiently and bravely borne, and while conscious of all that had been taken from him, and not without natural regret for power to enjoy once more the old days of sport and travel, he often expressed his gratitude for the mercies that were still left."

As is needless to say, Lord Lilford was ready to throw his influence on the side of any cause having for its motive the protection of the birds. But he did this wisely, carefully and seriously, always with an eye, not alone to what was possible, but to what was for the best. He was statesman to the birds. No one knew better than he that you may defend a good cause badly, as you may defend a bad cause well. He knew that over-statement was bad defence; that to insist with the sentimentalists that certain given birds, which do an immense amount of good, do no harm, was as bad in policy as untrue in fact.

How clear he was in his own mind that the Egg Act was unwisely framed, and his reasons for thinking so, the following remarks show.—

“May 3rd, 1895.

“I think the Egg Act is foolishness as a whole. The only possible good that it may do is in places to which the public have free access—*e.g.*, the New Forest and the breeding-places of terns, etc., on the coasts. The impossibility of conscientiously swearing to the identity of any egg off which you do not see the bird fly is an insuperable obstacle to protecting species by name, and the only way in which the Act might work efficiently is by fixing a close season for all eggs in certain places.”¹

“January 24th, 1895.

“I most heartily congratulate you on the success of your efforts with the County Council for the protection of the eggs of kite, buzzard, all owls, kestrel, and butcher-bird. The other birds do not, in my opinion, require legal protection; and I fear that if the application, so far as regards them, is granted, it may lead to endless vexatious prosecution and litigation, as no sane man ought to swear to any egg off which he did not personally see the parent bird fly; and if your magistrates are (as a body) capable of distinguishing between the egg of a sparrow and that of a wagtail, I can only say that they are more learned than nine-tenths of their brethren. However, the intention is excellent, and all honour to you and Mr. Cobb.”²

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To E. Cambridge Phillips, Esq.

On the protection of terns on our coast, he writes as follows:—

“ *May 12th, 1892.*

“I quite sympathise in your indignation at the destruction and harassing of the terns on the Suffolk coast, but I fear that it is all but impossible to stop it, as I presume that even the owner or lessee of the land cannot warn people off the foreshores, and our legislators have repeatedly declined to protect any eggs but those of game birds. I am not personally acquainted with Lord R——, and before writing to him should like to have your permission to send your letter to him, as I cannot speak on my own experience with regard to this lamentable state of affairs.”¹

“ *May 16th, 1892.*

“As perhaps you know, the Farne Islands Bird Protection Association has done infinite good, and I cannot see why similar local associations should not be formed, as they might be, at a very small expense, and work most beneficially in the interest of breeding, and often, of now uncommon birds. At the Farne Islands the expense is, of course, much heavier than it need be on a mainland locality, as we have to pay the wages of several boatmen and watchers, and for the maintenance of boats in good repair, etc. In Scilly the Lord-Lieutenant is absolute, and can permit or forbid whatever he likes, as we land-

¹ To G. Hope, Esq.

owners are still permitted to do (in the unconfiscated parts of our possessions) with regard to feathered fowl.”¹

“*June 3rd, 1892.*

“I would not *altogether* prohibit the taking of eggs; it should be done under expert supervision, as is done on many peewit breeding-places, to the material increase of healthy birds.”²

“*May 24th.*

“I am glad to find that Lord R—— appears to be quite inclined to protect the terns as far as possible; with regard to his legal rights, I suggested to him, in my reply, the formation of a local association for the protection of these terns during the breeding season, adding that should such an association be formed, I would gladly contribute £5 annually to its funds.* But what is urgently needed in these special cases is an extension of the close time. There is no season for killing terns at all, but I do not think that even the all-powerful ‘Arry’ could effectually resist local extensions of close time if the inhabitants of the localities supported them with vigour. Judicious egg-taking really does little, if any harm to well-stocked bird colonies; but it is the indiscriminate slaughter of the

¹ To G. Hope, Esq.

² To the same.

* In reference to this correspondence Mr. Hope writes: (*July 14th, 1896*), “His aid and suggestions in 1892, though perhaps not recognised, certainly helped to sow the seeds of which the present societies on our East coast are the outcome.”

birds in August for sport, hats, and feminine folly, that plays the mischief with our coast-breeding birds. Since the Farne Islands Association has been started, a certain number of eggs, the first layings of various species, are taken and sold for the benefit of the boatmen and fishermen, with manifest advantage to the birds, who, if allowed to increase without any check, would overcrowd the islands, and, in all probability, degenerate in strength and beauty.”¹

Himself President of the Northampton Field Naturalists' Club, he encouraged and helped such local work wherever centralised. He was invariably patient and kind to ignorance, knowing well that men's leisure and opportunities are unequal. Get a love of nature into the heart of the people, he would have said, and knowledge will come in its turn. None the less, with his keen sense of humour, an incident such as that described in the following delightful letter would amuse him immensely :—

“July 7th, 1895.

“A small fruiterer at Peterborough wrote to me saying that he had shot a strange hawk, and found on enquiring from a friend that it was a ‘humming buzzard’* (*sic*), and that I was an *ammature* of birds, so that he was sending to me. The bird arrived in due

¹ To G. Hope, Esq.

* The Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) is a migratory bird of prey, now exceedingly rare as a nesting species in this country.

course, and proved to be a splendid adult peregrine, but the point of the story lies in the fact that the person who declared it to be a 'humming buzzard' is one of the Hon. Secretaries of the — Natural History and Scientific Society!"¹

While Lord Lilford fully recognised the interest and importance to a naturalist of being able personally to collect specimens necessary for his own study, or for national collections, no man, as we have seen, was ever more opposed to wanton and senseless destruction.

Further, he felt most bitterly about the wholesale traffic in eggs of birds at the hands of traders, as a commercial speculation, and steadily refused to have anything to do with such persons. Nor could he understand that spirit of possession or vulgar rivalry which prompts men to stick at nothing, so that they get a larger series than others have, of eggs taken in Britain, or of rare British birds; or the same kind of practice elsewhere. It is asking too much of human nature, to expect that under these circumstances a dealer will not be found to meet the demand. For example, a naturalist having recorded the extremely interesting establishment of the cream-coloured courser in the Canarian island Fuertaventura, a certain chymist set to work to sweep the island clear of their eggs. Hence the following:—

¹ To E. Cambridge Phillips, Esq.

“July 3rd, 1889.

“I had heard of the horrible raid upon the coursers’ eggs in Fuertaventura. Their coming over in such numbers to breed there, is sufficiently remarkable. I wish that you would show up this robbery in the *Field*.”¹

“August 16th, 1889.

“I understand that no one will look at G——’s skins or eggs at the prices marked on his list, and I confess that I shall not be sorry if the results of this expedition sicken him of devastating the island of their peculiar and very interesting denizens.”²

“September 17th, 1891.

“I enclose a copy of R—— G——’s letter to D—; the latter gave me permission to make what use of it I might think proper, but although I was very naturally indignant at the time, I am now doubtful as to the advisability of calling public attention to the matter, as no one *can* put a stop to this horrible trade, except the Spanish officials, and they probably are of opinion that *mas vale dinero qua palabra de caballero*.*”³

It is refreshing to speculate upon the number of egg-buyers taken in by such a swindle as the following:—

¹ To E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, Esq.

² To the same. ³ To the same.

* Money is worth more than a gentleman’s word

“March 23rd, 1892.

“I was with Edward Verreaux (egg dealer) in Paris when there arrived a large consignment of skins and eggs from South Russia. I was asked to assist at the unpacking of the two cases. There was no list or invoice of any kind. The first box contained perhaps two hundred eggs, or I should say perhaps fifty or sixty species beautifully packed, and with the names of the species in Russian, written on each egg; no date, no locality. A big note-book was produced, and the two brothers proceeded to separate and name the eggs in the book, as it seemed to me, purely as fancy dictated. I was consulted now and then, and prevented some eggs of little bustard being put down to a gull (*Larus melanocephalus*), but I held my tongue, except when questioned, and a lot of eggs of redshank were named and priced in the book as a rare plover's. Some eggs of a crane (*Grus virgo*) did duty for those of an eagle (*Aquila imperialis*); eggs of *H. nigra*, the black tern, and probably *H. leucopterus*, were lumped into those of a pratincole, and all labelled as belonging to this last species. Four white eggs that I have no doubt were laid by the eagle owl (*Bubo maximus*) went down in the list as those of the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), and so on *ad infinitum*.* The naïve way in which the brothers confessed their entire ignorance, and shot at probabilities,

* This is further supported by Mr. Dresser out of his own experience.

was most amusing, and gave me a lesson about buying eggs that I have never forgotten. I feel convinced that both the brothers were honestly dealing according to their lights, which were certainly very dim, in the matter of oology, and theirs was the leading zoological business in Paris at the time, 1862.”¹

Any report of the wanton killing of breeding birds invariably aroused his indignation. Thus he writes to an old friend and schoolfellow :—

“*March 4th, 1890.*

“I have read poor Rudolph of Austria’s book (the late Crown Prince). I had some correspondence with him, and met him at Valencia, where he was most especially civil and friendly to me, and my darling eldest boy, who is gone; the book is very interesting, and most characteristic of the eager, impetuous boy who wrote it. The slaughter of breeding birds is simply disgusting, and only to be excused by the youth of the writer, and the cold-blooded brutality of his ornithological guide and counsellor B——. His notes on Spain are faulty.”²

The ladies’ fashion of wearing feathers in their hats, a fashion sometimes involving most barbarous cruelty to nesting birds, enlisted all Lord Lilford’s chivalrous

¹ To the Rev. Murray Matthew.

² Colonel H. Barclay.

indignation, and he did all he could to further the good efforts of the Society for the Protection of Birds. Thus he writes to the Secretary of that Society :—

“ July 20th, 1895.

“ You must permit me to applaud and thank you for your energetic action with regard to the dealers, and I devoutly hope that it may be crowned with the success that it so fully deserves. I am convinced that the whole mischief arises from apathy and ignorance, and it is extremely difficult to arouse the public mind against a long-established barbarity, that does not come immediately under their eyes. I mean that I believe that many plumiferous ladies would shrink from wearing robins', swallows', and other common British birds' skins or feathers, who would never give a thought to wearing bright plumage of birds with which they have no personal acquaintance. People read the articles and letters of protest in the newspapers, exclaim : ‘ How shocking ! ’ and forget all about it. If we could only stop the demand, the supply would soon fall off ; but in the meantime, it seems that the supply must fail from the extinction of the birds themselves. Personally I think that this is a subject that calls for state legislation, much more than the egg-stealing at home. This last offence may very well be stopped by private landowners and occupiers who will take the trouble to think, and by law in public places.

“Whatever may be the event, you are fighting a gallant fight.”¹

And again :

“*December 25th, 1891.*”

“I beg to wish you many happy New Years for yourself and all who are dear to you, not forgetting our friends, the birds, for whom you are making such a gallant effort. I am quite certain that the only reason that you do not enlist more actual members is simply idleness and want of interest, certainly not want of sympathy in your object; that you are gaining ground, however, I happen to know as a fact. I am sending you a duplicate copy of my *Coloured Figures*, in which you will see, under the head of great white heron and common tern, that I am doing all in my power for your society. I think, in this country, some of our sea-birds—gulls, terns, and diving birds of various species—suffered more than others from the feather fashion, but it has played havoc all the world over.”²

He would have had all the world take as great an interest in natural history as himself, and always offered the most kind and generous encouragement to those who were trying to popularise it. Nowhere is this better shown than in the following letters :—

¹ To Mrs. Lemon, Hon. Sec. to the Society for the Protection of Birds.

² To Mrs. Phillips.

“January 5th, 1895.

“This part of Northamptonshire is decidedly rich in birds, for an inland locality, as you will believe when I tell you that a clergyman, and first-class ornithologist, at a few miles distance told me that last May he had one hundred and fifty-six nests of twenty-four species in the curtilage of his vicarage, without counting those of house-sparrow, but including a rookery of some fifty nests. It will be a real pleasure to me if I can give you any information about any special points in zoology, but I must tell you that for the last nine years I have been entirely crippled, and confined to a wheeled chair, and therefore almost debarred from personal outdoor observation. I have loved and studied birds and beasts since I was a child, alas! some sixty years ago, and have a fine collection of living animals here that I should have great delight in showing to you.”¹

“February 3rd, 1895.

“Pray do not allow any want of scientific knowledge to deter you from continuing your charming writings on natural history. We have a cockatoo here, that I bought at Father Jamrach’s in April 1867; he is of a rare species, the great blue-eyed cockatoo of the Solomon Islands. When I first had him he was delightfully tame and quiet, but on coming home, after three months in Spain, I found him savage, wild, and intolerably noisy,

¹ To Mrs. Owen Visger, Editor of *A Son of the Marshes*.

and in 1868 gave him to an old lady in the neighbourhood, who loved and cherished him as a joy for ever, till her death, last year, when the bird was sent back to me by the executors, and now rejoices the heart of our housekeeper. I read your papers in *Cornhill* with delight, and should like to look at them again.”¹

“*February 18th, 1895.*

“I have had an interesting present from a bird-stuffer at Northampton, in the shape of a living bullfinch, jet black, a very cheery little person, full of importance, and singing his natural notes all day long. I have seen many a so-called ‘black’ bullfinch, but they were all simply dark-coloured, sooty, or dingy red brown, but this one is absolutely as black as good coal, without a feather of any other tint.”²

“*January 31st, 1895.*

“I only write to thank you greatly for your little book just received, in which I have no doubt of finding very great interest. We have intense cold, and the poor birds are having a real bad time. The following species crowd for our scraps on the terrace beneath our windows : rook, jackdaw, starling, blackbird, song thrush, missel thrush, robin, hedge-sparrow, nuthatch, chaffinch sparrow, great tit, coal tit, marsh tit, and partridge.”³

¹ To Mrs. Owen Visger.

² To the same.

³ To the same.

We leave this chapter with the following delightful letter :—

“ April 13th, 1895.

“ When I was a small boy, my grandfather, Lord Holland, sent me word from Holland House, that he had a live curiosity to show me. I went off at once and found that one of the gardeners had caught a genuine green lizard (*Lacerta viridis*), on a wall in the garden. As this is not a British species, it had probably escaped, but it was a lovely animal; I had never seen one before, and was most bitterly disappointed when my mother declined to let me carry it off in a bandbox.

“ I used to be a great deal at Little Holland House, where my mother's aunt, Miss Fox, lived. There was a delightful garden, full of birds, attached to this charming, old-fashioned cottage, and as my ‘Little Aunty,’ as we called her, was the personification of kindness and good sense, with a great love of Nature, and (for the date) a good collection of bird books, a stay at Little Holland House was a pure delight to me.

“ I may say much the same of St. Anne's, near Chertsey, which has now come into my hands, and where I well remember seeing Mrs. Fox—widow of Charles James. There I first made the acquaintance, not only of the night-jar, but also of the ‘Ingenioso Hidalgo, Don Quijote de la Mancha,’ who has been my delight and constant companion ever since, and first inspired me

with the passion for the things of Spain that still burns brightly. I can never 'mind' anything that you write, and about keeping birds in confinement, I have only gone in for a large and serious collection since I became crippled, and therefore could not see birds elsewhere than at home."¹

No one has better reason than the Editor gratefully to remember that spirit of generosity so characteristic of Lord Lilford to which Mr. Dresser refers.

In 1893 we were contemplating a voyage of exploration to the Island of Kolguev in Barents Sea, which, as an untouched land, promised great results in ornithology. As the island had never yet been visited by an Englishman it was necessary to make a preliminary voyage with the object of trying to obtain some information from the sealers and fishermen of the Arctic littoral. This we did that summer. On our return we wrote our experiences to Lord Lilford, who makes the following reference in his letter of reply:—

"July 4th, 1892.

"It is really most obliging of you to send me the report about Kolguev. It is all quite new to me, and if I was not infirm, and still had the old *Glowworm*, I think that I should fit out at once for a visit to this 'island of the blessed' (birds)."

¹ To Mrs. Owen Visger.

Later on Lord Lilford wrote to suggest that his nephew, Mr. Mervyn Powys, should also go, adding :—

“I share your ignorance of the probable cost of chartering a small steamer per month, but whatever it may come to, I would pay half the total sum for as long as you care to hire her.” An offer he more than made good.

A later post brought a letter in which he writes :

“Jan. 25th, 1894.

“I am writing to make enquiries about my old yacht, the ss. *Glowworm*, which was originally built expressly for a trip to Spitsbergen. I do not know her present owner, but a great friend of his is an old friend and remote connection of mine.”

The *Glowworm* was not available, so another yacht, the s.y. *Saxon*, was obtained, and made the voyage well.

APPENDIX I

THE notes which follow are taken from Lord Lilford's everyday book on the events of his aviaries. We have put it in as an Appendix, simply from the consideration that it may not be so interesting for the general reader as other parts of the book. Its interest for all keepers of a living collection is of course beyond question.

LILFORD AVIARY AND LIVING COLLECTION NOTES, 1893.

January 1st. "Grip" the English raven rolls and enjoys himself in the snow.

January 4th. Great black-backed gull in, I should say, plumage of third year, received from C. F. Dyer of Ramsgate, in exchange for couple of mallards.

January 6th. Two horned owls, that I believe to be *Bubo maculosus*, received from Jamrach, who avows positively that they came to him direct from Natal.

January 10th. Grey-headed green woodpecker (*Geinus canus*) and one of the large northern race of pied woodpecker (*Picus cissa*) received from Jamrach, who declares that both these birds came to him from Siberia.

Chestnut winged grackle (*Amydrus tristrami*) received from Zoological Gardens. This bird is the survivor of two landed at Southampton last month for me, and procured through the kind offices of Miss N— R— by one Daûod Jamal of Jerusalem, from the monastery of Mar Saba not far from Bethlehem. These

birds were sent in most miserable condition, emaciated and unspeakably filthy, from Southampton to the care of A. D. Bartlett at the Zoological Gardens; one died in a few days and was sent to me, cleaned here by W. Edwards and presented to Alfred Newton. By dint of unceasing and skilful care Bartlett has managed to restore the survivor to excellent health. I believe it to be a female; it is an active and lively bird, constantly uttering a somewhat tedious, but not unmusical, whistle, of three or four notes, and occasionally a harsh grating chide. Its tail and primaries are a good deal broken, but it is otherwise in fair plumage. It feeds well upon various soft food, and is very fond of beetles. I believe that this is the only one of its species now alive in Europe.

January 12th. Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*). Very poor, ragged specimen, received from Jamrach. This is the first of the species that I have received alive for some time, but I have refused several offers, as, though the birds are beautiful, they are gluttonous, stupid, and filthy in habits, and seldom live long in cages.

January 13th. Tiger bittern (*Tigrisoma tigrinum*) received from W. Cross of Liverpool. This bird, in ragged plumage, was so weak when it first arrived that it was unable to stand, but under Cosgrave's care soon recovered, and is evidently a young bird that has been reared from the nest by hand. Cosgrave tells me that it is fond of being noticed and handled, a very exceptional trait in my experience in birds of this family.

Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*) received from W. Cross of Liverpool. A very fine young bird from South Africa. We put it with another of same species that I have had here for some months, but we soon had to separate them as they fought viciously.

The latter bird lived and did well in the courtyard during the summer and early autumn, and lived on fairly amicable terms with two young bearded vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*), who although they were at perfect liberty, and acquired the full use of their wings, kept about this particular division, into which they were put on their first arrival before they could fly.

The giant heron never became tame, but on being stirred up or

approached by man, would throw up the undigested portion of its last meal of flesh or fish, which was immediately devoured by the vultures.

Common heron (*Ardea cinerea*) from South Africa (?), received on approval from Cross and returned.

January 16th. Manchurian crane (*Grus viridirostris*), one of several that have been here for some years, which had been ailing for some months, died, and was sent by express desire to Bowdler Sharpe, of South Kensington Museum.

I find these most beautiful birds as a rule hardy, and amongst the most tame of the family, of which I possess every known species, except the wattled crane (*Grus carunculatus*), alive.

Grey eagle owl (*Bubo cineraceus*) that had lived here for more than twenty years, purchased from Jamrach, died.

January 20th. An Indian bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) died, apparently of old age.

La Marnora's falcon (*Falco eleonoræ*) died of frounce. This bird, perfect in plumage, and by far the most beautiful of many of its species that I have kept alive here, was bought last year of William Blake of Ross, Herefordshire, through an advertisement in the *Bazaar*, sent to me by Lieut.-Colonel E. Butler. It had been obtained two years ago by the present vendor from a London dealer, and in all probability came originally from Morocco.

Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*). Four received from Castang.

January 24th. Marbled duck (*Anas angustirostris*) died. This is the second that I have lost out of a consignment from Andalusia received in the summer of 1892—the first of their species, as I have reason to believe, that have ever reached this country alive. The species is, however, common enough as a summer visitor to the marisma of the Guadalquivir, where it breeds, and was more than usually abundant in 1892, after the subsidence of the great floods of January and February.

January 26th. Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) received from W. Blake, of Ross. The vendor informs me that this bird, which is

half moulted and in very ragged plumage, was taken from a nest in Sutherland last summer.

White cygnet (*Cygnus olor*) sent as a present from me to I.—S—. This bird, a very fine male, was presented to me by the authorities of St. John's College, Cambridge, where for many years (as I am informed by Alfred Newton) a pair of common swans have produced broods, of which one is always pure white after losing the down.

January 27th. Little bustard ♂ (*Otis tetrax*) brought in dead. This bird, the only one that I have received alive for many years, was sent to me as a present by H. Shorland, of La Fontaine, near Tours, last autumn, and was, I believe, captured in that neighbourhood.

Boobook owl (*Ninox boobook*) received from Jamrach.

Cayenne lapwing (*Vanellus cayennensis*) received from W. Cross. This is the first of the species that I have ever bought; it is in ragged plumage, but appears to be healthy, and is very tame.

Tiger bittern (*Tigrisoma tigrinum*) received from W. Cross. An older bird than that previously recorded, very ragged and savage.

January 30th. Pied woodpecker from Russia, brought in dead.

White-necked crane (*Grus leucauchen*) died. This bird, which has long been ailing, was one of three obtained from London dealers about three years ago. My idea is that unless these birds pair or mate (as my other two of this species undoubtedly have done) when they reach maturity, they gradually droop and die.

February 1st. Hen-harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), in very bad feather and much bruised. This bird was said to have been received from Holland by vendor.

February 3rd. Cereopsis geese (*Cereopsis nove-hollandiæ*) nesting in courtyard (*vide* Cosgrave). Those birds, purchased from Ed. Marshall, of Marlow, last year, are not by any means amicable with other birds, and are all-round savage now.

February 6th. Marbled duck; another brought in dead, in excellent condition.

February 7th. Hill mynahs (*Gracula intermedia*). Two very fine birds received from Mrs. E. H. P.—.

I could not resist one more chance of keeping this most amusing species, although I have lost many after a few months of captivity. The imitative vocal power of the hill mynah surpasses those of any other of the many talking birds with which I have any acquaintance. One of these two imitates the sound of a railway engine. They are both in exceptionally good plumage and apparent health.

Blue bird (*Sialia sialis*), of North America. Pair received from Mrs. E. H. P——. This is a species that I have been without for many years. I have never had much luck in keeping them alive, but they often do well, and have bred in England.

February 10th. Alpine accentors (*Accentor collaris*). Thirteen received from Jamrach. I have received a good many of this species from London dealers during the last few years, all said to have come from Switzerland. They do fairly well in cages, not so well in aviaries, and sing very sweetly, but are rather quarrelsome *inter se*.

February 11th. Cereopsis geese (*cf. anteà*) are making a second nest.

February 14th. Barbary falcon (*Falco barbarus*) brought in dead, of frounce. This bird, a most beautiful adult, was bought last autumn and came from Mogador. I have been most unfortunate with many of this species.

February 15th. Alpine accentors (*cf. anteà*), two sent as present to Rev. Murray A. Mathew.

February 20th. Bewick swan ♂ (*Cygnus bewicki*) died after wasting for some time. This bird was bought of Castang, desperately wounded by a shot from punt gun on the Essex coast in 1879, and recovered marvellously here; though on the water it swam in a helpless and lop-sided fashion, on land it was very active, and of late years had become occasionally very aggressive towards human visitors.

One of two whoopers (*Cygnus ferus*) which I put on the river, pinioned, this last summer (having lost its companion by brutal spite of a ruffian at Aldwinkle in the autumn) took up its headquarters above our bridge island, but for several months past has waddled up every morning and spent the whole or greater part of each day just outside the wires of the enclosure, in which the Bewick swan just

mentioned was confined. We let him inside on one occasion, and the result was a desperate fight. The whooper is continually 'whooping' loudly. The Bewick swan's note, comparatively seldom heard, is entirely different—shorter and less musical, but both of these birds have been a good deal excited of late by the presence on the river of several wild birds of both species.

February 22nd. Double-spurred francolins (*Francolinus bicaratus*). Six sent away. These birds are from consignments of about twenty individuals, all told, received from Dar-el-Baida, or Casablanca, on the Morocco coast, during the past year. I am sending these three pairs to the Comte de Paris, *via* Gibraltar, to be turned down on his Coto at Villa Manrique, Seville, where he has already turned out a few, ordered by me from Morocco as a present to him.

From all that I can learn these birds are extremely local in Morocco, and although tolerably abundant in the neighbourhood of Casablanca and Rabat, are virtually unknown at Tangier, Tetuan, and Mogador. They are said to frequent thick covert in the neighbourhood of water, to afford good sport with dogs, and to be most excellent for the table. I have had a few before the present lot, alive here from Rabat; one of them laid several eggs of an unspotted, pale, creamy colour, but would not sit.

February 25th. White-bellied nuthatch (*Sitta albiventris*, Mihi). Three received from Jamrach. These birds, of which I had already five, in all their habits closely resemble our common species, although I fancy that there is a perceptible difference in some of their notes; they are extremely pugnacious, and I find it impossible to keep two of them together. In some of them the chestnut on flanks is extremely prominent, and very rich in colour, whilst in others it is barely visible. Said to have come from Siberia.

Small gallinule (*Gallinula*, sp.?). Two received from Jamrach on approval; unknown to him and me; said to have come from China.

March 2nd. Cape barn owl (*Strix capensis*) laid an egg the first of this year. This bird is the survivor of two purchased from Jamrach in 1884. I only call it as above on the authority of the vendor. It lays a few eggs every year.

March 3rd. Shag, ♂ (*Phalacrocorax graculus*), Northamptonshire specimen, died. This bird was picked up near Higham Ferrers after heavy gales in the first days of September 1892, and sent to me alive by one Shelton.

March 4th. Lämmergeier (*Gypfalus barbatus*) lay on the grass basking in front of the house. This is one of two young birds of last year, procured through G. Frank from Western Switzerland. These birds have been at complete liberty since I received them last summer before they could fly, till Cosgrave told me that one of them seemed to be suffering from the cold of early January, and was taken into shelter, where he has completely recovered. The bird, still at liberty, never goes to any considerable distance, and very seldom mounts to more than seventy or eighty feet from the ground. He generally roosts about the courtyard walls, seems to be more sensitive of wet than cold, and remains quite tame.

March 15th. Small gallinules (*Gallinula angulata*), Sundevall (*vide* P. L. Selater and R. B. Sharpe). I sent these two birds to London for inspection by Selater, who tells me that he and Sharpe make them out as specimens of the above-named South African species. This species, in immature plumage, is figured in *Ibis*, 1859, under the name of *Gallinula pumila*, Selater.

March 16th. Night heron (*Nycticorax griseus*), in aviary, laid first egg of season.

March 17th. Mexican jays (*Cyanocorax luxuosus*). Two received from Jamrach. The first of the species ever seen alive by me. Active and very pretty birds, with a curious squeal, that reminds me greatly of the cry of the common buzzard.

March 20th. Cinereous vulture (*Vultur monachus*), old Spanish bird, laid an egg. This bird was taken from a nest in a high pine tree in the forest near San Ildefonso, Old Castille, in June, 1865 (*Ibis*, 1866, pp. 388, 389).

March 27th. White-shouldered eagle ♂ (*Aquila adalberti*) died. I believe that this bird was the only male of three brought home by me from a nest in the Coto del Rey in 1869; but I have had several at various times since, and having been so much away from home,

and, when at home, so much shut up in the winters, I cannot feel quite sure.

Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) began to 'boom' on 20th inst. In April 1891 two of this species made a nest in a cage in our courtyard, and laid five eggs, upon which one or other of the parent birds sat continually, but did not hatch.

Woodpigeons (*Columba palumbus*). Pair in aviary have two eggs, and sit thereon.

Mexican jay. One died, in apparent excellent condition.

April 10th. Grey coly shrikes (*Hypocolius ampelinus*). A pair received from Bartlett. These birds (*vide* Bartlett) were received at Zoological Gardens, with others of same species, from the Persian Gulf. They are remarkably tame. I can detect very little affinity in them to the shrike family, and only name them as above for want of a better name. Their favourite food is fruit, but they are also fond of meal-worms, and would, I feel certain, very much like house-flies, if we could find any. In fact, they are evidently of waxwing-flycatcher affinity. The picture of this bird in *Ibis* for 1868, p. 181, is much more slender in look than my birds, and their colour is mousey, not creamy, as in picture.

April 15th. Woodpigeons in aviary have hatched both eggs.

Military starling (*Sturnella militaris*) purchased last summer, died from abscess.

April 16th. Great bustard (*Otis tarda*) in aviary, picking up and swallowing feathers.

April 18th. Cinereous vulture laid another egg, rather better coloured than first.

April 19th. Hybrid bean+white-fronted goose (*Anser segetum*, ♂ + *A. albifrons*, ♀), bred on aviary pond last year with others, of which it is the sole survivor, is in very fine plumage. It has the slender neck and orange-coloured legs and feet of its male parent, with a small white frontal patch; no bars on breast.

April 20th. Goliath heron (*cf. anteà*) received on approval from Jamrach as *Ardea atricollis*, to which it has no resemblance in plumage, and is much larger.

Porphyrio (*Porphyrio*, sp.?) Three, supposed to be *P. caruleus*, received on approval from Jamrach. Said by him to have been procured from Sicily, through a dealer at Marseilles.

I cannot believe that these birds belong to that species, on account of their small size and the very dark plumage of their backs, and I was inclined to look upon them as the Australian black-backed porphyrio (*P. melanotus*), but on the following day Jamrach sent down one of the latter species for comparison. This bird is considerably larger than the three others, and the shape of frontal shield differs much from theirs, so that at present I am much puzzled about species of latter.

April 22nd. Chilian pintail (*Dafila spinicauda*) sits on eggs in sunk fence of pinetum. This nest is almost in the same spot as last year, and the bird on the nest was almost entirely hidden in a mass of dead leaves, with only her head and small portion of neck exposed, and very difficult to see.

April 23rd. Australian native companion (*Grus australasiana*), one of four in pinetum, has lately developed the unamiable habit of driving away all the other cranes from their feeding boxes, though not apparently hungry himself.

April 24th. Senegal pies (*Cryptorhina afra*). One of two of this species received last year, with brilliant coral red beak, has changed the colour of that instrument to black, like that of its male, or companion.

April 25th. Lesser kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*). Four, apparently adults, received from Jamrach.

Chinese laughing thrush (*Leucodiotron canorum*) received on approval from, and returned to, Jamrach.

April 28th. Hooded crane (*Grus monachus*), in pinetum, broke a leg.

April 29th. Sardinian starling ♂ (*Sturnus unicolor*) has paired with the only common starling in the same compartment of aviary, and sits alternately with her on eggs in a box.

May 1st. For the first time heard the call note of double-

spurred francolins; very powerful and strident, somewhat resembling that of guinea-fowl, but more prolonged and guttural.

May 2nd. The white-fronted goose ♀ and bean goose ♂ having again paired this year, to-day hatched four of six eggs at aviary pond.

May 3rd. Pochard (*Fuligula ferina*) sits on six eggs in pinetum.

May 6th. American peregrine or 'duck hawk' ♀ (*Falco anatum*) received as a present from Major Ernest Anne, who informs me that it was taken on board ship at about 1500 miles off the coast of Canada. This bird is considerably smaller than an average *Falco peregrinus* of the same sex, and is very dark in colour. I am disposed to consider her as a bird of last year.

May 6th. Bronze-winged pigeons (*Phaps chalcoptera*), of which I have a pair, produce many eggs, but will not sit, so we put two into a nest of woodpigeons in aviary (*cf. anteà*), removing the eggs of latter birds—a second sitting that I omitted to note in this book.

May 10th. White-bellied sea eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*). Two very fine specimens, adult and immature, received from Melbourne as a present from Edward Marshall.

May 16th. Five hybrids of spotted-billed and yellow-billed ducks (*Anas pacilorhyncha*, ♂, and *Anas xanuthorhyncha* ♀) hatched out at aviary pond.

May 17th and 18th. Ural owl (*Syrnium uralense*), one of two received from Russian Finland in 1888, laid an egg but made no nest and would not sit, so we transferred the egg to a nest in the park that contained four of barn owl (*Strix fluminea*).

May 19th. Ruffs (*Machetes pugnax*) all in splendid 'show,' are full of antics, pugnacious and very amorous.

May 20th. Boobook owl (*Ninox boobook*) received from Melbourne as a present from Edward Marshall.

Madeiran woodpigeon (*Columba trocaz*), one of three now in the aviary received from Dr. Hicks of Funchal, made a slight nest under one of the box bushes, on the bare gravel, and laid one egg.

Yellow-breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), one of four purchased last year from Jamrach, laid an egg on floor of cage, without any attempt at making a nest.

May 29th. Seriemas (*Cariama cristata*). Two received from A. Thomson, head keeper at Zoological Gardens.

May 30th. Sardinian starling. A pair have hatched out three young in box, old aviary.

June 2nd. Yellow-breasted bunting (*cf. antea*) has laid two more eggs, but will not sit.

June 3rd. Pink-headed drake (*Anas caryophyllacea*), one of pair purchased last year from Jamrach, died after pining for several days. These ducks, the only pair that were ever offered to me alive for sale, bore the winter very well, and in fact thrive in all ways till a few days ago. They are stupid and heavy birds, only interesting from their rarity and remarkable colour of heads.

June 5th. Trumpeter bullfinch (*Erythropsiza githaginea*) laid an egg.

Sardinian starlings (*cf. antea*), three young, all dead from parental neglect.

June 6th. Common curlew (*Numenius arquatus*). Two young in down received from T. Mann, of Aigle Hill, Allonby, as a present. The smaller of the two died on the following day; the other soon took greedily to a diet of earth-worms, chopped liver, etc., and became perfectly tame.

June 8th. White-breasted gallinule (*Gallinula phoenicea*), received in a dying state from W. Cross on 7th inst., died in its cage next day.

Shâmas (*Cittacina macrura*). Two received from W. Cross.

Common bittern laid first egg of this season.

Long-eared owls (*Asio otus*). Three young received from a Mr Adams, of the Lodge, Cockley Cley, Swaffham.

June 9th. Common bittern has another egg and sits.

Little owls (*Athene noctua*). Thirty received from Castang.

June 10th. Woodpigeons in aviary busy nesting for third time this year.

June 14th. Knot (*Tringa canutus*). An egg that I am convinced is of this species laid in aviary.

Larger white egret (*Ardea* sp.?) died in fine condition.

June 17th. Ditto. I have never been able satisfactorily to determine the species of this bird, as the locality given by the vendor, West Africa, was most certainly incorrect.

June 19th. Received a shâma from Cross in place of one deceased.

Received through F. Collier two Chilean eagles (*Geranoaëtus melanoleucus*) in immature plumage, said to have been sent from Bahia Blanca. These birds are so much smaller than any of their species that I have ever previously seen, that I sent them up to Bartlett to be assured about them. They are very fine, healthy birds in fairly good plumage and remarkably tame, agreeing amicably with a crowd of other *raptores* in western yard.

June 22nd. Twenty-three little owls received from Castang.

Three black woodpeckers (*Picus martius*) received from Jamrach ; all young birds.

Two pied woodpeckers (*Picus major*).

The black woodpeckers are in very bad condition of flesh and plumage. One died on 25th inst., the other two I think will live ; they feed greedily on ants' eggs, but prefer wasp grubs to any other food that we can find for them, though they will not touch the developed imago of this insect. Jamrach assured me that he received them from Gratz. The pied woodpeckers, also young birds from the same locality, are the finest of their species that I ever saw, in perfect health and plumage and as tame as possible.

June 22nd. Received four young scarlet ibis (*Ibis rubra*) from Jamrach.

June 23rd. One of my northern nuthatches died. Sent to H. E. Dresser.

Two young goshawks (*Astur palumbarius*) received from Mons. P. A. Pichot. These birds are male and female, and were, as I believe, taken from a nest in a forest near Rouen, whence I had received others.

June 27th. Madeiran pigeon laid an egg on the ground, found cracked.

June 29th. Two young ringed plovers (*Egialitis hiaticula*), one dead, received from Cumberland.

Jun. 30th. Tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*) from Abyssinia received on approval from Jamrach.

I kept the tawny eagle, which is a fine bird of the light brown race, very much resembling the most recently received of the two already here, and the light-coloured bird of Wolf's plate in the *Ibis*. Jamrach declared that this bird came to him from North Africa, probably Morocco. I returned the golden eagle, as I do not want one of that species; this was a remarkably large, strong young bird with pure white tarsi.

July 1st. Australian maned goose ♂ (*Bernicla jubata*) died in good condition. This bird was one of a pair purchased last year from Jamrach; they had both done remarkably well in the new aviary, feeding chiefly on the grass growing therein. I suspect that the commencement of the moult was the cause of death.

July 3rd. Great bustard ♂ (*Otis tarda*) died after long weakness. This was one of a consignment received some years ago from Seville, and presented by me to W. H. St. Quintin; it was injured when it arrived, and St. Quintin, after keeping it for a year or more, sent it back to me, rather than kill it, in October 1890. It did well here, but was always weakly on the legs from an injury to the ribs, and probably to the vertebræ, on the journey from Spain, though it fed well, moulted clean every year, and was impudently tame and pugnacious.

Woodpigeons (*cf. anteà*) have hatched out one young bird.

July 6th. Little bitterns (*Ardetta minuta*). Three very young, received from Castang.

July 8th. Australian crane (*cf. anteà*) died after failing for some time.

Great white Siberian cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*) in pinetum, reported by Cosgrave to be suffering from the excessive heat more than any other birds in the collection.

July 11th. Bearded vulture (*cf. anteà*). Very fine young bird, received from Malaga.

Bonelli's eagle (*Pseudastur bonelli*). Young male received from Malaga.

July 12th. Marbled duck (*cf. anteà*), long lame and ailing, died. Was a female by dissection, and despatched to Bowdler Sharpe at South Kensington.

Booted eagle (*Aquila pennata*), in bad condition, received from Jamrach.

July 13th. Egyptian eagle owl (*Bubo ascalaphus*) received from a Mr. Weeks, of Cheswardine, near Market Drayton, who says that it was captured at Luxor.

Common bittern (*cf. anteà*). Three eggs all proved rotten.

July 15th. Japanese kite (*Milvus melanotis?*) received from E. Marshall.

Owl from Japan (*Scops* sp. ?), *id.*

July 25th.—Two great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) sent on approval by Cross; returned.

Two caracaras (*Polyborus brasiliensis*) from Uruguay, received from O. V. Aplin.

Pileated jay (*Cyanocorax pileatus*), *id.*

Four long-eared owls (*Asio otus*) received from Mr. Adams, of Cockley Cley, West Norfolk.

August 1st. Tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) (*cf. anteà*). Killed by white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*), through the bars of the compartment in eagle yard.

August 2nd. Redshank (*Totanus calidris*) received from F. Dyer of Ramsgate.

Three black woodpeckers (*Picus martius*) received from Jamrach.

One Montagu's harrier (*Circus cineraceus*), melanic variety, received from Mons. P. A. Pichot, of Paris, with four others of the same species of ordinary type, which I left at Zoological Gardens. In the individual above noticed the whole of the plumage is of a uniform very deep brown, almost black, the irides of the same colour. I believe that all this lot of harriers were taken from nests in northern France.

One honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), white mottled variety, received from Mons. Pichot (as above). This bird was still unable to fly, and

has developed into a very beautiful and charmingly tame pet, only showing a little restlessness at the autumnal migration time.

August 8th. One nutcracker (*Corvus taryocactatus*) presented by Dr. A. Gunther.

August 9th. One lanner (*Falco f. leegi*) received from Consul Hunot, of Safi, Morocco.

One serpent eagle (*Circus gallicus*), *id.*

I presented both the last named birds to the Zoological Society.

August 10th. *Diuca diuca*, from Chili, received last year, identified by P. L. Selater.

Three porphyrios (*P. edwardsi*), South China.

Brown-headed gull (*Larus ridibundus*) pinioned by shot on Tichmarsh.

August 12th. Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*), young, received from Bazeley, of Northampton.

August 19th. Thirteen little bitterns (*Ardetta minuta*), from Holland, received from Castang.

August 21st. Six avocets (*Avocetta recurvirostra*), six redshanks (*Totanus calidris*), and black-tailed godwit (*Limosa melanura*), from Holland. Received by order of F. Blaauw.

August 22nd. Three herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*), immature, from south coast, presented by Alex. Berens.

August 25th. Little kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), southern starling (*Sturnus unicolor*), great bustard (*Otis tarda*), little bustard (*Otis tetrax*), glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), marbled ducks (*Anas angustirostris*), from Andalusia, received, *per* Ochenden, from Gibraltar.

August 30th.—Black-headed partridges (*Caccabis melanocephala*) received *via* Bartlett from Aden.

White-shafted francolins (*Francolinus infuscatus*), from Somali coast, *id.*

Singed sand grouse (*Pterocles exustus*) received *via* Bartlett from Aden.

But there was already the collection of years before this record began to be kept in this particular form. Of the extent and variety of the Lilford Collection of living birds during the whole period of its existence some general idea may be gathered from the following list. It includes, not all, but the greater proportion of the birds new to the Aviaries between the date last given and the third week in March 1896—a space of not three years.

Mantell's apteryx	<i>Apteryx mantelli.</i>
Owen's apteryx	<i>Apteryx oweni.</i>
Greek partridge	<i>Caccabis saxatilis</i> (Austria).
Barbary partridge	<i>Caccabis petrosa.</i>
Black-headed partridge	<i>Caccabis melanocephala</i> (Aden).
Bamboo partridge	<i>Bambusicola thoracica.</i>
Common francolin	<i>Francolinus vulgaris.</i>
Grant's francolin	<i>Francolinus granti.</i>
White-shafted francolin	<i>Francolinus leucoscephus.</i>
Double-spurred francolin	<i>Francolinus bicalcaratus.</i>
Madagascar francolin	<i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis.</i>
Guinea fowl	<i>Numida</i> sp. ?
Crested colin	<i>Eupsychortyx cristatus.</i>
Scaly colin	<i>Callipepla squamata.</i>
Chinese button quails	<i>Excalfactoria chinensis.</i>
Pintailed sand grouse	<i>Pterocles alchata.</i>
Singed sand grouse	<i>Pterocles exustus</i> (Aden).
Madeiran woodpigeon	<i>Columba trocaz</i> (hatched in Aviary).
Laurel pigeon	<i>Columba laurivora.</i>
Bolle's pigeon	<i>Columba bollii.</i>
Spotted pigeon	<i>Columba maculosa</i> (South America).
Snow pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i> (S. Himalayas ; hatched in Aviary).
Grey-headed fruit pigeon	<i>Columba aenea</i> ? (India).
Carolina crane	<i>Porzana carolina.</i>
American water rail	<i>Aramides cayennensis.</i>
Ypacaha rail	<i>Aramides ypacaha.</i>

Pectoral rail	<i>Rallus pectoralis.</i>
Blue water-hen	<i>Porphyrio edwardsi.</i>
Green-backed Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio smaragdorotus.</i>
Allen's gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni.</i>
Martinique gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica.</i>
White-breasted gallinule	<i>Gallinula phoenicea.</i>
Black-throated diver	<i>Colymbus arcticus.</i>
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis.</i>
Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica.</i>
Common gull	<i>Larus canus.</i>
Sandwich tern	<i>Sterna cantiana.</i>
Stone curlew	<i>Edicnemus crepitans.</i>
Great bustard	<i>Otis tarda.</i>
Green sandpiper	<i>Totanus ochropus.</i>
Common sandpiper	<i>Totanus hypoleucus.</i>
Australian wattled lapwing	<i>Sarcophorus pectoralis.</i>
Avocet	<i>Avocetta recurvirostra.</i>
Knot	<i>Tringa canutus.</i>
Oyster-catcher	<i>Hæmatopus ostralegus.</i>
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa melanura.</i>
Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus nigricollis.</i>
Pratincole	<i>Glarcola pratincola.</i>
Sarus crane	<i>Grus antigone.</i>
White-necked crane	<i>Grus leucauchen.</i>
Wattled crane	<i>Grus carunculata</i> (South Africa)
Stanley's crane	<i>Tetrapteryx paraiisea.</i>
Tufted umbre	<i>Scopus umbretta</i> (Bechuanaland)
Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea.</i>
Great white heron	<i>Ardea alba.</i>
Squacco heron	<i>Ardea ralloides.</i>
Little egret	<i>Ardea garzetta.</i>
Buff-backed egret	<i>Ardea bubulcus.</i>
Night heron	<i>Nycticorax griseus</i> (Arabia)
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris.</i>
Little bittern	<i>Ardeola minuta.</i>
Tiger bittern	<i>Tigrisoma tigrinum.</i>
Roseate spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja.</i>

Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia.</i>
South American white ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus.</i>
Black-headed ibis	<i>Ibis melanocephala.</i>
Smew	<i>Mergus albellus.</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera.</i>
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula.</i>
Shoveller	<i>Anas clypeata.</i>
Pink-headed duck	<i>Anas caryophyllacea.</i>
Scaup	<i>Fuligula marila.</i>
Pochard	<i>Fuligula ferina.</i>
Golden Eye	<i>Fuligula clangula.</i>
Tufted duck	<i>Fuligula cristata.</i>
White-eyed pochard	<i>Fuligula nyroca.</i>
Red-crested pochard	<i>Fuligula rufina.</i>
Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator.</i>
Eider duck	<i>Somateria mollissima.</i>
Maned goose	<i>Bernicla jubata.</i>
Spur-winged goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis.</i>
Cassin's snow-goose	<i>Chen hypoboreus.</i>
Snow-goose	<i>Chen albus.</i>
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus ferus.</i>
Bewick's swan	<i>Cygnus bewicki.</i>
South American flamingo	<i>Phenicopterus ignipalliatus.</i>
Flamingo	<i>Phenicopterus roseus.</i>
American darter	<i>Plotus aninga.</i>
Pygmy cormorant	<i>Carbo pygmaeus.</i>
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aruginosus.</i>
Montagu's harrier	<i>Circus cineraceus.</i>
Goshawk	<i>Astur palumbarius.</i>
American sparrow-hawk	<i>Accipiter fuscus.</i>
Common buzzard	<i>Buteo vulgaris</i> (very dark variety; Holland).
Red-backed buzzard	<i>Buteo erythronotus</i> (Patagonia).
Many-zoned hawk	<i>Melierax polyzonus.</i>
Chanting falcon	<i>Melierax canorus.</i>
Lämmergeier	<i>Gypaëtus barbatus</i> (Switzerland and Almeria).

White-shouldered eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i> (Southern Spain).
Imperial eagle	<i>Aquila imperialis</i> .
Spotted eagle	<i>Aquila noxia</i> .
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> .
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i> .
Common kite	<i>Milvus regalis</i> .
Barbary falcon	<i>Falco barbarus</i> .
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i> (Southern Spain).
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> .
Lanner	<i>Falco feldeggii</i> .
Merlin	<i>Falco aesalon</i> .
Cinnamon kestrel	<i>Falco cinnamomina</i> .
Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> .
La Marmora's falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i> (Morocco).
American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i> .
Australian peregrine	<i>Falco melanogenys</i> .
Mediterranean peregrine	<i>Falco punicus</i> .
Eagle owl	<i>Bubo maximus</i> .
Spotted eagle-owl	<i>Bubo maculosus</i> .
Cape eagle-owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i> .
Burrowing owl	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i> .
American hawk-owl	<i>Syrnium funerea</i> .
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio brachyotus</i> .
Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i> .
Lapp owl	<i>Syrnium lapponicum</i> .
Tawny owl	<i>Syrnium aluco</i> .
Ural owl	<i>Syrnium uralense</i> .
Spot-bellied owl	<i>Carine spilogastra</i> .
Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i> .
Masked owl	<i>Strix castanops</i> (Australia).
South American barn-owl	<i>Strix guatemalæ</i> .
Barn-owl	<i>Strix flammea</i> .
Black-headed caique	<i>Caica melanocephala</i> .
Great blue-eyed cockatoo	<i>Cacatua ophthalmica</i> .
Red-faced parakeet	<i>Platycreus novæ-zealandicæ</i> .
Orange-flanked parakeet	<i>Brotogerys pyrrhopterus</i> .
Carolina parakeet	<i>Conurus carolinensis</i> .

Guira cuckoo	<i>Guira pibirigua.</i>
Indian black cuckoo	<i>Eudynamis orientalis.</i>
Senegal touraco	<i>Corythaix persa.</i>
Toucan	<i>Pteroglossus ziedi.</i>
Green woodpecker	<i>Geococcyx viridis.</i>
Pied woodpecker	<i>Picus major.</i>
Black woodpecker	<i>Picus martius.</i>
Brahminy mynah	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum.</i>
Hill mynah	<i>Gracula intermedia.</i>
Purple-headed starling	<i>Sturnus purpuracens.</i>
Long-tailed glossy starling	<i>Lamprotornis œneus.</i>
Malabar starling	<i>Sturnopastor malabaricus.</i>
Rose pastor	<i>Pastor roseus.</i>
Tristram's grakle	<i>Amydrus tristrami.</i>
Black-collared grakle	<i>Graculipica nigricollis.</i>
Blue-winged magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki.</i>
Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes.</i>
Australian "chough"	<i>Cocorax melanocephala.</i>
Alpine chough	<i>Fregilus alpinus.</i>
Blue hunting-pie	<i>Urocissa occipitalis.</i>
Indian oriole	<i>Oriolus indicus.</i>
Golden oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus.</i>
Red-winged hang-nest	<i>Agelaius phœniceus.</i>
Hairy-headed drongo	<i>Clibia hottentota.</i>
Regent bird	<i>Sericulus melinus.</i>
Beautiful grass-finch	<i>Poephila mirabilis.</i>
Gouldian finch	<i>Poephila gouldie.</i>
North Queensland grass-finch	<i>Poephila cincta.</i>
House-sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus.</i>
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla.</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Fringilla chloris.</i>
Teydean chaffinch	<i>Fringilla teydea.</i>
Brazilian finch	<i>Guiraca cyanea.</i>
Mealy redpoll	<i>Linota linaria.</i>
Twite	<i>Linota flavirostris.</i>
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra.</i>
Pine grosbeak	<i>Pyrrhula enucleator.</i>

South American bullfinch	<i>Oryzoborus crassirostris.</i>
Woodlark	<i>Alauda arborea.</i>
Snow-bunting	<i>Plectrophanes nivalis.</i>
Lapland bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus.</i>
Bearded reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus.</i>
Greater nightingale	<i>Daulias philomela.</i>
White-spotted blue-throat	<i>Cyanecula succica.</i>
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia.</i>
Barred warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria (North Germany).</i>
Blue robin	<i>Cyanea wilsoni.</i>
Alpine accentor	<i>Accentor collaris.</i>
Blue rock-thrush	<i>Monticola cyanea.</i>
Pied rock-thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis.</i>
Giant kingfisher	<i>Dacelo gigantea.</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo ispida.</i>
Dusky bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus obscurus.</i>
Sulphury tyrant	<i>Pyrranga sulphurea.</i>
Crested jay-thrush	<i>Garrulax leucolophus.</i>
White-throated jay-thrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis.</i>
Necklaced jay-thrush	<i>Garrulax picticollis.</i>
Striated jay-thrush	<i>Grammatoptila striata.</i>

INTERESTING HYBRIDS.

<i>Fuligula rufina</i>	+	<i>F. ferina.</i>
<i>Anas boscas</i>	+	<i>Mareca penelope.</i>
<i>Anas boscas</i>	+	<i>A. querquedula.</i>

APPENDIX II

ALTHOUGH the following extracts do not perhaps pretend to the interest of what has gone before, they seem worth giving, as showing how the ruling passion was never laid aside, never allowed to grow rusty, even amid apparently the most unfavourable surroundings. London itself was made by the enthusiasm of this naturalist a place of daily ornithological interest; while, on every little trip into the country, he takes notes, even of the most familiar birds, with just as much care as though engaged on the exploration of an unknown land. Thus he records the observation of no fewer than thirty-one species of birds on a single drive from Windsor to Sunningdale.

LONDON

November 4th, 1881. Very warm, showery day. Went round to Den* in the morning, and did some work at my *Birds of Northamptonshire*. Had visits there from Verner and Günther, who talked much of choughs (*Fregilus graculus*) observed near St. Davids, and say that they seemed to feed almost entirely on insects of the gnat (*Tipula*) family.

November 5th. Went in the morning to Zoological Gardens specially to see my Spanish bear, which is quite blind, but seems healthy (very different in looks from a young bear from Russia which

* So Lord Lilford called his rooms in Tenterden Street, at the time the meeting-place of the members of the British Ornithologists' Union.

is in the same den) and the Beatrix antelopes (*Oryx beatrix*), which I received from Muscat through Col. Miles, and presented to the Society. The latter are both females, beautiful animals, but one has unfortunately broken both horns, and lost an eye.

In the *Field* of to-day is a notice from Mr. W. Tomalin of a black-throated diver (*Colymbus arcticus*) shot on Naseby Reservoir by a Mr. Kennall of Northampton, on October 25th, and sent to Mr. J. Gardner, 29, Oxford Street, for preservation. This requires investigation as to species.

November 8th. Colder and slightly foggy. I went to Gardner's to see the diver before mentioned, and found that it is a genuine black-throated diver (*Colymbus arcticus*). Went to Den and found Paul Mollen there, not having been able to start last night for Holland on account of fog.

G. Hunt writes that he and the keeper had killed eighty-one snipes and jack snipes in six days' shooting. Burton showed me a fine hybrid from Russia, between willow grouse (*Lagopus saliceti*) and black game (*Tetrao tetrix*).

November 10th. Very mild, fine day. Went round to Den, and hunted through many bird drawers in search of some missing skins, without success. Leopold called, and sat with me for some time. Received a long-expected box from Ruiz, containing many eggs of the marbled duck (*Anas angustirostris*), some doubtful, supposed to be those of pochard (*Fuligula ferina*), a skin of black stork (*Ciconia nigra*, juv.), and one of crested coot (*Fulica cristata*). Tristram looked in, and lunched with me at Oriental; gave me some interesting details of his last travels in Palestine, Syria, and Asia Minor; the most startling fact being the discovery of a darter (*Plotos*) breeding on the Lake of Antioch.

November 11th. Mild, dull day. Went to Burton's, who holds out faint hopes that some of my missing bird skins may yet be there. Spent the greater part of the day at Den writing my notes for *Birds of Northamptonshire*.

November 15th. Fine, mild day. Went to Burton's, and found the skin of Barbary falcon, about which my mind has been so

much exercised. Irby paid me a visit at the Den. Dined at Zoological Club dinner at Grosvenor Restaurant at 6 p.m.—Flower, Sclater, A. Newton, Günther, Dresser, O. Salvin, Saunders, Grote, Holdsworth, Forbes, Dobson, Hamilton, another, Waterhouse, and self. Meeting afterwards at 11, Hanover Square. Tristram exhibited a very fine skin, and some eggs of the African darter (*Plotus levaillanti*) from the Lake of Antioch, Newton a specimen of rustic bunting (*Emberiza rustica*) shot in Yorkshire, and Sclater a stuffed glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) shot last September in Hampshire. Several interesting papers read—one relating to a splendid humming-bird (*Loddigesia mirabilis*) from Peru, of which specimens were exhibited.

November 18th. Thick, chilly fog. I went up by appointment to British Museum at 12, where Günther met me, and showed me the groups of British birds, with nests and eggs, of which he is very justly proud. He also showed me an extraordinary tree-frog from South America, with perfectly developed young in a bag in its back.

November 18th. Fine bright day after heavy rain in the night. I went hunting for some pleasant cage bird in the Seven Dials district, but found nothing that particularly took my fancy. Sabin has a fine white blackbird and a young mocking bird (*Mimus polyglottis*).

November 20th. Notice in *Field* of Stone Curlew (*Ædicnemus crepitans*), shot at Gayton, near Northampton, October 28th. This is a rare bird in *agro northantoniense*.

November 23rd. Very fine and bright. Paul Mollen called on his way back from Valkenswaard to Lilford, bringing two ash-coloured shrikes alive for me, which have been used at the huts for catching the hawks.

November 25th. The shrikes are very wild, but feed well.

November 26th. Irby and Edward Acheson called at Den, and I went with former in a cab to Leadenhall Market. Castang has a young male Bonelli's eagle (*Pseudactes bonelli*, ♂, juv.), two lanners (*Falco feldeggii*), and a young night heron (*Nycticorax griseus*). Great quantities of capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) in the market, also some black game

(*Tetrao tetrix*), a few hazel grouse (*Tetrao bonasia*), and willow grouse (*Lagopus saliceti*). Very few wild-fowl (*Anatidæ*).

November 26th. Received three snipes, five jack snipes, and a wild duck from Lilford.

December 7th. Began corrections and addenda for Dresser's *Birds of Europe*. Received three snipes from Lilford.

December 9th. Heard from G. Hunt that he had killed eleven wild ducks with one shot with the big gun which I gave him, also that there are hardly any fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*) in the country. Leo sent a skin of hybrid, I think second cross between Reeves's (*Phasianus reevesi*) and common pheasant. This bird has a trace of white neck collar, I believe it is from Suffolk, a descendant of the old male Reeves's cock pheasant which I gave to Nat Barnardiston years ago; this bird met his fate lately after propagating a numerous hybrid race.

December 10th. I received a letter from Rev. G. E. Morris, Rector of Middleton Scriven, near Bridgnorth, Salop, enclosing head and wing of a petrel picked up in that neighbourhood, about which he had written to the *Standard* (*vide Standard*, December 8th, 1881, p. 2), and which I think is not, as he supposes, the stormy petrel (*Thalassidroma pelagica*), but a young fork-tailed petrel (*Thalassidroma leucorrhœa*).

December 11th. I make out from Dresser's book that the petrel above mentioned is a specimen of Leach's or the fork-tailed petrel.

BRIGHTON

December 23rd. Went to Swaysland, who showed us a pair of fork-tailed petrels recently obtained near this place, also two birds which look like hybrids between greenfinch (*Fringilla chloris*) and brown linnæus (*Fringilla cannabina*); of this Swaysland says he has obtained many specimens. He also had some good specimens of grey redstart (*Ruticilla cairii*), to my mind a very distinct bird from black redstart (*Ruticilla titys*), which often turns up here, and of which Swaysland had several specimens.

December 26th. Young Walter Swaysland called in the evening to tell me that he had a dark-breasted variety of barn-owl (*Strix flammea*) brought in alive. I had a long ornithological chat with him.

December 27th. Swaysland has a good many live birds in a compartment at the end of the pier below the platform, which, in spite of very limited space, seem to flourish. I bought a pair of mealy red-polls (*Linota linaria*).

December 29th. Colonel Verner showed me a cinnamon greenfinch and cinnamon linnet, a red-breasted thrush (*Turdus migratorius*), nightingale, blackcap, and other birds. He went with us to see Booth's collection of stuffed British birds in the Dyke Road. It is a very fine one, most of the birds admirably well stuffed and mounted. His cases of golden (*Aquila fulva*) and white-tailed eagles (*Aquila albicilla*) especially are beautiful. Booth has a lot of gannets (*Sula bassana*) alive in his garden, one of which was bred there this year. G. Hunt tells of a bird seen at Wadenhoe by Quincey, which sounds more like a nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) than anything else.

December 30th. Received and corrected proofs of a fresh small portion of my notes on Northamptonshire birds for the *Journal* of our Natural History Society.

LONDON

January 3rd, 1882. Went back to Den and found a large concourse of ornithologists. Seebohm showed us some beautiful skins from Astrachan and Siberia; one of the most interesting was a flamingo (*Phœnicopterus antiquorum*) in down, from the Caspian. He also showed some beautiful specimens of the little partridge (*Perdix barbatus*) from North China.

January 26th. My remaining butcher-bird died. Discovered an egg of glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) amongst those received in the last box from Manuel of Coria. It was not mentioned in Ruiz's invoice and I had overlooked it, but old Manuel mentioned it in a letter received a few days ago. It was taken in the marisma.

The two months following upon his cruise in the Mediterranean in this year, Lord Lilford spent partly in London, partly at Neuenahr, whither he went to take the waters.

The first entry in the following extracts finds him just returned.

DOVER. LONDON

May 25th. M— S—reports my bear at Zoological Gardens as being very ill.

Letters from old Manuel announcing the finding of a lanner's nest in the Coto de Doñana with three young birds and an egg. Female bird shot and found to be minus one leg. Country so dry that no flamingoes are to be found.

Gave Dresser a pair of Audouin's gulls.

LONDON

May 26th. Agreed to buy the great auk and egg of C— for £300.

Irby tells me that Mena has obtained *Totanus stagnatilis* near Malaga.

Dresser has successfully blown the eggs of *Melizophilus sardus*. I sent the two snakes up to the Zoological Gardens.

May 27th. Invested in a fireproof safe for the better preservation of the three great auk's eggs.

George Hunt tells me that in March he killed 500 woodpigeons near Gidding in little over a week.

WINDSOR AND SUNNINGDALE

May 31st. Drove up the Long Walk to Cumberland Lodge: the beeches in great beauty and rhododendrons in full bloom, the young fern and many rabbits adding to the beauty of our drive to Sunningdale. Noticed the following birds:—Blackbird, song-thrush, missel-thrush, swallow, house-martin, sand-martin, swift, rook, jackdaw, nightingale, blackcap, lesser whitethroat, chiffchaff, willow-wren, wood-wren, robin, wren, great tit, coal tit, starling, skylark, pied wagtail, yellow-hammer, stone-chat, stock-dove, chaffinch, common sparrow, tree-creeper, pheasant, heron, mallard.

LONDON

June 1st. Went to Jamrach's, where I bought twelve roseate pastors and a laughing kingfisher. Principal things noticed: Splendid pair of Persian greyhounds, three Australian quails, and some jerboas.

NEUENAHN

June 3rd. Birds observed between Flushing and Cologne: Marsh-harrier, kestrel, white wagtail, skylark, common sparrow, starling, carrion crow, peewit, common redshank, common heron, white stork, brown-headed gull, mallard, and cormorant.

June 5th. Was able, thank God, to stroll round the garden with frequent rests, more than I have done in the walking way for many a day.

Heard landrail and many nightjars at dusk.

I notice that most of the sparrows about the east side of the Curhaus, where we are now located, are the tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*), which species, curiously enough, escaped my notice altogether last year. The birds seem just as abundant as in last summer, but more forward in their domestic arrangements. I did not hear so much song of nightingale, but saw a good many, and heard their churr in all directions. Several lesser whitethroats (*Sylvia curruca*) amongst the pea-sticks just under our windows; they and the black redstarts are kept in a constant state of excitement by prowling cats, which affords excellent opportunities of observation. Saw a robin in Curgarten for the first time, the only birds of this species last year seen by me were in the hills. Many cuckoos.

June 6th. Very fine hot day with south-west breeze. I wandered out after breakfast along the Acazien Alleé and saw a good many birds, but there is so much more grass and covert of all sorts this year than last, and the breeze was so strong that it was bad for observation. I, however, added three additional species to list of birds seen here, as follows:—

Saw a pair of hawfinches (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*) and a pair of bullfinches (*Pyrrhula europæa*), new to list, and heard a note often repeated which I have no hesitation in assigning to the grey-headed woodpecker (*Gecinus canus*).

June 7th. Heard unmistakable note of nuthatch (*Sitta*, sp.?) new to my Neuenahr bird list.

June 8th. Common wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*) singing lustily close to hotel this morning; new to Neuenahr bird list.

June 9th. My bearded Stuhlknacht of last year told me that he knew of a nest of kite in the Wald with two eggs.

June 10th. I had a visit from a Neuenahr keeper, with whom I plunged recklessly into the tongue of the Fatherland, and got on fairly well.

The sportsman did not seem to recognise the hobby = "Baumfalke" from my description, but knows the following Raptores:—kestrel = "Thurmfalka," goshawk = "Habicht," sparrow-hawk = "Sperber," kite = "Weier," buzzard and probably honey-buzzard = "Bussard," eagle-owl = "Uhu," barn-owl = "Katzuhle." He also knows *Gecinus canus* as "Grauer Specht," and told me that there are a good many gelinnotes = "Hazelhahn" in the Wald, and that he knew of a nest with seven eggs hatched off about a week ago. No blackgame = "Birkhahn" in this Wald; a few woodcock = "Waldschnepe" breed therein; many roe = "Reh" and wild-boars = "Wildschwein."

June 12th. My bearded Stuhlknacht brought me a mutilated jay = "Magen," which he said had been shot in the Curgarten, and insisted with some truth that it was a "Raubvogel" = bird of prey.

June 13th. Letter from G. Hunt, telling of catching some good trout in Troywell brook, and little ones in Wadenhoe eel-trap; also of long-eared owl (*Asio otus*) at his reservoir, and green sand-piper (*Totanus ochropus*) last month on the brook.

Bartlett has secured the two Persian greyhounds for me (*vide ante* June 1st, 1882).

A young wild swine (*Sus scrofa*) brought to our sitting-room at night by a wilder youth, who, as far as we could make out, said it was one of four taken in a pitfall this morning in the Hoh-Wald not far off. It appeared to me to be moribund.

June 15th. Saw a young titys redstart about on his own account.

June 16th. My younger Stuhlknacht of last year brought me a

very fine specimen of long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), and our waiter tells of a man at Altenahr who has two young "Uhus" (*Bubo maximus?*) alive.

June 17th. Found that the "Uhus" mentioned above had been sold and sent to Bonn. Young swallows flying.

Letter from Leo, with some details about his Egyptian birds; the best things seem to be *Aegialitis asiatica* in breeding plumage, and a falcon doubtful but supposed to be *F. barbarus*.

June 18th. Heard from G. Lascelles that the two young falcons from the Maddalena, which had reached him in wretched condition, were improving. Wrote to Castang, telling him to send down a lanner, hobby, and hawk, which he thinks is Saker, to Lilford.

June 19th. Saw kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*), new to Neuenahr list; also a woodpecker in Curgarten, which I am almost certain was *Gecinus canus*.

June 20th. Watched tree creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) feeding their young in nest at head of pollard willow. Saw some fifty little tits (*Acredula caudata*) new to my Neuenahr list. This was apparently a collection of several families out for a lark together.

June 22nd. Saw common sandpiper (*Totanus hypoleucus*), new to my Neuenahr list.

June 23rd. Saw grey wagtail (*Motacilla sulphurea*), new to Neuenahr list. Heard golden oriole, quail, and woodlark. Letter from G. Hunt announcing the finding of hobby's nest with three eggs in Geddington Chase, and the fact that the gamekeeper who found this one destroyed eggs and shot the old birds from another nest last year in Boughton Wood.

June 24th. Heard from Bartlett that he had a hobby for me in good plumage, and from Paul Mollen that the hawks from Castang—viz., lanner (*Falco feldeggii*), hobby (*F. subbuteo*), and supposed saker (which is not what it is supposed to be) had arrived at Lilford, and that one of the African buzzards (*Buteo desertorum*) was dead.

Saw dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus*) and heard many common green woodpeckers (*Geococcyx viridis*), both new to my Neuenahr list.

June 25th. Letter from T. telling me of various casualties amongst birds at Lilford, which Paul Mollen had ignored. Notice in field from W. Tomalin of teal (*Anas crecca*) breeding at Ecton, Northamptonshire.

June 27th. Letter from J. H. Gurney telling me that falcon brought by Leo from Nile is a puzzling specimen, more particularly so as it is not sexed, but he is inclined to consider it *F. punicus*.

June 28th. Saw a large white-looking bird on wing far away in the direction of Apollinaris, which must, I think, have been a stork (*Ciconia alba*) or a large gull, either of which are new to my Neuenahr list.

June 29th. Letter from W. Tomalin, dated 28th, with more particulars of teal at Ecton (*vide* 25th inst. and for details to Book of Northamptonshire, vol. ii., under this date).

Letters from G. Hunt telling me that the hobby's nest before mentioned in Geddington Chase "is in a straight grown oak, an old crow's nest about thirty feet from the ground and some two hundred yards from nearest track or riding" (*vide* June 23rd).

June 30th. Letters from Paul Mollen telling me that the two gulls (*Larus dominicanus* and *L. argentatus*) in courtyard at Lilford had paired again this spring, nested, laid, and hatched out three young ones, two of which he has lost. He also says that he thinks that the supposed saker (*F. sacer*) from Castang is a Barbary falcon (*vide* June 24th).

Two very young falcons brought to me alive from the Landskrone, so small that I cannot tell what they are.

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