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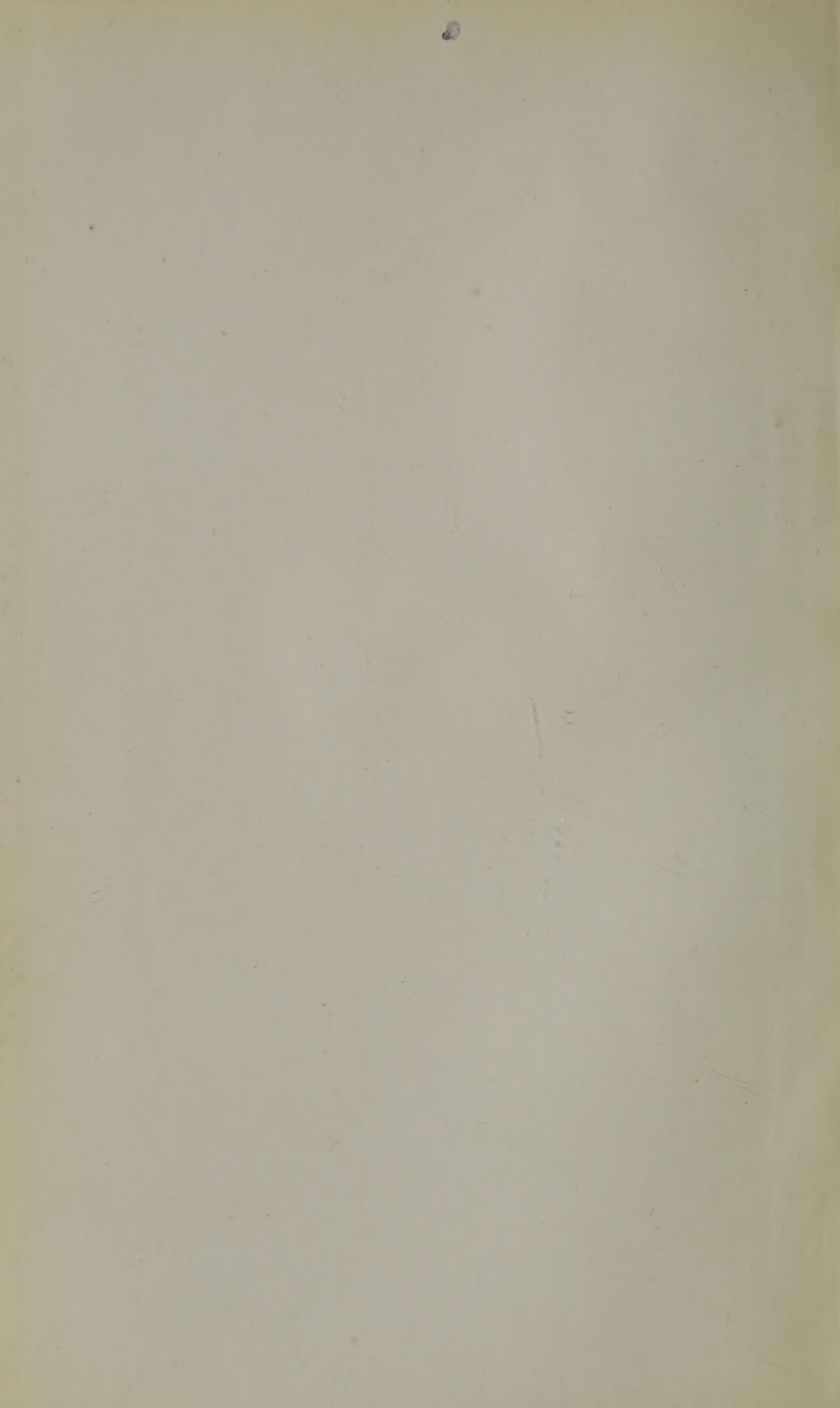
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THE BIRDS OF THE ISLE OF MAN

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FOR

DAVID DOUGLAS.

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THE **B**IRDS
OF THE
ISLE OF **M**AN
BY P. G. RALFE

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGIST'S UNION

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EDINBURGH. DAVID DOUGLAS. 1905

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P R E F A C E.

THE fauna of an island, with its sharp definition, must usually be of greater interest than that of a mainland area of equal size.

Man, so peculiarly situated within sight of all four great divisions of Britain, yet separated from each by a stormy, though narrow, sea, and containing within its small extent much diversity of surface, has perhaps a more than ordinary claim to the attention of British naturalists, to whom, nevertheless, it long remained an almost unknown land.

In making the first attempt to deal on a somewhat extended scale with the bird life of my native isle, I am well aware that my work must contain many imperfections and uncertainties, and even, though I have striven to be as little dogmatic as possible, some inaccuracies. I may at least claim the advantages of a life-long residence in Man, and of familiarity with every portion of it. In time to come the fauna of Man, then perhaps not a little altered also, will be more fully known, and the value of its distinctive features more justly estimated. In the meantime, with the hope that this volume may be a means of arousing interest and observation toward that end, it is offered to all who take pleasure in the study of one of the most fascinating branches of natural science in one of the most delightful of British districts.

I have supposed in my readers a certain degree of acquaintance with the subject of British ornithology, and have refrained from attempting to describe, or even diagnose, the Manx species. To carry out such a task thoroughly and efficiently presents no small difficulty, if I may judge from the many discrepancies and omissions found in comparing works on popular lines. Such descriptions, to be really useful to the learner, would also have unduly increased the bulk of the volume, and have been unacceptable to most of those into whose hands it may fall. Those who require an elementary knowledge of our bird fauna may be referred to such standard works as those of 'Yarrell,' Dresser, and Seeböhm, or to the more concise and less expensive 'Manual' of Mr. H. Saunders, Mr. W. H. Hudson's *British Birds*, the cheap and graphically written (but unfortunately in some respects out of date) work of C. A. Johns, *British Birds in their Haunts*, and the excellent shilling Manual by the late regretted H. A. Macpherson.

I have, however, endeavoured to emphasise everything relating to a bird, which is peculiar to it, or characteristic of it, as *Manx*; and to such species as have special interest (from their general rarity as British or otherwise) particular attention has been directed, and the account of their haunts and habits in Man made as complete as possible.

I have thought it suitable to add a somewhat detailed, though brief, topographical sketch of the island's physical features. It will be observed that they have much affinity with those of many districts of northern England and southern Scotland, yet with a difference in which perhaps is dominant the ever-present sense of the nearness of the

surrounding sea. Both naturally and artificially, the landscape of Man, like its life, has a strong national character, out of all proportion to the insignificant size of the isle.

In the preparation of the work, I have met with assistance from many friends and correspondents in all parts of the island and outside it, too numerous to mention here, but whose names will be found attached to the items of information furnished, and to whom I have to express my grateful appreciation of their interest in my labour, and the ready and painstaking way in which they have furthered it. I cannot, however, omit here a special acknowledgment to Mr. P. M. C. Kermode, of Ramsey, whose previous lists, afterwards mentioned in more detail, have supplied a groundwork for this book; Mr. J. C. Crellin, H.K., of Ballachurry; Messrs. F. W. Leach and G. Adams, of Douglas (to the latter of whom I owe much for bringing under my notice many specimens which from time to time have passed through his hands as a taxidermist). Mr. A. Allison has taken much trouble to procure me information from the interesting Maughold district.

My particular thanks are due to Mr. F. S. Graves, of Alderley Edge, for the numerous notes contributed by him from his long and intimate knowledge of the bird life of his native island, and especially of the Peel district, and also for permission to reproduce photographs of many of the scenes described. Many of the observations given in my own name were also made in the company of Mr. Graves (I may particularly mention those noted during our stay on the Calf in 1901), and he has looked over the entire draft of the volume, and made a number of suggestions—the results of which are incorporated in the text.

A picture of the nest of the Herring Gull is by Mr. T. H. Graves.

To Mr. F. Izant, of Redhill, and Mr. James Kewley, of King William's College, I am also indebted for liberty to reproduce a number of their beautiful photographs of Manx scenery. Mr. G. B. Cowen, of Ramsey, has spared no pains in endeavouring to provide me with other desired illustrations.

Mr. J. M. Nicholson has furnished the title-page, representing a familiar and picturesque scene, usually the first to meet the eye of the visitor to Man.

Finally, I would record my sense of the care and courtesy of my publisher, Mr. Douglas, in superintending the course of publication, rendering me advice and assistance, and endeavouring to carry out my wishes in many details of the work.

P. G. RALFE.

CASTLETOWN, ISLE OF MAN,

October 1, 1905.

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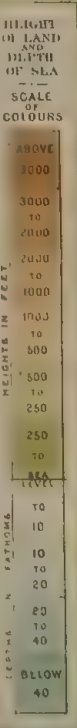
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ATLANTIC OCEAN



MAP OF THE IRISH SEA SHOWING RELATION OF THE ISLE OF MAN TO THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

SCALE 18 MILES TO AN INCH
Steamship distances are given in nautical miles

INTRODUCTORY.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

THE Isle of Man is about 32 miles in length, its greatest breadth being some 13 miles. Its area is 145,325 acres, or 227 square miles; its circumference (without entering the bays) about 75 miles. These measurements include the Calf of Man. From Snaefell, taken as a central point, the distance to Burrow Head (Scotland) is 30 miles, to the Mull of Galloway about a mile more, to St. Bees Head (England) 40 miles, to Anglesea 55, and about 45 to the nearest point in County Down. The shortest distances to the surrounding lands are from the Point of Ayre to Burrow Head 16 miles, from the same point to St. Bees Head 28, Calf of Man to Point Lynas 42, Contrary Head to the entrance of Strangford Lough $26\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The island lies between lat. $54^{\circ}2'$ and $54^{\circ}25'$, and long. $4^{\circ}17'$ and $4^{\circ}49'$.

The separating seas are (especially toward the Cumbrian coast, where the water never attains the depth of 20 fathoms) very shallow, and exceed 50 fathoms only in a trench which runs north and south between Man and Ireland.

From the northern slopes of the island the Galloway coast is in clear weather visible from the Mull to the Solway; Cairnsmore of Fleet, Cairnharrow, Screele, and Criffel being prominent in the background, and occasionally perceptible the summits, some of them even loftier, beyond Loch Trool and Loch Dee. In the east the ranges of Lakeland show a fine array of heights, ending conspicuously to the south in Black Combe. Southwards Wales is more

faintly visible in parts of Anglesea and Snowdonia. The Mourne Mountains form a grand mass in the seascape to the west, and further north Slieve Croob is well displayed.

In rough figures, 45,000 acres of the Manx area is quite uncultivated (314 only being under water). 22,000 acres are devoted to corn, oats and barley being the principal crops, and the production of wheat having nearly ceased; 11,000 are under green crop, 39,000 grass (rotation), and 20,000 permanent pasture; the proportion of pasture-land tends to increase. The acreage under wood is insignificant,¹ though materially increased by the late afforesting of tracts of the Crown Common at South Barrule, Archallagan, and Greeba.

The population (1901) is 54,613, of which the four towns contain more than half. It decreased nearly 1000 within the previous decade.

The Isle of Man consists of a main central mass of high-land, to which at the north and south are appended much smaller tracts of marly level country.

I. THE NORTHERN LOWLAND, which is much the larger of the two tracts (containing the parishes of Jurby, Andreas, Bride, and parts of Lezayre and Ballaugh), forms a well-defined district, about one-fifth of the island's total area, sharply bounded by the wall-like face in which the central mountain range rises from it.

Seen from these beautiful hillsides, clothed largely with steep woods (the home of Sparrow Hawk and Long-eared Owl, of Magpie and Ring Dove, Missel Thrush and Goldcrest, and very probably the nesting place of the Crossbill),

¹ In 1648 Blundell writes, 'I could not observe one tree to be in any place but what grew in gardens.' Yet legislation in 1629 and 1667 seems to show that there was something of exaggeration in this statement. Early in the last century tree-planting became more general. See Moore, *History of the Isle of Man* pp. 919-920.



C. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

THE HILLS ABOVE RAMSEY.

Photo.

the level presents the pleasant aspect of a checker-work of many-coloured fields, with the Sulby at the spectator's feet, and here a comparatively slow stream, winding eastward in many loops to the sea at Ramsey. No rock is visible throughout this district, but it is crossed by a line of low hills of sandy cultivated soil, which meet the coast to the east in the bold sand and clay cliffs of Shellag. The country is thickly sprinkled with prosperous-looking farmsteads;¹ the tall sod fences which divide it are in summer covered with blossom, especially the scented yellow bedstraw (*Galium verum*). In the west beyond the gap by which the Lhen trench discharges the waters of the Curragh, the knolls where Jurby Church stands conspicuous form a similar coast to that at Shellag, but lower; and still further south and west, beyond the mouths of the Carlane and Ballaugh streams, Orrisdale Head is the culminating point of yet more sandhills, falling steeply to the sea, and rapidly wasting under the influence of the weather. Orrisdale Head and parts of the Jurby coast are sandy wastes. The brows are in many places riddled with the holes of Sand Martins.

North of this low hill range, and forming the point of the island, lies the Ayre, a sandy and gravelly waste, gay with a profusion of flowers, which vary according to the season—*Erica cinerea*, *Lotus*, *Ulex nanus*, *Convolvulus soldanella*, *Brassica monensis*, rest-harrow, wild thyme, sea holly, and sea reed. This ground is a notable breeding place of various species of birds. A very steep beach of large

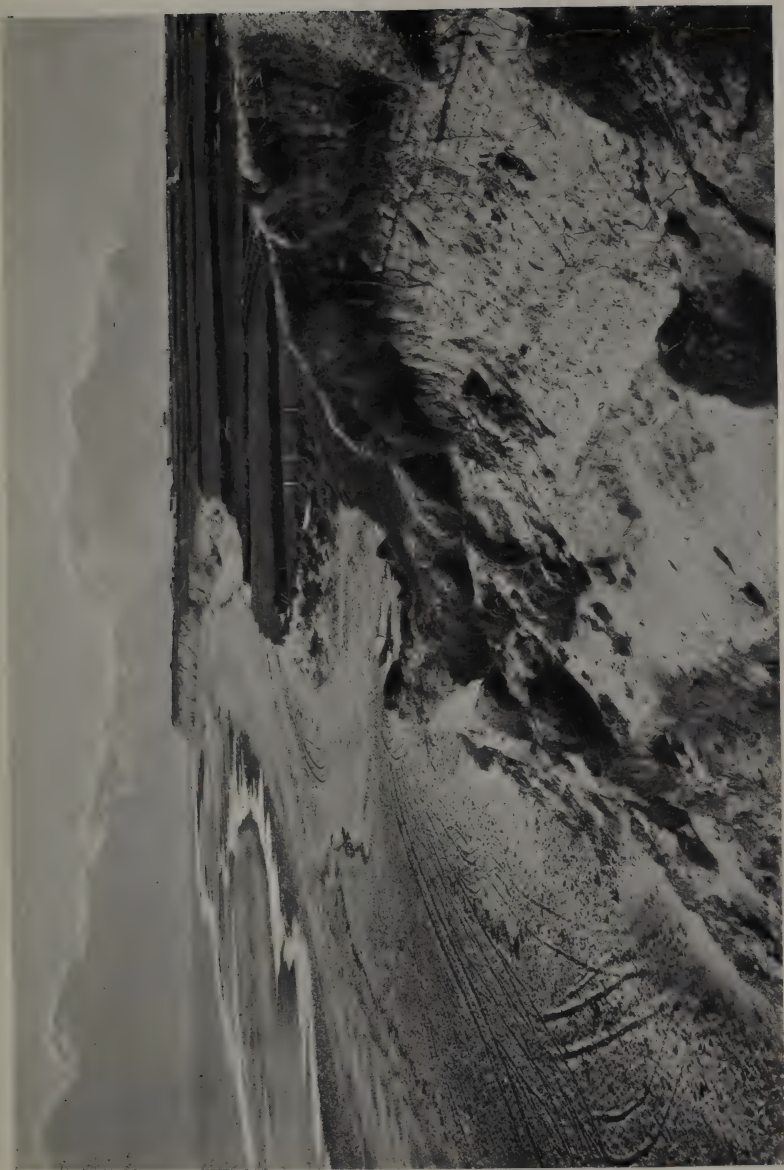
¹ MacCulloch, who in his work on the Western Islands (1819) has well described the natural features of Man, says of this northern tract: 'As it possesses but little wood, it offers no beauty to the traveller's eyes beyond that which arises from the aspect of fertility, and from that of a scattered and apparently wealthy rural population. This indeed is a circumstance which will forcibly strike the English observer who is accustomed to see large tracts, even when in high cultivation, occupied by a few opulent tenants whose houses are scarcely visible in the agricultural waste.'

shingle forms the Point of Ayre itself, and is continued for some distance on either side of it.

Close to the point stands the tall lighthouse with its surrounding buildings. Eight miles south-east, and six miles from Ramsey, the Bahama light-vessel marks a submerged bank.

On these northern shores the dominant species of bird are the Ringed Plover and Oyster-catcher.

South of the sandhills the northern tract has many ponds (elsewhere rare in Man), sometimes occupying the sites of old marl-pits. In its south-western part, between Sulby and Jurby, is the Curragh, formerly an extensive marsh with lakes and islets, now drained to the condition of damp meadow-land, and divided by many hedges of willow. Towards its west end, however, in Ballaugh parish, there remains a patch of unreclaimed land, much cut up by old turf-diggings, the water lodging in which forms ponds and trenches of varying extent, which according to their age have been more or less filled up by the remains of their profuse vegetation. This tract is an interesting refuge for marsh-loving birds, as the Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting, Coot, Water-rail, and Little Grebe. The shallow waters, seldom, except in a few drainage trenches, more than knee deep, form in winter considerable open sheets, but are in May choked by an immense luxuriance of flowering bog-bean, and later by a rich vegetation of alisma and purple loosestrife, with cotton grass and orchis (pink, purple, and cream-coloured) on their margins, while the region is perfumed by endless thickets of sweet-gale, and the drier ground surrounds it with a frame of yellow gorse. The charm of the Curragh land has been well portrayed by T. E. Brown in some of his characteristic poems, and his published letters are full of similar allusions. A patch of marsh ground of some



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

JURBY POINT.

Photo.

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extent also adjoins the Ayre on the south, and is still called Lough Cranstal, though it shows a sheet of water in winter only; and similar tracts of yet smaller extent are the Lagagh Moar in Andreas, in which are traces of ancient fortification, and Lough Pherick on the borders of Bride and Lezayre.

The precise extent and situation of the former Curragh lakes is now somewhat uncertain, but three are shown in a map (very faulty and out of scale) of the sixteenth century; and earlier in the Middle Ages we read of a lake at Myrosco, and three islands at least, 'in bosco de Myrosco,' in the thicket of Myrosco (on one of its islands was apparently a fort). The Manx Society's editor queries 'lacu' for 'bosco,' but any one who has seen the wetter Curragh even at the present day can well understand how drier land in the midst of it might be described as an island. The Curragh was drained mainly in the seventeenth century. It is supposed that the slightly marked valley of the Lhen trench was the original course to the sea of the Sulby river, which has, in times geologically recent, been diverted by the dam of gravel piled up by the force of its own stream.

II. THE CENTRAL HILL DISTRICT—INLAND.

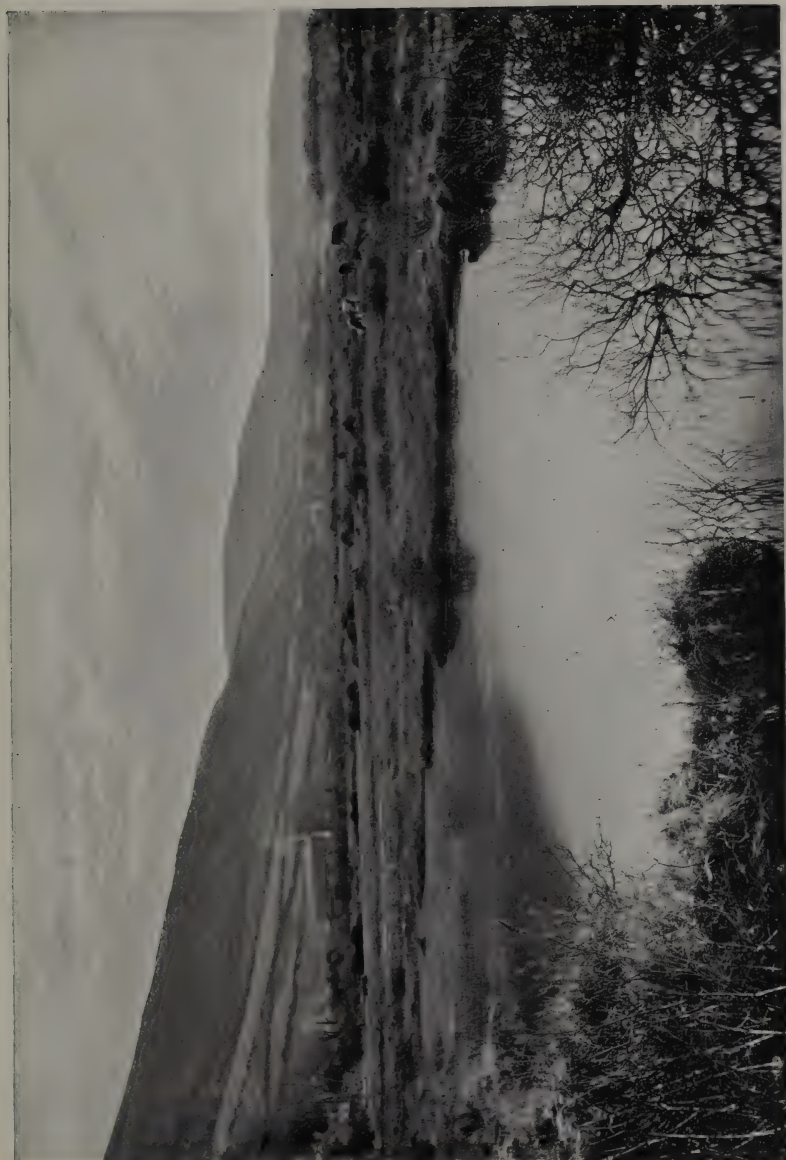
To the south-west of the northern plain is the main mass of the isle, a range of hills mainly of schist,¹ whose higher elevations occupy its centre, while its spurs fill the rest of the surface to the coast on either side. From Douglas to

¹ This hilly backbone of the island is very ancient. However altered by the addition and denudation of subsequent deposits, however at various periods elevated and depressed, now joined to the opposite hills by land, and now separated by water, moulded and carved by ice and flood, it has remained through countless ages to the present day the central feature of the hollow which is now the basin of the Irish Sea.

Peel the range is divided by a valley,¹ and it is everywhere split and pierced by glens. North of the cross valley are some twenty summits exceeding a thousand feet. The mountains are usually of smooth rounded outline, the result of the pressure of the ice-sheet in the glacial age and of the deposit of its burdens of earth and clay; but their forms are sufficiently distinct, and viewed from the sea on approaching Man, they have a fine flowing contour, and an appearance of height greater than they really possess. They are generally clothed with grass, but there are tracts of heather and blaeberry; at all seasons they are very devoid of bird life. In summer, however, Meadow Pipits nest all over them, a few Wheatears may be seen, and in various parts the Red Grouse has been introduced, or re-introduced. The highest point is the well-known Snaefell (2034 feet), which may now be ascended by electric tramway, but the most imposing mountain is the long and many-spurred North Barrule (1842), which shows from north and south a ridge with a rounded central summit, and from west and east a graceful cone. Other conspicuous eminences are the exceptionally peaked Pen-y-pot (1772); Greeba (1382), which has a rocky face overlooking the central valley; and the rounded Slieu Farrane (1602), over Kirk Michael.

The glens are generally cultivated in the lower portions, and their fields and copses are frequented by the usual lowland birds; but in their higher and upper parts steep slopes covered with heather and bracken descend from the open moorland above. Here and there along their sides are rocky scarps, seldom of much height or extent. The streams at the bottom of these glens often flow through fern-clad gorges, and form a succession of shaded pools.

¹ Along the bottom of this valley are strips of wet ground, and the damp meadows and swampy willow thickets under Greeba repeat on a smaller scale the conditions of the northern Curragh.



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

BALLAUGH CURRAGH.

Photo.

To face page xx.

These beautiful scenes are ornithologically disappointing. The Dipper, for which they seem to supply ideal haunts, is absent or rare, Sandpipers do not appear to nest, Grey Wagtails are few. The longest of the Manx ravines is Sulby Glen, penetrating into the inmost recesses of the isle, where wet heaths slope from the highest mountains, and are drained by the branches of its river, wild upland streams rich in ferns, and abounding like the parent water in rushing falls and clear deep pools.

The finest of these branch glens is the Cluggid (throat), a precipitous opening which joins the main glen about a mile from its mouth in the plain. The swampy heads of the brooks afford breeding ground to a few Curlews: Jackdaws and Kestrels nest in some of the craggy brows, and Grey Crows in the scanty trees. The head of the Rhenass Glen is not far from that of Sulby, but its stream, joining at St. John's that from Foxdale, flows west through the central valley into the sea at Peel. There is a long belt of plantation ('Glen Helen' pleasure grounds) along the course of Rhenass river; after the junction, the Foxdale water, polluted by mine refuse, imparts its character to the joint stream, which between St. John's and Peel passes through waste and swampy ground, where the nest of the Water-rail has been found.

The two glens of Baldwin, whose streams form the Glass river, are of a more open and cultivated character; at the top of West Baldwin, now much altered by the new water works for Douglas, is one of the oldest and finest fir woods in Man; at Injebreck, a lovely mountain nook.

Groudle, a glen with several branches and pastoral surroundings, is now in its lower part occupied by pleasure grounds.

Laxey Glen, which runs from Snaefell to the eastern sea, is in its upper part a wild treeless valley, its stream much

tainted by mine refuse, but Glen Roy, which joins it at Laxey, has a clean trout stream, forking higher up into several branches, on one of which is the haunted pool of Nikkesen, and affording scenery of a charming character. 'In such valleys,' in the words of Brown, 'the sons of God might not unfitly wander.' The great hollow of the dale of Laxey, framed by lofty hills, to which the plantations, farmsteads, and cultivated fields of its lower reaches offer a charming contrast, and dotted along its seaward part by the white houses of its far-stretching and yearly increasing village, is one of the most striking and pleasant of Manx landscapes.

Corna Glen is in its upper part also of a wild character similar to that of Laxey, but its lower course, and that of its tributary, Rhenab Glen, is wildly sylvan, with brakes of hazel, anemones, hyacinths, and fern; it opens to a beautiful solitary creek in the rocky coast of Maughold. South of the central valley the mountains are lower, there is in proportion more cultivated land, and the valleys have a more open character. The highest points are South Barrule (1585), a dark heather-clad eminence which dominates the whole south of the island, and whose top shows traces of ancient fortification, and Cronk ny Ireya Lhaa (1449). From these the Santon and Silverburn streams flow to the east and south, and those of Foxdale and Glenmay to the north and west. The summit of Cronk ny Ireya Lhaa¹ falls abruptly to the western sea, and a steep and waste mountain-side is continued for some miles south along the coast, and again across Fleshwick. Bradda has a similar sea-edge. The lonely Glen Rushen, on the north side of these highlands, passes into the pleasant little dale, Glen May,² which opens to the shore through a rocky ravine.

¹ Probably 'Hill of the Rise of Day,' because the fishermen engaged off the western coast looked for the sunrise to its summit.

² Better 'Glen Meay'; the old pronunciation was something like 'Moy.'



F. Isant.

GOB YN USHTEY AND CRONK NY IREY LHAA.

Photo.

To face page xxii.

The long mountain-range of the isle ends in the south-west in two somewhat isolated hill-masses, gradually diminishing in height—the already-named Bradda Hill, north of Port Erin, and the Mull,¹ south of that picturesque little bay. These outlying heights have fine seaward cliffs shortly to be mentioned. The Mull, cultivated on its lower parts, bears on its summit a rich growth of heather; it is, though comparatively low, a conspicuous object in the landscape of the south of the island, and commands fine views of sea and land.

III. THE CENTRAL HILL DISTRICT—COAST.

It will easily be imagined that the interest of Manx bird life must centre on the coast, and the coast of the whole main central district is high, rocky, bold, and clean-cut ('The isle so sharply set'). In the quaint language of Denton, 'This island stands like a man in triumph upon the Sea, Exalting its head on high, which by its rocky banks on all sides bids defiance to the turbulent waves of all these Boysterous seas.'

Its outline often bends into curving bays, which run inland for no great distances, and whose shores usually maintain something of the same bold features. The larger of these have beaches of hard sand, but the muddy reaches which attract Ducks and many waders are nearly absent. Along the west from Peel to Port Erin the wild and beautiful sea-margin is almost entirely wanting in signs of the habitation and occupation of mankind, and this stretch, together with the extreme south-western peninsula and the Calf, is the chief seat of Man's varied sea-bird life, which may also, though to less advantage, be studied on Maughold Head, and the Santon and Lonan cliffs. The western cliffs,

¹ 'Meayll' is perhaps a better spelling. There are a very interesting sepulchral circle, and other prehistoric vestiges, on the highest part of the hill.

from Peel to Fleshwick, with their flowery swards of squill, thrift, and campion, their ivied and fern-decorated recesses, their dark caves filled with clear green water, their white pebbled strands and pinnacled stacks, are unequalled in the island for beauty and interest, backed as they often are by the steep and lofty slopes (clad with heath, gorse, and bracken, and broken by crags and stony screes) of the western end of the mountain-range. An extent of high sheer cliff, however, is not common, the craggy scarps constantly alternating with slopes of grass and boulders, stony debris, and little damp clefts full of profuse vegetation. The sheerest and barest pieces of sea-cliff in Man are Spanish Head, parts of the west edge of the Calf, Bradda, and the north end of Bay Stacka.

All along the rocky margin of the sea there is usually a selvage of uncultivated land, both botanically and ornithologically an interesting feature. Here, where there is a cover of brambles or gorse, are found Blackbirds, Stonechats, and Linnets, and in their season Wheatears; here the Meadow and the Rock Pipits meet; its short, firm turf, rich according to the season with thrift, bird's-foot lotus, and the autumnal composites, is a favourite feeding ground for Jackdaws and Choughs, and Partridges shelter when the fern is thick. Seaward it merges in the grey broken rocks, at whose feet the sea laps in long shining undulations, and breaks in white foam, its predominant murmur always filling the air; landward the high earthen fences, walling off the cultivated fields, are sweet with thyme, and bright with a succession of flowers, white bedstraw, tormentil, and burnet-rose, English stonecrop and *Hypericum pulchrum*, sheep-scabious and harebell.

The northern sand-brows merge in rock about two miles south of Kirk Michael, and thence to Peel extends a picturesque and varied line of crag and creek, with many



G. B. Couch, Ramsey, Isle of Man

FLESHWICK.

(Looking north, the Niarbyl in the distance.)

Photo.

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caves, especially near Peel, where the red sandstone is worn and rent into a thousand caverns and crevices, great and small. But this is all quite low, and though in the north part attractive to a few Herring Gulls, has no breeding places of rock-birds proper. The Grey Crow and Jackdaw and the Rock Pipit, which are found in every rocky portion of the coast, and the Heron, are dominant species here; Curlews and Oyster-catchers at low tide frequent the ebb from their more peculiar haunts to the north.

South of Peel the scenery changes. The bold upland of Peel Hill, of which the Castle Island is an isolated outlier,¹ is a narrow ridge between the western sea and the Neb valley; it is clothed with gorse and heather, and breaks into a succession of brows and precipices, often overhanging deep water, and furnishing a home for numbers of Herring Gulls, Razorbills, and Shags. Round Contrary Head, with its deep caves, this is continued, though less steeply, and with scantier bird life to Glenmay, there being a number of small beaches under the cliffs.

From Glenmay to the reef of the Niarbyl (tail) is low, though rocky, but south of the latter the coast again rapidly rises, past the jackdaw-haunted Gob Gameraen and the rock waterfall of the Ushtey to the steep brows, bare of cultivation, heather and bracken-clad and ending in cliffs, which fall from the ranges of Cronk ny Irej Lhaa and the Carnane to the sea. All along Shags and Gulls nest, with occasional Razorbills, and the same species are found across Fleshwick on the grand headland of Bradda, but less abundantly. From Port Erin, whose little bay now intervenes, to the Calf Sound there seem to be no sea-bird colonies, but they are large and frequent on the Calf, Spanish Head (opposite),

¹ This islet is walled all round almost to the cliff-edge, the rampart enclosing a well-known and picturesque assemblage of buildings of various dates and uses, military and ecclesiastical.

and on the north-eastward to Kione y Ghoggan, a fine stretch of cliffs. In marked contrast to the north-eastern extremity of Man is its south-western termination. Here the isle ends in a little tract of level flowery greensward, overlooking the restless currents of the Sound, and quaintly named 'The Parade.' This is almost cut off by two steep-sided creeks on either hand, the Sheep and Horse Ghaws, which form the ferry harbours for the Calf. Eastward rises a higher and bolder peninsula, the Burrow Ned, topped with old earthworks, and having a fine lookout on the sheer and bird-thronged precipices toward Spanish Head.

The Calf islet is a mass of upland reaching at its west side to the height of four hundred and twenty-one feet; it is rocky all round, and is separated from the main island by a sound five hundred yards wide, through which the tides flow with great force. In this strait lies the tiny islet of Kitterland. On the north the coast of the Calf is comparatively low, but the north-eastern corner, Kione Rouayr, which faces Spanish Head across the Sound, has precipices with abundant rock-birds. From the Ghaw Yiarn, a fine cleft south of Kione Rouayr, the cliffs gradually lower along the east coast until they end at the isolated Burrow, a lofty perforated mass of rock inhabited by many Herring and Black-backed Gulls. The south coast consists of three peninsulas with low steep sides, and a flat turf of grass and sea-pink, the latter being very abundant and lending a beautiful rosy tint to the ground during its flowering season. Many Gulls nest here. Under the disused lighthouses the western side rises into the highest cliffs of the Calf, with a fine double pyramid of rock, called the Stack, opposite. The ledges of the very steep cliffs on either side hold many rock-birds. From this round to Gibdale Bay near the Sound are lofty brows of rock and sward inhabited by many Herring Gulls and



F. S. Graves.

CAIGHER POINT AND CHICKENS LIGHTHOUSE.
(The 'Land's End' of Man.)

Photo.

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some Puffins, and in early summer bright with innumerable primroses and hyacinths, which latter carpet abundantly in many places the interior of the islet, together with richly aromatic patches of ground ivy. Most of the surface of the Calf is covered with heather and bracken,¹ but about the one farmhouse are some cultivated fields, and from the south a pretty little ravine leads up to it. This 'Glen,' rich in ferns and with a few low trees and bushes, is much prized by migrating small birds. At the back of the farm is also a very small plantation. The whole area is six hundred and sixteen acres, and the islet is about five miles in circumference.² Nearly a mile beyond its extremity lies the little tide-rock of the Chickens with its tall lighthouse. The high cliffs of the mainland coast, continued past Spanish Head, and the well-known but fine scenery of the 'Chasms' cliffs and the Sugar Loaf, end at Perwick, beyond which creek Port St. Mary, its little harbour locked in by low rocky points and jutting reefs, lies, closely sheltered under Cronk Skibbylt, up which its newer houses are beginning to climb from its one long street.

Passing over for the present the level shores which from Port St. Mary to Santon interrupt the continuity of cliff, and the rather low though rocky peninsula of Langness, we again, at Cass ny Hawin, meet steep escarpments, and a not very high but very broken coast-line extends to Santon Head, affording nesting places for Jackdaws, 'Greybacks,' and Kestrels. North of Santon Head come the gull-haunted cliffs of Pistol, lofty and massive, recalling the best features

¹ There seems to be no gorse on the Calf.

² The Calf was doubtless inhabited in the Middle Ages, as is shown by the site of a keil or chapel, and the discovery of a singular and beautiful carved stone, 'an example of pure Byzantine art' (Kermode and Herdman). On the summit of the Burrow are slight remains of a rude fort or beacon-station. For the curious story of the sojourn of Thos. Bushell in the seventeenth century see Roeder (*Manx Notes and Queries*, p. 62). The numerous place-names of the Calf show the mixture of Gaelic and Norse usual in Man. None of them seems to commemorate the abundant bird life of the islet.

of the southern and western coasts ; again, beyond the little inlet of Port Soderick, the precipices of the Whing and Wallberry, now marred by the Marine Drive. North of the curving Bay of Douglas, whose expanse is entirely occupied by the growing town, Banks's Howe has again rocky steepes, especially Lag-y-Berry, a nesting site of Jackdaw and Raven. This also has been intruded on by the electric railway. To the pretty creek of Groudle succeeds Clay Head, high, with steep and craggy brows, but no sea-birds seem to nest either there or on Banks's Howe. The pleasant coves of Garwick form the south end of Laxey Bay, a sandy crescent with steep sides, in the head of which the village of old Laxey nestles, and on the other side of which are good cliffs with a Herring Gull colony. A few Herring Gulls also nest on the lower brows of South Maughold. Maughold Head¹ itself, with its curious humped outline and picturesque pinnacled stacks, has a considerable colony of the same bird, together with some Shags ; from it the rocks gradually subside into the sands of Ramsey Bay, along which the white town, 'shining by the sea,' lies low under the lofty background hills, North Barrule conspicuous over all.

As will be noted from the above description, the Herring Gull is the dominant sea-bird of the Manx coast ; the Shag breeds pretty abundantly on the west and south-west, where the true rock-birds, the Razorbill and Guillemot, and more locally the Puffin, also abound. The Kittiwake, Black Guillemot, and Lesser Black-backed Gull are local. The Kestrel, the Chough, the Grey Crow, and the Jackdaw are conspicuous inhabitants of the cliff, and the Raven and Peregrine have their immemorial stations.

¹ Close under the landward side of the Head lies the great churchyard, with its little ancient church and many carved stones of varied dates, one of the most interesting places in Man. One of the holy wells of the isle is on the steep seaward brow, and the headland commands beautiful views.



G. B. Couen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

THE MAUGHOLD COAST.

(Looking northward from Bulghum Bay, Maughold Head ending the coast-line.)

Photo.

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IV. THE SOUTHERN LOWLAND.

At the south of the mountain district, as at the north, is a level tract, in this case smaller and of limestone formation, which surrounds Castletown and extends from the Santon Burn to Port St. Mary. Here the coast is generally low, rocky, and weedy, the best ground in the isle for waders and Ducks. Along the grassy edges of the shore rocks, heather, bracken, and gorse, usually so abundant in similar situations in Man, almost entirely fail. Under Mount Gawne there is a fine stretch of sand with a shingle bank, and the bay of Castletown has a similar beach at the east end of the town, overlooked by the low bluff of drift on which stand the shattered and undermined fragments of Hango Tower.

The promontory of Langness, mostly of slate rock, steep but low, projects far into the sea. At its extremity is the lighthouse, so often to be mentioned in connection with migration entries. On the opposite side of Castletown Bay is Scarlett Point, with its dark Stack, geologically interesting. The flora and fauna of this limestone district offer some remarkable contrasts with those of the island in general; it is almost without trees, and of a very open character. Curlews (plentiful also in the north), Redshanks, Oyster-catchers, Dunlins, and Ringed Plovers are abundant on its shores; Whimbrel, Turnstones, and more scarcely, Godwits, make their appearance in season. The Sheldrake is resident, and Ducks of other species are comparatively frequent in occurrence.

Of the land under cultivation in Man, which, as above mentioned, constitutes about two-thirds of the surface, it is not here necessary to say much. Though its hilly surface and the thinness of its soil do not allow to Man a high degree

of fertility, and its landscape never shows the trim and ordered aspect of the most typical English scenery, it is a land of ancient settlement and tillage, and there is little doubt that the farms of the Norse dominion were in many cases identical with those of the present day. The superiority of the isle at that time to the waste and barren Hebrides, with which it was associated, is abundantly indicated in our oldest record, the *Chronicon Mannie*. Though at intervals during the Norse period, as doubtless during the unknown preceding centuries of Celtic rule, it suffered greatly from the frequent and desolating raids and civil strifes, it has, since the advent of the Stanleys, early in the fifteenth century, enjoyed a peace almost unbroken. This little land, with its tender colouring of green, grey, and brown, set in a sea softly blue, is of a gentle miniature picturesqueness. Within its limits it contains, as will have been gathered from the foregoing pages, much diversity of surface.

Even the barer portions of the tilled land have a delicate charm, derived largely from the mild climate and abundant moisture; and the loveliness of a green northern field with its bordering hedges of dog-rose and hawthorn, or of a rough pasture in Santon, whose great sod fences are starred in spring with innumerable primroses, must be seen to be appreciated. Characteristic also is the half-cultured beauty of a hillside farm-steading, whose slopes, varied by bright gorse patches and wetter spaces of waste, gay with many-coloured blossom, descend from the weathered home-buildings, with their scanty surrounding trees, to some sheltered and closely foliaged gill, where a bright swift brook hurries amid the brier and ferns.

Culture has spread far up the hillsides, perhaps as far as it can be made remunerative. The best land is probably on the northern level and the limestone flats of the south.



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

CASTLETOWN FROM KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE.

Photo.

(On the extreme left beyond the town the Stack and Point of Scarlett; in the background, on the right, part of the Calf and the Mull hills.)

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Farms are almost invariably small, and there are many mere crofts, which however are being gradually absorbed into the larger holdings. Roads are numerous, there are many hamlets and villages, and the small houses with which the land is thickly dotted, and which struggle high up to the borders of the central waste, give the landscape an appearance of homely cheerfulness; but the rural population is steadily decreasing, and everywhere at short intervals the ruined wall of a cottage, or a site marked by nettles, soapwort, fuchsia, or periwinkle, tells its tale of the tendency of the time. Another frequent and notable feature of the Manx landscape is a deserted mine with its cluster of attendant buildings in a more or less ruinous condition. There was special activity in mining during the period between 1850 and 1870, when many of these costly and futile undertakings were entered upon; other and more fortunate ventures are still working, and at Laxey and Foxdale are prosecuted on a large scale, and form the mainstay of a considerable population. Timber, as above mentioned, is still scarce and comparatively small, owing to the high winds which sweep the surface. In the neighbourhood of Douglas (as round the mansions of the Nunnery and Kirby) and along the foot of the Lezayre hills from Ramsey to Sulby (as at Ballakillingan) there is most wood, and many of the glens have plantations and some hedgerow trees. In such situations the mountain-ash is a beautiful and appropriate ornament, charming alike in leaf, flower, and fruit. In the northern plain and in the cultivated parts of the uplands, there is round every farm a large or small cluster of trees, usually ash and sycamore, but scarcely any elsewhere, and the open country of the south has an exceptionally bare appearance. On the outskirts of Douglas is a good amount of space occupied

by gardens and shrubberies. Quickset hedges are not generally common, and the fields, frequently very small, are most often divided by high and broad earthen dykes, richly overgrown with gorse, which thus maps out the surface of the land with a chequer-work of yellow blossom, and up to a certain height covers also most of the wastes, 'gareys' or 'claddaghs' as they are called. Indeed, Man is perhaps unrivalled in the world for the beauty and profusion of its gorse bloom, a beauty and profusion which it would be difficult to exaggerate.

In the mountains the tracts are fenced by dry stone walls, which run for miles over moorland and steep declivity. Small patches of gorse and rushy wastes are abundant, and the course of the streams is often through a narrow belt of wet and bushy ground, where furze, bramble, willow, and sometimes alder prevail, with clumps of iris and tall growths of *œnanthe* and *angelica*, meadow-sweet and valerian.

The common birds of cultivated land are the Rook, which is very abundant, the Blackbird, immensely more numerous than the Thrush, the Chaffinch (perhaps the commonest of all small birds), the Greenfinch, and, in more open ground, the Meadow Pipit, Yellow Hammer, and Skylark. The Magpie and Missel Thrush are also conspicuous species. Lapwings are rather scarce, except for the transitory appearance of flocks in winter, and the Wood Pigeon, save perhaps in one or two localities, is not abundant.

Characteristic of the Isle of Man is the union of a moist atmosphere, cool though not cold, with high winds, mainly from the west. The cool summers and mild winters form a climate that knows little of frost or snow or exhausting heat. The sense of the near presence of the sea, not the muddy water of a gulf or estuary, but

a real strong salt sea, is very dominant all over Man. According to the statistics of Mr. Moore, the annual mean temperature is $49\cdot0^{\circ}$, with an extreme annual range of $17\cdot1^{\circ}$ only, 'one of the mildest and most equable climates in the world.' There are, according to Mr. Moore, remarkable variations in the amount of rainfall in different districts, from sixty-one inches at Snaefell to twenty-five at the Calf.

For purposes of comparison some brief remarks should be made on the land mammals, fresh-water fish, and reptiles of Man.

Of the first,¹ the Island has the Common and Long-eared Bats (*Vesperugo pipistrellus* and *Plecotus auritus*),² the Lesser Shrew (*Sorex minutus*), the Stoat (*Mustela erminea*) (according to Mr. O. Thomas its Irish form), the Long-tailed Field Mouse (*Mus sylvaticus*), the Common House Mouse (*Mus musculus*), and Brown Rat (*Mus decumanus*), the Common Hare, the Rabbit, and the Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europæus*).³ It will be noticed that Voles are absent, also the Squirrel, Mole, and Weasel.

The fresh-water fish are, according to Mr. Kermode (*Zool.*, 1893, p. 65), *Gasterosteus aculeatus* and *G. pungitius*, the Salmon (*Salmo salar*), *Salmo trutta* (var. *albus*, and *cambriacus*), the Trout (*Salmo fario*), Eel (*Anguilla vulgaris*), and Lampern (*Petromyzon fluviatilis*).

The amphibia and reptiles are the Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), introduced, it is said, about two hundred years ago, and two Lizards (*Lacerta vivipara* and *L. agilis*). Newts (*Triton palustris* and *T. punctatus*), whether by some error of memory or otherwise, were long ago reported by Professor Forbes, but the record has never been confirmed. There are of course neither Snakes nor Toads.

¹ See Mr. Kermode's articles in *Manx Note-Book*, No. 4.

² The Bats of the Isle of Man have been little investigated.—*Zool.*, 1893, p. 62. It is now certain that the Shrew of the Isle of Man is *minutus*, and the Hare *europæus*.

³ This last, Mr. Kermode thinks, is likely of recent introduction.

The flora of Man, as yet imperfectly explored, is somewhat meagre. Its few rare plants, as *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Carum verticillatum*, and *Adiantum capillus veneris*, belong to a western type. Characteristic of its vegetation are *Scilla verna*, its lovely lilac flowers often giving their colour in May to the turf of the sea-margins, *Cochlearia officinalis*, *Ulex nanus*, *Erica cinerea*, *Sedum anglicum*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Rosa spinosissima*, *Potentilla tormentilla*, *Jasione montana*, *Hypericum pulchrum* ('Luss-y-chiolg'), *Orchis maculata*. Alpine forms are absent.

In summer *Erica cinerea* often colours tracts of the hill country with an extraordinary richness, the pale tint of the flowering ling forming a delightful contrast as the year advances. Of the splendour of the gorse, which occupies much of the lower wastes and surrounds and varies the pastures midway between the lowland and the mountain tops, I have already spoken. The Ragwort (*Senecio Jacobæa*), 'Cushag,' sometimes called the Manx national flower, is, with *Cnicus arvensis*, often too abundant in cultivated land; both plants have recently been outlawed by Act of Tynwald. Ferns, as remarked above, are very profuse; especially may be mentioned the Lady Fern in the shaded glens, and *Asplenium marinum* in the caves and gorges of the coast. Hydrangeas, escallonias, and, above all, fuchsias, grow luxuriantly in the open air, and the profusion of the latter especially is often a feature of Manx villages and groups of cottages. A list of the Manx flora, as far as at present known, has been compiled by the Rev. S. A. P. Kermode, and is published in *Y. L. M.*, vol. iii.

The interesting geology of the island is fully described and discussed in Mr. Lamplugh's 'Geology of the Isle of Man' (*Memoirs of the Geological Survey*, London, 1903).

We know little of the ornithological past of the Isle of

Man. Many a question occurs to the bird-lover, to which analogy and conjecture alone must supply the answer. Did Cormorant and Heron, Bittern and Black-headed Gull, nest amid the tangled thickets and on the reedy islets that rose from the northern meres? Did our ancestors hang over the beetling edges of Stacka to gather the great eggs of the Guillemot, or quest the brows of Pistol and Rheaby for the young of the noble Falcon, to be trained for the pastime of their king and his 'optimates'? What were the haunts and habits of the Chough at a time when it was familiar to every inhabitant? Had the Eagle, whose remembrance seems just dying out in the south-west, other eyries than Earnery, and the Shearwater other nesting places than the Calf? What lore, Celtic or Norse, attached itself to the Raven and the Owl? What was the status of the Jackdaw and the Starling, of the Wood Pigeon and the Rook, under primitive conditions of culture, and when trees for the nidification of the latter two species were wanting?

Of all species, however, which have been recorded as breeding in the Isle of Man, we know of no more than five which have ceased to do so: the Bittern, the White-tailed Eagle, the 'Manx' Shearwater, the Black Grouse, and the Heron (if the last named really does not nest now). Other interesting species, like the Chough, have decreased in numbers. Yet the changes in the human life of Man, great as they have been, especially during the last fifty years, have comparatively little affected the face of the land outside the limits of the growing towns; and the preservation of game, which has so altered the fauna of many British counties, has not been extensively or seriously engaged in here.¹ The growth of wood, which a hundred years ago

¹ The Chief Constable's official record, taken from the books kept by those licensed to deal in game (see at end of this volume, clause 19 of the Game Act, 1882), shows that in 1903, 2694 game birds were purchased by the dealers, of

was almost entirely absent, and, as above noted, is still scanty, and of gardens, has undoubtedly greatly increased the number, and perhaps even encouraged new species of small birds, and the abundance of the Rook, Magpie, Missel Thrush, Starling, and Chaffinch probably attests to some extent a change of this nature. The legal protection of sea-birds, and perhaps other modern conditions, have conduced to what is likely an enormous increase in the numbers of the Herring Gull, to which Man appears to be a paradise.

The seventeen parishes of the Isle of Man are often mentioned in particularising localities. Jurby, Andreas, Bride, Maughold, Lezayre, Ballaugh, and Michael may be regarded as forming the northern or Ramsey district; Lonan (which has also a centre in Laxey), Onchan,¹ Braddan, and Santon, with the central parish of Marown, the eastern or Douglas district; German and Patrick, the western or Peel district; and Malew, Arbory, and Rushen, the southern or Castletown district, in which are situated also the increasing townships of Port Erin and Port St. Mary.

The official division into Sheadings (6), and the subdivision of the parishes into Treens and Quarterlands, though interesting historically, need not concern us here.

which 2228 were imported and 466 only Manx. Further details will be found under the headings of species. The information for 1902 is taken from the return published in *Isle of Man Times*, that for 1903 was courteously furnished me direct by Colonel Freeth, Chief Constable of the island.

¹ Conchan is the correct and official form of this name, but is now unusual.

HISTORY OF MANX ORNITHOLOGY

OUR first notices of Manx birds (for the mythological birds which are figured on some of our Scandinavian monuments hardly assist our knowledge of the island's ornithology) are in some prohibitive enactments of Stanley times; the feudal tenure of the kingdom being in fact by the periodical payment of Falcons to the suzerain.¹ In the description of the island in Camden's *Britannia* (1586) its famous Puffins (*Puffinus anglorum*) make their appearance, and thenceforth are recorded by every writer who touches on the natural history of the country, as the ornithological marvel of Man. Thus they are noted in 1656 by Chaloner, Fairfax's

¹ Later passages in the statute-book give us now and then an idea of the game rights claimed by the Lord as of ancient custom, especially within what was known as his 'warren,' defined in 1586 as extending round Castle Rushen from Kentraugh Burne (Colby River) on the west, to Santon River on the east, and bounded on the north by the 'Feldike,' thus including all the lower part of the parishes of Malew and Arbory. Within these limits no person but the Lord, the Captain, and members of the Council are to shoot at hare or fowl, without special licence of one of these dignitaries. Such shooting to be licensed only for *their* use, and not that of the licensee.

In 1748 appears another enactment, apparently applying to the whole island. No one is to carry a gun to destroy 'the Lord's Game' without the Governor's licence in writing, and persons carrying about their guns to shoot 'Pidgeons, Partridges, or Grouse' are liable to a penalty of 20s., half to go to the Lord, and half to the informer.

A definite Game Act, on modern lines, however, was first passed in 1835. The preamble, after citing this old legislation, states that it has been found 'quite insufficient to preserve the game, and to prevent apprentices, labourers, and others from neglecting their employment and business, and from pursuing and destroying game; whereby partridges have become very scarce, and grouse, although formerly abundant, are now entirely extinct; and his Majesty's subjects are in constant danger, particularly in the neighbourhood of the towns, of being shot or injured by boys, and other idle persons, shooting in the fields adjoining the highways.'

On the same day as the Game Act (5th July 1833, although the bills received Royal Assent and were promulgated only in 1835), the legislature passed an Act to prevent the destruction of salmon and salmon trout. (For current Game Act, see p. 292.)

Governor,¹ and he also introduces Falcons and 'Merlyns.' His treatise has a quaint sketch of the Sugar Loaf with its swarming sea-birds. Blundell, contemporary with Chaloner, in his lengthy *History* touches very slightly on the fauna. Willoughby describes the Puffin at length; and in Bishop Gibson's additions to the 1695 edition of Camden, the account of them is much extended, but various other zoological statements in it are incorrect or improbable. Cox's *Magna Britannia* (1720) repeats pretty closely; but in the excellent *History* of Bishop Wilson,² inserted in Gibson's second edition of Camden (1722), various interesting particulars are added, and mistakes of the former editions rectified. We are told of the absence here of the Woodpecker, Jay, and 'Maup,' of an 'airy' of Eagles, and of the recent introduction of the Magpie.

The *Journal* of Richard Townley (1791), who visited Man in 1789, contains much accurate personal observation, and is, of the old accounts, much the most interesting from a naturalist's point of view. He notices the abundance of Thrushes, the scarcity of Rooks, the presence of the Rock Dove, 'Crane' (*i.e.* Heron), Puffin, Hooded Crow, etc.

Little can be added till the time of Edward Forbes, by birth a Manxman, who contributed to Quiggin's *Guide* (1848) an account of Manx zoology—very short so far as birds are concerned—and which in subsequent editions seems to have been altered (for the worse) by some person unknown. A museum, which contained a good many Manx specimens,

¹ James Chaloner, first connected with the administration of Manx affairs in 1652, and Governor, 1658-60, was born in London in 1603, the son of a Yorkshire knight. He had sat as a judge of Charles I., but withdrawn from the final stages of the trial. After some stormy experiences during the unsettled interval between Cromwell's death and the Restoration, he joined in the insular celebration of that event, which he survived by a few months only.

² The well-known Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man from 1698 to 1755, famous for his piety, his severe enforcement of Church discipline, and his long struggle with the civil power. He was born in Cheshire in 1663, and died in his diocese in 1755; his tomb is at Kirk Michael.

had by this time been formed at Douglas by Mr. J. R. Wallace. Mr. Wallace, who was a printer at Douglas, kept his collections, which included objects of antiquarian as well as zoological interest, in his house in Great Nelson Street (see *Manx Notes and Queries*, p. 152). (They were later removed to Distington, near Whitehaven, and were finally broken up in 1899, the articles being sold by auction. At the sale the Manx Government was represented, and bought some archæological relics, but the birds unfortunately seem to have passed unnoticed by any Manxman. The late Rev. H. A. Macpherson, however, communicated to the *Zoologist* (1899, p. 420) details of several specimens of interest from the Isle of Man, three of which, purchased by himself, he afterwards presented to the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society.)

In 1827, or thereabouts, Sir William Jardine had visited the island, and many notes on its avifauna occur in his volumes on British birds in the 'Naturalists' Library' (1838-43). Among these are interesting accounts of the Chough and Shag as Manx species.¹

In 1865 A. G. More's paper on 'The Distribution of Birds breeding in Britain,' appeared in the *Ibis*, containing information on Man, supplied him by J. F. Crellin. Dr. (called by More Mr.) J. F. Crellin (born 1816, died 1887) was proprietor of Orrisdale, where his collection of birds is still kept,² and father of Mr. J. C. Crellin, so often quoted in these pages. Among the species noted by him are the Eagle (as extinct), Twite, Kittiwake, and Black Guillemot.

The *Naturalists' Note-Book* (1867) contains a short and faulty article quoted from *Land and Water*, to which it

¹ Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown and Professor Newton have kindly looked through a quantity of Sir W. Jardine's correspondence in their hands, in hope of discovering further matter relating to Man, but without success.

² I am indebted to Mrs. Crellin, of Orrisdale, for kindly permitting me access to the collection.

was contributed by an anonymous correspondent, 'Philornis.' The first attempt, however, at a list of Manx species, is, I believe, that of Mr. P. M. C. Kermodé, dated originally 5th November 1880, and afterwards in another form, and much revised, forming part of the first volume of the *Transactions of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society*¹ (1879-1884, but published in 1888), and enumerating one hundred and twenty-seven species (in its first form one hundred and forty-two, but many noted with a ?). Since that time ornithological notes have been frequent in that Society's *Transactions*, and also in the current volumes of the *Zoologist*. See *Zool.*, 1888, pp. 265, 429; 1890, p. 355; 1891, p. 218; 1892, pp. 28, 93: notes by the present writer on a number of species (fifty-five), p. 146; 1894, pp. 63, 161, 386 (at the latter place the present writer gives an extended account of Manx sea-bird colonies); 1895, p. 235; 1896, p. 470; 1897, pp. 71, 168; 1899, pp. 32, 420; 1901, p. 468; 1902, p. 23; 1903, pp. 266, 313, 316, 317. *Naturalist*, 1897, p. 221 (a list by the writer of the birds observed in Lonan, fifty-six in number).

In 1895 he also contributed to *Yn Lioar Manninagh* a paper on 'Bird Life in the Neighbourhood of Douglas,' enumerating one hundred and eighteen species (vol. ii. p. 264).

Mr. Kermodé published in the Isle of Man Natural History Society's third volume (*Yn Lioar Manninagh*, 1901, pp. 516, *et seq.*) a greatly enlarged list, which extends the number of species to one hundred and seventy-five, and added lengthy notes. In regard to many of the rarer species, it is on the information given in this latest work of Mr. Kermodé's, and often elsewhere unattainable, that the articles in the present work are based, and the author

¹ This Society, founded in 1879, and continued to the present time mainly by the energy of Mr. P. M. C. Kermodé, for many years its secretary, has also formed a small museum at Ramsey, which contains a number of Manx birds.

desires to record his full appreciation of the debt due in this, as in other branches of science, to Mr. Kermode's long and painstaking labours. Much ornithological matter is also contained in the contributions of Mr. J. C. Crellin to *Yn Lioar Manninagh*.

A valuable contribution to Manx ornithology was furnished between 1880 and 1887, by the details from light stations (principally Langness and the Chickens), incorporated in the reports of the British Association Committee, and specially should here be mentioned the notes of Mr. Robert Clyne, then at the former station.

Although the work of 'foreign' naturalists would, no doubt, if undertaken, have rendered Manx ornithology fuller and richer, there is still some gratification in observing that our knowledge, such as it is, of our birds, as well as of our mammals, fishes, and plants, is mainly due to the labours of natives of the isle, undertaken in the intervals of daily occupation, and in more than usual isolation from the resources of science.

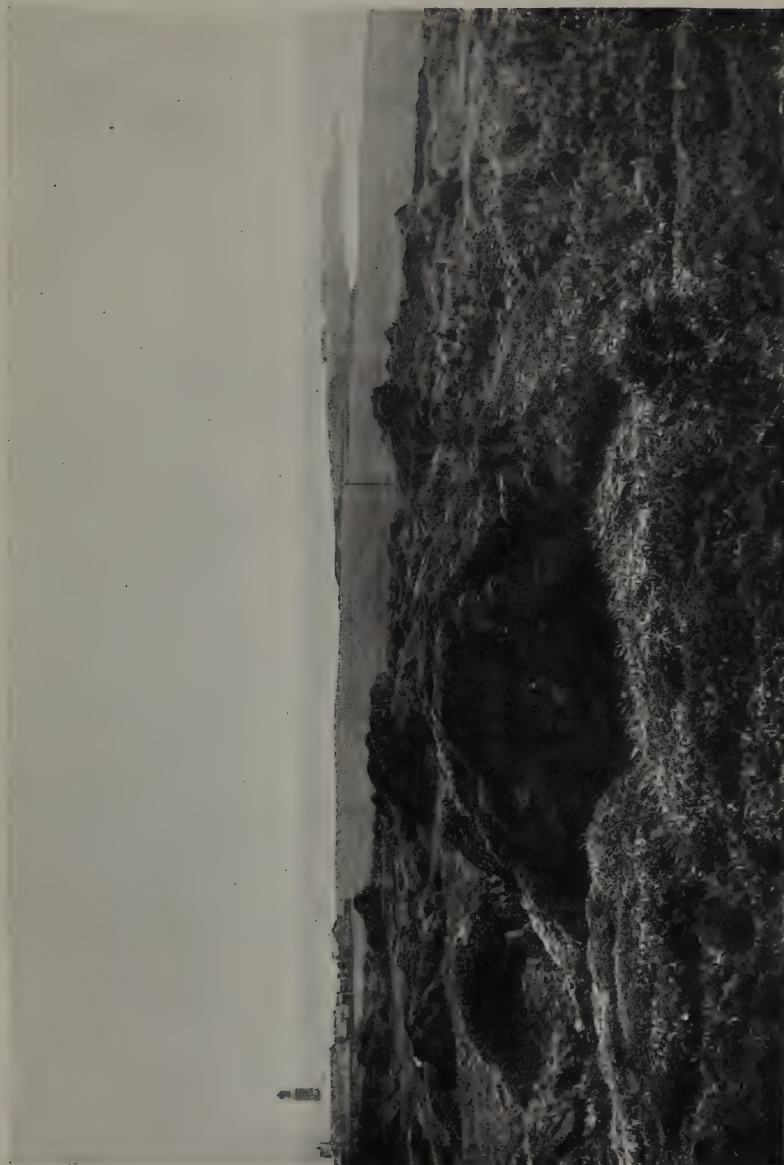
MIGRATION IN MAN.

THE Manx coast-line, extending lengthwise down the centre of the Irish Sea, undoubtedly lies in the course of migratory movements, and supplies a convenient resting place for birds, other than the proper residents, on their way along and across that sea.

In this connection should be studied the report of the British Association Committee (1896) on the general results of its observations on migration, and especially the remarks (pp. 8 and 9) on the west coast of Great Britain, where is described a main route of migration passing from the Outer Hebrides by Dhuheartach, Islay, Wigtownshire, the Isle of Man, Anglesea, the South Bishop, and south-west England, being joined in many places by considerable contributories. The coasts of Cumberland, Lancashire, and north Ireland are little affected by this stream of migration. The west of Britain is also affected by a movement to and from the Faroes, Iceland, and Greenland (*op. cit.* p. 7).

The subject of migration, however, is here, as elsewhere, in its details one of great difficulty, and although many notes derived from the Migration Reports to the British Association (1880-87) will be found under the specific headings, the writer, while awaiting the further elucidation of the mass of evidence thus gathered, does not consider himself competent to theorise upon its bearings on Manx ornithology.

Species whose migration upon our coasts is very marked, are the Pied Wagtail, Wheatear, Curlew, Dunlin, and



J. Kenley.

LANGNESS, LIGHTHOUSE AND POINT.

Photo.

To face page xlii.

Whimbrel, which travel doubtless by the west coast line above mentioned, and linger upon Manx shores during their passage; while immigration of a more local character, as the appearance of large flocks of Lapwings, Golden Plover, and Starlings in winter (as the result of hard weather in the neighbouring parts of Great Britain) may be often observed.

It is likely that much of the movement chronicled, especially at Langness and the Chickens, and consisting most largely of extensive flights of Starlings, Larks, and Thrushes of various kinds, touches the island only at such outlying points as those on which these lights are situate, and that only stragglers from the multitudes rest even for an hour or two on Manx soil. Birds passing to and fro from Great Britain, or further, to Ireland, where they winter in great numbers, leave however a certain proportion in our similar climate.

With the usual small summer migrants of Britain, Man is rather sparingly supplied—the Whitethroat and Willow Warbler being the most plentiful species.

It is seldom that anything comparable to the great rushes on the eastern side of England is here experienced, and both in spring and autumn the flood of migration in general beats on our shores in but a slackened and diminished stream. Unfortunately, very few specimens seem to have accompanied the Manx lighthouse schedules, which may have caused us to lose the knowledge of some rare occurrences. In 1885-86, Mr. Clyne of Langness is stated to have sent specimen legs and wings, but the name of the species so authenticated are not marked in the report except in the case of three species in the latter year.

COMPARATIVE REMARKS ON THE BIRDS OF THE
ISLE OF MAN.

THE following pages give 183 Manx species, which may be apportioned thus (it need scarcely be said that such a classification can have only an approximation to correctness):

Resident (breeding),	75
Regular Summer Migrants (breeding),	18
Regular Autumn, Winter, or Spring Migrants (not breeding),	45
<hr/>	
With these last must be included the Gannet, as though present off our coast all summer, it does not breed. These three groups make up the total of genuine Manx birds,	138
Occasional,	45
	<hr/>
	183

Besides these, a certain number of species which have been recorded on evidence, which seemed more or less insufficient, have been noted in brackets in the body of the work. The list is yearly, however, in course of increase, partly no doubt through the changing conditions of the isle, but mainly by the larger number and greater vigilance of observers.

Almost all birds generally distributed through the British Isles, at least as far as our latitude, are present in the Isle of Man (suitable localities being found here) in something of the same relative proportions as in the larger

islands. The Barn Owl should perhaps be looked upon as an exception.

The Isle of Man agrees with Ireland, and differs from the opposite counties of England, in the absence or rarity of various small summer migrants—the Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Wood Warbler, Redstart, Lesser Whitethroat, Yellow Wagtail, Tree Pipit, of the Marsh Tit, of the Carrion Crow, and of Woodpeckers. The Jay should perhaps be another example, though it is found locally in Ireland, and yet another is the Tawny Owl. In estimating the value of this fact, however, not only the isolation of Man, but its small extent, and generally bare and hilly surface, must be borne in mind. Much of the same phenomenon, respecting the distribution of Warblers, may be observed on the eastern side of our sea, in outlying parts of Wales.

Man agrees with Ireland (and with Scotland generally) in the position of the Grey Crow as a breeding species, and also in that of that characteristic Irish and Hebridean resident, the Black Guillemot.

It agrees with England and differs from Scotland and Ireland in the status of the Common Gull.

Such species as in Britain find their headquarters in its eastern districts, or on its eastern coasts, are naturally ill represented here.

Man is rich in rock-breeding coast birds, but rather lacking in shore-frequenting waders. Its mountains fail entirely or are poorly furnished with species nesting on moorlands and hill streams, as the Ring Ouzel, Common Sandpiper, Grey Wagtail, Dipper, Curlew, Dunlin, and Golden Plover.

Few species rare as British have been recorded in Man. Among the less common which have occurred with us are, of southern stragglers, the Golden Oriole, Hoopoe, and Baillon's Crake; of northern, the Great Grey Shrike,

Waxwing, Greenland Falcon, Little Auk, and Snowy Owl.

No American stragglers are known to have occurred in Man, unless *Macrorhamphus griseus* (the evidence for whose occurrence is hereafter given) be admitted. To the class of escapes should doubtless be assigned the Egyptian Geese (*Chenalopex aegyptiacus*), reported by Mr. Wallace to Mr. Yarrell (4th ed. iv. 301) as seen 1838, and the two specimens of the same species mentioned by Mr. Jeffcott to the Isle of Man Natural History Society, as having been shot near Castletown; also a Canada Goose (*Bernicla canadensis*), killed by Mr. Baily in the tideway off Langness; an Australian Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*), obtained by Mr. Kinvig in Castletown Bay some few years ago.

MANX BIRD-NAMES.

A FEW words may be added with respect to the Manx names of birds, which the author has striven to give as completely as is in his power. Although the census of 1901 surprised the Anglicised residents of our towns with the information that more than four thousand of our population still spoke that ancient and graphic tongue, the language, closely allied to Scottish Gaelic and Erse, probably received its death-blow some forty years ago, when the young people, even in the country districts, ceased to learn it. It was rich in names for natural objects, as its dictionaries prove, though now it is often difficult to apply these names exactly.

The substance of the information on Manx nomenclature appeared in the *Zoologist* for 1897 (pp. 71-79). An asterisk * *prefixed* to a name signifies that it has been verified as in current use. The initials (M. S. D.) refer to the *Manx Society's Dictionary*, founded on the work of John Kelly (about 1772); (Cr.) to that of Archibald Cregeen (1835). The translation of the Scriptures into Manx, sometimes also referred to in this connection, was made 1762-1775. Bishop Phillips had already translated (but not published) the *Book of Common Prayer* about 1610. Hildesley's *Bible*, above mentioned, was the work of Bishop Hildesley, with the aid of a number of Manx-speaking clergy of his diocese. It is the classic example of Manx,

and has since served as a standard. The translators had the idea of writing phonetically, which often gives their words a deceptive unlikeness to those corresponding in the cognate dialects. The rule was not, however, fully and consistently carried out, and redundancies and anomalies are therefore not infrequent in Manx orthography.

In the matter of Manx bird-names I am particularly indebted to Messrs. W. Quayle, C. P. and J. R. Moore, of Laxey, and Mr. J. B. Keig, of Ramsey.

A number of English provincial names in use in the Isle of Man are also given immediately after the current English book-names. Some of these are translations from the Gaelic, some are introductions from northern England, and others are apparently original to the soil. English-speaking as we now are, various birds are still best known in country districts by their Manx (Gaelic) names; thus the Oyster-catcher at Kirk Michael is always *Garey-vreck*, and the Chough on the west coast always *Caary*, except where English tourists have occasionally in recent times taught the natives other names.

For the equivalent (and indeed often practically identical) Irish and Scottish Gaelic names, often given for comparison, there have been consulted O'Reilly and O'Donovan's *Irish-English Dictionary*, Ussher and Warren's *Birds of Ireland*, and Harvie-Brown and Buckley's *Fauna of the Outer Hebrides*.

In spelling Manx place-names, the Ordnance Survey has usually been followed, though a certain amount of divergence may sometimes be found in the local renderings of the obscurer names, and this has here and there been indicated.

A few Manx words constantly recurring in place-names, etc., with their English equivalents, are given below:—

<i>Alt</i> , brook, torrent.	<i>Ghaw</i> (Norse), chasm, narrow creek.
<i>Ard</i> , height.	<i>Glass</i> , grey, green.
<i>Awin</i> , river.	<i>Gob</i> , point (<i>lit.</i> beak, snout).
<i>Balla</i> , farmstead, division of land.	<i>Keeil</i> , church, chapel (often a ruinous site).
<i>Bane, vane</i> , white.	<i>Kione</i> , head(land).
<i>Bar</i> , top, high ground.	<i>Lag, lagg, laggan</i> , hollow.
<i>Beg, veg</i> , small.	<i>Lheeah</i> , grey.
<i>Berry</i> (Norse), cliff.	<i>Lhergy</i> , hillside, steep slope.
<i>Breck, vreck</i> , spotted, pied.	<i>Lhing, lhingey</i> , pool (in a stream).
<i>Broogh</i> , brow, sandy or earthy bank.	<i>Lough, loughan</i> , lake, pond.
<i>Buigh, vuigh</i> , yellow.	<i>Menagh, meanagh</i> , middle.
<i>Burrow</i> , strong place, fortress-like rock.	<i>Moaney</i> , turf-land.
<i>Carn, carnane</i> , cairn, height with a cairn.	<i>Moar, mooar, vooar</i> , large.
<i>Carrick</i> , rock.	<i>Mullagh</i> , summit.
<i>Clet</i> (Norse), rock in the sea.	<i>Ooig</i> (pr. <i>ogh</i>), cave.
<i>Clogh</i> , stone.	<i>Rheast, rheeast</i> , waste.
<i>Cooil</i> , corner, nook.	<i>Rhen, ridge</i> .
<i>Creg</i> , rock, crag.	<i>Rhennee, rhenny</i> , ferny, fern-covered.
<i>Cronk</i> , hill.	<i>Ruy, roy</i> , red.
<i>Curragh</i> , fen.	<i>Slieu</i> , mountain.
<i>Dhoo</i> , black.	<i>Stack</i> (Norse), rock like a stack.
<i>Dreem</i> , back (of a hill), hill-ridge.	<i>Traie</i> , shore, beach.
<i>Eary</i> , high pasture-land, moor.	<i>Wick</i> (Norse), bay, creek.
<i>Ellan</i> , island.	

Old Norse, so frequent in our place-names, and which must have been for several centuries in the Middle Ages the language of the dominant class in Man, cannot be shown to have left a trace in our bird-names.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF NEIGHBOURING
DISTRICTS.

FOR comparison notes have been added on the status of the respective species in these districts of the surrounding countries, whose coasts most nearly approach our island, and also on the outer groups of Scottish islands. The references to north-west England are mainly from the late Rev. H. A. Macpherson's *Birds of Lakeland*, and Mitchell's *Birds of Lancashire*; the Welsh from the papers of Messrs. Aplin and Coward and Oldham,¹ contributed to the *Zoologist*; those to Galloway from the articles of Mr. R. Service, and Gray and Anderson's *Birds of Ayrshire and Wigtownshire*.² The Irish information is largely drawn from Messrs. Ussher and Warren's *Birds of Ireland*, and the article in the *Belfast Naturalists' Field Club's Guide*; that for the isles from the recent volumes of Messrs. Buckley and Harvie-Brown on the faunas of the Orkneys and Outer Hebrides, and Buckley and Evans on the fauna of Shetland.

These notes, it is hoped, may assist in appreciating the value to be attached to the position of a bird in the Manx list.

¹ Mr. Oldham was good enough to send me notes, not here published, of ornithological researches by Mr. Coward and himself in Anglesea in 1904. North Wales is only now being thoroughly investigated.

² Notices of the ornithology of Wigtownshire are somewhat meagre and out of date.

LIST OF BIRDS WHICH ARE ASCERTAINED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE ISLE OF MAN WITHIN THE LAST CENTURY.

The scientific nomenclature is that of the List of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1883.

CERTAIN species, whose names are in the following pages given within brackets, with notices of the evidence for their occurrence, which to the author appears doubtful, are not included in this list, but are appended at its conclusion. In cases of species of which no Manx specimen is known to exist, the author has been obliged to use his judgment in a manner which he fears must appear arbitrary as to their inclusion or exclusion here. All the species included, and almost all those excluded, are such as must eventually find their way, at least as stragglers, into the Manx fauna.

Scientific Name.	English Name.	Resident.	Regular Migrant (breeding).	Regular Migrant (not breeding).	Occasional Visitor.
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i> , . . .	Missel Thrush, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Turdus musicus</i> , . . .	Song Thrush, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Turdus iliacus</i> , . . .	Redwing, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Turdus pilaris</i> , . . .	Fieldfare, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Turdus merula</i> , . . .	Blackbird, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Turdus torquatus</i> , . . .	Ring Ouzel, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Saxicola cineracea</i> , . . .	Wheatear, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Pratincola rubetra</i> , . . .	Whinchat, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Pratincola rubicola</i> , . . .	Stonechat, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Ruticilla phoenicurus</i> , . . .	Redstart, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Ruticilla titys</i> , . . .	Black Redstart, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> , . . .	Redbreast, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Sylvia cinerea</i> , . . .	Whitethroat, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Sylvia hortensis</i> , . . .	Garden Warbler, . . .	(?)	...	...	×
<i>Regulus cristatus</i> , . . .	Goldcrest, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Phylloscopus rufus</i> , . . .	Chiffchaff, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> , . . .	Willow Warbler, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> , . . .	Wood Warbler, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Acrocephalus phragmitis</i> , . . .	Sedge Warbler, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Locustella naevia</i> , . . .	Grasshopper Warbler, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Acenator modularis</i> , . . .	Hedge Sparrow, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Cinclus aquaticus</i> , . . .	Dipper, . . .	×	...	...	...

Scientific Name.	English Name.	Resident.	Regular Migrant (breeding).	Regular Migrant (not breeding).	Occasional Visitor.
<i>Acredula rosea</i> , . . .	British Longtailed Titmouse, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Parus major</i> , . . .	Great Titmouse, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Parus britannicus</i> , . . .	British Coal Titmouse, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Parus cæruleus</i> , . . .	Blue Titmouse, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Troglodytes parvulus</i> , . . .	Wren, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Motacilla alba</i> , . . .	White Wagtail, . . .	×	...	×	...
<i>Motacilla lugubris</i> , . . .	Pied Wagtail, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Motacilla melanope</i> , . . .	Grey Wagtail, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Anthus pratensis</i> , . . .	Meadow Pipit, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Anthus obscurus</i> , . . .	Rock Pipit, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Oriolus galbula</i> , . . .	Golden Oriole, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Lanius excubitor</i> , . . .	Great Grey Shrike, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Ampelis garrulus</i> , . . .	Waxwing, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Muscicapa grisola</i> , . . .	Spotted Flycatcher, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Muscicapa atricapilla</i> , . . .	Pied Flycatcher, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> , . . .	Swallow, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Chelidon urbica</i> , . . .	House Martin, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Cotile riparia</i> , . . .	Sand Martin, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Certhia familiaris</i> , . . .	Tree Creeper, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Carduelis elegans</i> , . . .	Goldfinch, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Chrysomitris spinus</i> , . . .	Siskin, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Ligurinus chloris</i> , . . .	Greenfinch, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Coccothraustes vulgaris</i> , . . .	Hawfinch, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Passer domesticus</i> , . . .	House Sparrow, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Passer montanus</i> , . . .	Tree Sparrow, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Fringilla cælebs</i> , . . .	Chaffinch, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> , . . .	Brambling, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Linota cannabina</i> , . . .	Linnet, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Linota rufescens</i> , . . .	Lesser Redpoll, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Linota flavirostris</i> , . . .	Twite, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Pyrrhula europæa</i> , . . .	Bullfinch, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i> , . . .	Crossbill, . . .	×	...	(?)	...
<i>Emberiza miliaria</i> , . . .	Corn Bunting, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> , . . .	Yellow Hammer, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Emberiza schæniclus</i> , . . .	Reed Bunting, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Plectrophanes nivalis</i> , . . .	Snow Bunting, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> , . . .	Starling, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i> , . . .	Chough, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Pica rustica</i> , . . .	Magpie, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Corvus monedula</i> , . . .	Jackdaw, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Corvus cornix</i> , . . .	Hooded Crow, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i> , . . .	Rook, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Corvus corax</i> , . . .	Raven, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Alauda arvensis</i> , . . .	Skylark, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Cypselus apus</i> , . . .	Swift, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Caprimulgus europæus</i> , . . .	Nightjar, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Dendrocopus major</i> , . . .	Great Spotted Woodpecker, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Tijnx torquilla</i> , . . .	Wryneck, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Alcedo ispida</i> , . . .	Kingfisher, . . .	×	...	...	×
<i>Upupa epops</i> , . . .	Hoopoe, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Cuculus canorus</i> , . . .	Cuckoo, . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Strix flammea</i> , . . .	Barn Owl, . . .	(?)	...	...	×
<i>Asio otus</i> , . . .	Long-eared Owl, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Asio brachyotus</i> , . . .	Short-eared Owl, . . .	(?)	...	×	...
<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i> , . . .	Snowy Owl,	×

LIST OF BIRDS

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Scientific Name.	English Name.	Resident.	Regular Migrant (breeding).	Regular Migrant (not breeding).	Occasional Visitor.
<i>Buteo vulgaris</i> ,	Common Buzzard, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> ,	White-tailed Eagle,	× ext.	...	...	...
<i>Accipiter nisus</i> ,	Sparrow Hawk, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Hierofalco candicans</i> ,	Greenland Falcon, . . . . .	×	...	...	×
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> ,	Peregrine Falcon, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Falco aesalon</i> ,	Merlin, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Tinnunculus alaudarius</i> ,	Kestrel, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ,	Cormorant, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Phalacrocorax graculus</i> ,	Shag, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Sula bassana</i> ,	Gannet, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Ardea cinerea</i> ,	Heron, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ,	Common Bittern,	(? ext.)	...	...	×
<i>Anser cinereus</i> ,	Grey Lag Goose, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Anser segetum</i> ,	Bean Goose, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Anser albifrons</i> ,	White-fronted Goose, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Bernicla brenta</i> ,	Brent Goose, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Bernicla leucopsis</i> ,	Barnacle Goose, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Cygnus musicus</i> ,	Whooper Swan, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Cygnus bewicki</i> ,	Bewick's Swan, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Tadorna cornuta</i> ,	Common Sheldrake, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Mareca penelope</i> ,	Wigeon, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Dafila acuta</i> ,	Pintail, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Anas boscas</i> ,	Mallard, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Chaulelasmus streperus</i> ,	Gadwall, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Querquedula ciria</i> ,	Garganey, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Querquedula crecca</i> ,	Common Teal, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Spatula clypeata</i> ,	Shoveller, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Fuligula cristata</i> ,	Tufted Duck, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Fuligula marila</i> ,	Scaup Duck, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Fuligula ferina</i> ,	Pochard, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Clangula glaucion</i> ,	Goldeneye, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Eidemia nigra</i> ,	Common Scoter, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Mergus merganser</i> ,	Goosander, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Mergus serrator</i> ,	Red-breasted Mer- ganser, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Mergus albellus</i> ,	Smew, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Columba palumbus</i> ,	Ring Dove, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Columba tenas</i> ,	Stock Dove, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Columba livia</i> ,	Rock Dove,	×?ext.	...	...	...
<i>Turtur communis</i> ,	Turtle Dove, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i> ,	Pallas's Sand Grouse, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i> ,	Pheasant, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Perdix cinerea</i> ,	Partridge . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Coturnix communis</i> ,	Quail, . . . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Lagopus scoticus</i> ,	Red Grouse, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Tetrao tetrix</i> ,	Black Grouse,	×	ext.	...	...
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i> ,	Water-rail, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Porzana maruetta</i> ,	Spotted Crane, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Porzana bailloni</i> ,	Baillon's Crane, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Orez pratensis</i> ,	Land-rail, . . . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> ,	Moor-hen, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Fulica atra</i> ,	Coot, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Charadrius pluvialis</i> ,	Golden Plover, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Squatrola helvetica</i> ,	Grey Plover, . . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Agialitis hiaticula</i> ,	Ringed Plover, . . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i> ,	Dotterel, . . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Vanellus vulgaris</i>	Lapwing . . . . .	×	...	...	...

Scientific Name.	English Name.	Resident.	Regular Migrant (breeding)	Regular Migrant (not breeding)	Occasional Visitor.
<i>Streptilas interpres</i> , .	Turnstone, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Hæmatopus ostralegus</i> , .	Oyster-catcher, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> , .	Grey Phalarope, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Scolopax rusticula</i> , . .	Woodcock, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Gallinago cælestis</i> , . .	Common Snipe, . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Limnocyptes gallinula</i> , .	Jack Snipe, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Tringa alpina</i> ,	Dunlin, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Tringa minuta</i> ,	Little Stint, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Tringa subarquata</i> , . . .	Curlew Sandpiper, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Tringa striata</i> ,	Purple Sandpiper, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Tringa canutus</i> ,	Knot, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Calidris arenaria</i> ,	Sanderling, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Tringoides hypoleucus</i> , .	Common Sandpiper, . . .	(?)	...	×	...
<i>Helodromas ochropus</i> , . .	Green Sandpiper, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Totanus calidris</i> ,	Redshank, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Totanus canescens</i> ,	Greenshank, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Limosa lapponica</i> ,	Bar-tailed Godwit, . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Limosa egocephala</i> ,	Black-tailed Godwit, . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Numenius phæopus</i> ,	Whimbrel, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Numenius arquata</i> ,	Curlew, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Sterna macrura</i> ,	Arctic Tern, . . . .	...	×	...	...
<i>Sterna fluviatilis</i> ,	Common Tern, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Sterna minuta</i> ,	Little Tern, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Hydrochelidon nigra</i> ,	Black Tern, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ,	Kittiwake, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Larus glaucus</i> ,	Glaucous Gull, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Larus argentatus</i> ,	Herring Gull, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Larus fuscus</i> ,	Lesser Black-backed Gull, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Larus canus</i> ,	Common Gull,	(?)	...	×	...
<i>Larus marinus</i> ,	Great Black-backed Gull, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Larus ridibundus</i> ,	'Black-headed' Gull, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Stercorarius catarrhactes</i> , .	Great Skua, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Stercorarius pomatorhinus</i> , .	Pomatorhine Skua, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Stercorarius crepidatus</i> , . .	Richardson's Skua, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Procellaria pelagica</i> ,	Storm Petrel, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Procellaria leucorrhœa</i> ,	Leach's Petrel, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Puffinus anglorum</i> ,	Manx Shearwater, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Colymbus glacialis</i> ,	Great Northern Diver, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Colymbus arcticus</i> ,	Black-throated Diver, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Colymbus septentrionalis</i> , .	Red-throated Diver, . . . .	...	...	×	...
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ,	Great Crested Grebe, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Podiceps griseigena</i> ,	Red-necked Grebe, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Podiceps auritus</i> ,	Sclavonian Grebe, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> ,	Eared Grebe, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Tachybates fluviatilis</i> ,	Little Grebe, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Alca torda</i> ,	Razorbill, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Lomvia troile</i> ,	Common Guillemot, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Uria grylle</i> ,	Black Guillemot, . . . .	×	...	...	...
<i>Mergulus alle</i> ,	Little Auk, . . . .	...	...	...	×
<i>Fratercula arctica</i> ,	Puffin, . . . .	×	...	...	...
		75	18	45	45

The bracketed species are as follows :—

<i>Sylvia curruca</i> ,	. . .	Lesser Whitethroat.
<i>Coracias garrula</i> ,	. . .	Roller.
<i>Athene noctua</i> ,	. . .	Little Owl.
<i>Aquila chrysaëtus</i> ,	. . .	Golden Eagle.
<i>Pandion haliaëtus</i> ,	. . .	Osprey.
<i>Ardetta minuta</i> ,	. . .	Little Bittern.
<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> ,	. . .	Spoonbill.
<i>Macrorhamphus griseus</i> ,	. . .	Red-breasted Snipe.
<i>Sterna cantiaca</i> ,	. . .	Sandwich Tern.

On a different footing are the record of :—

<i>Chenalopex ægyptiacus</i> ,	. . .	Egyptian Goose,
<i>Bernicla canadensis</i> ,	. . .	Canada Goose,
<i>Cygnus olor</i> ,	. . .	Mute Swan,

species which have occurred, but only as escapes from domestication.

Want of evidence has necessitated the exclusion of other species, which yet—as can from their general distribution scarcely be doubted—must have occurred, and will again occur, in Man, or off its coasts. Such are the Blackcap Warbler, Ray's Wagtail,¹ the Mealy Redpoll, the Lapland Bunting, the Carrion Crow,² the Jay, the Eider and Long-tailed Ducks, the Velvet Scoter, the Pink-footed Goose, the Ruff, and the Fulmar Petrel.

¹ Mr. C. H. B. Grant reported to Mr. Kermode that he saw two birds of this species in Maughold on 8th December 1900 (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 521, 634). The occurrence of the Yellow Wagtail at that time of year is very unlikely, though Seebohm remarks that it does not entirely quit our shores in winter. The authors of *Birds of Ireland* seem to know nothing of occurrences in winter in that country, where it breeds very locally.

² See article on Hooded Crow, p. 100.

MAP OF THE ISLE OF MAN

SCALE 1:126720 - 2 MILES TO AN INCH

NOTE TO COLOURING

As the Ordnance Survey for the Isle of Man shows no contours of altitude, the contour lines here indicated are sketched in with only approximate accuracy.

- First Class Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Heights in Feet.
- Soundings in Fathoms.



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TURDUS VISCIVORUS, Linn. MISSEL THRUSH.

WOOD THRUSH, SCOTCH THRUSH, NORWAY THRUSH, WIN (*i.e.* WIND) THRUSH, FOREIGN THRUSH, SHELL COCK (Castletown district).¹

THE Missel Thrush is a common Manx resident. It appears to have been unknown in Ireland, and scarce in Cumberland and elsewhere in northern England, until about the beginning of the nineteenth century; and rare in Galloway until within the last fifty years; and it is therefore a not unnatural presumption, though unsupported by direct evidence, that its settlement here is also recent. The meanings of some of the above-given names, and the seeming absence of a genuine Gaelic name, point in the same direction. Before that time Man was almost devoid of timber, but the presence of the bird is not absolutely dependent on the country being wooded.

The Missel Thrush is found in all parts of the island, and is a conspicuous and dominant bird, especially in the upland country where the moors border on the cultivated land, and where it finds a favourite nesting place in some small larch or deciduous tree of the little hillside plantations which are scattered over such a district. There in the spring its green mossy nest, sometimes with an untidy piece of wool hanging from it, is often conspicuous in a fork amid the leafless branches. But it feeds and nests also in the shrubberies and gardens about the outskirts of the towns and villages. I have seen its nest among the sticks of an old

¹ The names of this species, the Fieldfare, and likely the Redwing, are popularly confused.

Magpie's in a tree, and a nest at Greeba was built on a ledge of rock, though surrounded by a plantation. At Traie Fugog, near Peel, a nest was for at least three successive years placed on a ledge of sandstone rock over the shore, about eight feet high; the remains in 1904 contained a scrap of window-curtain,¹ the nest that year having been destroyed. I have also observed a family in a rocky and heathery hollow on Clay Head, where in all probability they had been hatched.² In the solitary glen of the Onchan Abbey lands another nest was placed on the timber of a disused and decaying water-wheel, part of the machinery of an abandoned mine. In this case also trees were close at hand. Mr. Kermode states that it is the only bird he has known to breed in the 'Monkey Puzzle' (*Araucaria imbricata*), which it did at Riversdale, near Ramsey, in the last week of March 1885, after being persecuted by cats. (See, however, under 'Magpie.') He has also known its nest in a blackthorn, a few feet from the ground. But its strangest nesting site was one shown to me by Mr. F. S. Graves, in 1901, on 'the capital of the shafts supporting the arch of the south transept in the ruined Cathedral of St. Germans, Peel, a flat ledge about six inches wide. The young were successfully reared, and in 1902 the birds again built in a similar position in the north transept after considerable difficulty, as the nest was twice blown off the ledge by the wind. On the 19th May there were two eggs and two newly-hatched young in the nest, which was afterwards robbed by some prowling visitors, or possibly by

¹ I am told by Mr. Wm. Quayle that when Governor Hope lived at Lorn House, some valuable lace belonging to Lady Isabella, his wife, was once missing from the grounds, where it had been put out to bleach; a long streamer was at length observed hanging from the nest of a Missel Thrush, and led to the discovery of the whole of the lost lace wrought into the structure.

² Mr. Burnett tells me that nests have also been built on low crags close to the sea near Langness lighthouse, and in 1905 a pair almost certainly bred on the rocks near Scarlett Point.

Jackdaws. The birds afterwards built and laid in another nest, in a hole in the masonry, in another part of the ruins.

'The attachment of the Missel Thrush to such a place is curious; the buildings stand on a bare and wind-swept islet, and there are no trees. At the time the young are being reared crowds of visitors are constantly passing through the grounds.'

Another singular nesting site was mentioned to me by Dr. J. H. Bailey. This was in Church Road, Port Erin, where in 1903 a nest was built on one of a row of houses. The lower story is used as a shop, and over the window outstanding letters form the word 'CHEMIST.' The nest was placed between the letter 'M' and the front of the house, and two broods were hatched in that year. Dr. Bailey found another nest of the species with eggs in a stone wall facing a byroad from Port Erin to the Mull, a few feet above the ground.

The number of eggs laid is usually four, but I have at least once met with five in a nest.

Mr. Kermode states that in the neighbourhood of Ramsey Jackdaws show much enmity to this species, driving it from its nest, whether finished or unfinished, and even pulling to pieces a nest in an ash-tree at Cloughbane. Mr. W. C. Cubbon has told me of a Missel Thrush which at Ballasalla manifested extraordinary hostility to a cat, endeavouring to attack it even through the glass of a greenhouse on his premises.

In the *Ramsey Courier* of 18th February 1898 it was stated that a few days before the nest of a 'Scotch Thrush' had been found at Ballacoarey, Andreas. It often commences to build in March, and the young are hatched by mid-April—(on 8th April 1900 Mr. Crellin saw one which had already left the nest)—while in other cases the eggs are not laid until May has begun. In the later

summer the young families are very conspicuous on the uplands, as they flit over the rough land and along the stone walls with harsh notes.

In autumn Missel Thrushes tend to gather into parties, or small flocks, which very likely causes them sometimes to be confused with Fieldfares; but it is doubtful if their number is substantially increased by immigration at that season, and the bird seems to be individually as well as specifically a resident here.

It rarely appears, at least under its specific name, in the Manx lighthouse records. One was caught at Langness, 5th October 1886, and twelve are reported there fifteen days later. I have noted it on the Calf of Man, but do not know whether it breeds on that islet.

A white specimen was reported in the north in 1903 (Kermode).

It is now generally common in Ireland and Galloway, as in England. It is well distributed on the mainland of Scotland, but still fails, at least as a breeding species, to reach most of the outlying islands.

TURDUS MUSICUS, Linn. SONG THRUSH.

BIG THRUSH (Peel). (The Hedge Sparrow is there 'Little Thrush.')
 Manx, *Lhon*. (Cf. Scotch Gaelic, *Lonag*; Irish, *Lon*=
 Blackbird according to O'Reilly.) *Treshlen* (M. S. D.),
 doubtless a corruption of English Throstle.

Townley, who visited the Isle of Man in 1789, says in his journal, under date of 18th July, 'I never was in any country where Blackbirds and Throstles were seen or heard in such numbers as in this neighbourhood' (Douglas). On 3rd December he hears from the pier of that town a Throstle on the hill across the harbour sing for half an

hour, and frequently again till the 19th at least of the same month; and on 14th January 1790 he notes: 'I got a few turns upon the pier-head in an interval betwixt two showers, and was then highly entertained with the melody of my sweet thrush, perched upon his favourite thorn. I am quite alarmed for his safety; there are so many foolish fathers that permit their booby sons, mere boys, to ramble about with guns, and with such urchins blackbirds and thrushes are choice game.'

At the present time the Song Thrush is not an abundant bird. It is well distributed even up to the heads of the cultivated valleys; but except perhaps where, as in the suburbs of Douglas, gardens and shrubberies abound, it is not numerous, nor does it inhabit the rocky and ferny localities where the Blackbird may be found.¹ Contrary to what is the case in England, it is more plentiful in winter than in summer, and I am told that some fifteen years ago a nest was almost unknown in Lonan, where perhaps the growth of shrubs in enclosures has fostered its increase. On the other hand, Mr. Kermodé says that it is rarely seen in our northern and westerly parishes, meaning probably the flat north of the Sulby, and thinks that it is diminishing in numbers. Along the foot of the Lezayre hills, however, it is not uncommon, at least in winter, when also it frequents the gardens at Castletown, but disappears from them and largely from the district in spring. It figures abundantly in the lighthouse records. Thus, on 5th January 1887, six Thrushes are killed at the Bahama L. V. out of numbers flying round the ship. On 21st October 1879, at Point of Ayre, two hundred are recorded, along with Blackbirds; on 19th July 1880 at the same, one hundred and sixty 'young Thrushes' were seen moving south; and during the great

¹ Yet Mr. A. Christian in 1905 saw a nest on the ground at the edge of the old lime-kiln on the bare shores of Scarlett.

spring and autumn rushes the species is abundantly represented. On 20th February 1890 three hundred and forty-four dead birds were picked up at the same light, of which one hundred and ninety-two were Thrushes. Mr. Crellin states (*Yn Lioar Manninagh*, i. 2, 271): 'It is, however, likely that allied species, and especially the Redwing, are not always discriminated from the Song Thrush.' On the Calf of Man we saw in 1901 one or two in the Glen. Dr. Wilson saw a nest with three eggs at Ballamenagh, Lezayre, on 17th January 1890. (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 516.)

With the folk-renderings of bird-songs¹ given under the heading of 'Blackbird' may be compared the following, first supplied me by Mr. J. R. Moore, of Laxey. It is the song of the Thrush as heard by the drunken miller of Ballure,² who threatens to kill his rebuker:—

‘Mwyllar Vallure ! Mwyllar Vallure !
 T'eh goll dys Rumsaa
 Dy chooilley Yesarn,
 Goll er y scoor !
 Goall foilliu³ daa cheayrt !
 Goall foilliu daa cheayrt !’

¹ In Manx fancy the birds formerly sang their songs in Gaelic.

² The long-ruined mill of Ballure lies amid the thick foliage of the glen of that name, just above where it is now crossed by the high road and electric railway on the outskirts of Ramsey.

³ ‘Foilliu = mulcture, toll given at a mill for grinding’ (Cregeen). The expression ‘Goall foilliu daa cheayrt’ has passed into a proverb, and is now applied to any dishonest person. The following story explains the phrase: ‘There was at one time a miller, who was known as “*Thom, foilliu three keayrt.*” Before a sack of corn was allowed to leave his mill, he would say to his men: “Juan, has thou taken *foilliu* erf this sack?” “Yes,” Juan would say. “Billy, did thou take *foilliu*?” “Yes.” “Well, I’m thinkin’ I had better take it out me-self, to be sure it’s right.” So he was known as “*Thom, foilliu three keayrt.*” I owe this note to Miss S. Morrison, of Peel, who gives me also the following second version of the song:—

‘Mwyllar kione top, Mwyllar kione top,
 Mwyllar — goall rouyr,
 Dowin ayns yn cabbyr !’
 ‘Miller cockscomb, Miller cockscomb,
 Miller —, taking too much,
 Deep in the hopper !’

'The Miller of Ballure ! the Miller of Ballure !
He goes to Ramsey
Every Saturday,
Going on the spree !
Taking mulcture twice !
Taking mulcture twice !'

The Song Thrush is abundant in all the neighbouring parts of Britain, becoming, however, scarcer in winter in England, and even, according to Mr. Ussher, in the *North* of Ireland, in many parts of which country, however, its numbers are then greatly increased by immigration.

TURDUS ILIACUS, Linn. REDWING.

The names Win(d) Thrush and Snowbird are probably applied to the Redwing also.

As in other parts of Britain the Redwing is here a regular visitor during the winter. It frequents the lowland pasture-lands, and the plantations in their vicinity, rather than the upland haunts of the Fieldfare, and being smaller and less noisy than that bird, and closely resembling the Song Thrush, attracts little observation.

It is easily tamed by frost, and quickly perishes if it is prolonged. Though under ordinary circumstances a very shy bird, during snow in February 1900 two appeared in my garden at Castletown close under the windows of the house. It is frequent at our lighthouses: at Langness, on several dates in the autumn of 1882, numbers were killed. Mr. Kermode records that on 19th October 1889 he caught at Ramsey one which in an exhausted state was beating against his lighted window. Mr. Crellin (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 382) notes two on 26th September—an early date. On the same day of the month, in another year, two

perished at Langness. Some thirty years ago Mr. Graves remembers seeing Redwings searching for food in the crevices of the rocks at Ballagyr Shore, and so tame that one was shot with a catapult.

The Redwing is generally abundant in its season in all the surrounding districts, as in most parts of Britain.

TURDUS PILARIS, Linn. FIELDFARE.

WIN (*i.e.* WIND) THRUSH (because it appears in stormy weather),
 SNOWBIRD. MANX, *Ushag ny traghtee* or *sniaghtee*
 (M. S. D.). *Ushag-sniaghtey* = Snowbird.

A fairly plentiful species with us in winter, the Fieldfare readily attracts attention by its gregarious habits and harsh chattering cry. It loves the uplands, the flocks flying from one clump of 'Keirn'¹ or ash-trees to another along the borders of the glens, scattering in search of food over the pastures which border the waste, and settling down for the night's rest amid the low furze and heath of the commons. But a spell of frosty weather, rare in Man, sends them to the lowlands and the coast, when they lose much of their natural shyness and gather eagerly about unfrozen ground, and the Manx name indicates the bird's connection in the popular mind with the hard weather which renders it so much more conspicuous.

As might be expected the Fieldfare often figures in the returns from the Manx light stations, especially in November, but the compilers of the section for West England and the Isle of Man in the 1885 volume remark, 'Very few Fieldfares appear to perish at the lanterns.' The 1902 report states that the spring movements of departure on the west coast, 'observed somewhat feebly at the English, Welsh,

¹ *i.e.* Mountain-ash.

and Manx stations,' become more pronounced on those of Scotland and the Hebrides, where the Irish contingent has fallen in. On 28th October 1879 three hundred 'dark-grey birds larger than a common Thrush' seen at the Point of Ayre are noted by the compilers as 'probably Missel Thrushes,' but might with equal likelihood be assigned to this species.

Mr. Kermode records a small flock at Killabragga, Sulby, on 28th August 1889, a very remarkable date, if correct, for October is the usual time of arrival. I had no note of its occurrence in the early part of the year beyond the end of April—(Mr. Crellin notes a large flock on the 30th of that month, 1899)—until 1903, when the same observer saw some on 12th May. (*Y. L. M. Report*, 1904.)

As a winter migrant the species is of very general distribution in the surrounding districts and over all the British Isles.

TURDUS MERULA, Linn. BLACKBIRD.

Manx, *Lhon*, *Lhon-doo*, *Lhon-ghoo* (M. S. D.); *Lhon* (Cr.).

**Lhondhoo*=Black Thrush is the usual form. (Cf. Irish, *Londubh*; Sc. Gaelic, *Lon*, *Londubh*.)

As above noted, the Blackbird was even a hundred years ago remarkably common in Man, and it is to-day an extremely abundant and widely-spread species, equally at home among the fuchsias and 'trammans' of a cottage garden, the ivy and woodbine coverts of the rocky coast, or the young larch plantations of the uplands, where it has already taken possession of the recently afforested common lands. In entirely heath-covered land, however, it is not to be found. On the Calf, where it is plentiful, we found

in 1901 a nest in a gooseberry bush close to an uninhabited cottage. The bird breeds in varying situations, often, with a great amount of confidence, in the hedges and standard fruit-trees of our gardens, where its young are very likely to fall a prey to cats. A nest was placed on a ledge of rock close to a well-frequented path down the cliffside at Port-e-Cooiley, Lonan, and it said something for the children of the neighbourhood that, though a manifest track had been formed to it, it was not robbed. Another nest was at the foot of the cliffs, and almost on the shore, near the Slock.

The beginning of April may, I think, be looked upon as the usual time for the business of nesting to commence. A nest in a hedge of *escallonia* in a garden at Castletown was used for two successive broods in the same year. In *Y. L. M. Report*, 1904, Mr. Crellin describes a Thrush's nest in a highroad hedge at Bishop's Court, in which a Blackbird was sitting on three Thrush's eggs and three of its own.

The Blackbird, contrary to common opinion, is a great migrant, and large numbers appear at our lighthouses. Mr. Kermode records two hundred at Point of Ayre on 21st October 1879, and on 22nd November 1886 many thronged round Langness light during the darkness. On 20th February 1890 sixty-three were killed at Point of Ayre.

Albinism is frequent in this species. There are several more or less pied specimens at Orrisdale; one has a few dark feathers only. Mr. Crellin records (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 491) in May 1898 a Blackbird's nest near Ramsey with three almost full-grown white Blackbirds. On 9th January 1899 he saw, in the neighbourhood of Douglas, a white specimen, and in 1885 he had another similar. In May 1887 Mr. Kermode had a pure white nestling with pink eyes (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 517). Mr. Allison tells me that white and pied Blackbirds are frequent in Maughold.

The *Manx Note-Book*, No. 2, p. 55, gives the following popular rendering into Manx of the Blackbird's notes:—

Kione jiarg, Kione jiarg.	Red head, Red head.
Apyrn dhoo, Apyrn dhoo.	Black apron, Black apron.
Vel oo cheet? Vel oo cheet?	Are you coming? Are you coming?
Skee fieau, Skee fieau.	Tired waiting, Tired waiting.
Lhondoo, Lhondoo.	Blackbird, Blackbird.

Mr. A. W. Moore in his *Folk-Lore of the Isle of Man*, p. 151, quotes 'a quaint fancy derived from the notes of the Blackbird's and Thrush's songs. The Blackbird whistles "*Gow as smook*," which is Anglo-Manx for "Go and smoke." The Thrush replies, "*Cha vel thumbaga aym*," "I have no tobacco," or literally, "There is no tobacco at me." To whom the Blackbird again, "*Kionney, Kionney*," "Buy, buy." The Thrush is then forced to confess, "*Cha vel ping aym*," "There is not a penny at me," and receives very bad advice, "*Gow er dayl*," "Go on trust"; but he closes the controversy by saying, "*Cha der ad dou eh*," "They won't give it me!"'

Mr. J. R. Moore, of Laxey, gives me a somewhat different version: '*Irree, Rovvin*,¹ *as gow smook! Cha nel thombaga aym. Kionn eh! Kionn eh! Cha nel ping aym. Thruss eh! Thruss eh! Thruss eh! Cha der ad thruss dou. Quit eh—eisht, Quit eh!*'

Mr. Kermodé gives me a third from the neighbourhood of Ramsey:—

'Callow Moar, Callow Moar,²
 Gow smook, Gow smook.
 Cha nel smook aym, Cha nel smook aym.
 Gow a thruss, Gow a thruss.
 Der oo thruss dou, Der oo thruss dou.
 Quit y quit, y quit!'³

¹ *i.e.* Rise, Robin!

² Callow Moar, or Great Callow, was a well-known proprietor of land at Cloughbane near Ramsey.

³ The Manx of the latter part of this is doubtless corrupt. Miss Morrison sends me two other versions from Peel, each varying a little from those given above, and being addressed to one Robin Quirk, likely well known in his time. The words were thus adapted locally.

For the legend of the Lhondoo and Ushag-reasht, see under 'Golden Plover.'

The Blackbird is abundant over the British Isles, except Shetland; its numbers in Ireland being greatly increased in winter.

TURDUS TORQUATUS, Linn. RING OUZEL.

Although the Isle of Man appears in many places well suited for its summer residence, the Ring Ouzel has never hitherto been recognised here as anything but a passing migrant. As such it is probably of regular, if not very plentiful, occurrence. Dr. Crellin, writing from Castletown on 19th June 1862, says: 'I rather think that I saw a Ring Ouzel yesterday in a small glen in the mountain near the same place (where a Twite had been obtained). There were several of them last September on this mountain. I am not certain whether they breed here or not. I will endeavour to ascertain before I return home.' But in the letters of which Mr. Moffat has copies there is no further reference. Mr. J. C. Crellin, years ago, saw numbers in the south at migration time; in September 1882 the late Mr. W. J. Cannell shot one near Port St. Mary; and on 12th September 1901, after noting one or two on the hill pasture at Scard at the head of Colby Glen, I met with a flock of twenty or thirty on the steep and rough mountain-side above Lag-ny-Keilley, which chuckling like Blackbirds and moving wildly and shyly from stone to stone, followed each other over the rock-encumbered slope to the heaths at the summit of the ridge. Mr. Kermode records one shot at the Dog Mills, Bride, in October 1878; two, 13th and 14th November 1882, in Michael; some seen at Skyhill, May

1885; one shot at Tromode, October 1884; and another at Ballure, 8th April 1886. Single specimens are recorded at the Chickens Light, 3rd October 1886, and at Langness, 10th April 1887, so that the species may be said to appear over the whole island in both spring and autumn, though, like many other species, more plentifully in the latter.

Communications recently received from Maughold, however, throw a new light on the standing of the Ring Ouzel in Man. Mr. A. Allison, who, some thirty years ago, worked Park Llewellyn, an extensive and wild tract of sheep-farm between the Cornah and Glen Auldyn valleys, says that he is certain that it regularly bred there, and that one nest in particular, without doubt belonging to the species, was situated on a dangerous slip of mine refuse at Glen Cherry. This is confirmed by Messrs. A. and T. Haddon, the present occupants of Park Llewellyn, who write me that there is no doubt whatever in the matter, Mr. T. Haddon has seen their nests and young.

The Ring Ouzel will likely be found as a resident, though sparingly, elsewhere in Man.

In Wales, in the hilly districts of the north and west of England, of Scotland, and of Ireland, the Ring Ouzel is, though in many places not abundantly, a regular summer resident. In other parts of England, and in the more remote Scottish islands, it is rare or absent as a breeding species, but is known to some extent as a migrant all over the British Isles. Mr. Service states that in Kirkcudbrightshire it is frequent; on the highlands of north-western England it is well distributed, if not very numerous; and it breeds in small numbers on the mountains of Down and Antrim, while in Donegal it is particularly abundant—in all these districts a nesting species; its rarity as such in Man is somewhat striking.

SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE (Linn.). WHEATEAR.

STONECHATTER. Manx, *Claghyn-cloie* (Cr.)=probably 'bell of the stones' (from the clinking note); *Clachan-ny-gleiee*, *Clogh-ny-cleigh* (M. S. D.)='stone of the hedge.' (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Clochirean*; Irish, *Coisin* or *Caistin cloch*.)

Common and plentiful as a passing migrant, the Wheatear is scarce as a nesting bird. A few are, however, summer residents in Man, for Mr. Kermode records a nest in a stone wall near Castletown, and Mr. Graves, in many years' experience, has seen about six in the Peel district, of which he communicates the following particulars. One of these was in the stone wall supporting a high earthen bank within the limits of the town, another in a stone wall at Ballaquane, a third in a sod hedge on the 'headlands' to the north of the bay, and a fourth on Peel Hill. In 1901 and 1902 a pair nested on Peel Castle Island within the walls; in the latter year they were, on the 19th May, building among some loose stones filling up an opening in one of the ruined buildings. Mr. Graves also states that during the whole summer of 1902 a pair seemed to remain on the 'rabbit warren' on the hill behind Knockaloe. I am told by Messrs. Allison and Haddon that the Wheatear breeds not uncommonly on the stony hillsides of the higher parts of Maughold.

On 17th February 1887 several Wheatears were noted at the Chickens Rock lighthouse, and these, with a Ring Ouzel obtained on the same day at the Longships, were, say the compilers of the *B. A. Committee's Report* (p. 23), the earliest spring migrants registered during the eight years of the Association's inquiry. 'It is,' they add, 'noteworthy to find, from the *Daily Weather Report*, that this portion of the British area was the warmest spot in



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Photo.

GLEN BARRULE.
(Park Llewellyn.)

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western Europe on the date in question.' It is, however, towards the end of March that they usually commenced to be recorded at our stations, and my own earliest date is the 28th of that month, while Mr. Kermodé gives the 19th. In April they arrive abundantly, and on 13th April 1885, seven out of numbers which all night surrounded the lantern were killed at Langness, while on the same night at the Bahama L. V. no fewer than fifty-two 'Stone-chatters' were killed or captured. This movement was felt at the Maidens and Rathlin, and in great force along the western coast of Scotland. A dead female was picked up early in the morning of 15th April 1890 in Marina Road, Douglas, having doubtless struck in its night migration over the town. During April and May many frequent our coast, but in June I have seen but few and scattered examples. In late July and in August the return journey is being made, and though by October the bird is scarce, several are reported at Langness so late as 8th November (1887).

The stay of migrating parties of Wheatears in Man is often prolonged; they appear to while away the time in their leisurely passage. They love the selvage of rough land which almost all round the island skirts the coast, and favourite localities are occupied for week after week in April and May. Such spots are the point of Scarlett, a piece of greensward interspersed with outcrops of rock and brackish pools, and on the other side of Castletown Bay, some wet salt ground, with sandy links adjoining, at the isthmus of the Langness promontory. In these bare and open but sunny spots the birds linger until nesting operations might be expected to have commenced; but as May ends they all disappear, and the place is deserted until the end of July.

Wheatears may also be seen scattered thinly over the

mountains, where they fly from post to post along the great drystone walls which cross them, or lower down, utter their hard clicking note from the high earthen fences of the pastures. Although, as I have indicated, there is no month, and indeed no date during any month of the summer, when in suitable localities a bird or two may not be seen, I am convinced that comparatively few breed in Man, and I have myself but very rarely seen one that appeared from its actions to be in the neighbourhood of its nest.

The Wheatear is one of *Ny shiaght cadlagyn*, 'the seven sleepers' of Manx folk-lore, which were supposed to hibernate.

Records as above indicated are frequent in the Migration Reports.

Although, from the nature of its haunts, a local bird in most districts, the Wheatear has a wide distribution in the British Isles, and it is a summer inhabitant of many of the most remote of them, as St. Kilda and North Rona, and is often the most noticeable of land-birds on such desolate spots. It is found on the fells and sand-hills of north-western England, on the hills, headlands, and islands of Carnarvonshire, and on Anglesea, is abundant in Kirkcudbrightshire, and a regular summer resident in northern Ireland.

PRATINCOLA RUBETRA (Linn.). WHINCHAT.

On 27th April 1897 I saw a single Whinchat, a brightly plumaged male, in a little piece of waste bushy land in the village of Laxey, between the high road and the tramway line (*Nat.*, 1897, p. 122).

In the Kelvingrove Museum at Glasgow is a good male specimen, labelled as from Point of Ayr(e), Isle of Man, and presented by Mr. W. J. Dawson. By the courtesy of the curators I learn that this bird was received on 3rd May in the same year.

On the Calf of Man, in 1901, Mr. Graves and I observed two, one in the 'Glen' and one near our cottage on the northern side of the islet. (See *Zool.*, 1901, p. 469.) Mr. Kermodé states that he has heard of it as seen by several persons, but the above appears up to the present to be the only definite records.

The Whinchat is a summer migrant, generally distributed through the three kingdoms, but absent in many Scottish districts, and in Ireland rarer and more local than in England. (In the south it is regarded by Mr. Ussher as a straggler only.) It breeds, however, locally over Ulster, and in north-western England is in some districts common. Mr. Aplin says it is quite scarce in Lley. In Kirkcudbrightshire it also occurs, but locally and not commonly. In the outlying Scottish islands it is rare or absent.

PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA (Linn.).

STONECHAT.

BLACKCAP, NICKCHICK, STONECHATTER. MANX, **Boid*¹-*y-chonnee* (Kermodé)=point of the gorse; **Bord* (? *Bird*)¹-*y-conney* or *chonnee*; *Claghyn-cloie*; *Kione-doo-ny-eeigynyn* (M. S. D.) =black head of the gorse; *Kione dhoo*, *Kione dhoo y jiggyrt* (J. R. Moore). (Cf. Irish, *Cairín aiteann*.)

This pleasant little bird is in Man, as in Ireland, very common. The isle abounds in the kind of ground suited

¹ What the first word of these names should be is perhaps somewhat uncertain.

to it—the untilled borders of the coast, the bushy strips along the course of the streams, the patches of ‘garey,’ rough and often somewhat wet land overgrown with gorse, the lines of huge and furze-beset hedging; and the mild climate of our winter is attractive to the somewhat tender nature of the Stonechat. It is found on the Calf, on the sand-hills of Orrisdale, and on the wastes of the Ayre. It appears to have suffered greatly in the dreadful winter of 1894-95, for during the following summer I did not see a single bird in the parish of Lonan, where I then lived.

In summer the Stonechat pairs take possession each of a certain gorsy area, probably the same year after year; for instance, a pair may at that season always be observed close to the ‘Silver Well’¹ on Peel Hill.

I do not know whether the individuals of this species with which we meet in the same kind of locality in winter are those which have summered with us, but the species occurs in about the same numbers, perhaps somewhat more dispersed over the country, and may be observed in somewhat unlikely situations. I have seen it in its favourite attitude on the end of a stem of tangle sticking up among the refuse of Douglas beach, and on a cabbage plant in a field outside Castletown; and Mr. Graves saw one on 23rd June 1902 perched and singing on the topmost part of the rigging between the masts of a schooner laid up in Peel harbour.

In May 1882 Stonechats are twice reported as killed at Langness lighthouse, and as the Wheatear is there well known, the identification is probably correct.

The species, in Britain well but locally distributed, occurs both on the moors and coast of north-western England, but is not generally common. It is plentiful in

¹ A holy well, so called from the offerings formerly dropped into it.



F. Izant.

CLIFFS OF PEEL HILL.

Photo.

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suitable localities in the peninsula of Lleyn and in Anglesea. On the Wigtownshire sea-margin it is stated to be abundant, but local in Kirkeudbrightshire; while in Ulster, as generally over Ireland, it is common. It is uncommon, at least as a breeding species, or altogether absent, in the islands of the Outer Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland.

RUTICILLA PHÆNICURUS (Linn.).

REDSTART.

Mr. Kermode, in his latest list, notes a few occurrences in Man of this summer visitor to Britain. One obtained many years ago, a male in fair plumage, is in the Orrisdale collection, and Mr. Kermode adds: 'Rarely seen in April, as at Ballachurry in 1886 by Mr. Crellin, and in September.' In the Kelvingrove Museum at Glasgow is a male specimen received 3rd May 1897 from Mr. W. J. Dawson, and obtained at the Point of Ayr(e), Isle of Man. These records indicate migration rather than residence.

Mr. Clyne (*Migr. Report*, 1884) records two or three Redstarts at Langness on 8th September, but see under next species, where several later records are also given.

The Redstart is generally distributed over England and Wales (rare in the extreme south-west), and more sparsely over Scotland; in north-western England it is not abundant, and local and uncommon in Galloway. In Ireland it is very rare, but within the last twenty years has been detected as breeding in Wicklow and Tyrone. Seven specimens have been obtained at the Rockabill light-station off Co. Dublin. It does not reach the Outer Hebrides except as a straggler, is scarce in Orkney, and quite exceptional in Shetland.

RUTICILLA TITYS (Scopoli). BLACK
REDSTART.

There is in the Orrisdale collection a female specimen. Mr. Crellin thinks this was obtained some twenty years ago, and probably taken in the greenhouse there.

Under date of 3rd November 1886 Mr. Robert Clyne reports to the British Association Committee from Langness lighthouse: 'Female Redstart observed at 11 A.M.'; and again on 5th December: 'A female Redstart.'

On 12th November 1887 Messrs. Black and Beggs report from the Chickens light: 'Found Redstart killed on the dome.'

In connection with the first two occurrences, it is to be remarked that a Black Redstart was killed at the Nash light, near Cardiff, on 29th October 1886, on 12th November one noted at Carlisle, and on 21st January 1887 one shot at Towyn, Wales, and in November 1886 the species is twice reported from Tuskar, Wexford. On 23rd October 1887 one was killed at Arklow S. light-ship. The Manx specimens seem unfortunately not to have been preserved or submitted for identification, but the dates render it likely that they belonged to the same species.

The only certain record of the bird on Man of which particulars are known is that of Mr. Kermode, in whose collection is a specimen, one of two which on 31st January 1895 (in the winter of the great snowfall) were seen flying about 'The Shipyard' at Ramsey. One of these was shortly afterwards caught, and died after a few days' confinement. It is a male in full plumage. (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 518.)

The Redstarts noted at Langness under the last heading may also have been *R. titys*, but the date in that case is in keeping with the migration time of *R. phoenicurus*.

The Black Redstart, a common *summer* resident in France and Germany, winters in small numbers on the south and south-west coasts of England, and in Ireland, even on its isolated western islets. Stragglers have been obtained both in Cumberland and Lancashire.

ERITHACUS RUBECULA (Linn.).

REDBREAST.

Manx, *Cleeau-yiarg* ; *Robin cleeau-yiarg* = Redbreast.

The Robin is common at all seasons, and here, as elsewhere, enlivens with his song the autumn, winter, and early spring. It is well distributed, and is found in the deep shaded glens which few birds inhabit. It nests early in April. A nest at Onchan some ten years ago contained four pure white eggs and one of the ordinary type.

The Robin is not unknown at the Manx light-stations. On 9th October 1885 numbers, along with Thrushes and Fieldfares, are recorded at the Chickens.

I have seen the Redbreast hawking after insects from an elevated perch in the manner of a Flycatcher, as recorded by Mr. Ussher from Irish observation.

Mr. Crellin says that after a fight between two Robins at Orrisdale, which ended in the death of one of the combatants, the dead bird was found to have his beak 'pulled out.'

It is a common resident all over the main British Isles, and breeds in Orkney and some of the larger Outer Hebrides, but not on the smaller and more remote isles, and is known in Shetland only as a rather scarce visitor.

SYLVIA CINEREA, Bechstein.
WHITETHROAT.

A fairly common summer visitor to the lower parts of the island, the Whitethroat is probably increasing in numbers. I have notes of it from localities all over the country, and in some of these it is plentiful. We observed a good many on the Calf in places where there were bushes. It is twice reported from Langness in April and May.

Dr. Crellin mentions this bird apparently as the 'White-beard,' but I have not heard the name used.

The Whitethroat is widely spread in summer over all the British Isles, and is one of the most abundant and well distributed of warblers in Ireland. It has lately been discovered breeding in Lewis and one or two other of the Outer Hebrides; in Orkney and Shetland it is a straggler only.

[*SYLVIA CURRUCA* (Linn.). LESSER
WHITETHROAT.

At a meeting of the Isle of Man Natural History Society, held 28th June 1893, Mr. Kermode stated that Mr. Kennard had reported to him having seen this species at Laxey and Peel (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 84), and in his latest list (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 518) states, 'is, I think, a regular visitor.'

This species is a summer migrant to England, becoming scarce in the west. (It does not seem to occur in at least the west of Carnarvonshire, but Mr. Coward heard two in song near Beaumaris.—Oldham, *in lit.*) It is very local in

Scotland, while its occurrence in the Outer Hebrides,¹ Orkney, and Shetland is doubtful. Two specimens only have been obtained in Ireland. It occurs very casually in Galloway; in Cumberland and Lancashire it breeds locally.]

SYLVIA HORTENSIS, Bechstein. GARDEN
WARBLER.

The Manx status of this bird is very uncertain. In his earlier list (1880) Mr. Kermode notes it as 'Summer Migrant,' but in that of 1901 he altogether omits it.

In May 1900 Mr. Graves identified a specimen among the bushes in the 'Glen' on the Calf of Man, where we noted a number of other summer migrants.

The Garden Warbler is distributed, not abundantly, over north-western England. Mr. Aplin 'saw none' in Lleyn, and it is scarce in Anglesea, where the Blackcap is not uncommon (Oldham). It occurs in Galloway in very varying numbers in different years (Service), and in Ireland breeds locally here and there, for instance, in Co. Down. It hardly reaches the outlying Scottish isles.

REGULUS CRISTATUS, Koch. GOLDCREST.

Manx, *Ushag fuygh* or *Ushag y fuygh* = bird of the
wood or timber.

This is, in winter at least, a very abundant species, found wherever there are trees. While other birds haunt the edges of the leafless larch plantations, the little parties of Gold-

¹ One example has, however, been obtained there since writing as above.

crests, with perhaps one or two Chaffinches or Great Tits, wander fitfully through them, their thin jarring notes falling constantly on the ear, and their movements showing all the careless familiarity characteristic of this tiny bird. In the larger fir-woods, such as those at Skyhill, Injebreck, 'Laxey Glen,' and Rhenass, it is very abundant; but almost every little clump of timber has its inhabitants, and they flit along the alder and gorse bushes by the stream sides, through the ash-trees about the ruined cottage, amid the lilacs and fuchsias on the cottage frontage in the village street, or the foreign pine-tree on the lawn of the villa in the suburbs of the town. In summer they are perhaps less common, yet their nest is found in many localities. Mr. Graves found a nest built under a witch's broom on a birch at Thornton, Douglas. A few are reported both in spring and autumn at Langness and the Chickens, and once at Douglas Head, but they do not appear numerous at our lights. In September I have seen them among the stone walls and bare coast-rocks of Scarlett, searching their crevices for insects, as in a wood they search the branches and foliage.

Generally distributed in Britain. In Galloway and Cumberland the Goldcrest is most numerous in winter, and the same applies to Ireland, where, however, it is at all seasons very common, more so than in England. It migrates over Orkney and Shetland, in the former of which it has bred; stragglers only reach the Outer Hebrides.

PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS (Bechstein).

CHIFFCHAFF.

A too hasty remark by the writer in the *Zoologist* of 1892 on the absence of the Chiffchaff drew from Mr. C. B. Moffat the statement (p. 146) that on 18th April 1882 he had

heard and seen the species in full song in the Nunnery grounds near Douglas, and that in the spring of 1874 Mr. J. D. Moffat had recognised the song near Bemahague.

Mr. Kermode, in his earlier list (1880), also omitted the bird, but in 1901 he notes it as a regular summer visitor, not numerous. It may probably be added that it is local. The bird itself is not easily distinguished from its near allies, but its reiterated note, by courtesy called a song, is unmistakable. Of late years I have heard it at Ballure, near Ramsey, at Rhenass (once on 10th April, my earliest date), and at Rhenab Glen; and there is a specimen in the Isle of Man Natural History Society's collection at Ramsey. Mr. Leach tells me he has frequently met with it in the grounds of the Nunnery, Douglas, and also in Groudle Glen, where he has found its nest. Mr. Cottier has eggs taken in the neighbourhood of Sulby. He knew of one nest only.

Mr. Kermode notes it as early as 19th March and as late as 25th September.

Towards the north and west a diminishing species, it is but sparingly distributed in the nearest English counties, and is scarce in Galloway; in Ireland it is now well distributed and increasing. It has seldom occurred in any of the outlying groups of Scottish islands.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.).

WILLOW WARBLER.

WHITE WREN, TOMTIT. Manx, *Drein vane* = White Wren.

These names are of somewhat vague application, and 'White Wren' seems sometimes to denote a mythical variety of the Common Wren. Mitchell gives 'White Wren' for the Willow Warbler in Lancashire.

This is one of the few summer visitors which are pretty plentiful in Man. Without being a conspicuous or well-known bird, this warbler frequents most, if not all, of our wooded districts, and the sweet but melancholy song, familiar to but few, sounds in many of our larch woods abundantly in the month of May. It is plentiful in the willow hedges of the Curragh, there meriting its English name. At the time of migration the Willow Warbler may sometimes be seen among the heath and gorse of the coast brows, but does not habitually reside in such places. On the Calf of Man we observed a few in May 1901, but though there are some bushy localities on the islet which might shelter a few pairs, these birds were very shy and unsettled, and gave the impression of birds of passage entirely out of their proper surroundings.

The Willow Warbler is on various occasions recorded at Langness in the end of March (in 1886, one on 24th, an early date), in April and May. Mr. Graves heard the song at Ballamoar on 11th April (1903).

The Willow Warbler is plentiful almost all over Britain. In Ireland, as in the Isle of Man, it is 'one of the commonest summer visitants.' In the parts of England and Scotland nearest to us it abounds. It has colonised such woods as are to be found in Lewis and Harris, and has reached Orkney and Shetland, though in the latter, at least, only as a migrant.

PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX (Bechstein).

WOOD WARBLER.

This species was unrecorded for the Isle of Man until Mr. F. S. Graves stated in the *Zoologist* for 1902 (p. 23)

that on 29th May 1901 he listened to its song in Rhenass Glen, which has one of the most extensive wooded stretches in Man, and was planted perhaps sixty years ago.

In many later visits to this glen Mr. Graves and I have failed to meet with the bird, but on 20th May 1905 the former again heard a Wood Warbler at Ballamoar, Patrick, and on the same day I found to my surprise a number in full song in Ballacowle (commonly called 'Elfin') Glen, just outside Ramsey. At this beautiful place the steep sides of the little ravine, covered with a growth of hyacinth, tall male ferns, and wild raspberry bushes, are wooded with a mixed plantation of oaks and Scotch firs of considerable age and size, to which these warblers seem entirely confined. From the next (Crossags) glen, of a very similar character, but in which, though it has a number of oaks, Scotch firs are wanting, they are apparently absent.

The Wood Warbler is said to breed in all the counties of England and Wales, and in many Scottish districts; is rare and local in Ireland, but breeds annually in Wicklow in just such ravines as the above-mentioned Rhenass. In the north-west of England it is local (it extends sparingly to west Carnarvonshire and Anglesea), nor is it common in Galloway. It is said to be spreading in the Highlands, but has not reached the Scottish islands.

ACROCEPHALUS PHRAGMITIS (Bechstein).

SEDGE WARBLER.

MOCKING BIRD.

The Sedge Warbler was long overlooked as a Manx bird. It is not noticed in Mr. Kermodé's earlier published list.

There are, however, two specimens, probably forty years old, at Orrisdale. About 1886 Mr. F. S. Graves observed it about the 'dubs' at Ballalough, German. Since then I have met with it along the borders of the Dhoo and Glass, on the Onchan Sulby, on the (northern) Sulby near Ramsey, at Lough Cranstal, and in Ballaugh Curragh, where it is abundant, and, as I am informed by Mr. J. B. Keig, has acquired the name of 'Mocking Bird.' In the Peel district Mr. Graves further heard and saw it in the Congary swamp on 21st May 1902, and on the same date observed another in full song on the banks of the little stream near Kirk Patrick Church. Still it is likely not universal in suitable localities. In the neighbourhood of Castletown, where some of the streams and ditches, slow and surrounded by thick herbage, seem well adapted to its habits, it seems to occur but very scarcely, and has perhaps only recently made its appearance.

On 22nd April 1885 ten are recorded at Langness at night, and again on 10th April 1886, numbers; and on 10th May 1886 it is reported together with Willow Warblers and Whitethroats (all identified). On 12th May 1904 Mr. A. Burnett sent me a specimen killed at the same station the night before. About the same time Mr. F. Nicholson picked up another at Hillberry, Onchan, which had likely been killed by striking on migration the wires of the Douglas-Ramsey telephone.

Mr. Kermode thinks that to this species should be referred the occasional reports of 'nightingale's' songs in the Isle of Man.

The Sedge Warbler, a well-distributed species, is abundant in the opposite districts of England, Scotland, and Ireland. It nests in Orkney, but does not reach Shetland, and has once only been recorded from the Outer Hebrides.



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

SULBY RIVER, NEAR RAMSEY.

Photo.

To face page 28.

LOCUSTELLA NÆVIA (Boddært) GRASS-
HOPPER WARBLER.

A specimen was reported on 22nd April 1885 at Langness lighthouse by Mr. Clyne (? authenticated. Mr. Clyne was sending at this time wings, etc., of specimens taken).

This seems to have been all that had been recorded about the species in Man until the Messrs. Graves and the writer made on 30th May 1903 the interesting discovery that it is common on the Curragh at Ballaugh, where a number were heard singing from the clumps of willow bushes on the wet and turfy waste.

Immediately after I recognised the song in the low-land of the central valley near Ballacraine (*Zool.*, 1903, p. 313), and on 28th May 1904 Mr. H. Graves heard it in the Curragh at Greeba. All these districts are of the same nature, damp meadow-land merging into turfy swamp, with hedges and clusters of willow forming often a close tangle of low bushy vegetation. From these sounds the monotonous trilling note, a minute and insect-like sound, yet penetrating, and heard to a very considerable distance. In the Ballaugh Curragh we often heard several at the same time.

Mr. Leaman, whose description of the 'song' cannot be mistaken, tells me that he has heard it both at Foxdale and along the wet and bushy stream sides of the Dhoon neighbourhood, where he says the boys used to debate whether the unseen performer could be a bird.

The Grasshopper Warbler is well, though locally, distributed over most parts of Great Britain and Ireland. It is said to be extending its Scottish range, but has not been detected in the outer islands.

ACCENTOR MODULARIS (Linn.). HEDGE SPARROW.

ROUGH WRAN, LITTLE THRUSH, BLUE BUNTIE. Manx, *Dreimollagh* = Rough Wren, rendered by Cregeen, 'the bird tomtit'; **Ushag-Keeir* = Grey Bird; **Boght-Keeir*, **Bo'heeir* = Poor Grey (Bird).

Here, as throughout the British Isles, abundant and familiar, the Hedge Sparrow is well known to every Manx boy by one or other of the above sometimes irrational names. Mr. Crellin, writing in 1893, thinks, however, that in the north of the island the bird is becoming scarce. Mr. Kermode also believes that it has within the last twenty or thirty years grown less common. Wherever there is cultivation or habitation, however, I see it, and in the end of May 1901 we met with a pair on the Calf of Man in the neighbourhood of our cottage, which already had young on the wing. It nests usually in April, sometimes earlier.

Stay-at-home bird as it appears, it is not unknown at our lighthouses, where single specimens are several times reported. According to the Migration Report for 1881, numbers appeared at the Point of Ayre in the autumn of that year, a hundred being reported on 5th September, but there may be a doubt as to the species on those occasions intended by Hedge Sparrow.

The species is found, perhaps sparingly, in the Outer Hebrides and Orkneys; it is a straggler in Shetland. It reaches some of the most desolate of the Irish isles.

CINCLUS AQUATICUS, Bechstein. DIPPER.

Manx, **Lhondhoo-ny-Hawin* = Blackbird of the stream; *Lhon Ushtey* = Water Thrush.

Mr. Henry Cadman, who as a fisherman had long and intimate acquaintance with the many beautiful streams of the Isle of Man, says in his pleasant book of fishing reminiscences, 'There are not any Water Ouzels in Man.' The experience of the present writer was long the same, for until 1903 he had never seen a living Manx specimen of the bird, although sometimes for years almost daily in neighbourhoods which it might be expected to frequent.

Yet the remark cannot have been strictly accurate. In both his lists Mr. Kermode classes it as perhaps resident in small numbers, and in the second states that he has seen it during the winter months.

'Philornis' (1867) says that several Water Ouzels frequented a little trout stream in his neighbourhood, and though his account is very faulty, he can hardly be mistaken in this, as he states that he shot one of them.

In 1890 there was in Mr. Adams's hands a specimen which had been obtained (in October) on the Silverburn. At the Ginger Hall Hotel at Sulby Bridge is a stuffed specimen killed in that neighbourhood, another at Orrisdale; and one presented about 1894, by Mr. Kermode, is with two others in the Isle of Man Natural History Society's collection at Ramsey.

These might be passing migrants, but Mr. J. R. Moore, of Laxey, gave me the Manx name '*Lhondhoo-ny-Hawin*' as that of a bird well known, at one time at least, in Lonan, and having made some inquiries for me, reported that 'there used to be one in the glen above Snaefell Mines,' that is, the head of the main Laxey Glen. It also frequented

'Egypt' in East Baldwin, and the Lhingey woar (Great Pool) at Cornah (all very suitable localities). 'Several persons,' Mr. Moore wrote, 'have seen it now and again up to the time of the big snow (1895). None of my friends have seen one since.' But he afterwards reported that a nest was built in Glen Drink, near Agneash, in 1897. Mr. Fargher, of Cronk-e-Chule, also tells me that the 'Lhondhoo-ny-Hawin,' a black bird with a white breast, lived around streams and the ditches in 'moaneys' (turf-wastes), and such places. He showed me a little waterfall in the glen between his house and 'Laxey Wheel,' where Dippers regularly nested (so he believed, for he did not actually see the nests). This stream was not at that time, as now, polluted by mine refuse. This fouling of the water might perhaps account for its disappearance from certain places, but the island has never lacked abundance of clean streams.¹ Further, the Messrs. Haddon, of Park Llewellyn, who are well acquainted with the Dipper, have several times found it nesting on the Cornah stream,² and have also met with it on the Glen Foss rivulet, which after heavy rain descends in one white continuous fall from the high moorland of Slieu Lhean into Laxey river between Agneash and Snaefell.

In July 1901 Mr. W. J. C. Joughin observed a Dipper high up the Rhenass stream, and at Easter, 1903, Mr. F. S. Graves and I saw a pair here, and an unfinished nest which was never afterwards completed was found on a face of rock over the stream near Little London. Mr. Graves saw the birds again in June, and they doubtless nested in the

¹ 'God,' says Blundell, 'hath gratified the island(s) with excellent fresh water, so pure and pleasant to y^e taste of necessitated passengers, as y^t I have heard them protest y^t in their opinion there was not anything in this Island y^t equalled y^e goodness of their water.' Our many beautiful rivulets still deserve this praise.

² In several instances under bridges crossing that water. A Dipper's nest has been placed even beneath Corraney Bridge, which carries the Douglas-Ramsey highroad across the stream.



F. S. Graves.

HAUNT OF THE DIPPER.
(Rhenass stream.)

Photo.

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vicinity, and he again observed them several times in 1904, in which year (3rd September) he met with one also on Glenmay stream.

Generally distributed in mountainous parts of the British Isles, the Dipper is common on the mountain streams of Ireland; it is abundant in Galloway, and frequent in suitable localities in north-western England. Mr. Aplin found it, not commonly, in Lley. Mr. Coward found a nest in Anglesea in 1904, the only time, as Mr. Oldham writes me, that he and his colleague have met with the bird on that island. In Orkney and Shetland it is scarcely known, but it breeds on some at least of the Outer Hebrides, where, however, it is perhaps rare.

ACREDULA ROSEA (Blyth).

BRITISH LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE.

The appearance and nidification of this species are both so distinctive that it can hardly be said that it is for lack of observation that it is not better known in Man.

Two specimens obtained near Douglas in 1877, out of a flock of about eight, and which were in the possession of Mr. Graves, seem to have been the earliest known to have occurred. In December 1882, as recorded by Mr. Kermode, Mr. Colquhoun shot one near Douglas, out of a flock of twenty. The *Manx Sun* reported another specimen procured about the same town in the following spring.

In May 1886 the late Mr. T. H. Kinvig, of Castletown, informed Mr. Kermode that there was a nest in his garden there,¹ and 'the nest has since been taken at Glenduff,

¹ I think that this statement, however, is very likely the result of some misunderstanding. The sudden and regretted death of Mr. Kinvig has prevented its verification or otherwise.

Lezayre,' in which parish Mr. Kermode states the species was first noticed in 1890. In November 1893 Mr. Adams had in his hands a local specimen, and on Christmas day in that year I saw a party of half a dozen in the plantations near Tromode. On 18th February 1895 Mr. Crellin observed some, and Mr. Kermode, since its first record in Lezayre, has several times heard of it there during the winter. Mr. Leach (1903) says that he has three times met with it near Douglas. Though perhaps increasing, at least as a winter visitor, it is evidently still uncommon.

Though a pretty general species in Great Britain, it is practically unknown in the further islands of Scotland. In Ireland generally it is well distributed, and probably increasing. It is resident both in Galloway and north-western England, being in the latter at least more numerous in winter. Mr. Aplin has met with it in Lleyn in winter, and also in one instance in summer, and heard of it as common in one locality.

PARUS MAJOR, Linn. GREAT TITMOUSE.

BLACKCAP.

Until recently this was the only Tit that could fairly be called common in the island; it is well distributed, frequenting the neighbourhood of houses, shrubberies, gardens, and hedges, and mixing in plantations with Chaffinches and Goldcrests. Here, as elsewhere, it nests sometimes in curious situations, gaining it the notoriety of a newspaper paragraph. Mr. W. A. Stevenson tells me that in 1904 it bred in an old cannon on his lawn at Ballakeigan, a relic of the disastrous wreck on Langness, in 1867, of the *James Crossfield*. Mr. Allison relates that for many years a nest was regularly placed in the letter-box at Ballaglass, Maug-

hold, a piece of wood being put into it to protect the bird from being struck by the letters. Mr. Graves remarks that on the only two occasions on which he has found Manx nests they were in holes in stone walls.

In 1862 Dr. Crellin writes to Mr. More that the Great Titmouse 'had not been in the island, I think I may safely say, more than thirty years, before which time I think it was not known here at all.' I find no further material either to confirm or qualify this very interesting statement. The Great Tit appears to be a very stationary species.

The Great Titmouse is common through Great Britain and Ireland in general. It is almost unknown in the outer Scottish isles.

PARUS BRITANNICUS, Sharpe and Dresser.

BRITISH COAL TITMOUSE.

This species does not seem to have been mentioned as Manx until 1896, when the writer detected little parties, with Great Tits and Goldcrests, in the fir plantations above Laxey, where they continued for at least a great part of the winter. In the same winter Mr. Crellin observed some at Ballachurry, Andreas, and Mr. Kermode states that he has seen it since at Cloughbane, near Ramsey, so late in 1901 as May. Mr. Graves noticed one, the first he had seen in Man, in the grounds of Thornton, Douglas, in the company of a Blue Tit, on 24th September 1898. Mr. C. H. B. Grant noted the species in Lezayre in December 1900. Mr. Leach meets with it in increasing numbers in the neighbourhood of Douglas (1903). In April 1903 and again in April 1904 Mr. Graves and I saw a few in the larch plantations above Rhenass fall.

It has not as yet been known to nest, and its numbers

are probably small; this being one of the species which are likely establishing themselves with the increase of our plantations.

I am not competent to discuss the separation of the species or forms of the Coal Tit, but I may remark that Mr. Graves and I noticed the pure grey colour of the Manx specimens at Laxey and Rhenass.

Where localities are suitable the Coal Tit is generally pretty abundant in Britain and in Ireland, where, an increasing species, it follows the growth of woods. It does not reach the treeless outer isles of Scotland. Mr. Aplin seldom observed it in Lley. It occurs in Anglesea, not abundantly.

PARUS CÆRULEUS, Linn. BLUE TITMOUSE.

The absence of the familiar 'maup' of English gardens was one of the points noted by Bishop Wilson in his brief zoological survey of the island (*Manx Soc.*, xviii. 93).

Mr. C. B. Moffat (*Zool.*, 1892, 147) says that Mr. J. D. Moffat occasionally saw the bird in the neighbourhood of Onchan between 1872 and 1874. Mr. Graves believes that he saw it at Peel as early as 1876. Since 1894, in which year Mr. Kermode presented a Manx specimen to the Natural History Society's Museum at Ramsey, it has been regularly observed. Thus in February 1895 Mr. J. C. Crellin observed it at Ballachurry, Andreas, and in succeeding years he continues to note it in that district, and points out its increase (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 381, 492). Mr. H. S. Clarke reported it as nesting in 1896 in the garden of Sulby Parsonage (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 197). In September 1898 Mr. Graves saw one at Thornton, Douglas. In March 1899

Mr. Graves and I observed two at Ballamoar, Patrick; and since then I have noted it at Castletown,¹ Silverburn, and at Mullin-e-Quinney (Malew), at Ballacain, Jurby, and in the Bishop's Court Glen and other northern localities; while Mr. Graves reports it on a number of occasions in the western part of the central valley, sometimes three or four together, and on 17th May 1902 many times observed a Blue Tit going to its nest in a dead tree near the mill at the above-mentioned Ballamoar. Mr. Leach says that it is now common in the Douglas district, and he saw more in the winter of 1902-3 than ever before. It is therefore now to be regarded as distributed all over the island, and probably quickly increasing.

The Blue Tit is generally common over the British Isles. It has rarely been observed, however, in the outlying Scottish islands.

TROGLODYTES PARVULUS, K. L. Koch.

WREN.

JINNIE, JINNIE WRAN. Manx, **Drein, Drean* (M. S. D. and Cr.); *Dreeain* (M. S. D.). (Cf. Irish, *Dreathan, Dreoilin*; Sc. Gaelic, *Dreollan, Drethein*.)

Without being really numerous, the Wren is common and well distributed in Man. Its haunts are very varied, a certain amount of shelter alone being essential, and the hardy little bird is at home among the heather and brambles overhanging the course of the mountain stream

¹ Since this was first written the Blue Tit has become quite frequent in Castletown, and may be seen every day in the gardens and on the trees planted on the Parade.

through the rocky ravine, amidst the boulders and bracken of the rough hillside, and in the rock-fissures of the wild coast, as well as in the neglected garden hedge with its mossy hawthorn stumps, or the farm-steading, where in winter it finds its food. A steep, shaded, and overhung bank is perhaps its favourite home.

In August 1881 Mr. Graves found a nest at Crosby with four fresh eggs. He has been told by Mr. W. J. Clague that for twelve consecutive years there was a nest in a hole by the lintel near the back door of his house at Ballabeg. Mr. Kermode mentions a white specimen at Tholt-e-Will in 1899.

A Wren is noted at Langness lighthouse, 10th March 1885, another on 22nd April 1886, and four or five Wrens, 17th October 1885; while large flocks of migrants reported from the Chickens from 8th to 12th of same month are stated to have been partly composed of this species (?).

The quaint personality of the Wren is with us associated with the curious celebration on 26th December, for a more detailed discussion of which the reader may be referred to Mr. Moore's *Folk-Lore of the Isle of Man*, p. 133, *et seq.* I will only quote the brief account (there copied from *Manx Society*, vol. xxi.) by the late William Harrison.

'This custom is still kept upon St. Stephen's day, chiefly by boys, who at early dawn¹ sally out armed with long sticks, beating the bushes until they find one of these birds, when they commence the chase with great shoutings, following it from bush to bush, and when killed it is suspended in a garland of ribbons, flowers, and evergreens. The procession then commences, carrying that "King of

¹ Townley (1789) says: 'If they can catch or kill the poor Wren before sunrise, they firmly believe that it ensures a good herring fishing the next season.' (Vol. i. p. 311.)



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Photo.

'HUNT THE WREN.'

(Ramsey, 1904.)

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E. Broadhead.

'HUNT THE WREN.'

(Douglas, 1904.)

Photo.

To face page 38.

Birds," as the Druids called it, from house to house, soliciting contributions, and giving a *feather* for luck. These are considered an effectual preservative from shipwreck, and some fishermen will not venture out to sea without having first provided themselves with a few of these feathers to ensure their safe return. The "dreadin" or Wren's feathers are considered an effectual preservative against witchcraft. It was formerly the custom in the evening to inter the naked body with great solemnity in a secluded corner of the churchyard, and conclude the evening with wrestling and all manner of sports.'

During the last thirty years the performers have been more frequently without the Wren than otherwise, it no doubt being found that tender-hearted householders refused their contributions to parties with a dead bird. The custom, which at the commencement of that period was universal throughout the isle, has now to some extent died out, and has lost many of its peculiar features.

Yet the writer, in passing through Onchan on the morning of 26th December 1903, saw no fewer than five 'Hunt the Wrens' in that village, and in 1902 they were quite numerous in Douglas. As the result of more particular inquiries in 1904, he finds that there were in that year many parties in Douglas, and some also at Peel, Port St. Mary, and Kirk Michael. At Ramsey Mr. Cowen thinks the custom almost extinct, and the little party photographed by him the only one. At Castletown there were about four.

The doggerel verses, always sung in English within the writer's recollection, and it would seem for long before, will be found, with the air to which they are sung, in Mr. Moore's above-cited work, also in his *Manx Ballads*, pp. 64, 252, and arranged in Mr. W. H. Gill's *Manx National Songs*, p. 62. For comparison with the observance corresponding in

France, Ireland, and Wales, compare Yarrell, 4th ed., i. 465, Rolland, *Faune Populaire*, ii. 295. Its origin is quite unknown; the words sung here are doubtless comparatively modern.

The following folk-lore tale about the Wren is given by Mr. C. Roeder in *Isle of Man Examiner*, 5th April 1902 :—

YN DREAN (THE WREN).

‘(81) Keayrt dy row va ny ushagyn chaglym dy hoil-jaghey da y chooilley cre obbraghyn va’d son yannoo. Va’d loayrt unnane eck cheayrt, ginsh guoid dy eean va’d troggal, as cre cha mie va’d laboragh. Tra haink yn drean beg dy nish cre foddagh ee jannoo, dooyrt ee :—

“Myr s’beg mee hene, myr keyl my chass,
Un eean jeig ver ym lesh ass.”

‘The birds all met together once upon a time to tell of all the great things they could do. They were speaking one at a time, saying how many young they were rearing, and how good they were labouring. When the little wren came to tell what he could do, he said :—

“Though I am light and my leg is small,
Eleven chicks I bring out for all.”

That’s what the old people were saying.’

The well-known folk-tale about the Wren obtaining the kingdom of the birds by mounting above the Eagle in flight was, Miss Morrison writes me, told her by an old woman who had it from her mother in Manx.

The Wren is common all over the British Isles, extending over to the most remote, as Foula and St. Kilda. The form occurring in the latter is by some considered specifically distinct.

MOTACILLA ALBA, Linn. WHITE WAGTAIL.

Mr. J. Townsend, of Prestwich, writes me: 'While staying a few days at Port Erin in the spring of 1899 I saw a pair of White Wagtails (*M. alba*), and duly reported same in the *Field* for April 29, 1899.'

On 19th May 1892 Mr. Graves saw on Peel shore a Wagtail 'which agreed in every detail with a specimen of the White Wagtail in his collection. The back and neck were distinctly grey, and the white on the head was very marked.'

On 3rd May 1903 I observed about twelve mature birds on the shingle of Castletown Bay just above high-water mark, where they remained for at least a week, feeding among the cast-up and decaying wrack.

These are, as far as I am aware, the only records.

The White Wagtail, one of the few small birds which are summer residents in Iceland and Faroe, is met with regularly in many parts of Britain, including the west of Ireland and some of the Hebrides. It occurs both in Lancashire and Cumberland, and in Galloway is observed almost every spring by Mr. Service; but its exact distribution is rendered uncertain by the difficulty of distinguishing it from the next and common species, of which it is the continental representative. As, however, it is traced on migration from Cornwall along the Welsh coast to the Solway and Clyde areas and the Hebrides, its occurrence on the Isle of Man is doubtless regular.

MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS, Temminck.
PIED WAGTAIL.

Manx, **Ushag-vreck* (M. S. D.) = pied bird. (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Briccin*.)
Skibbag-ny-vulten (M. S. D.); *Ushag-voltee* (Cr.).

Common as a resident, this familiar bird is probably much more abundant as a migrant. Mr. Moffat (*Zool.*, 1892, p. 147) says: 'On the 12th September 1891 I saw hundreds of Pied Wagtails in immature plumage haunting the margin of Castletown Bay; I had seen no such hosts of them in Ireland since 1874.' It is frequent about our yards and enclosures, and in the quieter streets of our towns, in winter; and in spring, as noted by Mr. Kermode, it is a favourite with farmers, 'who used to await its appearance before beginning to plough. Only a few years ago a farmer in Andreas started out to plough and put back again because the Wagtail had not come.' Its eager accompaniment of the ploughman, a pretty sight, is commemorated in the lines, likely a fragment, supplied me by Mr. J. R. Moore:—

'Ván ulliag¹-vreck cheet geiyrt er
Craa famman ayns y chree.'

('The wagtail was coming following after (him), shaking (his) tail in the (joy of his) heart.')

It is reported at Langness usually in March and September, on one occasion a large flock. In 1884, as early as 31st August, one hundred birds, which Mr. Clyne took to be young, were seen all day.

In the north-west of England the Pied Wagtail is in general a summer visitant, few remaining during winter; while in Galloway it is stated to be, as with us, more

¹ In Lonan 'ullilag' is said for 'ushag.'

common in the latter season. In Ireland, though partially migratory, it is plentiful at both seasons. It occurs, but sparingly, in the outer Scottish isles, in some of which it breeds.

MOTACILLA MELANOPE, Pallas.

GREY WAGTAIL.

This beautiful bird is for much of the year thinly scattered over the island, frequenting the surroundings of rapid streams, and also in autumn and winter often seen in villages. I have noticed it among the houses of Castletown; Mr. Kermodé also has seen it in the towns. The Pied Wagtail is frequent among the refuse of the beach, but the Grey Wagtail does not often seem to feed on the shore. Mr. Graves has, however, seen one so engaged at Dalby on 15th July 1901. At Laxey it is to be found impartially on the mine-polluted stream which flows through the village, on the stainless water of its Glenroy tributary, and on the little ditches which drain the tramway line.

In summer it becomes decidedly scarce. I have myself no experience of it in the island between April and 23rd August, but I have been told of it nesting in a hole in a building at Groudle, and have seen Manx eggs undoubtedly belonging to this species. Mr. Allison tells me that it has nested in various localities in Maughold, one nest being in a hole in a ruined house.¹

Mr. Graves has also seen the Grey Wagtail, on 6th July 1902, on the Neb at Rhenass, where one was seated on 'the tip of a small dead fir, by turns singing a few notes and

¹ Since the above was written Dr. Cassal has shown me a nesting site in a wall beside Ballaugh river in the village of the same name, and Mr. W. Cottier another in the 'wheel-case' of a mill in Sulby Glen.

preening its feathers'; and on the 19th May in the same year he observed 'three young birds, just out of the nest, being tended by the male parent, which had brought them food in his beak.' 'These,' Mr. Graves adds, 'were on the rocks just below the fall in Glen Meay, and could not have been far away from the nest. This is an ideal nesting place for the species. Very beautiful they all looked, their clear bright colours standing out well against the dark rock. I remained for some time watching them, and although the tails of the young were quite short, they were able to fly well.'

In Britain the Grey Wagtail is a local, and never numerous, bird, breeding mostly in the hilly districts. In Ireland it is widely spread, though not abundant. It breeds on the mountain streams of all the districts nearest us in that country, Scotland, and England. Mr. Aplin saw one or two pairs only in Lley in summer, and a few in winter; it is apparently scarce in Anglesea. It has seldom been recorded in the Outer Hebrides, but breeds in Orkney, and in Shetland it is a scarce bird of passage.

ANTHUS PRATENSIS (Linn.). MEADOW
PIPIT.

Manx, **Tweet*, **Billy-yn-tweet*, **Ushag-veet*, **Ushag-y-veet*,
**Cheet* or *Chit-veg* (names expressing the note).

This is one of the very common and familiar birds of the island, abundant on every bit of grassy waste, and in summer at least extending up to or nearly to its very highest ground; on the mountain-land it is often the only species met with over miles of country. On the selvages of the coast its domain overlaps that of the Rock Pipit. It

is common on the Calf. Its restless motions and frequently repeated, though slight note, often draw to it an attention which would not be attracted by its unobtrusive plumage. The nest, concealed under a tuft of grass, is made early in May. Out of the nesting season it is sometimes loosely gregarious, and numbers may be met with in a small compass of grass-land. Like many other small birds it also searches the rubbish and decaying weed of the shore for insects, but it is not a true rock-inhabitant like *A. obscurus*. It is noted at both Langness and the Chickens in autumn; sometimes 'a large number,' 'very many,' 'large flock.' Mr. Kermode observes that in crossing to the island in October 1883 he saw seven on passage resting on the steamer, and Mr. Graves, in crossing from Liverpool, saw one which alighted on the steamer's deck, and ran fearlessly among the passengers and the deck-chairs seeking for food. It refused, however, some bread crumbs which were thrown to it.

The Meadow Pipit is pre-eminently a bird of desolate places, and is found over the Scottish isles, even on St. Kilda, and on the remote islets of western Ireland, in which country generally it is abundant, as in England and Scotland.

ANTHUS OBSCURUS (Latham). ROCK PIPIT.

SEA LARK.

In its peculiar locality the Rock Pipit is just as common as the last named. All along the rocky coast, high or low, it is abundant, among the little crags and sea-pink swards of Scarlett, on the tide-rocks at the foot of the great cliffs of Bradda and Spanish Head, and far amid the gloom of

cavernous recesses, as the Ooig Mooar and the 'Hall,' near the Chasms, where it flits high over the deep green water that fills the cave. It flies and runs about the piers and sea-walls of Douglas, and seeks its food among the pools and little weedy reefs below them, in company with Ringed Plovers and Purple Sandpipers, a very tame and familiar but little-noticed bird. The dull colouring of its plumage blends well with the dark olive of the wracks (*Fuci*) which cover the tide-rocks; had it the striking colours of the Robin or Chaffinch, it would likely be one of the favourite birds of the country.

The Rock Pipit cannot be said to be gregarious, and it is rare to find more than one or two together.

By the middle of March the Rock Pipit is in full song, and may constantly, as described by Mr. Graves, be seen rising from its perch on a rock, clump of grass, or fence, to a short distance in the air, and then, with outspread and quivering wings, descending, still singing, to its perch again, where the song is finished. Mr. Graves has seen two in full song from a wire fence within a hundred yards of each other.

The nest is formed in nooks near the sea, often under the shelter of a stone or beneath a tuft of grass on a rocky ledge. A nest on the Calf of Man was beautifully hidden behind a plant of sea-spleenwort in a recess low down under the cliffs, and another at Stroin Vuigh was also sheltered by the fronds of the same fern. On the 28th August 1902, while rowing along the coast between Lag ny Keilley and the Ushtey, our attention was attracted by the excitement of a pair of Rock Pipits on the land, and my boatman found an incomplete nest, which evidently belonged to them, under a stone on the turfy summit of a small rock-stack, the opening of the cavity sheltered by the large leaves of a tuft of sea-beet. About a month later, on

looking at the place, we found that the rock had been swept by the sea during a westerly gale, and the nest, soil, and sheltering plants completely wrecked and washed out of place. According to Mr. Graves's observation, nesting usually commences early in May, but he has found a nest near Peel with hard-sat eggs as early as 17th April (1897). A few pairs breed annually in Peel Castle, where the nest is often built in a hole in the masonry of the ruins.

Breeding on most rocky coasts of the British Isles, the species is found all round the shores of the Irish Sea. In Lancashire it is stated to be not numerous, and most common in winter. It nests scarcely on Walney, more commonly at St. Bees, and abundantly in Lley. In Galloway it is abundant, as in suitable localities in Ireland. It is a characteristic bird of the Hebrides and northern Scottish islands.

ORIOLOUS GALBULA, Linn. GOLDEN
ORIOLE.

Mr. Robert Gray (*Birds of the West of Scotland*, p. 80) says: 'A fine Golden Oriole was shot in June of the present year (1868) in the Isle of Man, and taken in the flesh to Mr. Hastings, bird-stuffer in Dumfries, for preservation.' This is doubtless the specimen which appears in the Sale Catalogue of the Jardine Hall collection as Manx, and received from Mr. Hastings.

On 25th April 1879 an adult female specimen was taken alive at Laxey, and after a few days' captivity died and was mounted. It was exhibited to the Isle of Man Natural History Society in June 1881.

Of forty-seven Irish occurrences (Ussher) six have taken place in Down, and one or two in Dublin. A few are on

record in Cumberland and Lancashire. Scottish occurrences are rare, and none have been obtained in Galloway. In the south of England it appears almost yearly.

LANIUS EXCUBITOR, Linn. GREAT
GREY SHRIKE.

Forbes, in the second¹ edition of Quiggins's *Guide* (1839), states vaguely that the 'Shrike' and other birds have been killed in Man, perhaps referring to this species.

On 30th October 1865 the late Dr. Crellin shot a specimen near Orrisdale (Kermode, *Y. L. M.*, iii. 521). It was obtained on a thorn close to the house, Mr. Crellin tells me, but was in some way lost while in the stuffer's hands.

Near Ramsey one was obtained by —— Gale in 1896. Mr. Kermode gives the month as April, but the bird was already in Mr. Adams's hands in the month of January, in which it was probably killed. It was recorded by Mr. J. C. Crellin in *Y. L. M.*, iii. 124.

In Ireland there are a number of records, especially from the north. There are also a certain number of occurrences reported from Galloway and north-western England. It has been met with in Shetland, and not infrequently in Orkney. There is one record only for the Outer Hebrides.

AMPELIS GARRULUS, Linn. WAXWING.

The species does not appear in Mr. Kermode's earlier lists, but in *Y. L. M.*, iii. 521, he states that some thirty years ago 'one was shot at Ramsey by Mr. James, while feeding

¹ Likely also in the first edition, not seen.

on the berries of the mountain-ash. It was mounted and was placed in Mr. Wallace's museum at Distington.' This note was communicated by the late Mr. J. M. Jeffcott at a meeting of the Isle of Man Natural History Society in 1883.

Mr. W. J. C. Joughin tells me that he saw about eight in 1891 in the garden of Ballaspet (Patrick). These were very tame, allowing of approach within a few feet.

In *Y. L. M.*, ii. 70, Mr. J. C. Crellin reports the re-appearance of the species. In February 1893 two Waxwings were observed, according to a letter which appeared in the *Isle of Man Times*, feeding on hawthorn berries near Braddan Bridge. In January of the same year a pair was seen in the neighbourhood of Ramsey, and one of these, taken in a garden at that town, after being kept alive for some weeks, came into the possession of Mr. Kermode, and is now in the Ramsey Museum. Mr. Crellin states that this bird while in captivity would not eat its favourite haws, but preferred bread or soft food.

The Waxwing occurs less frequently in Ireland than in Great Britain, being decidedly an eastern bird, but there are nearly fifty records (Ussher), many of them in Antrim and Down (five of these latter in January and February 1893). It has once been reported from Wigtownshire. Its erratic migrations have frequently, at irregular intervals, extended into Lakeland and Lancashire. It occurs in both Orkney and Shetland; it has been once recorded from the Outer Hebrides.

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA, Linn. SPOTTED
FLYCATCHER.

Mr. F. S. Graves remembers having seen this species about 1874 near Douglas, where a nest in the open gutter of

the eaves on the gardener's cottage at Thornton held young birds and a rotten egg.

On 21st September 1887 one Spotted Flycatcher is reported by Mr. Clyne on the lantern of Langness lighthouse at night, and he recorded two 'Flycatchers' also on 11th September 1884.

On 18th August 1889 Mr. Graves met with a specimen at Glenfaba, near Peel. In 1893 Mr. Kennard reported to Mr. Kermode having found a nest with one egg on 31st May (where?).

While Mr. Graves and I were on the Calf (22nd-25th May 1901) we were somewhat surprised to meet with several; one or two in the 'Glen,' and one frequenting the bushes round our cottage.

In 1902 Mr. Graves saw one on 6th July at Rhenass, and on the 14th of the same month a few, probably a family party, in the grounds at Thornton, Douglas. Mr. Leach reports (1903) that it is now fairly numerous during the summer months around the Nunnery; it breeds there, and he has three eggs taken (16th June 1897) from a nest built on the roadside about a mile from Douglas. It was on a ledge of rock in a small disused quarry.

On 31st May 1903 the Messrs. Graves and I saw one at Sulby, and Mr. J. J. Gill has reported to Mr. Kermode a nest with four eggs found on ivy growing on the ruin of the old starch mills at that place. In September 1903 Mr. F. S. Graves observed another at Lhergydhoo, German.

This is a common English bird, becoming rarer northward. It is, however, common in Cumberland and Lancashire, except on the west coast of the latter, and is far from uncommon in Anglesea. In Galloway it is described as plentiful. It has in a few instances been noticed in

Orkney, where it is said to have bred, and has visited Shetland, but is unrecorded from the Outer Hebrides. In Ireland it is well distributed.

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA, Linn.

PIED FLYCATCHER.

According to Mr. Kermode, Mr. Crellin has had the nest of this species at Bishop's Court, surrounding which is some of the oldest timber in Man, and in 1883 he heard from the late Mr. Jeffcott that he had seen the bird in his garden at Castletown. Mr. Crellin, however, tells me that the former record was based on a misunderstanding.

On 25th April 1901 I saw a single specimen at Glenmay. It was for some time under my observation, among the trees and garden bushes in the bottom of the valley at the village. Being an adult male, with black and white plumage, and the white spot over the bill distinctly visible, it was quite unmistakable.

Since 1875 eight specimens, all but one at lighthouses, have been obtained in Ireland, where it was previously unknown. Of late years it has bred (R. Service, *A Century's Changes*) in Nithsdale and Annandale. It is a very local, but in places abundant, summer visitor to Lakeland, and nests or has nested here and there in Lancashire proper. Mr. Aplin did not note it in Lley, though in parts of North Wales it is abundant. It has occurred, not uncommonly, in Orkney, and in Shetland a specimen has been taken even on Foula; but there is only one record (very recent) for the Outer Hebrides. It is in Britain a bird of very local distribution.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA, Linn. SWALLOW.

Manx, *Gollangéi* (Bishop Phillips's *Prayer Book*, 1610); *Gollan-geayee* or *gheayee* (M. S. D. and Cr.)=fork of the wind. (Cf. Irish and Sc. Gaelic, *Gobhlan Gaoithe*; Welsh, *Gwennol*; Breton, *Gwignol*, *Gwignelenn*.)

One of the 'seven sleepers' of Manx folk-lore. The list of these, according to Mr. A. W. Moore (*Folk-Lore of the Isle of Man*, p. 151), varies. An old Manxman's names are as follows: *Foillycan* (Butterfly), *Shellan* (Bee), *Jialgheer* (Lizard), *Craitnag* (Bat), *Cooag* (Cuckoo), *Clogh-ny-cleigh* (Stonechat or, rather, Wheatear), *Gollan-geayee* (Swallow). (Kermode, *Manx Note-Book*, iv. p. 122.) A list furnished by Miss Morrison, which was supplied by one old resident and verified by two others, substitutes for *Foillycan*, *Jialgheer*, and *Shellan*, the Owl (*Hullad*), the Corncrake (*Eean-raip*), and the Snipe (?) (*Coar-heddagh*). 'I questioned the Snipes being among the number,' writes Miss Morrison, 'but I was told: "Of course he is; you'll never see a Snipe flying, till you start him out of a bog. Isn't it sleeping he is all the time?"'

The Swallow is in summer, as Mr. Kermode notes, generally distributed. He adds, 'plentiful'; and this may be the case in the best parts of Man, as the Lezayre and Braddan valleys, but it is the writer's impression that in general with us the species is distinctly scarce, as compared with its abundance on the mainland. In May 1901 we saw a few on the Calf, near the 'Glen,' the sunniest part of the islet. On 31st March 1897 I saw a single Swallow at Laxey Bridge. Mr. Kermode's earliest date is 4th April (1879), at Lheakenny, Ramsey; it usually makes its appearance at least by the middle of that month, but is seldom general or common until near its end. For

south-western Scotland the end of the second week in April is given as its average date of arrival (*B. A. Migr. Report*, 1901).

During April and May it is abundantly reported at our light-stations (all three species probably being included under the name), and the return passage is recorded in August, September, and October. On 19th October 1884 Swallows are mentioned at Langness, on 20th October 1881 both at Langness and the Chickens, and again on 21st October 1886 at the former, but later records are not unusual. In 1884 the *Isle of Man Times* reports the bird on 11th November, and toward the end of November 1897 one, accompanied by a House Martin, was for some days flying about Castle Rushen; I saw it last on the 28th. The weather on the latter day was cold and stormy though clear, and the birds kept well on the sunny side of the building, whose high grey walls doubtless both sheltered them from the wind and reflected the heat of the sun. This swallow was an immature bird. Mr. Kermode was informed by John Quayle that once after a snowstorm he noticed feathers in the window of an old house at Milntown, and putting his hand in found about twenty Swallows. A few, which he took out, flew about in a very sluggish and aimless fashion.

Mr. Kermode states that he has found its nest in caves, and Mr. W. E. Teschemaker in the *Bazaar*, 13th April 1887 (reprinted *Zool.*, 1887, p. 372), describes his finding young birds in a nest in a cave on the Santon coast as late as 6th September (1886).

Mr. Graves in 1902 found nests of the preceding season on the roof timbers of two empty cottages at Dreembeary, German, about eight hundred and twenty feet above sea-level, and again in the outhouses of the deserted farm of Eary Cushlin, Patrick (about seven hundred and eighty-five

feet), the birds in the latter case being still in the neighbourhood. Both are wild moorland localities.

Mr. Kermode notes that Mr. R. Teare, Glentrammon, had a pure white specimen.

The Laxey river where it enters the village is called Awin-Gollane, which has been explained to me as 'Swallow Stream,' possibly, however, named from the fork (Goll = Gollan) which it makes with the Glenroy branch near.

A summer visitor all over Great Britain and Ireland, though less abundant in the north of the former and the extreme west of the latter, the Swallow is known on migration only in the Outer Hebrides, but breeds in Orkney, and, occasionally at least, in Shetland.

CHELIDON URBICA (Linn.). HOUSE MARTIN.

The Martin is in Man a somewhat scarce summer visitor, and its nests are here rarely attached to houses. Yet there were in 1884 nests on the Central Hotel, St. John's, and at the northern end of Douglas, near the rocky coast, a number built on villas at Strathallan Park in 1887, and in 1893 and 1894 on the pavilion of 'Derby Castle,' close to the sea. In later years Mr. F. Nicholson has seen nests on various houses in the upper parts of Douglas.¹ I have seen birds also elsewhere in Douglas, at Ramsey, and at Kirk Michael, under circumstances that suggested breeding.

A few, Mr. Graves thinks about twenty pairs, nest on Contrary Head, Patrick, at a great height above the sea, and at Pistol, Santon, there is a pretty little colony on the

¹ And in 1905 on one of the large houses on its shore front.

side of a steep cliff in a recess leading down to the sea. A number breed on the abrupt though low rock-faces at the 'Smugglers' Caves,' Port Soderick, and others formerly frequented a station, seemingly now deserted, at Keristal, a little further north. Under the roof of a kind of abortive cavern at Skinscoe, Lonan, is a small colony (in 1895 could be seen some twenty nests or remains of nests), and a few breed on Maughold Head, some of the nests being at a great height over the entrance of a large cave. These are all, or nearly all, the coast colonies in Man, and the sum total of birds must be very small. The species is also noticed, though not by any means abundantly, on migration.

Many persons (as Mr. A. W. Moore and Mr. J. B. Keig) noticed 'a Swallow' or 'Swallows' in the neighbourhood of Douglas in February 1899, perhaps even in January, when two were stated by Mrs. Farrant to have been seen about the New Prison (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 415). The first precise date was 18th February, as reported by Mr. A. W. Moore. According to a newspaper report, a bird seen on 21st February was a 'House Marten' (*sic*).

On 15th November 1897 and on several later days three or four were flying about Castle Rushen, and one of these or another, as noted under the last species, was observed there on the 27th or 28th of the same month. I have seen some in Douglas on 2nd November (1882).

In Ireland the Martin is also local and seldom numerous. It breeds, however, in every county, often on sea cliffs. It breeds all over Great Britain, and in Orkney and (rarely) in Shetland. In the Outer Hebrides it has been rarely recorded (once, however, on North Ronay, and once on St. Kilda). In Kirkeudbrightshire Mr. Service says that it has become less abundant. In Lleyn Mr. Aplin found it rare. It nests in colonies on the Anglesea cliffs.

COTILE RIPARIA (Linn.). SAND MARTIN.

As early as mid-April, but perhaps most conspicuously about the first week in May and again towards the end of summer and into autumn, parties of migrating Sand Martins are to be observed along our coast and the lowland portions of our larger streams, as Sulby, Glass, and Silverburn. Mr. Leach mentions the appearance of two Sand Martins at Douglas Bridge as early as 26th March (1903), and Mr. Crellin of two in Bride on 6th April (1894). In May 1901 we saw one on the Calf.

The Isle of Man is rather deficient in suitable localities for this bird's summer habitation. Up to at least 1885 a colony was settled at the earthy top of the large quarry behind the Battery Pier, Douglas, and the birds used to hawk over the salt waters of the outer harbour, but this is now unoccupied. Another Douglas nesting place was in a sand-bank where Hutchinson Square is now situate; there was another at Ballacreech, Onchan, and another probably at Ballafletcher, near Braddan Cemetery. In the west the sandpit at Ballaharra, German, was a station, now forsaken. Dr. Bailey tells me that in 1904 Sand Martins attempted to nest in a sandpit at Mount Gawne, but their tunnels were destroyed by the carters in removing material.

The high sand-cliffs of the northern coast, from Orrisdale round Ballaugh and Jurby to Andreas, and again in Bride, are abundantly utilised, the nesting holes being usually at the steep summit just under the edge of the brow. Eggs are laid about the end of May or beginning of June.

It is well distributed, making allowance for its restricted choice of nesting localities, in Great Britain and Ireland. Sand Martins have bred in Orkney, and even in one instance in Shetland; they nest also in several of the Outer Hebrides.

CERTHIA FAMILIARIS, Linn. TREE
CREEPER.

In the case of the Creeper, as of other species, it is doubtful whether it has really only recently established itself or merely been overlooked.

The earliest record is that of Mr. J. C. Crellin, who took a specimen at Orrisdale in December 1882 (*Trans. of Isle of Man Nat. Hist. Soc.*, vol. i. p. 16). It was again noted there in the spring of 1889 (*Y. L. M.*, vol. i. pt. ii. p. 71), and in 1893 (vol. ii. p. 71).

Mr. Kermodé records it from Ramsey in January 1890, and in April of the same year Mr. M'Whannell found a nest at Glenduff, Lezayre, 'just a pad of moss placed between the trunk of a tree and the encircling ivy. It contained the empty shell of one of the eggs.' Mr. Kermodé continues: 'Since that date it has nested and been seen in the district every year, though in small numbers' (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 523). In the winter of 1894-95 two were killed at Pulrose, near Douglas. Mr. Kermodé has one, perhaps of these, shot in the neighbourhood of that town, 5th January 1895, and Mr. G. Adams tells me that it is permanently resident about the Nunnery plantations.

On 28th May 1902 Mr. Crellin found a nest at Ballachurry, Andreas, between his meat-safe and the wall of the house. The young were nearly full-grown and left the nest a few days later. In April 1903 he again found a nest in course of construction in the same spot, and a brood was again safely hatched (*Y. L. M. Reports*), and again in 1904 (*op. cit.*), while other nests seem to have been commenced, one in the coachhouse between the frame of the door and the wall.

In April 1903 Mr. Graves and I noticed the Creeper

at Ballakillingan, and the same year one was seen in Baldwin by G. Adams, junior, and in February 1904 Mr. T. Fargher sent me a specimen from Laxey, where he states he had seen none until that winter. In 1904 Mr. Graves found it nesting at Ballamoar, Patrick, the young being just hatched on 24th May and having left the nest by 12th June.

As the form *britannica* (Ridgw.) it is mentioned as occurring in the Isle of Man in Naumann's *Naturgeschichte der Vögel Deutschlands* (new edition, vol. ii. p. 324), on authority of Hartert.

The Creeper, a well-distributed species where localities are suitable, is described as local and not common in Lancashire; in Cumberland it is fairly common in the woods, and occurs in Lleyn and Anglesea. Mr. Service states that it is common in Galloway. It is found in north-eastern Ireland and generally over that island where there is old wood. It is said to have been seen in Orkney, but is unrecorded from Shetland or the Outer Hebrides.

CARDUELIS ELEGANS, Stephens.

GOLDFINCH.

Manx, **Lossyr ny keeyley* (M. S. D.)=flame of the woods. (*Lossey ny cheylley*, as Mr. Kermode gives it, is no doubt better Manx.) *Kiark my Leydee* (Cr.)=my lady's hen. As in Lancashire, 'Flinch' is here a common error for 'Finch.'

Thirty or forty years ago the Goldfinch was, according to universal testimony, a common bird in the island. At that time Mr. G. Adams had seen 'hundreds' in the neighbourhood of Braddan; they were very abundant in Lonan and about Kirk Michael, and Mr. J. C. Crellin states that they



F. S. Graves.

Photo.

CREEPER'S NESTING TREE AT BALLAMOAR.

(The rails are fixed against the tree, and the nest quite hidden in the hollow.)

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flocked about the stackyards in the north with Chaffinches and 'Green Linnets.' Mr. A. Allison tells me that in Maughold he used to see from twenty to forty during a half-hour's walk along the high road. About Colby fifty years ago they were plentiful; I have there heard their extermination attributed to Douglas bird-catchers. Their present scarcity is sometimes also ascribed to the better cultivation of the land and the comparative want of their favourite weeds, as thistles and 'bastag-vuigh' (i.e. *Chrysanthemum segetum*), but it seems to the writer that such plants are still sufficiently abundant in the Isle of Man to sustain a large Goldfinch population. If the Manx Goldfinches were largely immigrants in autumn from the more severe English climate, it may be that their diminution here is merely the reflection from causes operating mainly in Great Britain or even further off.

About 1887 Mr. Graves again saw one or two in the fruit-garden at Thornton, near Douglas, where he remembers the Goldfinch nesting in a chestnut-tree about 1874, and within the last decade there have been some signs of increase in the species. In the autumn of 1891 and the spring of 1892 Mr. J. C. Crellin observed some in the north. In the winter of 1892-93 Mr. H. S. Clarke reported a flock of some twenty in Lezayre (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 71). In the autumn of 1893 Mr. J. C. Crellin recorded 'numerous flocks' in 'the north of the island' (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 204), and the Goldfinch was also noticed in the Douglas neighbourhood. About May 1894 some were seen near Colby. In the great snow winter, 1894-95, one was caught at Laxey. On 25th April 1896 Mr. Crellin notes two seen. On 13th March 1897 I saw a small flock close to Laxey village, the only living wild Goldfinches I had ever met with in Man, until 27th October 1902, on which date a single bird was feeding among thistles and ragweeds at Scarlett amidst

a flock of Linnets. On the 16th June 1899 Mr. Clarke, of Sulby, gave Mr. Crellin a nest containing two eggs and some broken shells, which had been forsaken by the parents, as had two other nests close by, in which he also found broken shells. On 1st June 1902 Mr. Leach saw two in the garden of Mr. A. Knox at Sulby. On 29th September Mr. Crellin observed a young bird near Orrisdale, and on 18th April 1903 four in the garden of the same place, and in 1904 Goldfinches again bred at Sulby, where their nesting indeed appears to have become regular.

A Goldfinch is reported as perching on the Chickens lighthouse on 20th October 1886. Another is mentioned two days previously, and on the fifth of the same month three spent the night at the lantern of this isolated station.

The Goldfinch was a well-distributed species over Great Britain, but is now of decidedly scarce and irregular appearance in many districts. It is almost unknown in Orkney and Shetland, and very rarely recorded for the Outer Hebrides. In Ireland it is stated by Mr. Ussher to be more plentiful than in the sister island. Almost extinct in Lancashire, it exists in much diminished numbers in the county of Cumberland. According to Mr. Service, it has now almost vanished from 'Solway.' Mr. Oldham writes me that it is not uncommon in many places in Anglesea.

CHRYSOMITRIS SPINUS (Linn.). SISKIN.

Three occurrences, to which I cannot add, are chronicled by Mr. Kermode (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 523). Mr. J. C. Crellin observed two specimens at Ballachurry, Andreas, on 23rd January 1888 (*Y. L. M.*, ii. pt. ii. p. 70). A small flock was

seen in Maughold at the end of the same month.¹ One taken near Ramsey, 14th October 1898, came into Mr. Kermodé's possession, and is now in the Ramsey Museum. From the distribution given below, it is, however, likely that this little bird is a regular visitant, if not a breeding species.

Though best known in Ireland, as in England, as a winter migrant, the Siskin breeds locally in its four divisions, including those counties nearest to Man. It has also been reported as a resident from Kirkcudbrightshire, Cumberland, and Lancashire, though much more abundant in winter. In Orkney and Shetland it is a straggler, and has once only been recorded from the Outer Hebrides.

LIGURINUS CHLORIS (Linn.).

GREENFINCH.

GREEN LINNET. Manx, *Corkan-cheylley-glass* (M. S. D.)=
Green Bullfinch (or Chaffinch ?).²

This is one of the very common Manx small birds. It is not a bird of plantations, properly so called, nor does it penetrate into furze-clad or heathery wastes, but inhabits gardens and shrubberies, quick-set hedges, and the outskirts

¹ Likely this is the occasion mentioned to me by Mr. Allison, who observed a flock, once only, in that parish.

² 'Corkan-cheylley' (little red or purple 'bird' of the wood) is translated 'Bullfinch' in this dictionary, and the addition 'glass'=green distinguishes the present species. Whatever the equivalent of 'corkan-cheylley' may have meant in other Gaelic-speaking lands, it can scarcely have been used here for the Bullfinch, which does not exist in Man. Very little reliance can be placed on the specific meanings of dictionary translations. 'Corkan-coille,' given as the Gaelic for Bullfinch in *Fauna of Outer Hebrides*, is in O'Reilly and O'Donovan the name of 'a sort of flower,' and is not found among the Irish bird-names in Mr. Ussher's work. In Man the Chaffinch is the species to which it would obviously apply.

of woodland, while in winter it flocks to stackyards and the neighbourhood of villages. Its nesting begins at the end of April or commencement of May.

A specimen had been taken on the Calf shortly before our visit in May 1901.

The species occurs but rarely in the Manx notices in the migration reports, but one hundred were seen at Point of Ayre in October 1880, seven or eight hundred at Langness on 19th November 1884, after-rushes during the same month and late October, and a large flock appeared at the same place on the morning of 23rd October 1887.

In Ireland it is abundant, numbers being increased in winter. An abundant bird in all cultivated parts of the British mainland, it now breeds in Orkney, and is known as a migrant in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides.

COCCOTHRAUSTES VULGARIS, Pallas.

HAWFINCH.

Mr. Kermode, in his revised list (1888), says of this species: 'Acc[idental]. Has been taken occasionally in the autumn and winter'; and in his latest list (1901): 'Rare and occasional winter migrant.' No details of occurrences are there given, but Mr. Kermode tells me that on 7th November 1881 he saw at Adams's a specimen which had recently been shot at Abbeylands, Onchan, and had heard of other occurrences of which he did not preserve particulars.

Mr. Leach says that on 2nd January 1897 he saw one in thorn bushes at Spring Valley. 'It was in a corner of the wood on the side of the New Castletown Road facing Springfield.' Mr. Leach also saw a fine specimen exhibited

at a Dog and Poultry show at Douglas a few years ago, and was told that it had been captured in the north of the island.

The Hawfinch has appeared in all quarters of Ireland as a rare and irregular winter visitor. It is occasional in Cumberland, but said to be resident (very locally) in Lancashire. Hardly more than a straggler in Scotland, it has very rarely been reported from its outer isles. A local and southern species, it is rapidly extending its range.

PASSER DOMESTICUS (Linn.). HOUSE SPARROW.

SPADGER. Manx, *Jallyn* (Phillips's *Prayer Book*, Ps. lxxxiv. 3). (Cf. Irish, *Galun*, *Gealbhan*; Sc. Gaelic, *Gealbhonn*.) *Sparroo* (Hildesley's *Bible*, 1772), as if by that time the Gaelic name had become extinct in Man.

The House Sparrow is everywhere an adjunct of habitation in the Isle of Man, not failing, so far as the writer knows, in the most remote districts, nor found away from houses, nesting in cliffs, as is sometimes elsewhere the case. Thus, on the Calf we noticed it only around the one farmhouse on the islet. Mr. Graves, who has noticed it on the crossing to Liverpool, thinks, however, that it is much less common than generally in England. About two hundred birds, 'supposed to be of this species,' rested all night at Point of Ayr (*sic*) on 16th September 1881, and there was a large flock of Sparrows at Langness on 13th October 1884. In 1904 Mr. Graves found Sparrows breeding in Rooks' nests at Ballamoar, Patrick.

The great 'fairy doctor,' Teare, of Ballawhane, in Andreas, was famous for, among other powers, his authority over

creatures noxious to agriculture, and Train (vol. ii. p. 160) describes how in 1833 he charmed the Sparrows from a wheat-field at Laxey, to the surprise and confusion of all who doubted his power.

The House Sparrow is found over Orkney and Shetland, even on Foula and Fair Isle. In the Outer Hebrides, where it seems to have arrived comparatively recently, it is, as in the Scottish Highlands, by no means ubiquitous. It is found all over Ireland, though in some districts locally, and, with perhaps some exceptions, over the Scottish Lowlands and England.

PASSER MONTANUS (Linn.). TREE
SPARROW.

On 22nd October 1887 Mr. R. Clyne reported from Langness (*Report on the Migration of Birds*, 1887, p. 100), 'Large flock of Larks and a few Tree Sparrows at 8 A.M.'

On 5th January 1896 a specimen, now in possession of Mr. W. R. Teare, Ballabeg, was obtained at 'Road Island' by Mr. Leach out of a small flock, and he has on other occasions observed the species in Douglas neighbourhood. On 5th July 1902, when cycling from Peel to Douglas, Mr. Graves saw two Tree Sparrows, his attention being drawn to them by the call of the male. They were seated on the telegraph-wires between the road and railway-line at Kirby (Braddan). The grounds of Kirby, just beyond the line, contain a considerable (for the Isle of Man) number of old trees (*Zool.*, 1903, p. 313).

On 22nd June 1903 Mr. Graves further observed two or three specimens at Ballamoar (Patrick), where there are

many old trees, feeding in the farmyard with House Sparrows, Chaffinches, and Yellow Hammers.

Mr. T. H. Nelson states in *Zoologist* (October 1903, p. 392): 'My friend Mr. Bacon informs me he has known of its nesting in the garden at Seafeld for several years past.'

In the spring of 1904 Mr. Leach observed a pair nesting in a tree at 'Belle Vue,' in the valley of the Douglas river, just outside the town. The nest, which was formed in the hollow at the end of a broken branch, was, however, pulled out before completion, the neighbourhood being a much frequented one.

The Tree Sparrow is a species of very sporadic distribution over Great Britain. In Ireland it is only known to nest in Co. Dublin. In Cumberland only one permanent colony was known to Mr. Macpherson. It has a number of breeding localities in Lancashire, and more especially Cheshire, though a very local bird. Messrs. Oldham and Coward have met with it in several places in Anglesea. It breeds in a number of the Hebridean islands, even on St. Kilda and apparently North Ronay.

FRINGILLA CÆLEBS, Linn. CHAFFINCH.

SPINK (so called in Lonan, as in Lancashire, etc.). Manx, *Ushag-y-choan*=bird of the valley (Kermode); *Ushag veg vreck*=little pied bird (Peel, Miss Morrison). (Cf. Manx and Sc. Gaelic names for the Wagtail, and Sc. Gaelic, *Breacan-beithe*=Chaffinch.)

The most abundant of all our small birds, the Chaffinch is indeed common in Man wherever trees and hedges are found. It does not inhabit the wild bushy places on the coast, where the Blackbird, Robin, and Wren are found, but is well distributed through all our plantations, the little groups of larch trees in hilly districts being favourite

nesting places (it has already established itself in the young Crown plantations at Barrule), and it sings and breeds in the little garden plots of town houses, and feeds boldly with Sparrows in the quieter streets and even on rubbish-heaps along the beaches. It perches freely on houses, and I have noticed one or two on the ruined walls of Peel Castle. The song commences to be practised very early in spring, or indeed in winter; and in April every hedge and shrubbery rings with the loud, cheerful, and often-repeated notes, which in this island have often to make amends for the want of the melody of more delicate singers. From mid-April to the beginning of May is the usual laying time. Mr. Kermodé mentions a nest of young hatched on 23rd April 1884, which were fed by the parent with dead hive-bees. A female which had settled in my garden was twice widowed in some unexplained manner in one spring before she finally succeeded in bringing off her brood on the branch of an *escallonia* against the house buildings. We heard one in song on the Calf in May 1901. In winter Chaffinches make up a large part of the miscellaneous flocks of small birds which frequent the stack-yards.

An albino specimen was hatched with three normal nestlings in the garden of Mr. Crosthwaite at Ballasalla in 1904. Mr. Joughin tells me that he saw and heard in song a cream-coloured Chaffinch at Poortown, near Peel.

Chaffinches are noted in Man in both the spring and autumn migration, and have occurred in numbers at the Chickens.

In Ireland it is a very numerous species, especially in winter; abundant over the British mainland wherever there are trees. It is known in Shetland as a migrant only, but breeds rather scarcely in Orkney, and in suitable localities in the Outer Hebrides, where numbers pass on migration.

FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA, Linn.
BRAMBLING.

A bird whose favourite British haunts are old beech woods is not likely to find a congenial abiding place in Man. In a note to his 1880 list, Mr. Kermode says: 'Some in Mr. Crellin's fine collection at Orrisdale. Mr. Jeffcott tells me he has seen them, not infrequently in little flocks, with Chaffinches.'

On 13th February 1892 a male was shot at 'Lewthwaite's Mill,' near Douglas. Mr. F. W. Leach wrote Mr. Kermode that on 23rd February 1897 he had noticed one or two among a small flock of Chaffinches near Douglas. This number was 'considerably augmented by fresh arrivals, apparently from the west of the island.' On March 1st 'a flock now numbering about fifty' (among which were one or two Snow Buntings) was feeding in a disused quarry. This was the phenomenal year of frost and snow.

Mr. Leach writes me in 1903 that he meets with it near Douglas almost every year in February and March, and that in the winter of 1902-3 they were there fairly numerous.

On 21st February Mr. Graves saw one at Ballamoar, Patrick, in a flock of other small birds. One Brambling is recorded at the Chickens with a number of other birds on 11th December 1887.

An erratic winter visitor to Great Britain, but usually scarcer in the west, the species occurs irregularly over Ireland also. Mr. Macpherson states that it is a 'tolerably regular winter visitor to the Solway plain and the Eden valley.' In most winters it is not plentiful in Galloway, but sometimes very abundant.

The Brambling is a little-known migrant to Orkney and Shetland, in the latter of which it has however been seen in considerable numbers. It has only recently been recorded from the Outer Hebrides.

LINOTA CANNABINA (Linn.). LINNET.

RED LINNET, GREY LINNET. Manx, *Philip*; *Ushag-y-lieen* (Kermode)=bird of the flax; *Bytermyn* (Cr.); **Fillip-ny-Kempey*=Philip of the hemp, *i.e.* Sparrow of the hemp, is in M. S. D. rendered 'Bunting,' but belongs to this species. ('Philip' or 'Phip' is an old English name for the Sparrow.) Flax and hemp were both formerly cultivated in the Isle of Man, and the area under these crops was compulsorily increased by Act of Tynwald in 1692 (Moore's *History of the Isle of Man*, p. 426).

The Isle of Man is well adapted to the habits of the Linnet, there being much gorse and plenty of weedy waste land, and the species is common and well distributed, especially in winter, when the flocks are almost ubiquitous, except indeed on the grassy or heathy mountain wastes.

Linnets occur frequently in the migration returns, often in flocks, and both in spring and autumn, but especially the latter, and occasionally joining in great rushes which included many species. Thus at the Chickens, 10th November 1887 (*Migr. Report*, 1887, p. 105): 'Very great flock of Thrushes, Fieldfares, Larks, Linnets, Blackbirds, Starlings, Lapwings, Curlews, and a few Golderests, from about an hour after lighting time till the light was extinguished. A great number struck the dome of the lantern and were killed, falling into the sea.' Mr. Black says: 'The flocks are most dense to-night, and are all mixed together. It is no use

trying to give numbers. We captured a few Blackbirds and Fieldfares.'

On the 11th and 12th this rush was continued, but on the latter night there were, the observer says, no Linnets. On 29th March 1888 Mr. F. S. Graves, when crossing to Douglas, saw a few Linnets at sea.

The Linnet is well distributed over the British mainland, and is common in Ireland, into which considerable winter immigration takes place. It is resident in Orkney, but its larger numbers occur there on migration, on which it has also been observed in Shetland. It is doubtfully recorded from the Outer Hebrides, but in all these islands its place as a breeding species is occupied by the Twite. It is abundant in Galloway, and not uncommon in the north-western counties of England.

LINOTA RUFESCENS (Vieillot).

LESSER REDPOLL.

Mr. Kermode, in his early list, says that this species is an infrequent resident, whose numbers are increased in winter. There is little information about it available, but it is probably more common than is generally supposed. Mr. G. Adams, who is well acquainted with the bird, and has had several specimens, said in 1892 that there were in that year two or three nests about the Nunnery, and that it bred there regularly. On 7th June 1900 Mr. F. S. Graves saw a party in the Ballaugh Curragh, and he knows of its occurrence in earlier years in the Peel district. In June 1905 he met with a number, undoubtedly breeding, in the Barrule plantation.

In Ireland this little bird is resident, common, and widely

distributed. It breeds in Down and Antrim. In Great Britain it is largely a winter visitor in the south, more frequent and abundant as a resident in the north and in Scotland. In Galloway, Cumberland, and Lancashire it is locally resident; in the English counties at least being more widely dispersed in winter. Messrs. Oldham and Coward found it plentiful in Anglesea. It has been recorded from Shetland and Orkney, in the latter of which it is said to nest. Its occurrence in the Outer Hebrides was doubtful until recently, but a nest has been taken in Barra.

LINOTA FLAVIROSTRIS (Linn.). TWITE.

In his list published 1888 Mr. Kermode merely states 'Resident in small numbers,' and in his article of 1901 he gives no further particulars.

By Mitchell 'Manx Linnet' is given as a Lancashire name of the species. The late A. G. More recorded it as Manx from specimens sent by the late J. F. Crellin. (See *Life and Letters of A. G. More*, p. 430, where 'The Distribution of Birds in Great Britain' is reprinted.)

By the kindness of Mr. C. B. Moffat, I am enabled to give further particulars from his correspondence with Mr. More. On 19th July 1862 Dr. Crellin writes from West Hill House, Castletown: 'I now send you a small bird which I hope will prove to be the Twite or Mountain Linnet. It is a bird which is rare here. I went yesterday with a friend to the mountain in this neighbourhood on purpose to look for some. We saw two couple only of them, and I got him to shoot at three, but he killed only one, which I now send. I think it is a hen bird. My friend fancied it might

be a young bird ; I feel quite satisfied however that it is not. The bill is too hard for that of a young bird. The birds which we saw were flying about in pairs, and I have no doubt that they have nests, as they seemed not to enjoy our presence, but kept flying about in an angry manner and sometimes sitting quite close to us.'

On 19th July Dr. Crellin again writes from Orrisdale: 'I have now had the good fortune to ascertain beyond a doubt that the Twite or Mountain Linnet breeds here also. I shot one a few days ago, which had the rose-coloured spot (about the size of one's thumb-nail) at the lower end of the back. I have seen several pairs of them.' He speaks of their note as having 'quite a different sound from that of the Redpoll' (Linnet), 'being much more hoarse or croaky,' and says, 'Though I never to my knowledge noticed the bird till within the last month, I know it now perfectly well from any other bird as soon as I hear it.' As Mr. Moffat remarks, these descriptions leave little room for doubt that Dr. Crellin found the Twite breeding both in the north and south of the island. There is a specimen still at Orrisdale.

The Twite, an inhabitant of mountains and high wild coastlands, breeds in suitable localities all over Ireland, including those counties nearest to Man. In Kirkcubrightshire, according to Mr. Service, few breed, and it is more common in winter; but in Wigtownshire Gray and Anderson say that it is generally distributed.

In England it is a northern and to some extent western species. It nests, not very generally, on the moorlands of the counties opposite us. It is not regarded as breeding in Furness, but does so on some of the mosses of the Solway and of south Lancashire. It occurs in west Carnarvonshire. It is a common and characteristic bird of the Scottish islands.

PYRRHULA EUROPÆA, Vieillot.
BULLFINCH.

Mr. Kermode, in a note to his earliest list, says: 'Formerly not uncommon about Castletown, but now, I believe, never seen.'

In 1887, as stated by Mr. C. B. Moffat (*Zool.*, 1903, p. 147), one was seen near the Isle of Man Asylum by Mr. H. H. Moffat. In June 1885 Mr. Kermode saw two, taken near Ramsey, and in February 1899 he received a male in full plumage, shot near Ramsey, and which is now in the museum at that town.

The Bullfinch is found all over Ireland except in bare districts, and is increasing. It occurs, though not very plentifully, in Antrim and Down. It is described as tolerably common and increasing in Kirkeudbrightshire. It is resident over north-western England, as in Great Britain generally, though seldom or never numerous. A very rare straggler to Orkney and Shetland, it is, perhaps not certainly, recorded from the Outer Hebrides.

LOXIA CURVIROSTRA, Linn. CROSSBILL.

Among birds which had been obtained in the island Forbes mentions this species, without giving any further particulars.

In 1889, on 28th August (according to *Y. L. M.*, I. xi. 109, 24th August), two, adult and immature respectively, were, as reported by Mr. Kermode, shot from a flock at Ballakill-

ingan, Lezayre, and he adds, 'The birds were seen constantly about Skyhill for the next three years.'

The same observer records a small flock in Ballacowle Glen, close to Ramsey, seen January 1898 and onward to 8th April in the same year, 'feeding on larch and fir-cones, but this spring' (? 1899, when the article was written, or 1901, when it was revised and published) 'they disappeared from there.' From the time of year of these occurrences, it seems very likely that the Crossbill has bred in Man. On 17th July 1901 Mr. W. T. Crennell found a living specimen, in dull yellowish green plumage and with damaged wing, on a road in the outskirts of Ramsay, at a very short distance from the woods mentioned above. He gave this bird to Mr. Graves, who has contributed the following notes upon it:—

'At the time I received it, 5th August 1901, I took it for a young bird. The colour was a dull brownish green, dark on the back and light on the throat, breast, and belly; the throat feathers having dark centres giving the appearance of broken stripes. The rump was a much brighter green. At the end of a year the plumage was little changed, the feathers generally being a little greener, with greyish edges, and the rump still brighter in tint; the throat plumage still striped. The call-note, often repeated until it becomes wearisome, is loud and clear, but not (as Seebohm says) shrill; it may be rendered "Zip, zip, zip, zip." The song is very pleasing, but without much variation; it is low, resembling somewhat at times the low part of the Starling's song, and at others reminding one rather of that of the Bullfinch. In captivity at least it sings much better than it has the credit of doing. All food of any size is carried in the beak to a perch, against which it is secured by the claws of both feet. A nut is then slowly picked to pieces, the hard tongue assisting in a great degree. A fir-cone is attacked in

the same way, but is shredded, not pulled to pieces, so that when finished it resembles a ball of fibre; the bird works at the cones with great patience and perseverance. Fruit, and even green food, such as chickweed, are also eaten in the same manner. The latter it would not at first eat, being probably in a wild state unaccustomed to it. It drinks a great deal. From the first it was absurdly tame.'

On 17th July 1903 Mr. Graves observed a flock of some twenty specimens, some of which were males in bright red plumage, in the Rhenass Glen. These birds were feeding on larch cones in the plantation at the upper end of the pleasure ground, and which grows on the beautiful spot where a high rocky knoll parts the two branches of the glen formed respectively by the Rhenass and Blabar rivers, which flow beneath on either side in a succession of falls and rapids through rich foliage. The ground beneath the trees was strewn with fallen cones, which in place of being shredded as was done by the captive bird, usually had some of the scales covering the seed split by a single cleft, and most had been very imperfectly ransacked, the Crossbills having cut off large quantities of fruit which was forsaken almost as quickly as procured. The flock was afterwards seen in other parts of the glen.

The species breeds in many Irish counties, doubtfully in those nearest our shores. It has bred in Kirkcudbrightshire and in Cumberland, but in these counties, as generally in Britain, it is best known as an erratic and irregular visitant. It has frequently appeared in Orkney and Shetland. A few have lately been seen in one of the Outer Hebrides.

EMBERIZA MILIARIA, Linn. CORN
BUNTING.

THISTLE COCK (Kermode), BARLEY BIRD. Manx, **Pompee-ny-hoarn* (Cr.)=Bunting of the barley. (Cregeen translates this 'a small bird.') *Ushag rouayr* (or '*roauyx*') *ny hoarn*=fat bird of the barley (Cr. and M. S. D.); **Kione rouayr ny hoarn* (Lonan)=fat head of the barley;¹ *Gealag-vagher* (M. S. D.)=Sparrow of the field (?). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Gealag Bhuachair*; Irish, *Gealbhan an guib ramhair*.)

This species, now local, was formerly much more generally distributed. In Lonan some thirty or forty years ago it was abundant, and was commonly, under the name of Barley Bird, killed and eaten, as were other small birds at that time. In that parish, during the two years (1895-7) I lived there, it was a scarce bird, yet any day in summer a bird might be seen perched on the telegraph wires at a certain spot some two miles north of Laxey on the Ramsey road. In the neighbourhood of Peel Mr. Graves says it is very sparingly found. In the level northern and southern districts it is still pretty frequent, and in the neighbourhood it inhabits is in summer a conspicuous bird, uttering from a brier or the top of a wall beside the road its unmelodious song during the hot weather, which silences most species. But I have also heard the song just outside Castletown in the middle of November.

A white example was shot by Mr. (Dr.) Crellin, of Orrisdale (Kermode, *Y. L. M.*, iii. 524). It is not now to be seen in his collection.

¹ At the beginning of last century barley was very abundantly grown in Man. (See the interesting chapter on Agriculture in Mr. Moore's encyclopedic *History of the Isle of Man*.)

In Ireland the Corn Bunting is generally common in the coast districts. It is resident in Galloway (in Wigtownshire specially abundant). In north-western England it is local, and to some extent migratory, but nests at Walney, St. Bees, and other localities within that area. It is abundant in west Carnarvonshire. It is a common bird on all the Scottish islands on which cultivation exists.

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA, Linn. YELLOW
HAMMER.

Manx, **Ushag wee* (Cr.); *Ushag-vuigh* (M. S. D.)=yellow bird. (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Buidheag*; Irish, *Buidheog*.)

As the Chaffinch in the better wooded and shaded districts, so is this species in the more bare and open, but yet fenced and cultivated lands, the most abundant of small birds. Like the last-noticed Bunting, its habits make it very conspicuous along the summer roads, and it has what the other lacks, a rich colouring of plumage, vying in brightness with the blossoms of the gorse on which it loves to sit. In the farmyards and the environs of villages it is also one of the most numerous of the birds which congregate in winter.

Mr. Graves found a nest on September 1, 1888, at Ballagawne, Arbory, with two fresh eggs.

The Yellow Hammer is common over Ireland, as generally in Great Britain. In the outer isles of Scotland it is known principally on migration, but has of late increased in Orkney, where it breeds.

EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS, Linn. REED
BUNTING.

About 1883 the late Mr. Jeffcott stated that many years before he had on several occasions shot this species. During my residence in Mr. Jeffcott's neighbourhood, that of Castletown, I have never met with it. Small numbers, however, regularly inhabit the ditches of the Ballaugh Curragh, and in the same wet and low-lying neighbourhood Mr. J. C. Crellin has found the nest. I also found a nest there in 1902, and have frequently seen a few birds, but, as above said, the species does not seem to be abundant.

In winter the bird is more widely distributed. On 26th December 1900 I saw one in a stackyard in Jurby, and about a year later another on a roadside fence in Andreas. In March 1902 I received from Mr T. Fargher a specimen which had been killed in Lonan from a flock frequenting the neighbourhood of some buildings in that parish, and in April 1903 observed a bird in the young larch plantation on South Barrule. Writing of the Douglas district, Mr. Leach says that during the six years ending 1903 he saw it twice only.

The Reed Bunting can only be considered a scarce and local bird in Man, which indeed offers few localities suitable for its summer residence.

This species breeds in every county in Ireland, 'a truly characteristic bird of the wilds.' In Galloway it is common (described as 'conspicuous' in Kirkcudbrightshire), and also in north-western England, though in Lancashire irregularly distributed. It is common in west Carnarvon and locally in Anglesea. It nests, not commonly perhaps, in Orkney and the Outer Hebrides, and has occurred in Shetland. It is a very generally distributed British bird.

PLECTROPHANES NIVALIS (Linn.).

SNOW BUNTING.

Mr. Kermodé considers this a 'regular winter visitor in small numbers,' and likely this pretty accurately describes its position in Man. During the later years of my stay in the Douglas neighbourhood (1893-97) Mr. Adams, the Douglas bird-stuffer, had always a specimen or two in his hands each winter; one of these taken in March 1894 was in nearly complete black and white breeding dress. On the 1st March 1897 Mr. Leach saw one or two among Bramblings near Douglas, and in Mr. Kermodé's collection is a specimen taken at Cloughbane, Ramsey, 26th March 1901, the latest date, Mr. Kermodé states, known to him. There are several others in the Ramsey Museum. On 1st April 1904, however, Mr. Graves saw one near Peel feeding with Yellow Hammers on a road, and in February 1902 one had been obtained in the same neighbourhood, where, in the seventies, Mr. Graves remembers seeing it in considerable numbers. On 2nd December 1903 Mr. Crellin saw a solitary bird near Orrisdale, and on 18th November 1904 Mr. W. J. C. Joughin observed three on the slope of Snaefell near the Bungalow Hotel.

On 1st October 1880 fifty to sixty are reported from the Point of Ayre lighthouse, with Thrushes and Blackbirds. The species is mentioned at the same place in the autumn of 1881. There was at the former-mentioned time a large and sudden immigration into Great Britain. On 22nd December 1887 Langness records three.

In Ireland the Snow Bunting is most frequent as a winter visitor to the coasts and islands of Ulster. In north-western England it is usually not numerous, but sometimes occurs in great flocks, and its general distribution in

Britain is somewhat erratic, depending greatly on the weather. In the Scottish highlands, and probably in Shetland, a few breed, and the possibility of the nesting of the species in Kirkcudbrightshire has been suggested by Mr. Service, as it has been met with in every month of the year on the high mountains. It occurs commonly on the outlying Scottish islands in winter.

STURNUS VULGARIS, Linn. STARLING.

Manx, **Truitlag* (M. S. D. and Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Druideag*; Irish, *Truid*, *Truideog*, *Druid*, *Druideag*; Welsh, *Drudwy*; Breton, *Tred*.)

There can be no doubt that during the present generation there has been a great increase in the numbers of this species, and especially in its distribution as a breeding bird.

Although the Starling now nests all over Man wherever there are houses and cultivated land, it is likely that the birds constituting the great winter flocks are far more numerous than those which in summer are scattered among the towns, villages, and farmsteads to nest. The evolutions of these flocks ere they settle in some established roost for the night's rest are of the most astonishing character, and, together with the sound of wings and voices with which they are performed, form a curious and attractive phenomenon of bird life. There is a Starling-roost among the trees of Lorn House, Castletown (once the residence of the Governor of the island, but now unoccupied), and during their performance the multitude of Starlings making use of this sweep down time after time upon the towers of Castle Rushen and the tall houses of the surrounding town, darkening the grey ramparts and roofs

with their chattering swarms, while long after they have settled in their night's quarters the rustling hissing murmur fills the neighbourhood. Mr. Crellin describes (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 70) a similar roost of many thousands in some large thorns which are covered with ivy, in the north of the island. They are also noted by Mr. Crellin as especially abundant during the winter of 1899-1900, when he tried in vain various devices to keep them from roosting in some evergreen oaks and hollies. One large tree of the latter kind was much damaged, many branches being broken by the weight of the birds, and almost all the leaves stripped (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 614). The trees about Villa Marina in the town of Douglas form another resting place of a great multitude of Starlings.

The Starling is most abundant where, as in the north and south of Man and in the central valley, cultivation has been best developed. Mr. Graves and I saw Starlings nesting on the cliffs of the Calf in May 1901, and heard the cries of the young from a rock-fissure. This is the only case I have met with in Man of the species breeding in unartificial surroundings, but Mr. Graves saw one or two nests at Ballamoar, Patrick, in holes in trees in 1902. In 1904 nests were built at Ballamoar below and in Rooks' nests.

It is fond of frequenting the ridge of refuse on the shore, and feeding on any little patch of salt marsh which our coast can afford, and Mr. Kermode says he has seen green seaweed left by the tide eaten. I have never seen the Starling, like the Rook, resort to the mountain wastes.

In February 1895 many perished in the snow in Lonan (and doubtless elsewhere). Mr. Kinvig had in his collection at Castletown a white specimen.

Starlings appear very frequently and numerous at the lights in migration, often with Thrushes and other birds. Thus, on 29th and 30th September 1880, numbers were hovering round the lantern at Douglas Head, and on 2nd

and 3rd November (same year) thirty-six were killed at Point of Ayre, and six at Bahama. On 20th February 1890 one hundred and forty-seven were killed at the Point of Ayre, along with many Blackbirds, Thrushes, and other birds. 'For some hours continuous flocks, attracted by the light, kept striking the glass or lantern of the lighthouse. In the morning the floor of the balcony outside the dome was covered with dead birds, heaped one upon the other, and lying in pools of blood, whilst on the ground were many others, which, on striking the glass, had fallen clear of the balcony' (Crellin, *Y. L. M.*, I. ii. 271). They are noted at Langness as early as 7th July (1885), and appeared at Bahama in numbers on 1st and 5th January (1887), but are most abundant through the autumn passage.

In Ireland the Starling is increasing as a breeding species, but is 'vastly more numerous' in winter. In Galloway, where it was formerly scarce, it is now abundant, and is on the increase in the north-western counties of England, as indeed generally over the British Isles. It is plentiful, and has long been so, in the outlying Scottish islands, as on some of the remote isles of Ireland.

PYRRHOCORAX GRACULUS (Linn.).

CHOUGH.

Manx, **Caaig* (Cr.); *Caag* (M. S. D.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Cathag*; Irish, *Caig*, *Cadhog*.) I have not heard that the name is applied, as in Irish and Scotch Gaelic, to the Jackdaw; it is always used by Manx people who know the Chough, unless they have learned other names through books, and is pronounced 'Keg.' M. S. D. translates it 'Chough, Daw, cr Jay'; Cregeen, 'Jay.'

It is strange that none of the earlier writers who touch on Manx zoology mention this species, and it seems to

have escaped the notice of Colonel Townley, from whom we should have expected to hear of it.

Sir William Jardine, who visited the island about 1827, writes as follows (Nat. Library, *Birds of Great Britain and Ireland*, pt. ii. p. 257): 'That part where we have seen it most abundant is in the Isle of Man, an island of considerable extent, and having precipitous coasts for at least two-thirds of its circumference. Round these shores it is so common that we once procured nearly thirty specimens in a forenoon. The habits of the bird, as well as the flight, manner of alighting among the rocks and fissures, very closely resembles (*sic*) those of the Jackdaw; so much so, that when we first enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing this bird on a part of the mainland where they were not so frequent, we mistook their flight for that of the last-named bird, and missed some opportunities of procuring what we then considered a very rare bird. A glimpse of their red legs first undeceived us. During the breeding season, when we have chiefly seen these birds, we found them almost constantly on the coast near the caves and fissures where the nests were placed; and they were very seldom seen more than a quarter of a mile inland, but they made excursions so far, alighting among the rocky parts of the upland sheep pasture, and occasionally feeding and walking on the dry pasture itself, where they appeared to procure insects, their stomachs being chiefly at this time filled with coleoptera. . . .

'When the situation of the nests was approached, no great restlessness or anxiety was exhibited. They were placed in rents of the rocks, in the entrances of the caves, or in overhanging ledges of rock, built much in the same manner as those of the true Crows.'¹

I have quoted this account at length, because the obser-

¹ Until recently there was in the Royal Scottish Museum at Edinburgh a Chough labelled as Manx, and presented by Sir William Jardine.

vations were probably largely made in Man. Jardine writes T. C. Heysham (Macpherson, *Fauna of Lakeland*, p. 152), referring to his Manx visit: 'We were rather late to procure the eggs of the birds, which we regretted on account of the Red-legged Crows, a most abundant bird, but all with young.' Had he procured eggs, he would not have written, as he did in his above-quoted work, that the eggs of the Chough 'are of a verditer or bluish green, spotted and blotched with blackish brown, some specimens nearly resembling those of the Jackdaw, and apparently subject to nearly the same variations.'¹ Forbes, writing about the same time as that of Jardine's visit, also mentions the Red-legged Crow as common.

Yarrell (first edition, 1843, art. 'Chough,' vol. ii. p. 59) says: 'Mr. Wallace, of Douglas, in the Isle of Man, at the southern extremity of which, being very rocky, these birds breed in security, and from whence that gentleman had the kindness to bring me two skins in February last, tells me that he has seen them following the plough to obtain the grubs and insects that are thus exposed.'

Train (1845) states: 'The Red-legged Choughs, called Kegs by the Manks, are very numerous on the Calf.'

It has since been recorded in most standard works on British birds as inhabiting Man.² Yarrell's fourth edition, 1876-82 (ii. 255), remarks: 'It was formerly resident in the Isle of Man, particularly its southern part, and the rock called the Calf of Man, where it used to breed, and may perhaps still do so.'

¹ The eggs of the Chough, however, have occasionally a greenish ground-colour (see Usher in *Birds of Ireland*). Of the few Manx specimens I have seen, none were of this type.

² 'Philornis' (1867) strangely says: 'Formerly the Chough (*Fregilus graculus*) was so abundant that its eggs were used as an article of food (!), and even in later times it was by no means an uncommon bird among the hills and upon the sea-coast. Now I may safely assert that it is an extinct species, well known indeed in the memories of the present generation of men, but itself very rarely if ever seen.'

Seebohm (i. 577) says: 'It still breeds . . . possibly on the rocks of the Calf of Man.'

Macpherson's excellent little work (*British Birds*, 'The Young Collector' series, 1891) says that in the Isle of Man the Choughs 'are limited, we believe, to a very few pairs.' This statement much underestimates the numbers of the species. In the locality where I am best acquainted with the Chough, it would be difficult to prove that during the last twenty years it has suffered any diminution, though the remarks of Sir William Jardine on the state of things in his time point to a marked decrease since then, and this is borne out by the disappearance of the bird from the cliffs of Lonan, where, in the memory of living people, it is said to have been very common between Laxey and Dhoon, and from the neighbourhood of Douglas, where some eighty years ago, as Mr. Kermodé was informed by Mr. Taggart, it might be seen 'in flocks.'

The stronghold is on the south-west coast, yet in various other parts where the shore-line is rocky and fissured scattered pairs breed, or have recently bred. On 25th April 1898, and again on 29th April 1899, I saw as many as twenty together, and small flocks are frequent both in summer and winter. The fact of their commonly flocking, as above, during their breeding season is unexpected, and a somewhat detailed and intimate knowledge of their favourite haunts leads to the conclusion that for the number of birds existing there are very few nests or nesting couples, and this may have a bearing upon the mysterious decrease and in many localities extinction of the species.

To a certain extent the habits and haunts of the Chough resemble those of the Jackdaw. The latter bird, however, even when breeding in seaside rocks, seems to prefer the neighbourhood of cultivation, while the Chough is most abundant in wild, remote, and untilled neighbourhoods.



F. S. Graves.

Photo.

CHOUGH'S NESTING CRAG ON THE WEST COAST.

(Nest in hole in the dark spot under arrow half-way down cliff.)

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How far the theory of the noxiousness of the proximity of the Jackdaw to the Chough is correct there hardly seems to be here any evidence. They appear rarely to come into contact, and when found near each other I have noticed neither association nor enmity, though I have seen Choughs in noisy flocks skirmish with both the Grey Crow and the Kestrel. Mr. Graves, however, has observed them intermingle freely and amicably when feeding in a stubble field, but when disturbed the Choughs at once separated from the others, and flew in a different direction. The same observer has seen the Chough drive a Jackdaw from the immediate neighbourhood of its nesting site, though the latter was breeding not more than fifty yards away.

Nowhere in Man is the Chough more abundant than on a line of steep brows which fall from rocky hilltops to sea-cliffs, the latter of no great height, but picturesquely broken and foliated with a wild luxuriant growth of willow, brier, honeysuckle, lady-fern, osmunda, and tutsan. From the roofs of the numerous caves hang gigantic fronds of hart's-tongue, and all their crevices are bright with the glossy varnished green of *Asplenium marinum*. Along the seaward face of the ridge there is no cultivation, nor is there upon it an inhabited house, and no boat lies upon its beaches, rough with boulders and quartz pebbles. On those brows one has never long to wait to hear the sharp explosive cry which even at a great distance distinguishes the Chough, and to see the graceful floating and hovering flights in which the birds cross some deep gully or descend to the rent and water-lapped rocks below. The Chough seemingly does not, even when most abundant, breed in colonies like the Jackdaw, and it may again be that in its apparent desire for seclusion during nesting operations we have another clue to its scarcity. The nests, often difficult to locate, and sometimes all but impossible of access, vary

considerably in situation, but are always more or less concealed, either in the interior of a cave or in a more open place in a fissure.

One nesting place is in a cave of unusual size and regularity of outline. The green brows above, on which in May the delicate lilac squill is profusely in flower, slope nearly to its roof. On either side of its entrance are cliffs almost sheer; from above it cannot directly be entered, but beyond the crags on one side is a little strand, in whose recesses fronds of maidenhair, tenderly green, are watered by the springs trickling down the fissures. From this strand, by clambering at the foot of the precipice over low rocks and little sandy patches, the cave can be reached at the ebb. At high water the tide fills its mouth and part of its interior, but never reaches the end, its utmost point being marked by the floats and broken timber which lie among the heaped-up shingle, green and slippery with mould. A warm, heavy dampness pervades the air of the place; about the entrance Grey Crows build; outside on the cliff crevices afford space for the eggs of the Razorbill and the nests of the Shag; and the high shelves form roosts for the Cormorant. Rock Pipits flit above the tangle cast up on the sand; parties of Black Guillemots swim on the green water just outside the rocks. Behind the brows are cultivated fields, but their edges are waste and rough with long grass, heather, and low gorse. On these grassy and earthy slopes the nests of Herring Gulls are abundant, and their clamour fills the air. In this cave the first Chough's nest I saw was placed high on a dark shelf in 1877, and the same site has been used in a later year. Later still, in 1895, the cave had a nest in a fissure in the roof, some thirty feet above the water, which at high tide filled the cavern beneath.

In the *Zoologist* (1896, p. 470) I have described a nesting

place on the east coast, of a somewhat different kind. 'On May 10th (1895) I found a nesting place in a part of the island where I should not have suspected the present existence of the Chough—in a stretch of low but much-broken rocky coast, where the cliffs are probably never more than fifty feet high. A few Herring Gulls were nesting on flattish places among these rocks, and heathery and ferny ground, varied by some little "orchards" or patches of trees, came down to their edges. Near at hand was a burn-foot with a shingly beach, and the place commanded a wide view of the headlands and sea, and the opposite mainland mountains. The nesting place was a rough gully, with sides so close together, and in places so overhanging, as almost to form a cave. The water never leaves its mouth, and its interior is blocked by great boulders wedged between slippery tide-washed ledges; altogether as inaccessible a spot as could be found in so low a coast. The nest was evidently among the crevices in the dry upper part of the gully, which was here very narrow, but so dark and ragged-edged that, though I several times visited the place, and frequently saw one or both birds come out of the chasm, I could never make out its exact situation, either from the top of the cliff or the bottom of the gully. The hen bird, after being roused from the nest, sat on a wooden fencing on the brow above, uttering, with opened wings and shaking body, its wild explosive cry of "kee-aw."

A nest on the Calf in May 1901 was in a hole in the roof of a long dark cavern which formed the end of a coast gully (*Zool.*, 1901, p. 470); and I have heard of Choughs nesting in a kind of little chamber which opened some fifteen feet up a very low cliff above a shore of boulders, and which was robbed by the help of a ladder.

Choughs nested for years, and likely still do so, in the

top of a lofty opening which perforates an immense stack isolated at high water. Mr. E. U. Savage has found the Chough nesting in a deep crevice in ground resembling the well-known 'Chasms' near Spanish Head, where a landslip has taken place near the edge of the cliff.

Mr. W. Cottier tells me that there was, and perhaps still is, a nesting place in an old mine-shaft on the brow of a headland. I have since visited this place. The top of the shaft is built up into a short tower-like structure which forms a flat platform, in the midst of which opens the deep square cavity with water covering the bottom perhaps a hundred feet below. There are numerous joist-holes in the sides, and in these the nests were placed. The mine has been unworked for about thirty years. Though on the edge of a barren coast, the site is close to a little haven with a hamlet, and the land about is cultivated, except this rough strip along the seaward side of the promontory.

Some years ago, it is said, the nest in this forbidding situation was stormed by a party of lads from the neighbouring town, who let down a rope into the pit and brought away the young birds.

When sufficient room is afforded the nest is a large, firmly-built, and even neat structure, but in a narrow fissure it may be very like that of a Jackdaw, a loose and formless mass of material. A nest of this character is described by Mr. Graves:—

'It was built at the end of a narrow sloping fissure in the face of a bold open head about two hundred feet above the sea, and which crowned a series of grassy slopes and broken rocky outcrops rising from a small strand. The nest, owing to the situation, was very small. It was built principally of untidy tufts of sheep's wool, mixed with a little cow's hair, a few horse-hairs, and small tufts of fine root-like fibre and fine grass, all loosely matted together, forming the lining, which rested on the rock in the centre;

the fringe was made of a few coarse grass and fine ling stalks, and a few root tufts, the usual foundation of sticks being altogether dispensed with.'

The male is very attentive to the sitting female, and Mr. Graves has observed him, after circling in front of the nesting place and calling repeatedly, settle on a rock below, where he was joined by his mate, who, drooping her wings like a young bird, received the food he brought. After incubation has commenced the hen sits very closely; one did not leave the nest even after Mr. Graves had climbed up and looked at her sitting in the fissure at a distance of some three feet from his face.

The eggs, from four to six, five being likely the usual number, are laid about the end of April. A second nest has been found in the identical hole from which the first eggs had been taken, probably three weeks earlier.

In retired localities the Chough is not shy, and Mr. Graves and I have approached them quite near on the pastures. They are active, though hardly graceful, in their movements on the ground, and utter frequently their noisy calls while feeding.

Though very sedentary birds, Choughs wander in winter to the northern sandhills, where a small flock has been repeatedly observed by Mr. Crellin and Mr. Keig in Ballaugh, and by myself in Michael. Away from the seashore, even in so narrow an island as Man, its occurrence is somewhat uncommon. I have seen a pair flying at a great height over one of our inland hills, and Mr. Graves has noticed a pair on the same mountain in April, but it is just possible that they may breed there. In some rocky glens in another locality others may frequently be seen, though I have no proof of their breeding there; the latter place, however, is within a mile of the sea. Mr. Graves has been told that they have bred in Glen Rushen, presumably in the high slate quarries there. In a certain inland valley

in the north they are well known in winter, and many residents believed them to nest; but I failed to get satisfactory evidence, until from inquiries kindly made for me by Mr. A. Knox he ascertained that the nest had actually been found. Mr. Wm. Douglas tells me that it was placed in the 'wheel-case' of a disused mine in a remote glen.

From another correspondent I have since learned of another inland breeding place in one of our larger dales several miles from the sea. Here again the 'wheel-case' of another of the deserted mine-workings so common in Man has been at least three times occupied to the knowledge of my informant. 'The case,' he says, 'is built above ground; I think it will be nearly thirty feet high. The water was brought on to the wheel by pillars being built, and the race laid upon the top of them. There are in the masonry inside the case two rows of holes, which had been used for scaffolding when building. It was in one of these holes that the Chough nested, about fifteen to twenty feet from the bottom.'

The works in which are situated these artificial nesting places of the Chough have been relinquished by man for periods varying from thirty-five to twenty-five years.

There is some reason for believing that Choughs have bred also on rocky mountain-sides in the interior of Man.

Mr. Clyne of Langness lighthouse mentioned to the British Association Committee, according to its report for 1884, that he found Red-legged Crows numerous about Castletown. In a letter kindly written to the author Mr. Clyne states that Choughs were at that time frequently seen at Langness, much of which is such ground as they elsewhere love to haunt. Mr. Clyne looked upon these birds as visitors from the high south-western cliffs. During my seven years' residence at Castletown I have never met with a Chough near the town.



J. Kewley.

A GLEN IN THE CENTRAL HILLS.

(The 'wheel-case' in which a Chough's nesting place is situated is close to the stream, but scarcely distinguishable in the picture.)

Photo.

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A young bird taken from a nest on the Calf was brought up by the late Mr. Keene, of Castle Rushen, and proved a tame, amusing, and high-spirited pet, until it met the common fate of such favourites, by drowning itself in a water-barrel. Another from the same nest found its home for twelve years in a fisherman's family. It was allowed complete liberty, always returning to the house at evening, and meeting its master with a great show of pleasure. This bird also was accidentally drowned.

In the Migration Report for 1887 Mr. Clyne notes (7th October) at Langness, 'Two or three Choughs passing west at twelve noon.'

The Chough is a resident in a number of isolated colonies on the mountains of the palæarctic region and the Atlantic sea-board of Europe (also Palma, in the Canaries). During the last hundred years it has disappeared from many British localities. It is still found in Wales, for instance on the Lleyn peninsula and the island of Bardsey (Aplin, *Zool.*, 1902, pp. 17, 108), but in England Sandwith and Whitbarrow are now deserted. Mr. Service thinks that one or two pairs survive in Wigtownshire. It still inhabits, even numerous, some of the Scottish islands, and is not, as was once supposed, entirely extinct in the Outer Hebrides. In Ireland it exists at Rathlin and some spots on the Antrim coast, but Mr. Ussher was not able to ascertain if it still, as in Thompson's time, breeds in the Mourne Mountains. Round Donegal and western Ireland it is general, and is still found on the coast of Waterford. From Co. Dublin it has disappeared since 1852.

The writer will much regret if his notice of the species as more frequent in Man than is perhaps generally supposed should have any effect towards its destruction. Its extinction is, it may be, inevitable before long in the course of natural law, but he would earnestly ask all professing

interest in the ornithology of Britain to abstain from the encouragement of any action (punishable also, by Manx law) which may accelerate that extinction in this perhaps the most easily accessible of its British haunts.

PICA RUSTICA (Scopoli). MAGPIE.

Manx, **Piannad, Pieanat* (M. S. D.); *Pieannat* (Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Pitheid*, etc.; Irish, *Pighe, Pighead*; English, *Piet, Pie-Anne*, of which these are corruptions.) The species being of late introduction into the Gaelic-speaking parts of Britain, its then current English names were introduced with it.

Bishop Wilson, in his *History of the Isle of Man* (1722), says: 'It is not long since a person, more fanciful than prudent or kind to his country, brought in a breed of Magpies, which have increased incredibly, so as to become a nuisance.'¹ Where did these Magpies build? Or has the treelessness of the Isle of Man at that time been exaggerated? The Magpie has indeed found a favourite home in an isle where game preserving has not taken deep root, and is common all over the cultivated parts of the country, and in general comparatively familiar and unsuspecting. I have seen as many as forty gathered together for their nightly roost in a plantation above Laxey.

The nests are placed in very varying situations, sometimes in a tall tree, more rarely in a thick hedge of thorns (not a very common thing in Man), often in very small

¹ First appeared in Bishop Gibson's second edition of Camden's *Britannia*. Reprinted from Cruttwell's edition of *Bishop Wilson's Works*, 1797, by Manx Society, vol. xviii. p. 93.

The introduction mentioned must apparently have taken place before 1687, in which year the Magpie appears with the 'Kyte,' 'Raven,' and 'Scar Crowe' as species for whose destruction, as harmful to partridges, lambs, etc., a reward is to be paid.



J. Kewley.

NESTING PLACE OF CHOUGH IN DESERTED MINE WORKS.

(The sticks of the nest are just discernible in the dark opening.)

Photo.

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trees in secluded hillside plantations. On a pond in the north Magpies have for years in succession nested, sometimes in a long dyke of willows which crosses it, where the nest overhung the water at a height of two or three feet—it was in 1900 here, built mainly of gorse sticks—sometimes in the bushes of an islet, recalling sites used in the west of Ireland, as recorded by Mr. Ussher. In 1901 Mr. Graves saw a nest in a tall 'Monkey-Puzzle' at Rheaby. Another nest which Mr. Graves examined in course of building in 1899, in a low tree at the top of a mountain glen, was being lined with moist soil (not clay or mud) before the roof was built.

The average laying time is about the middle of April.

Mr. Roeder, in 'Manx Notes and Queries,' 66 (*Isle of Man Examiner*, 1902), says that old Manx people considered the sight of a Magpie hopping on the road before one unlucky.

Introduced into Ireland some two hundred years ago, the Magpie is now abundant there. In Kirkcudbrightshire it is said to be all but extirpated, but in north-western England holds its own, in spite of the persecution which has made it rare in many English counties. Unknown in the Outer Hebrides, it is one of the rarest of stragglers to Orkney and Shetland.

CORVUS MONEDULA, Linn. JACKDAW.

Manx, *Juan-teayst* (M. S. D. and Cr.). An attempt at translation of the English name read as 'John Dough'! Perhaps the absence of a Gaelic name in use in Man implies the late introduction of the species.

The Jackdaw is a familiar bird in the Isle of Man, where its nesting haunts are often of a less artificial character than in England. It is nevertheless common in the towns and

villages, where it nests in chimneys—(in 1903 Mr. Graves observed some in the thick ivy on the steeple of Lezayre church)—and holes in buildings. Peel Castle is inhabited by Jackdaws, and so is Castle Rushen, to a less extent. Round the sea-coast there are numerous colonies in stony brows and scarps of rock, and the Daw nests also in holes in the northern sand-cliffs. On the brows about Knocksharry there is a colony, and many Jackdaws breed on the 'Ladder' cliff, at Traie Cabbage and Traie ny Volain, and in the high 'creggans' bordering the outlet of Glenmay. They have again a picturesque resort in the fissures of the lofty Gob ny Gameren, Dalby, but in the uncultivated wilds further south they disappear until Fleshwick is reached, where they nest in the gully of Raclay. On the Calf of Man there are Jackdaws about the farm, but we did not notice them on the cliffs. They breed about Perwick, and on the brows of Santon. The creek of Soldrick or Port e Kennish, a large cave at the mouth of which, with a 'gloop' opening into it, is tenanted by a small colony, is sometimes called 'Jackdaw Harbour.' There are stations at the Whing and Wallberry, and beyond Douglas, on Lag e Berry at Banks' Howe. There is a colony on Clay Head, and others among the picturesque ivy-covered crags south of Garwick, and again a few nest under Ballabeg (Lonan), and the slopes above Traie Curn (Maughold Head) are inhabited. The flocks belonging to these coast breeding places do not, however, like Grey Crows, find their food on the shore, and are rarely seen at the tide edge; they feed with Rooks and Starlings in the fields adjoining during the nesting season, as at other times. The cliffs frequented are often ivy-clad. The eggs are laid about the end of April. Mr. Graves says six is not an unusual number.

Inland there are fewer natural breeding places, but such exist in the rocky brows of the Carrick and Karrin, on

opposite sides of Sulby Glen, where also some Jackdaws used to nest on the steep banks of the stream near the junction of the parishes not far from its head, a beautiful retreat half hidden in ferns and bushes. They are seldom known to make use of hollow trees in Man, which, indeed, offers few opportunities for this, but Mr. Crellin tells me he has observed at Ballachurry two or three pairs nesting in holes in elm-trees, where boughs had been broken off, and in 1904 Mr. Graves found a nest in a hollow tree at Ballamoar.

In the Manx towns the Jackdaw shows the usual amusing and mischievous traits.

Mr. Kermodé relates that at Ballaugh rectory in 1890 'a pair kept dropping sticks down the chimney regularly for a fortnight, then three eggs came down. Later, an old bird, whether the nest builder or not I cannot say, tumbled down into the room.' This illustrates the perseverance of the Jackdaw in adhering to an unsuitable site. From the litter deposited in a disused chimney at Castletown were taken one hundred and thirty clothes-pegs of various makes, and fifty from another chimney in the same town, as Mr. J. Qualtrough tells me.

On the cliffs they are a favourite prey of the Peregrine Falcon, yet on Peel Hill a colony nests a short distance above a ledge often tenanted by the latter.

Jackdaws, according to Townley, bred on Douglas Head in 1789.

The Jackdaw is generally abundant on the surrounding coasts. It does not breed on Rathlin, but does so on Lambay and the Copelands, also on Tory Island, Howth Head, Horn Head, and the Waterford cliffs, and indeed is a frequent rock as well as town breeder in Ireland, where, however, it is not yet universal. In Galloway it is abundant, and there also it would seem largely a cliff-breeder. It is

plentiful in Cumberland, and in Lancashire well distributed, though not numerous. It breeds in Orkney, but not, so far, in Shetland or the Outer Hebrides (except very recently at Stornoway).

CORVUS CORNIX, Linn. HOODED CROW.

GREYBACK. MANX, *Fannag, Trogh, Troghan* (M. S. D.); *Fannag* (Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Feannag*; Irish, *Feannog, Fionnog*.) Mitchell gives 'Manx-Crow' as a Lancashire name.

This bird is doubtless the 'Scar Crowe,' which by the law of 1687 is proscribed with others as a 'ravenous creature,' under a reward in the case of this species of a penny per head, but Dr. Leigh (1700) is, as far as I am aware, the first ornithological writer who has noticed it as a Manx bird. In his *Natural History of Lancashire, etc.* (pp. 158-9), he says of the 'Sea-Crow,' after a quaint description of its habits: 'These fowl are said to breed in the Isle of Man, but are not used as food.'¹

Townley (1791) remarks that the 'Pied Crow' appears in great flocks along the Manx shores, and that there is a 'strong colony' among the rocks of Douglas Head.

Feltham (1798) states: 'An Irish Crow of a grey or lead colour is found, though the true English Crow is scarce. Mr. Townley mentions a Pied Crow, which preys on small crabs and marine delicacies.' This writer seems to have mistakenly imagined that Townley's 'Pied' Crow was different from his own 'Grey' Crow.

In 1865 A. G. More states: 'Mr. J. F. Crellin reports it as breeding annually in the Isle of Man.' This fact has obtained a somewhat grudging recognition, Yarrell's

¹ Mitchell's *Birds of Lancashire*, 2nd ed., p. 91.

fourth edition, p. 279 (note), remarking: 'That it does so' (*i.e.* breeds), 'however, annually in the Isle of Man seems to be established,' and Dixon (*Among the Birds in Northern Shires*, p. 89): 'They do not breed in the country' (*i.e.* England), 'if we except possibly the Isle of Man.' The position of the Grey Crow in Man is indeed one of the points that tend to show that Man is not, zoologically, part of England, from which, politically and ethnologically, it is also separate.

The 'Greyback,' as it is called, is very characteristic of the isle, especially its wilder parts, and being very little persecuted, it maintains itself in fair numbers, and breeds all round the rocky coast, as well as more sparingly in the highlands and glens. It wanders a good deal over the country, especially in winter, and quests the low-lying shores of the north and south, and the sands of the bays. A few may be seen in the fields, sometimes with Rooks, or on the moorlands, but all the year round the tide-rocks of the more craggy coasts are its favourite feeding-ground, and its presence is often marked by quantities of empty shells of limpets (called 'flitters' by the Manx) left on a selected spot. The Hooded Crow has something of a Raven's love of a look-out post, and one or two may frequently be seen perched on a jutting point or isolated crag, conspicuous by their pied plumage, and ornamental to the wild scenes they love. Greybacks are usually rather silent birds, unlike many of the family, but during their slow flight they utter now and again a harsh croak. The abundance of shell-fish provided for them by their Manx haunt probably lessens the destructiveness with which they are elsewhere often charged, but even here the character of the bird is far from clear among farmers. Mr. Kermodé (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 526) tells of a Crow which carried off a stoat from the Barony, Maughold. His informant, R. Corteen, said that when flying high over

the sea, the Crow cried out and made for land, but fell with its prey into the water.

I have seen as many as fifty Grey Crows together at Poolvash; so large an assemblage is however very unusual, and as some of these birds had food in their beaks, was likely attracted by some carcass cast up. Smaller gatherings may sometimes be seen, but the bird is most often met with singly, or in twos and threes.

'Crows' and 'Carrion Crows' occasionally appear in the migration reports (on 25th November 1880, about two hundred and fifty 'Crows' flying east to west at Bahama), but we have no clear record of this species or form as a migrant in Man, and its numbers are scarcely perceptibly increased in winter. It is possible, however, that such a flock as that of fifty mentioned above was on passage. A smaller party, which on 19th September 1902 was crowded on a rocky knoll at Scarlett, had among them a single completely black bird.

On the rocks the nest is sometimes very easily reached, sometimes high-placed and inaccessible, usually more or less sheltered. Compared with the Raven's it is slight, but well-built and warmly lined. In Man the birds show little solicitude or boldness in presence of an intruder. The nest does not seem to be used for more than one year, and though the same narrow neighbourhood is adhered to, the immediate site is changed. Thus in a wild gill a thousand feet above sea-level in Lonan, where for fifty years the nesting of Greybacks had been noted, three nests in various stages of dilapidation might at the same time be seen, two amid heather just under the steep edge of the brow, and one on a little rocky shelf at arm's reach from the ground.¹ In

¹ Such an occupation gave, no doubt, rise to the place-name 'Creggan y Annag,' Little Crag of the Crow, at Greeba, where, however, the species does not now nest. Cronk ny Fannag, at S. Baldrine, Lonan, is an artificial tumulus.



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Photo.

SPOOYT VOAR RAVINE (GLEN AULDYN).

(A typical Manx ravine.)

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the uplands the nest is also often placed in a tree, as I have known at Glenmay, in Laxey Glen, and Glen Roy, at Rhenass, Groudle, Block Eary, and the Spooyt Voar Glen (Glen Auldyn); and in the breeding season quite a number were seen together in the plantations of Injebreck by Mr. Graves and myself, and several nests, old and new, noticed.

There was formerly a nesting place at Port Jack, just outside the town of Douglas; a pair, which was several times robbed in that one year, built in a cliff close to Laxey in 1895, and along the Lonan coast it is a particularly familiar breeding species; but there is no need to attempt to enumerate the sites, which occur at short intervals. An isolated rock, when sufficiently steep, is often favoured. The late Mr. T. H. Kinvig told me that Crows had nested on the low but steep Stack of Scarlett, as well as a little further west on the side of the 'Calig-Gully,'¹ curious sites, as the nest would be liable to be washed away in a south-west gale, which sends a furious sea right over these rocks. Off the parish of Santon there is a group of three 'stacks,' on the top of one of which are traces of ancient walling. A pair of Crows breeds annually on one or other of these, and in 1899 all of them bore remains of nests. North of Peel, on one of a somewhat similar group, a nest was attempted in a singularly open situation, commanded by a much-frequented path, and a nest between Peel and Glenmay in 1895 was also very conspicuous, across a break in the brows from the higher cliff opposite, the green eggs showing brightly in its cup. This nest, owing doubtless to the nature of its position, was rather imperfectly formed.

A nest in Lonan (*Zool.*, 1896, p. 471) 'stood only some ten feet above the high-water mark of a little creek. It

¹ Calig=Pollock (*Gadus pollachius*). The deep water-basins and creeks of the Scarlett rocks are an immemorial fishing-ground of the people of Castletown.

was built of sticks, chiefly gorse from the brows above; the cup in its centre very neat, lined with wool, moss, leaves of luzula, and rags, with a bit of printed paper and an end of rope.'

Eggs are laid about the end of April.

CORVUS CORONE, the black form (if it be not really distinct) of this Crow, has not hitherto been recorded from Man.¹ Treating the grey bird as distinct, it is common and abundant in Ireland (where also the Black Crow is not found), and is resident in northern and western Scotland, and the Scottish islands, in all of which latter it abounds to the exclusion of the Black Crow. In Kirkcudbrightshire, where *C. corone* is resident, the Grey Crow is not common, and it is strictly an autumn and winter migrant, as in Cumberland and Lancashire, where also it is scarce. (Black Crows nest on the cliffs of Anglesea.) Vast numbers migrate into England from the Continent in autumn, but few or none of these reach Ireland or the Isle of Man.

CORVUS FRUGILEGUS, Linn. ROOK.

Manx, *Craue feeagh* (M. S. D., and Cr., who translates 'Scald Crow'); *Craue-feeagh* (Kermode); *Trogh, Troghan* (Kermode). Perhaps the '*Craue*' in the first name is a corruption of English 'Crow'; Mr. Kermode thinks that the '*feeagh*' here signifies 'wild,' but had the dictionary-makers believed it to be so they would doubtless have spelled it '*feie*.' *Craue-feeagh* is rather a combination, natural enough during the struggle between the two languages, of the English and Manx names for the class of bird to which the Rook belongs. For *Feeagh*, see names of next species.

At the time of Townley's visit (1789) the Rook was a

¹ But the Messrs. Haddon, of Park Llewellyn, are both positive that they have seen it in their district. 'We know it very well, though one has to be near it to

very scarce bird. He says that he was about to conclude that there were none in Man, but was informed that a small rookery had existed near the Nunnery, but had been done away with, and he wondered where another suitable breeding-place could be found, 'a wood, a lofty grove, or even a holt of trees being an object very rare to be met with.'¹ In Robertson's *Tour* (2nd ed., 1794; the observation was made in 1791) he states: 'A few solitary Rooks had perched their nests on the summit of the trees' (at Kirk Braddan). By 1826, however, as shown by Drinkwater's Map, a good many small plantations existed, and Mr. Moore's *History* states that it was about the commencement of last century that systematic tree-planting began. The Rook is now an abundant and flourishing species, in spite of the bad name it bears among farmers, and although it is so generally regarded as injurious that an appeal addressed a few years ago to owners of rookeries led to something like a concerted attempt to thin its numbers.

Mr. Crellin, however, thinks (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 124) that it is generally acknowledged that they also do a great amount of good. 'Farmers,' he adds, 'have told me that they have watched them walking along the turnip ridges shortly after they have been thinned, carefully examining the young plant, and pulling up only those that have been attacked by the worm.'

Rooks may be seen everywhere, not only in the ploughed fields and pastures, but among the mountain grass and heather, and on the tide-rocks and sands of the bays, even on the piers and promenades of Douglas, and on the isolated

distinguish it from the Rook. We were used to seeing it in Scotland.' This evidence from residents who have such opportunities for observing, and are keenly interested in wild birds, makes it to my mind certain that at least occasionally the species or form occurs here.

¹ Elsewhere, however, Townley mentions that in the north the houses had trees round them.

reef of Conister, associating with Gulls and Cormorants; indeed, about Douglas Bay they are very abundant. At Castletown in 1890 a rookery in the trees at Lorn House overflowed across a narrow road to Bridge House opposite, where two nests were built upon the chimneys; and again in 1899 I noticed one in the same position, while in 1902 no fewer than four were placed there.

The following list of Manx rookeries, which it is hoped is nearly complete, may in future years be useful for comparison. They are most numerous in the best cultivated districts, and exist well up some of the glens; in the uplands they are scarcer.

TOWN OF DOUGLAS.—Villa Marina (large); Fort Anne; Woodburn House; Castletown Road near Nunnery gate; in small numbers about Victoria Road, Woodville, Castle Mona grounds, etc. (1894); Laureston; in 1902-3 a few nests in trees opposite Prospect Terrace (Mr. F. Nicholson).

TOWN OF CASTLETOWN.—Lorn House; Westhill; a few nests about houses in the 'Crofts' and elsewhere.

TOWN OF RAMSEY.—About Ballure Chapel and neighbouring houses on outskirts of the town; Auburn House; Cronkbrae and Hillside; Court House; and probably scattered nests elsewhere.

PARISH OF BRADDAN.—The Nunnery (large); Spring Valley; Ballaughton; Pulrose House; Kirby (formerly large, now much reduced); Braddan Church; (the whole valley from Douglas to Braddan has an almost continuous rookery in its plantations, and colonies continue very numerous along the central depression toward St. John's, the line of the Dhoo valley, and the Peel railway and highroad); Ballamona; Union Mills; Mount Rule; Ballachrink (West Baldwin); Ballig (West Baldwin); Baldwin village (a few nests).

PARISH OF ONCHAN.—Bemahague; Ballacurry and elsewhere in Onchan village; Nursery Hotel; Cannon's 'Orchard'; Sunnyside; Glencrutchery; Willaston; Ballabrooie; Ballamenagh; Balliarney.

- PARISH OF LONAN.—Baljean; Old Laxey (in trees near Keill Nicholas at the head of the harbour); Christ Church, Laxey (their settlement in the Laxey valley is comparatively recent. Baljean was the first colony).
- PARISH OF MAUGHOLD.—Near Rhenab (a few nests); Ballaglass; Cardle Voar and Cardle Veg (Mr. F. Nicholson); Folieu; Bellevue.
- PARISH OF LEZAYRE.—Cooilbane (Sulby); Staward (Sulby); Tholt e Will; Ballakillingan (large).
- PARISH OF BRIDE.—Orry's Mount (about 100 nests); Ballacottier (about 30); Ballacowle (about 10). (Information in 1903 from the Rev. D. S. Cowley, who says that in the two latter rookeries occupation is somewhat irregular.)
- PARISH OF ANDREAS.—Ballaghaue (say, 100 to 150 nests); Ballachurry (Mr. Crellin tells me that this rookery, once of 700 nests, is now reduced to some 120, 1903); Ballalheaney (about 100 nests); Regaby (smaller). (Information from Messrs. J. C. Crellin and J. Kneale.)
- PARISH OF JURBY.—Ballamoar; Ballacain. (Information from Mr. J. B. Keig.)
- PARISH OF BALLAUGH.—Ballavolley; Bishop's Court.
- PARISH OF MICHAEL.—Orrisdale; Whitehouse (large); near head of Sulby Glen (on the rocky banks of the stream, an unusually wild situation, but a small house near); Eary (Little London) about 30 nests in 1903.
- PARISH OF GERMAN.—Northop; Ballagarraghyn; Kerrow-ny-Clogh; Ballacraire, at cross roads; a few nests in a garden between Ballacraire and St. John's (1903); Greeba Castle; Ballawattleworth; Lhergydhoo.
- PARISH OF PATRICK.—Glenfaba (a few nests, 1903); Ballamoar¹ (large); The Lhag, Dalby; Balleby, Dalby (small); Slieuwhallin (Lower Foxdale), small.
- PARISH OF RUSHEN.—Kentraugh (established not longer than twenty years).

¹ At this rookery Mr. Graves counted in one tree 40 nests in 1885, nearly 50 in 1899, and at least 30 in 1902. From 600 to 1000 young are shot there annually.

PARISH OF ARBORY.—The Friary ; Ballanorris ; Ballaclague ; Parville ; Bellabbey (Colby).

PARISH OF MALEW.—King William's College ; Malew Vicarage (small) ; Rushen Abbey ; Billown ; Great Meadow (small) ; Creggans (a few nests 1905) ; Ballaquaggan ; Ballakew ; Ballavarvane.

PARISH OF SANTON.—Mount Murray. (At Oatlands, Ballaquiggin, and Ballavale, former rookeries are extinct ; the Rook has been much persecuted by Santon proprietors. Information from Mr. J. C. Bacon.)

PARISH OF MAROWN.—Eyretton ; Ballahutchin (small) ; Balla-freer ; Ballaquinney Moar ; The Rock.

Mr. Allison tells me that in Maughold a white Rook is thought to foretell a wedding. It was noticed that in the year when a gentleman in the north of the island married, a white nestling was reared in the rookery round his mansion, and a mottled bird appeared at the time of Mr. Allison's own marriage in the same year.

Mr. Kermode notes albinos found two years in succession at Ballakillingan by Mr. Bishop, and another specimen at Orrisdale.

Mr. J. C. Crellin states (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 23) that after the great snowstorm of February 1895 Rooks for many days 'could be seen feasting upon the carcasses of some unfortunate sheep which had been dug out of the drifts, along with Gulls, Magpies, Jackdaws, and Grey-backed Crows.'

The Rook is sometimes mentioned in migration reports from the Isle of Man. The two hundred and fifty 'Crows' flying from east to west at Bahama on 25th November 1880, and the flock of 'Crows' at the same vessel on 18th October 1884, were likely of this species. On 11th August 1884 a number was seen at the Chickens flying west, on 4th and 5th March 1885 flocks appear at the same lighthouse, but these occurrences do not seem to be very frequent. On 8th November 1887 it is noted at the Chickens that a

number of Rooks coming over, during the day, from Ireland, 'seemed much exhausted.'

The Rook is abundant in Ireland, and also of course in Galloway and the English counties nearest us. It now breeds in some of the Orkneys, but is only seen as a migrant in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides (except at Stornoway, where it has lately established itself).

CORVUS CORAX, Linn. RAVEN.

Manx, *Feeagh* (M. S. D., Cr., Manx Bible, Lev. ii. 15, etc.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Fitheach*; Irish, *Feach*, *Fitheach*, *Fiach dubh*.) *Eean yooigh* (Kermode). The Raven is properly *Feeagh vooar* = Great Crow, *Feeagh* including also the Greyback and Rook. Various place-names are derived from it. Edd *Feeagh vooar* = Raven's nest; Glion *Feeagh* (East Baldwin) = Raven's (or perhaps Crow's) Glen; Ballaveeagh (Marown) where, however, there is no suitable site for a nesting place, and which may be called after a family which bore the name. For in Man, as elsewhere, *Feeagh* became a surname (probably first what we now call a 'Christian name'), and the surname *Feeagh* or *MacFeeagh* in modern times has been invariably translated into the still common *Crowe*. On Manx inscribed crosses of the Norse period (eleventh to thirteenth centuries) we find in runes the personal name *FIAK* (Braddan) and its compound *UFAIK* (Andreas), and *UFAAK*, i.e. *O'FIACH* (Braddan), and (?)—*FEEAK* (Braddan), the former part of the name being in this case damaged and uncertain (*MALFEEAK* and *THURFEEAK* suggested).¹ Perhaps there is a reminiscence of the Raven in the Scandinavian name Ramsey (*HRAFNSEY*); perhaps, as Mr. Kermode suggests, it records some Norseman who was named from the bird.

Already grotesquely figured on a cross at Andreas of the time of the Norse dominion, as seated on the shoulder of

¹ Kermode, *Manx Crosses*, p. 39, etc. Cf. Moore, *Manx Names*, ed. 2, p. 22.

Odin during his last struggle with the wolf, the Raven, a familiar and ominous bird to the Northmen in their original home, must have been equally familiar to them in the island of their adoption, as it had been from immemorial times to the Celts, who adopted its name as their own, and commemorated it in such proverbial expressions as 'Cur meer da'n feeagh, as hig eh reeisht,'¹ 'Give a piece to the Raven, and he 'll come again,' suggesting a time when the Raven, a tame scavenger, looked for tit-bits about the farmsteads and villages; and 'Myr s'doo yn feeagh, yiow eh sheshey,' 'However black the Raven, he will find a mate.' In Brown's *Popular Guide to the Isle of Man* (ed. 1877, p. 352) the Rev. T. E. Brown gives a folk-lore story of the bird as follows. (The problem is to account for leap year.)

'The feeagh mooar (big Raven) kills the lambs in February. How to serve him out? "Leave that to me," says March; "give me three of your days, and I'll punish him." So three days are added on to March, and the feeagh mooar is first induced by the mild breath of spring to build his nest, and the young are hatched, when behold! the three February days of bitter cold, and the feeagh brood perish. But how about leap year? "Aw," said my informant, "ye see, March just gives February one day back now and then for a dooragh" (free gift, or gift over and above what is due).'

As mentioned hereafter the erratic allotment of days to the spring months was also popularly connected with the breeding of the 'Crane' (*i.e.* Heron) in Man.

By the law of 24th June 1687, the Raven, like the Hooded Crow, was outlawed as a noxious bird, twopence being payable for its head.

We have now about fifteen nesting places of the Raven,

¹ Cregeen's *Dictionary*.

all on rocks, and almost all on the coast, whose higher cliffs are thus tenanted at short intervals. In one or two cases there may be some doubt as to whether the sites are annual or alternative, and in precipices, which are yearly made use of, the exact site is sometimes shifted, so that two or three of the huge bulky structures may be seen together. The situation varies a good deal, sometimes on the top cliff above a grassy brow, sloping to a strand, sometimes at differing elevations on the face of a precipice directly over the shore or high-water mark, but seldom actually over-hanging water, and always more or less protected by sheltering prominences; in fact, the site is often of a cavernous nature. It was exceptionally so in the case of a nest used a few years ago on the west coast, and still existing. This was on a shelf fairly inside the mouth of a sea cave; a seemingly more suitable position for a Shag's nest, and affording nothing of the wide outlook which the species usually desires. Mr. Graves notes another site in a fissure where the bird was scarcely visible from outside. When the southern 'Marine Drive' was engineered along the face of the cliff of Wallberry, it passed underneath a Raven's nest, which might long have been seen but a few feet above the roadway.

A nest seen on 9th May 1893 was built about twenty feet above a little shingled beach, and the cliff rose again about seventy feet above it. It lay on the back of a shelf of some size, above which hung another which sheltered it. From a point to one side it could very well be seen, and at that time it contained one or two large, almost fledged young; higher up was an old nest. The parent birds were both very excited, and one of them kept plucking out dry grass from the neighbourhood of the nest and showering it about her, conduct which I have seen repeated on another occasion, and which has also been frequently observed by

Mr. Graves. The Raven watches keenly for intruders on his domain, and often meets them at a distance from it, and follows them as they leave it, showing much agitated yet wary malignity.

There is also at least one inland breeding site, on a range of low rocky outcrops overlooking a fertile and populated valley. I have here noticed remains of nests on about five sites, one of them on a rock-scarp so low that standing beneath the nest could be touched by the hand. Twice, however, at least, the birds used a nest on a ledge some twenty feet high on the steepest piece of cliff on the mountain, though only perhaps double that height. The nest here, as seen in March 1893, nearly covered the ledge on which it rested, and was a great pile of gorse sticks, with a deep and rather neat cup, formed of wool, cow's hair, half ravelled rope, bits of rag, and a little moss.

There are perhaps other inland nesting-places. Various residents about Sulby assure me that the Raven breeds, or has bred regularly on the hills to the south of that locality in various spots, and an old nest in a deserted quarry on one of the northern hillsides seen by me in 1904 probably belonged to the species. It is said to have nested even on so insignificant a piece of rock as the Creg Lheeah, on Snaefell.

The birds are about the neighbourhood of the nest even in December and January, though, spite of the legend, eggs in Man are not usually laid until March. Mr Kermode says that in his experience the Raven always nests close to a Peregrine Falcon's eyrie; but there are, I think, some sites wanting this accompaniment, the breeding pairs of the Falcon being now somewhat less numerous. The association of the species, however, is very noticeable and somewhat curious, as they are apparently very unfriendly and constant skirmishes take place.

Ravens play with one another in their floating flight in



P. G. Ralfe

INLAND NESTING PLACE OF RAVEN.

Photo.

To face page 108.

the vicinity of their nest, and utter a curious inward sound, 'kung,' very different from their deep and menacing croak, 'cruck.'

They are occasionally to be met with on the mountain lands and elsewhere, away from their breeding haunt, and seem then to be exceedingly wary. They are sometimes attracted into the cultivated lands by the presence of offal. Mr. Allison has seen thirty-four together on South Barrule.

Mr. Kermodé records a white Raven at Orrisdale, but Mr. Crellin tells me that this is a mistake. There is a fine specimen there, but it is entirely black.

Much might be said of the habits of this interesting bird in captivity. A Manx Raven kept by Mr. Graves showed much excitement when Rooks passed overhead, and Mr. T. H. Nelson, who has another in his possession, tells me that he has heard it imitate exactly their 'caw.'

A Raven is reported from Langness on 8th August 1887 (? at the light).

'If a Raven lighted on the roof of a house, or went flying round it, it was considered' in Manx folk-lore, according to Mr. C. Roeder,¹ 'a sure sign of the death of some one of the family.' The same idea is more than once found in Shakespeare (*Macbeth*, I. v. ; *Othello*, IV. i.) and other writers of his time.

In Ireland, as in England, the species has been driven from most inland haunts ; it breeds, however, in the Wicklow Mountains, and nested on Lambay till 1883. It still nests on the mountains of Antrim and Down, and on Rathlin Island. In Galloway, though much persecuted, it is still resident, and some pairs nest in the Lake Mountains, and, though there verging on extinction, on the wilder hills of Lancashire. It breeds also in the Scottish islands, and is still in many of them comparatively common.

¹ *Manx Notes and Queries*, p. 32.

ALAUDA ARVENISIS, Linn. SKYLARK.

Manx, *Ushag-y-tappee*, *Ushag-tappagh* (M. S. D.)=crested bird; *Ushag chabbagh* (M. S. D.)=stammering or babbling bird; *Ushag happagh* (Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Uiseag*; Irish, *Fuiseog*.) '*Ushag*' is the common Manx generic term for 'bird,' as may be seen by many compounds translated in this work, though 'Ean' (cf. Sc. Gaelic and Irish, *Eun*) is also used. In Lonan '*Ushag*' is usually pronounced '*Ullia*.'

The Skylark is common on our open pastures and sandy wastes, and even high on the mountain land. Already in February its ecstatic song may be heard, by far the finest of the bird melodies of our island. In autumn its numbers are probably, as in Ireland, increased, flocks being abundant through the winter.

Entries are numerous in the migration reports; it often occurs with other species. On the 24th March 1886 there were great numbers at the Chickens, and on numerous dates in the autumn of 1887 it is reported abundantly both there and at the Bahama light-vessel, where as early in the year as 5th and 10th January (1887) some were killed. On 20th February 1890 twenty-three were killed at the Point of Ayre. Mr. Graves has noticed Larks between Liverpool and Douglas. The migrations of the species in Britain are of a complicated nature and often on a vast scale. (See *B. A. Report*, Glasgow, 1901.)

The Skylark is generally abundant in Great Britain, including the Scottish islands, and in Ireland. In the north its numbers are lessened in winter, and in Kirkcudbrightshire it is said to have recently decreased and again become abundant.

(On 21st October 1886 a 'Woodlark' is noted on the lantern at Langness at 1 A.M.)

CYPSELUS APUS (Linn.). SWIFT.

This is rather a scarce species in Man, yet it has long been known as a visitant to the island, for Townley records seeing six or seven Swifts on 14th May 1789.

The earliest date on which I have noted its occurrence is 28th April (1884). Mr. Kermode gives 3rd May, and the middle of the month is sometimes attained without my observing a specimen. Mr. Kermode notes it in the last week in October, an unusually late date.

At Douglas the churches of St. Thomas and St. George house a few pairs, and since the building of the Wesleyan church at Rosemount, a small number, unmindful of the immemorial hospitality afforded by the Established church, have settled there also. At Peel some nest in the decaying walls of the ancient fortress, where years ago Mr. Graves saw one taken from a hole in the rampart surrounding the islet. (Owing to repairs the birds have ceased to nest in this spot, but doubtless still do so elsewhere in the ruins.) At Castletown a very few pairs used to nest in the tall building once used as a barracks. In 1903, however, this station appeared to be deserted, though I twice noticed a few birds in the neighbourhood of the town, and it was not occupied in 1904, a migratory party only appearing in the late summer. Occasionally a flock or a few stragglers appear thus on migration; so on 28th June 1901, a warm hazy afternoon, some fifty to a hundred, the largest assemblage I have ever seen on the island, appeared over Scarlett Point; and I have noticed them, but usually at what seemed more legitimate dates for migration, at Port Soderick, Laxey, and elsewhere, where they do not breed. A somewhat parallel date to the last, however, is

7th July 1886, when large numbers appeared at Langness lighthouse, and there are each year a few entries there; occasionally it occurs numerously, as on the above day, and on 11th May 1881 and 23rd May 1887, and often during daylight. On 12th August 1885 one was caught roosting there. In 1904 Mr. Burnett noted the first specimen there on 5th May. I am not aware of any natural nesting place (as in rocks, hollow trees, etc.) in Man; Mr. Graves thinks, however, that they do breed in the cliffs at Contrary Head.

The Swift is pretty well distributed over Great Britain. In Ireland it is common, and some resort to cliffs, as on Rathlin. It is described as common both in Galloway and north-western England. It has occurred in an irregular manner on the outlying Scottish isles, but has scarcely been ascertained to breed on any of them.

CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS, Linn.
NIGHTJAR.

This is one of the birds which Forbes vaguely mentioned, without particulars, as having been obtained in Man. There is an old skin at Orrisdale. In *Isle of Man Times*, 6th June 1885, it is stated: 'Mr. Adams . . . brought to our office on Wednesday a specimen of the Nightjar, or Fern-Owl, which was shot on Ravensdale a few days ago by Mr. Fyfe. We understand it is about seven years since a bird of this description has been seen on the island.'

Whatever may have been the case twenty years ago, later occurrences of the species have been by no means infrequent, and Mr. Kermodé indeed says that it is seen

every year, but in small numbers. He gives his earliest date as 21st May (1889). About 1887 Mr. Graves saw one on the ferny slope of Greeba Mountain. In September 1890 one was killed in a shed at Messrs. Quiggin and Co.'s works, the Lake, Douglas, and another passed through Mr. Adams's hands in the autumn of 1892. In May or June 1895 Messrs. H. S. Clarke and D. Nelson found a nest on Gob-y-Volley, at the entrance to Sulby Glen, with two eggs. (By some slip the number appeared as three in Mr. Kermode's record in the *Y. L. M.* list.) And 'about November' (unusually late, if correct) one was obtained on the outskirts of Douglas. On 14th September 1899 Mr. Kermode had one brought him from Sulby Glen, and in the same year Mr. E. B. Gawne, of Kentraugh, found a young bird which he released. In September 1901 Mr. Adams had on hand no fewer than four, all recently obtained in Man, and in 1903 Mr. Kermode gave two specimens to the Ramsey Museum. Mr. Crellin has flushed Nightjars about the edges of the Ayre.

Considering its habits and the nature of its haunts, the Nightjar is likely more common with us than the above record would seem to indicate.

The Nightjar is found in all or nearly all the counties of Great Britain. In Ireland it is pretty well distributed, and is found in Antrim and Down, but not plentifully. In Galloway it is not numerous, but in the north-west of England is described as pretty common, and breeding on the Solway and some south Lancashire moorlands, as well as on the fells. Stragglers have been noted in Orkney and Shetland and (once only) in the Outer Hebrides.

DENDROCOPUS MAJOR (Linn.). GREAT
SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

In September 1849, as recorded by Mr. Kermode, a specimen was shot by Dr. Crellin at Orrisdale, and it is still in the collection there.

About the end of January 1888 (*Y. L. M.*, vol. i. pt. ii. p. 70) an adult male was killed on an oak-tree at Ballakillingan, Lezayre, and another of the same sex, also a fine mature specimen, shot at the Nunnery, Douglas, on February 7, 1899, came into Mr. Kermode's possession, and is now in the Ramsey Museum.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker becomes rarer northward and westward in Britain. All Woodpeckers are rare in Ireland, and none has been known to breed, but this has occurred by far most frequently, always, as with us, in the winter half of the year. Twelve of the thirty-nine occurrences recorded by Mr. Ussher were in the counties of Antrim and Down. There have been a few instances in Kirkcudbrightshire. The species breeds very sparsely in north-western England, or in any part of Scotland, but has been noted on migration even in Shetland and Orkney, and once, very recently, in the Outer Hebrides.

IYNX TORQUILLA, Linn. WRYNECK.

Mr. Leach informs me that in 1896 Mr. Philip Kelly, of Douglas, brought to him for identification a bird killed at the Abbey Lands, Onchan. It proved to be a very fair specimen of the Wryneck. It was stuffed by the owner,

but having been destroyed by moths, is not now in existence.

Common in south-eastern England, the species decreases towards the north and west; in Cumberland and Lancashire, where it was once well known, it has become rare. Few have occurred in Galloway, and very few have been obtained in Ireland, chiefly at lighthouses, one being procured at Rockabill in 1896. Stray specimens, however, have reached Orkney and Shetland, in one case even the remote Foula.

ALCEDO ISPIDA, Linn. KINGFISHER.

Forbes described the Kingfisher in Man as 'not scarce if sought for,' and this probably is still an accurate description of its status, though in 1858 the sixth edition of Quiggins's *Guide* had altered the above remark to 'scarce.' Though little known, and its breeding never recorded, there can be scarcely a doubt that, as Mr. Kermode states, the species is 'resident in small numbers throughout the island.' It is to be remarked, however, that definite records of specimens obtained belong almost entirely to the winter months.

I have notes of the Kingfisher from many localities. Mr. Adams says that in the neighbourhood of Douglas the bird is constantly to be seen on certain stream sides, it has been obtained by the Silverburn, where also, in the vicinity of Ballasalla, Mr. W. C. Cubbon has often observed it, and on a field ditch near Ronaldsway, and seen on the Poolvash stream. In the autumn of 1902 one was found dead near Kentraugh. In the winter of 1894-95 one was procured at Ballawillan, near the Neb. Mr. Wm. Kermode has several times procured and heard of it in the Peel district, and Mr.

Graves saw one on the Rhenass stream in August 1904, and another on the coast rocks at Ballagyr (German). A stuffed specimen from the neighbourhood is at Ginger Hall, Sulby, from which locality the species is also reported by Messrs. H. S. Clarke and A. Knox, and there is another in the Ramsey Museum.

A strange occurrence of this species in February 1885 was recorded in a local newspaper, and by Mr. Kermode (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 527); five were then taken in the large pavilion at Derby Castle, Douglas. They were captured alive, and two, which came into the possession of Mr. I. Wilson, fed eagerly on fish, but died within a few days. Two, according to Mr. Kermode, were also, a few years ago, taken in a cowhouse near the bridge over Ramsey Harbour; one of these, which had been injured, and did not long survive, is now in the Ramsey Museum.

The species is distributed, not abundantly, over Britain. In Ireland generally scarce, Antrim is stated to be one of the counties where the Kingfisher is most frequent. On secluded streams in Galloway, Cumberland, and Lancashire it is described as not uncommon. Except for one occurrence in Orkney, it has not been recorded from the outer isles of Scotland.

[*CORACIAS GARRULA*, Linn. ROLLER.

This is one of the birds long ago mentioned by Forbes as 'having been killed.' There is no fuller nor further record.

A straggling visitor to Britain, the species has ten times occurred in Ireland (one in Antrim). Lancashire has about six records, and Cumberland two.]

UPUPA EPOPS, Linn. HOOPOE.

The species is vaguely recorded by Forbes.

In his list of 1880 Mr. Kermode states, on the authority of the late Mr. Jeffcott, that a specimen of this bird was, about 1835, shot on Langness by the late Receiver-General Quirk, who had it stuffed. It is omitted in the extended form of this list, but in his latest, Mr. Kermode records: 'In a house at Castletown is one shot at Langness about 1866.' He adds that on 20th July 1894¹ Mr. Strappini saw an adult male in Derby Square, Douglas. This gentleman, it was at the time said, had in his own country been well acquainted with the Hoopoe.

The Hoopoe has occurred from time to time in all parts of Ireland, mostly in spring and autumn, and near the coast. From Galloway there are one or two records, and there have been a few killed in both Lancashire and Cumberland. There are a number of records from Orkney and Shetland (especially the former), and it has been found, though very rarely, in the Outer Hebrides. It is one of those conspicuous birds whose appearance in Britain exposes them to almost certain destruction. In England it has, naturally, been most frequently obtained in the counties on the south and east coasts.

CUCULUS CANORUS, Linn. CUCKOO.

Manx, **Cooag* (M. S. D., Cr., Manx Bible, Lev. ii. 16). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Coì*, *Cuach*; Irish, *Cubhag*, *Cuach*.) One of the legendary 'seven sleepers.'

The usual time of the arrival of the Cuckoo in the Isle of

¹ In 1894, according to Mr. Ussher, Hoopoes appeared in Ireland in such a manner as to suggest a simultaneous movement.

Man is, in my experience, about the last week in April, and with this agrees Mr. Kermode, whose earliest notes are 22nd and 28th of that month. It has, however, been several times reported a fortnight earlier, and a remarkable record, if correct, is that from Langness lighthouse, where in 1887 one was recorded on 28th March. Mr. Crellin says that old Manx people 'fixed' the date for first hearing the Cuckoo on 23rd April. It appears from time to time, seemingly always singly, in the Manx migration reports (one was caught at Langness 4th May 1885, but the other dates are normal).

The Cuckoo is common and well distributed. In May 1901 we saw two together on the Calf of Man, and in August 1904 Mr. F. Nicholson found there remains of a Cuckoo in red plumage, which had been the victim of some bird of prey. It seems specially to love the borders of the waste land, and never does the well-known cry carry with it a stronger sense of the exhilaration of the season when the life of the world is renewed, than when the caller sways on the yet leafless bough of some wind-sown ash high on the side of a Manx glen, half wild, half pastoral, where beneath the stream rushes through a copse of brier and flowering blackthorn, sown thick with primrose and anemone, and vocal with the song of the Blackbird, and above, the long slopes of pasture merge in swells of grey waste, descending from one of the cairn-topped summits of the central range. Mr. Barker, as quoted by Mr. Kermode, heard two calling together when on the wing on the banks of the Sulby; and on 22nd May 1884, while a pair was in company on the Onchan uplands, I heard from them, while flying, both the usual 'cuckoo' and the singular gurgling sound attributed to the female. (I cannot say that each bird uttered both notes.) Mr. Kermode notes that he has heard it as late as 12.45 and as early as 2.30 A.M.

The bird's favourite victim in Man is the Meadow Pipit, and Mr. Kermode states that in June 1882 four young Cuckoos were taken from nests of that bird on the Brooghs at North Ramsey alone.

Mr. Crellin (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 614) says that a young Cuckoo was observed for ten days or so in the neighbourhood of Orrisdale; 'one morning it had disappeared, but on looking about the place its feathers, beak, and feet were found, and fluttering overhead in great agitation were a pair of Yellow Hammers, who would not leave the spot, but continued flying around and crying as it were in lamentation.'

In the *Manx Note-Book*, No. 6, p. 94, Mr. W. J. Cain gives the following Manx rhyme about the Cuckoo:—

'Ta'n Cooag veg veen,
 As t'ee yeean veg feer bwaagh ;
 T'ee ry clashtyn sy keeyljyn
 As ayns theeaneeyn traagh ;
 T'ee cheet mysh laa boaldyn
 Son three meeaghyn dy rhaa
 Agh t'an chied sheeig dy hraagh
 Chur ersooyl ee, t'ad gra.'

'The Cuckoo is a dear little (bird),
 And she is a very beautiful little bird ;
 She calls in the woods
 And in the meadows of hay ;
 She comes with May Day
 For three months' time,
 But the first rick of hay
 Sends her away, they say.'

An interesting fragment of folk-song, with the air to which it was sung, is sent me by Miss S. Morrison:—

CAR YN COOAG.

“Kook, kook, peep, peep,” dooyrt y Cooag veg veen !
 “Cren aght cadle oo choud er y tourey¹ woinin ?”

¹ So given by Miss Morrison's informant, but surely *tourey* (=summer) should here be *gheurey* (=winter). Never having been written down, such songs are liable to endless corruption and variation.

CUCKOO SONG.

“Kook, kook, peep, peep,” said the dear little Cuckoo!

“Why hast thou slept so long on the summer from us?”

| : :d' | s :- :m,r | d :- :r | m :- :s,s | s :- :m | s :- :f :m | r :- :d | d :- :- |

In Ireland the Cuckoo is widespread, and in the parts of England and Scotland next to us, as over these countries generally, it is common. It is plentiful in the Outer Hebrides, and a regular summer visitant (though not abundantly) to Orkney. In Shetland it occurs occasionally, and has perhaps bred.

STRIX FLAMMEA, Linn. BARN OWL.

The late Mr. J. M. Jeffcott in 1883 reported to the Isle of Man Natural History Society that a beautiful specimen of this bird had, some years before, been found dead on the seashore near Castletown.

About 1895 I was told of Owls which nested in the ruins of Eyreton, near Crosby. Mr. Adams says that he has had in his hands several Manx specimens. One of these was found dead at the Nunnery, and another at the Garth, Marown; both these were poor, starved-looking specimens. (Mr. Adams had also had an Owl's nest with two young in a hollow tree.)

Mr. Kermode does not include it in any of his lists up to 1901, but I think there can be no doubt about the correct identification of these examples.

On 15th December 1902 a specimen was shot at Ballarterson, Maughold, by Mr. H. Christian, and is now in the Ramsey Museum.

The Barn Owl is well distributed both in England and

Ireland, in the latter of which it is rarely numerous, however. It becomes scarce towards the north of Scotland, and it is questionable whether it has occurred in any of the outer groups of isles. It is a decreasing species in Galloway, where it is nearly extinct, and in parts of Lakeland.

ASIO OTUS (Linn.). LONG-EARED OWL.

Manx, *Hullad*, *Kione-chayt*¹=cat's head (M. S. D.). (Cf. Irish, *Ceann cuit.*) *Hullad* (Cr.); **Hullad-screeagh*, *Scree-agagh-oie* (Kermode). *Hullad* is used in various passages of the Manx Scriptures. (Cf. English, 'Howlet.')

Considering the meagre amount of woodland in Man, this species is well distributed, and seems to be found all over the island wherever there are plantations, nesting sometimes in very small patches of timber. It is by no means incommoded by the amount of daylight that reaches it there, and sails noiselessly, even at midday, amid the trees, its beauty often causing it to fall a victim to some chance gunner. It is also sometimes shot in quite low cover, even on the coast brows, suggesting, perhaps fallaciously, migration.

The Long-eared Owl is often a very early nester; in the neighbourhood of Douglas a nest containing three eggs and already three young was found as early as the 1st April, in 1883. But a more usual time for the young to emerge is towards the middle or end of the same month. The eggs are evidently laid at considerable intervals, incubation of some, and deposition of others, going on at the same time. Four is perhaps the most frequent number of a clutch,

¹ The name *Kione-* (often pronounced *Kyudn*) *chayt* is also applied to the Sea Urchin (*Echinus*).

though as many as six are not unusual. They are usually placed in the old nest of a Magpie.

Inhabiting nearly the whole of Britain, this species is in Ireland the commonest and most widespread of Owls. It occurs in Galloway and north-western England, apparently more locally than with us. It occurs from time to time in Orkney and Shetland, in the former of which it has bred, and has been reported from the Outer Hebrides.

ASIO BRACHYOTUS (Forster). SHORT-EARED OWL.

MARSH OWL (Kermode).

Though little known or distinguished in the island, this species is a regular visitor, and by no means scarce. Thus in January 1892¹ the Douglas bird-stuffer had four in hand at once.

Mr. Kermode gives 1st September (1883), when one was shot by Mr. Kayll at Bride, as an early date for its occurrence, which no doubt it is, but on 3rd July 1898 I saw one flying about the rocks on Langness, mobbed by small birds, a sight which reminded me of a similar scene witnessed in Shetland a month earlier, when the aggressors, however, were Gulls and Grey Crows.

Dr. Crellin, in one of the already quoted series of letters to Mr. A. G. More, says of this Owl: 'I do not think that it breeds here. There are a good many here in autumn and winter, but I think that they arrive about the same time as the Woodcock.' He adds that 'a friend saw a couple in a bog, on the mountains where I saw the Twites in March

¹ This was the time of the 'vole-plague' in southern Scotland, but there are no voles in Man.

last' (1862), 'and as I thought that they might possibly breed there, we hunted it well with a couple of setters about a month ago' (letter dated 19th July), 'and I also myself on several occasions lately walked through it, but the birds were not there. . . . I believe that the only Owl that breeds here is the Long-eared Owl.'

I have been told that in 1884 (1st June) four eggs were found on the ground in the uplands near Injebreck, 'in a hollow without any nest.' One of the eggs so discovered is in my possession, but I am not aware that specimens can be distinguished from those of the last species, and the authority for the find was not very reliable. The breeding of the species in Man, however, would not be unlikely, and seems to be pretty well settled by the testimony of the forester at South Barrule, who on two occasions in late years found Owls' nests, with eggs, on the ground, in open gorsy spots amid the young plantations under his charge, and knew of a similar nest at Greeba. Nevertheless, instances of the nesting of the Long-eared Owl on the ground are not unknown in Britain.

In north-western England and Galloway the Short-eared Owl breeds sparingly, but has not been known to do so in Ireland, though it appears there somewhat irregularly in winter, as over the whole of Britain. Messrs. Coward and Oldham found it nesting in Anglesea. It nests in all the outer groups of Scottish islands.

NYCTEA SCANDIACA (Linn.). SNOWY OWL.

Mr. Kermode records a specimen, still in the collection at Orrisdale, shot many years ago by the late Dr. Crellin¹

¹ Mr. Crellin tells me it was obtained on the rabbit-warren near the house.

(writing in 1862 Dr. Crellin says, 'eighteen or nineteen years ago'), and another obtained about 1855 by the late Sir Alured Dumbell, who also 'saw another once at Greeba.'

The Snowy Owl, a straggler from the far North, has been recorded from most parts of Great Britain, and about thirty times in Ireland, including several occurrences in Antrim and Down. For the nearest English counties and for Galloway there seem to be no records. It has occurred in many of the Scottish islands, and in Shetland especially its appearances have been very frequent.

[*ATHENE NOCTUA* (Scop.). LITTLE OWL.]

The late Mr. Jeffcott stated in 1883 that he had shot a specimen in a small plantation near the Creggans farmhouse, Malew. Unrecorded from Scotland and Ireland, this little species seems very unlikely to occur here, but it is to be feared that no identification can now be arrived at.]

BUTEO VULGARIS, Leach. COMMON
BUZZARD.

A fine adult example of this species was killed in October 1902 at Earystein, Arbory, and came into possession of Mr. James Cooil, whose farm is close to the scene of its capture. The place is near the head of Colby Glen, where pasture-fields alternate with wet and gorse-grown 'gareys' about the course of the little stream; as it descends from the high uplands at the Slock. The bird was supposed to be preying upon the rabbits abundant on

the ground. It is in richly and rather deeply coloured plumage, the tail being so dark that the many barrings are indicated with comparative faintness. The upper parts are but slightly marked with white, the thigh feathers bright russet.

In Ireland the Buzzard formerly bred in Antrim and Down, Donegal and Londonderry, but has now become a casual over that whole country. It still nests rarely in Galloway and among the Lakeland mountains, and in winter is sometimes found upon the low coasts. It appears to be rare and casual, if it has occurred at all, in the outer groups of Scottish islands.

[*AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS* (Linn.). GOLDEN
EAGLE.

Mr. Kermode assigns to this species several reported occurrences of 'eagles' in Man in the winter of 1881-82. (*Y. L. M.*, III. xi. 528).

In 1880 the late Mr. L. Goldsmith saw an eagle above Slieu Dhoo, Ballaugh. In November 1881 Mr. Rudd, who is said to have been familiar with the species, 'saw one which for some months haunted the north of the island, and was frequently seen, sometimes with its mate.' In December of the same year Mr. Allison of Maughold and his shepherd saw and tried to capture one,¹ and in the same month Mr. Quarrie observed one chasing a Raven in

¹ Mr. Allison writes me that he first saw the bird in the deep glen near the Glen Auldyn slate quarry, where it was devouring one of his sheep on a miniature island formed by the stream. To this little spot, quaintly called 'Cock Robin,' the sheep used to jump or scramble across the water for the sake of the herbage growing there.

Ballaugh Glen (and again in February 1882). Mr. Kermodé continues that 'the species was seen by other observers in different parts of the island.' Mr. Crellin mentions another report of a Golden Eagle, observed in the neighbourhood of Glen Moar, Sulby, in 1893 or 1894 (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 204).

It can hardly be that all these persons were in error as to the presence of an Eagle, and there is nothing improbable in the stray occurrence of the Golden Eagle here, but as no specimen was obtained, and in the lack of details to render discrimination undoubted, the species must for the present be bracketed. The old records of the breeding of Eagles, some of which may possibly refer to this species, are treated under the next.

The Golden Eagle, now nearly extinct in Ireland, bred within the earlier half of last century in Antrim, Down, and Donegal. A specimen taken from the last eyrie in Galloway about 1850 has only recently died. The species is now in the highest degree rare, and occasional in north-western England, and it is perhaps uncertain whether any formerly recorded nesting place of Eagles in that district belonged to it. In the Outer Hebrides, as in the Highlands of Scotland, it still breeds. In Orkney it became extinct about 1850, and is not known to have nested in Shetland.]

HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA (Linn.).

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE.

Manx (for Eagle in general), **Urley* (pronounced 'Erla') (M. S. D., Cregeen, and in Lev. xi. 18, Deut. xiv. 12, Job xxxix. 27, but in Lev. xi. 13 and 17, strange to say, the English 'Eagle' is inserted). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Iolair*; Irish, *Iolar*,

Fiolair ; Welsh and Breton, *Er.*) The name 'Cronk Urleigh,' formerly 'Renurling,' applied to a natural knoll near Kirk Michael, probably refers to the Eagle as a device of the Stanleys, Lords of Man, the place having been used for a Tynwald assembly in the fifteenth century.

Bishop Wilson, early in the eighteenth century, says that the island had then 'one airy of eagles.' This statement seems to be unconfirmed, and not even copied by all the many succeeding writers who describe the natural productions of Man, until Train (1845) supplements it as follows: 'The eagle had his eyrie in the fastness of Snafield (*sic*) in the time of Bishop Wilson.' No mountain could be more unsuitable for the nesting place of an Eagle than the smooth and grass-clad Snaefell, and though the phrase used by Train might be extended to include the often rocky and precipitous ravines of Sulby Glen, such as the Cluggid, no weight need be given to the addition, unsupported by details, of this unreliable writer.

In 1865 Mr. A. G. More stated (*Distribution of Birds in Great Britain*), under heading of the above species: 'Mr. J. F. Crellin has ascertained that a pair of Eagles used to build in the high cliffs at the south end of the Isle of Man; none have bred since this pair was destroyed in a snow-storm about fifty years ago.'

To this I am enabled (by Mr. Moffat's kindness) to add, in amplification, some extracts from Dr. Crellin's letters. On June 17 (or 19), 1862, he writes that he hopes soon to get some information respecting the Sea Eagle, as he intends going to the Calf of Man on the first fine day. After returning from Castletown to Orrisdale he writes on 19th July: 'I have, I believe, got all the information I am likely to get respecting the Sea Eagle. The man to whom I alluded in one of my letters happened to be at home one evening that I went to see him. He told me that he

remembered two Eagles building in the high rocks overhanging the sea, and that they were destroyed in a snowstorm, which occurred at the time that a vessel called the *Buzzard* was wrecked, about fifty years ago. They were found dead in a farmyard under the snow. Another and older man to whom I spoke said that he remembered that an Eagle was found dead under the snow at the same time. The first said that they had been in the habit of breeding in the rocks for years before they were destroyed, but that none had bred there since. I cannot tell you anything more about them, nor can I say that they were Sea Eagles, though they nested in the high rocks overhanging the sea.' ('At south end of the island' is here pencilled with quotation marks, says Mr. Moffat, in Mr. More's writing, evidently from one of Mr. Crellin's earlier letters.)

About 1900 Mr. J. C. Bacon told me that, in conversation with Mr. Quayle, an elderly man residing at Lhingague in Rushen, the latter told him that in the early years of last century eagles bred at a place which bears the suggestive name of Ernery¹ (on the ordnance sheet 'Eairnyerey') between Fleshwick and Dalby, a little south of the Slock.

The site of the eyrie has a wildness and sternness befitting its former occupants. The crag itself, perhaps two hundred feet high (for ordnance contours are lacking over most of Man), is a jutting corner of a great uncultivated ridge of one thousand feet, whose huge higher brows dwarf it when seen from a distance together with it. It faces northward, and is almost entirely sheer and bare, the richness of vegetation

¹ *Örn* in Icelandic=Eagle. It will be remembered that though Norse must have been used in Man by a portion of the population for hundreds of years, and many of our place-names are derived from it, it has been extinct here as a spoken language for at least five centuries, and the fact that a place named from the Eagle not later than the fourteenth century retained an eyrie to the nineteenth is remarkable.



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

ERNERY.

Photo.

(Former eyrie of eagle, on the cliff in front.)

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being wanting which is so often in Man, and especially on its west coast, characteristic of a cliff which does not directly overhang the sea. Near the top, however, are one or two broad grass-clad ledges, now used by Shags, which have littered the ground at the bottom of the cliffs with broken heather stems from their nesting materials. To the south the sheer coast-line dips into deep water, but to the north is a recess which might be called a beach were it not that the age-long disintegration of the mountain-side has piled it in wild confusion, both above and below high-water mark, with boulders of every size and form. The photograph gives but a faint idea of the magnitude and steepness of the precipice, which is almost continuously in shadow. An outlying mass of rock prominent near its foot, and where the birds used to perch, was known, as Mr. Quayle has since informed me, as the 'Eagle Rock.' He had this information from his father, who remembered the Eagles; they bred, as he supposed, up to perhaps seventy years ago. If Dr. Crellin's note refers to the same eyrie, and his dates be correct, we must put back the limit by fifteen or twenty years; but Ernery could hardly be described as the 'south end of the Isle of Man,' and possibly the sheer precipices about Spanish Head may have sheltered another pair, or the nesting site may have been shifted on account of persecution or from some other cause.

Ernery is in a neighbourhood as secluded and remote as any in the Isle of Man, and if the only Manx eyrie existed there, this may account for the want of notices of Eagles in the island.

Mr. Macpherson (*Vert. Fauna of Lakeland*, p. 190) quotes Mrs. Radcliffe as follows: 'We were told that the Eagles have forsaken their aeries in this neighbourhood (Patterdale) and in Borrowdale, and are fled to the Isle of Man' (1794).

The evidence as to the *species* of Eagle which inhabited Man can scarcely be deemed conclusive.

Among the former residences of the Sea Eagle near our shores were the Mourne Mountains, Fair Head in Antrim, Rathlin Island, Burrow Head, the Mull of Galloway, Martindale and Borrowdale in Cumberland. Several of these eyries must have been within sight of the Isle of Man. It still perhaps nests in Mayo, and is said to have done so in Donegal about twenty years ago. There are yet nesting sites in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides, as well as on the Scottish mainland, but in general the bird has become a rare and accidental straggler in the British Isles.

ACCIPITER NISUS (Linn.). SPARROW HAWK.

Manx (Hawk generally), **Shawk*¹ (M. S. D. and Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Seobhag*; Irish, *Seabhac*; Welsh, *Hebog*.) **Shirragh* (M. S. D.); *Stannair* (Cr.) (likely = the Kestrel); **Shirragh ny Giark* (Cr.) = Hen Hawk, refers likely to the above species. In Deut. xiv. 13, *Shawk* = 'Glede,' and in Lev. xi. 16, 'Hawk' in the English version; in Lev. xi. 14, 'Kite' is rendered by *Shyrragh*. *Shirragh* is now sometimes pronounced '*Thar-ragh*.'

The Sparrow Hawk is fairly abundant in Man, and many plantations all over the isle have pairs regularly nesting in the same near neighbourhood. It builds its own nest, a substantial structure, and the eggs are laid, on an average, about the middle of May.

Whatever truth there may be in reports of this species nesting elsewhere in cliffs, no such case has ever been reported in Man.

¹ This word is spelled in a way quite out of keeping with Manx orthography, evidently through a wish to approximate to the English name.

Its boldness and persistence in pursuit of its prey here, as over Britain generally, often bring it into notice. Mr. Crellin found that a pair nesting in trees close to his house fed their young largely on Blackbirds; among the remains there were none of Chickens or Ducklings. In the house of Mr. F. Stowell at Castletown is a stuffed specimen which was caught in his back kitchen, together with a Lark which it had pursued through the open door, a passage, and the front kitchen.

The species is common over Britain and Ireland, and is familiar all round the Irish Sea. At the Mull of Galloway it was said to breed in cliffs. It is doubtful if it occurs in the treeless Outer Hebrides and Shetlands, but is probably really present in Orkney.

HIEROFALCO CANDICANS (J. F. Gmelin).
GREENLAND FALCON.

On 8th April 1884 the only known Manx specimen of any of the forms of the Gyrfalcon was shot by a gamekeeper on Douglas Head. It was first erroneously recorded as *F. islandus*, and passed into the possession of the late Dr. Okell, of Douglas. It is a handsome specimen, the tail entirely white, and the under plumage almost completely so, with a few dark flecks only on the breast and flanks. The beak and feet are now (1905) pale dull yellow.

Mr. Kermode remarks (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 529): 'It had been seen at Ballaglass, Maughold, by Mr. Haslam, and at Bradda Head and elsewhere. It carried off a Fantail Pigeon from a house in the Crescent, Douglas; was seen hawking Rooks on Douglas Head; and a day or two before being shot struck one, which fell in a field close by the gamekeeper

and another man, who picked it up, when the Falcon swooped down and struck it out of his hand!' Was it the same bird which was seen at all the above localities?

Of thirty-one Irish occurrences recorded by Ussher and Warren, one took place in Antrim (Rathlin) and nine in Donegal (three of the latter in the winter 1883-84, with five in other parts of Ireland). In Ireland it has been most frequently seen in April. There seem to be no records for Galloway. In 1865 one was captured in the port of Liverpool, and another obtained in the same year in Westmoreland. It is doubtless a straggler to all the Scottish island groups, but there is much confusion as to the identity of the specimens which have been taken there.

FALCO PEREGRINUS, Tunstall.
PEREGRINE FALCON.

ROYAL FALCON, FALCON HAWK. Manx (see under *Accipiter nisus*).

In 1406 the Kingdom of Man with all its rights was granted to Sir John Stanley, on the service of rendering two Falcons on paying homage, and two Falcons to each future king of England on his coronation day;¹ this presentation, according to Mr. Kermode, being last made by the Duke of Athol to George IV. in 1821. Mr. C. Roeder (*Isle of Man Examiner*, 1st November 1902) quotes from the

¹ *Manx Soc.*, vol. vii. p. 241. 'p. Homagium, Ligeum, et p. Serviçiũ reddendi nob̄ duos falcones semel tantum videl̄ immediate post Homagiũ hujusmodi sc̄fi, ac reddendi Heredibz n̄ris Regibz Anḡl̄ duos Falcones, Diebz Goronacionum eořdem Heredum n̄roř p. om̄bz alijs Servitijs, Consuetudinibz, et Demandis.'

Manchester Guardian of 28th August 1902 concerning this occasion. 'Amongst the feudal services the two Falcons from the Isle of Man were conspicuous. Seated on the wrist of his Grace's hawking gauntlet, the beautiful Peregrine Falcons appeared with their usual ornaments. The birds sat perfectly tame on the arm of his Grace, completely hooded and furnished with bells. The King descended from his chair of state, and the ladies of the Court pressed round to caress and examine the noble birds.'

In 1422 the Deemsters and 'Twenty-four' 'gave the law' to Sir John Stanley, thus (Clause 6): 'Alsoe if any Hawke or Hyron, Hart or Hind be by any manner of Person taken within your land of Man, he forfeiteth for every time III£ to your Lopp.' Among 'Certain old Customes' given for Law, and now (13th July 1577) put in writing by the Deemsters, we find (No. 35 and last): 'Also we give for Law that whosoever goeth to the Hough where the Hawkes do breed or Hyrons likewise, he forfeiteth for every of them, that is to say, if he take any of the old or young Ones, or Eggs, III£ a piece for soe many as he or they may be proved to have in the Court' (*Statutes of the Isle of Man*, vol. i.).

Chaloner (1656) says: 'Here are some Ayries of mettled Falcons, that breed in the Rocks'; and Wilson, early in the following century: 'At least two (airies) of hawks of a mettled kind.'

Train mentions Maughold Head and the Calf of Man as breeding places.¹

These sites were doubtless much more numerous than the old writers supposed, and probably the same through immemorial ages, to, in most cases, the present day. There are, in fact, some ten or eleven nesting places which are now

¹ Cf. Sir Walter Scott, *The Betrothed*, chap. xxiii.

used, or have been used within the last fifteen years, most being in the midst of, or close to, considerable colonies of sea-birds. As mentioned above, the locality is year after year adhered to, though the exact spot is changed, and in some cases where two eyries are within about a mile of each other, it is possible that they are alternative. As is now well known, the Peregrine makes, strictly speaking, no nest, though the ruins of a last season's nest of some other bird may be utilised.

Maughold Head, from which Mr. Kermode says the last 'Coronation Falcons' were taken by one of his uncles, was, according to the same authority, deserted about 1886, when the female bird was shot, but in 1899 a pair again appeared there, and the eyrie is now, I am told, again regularly occupied.

At a station in Santon also one of the birds was shot a few years ago, and according to Mr. Bacon, the locality has since been forsaken. Wallberry, near Douglas, was probably abandoned some time earlier.

At ——— the eyrie has been repeatedly robbed. Thus, about the end of May 1880, three young were reached by means of a rope, and on 27th May 1883 two young, nearly fledged, were obtained, and eventually sold in England. In 1884 the eggs were taken in April, and again on 30th March 1888, and 4th April 1890. In 1891, I was told, no fewer than twelve eggs were taken from time to time.

In 1888 the situation was on a little recess on a steep slope, with still steeper brows above and a precipice beneath, but very near a frequented path. In the recess, the floor of which was of bare earth, were remains of a Herring Gull's nest, on which were laid the eggs (four, seemingly the usual number in Man). On other occasions the site has been a ledge on the highest and sheerest precipice in

this neighbourhood. Here the birds are surrounded by Herring Gulls, Shags, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, and Jackdaws.

At a station on the east coast also I have seen the nesting site in a wild situation high up the loftiest cliff in a reach of rocky coast, where the steep, thinly covered with ivy, overlooked a recess hardly to be reached by land; and a somewhat similar position, also amidst ivy, has been used near the southern extremity of the island.

At —— the site was in 1895 about thirty feet from the bottom of a steep, but not very high cliff, on a ledge luxuriant with grass and wildflowers, on which lay a few sticks, fragments of a Crow's or Raven's nest.

The eggs are usually laid about the end of March or beginning of April, and the young leave the nest about two months later.

While at some places the Peregrine is, as above indicated, subject to considerable persecution, at others it is probably almost or quite unmolested from year to year. The agitation of the parents unfortunately renders them very conspicuous during the latter part of the breeding season, their loud and sharp yelping cries drawing immediate attention amid the hoarser chorus of the sea-birds. At such a time the fine flight of the Falcon is also well displayed, as it darts from its ledge and flies out high over the sea with incredibly rapid strokes, or rests hovering on its wings after having attained a sufficient distance.

When incubation is well advanced, the sitting bird shows much concern when the nest is approached, and will sometimes dash at the intruder, chattering loudly, checking herself and drawing off only within a few yards of his head. On such an occasion a dog was struck and his ear torn, when near his master. In the neighbourhood of the nesting shelf is often a favourite perch where the bird keeps

its lookout, and a feeding place which is strewn with feathers of victims.

We are not aware that the Peregrine has ever nested inland in Man.

It seems strange that (in spite of modern 'Falcon Cliffs,' 'Falcons' Nests,' etc.) the residence at certain spots of this finest of Manx birds does not seem to have left any impression on our place-names.

As remarked by Mr. Kermodé, a pair of Ravens is usually (he says always) found nesting in close proximity to the Peregrine, but the number of Ravens' eyries is in the Isle of Man somewhat in excess of those of Falcons. The latter constantly attack the former, but I have not seen, nor heard of, these skirmishes ending seriously.

Mr. Bacon says that he has seen the Peregrine strike ineffectually at a Curlew, and Mr. Kermodé relates that Mr. Kelly, of Bride, told him that he had seen it attack a Heron, which, however, after 'a long time, succeeded in transfixing the Falcon with his beak, and Kelly picked up the dead bird' (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 530). Mr. T. Haddon once saw it strike down and carry off a Hooded Crow. At its nesting haunts, though many species of birds are doubtless preyed upon, Jackdaws seem, from the remains found in the neighbourhood, to be its favourite quarry. Mr. Kermodé adds Rabbits, and has known newly fledged Ravens to be given to the young at Maughold. Mr. Graves has noted remains of Blackbird, Starling, Rook, Domestic Pigeon, Jackdaw, Partridge, and Rabbit, but never any of sea-birds; I have, however, found feathers of an immature Herring Gull.

Mr. Graves picked up on a nesting ledge a pellet with the hind claw of a Jackdaw or Rook projecting from its side in a way that looked highly dangerous. Mr. Crellin says, that having lost a wounded Grouse on Ballaugh

Mountain, he was attracted by the hovering of a Falcon near the spot, and going to the place found the shot bird with the feathers all plucked, but the flesh uninjured.

The species is seldom seen away from its breeding haunts, and in winter does not seem to occur in Man. Mr. H. S. Clarke found a beautiful adult female dead on Cronk Sumark in the spring of 1894.

There are several eyries in Antrim and (on inland mountains) in Down, and many on the lofty coasts of Donegal, as well as on the mountain precipices. There are also coast and inland nesting sites in Galloway. A few pairs breed in the Lake Mountains, if not yet exterminated, and there is (or was) an eyrie at St. Bees Head. On the north-west coast of England migrant specimens appear in autumn and winter. Though not extinct in the south and north-east coasts of England, the species has many more eyries in Wales (Mr. Oldham says there are several in Anglesea) and Scotland.

In the Scottish islands it has many breeding places.

FALCO ÆSALON, Tunstall. MERLIN.

‘In the summer time,’ says Chaloner, ‘there arrive here out of Ireland, and the western parts of Scotland, many of those small Hawks, called Merlyns.’ He probably refers to the autumnal migration, on which this species still occurs in Man, though not numerous, as well as in spring; but two hundred and fifty years since it was likely more common over Britain.

Mr. J. Kewley kept alive for some time at King William’s College a specimen which had been injured by striking on the fatal telephone wires on Langness.

From the information at present to hand it would seem as if its breeding here was a thing of rare and indeed casual occurrence, but this may be from lack of observation of the somewhat extensive moorland of the island at the right season, for the species is usually very constant in its choice of a site.

Mr. F. S. Graves was told that some forty years ago a small blue Hawk 'no bigger than a Wood Thrush' nested among the ling at the edge of the brows of Gordon (Patrick); it may have been the same pair which, as the late Mr. Corrin told Mr. Kermode, nested at Contrary Head, near by. Dr. Crellin, writing in 1862, told Mr. More that he had no doubt that the bird bred in Man; he had been told of a pair of blue-coloured Hawks, which bred annually in a neighbourhood not named, and whose eggs his informant had in that year (1862) destroyed. He failed to get more exact information.

In 1893 Mr. F. Nicholson heard from a resident in the higher part of Onchan that hawks nested in the heather on the 'Parks' between Honeyhill and Glen Roy, and that he had that year seen a nest.

Mr. M. McWhannell states that he has found eggs near the Point of Ayre, where Mr. Cruickshank (according to Mr. Kermode) thinks he has also met with it breeding. Mr. Kermode had a young one, caught on the Mooragh at Ramsey, 13th August 1888, but he does not say whether he considered that it had been hatched in the island. He mentions also that an adult female came down a farmhouse chimney near Ramsey in pursuit of a Lark on 1st May 1880, though at the time a fire was burning in the grate.

Mr. T. Fargher tells me that in 1899 two young were captured in the heather on Slieu Ruy, above Agneash. Mr. J. J. Gill reported to Mr. Kermode a nest found amid

heather on the northern hills; it was 'a hole lined with ling and a few sticks,' and contained four eggs.

The Merlin is recorded at Langness lighthouse four times in 1885, 14th February, 29th March (two each date), and 16th August and 26th September (singly).

In the British Isles this is a northern and western species.

Merlins breed in Down, Antrim, and especially in the wilds of Donegal; also in Galloway, where, however, they are more frequent at other seasons. In north-western England they nest in small, and in Cumberland at least decreasing, numbers on the fells and coast mosses, and frequent the shore in autumn and winter. The Merlin breeds also in Anglesea. It appears more or less commonly (for a bird of its habits) both as a nesting and migrant species on the Outer Hebrides, Shetland, and Orkney.

TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS (Gmelin).

KESTREL.

This is one of our characteristic birds, the Manx coast abounding in localities which suit it. At short intervals along our rock-bound shores a pair of these beautiful Hawks may be met with, and soon attract notice by their graceful motions and keen cries. The Kestrel loves a rock half covered by ivy and with grassy ledges, where in some earthy hollow sheltered by the herbage the richly coloured eggs are laid usually early in May.

In Sulby Glen, as Mr. Cottier tells me, the large old quarries, where so much capital has been wasted and spots

so naturally beautiful disfigured in a vain search for remunerative slate, are favourite sites.

Mr. Kermodé states that on the northern coast, where there are no rocks, it selects ledges on the sand and clay cliffs. Certain spots are frequented yearly, for the Kestrel is as true as the Peregrine to its breeding site, and a gully in Onchan familiar to the writer harboured regularly a pair of 'Greybacks,' a pair of Kestrels, and a pair of Robins. This Hawk has also its inland nesting places on steep rocky scarps where the upland breaks into the glen, as for instance those of Laxey and Sulby, but there is no record of its using trees for breeding purposes in Man. Though doubtless more dispersed in winter than in summer, the Kestrel may be seen at any time of the year in its favourite haunts, and rises from its accustomed chasm in January or August almost as readily as in May.

A very widely distributed species, the Kestrel is common all round us, and is to some extent migratory, in winter becoming scarce, for instance in parts of Leinster and Ulster. Its range extends to the outer groups of Scottish islands, but in Shetland it is hardly common.

[*PANDION HALIAËTUS* (Linn.). OSPREY.]

According to the late Mr. Jeffcott, there was a fine specimen in the collection of Mr. Wallace, which the latter gentleman believed to have been killed in the island. Nesting in Galloway until about 1860, and possibly earlier in Lakeland, and a straggler to Ireland, the occurrence of the species in Man is not unlikely, but the evidence is insufficient.]



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Photo.

CORMORANTS' CLIFF AND ROOST ON THE WEST COAST.

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PHALACROCORAX CARBO (Linn.).

CORMORANT.

DIVER, JINNIE DIVER. MANX: The name **Shag*, given in both dictionaries, is applied to this and the next species, which are seldom distinguished; and both give also *Fannag-varrey* = Sea-Crow. *Feeagh-marrey* = Sea-Raven, appears in Lev. xi. 17. **Arragvooar* or **Arrag-ooar* seems to mean *P. carbo*, perhaps only the young white-breasted birds. (Cf. Irish, *Siagaidh*, *Siogaidh*, *Fiach mara*; Sc. Gaelic, *Orag*. Irish, *Odharog* = 'a young Cormorant.')

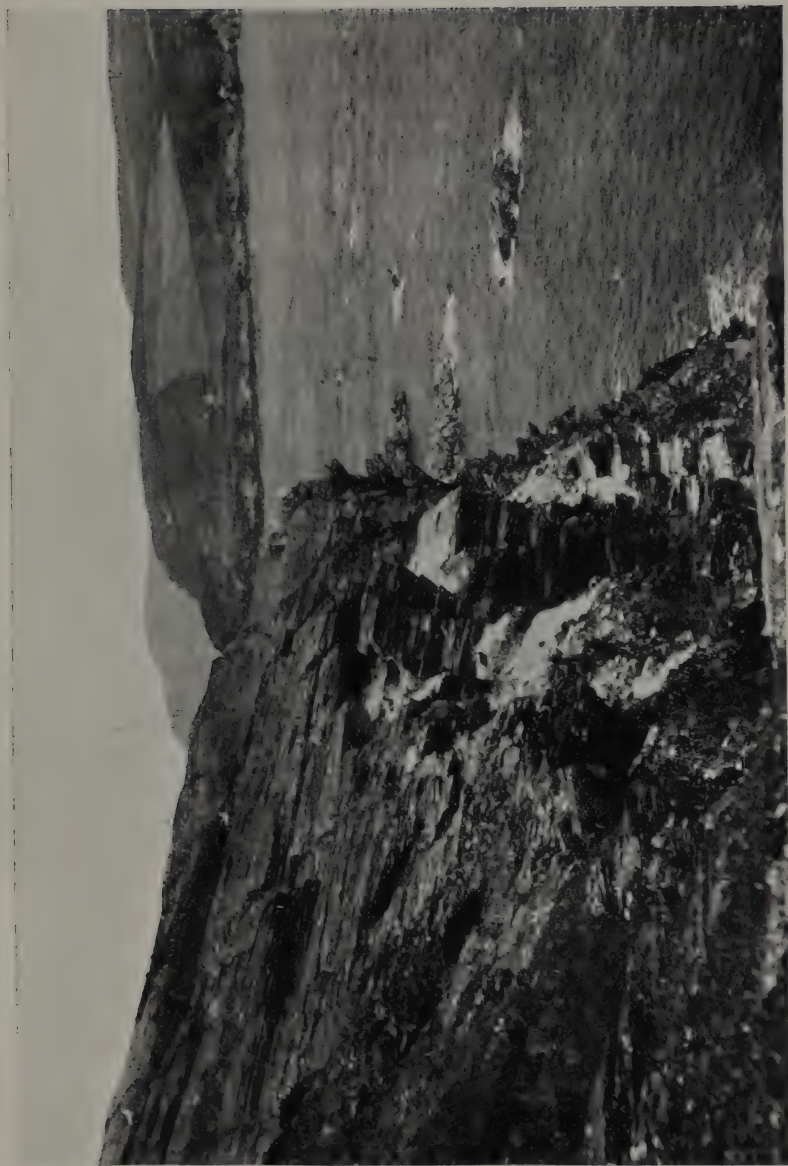
All round our coast the Cormorant is a common bird at most seasons, far better distributed than the next species, which also seldom or never comes inland like *P. carbo*. Cormorants are conspicuous in all our larger bays, and they frequent certain favourite spots as resting places, sometimes in considerable numbers, as for instance at Douglas, the reef of Conister, and when the tide covers the latter, the battlemented buildings erected on it, where as many as twenty occasionally gather. The two perches nearer the Victoria Pier are also seats often occupied, and such are also a number of isolated rocks surrounded by water or difficult of access, like the Stack of Scarlett, which perhaps obtained its name, afterwards extended to the neighbouring estate and 'treen,' from this bird;¹ the Shag Rock at Perwick, where, however, *P. graculus* is probably the predominant species; the Shag Rock near Laxey, and the striking and massive Shag Rock under Peel Hill (where also the Shag is very much more abundant). There are also roosts on elevated shelves and ledges amid the cliffs, which are regularly resorted to. Mr. Kermode in *Science Gossip* (May

¹ Norse, *Skarfr* = Cormorant; *Klettr* = Rock. (See Moore, *Surnames*, etc., p. 284.) Creg Harlet, a similar mass of rock off Bradda, has likely the same meaning, whatever that may be.

1876) describes their capture in such situations at Maughold, and on the sandy shores of the north some low boulder isolated amid the tide will be utilised until the rising water forces the bird to swim. The Cormorant resorts also to fresh water, as the ponds of the north and the pools of the Sulby and other of the deeper Manx streams, and its notoriety in this respect has led to the placing upon its head of a reward of half a crown by the Manx Fishery Board, when detected on inland water. 'I watched one of these birds,' says Mr. Crellin, 'on a pond where there were many trout. I saw him dive three times, and each time he came up he had a trout in his mouth.'

Jardine (vol. iv. p. 238) writes: 'Where we have observed them, ledges of rock have been selected, and so broad that the birds, if shot dead, would not fall from them. On the Ross of Kirkcudbright, St. Bees Head, and the Isle of Man, there are several breeding places of this description.' The nesting colonies in Man are now few and small; two only are known to the writer. One of these, on our west coast, was first noticed by Mr. Graves and myself on 8th June 1895, when it was on broad ledges near the summit of a sheer, though not lofty, cliff overhanging deep water, and consisted of some twelve nests. These nests, though in dizzy situations and on shelves with a nasty outward inclination, could likely have been walked to by a man of strong nerve. In 1899 this colony shifted about half a mile away to a somewhat similar position, but at a much greater height and less accessible, with a large, deep water cave beneath.

The other settlement has about the same number of nests, some close together under the edge of a steep precipice, while others are scattered about the adjoining cliffs. The principal site of this colony seems also to have been shifted a little within the last few years. A clutch of



F. S. Graves.

CORMORANTRY ON THE CALF.
(To the right, the Sound and the Manx mainland.)

Photo.

To face page 142.

three eggs was taken here in 1900 as early as 8th April; on 24th May next year some nests contained eggs, while one had hatched out. The young utter a whistling cry. In hot sunshine I have noticed the birds apparently in great discomfort, sitting on their nests with beaks wide open, as though gasping for breath.

The nests are large structures, much more bulky than those of the Shag, much whitened, and never hidden in fissures like those of the latter.

I have seen the characteristic white thigh-patch apparently fully developed as early as 5th February.

Manx people as a rule do not distinguish the Cormorant and Shag, but, as above mentioned, the young white-breasted Cormorant seems to be accounted distinct, and called *Orrag*, or *Arrag Vooar* or '*ooar*', a name, however, which may sometimes denote a Diver (*Colymbus*) and is associated with mythical attributes. 'One man,' says Mr. J. R. Moore, 'declares that it hatches on the sandy coast, but none of them has seen it on or near the coasts. It gave a hoarse whistle.' Four persons told the same informant that it hatched its eggs on the water, and one said that he saw a specimen caught with its eggs in a kind of pouch!

This is at most seasons a familiar bird in British waters. On the north and south coasts of Ireland the colonies of the Cormorant are many, but according to Ussher and Warren, between Antrim and the Saltees it breeds only on Lambay and on Wicklow Head. In Galloway it nests both on the coast and on inland lakes, one of the latter, within forty miles of Man, holding a very large number of birds. It does not now breed in Cumberland or Lancashire. There is a colony on St. Tudwal's Island, and others on the Bird Rock near Nevin and the Anglesea coast. In Shetland, Orkney, and the Outer Hebrides, there are colonies, but the Shag nests much more numerous in all.

PHALACROCORAX GRACULUS (Linn.).

SHAG.

Manx (see under preceding species).

The Shag is entirely a sea-bird. It is never found on inland water, does not fly across the land, and indeed seldom or never indulges in the lofty flight of the Cormorant. Although in pursuit of food it enters bays and harbours, its chosen haunts are the caves and crags of the most remote parts of the coast, and here it breeds in numbers, being on the whole a much more abundant species in Man than its relative, though coming less under the observation of the majority of people. Its resorts are chiefly on the west coast, but a few Shags breed at Maughold Head, and possibly at some other points on the east of the island, for numbers frequent at all times of the year the cliffs and recesses of Pistol, and some cavernous places between Groudle and Clay Head form also a favourite station, but we have never been able to satisfy ourselves that any nests are built at either locality. About the Sugarloaf and Spanish Head they breed pretty numerously, but must have much decreased since the visit of Jardine, who writes (iv. pp. 240, 241): 'The most extensive colony which has ever come under our observation is one in the Isle of Man, on the precipitous coast adjacent to the Calf, of such elevation that the centre was out of range either from the top or from the sea. There they nestled in deep horizontal fissures, conscious apparently of their security, and would poke out their long necks to ascertain the reason of the noise below, or when a ball struck the rock near them with the hope of causing them to fly. There were hundreds of nests, and the birds not sitting kept flying in front of the rock, passing and repassing as long as any-



F. Isant,

GHAW DHOO, BRADDA.

Photo.

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thing remained to disturb them. One of a pale grey colour mingled among the other dark birds, and was an object of request; but our perseverance was unavailing, for, not breeding, it took to the open sea when much annoyed.' (In recent times, however, Mr. Graves has seen seventy together on low rocks near the 'Ladder,' and I have counted more than one hundred on tidal skerries at Stroin Vuigh.¹)

On the Calf also Shags are numerous, and they nest in smaller numbers on Bradda. Between Fleshwick and Dalby there are also many nests, sometimes, as at the Boe and Stroin Vuigh, in something like little colonies, but most are irregularly scattered along the broken coast. Indeed, though a convenient locality may bring into proximity a number of pairs, the Shag cannot be said to form, in Man at least, true colonies like the Cormorant. Between Glenmay and Peel nests are again numerous, especially at and near the 'Ladder.' North of Peel we know of no breeding place on the west coast, though a good many birds may be seen on tide-rocks in the north part of German.

The situation of Shags' nests is somewhat varied, usually more or less sheltered, but not always, nor in the Isle of Man generally, in a cave. They are commonly difficult of access, but on the Calf we saw a number under the boulders of a broken hillside at some distance from the water, where the ground was easy to walk on. At Contrary Head a nest is annually placed on a ledge in a large cavern, little above high water, and similar localities are selected in the dark and roomy caves of the southern cliffs and elsewhere, which are always filled by the sea. Other nests occupy fissures in sheer rock walls overhanging, or are pocketed

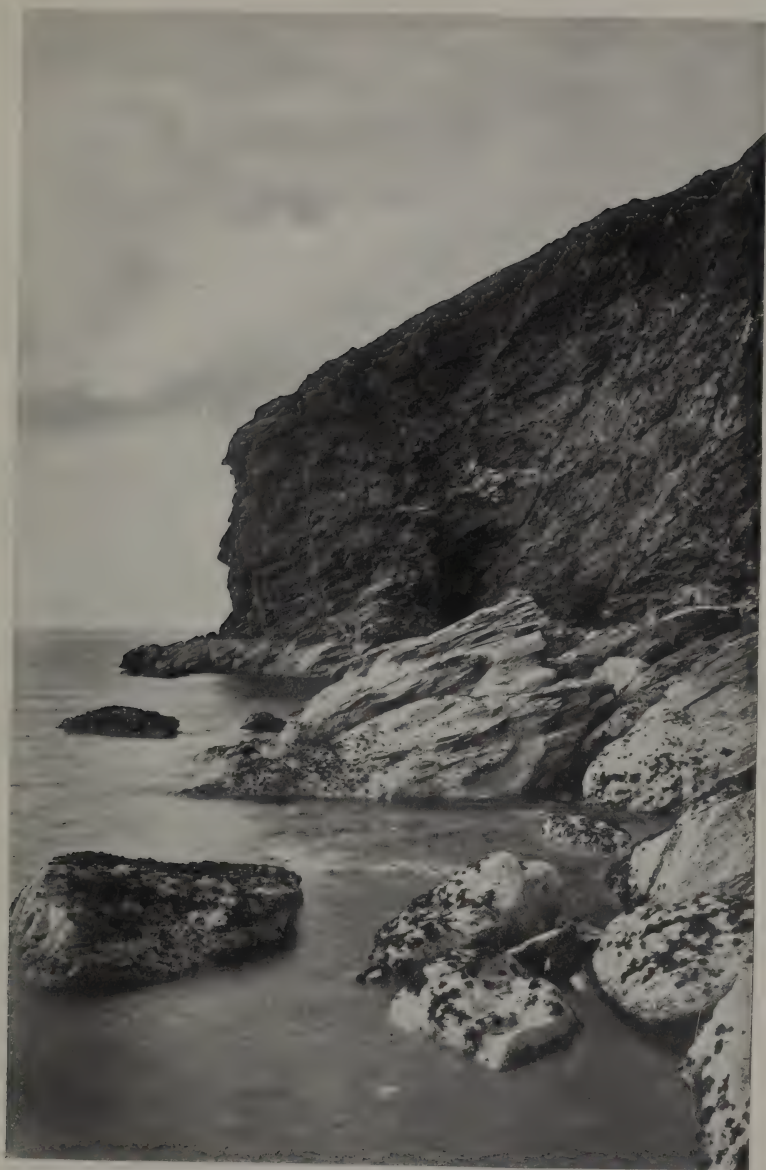
¹ This name is so written on the ordnance sheets, and this makes intelligible Manx (= Yellow Ness); but locally it is now at least spoken as 'Tring Vuigh.'

beneath the very brow of a precipice on any little shelf; others again are placed on high ledges, such as Cormorants occupy, and even amid luxuriant grass. The site is used year after year in at least many instances.

When incubation is advanced, the Shag shows much agitation at an approach to her nest, and leaves it with reluctance, soon returning and settling with her peculiar braying croak, which is seldom or never heard elsewhere. The structure is of very varying size, according to the site in which it stands—weeds, grass, heather, bracken, and other herbage being sometimes piled into a large untidy mass, which soon becomes wet, dirty, and ill-smelling. Sometimes, when in a sufficiently open situation, the whitened surroundings become very conspicuous, as about one nest which in 1901 could be marked for about three miles' distance.

In the choice of a nesting time the Shag is apparently erratic. The eggs are most commonly laid early in May, but young may sometimes be met with by that time, and, on the other hand, fresh layings are frequent at the end of June. There is in standard works considerable discrepancy as to the number of eggs laid by this species, but three is certainly the general number in Man, and I have never known of more, while two sometimes constitute a clutch. Unlike the more wandering Cormorant, the Shag frequents its breeding haunts all the year round.

There is perhaps in the island no prettier sea-bird colony, though the number frequenting it is not large, than that at Stroin Vuigh, a little north of the Slock. The ridge, one thousand feet high, which extends north from the latter spot, throws down to the headland a long and graceful slope, ending in sheer, though not very lofty, cliffs, in which a dark cavern opens. Clear green water washes upon the lower ledges, and over the cave's mouth Razorbills are



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

STROIN VUIGH.

Photo.

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scattered about the crags, bright with orange lichen, from which the place derives its name, and the nesting sites of Shags are conspicuous at various heights. Inside, the cliff recedes a little, and a kind of cove is formed, into which the green brows, peopled by the ubiquitous Herring Gull and a few pairs of *Larus fuscus*, suddenly drop in black broken steeps, torn by recesses full of herbage, and out of which water drops and trickles. From these fissures also the Shags stretch out their long necks, anxious at the proximity of the intruder, yet indisposed to take to flight till the last moment. On the little stacks and jutting pinnacles rising from the sea below rests a motley assemblage of their fellows, adults with the characteristic sharp crest, adults which have already lost that appendage, but retain the rich dark lustrous plumage of the mature bird, brown immature specimens, and others still duller coloured and uglier, which have scarcely yet acquired the power of flight, but already dive with much of the facility of their parents. In full plumage, with its horn-like crest, yellow face, and shining velvety dark green plumage, the adult Shag is a beautiful though odd-looking bird.

Mr. Graves says that the Shag is at present in great disfavour with the fishermen at Peel, and an endeavour to reduce its numbers is being made.

The Shag, in Britain a western species, is generally common on the wilder Irish coasts; but between Antrim and the Saltees Mr. Ussher thinks that a few breed only on Wicklow Head and the islets of Co. Dublin. It is said to breed on Burrow Head and the Mull of Galloway, but not in Kirkcudbrightshire, where, as on the north-west coast of England, it is at all seasons scarce. There are nesting stations on the Carnarvonshire coast and islands. It is a characteristic bird of the more remote isles of Scotland.

SULA BASSANA (Linn.). GANNET.JOHNNY GANT. Manx, **Gant*, *Gaunt* (M. S. D.).

Through the summer season the Gannet is common, and in places even numerous, off the Manx coast, but we have no record of a single specimen voluntarily alighting on Manx soil. Mr. Kermode's extreme dates are 20th March and 29th September, nor have I ever observed specimens earlier or later, though even in winter the species does not entirely desert the British coasts. Our visitors belong no doubt, at least principally, to the great colony on Ailsa Craig, some hundred miles (by sea) distant. In favoured spots, like Peel Bay, a number is at any time during the season to be seen fishing, or more rarely resting on the water, and they are believed to pass northwards at the close of each day, returning in the early morning.

The fishing of a flight of snow-white Gannets, as seen on the blue waters of Peel Bay, with its surroundings of castle-crowned island and rich red cliffs, is one of the most picturesque of the ornithological spectacles of Man.

Gannets are often caught alive in the nets on the herring-grounds, especially when they are being hauled in the early morning; at such times they are near the surface, and the fish enclosed become conspicuous.

Immature birds appear to be uncommon off the Manx coast.

After Ailsa Craig, the nearest colonies to Man are those on the Bass Rock and Grassholm (Pembroke). The other British settlements are on Lunday Island, St. Kilda, Sulisgeir, Suleskerry off Scotland,¹ and the west Irish

¹ Mr. Service tells me that an odd nest has been found so near us as the Big Scar in Luce Bay.

islets of the Little Skellig and Bull Rock. The Gannet is in its season abundant off north-eastern Ireland,¹ and on the more open parts of the Irish Sea, but becomes scarce as it approaches the Solway estuary, and is not very plentiful generally near the Cumberland and Lancashire shores.

ARDEA CINEREA, Linn. HERON.

CRANE. Manx, *Coayr*, **Coayr-ny-hastan*=Crane of the cel; *Coayr glass*=Grey Crane (M. S. D.); *Coar-ny-hastan* (Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Corra-ghlas*, *Corr*; Irish, *Corr*, *Corriasc*, *Corr-ghlas*; Welsh, *Creyr glás*; Breton, *Kerc'heiz*; cognate with Greek γέρας; Latin, *Grus*; English, *Crane*, etc.). In Deut. xiv. 18, 'Heron' is *Coar-ny-hastan*, and *Coar* in Lev. xi. 19.

In 1422, and again in 1577, as noted under heading of Peregrine Falcon, the 'Hyron' appears as protected by law; and the 'Great Enquest,' according to the charge to them recorded in the latter year, is to inquire (Clause 7) 'whether there be any manner of Person or Persons that go into the Houghes where the Hyrons do Breed, to take old Hyron or young, or Hyrons Eggs out of the nests, if there be any such Person or Persons, you shall by virtue of your Oath present them.'

Sacheverell, at the end of the seventeenth century, says: 'Herns too many, as being protected by the laws.' Townley observes 'Cranes' on the sands of Douglas Bay about one hundred years later, and believing them to be *Grus communis*, launches into much classical quotation and comment.

¹ 'The large numbers, mainly adults, seen on the north coast during summer, come from Scottish breeding stations to fish. Mr. Howard Saunders has watched from the top of Rathlin Island a continuous stream of Gannets from Ailsa Craig in the early morning.' (Ussher, *Birds of Ireland*, p. 156.)

Feltham about the same time more correctly notes (p. 127) 'Cranes or Herons' as frequenting the rocks.

The Heron is yet during most of the year a far from uncommon bird where it can obtain sufficient retirement to suit its habits. Its favourite haunts, during the daytime at least, are secluded stream-sides in the wilder valleys and glens, and recesses and tide-pools on the less frequented portions of the shores.

Ten years ago, one, two, or a family party might always at low tide be looked for on the weedy rocks of the northern part of Douglas Bay, and larger parties seen on the rocky coast of Santon. In the south, Castletown Bay, with its large expanse of low tide-reefs and pools, is a favourite resort, as are the far-jutting crags of Langness and Fort Island. The train, especially in the early morning, often rouses a Heron or two from the marshy wastes of the Congary or the willow thickets under Greeba, and it may also be met with, though perhaps less numerously than might be expected, in the more extensive wet lands of the Curragh.

We did not notice any on the Calf in May 1901, but several were observed in August 1904, during a visit to the islet.

Whatever may have formerly been the case, its status as a breeding species is now uncertain, and we cannot positively assert that any Herons now breed in Man, however likely it may seem that an occasional pair may nest here and there, or even a small colony yet exist in some remote spot. Mr. F. S. Graves was informed that forty years ago there was a Heron's nest in a tree at Ballamoar, Patrick, and he thinks that some seventeen years later another pair bred in Greeba woods. In May 1895, as Mr. Crellin reports, two young Herons were seen with an old bird in Ballaugh Curragh (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 123). Mr. Kermodé states also that about 1880 Mr. Colquhoun saw some Herons in the down,

said to have been taken by boys at Douglas Head. For a number of years a party of Herons has frequented the grounds at Kirby, especially a small clump of firs near the river, and it was suspected that nesting had taken place at least one year in a tree now destroyed, but Mr. Drinkwater thinks that this was not the case, and in 1904 the birds deserted the spot in the spring.

The only colony of which until recently I was able to obtain information existed up to some twenty years ago at Coan Shellagh, a picturesque spot between Fleshwick and Dalby. The place is close to the ravine of Lag ny Keilley, which leads almost from the summit of Cronk ny Ire y Lhaa to the sea, and has in its depths, far from any habitation, the scanty remains of a primitive chapel and burial-ground. The coast around is broken by beautiful caverns, and these and the less overhung hollows are rich with a luxuriant vegetation—bramble, ivy, grass, sea-campion, scurvy grass, hemp agrimony in immense clumps of a man's height, richly blooming honeysuckle, osmunda, hart's-tongue, and lady fern. Here, among willow bushes just at the verge of the precipice, which, though at that point steep, is not very high, the nests, not numerous, are said to have been situated. We do not know how or exactly when this colony was broken up.

Mr. William Kerruish tells me that another station existed on the coast between Laxey and Dhoon, the nests being placed in clusters of ivy on a dangerous cliff. He thinks he saw this colony not more than twenty years ago.

On 20th March 1885 Mr. Clyne notes that 'the Herons which wintered in this neighbourhood (Langness) departed,' and observes that 'five appeared on 2nd August of the same year.'

The late Mr. Kinvig, of Castletown, had, as noted by Mr. Kermodé, a white specimen, with the pinion feathers and

thighs buff, and the back dashed with the same colour. This was shot in 1882.¹

The Herons which haunt the shore are constantly mobbed and buffeted by Rooks, 'Greybacks,' and Gulls.

Mr. Roeder ('Folk-Lore of the South of the Isle of Man,' *Y. L. M.*, iii. 181) mentions the fancy that 'March borrowed three days of February to catch the Crane on the nest; but he only caught her tail, and the Crane has no tail since that time.' (See under 'Raven,' *ante*.)

The Heron is well distributed in Britain, and in Ireland breeds in every county, there being a number of heronries in Down and Antrim. In Kirkcudbrightshire there are several heronries, and north-western England has still a fair, though decreasing, number. There is one at least in Anglesea. The species breeds but scarcely in Orkney, and seemingly not at all in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides, in all which groups, however, it is, out of the season of breeding, a familiar bird.

[*ARDETTA MINUTA* (Linn.). LITTLE
BITTERN.

Mr. Kermode includes this species in his latest list with the following remark: 'Now extinct.'² Mr. Crellin, of Orrysdale, had a note of one shot by him at Castletown many years ago; and I have heard of one or two other instances.' A specimen has been recorded from Armagh,

¹ It may perhaps have been a similar specimen which, as reported by Mr. Baily in *Y. L. M.*, vol. i. pt. ii. p. 84, was seen on 14th June 1889 near the Pier Head at Castletown, and also a week before on the shore at Poolvash by Mr. Preston of that place. Mr. Kinvig and Mr. Baily at the time thought it a Great White Heron (*Ardea alba*, Linn., extremely rare as a British bird).

² Has not this slipped in here in error for the next species (*Botaurus stellaris*)?

and another, doubtfully, from Antrim. There are a few records from Cumberland and Lancashire; but the standing of the species here can hardly be established on the above evidence. It has occurred in both Shetland and Orkney.]

BOTAURUS STELLARIS (Linn.). COMMON
BITTERN.

Manx, *Ushag-ny-boob*¹ (M. S. D.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Bubaire*; Irish, *Bunnawn*; Welsh, *Aderyn y Bwn*.)

For the statement sometimes made that this species formerly inhabited the Curragh, I do not know what foundation exists; it is no doubt sufficiently likely.² Mr. Ker-mode mentions one at Orrisdale taken by the late Dr. Crellin—(This specimen is still at Orrisdale. It is mentioned by Dr. Crellin to Mr. More, but he says that he did not shoot it himself)—one shot near Peel about 1877 (1880 list), and one killed near Castletown about 1866 by Mr. Kinvig.

In Yarrell (4th ed., vol. iv. p. 214) it is said: 'A bird believed to be of this species' (*i.e.* an American Bittern, *B. lentiginosus*) 'is recorded by Mr. J. R. Wallace in the Isle of Man'; but the specimen so labelled in the Wallace collection, which was seen by Rev. H. A. Macpherson, was stated by that gentleman (*in lit.*, 20th September 1899) to be *B. stellaris*, and he added, 'I believe I corrected its identification some years ago' (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 533, 548).

¹ But *Yn Choayr vooar*, Isa. xiv. 23; *Y bittern*, Zeph. ii. 4.

² Bitterns are named by Blundell (1656), p. 46, as existing in Man; but he also gives 'Cranes' as distinct from 'Hérons,' and the passage cannot be considered to have much weight.

Professor J. Rhys, in *Folk-Lore*, 1891, p. 284, says that 'an octogenarian captain at Peel related to me how he had once when a boy heard a Tarroo ushtey (water bull); the bellowings of the brute made the ground tremble, but otherwise the captain was unable to give me any very intelligible description.' It seems not unlikely that the Bittern was the real author of the sounds attributed to this mythical creature, supposed to haunt pools and swamps. The same authority was informed that between Andreas and the sea to the west, before the land was drained, there used to be one of these animals.

Now extinct in Britain, except as a casual visitant, the Bittern is said to have formerly bred in Ayrshire, perhaps in Kirkeudbrightshire, and in Cumberland and Lancashire. In the eighteenth century it was 'common in the Lower Ards, Co. Down,' but for the last sixty years or so has been known in Ireland only as an irregular visitor, in which capacity it still occurs all round our sea.

[For the often-quoted but incorrect record of the AMERICAN BITTERN, *Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montagu), see article above on 'Common Bittern.']

[*PLATALEA LEUCORODIA*, Linn.

SPOONBILL.

The late Mr. Jeffcott stated, in 1883, that the year previous a Spoonbill had repeatedly been seen on Langness, where it had remained for several days. Mr. Kermode was also told by Mr. Bailey, of Ramsey (who stated that he was well acquainted with the species), that he had seen one at Cob-ny-Ronnag, near that town.

A rare and straggling visitor to Ireland and the outer isles of Scotland, though most frequent on the eastern side of England, the Spoonbill is not unlikely to make a chance appearance on our shores; but the evidence above is indecisive.]

[*CHENALOPEX ÆGYPTIACUS* (Linn.).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE.

Some twenty years ago the late Mr. J. M. Jeffcott reported to the Isle of Man Natural History Society: 'I remember to have seen two beautiful Egyptian Geese which had been shot in the neighbourhood of Castletown. This bird is remarkable for the rich colours of its plumage and a small spur on the bend of each wing.' In Yarrell (4th ed., vol. iv. p. 301) it is stated: 'Mr. Wallace, of Douglas, sent the author word that a flock of nine was seen in the Isle of Man in September 1838.' The species, often kept in pleasure grounds, has frequently occurred in various parts of the country as an escape.]

ANSER CINEREUS, Meyer. GREY LAG-GOOSE.

Manx (for Goose in general), **Guig* (M. S. D. and Cr.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Giadh*; Irish, *Gedh*; Welsh, *Gwydd*; Breton, *Gwas*, *Gwai*, etc.) *Guig-feie* = Wild Goose.

Little is on record of the Grey Geese frequenting the Isle of Man. Although they are not infrequently observed, and are sometimes recorded at the lighthouses, our coast is not of a nature to tempt their stay, and specimens are seldom procured. During the winter of 1896-97, according

to Mr. Crellin, very unusual numbers of Wild Geese passed over the north of the island, but the species does not in any case appear to have been ascertained.

In the collection of the late Mr. T. H. Kinvig, of Castletown, is a specimen of this species taken in the neighbourhood.

One 'Wild Goose' only, a native, appears in the dealers' record for 1902; in 1903 none is entered.

This species is in general rare in Ireland, where, however, it likely bred in the eighteenth century, among other places, in the Ards, Co. Down. There is a semi-domesticated colony in Fermanagh, and it occurs every winter on the Wicklow coast. In Galloway and Cumberland, and seemingly also in Lancashire, it is uncommon. It still nests in many of the Outer Hebrides, but appears to be a rare visitor to Orkney and Shetland.

ANSER SEGETUM (Gmelin). BEAN GOOSE.

This species doubtless visits the isle not infrequently, though little definite information is obtainable. A Bean Goose in Mr. Baily's collection was, he tells me, one of seven shot in the meadows at Ballasalla. There is another among the birds of the late Mr. Kinvig at Castletown. Two Geese obtained at Scarlett in November 1904 must have been of this species from the description of Mr. Wm. Kissack, who shot one of them.

In Britain generally the Bean Goose is fairly abundant and well distributed. It is comparatively common on the Solway; elsewhere round the Irish Sea it seldom seems to be numerous. From the Scottish isles it appears to be absent, or rare where it occurs.

ANSER ALBIFRONS (Scopoli). WHITE-
FRONTED GOOSE.

Nothing was known of this species in Man (except that Mr. Kermodé reported it as 'shot by Mr. Jeffcott on the Santon Burn') until 25th November 1902, when one was shot at Sulby. This specimen, a male, which weighed 5 lb. 10 oz., is now in the Ramsey Museum, with another obtained at the same place, 4th March 1903. I have since been informed by Mr. W. S. Baily that he has a specimen, one of two shot on the Ballakeigan meadows, near Castletown.

According to *Birds of Ireland*, this is the commonest 'Grey Goose' in that country, and a regular winter visitor to parts of Down and Antrim. In south-western Scotland and north-western England it seems not to be frequent. It is said to be an abundant winter visitant to Orkney, and sometimes plentifully met with in Shetland, but little known in the Outer Hebrides, though in some of the inner group, as Islay, common.

BERNICLA BRENTA (Pallas). BRENT GOOSE.

BARNACLE GOOSE.

Specimens of this species, which is not infrequent round our shores, from time to time are secured by local gunners, but in general the Manx coasts are little suited to its habits, and it appears in but small numbers. Single birds sometimes show themselves very unsuspecting, as was the case with one which frequented Douglas Bay in November 1889.

Mr. Crellin says (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 23) that during the storm of 21st December 1894 Brent ‘appeared in great numbers, some being completely beaten by the wind and unable to fly. Some of these birds were caught by the hand, as also were Wild Ducks. Old people say the same thing happened during the storm of 1829.’

This species is plentiful in many of the Irish estuaries, and is the most abundant Goose on the coasts of Antrim and Down. In Galloway, on the contrary, it is less common than the true Barnacle Goose. In Cumberland it is described as irregular, but is of not infrequent occurrence in Lancashire. It appears locally, and seemingly not very commonly, in the outer groups of Scottish isles. It is a characteristic and very abundant winter visitant to the eastern coast of Britain.

BERNICLA LEUCOPSIS (Bechstein).

BARNACLE GOOSE.

At the sale of the Wallace collection, lot 1211 contained, according to Mr. Macpherson, a Manx specimen of this species (*Zool.*, 1899, p. 420). Mr. Macpherson states (*in lit.*): ‘Lot 1211 included “Barnacle Goose, male and female”—so says the catalogue (p. 38). But one was a Brent Goose—a bird of the light-breasted form; the other was a true *B. leucopsis*.’

Blundell (1656) locates at the Calf of Man ‘those sea fowles geese, which most will have to be generated of putrefied wood, which by them are called barnacles, but by the Scots claik geese and soland geese, but I suppose they may breed of a shellfish y^t groweth on the rocks’ (*History*, p. 34).

Thos. Denton's 'Description,' dated 1681, printed in *Y. L. M.*, iii. 435, from a manuscript in the possession of Mr. G. W. Wood, mentions in its very incorrect enumeration of the game and wild fowl of Man, after 'all sorts of sea fowl, especially Puffins, w^{ch} breed most plentiful in y^e Calfe of Man.' 'And those Ducks and Drakes, w^{ch} breeding of Rotten wood, y^e English call y^m Barnacles, y^e Scots Clakes, or Soland Geese.'¹ In the 'Additions' to the account of the Isle of Man in Camden's *Britannia* (1695) it is said: 'They have likewise another sort of fowl in this little island (the Calf) which the inhabitants call barnacles, commonly said to be the same with the soland geese of Scotland, but really the soland geese in that Kingdom have no affinity to barnacles, being of quite another kind.' (*Manx Soc.*, xviii. 12.)

In Ireland, where this species is local, it is said to be a regular visitant to Dundalk Bay and the Donegal coast; and in Kirkcudbrightshire the commonest of the Geese. In north-western England it is well known, but abundant only at certain times and in certain localities. In the Outer Hebrides it is very common, but scarce or local in Orkney and Shetland. It is in England decidedly a west coast species.

[*BERNICLA CANADENSIS* (Linn.).

CANADA GOOSE.

A specimen of this well-known species, often kept on ornamental waters, was shot by Mr. Baily some years ago, as he informs me, in the tideway off Langness.]

¹ Denton also says: 'Here are Bernacles bread in or near this Island (Peel), but (not) having been at y^e place I cannot give any further description of it,' etc. (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 441.)

CYGNUS MUSICUS, Bechstein.
WHOOPEE SWAN.

Manx (for Swan in general), **Ollay* (M. S. D., Cr., and Lev. xi. 18).
(Cf. Sc. Gaelic and Irish, *Eala*; Breton, *Alar'ch*; Latin, *Olor*.)

The species of the Wild Swans observed from time to time on our coast has seldom been ascertained. It is perhaps probable that the next species, much the most frequent in Ireland, is more numerous here than the present.

A specimen in the Distington collection, labelled as a male from the Isle of Man, was however a Whooper (*Zool.*, 1899, p. 420). Mr. Kermode (*Y. L. M.*, p. 533) assigns to the same heading birds seen in 1880 at the Dog Mills, Bride, and at Peel, 20th March 1892, 'within a few yards of the piers'; but the occurrence at Orrisdale, 10th January 1891, is evidently that detailed under the next heading. During that month Swans were seen or obtained in several Manx localities. A flock was reported at Port St. Mary, a specimen, said to be a Whooper, was shot by Mr. W. Kissack at Scarlett, and another came close to the Victoria Pier at Douglas, and was twice ineffectually fired at from thence (*Zool.*, 1891, p. 218).

Mr. Crellin notes that a good number of 'Wild Swans' visited the island during the winter of 1892-93.

About the middle of February 1897 a few Swans, according to Mr. Crellin, passed over Ramsey Bay.

The Whooper is a rare and irregular visitor to Ireland; it has been recorded most frequently from Ulster, and has occurred both in Down and Antrim. In Galloway and north-western England its visits are irregular and in-

frequent. In the outer groups of Scottish islands it is of somewhat more common occurrence, and in the eighteenth century bred in Orkney.

CYGNUS BEWICKI, Yarrell. BEWICK'S
SWAN.

In January 1891¹ a Swan with a broken foot was found on a small pond (about twenty yards wide) close to the sea-coast brows at Orrisdale. It was taken with some difficulty, but though its captor tried to keep it alive, it refused to eat at the farm to which it had been taken, and was shortly found dead on the 'dub' to which he had restored it. This specimen, a Bewick's Swan, was mounted by T. Picken, of Manchester, who reported it in the *Field* as a Whooper, and is in the possession of Mr. F. Nicholson, of Douglas (*Zool.*, 1891, p. 218). On New Year's Day 1895 Mr. E. Turner shot on Langness a specimen now in his possession. On 1st March 1897 Mr. Leach saw a specimen in the flesh in the shop of Mr. Coburn, taxidermist, Douglas. In December 1899 a flock of Swans was observed on the Calf, and one was shot at or near a small piece of water in the south of that islet. It proved to be of this species, and came into the hands of the late Mr. G. D. L. Cary, proprietor of the Calf.

As remarked under the last heading, the unidentified Swans reported from time to time on Manx waters should usually, in all likelihood, be referred to this species.

In Ireland, and especially in Ulster, Bewick's Swan is of frequent though irregular appearance, vastly more numerous

¹ The winter of 1890-91 (a severe one) was a noted one for Swans in Ireland and elsewhere (*Vert. Fauna of Lakeland*, pp. 256, 263; *Birds of Ireland*, p. 186; *Zool.*, 1891, pp. 192, 252).

than the Whooper, which in England is the commoner bird, and sometimes occurring in immense flocks (as many as five hundred in Co. Armagh). It is seemingly rarer than the Whooper on the neighbouring English coasts. It is recorded for the Scottish isles, but its abundance there, relatively to that of the kindred species, does not appear to be ascertained.

[*CYGNUS OLOR* (Gmel.). MUTE SWAN.]

This bird has been kept with more or less regularity at various places in the Isle of Man, as on the River Dhoo, at Kirby near Douglas, at the Mooragh Park at Ramsey (to which a pair was presented by King Edward after his visit in 1903), on the ponds in the grounds of Bishop's Court, and at Kentraugh, where the bay at Mount Gawne is regularly resorted to by the birds, which often also wander to Castletown. Escapes have sometimes occurred, and the birds have been killed or captured at other places.]

[A specimen of the AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN, *Chenopsis atrata*, was a few years back obtained off Langness by the late Mr. Kinvig, who was much astonished when he discovered what the strange bird was which he had brought down.]

TADORNA CORNUTA (S. G. Gmelin).
COMMON SHELDRAKE.

The east side of Castletown Bay, along one side of the narrow peninsula of Langness, has at low water a con-

siderable expanse of low weedy rocks and salt pools, and this space is the constant resort of the Sheldrake. The birds are far from shy here, and may be readily observed dozing away their time in a party of ten or twelve on the tide edge, or fighting over their favourite pools with low quacks, looking very white on the wing.

In the spring it is a common thing to observe them on the same ground in pairs, and they undoubtedly breed in the district, where their young broods have frequently been observed by Mr. Bailey, Mr. Turner, and others; about Langness, where Mr. T. W. Cubbon tells me he once saw at the same time three young families of eleven each; while Mr. J. C. Bacon and Mr. Teschemaker found their nests well concealed under the thick gorse covers of the Santon brows. Their numbers at any season, however, are not large.

During the unparalleled weather of February 1895 a specimen was found dead on the shore at Douglas, and in May 1901 Mr. Graves and I saw two near a little piece of water on the Calf island; Mr. Graves observed six passing the Lhoob near Peel in 1904; apart from these occurrences and the lighthouse entries given below, I have no record of the Sheldrake out of the Castletown neighbourhood. In my many visits to the sandhills and flat tide spaces of the north I have never seen it; it would be strange if it is entirely absent there.

Townley, however, writing of the end of the eighteenth century, says (vol. i. p. 17) that he saw 'several Shell Ducks at the bold point called Douglas Head.'

Sheldrakes are recorded in 1881 by Douglas Head lighthouse as flying south on 21st and 27th August.

It is distributed over most of the British coasts. In Ireland the Sheldrake breeds in limited numbers, among other places in North Antrim and perhaps Down. On

the estuaries of Galloway it is pretty abundant, and it breeds in a number of places on the Cumberland and Lancashire coasts (though in the latter county at least it has been much disturbed by the rise of watering-places), and also on the coast of Anglesea.

It is a scarce bird in Shetland, but, at least in summer, common in Orkney and the Outer Hebrides.

MARECA PENELOPE (Linn.). WIGEON.

As generally over Britain, this is one of the commoner winter species of Duck, and fair numbers (taking into account the nature of the country and its coasts) are to be met with. The small ponds and sheets of winter-lying water, which occur especially in the north, are regularly frequented, as well as many localities along the shore, but the Wigeon seldom or never occurs in really large flocks.

I saw a drake Wigeon, one 26th December, held by the feet in a film of ice which had formed on Lough Cranstal.

Thirteen Manx Wigeon, and fourteen imported, were registered in 1902, and in 1903 twelve and eighteen respectively.

In Ireland the Wigeon is an abundant winter migrant, and perhaps a few breed, for instance in Tyrone and Donegal. In Galloway and north-western England it is also, as generally in Great Britain, an abundant species in the cold season, especially during severe weather. It appears to breed sparingly in both Orkney and Shetland, but has not yet been discovered to do so in the Outer Hebrides.



J. Newley.

THE POOLS AT LANGNESS.

Photo.

(To the left Langness farmhouse, now long unoccupied, and the landmark tower locally called 'The Spire'.)

To face page 164.

DAFILA ACUTA (Linn.). PINTAIL.

Mr. Kermode states that some years ago Mr. Kinvig, of Castletown, shot several out of 'a very large flock,' and Mr. Thellusson one at the Point of Ayre, many years ago. 'A fine example,' a male in Mr. Kermode's collection at Ramsey, was taken at Andreas, while feeding on a pond with tame Ducks, February 24, 1893.

Mr. G. Adams has a handsome drake, which, together with a duck, was obtained in Ballaugh in the autumn of 1902.

In Ireland the Pintail is local and not generally common, even in winter, but there are a few records of its breeding. In Antrim it is stated to be annually obtained in small numbers. In Galloway and north-western England it is also uncommon. There are very few records from Orkney and Shetland, and, till recently, from the Outer Hebrides, where it now, however, seems to be increasing, and likely breeds. It is most numerous on the southern coast of England.

ANAS BOSCAS, Linn. MALLARD.

Manx, **Thunnag* (=Duck in general); *Thunnag-feie* = Wild Duck. (Cf. Irish, *Tonnog*.)

In winter the Mallard is fairly plentiful and well distributed wherever the localities are at all suitable. In the wet lands of the Curragh, and the smaller patches of similar ground scattered over the island, and amid the thick vegetation around the more lowland parts of the courses

of our streams, one or two birds, or a small party, is of frequent occurrence, and they find a daytime shelter also in remote recesses under the cliffs of the coast, whence they take to the sea when disturbed. The locality in which, however, I have seen the largest numbers is on the shingle of the northern coast, where the flocks, day by day, sleep away the hours of light, the longitudinally marked plumage of the drakes, as they nestle close on the flats, presenting a curious appearance from the sand-hills above. Here I have seen hundreds of birds at once, and the same locality is faithfully resorted to year after year.

Mr. Crellin remarks that he has seen Mallard 'flying along the brows in Michael backwards and forwards just as Gulls do, waiting for the tide to ebb, so that they might have some shore to sit upon, rather than come inland.' He adds: 'The common Wild Duck cannot stand a rough sea, and will fly off the water whenever a broken wave comes, and settle again. If they are wounded, they are well able to take care of themselves by diving, and will, like the Wigeon, wedge themselves fast under or between stones under water, and there remain till they die, rather than come to the surface' (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 24).

Mr. Crellin says also that at the time of the great snowstorm in February 1895 Mallard, which had been very plentiful, entirely disappeared, to return with Lapwing and Curlew when the thaw set in. Mr. C. B. Moffat (*Zool.*, 1892, p. 147) mentions seeing some Wild Ducks on the Silverburn in 1880, 'so tame, that I mistook them for the domesticated variety until they surprised me by taking flight.'

Fifty-two Manx Wild Duck, against thirty-four imported, are registered in 1902. Sixty-three are recorded in 1903, thirty-nine being Manx and twenty-four imported.

Of the Manx specimens of the latter year, twenty-five were purchased at Douglas and fourteen at Ramsey.

Very few Mallard, comparatively, breed in the Isle of Man, but Mr. Crellin and Mr. J. B. Keig say that a few nest in the Curragh, and it is said that they have bred in the Greeba marshlands. Mr. Kermode has known a nest 'in a very exposed situation in a little clay dub at Lewaigue,' and he also records a brood reared on the steep slope of the rocky and ferny Gob y Volley, overlooking the Curragh, to which across the highroad the mother was seen conducting them. Mr. W. Kermode says that in 1904 a brood was hatched on Dalby Mountain.

The Mallard breeds very abundantly in Ireland, and is resident in every county. It is an abundant nesting species in Galloway also, and breeds on the mosses and lakes of Cumberland, and in suitable localities in Lancashire. It is also resident and common in Orkney, and fairly abundant in Shetland, and breeds in some at least of the Outer Hebrides, where, however, its numbers and their distribution seem not to be accurately known.

CHAULELASMUS STREPERUS (Linn.).

GADWALL.

In 1903 Mr. H. S. Clarke presented to the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society a female specimen, obtained in the Curragh of Ballaugh on 18th March in that year. It is in excellent plumage.

The Gadwall, generally a scarce British species, is an infrequent winter visitor to north-eastern Ireland, and is rare in the adjacent Scottish and English counties. There have been a few occurrences in the outer Scottish isles.

QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA (Linn.).
GARGANEY.

Mr. Kermode records one in the collection at Orrisdale. It is still there, though much decayed, a male, with the characteristic white streak on the head and bluish-grey wing coverts. No particulars of its capture have been preserved.

The species is of very casual occurrence in Ireland. A specimen was obtained in Wigtownshire in 1867. A few have been killed in north-western England. It has not been recorded from the Outer Hebrides, and the few instances reported from Orkney and Shetland were at best quite exceptional. It nests in the eastern English counties, and elsewhere in Britain is occasional.

QUERQUEDULA CRECCA (Linn.). TEAL.

Manx, *Laagh*, **Laaghag* (M. S. D.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Lach*, *Lacha*=Duck; Irish, *Lacha*=Duck.) (The 'ag' is probably diminutive.)

The Teal is by no means infrequent on the pools and stream-sides of Manx; in some winters specimens reach the Douglas poulterers in considerable numbers, and it is everywhere well known as one of our commoner species.

In 1902, however, only seventeen Teal, all Manx, were recorded by Manx game dealers. In 1903 twenty-five, all native also, were registered.

A few breed in the Curragh, and probably elsewhere in similar localities. The only nest I have seen was on a grassy strip between a road crossing the Curragh and

a large ditch running parallel with it, beyond which again was one of the wettest portions of the marsh. Here the nest, only a few feet from the roadside, was very imperfectly hidden under a tuft of grass just on the top of the ditch side, and contained three eggs surrounded and half covered by the dark down.

The Teal is plentiful over Ireland, where a considerable number nest, and is also resident and common in Galloway. In Cumberland and Lancashire, where it is numerous in winter, it also breeds, but in decreasing numbers, on the lakes and the mosses; it nests also in Anglesea. It nests in Orkney and Shetland; also, perhaps not commonly, in the Outer Hebrides.

The Teal is one of the commoner British Ducks, but nests less plentifully in southern England.

SPATULA CLYPEATA (Linn.). SHOVELLER.

In the Wallace collection were two pairs of Shovellers, the males labelled as Manx. The females were not labelled (Rev. H. A. Macpherson, *in lit.*).

Mr. Kermode says: 'It has been taken at the Dog Mills, Lezayre, and about Castletown in the south.'

On 19th February 1891 four were observed at Langness, and three, two drakes and a duck, obtained; the other, a duck, though wounded, was not recovered. The drakes, one of which was considerably larger than the other, were very beautifully plumaged specimens. A pair of these obtained on this occasion is in the collection of Mr. T. Unsworth, of Douglas.

In the winter of 1892-93 a drake in very poor plumage

was shot on a dam at Laxey. On 11th November 1902 a drake was shot at or near Sulby, and is now in the Ramsey Museum. Another specimen, a duck, was obtained 18th March 1903, probably in the same district, and is also in the Ramsey collection. In the winter of 1903-4 another came into Mr. Adams's hands.

The Shoveller breeds here and there in Ireland, as in Donegal, Tyrone, and Antrim, but is more numerous in winter (it is believed to be increasing in that country). It has also bred in Kirkeudbrightshire, but is seemingly not common in Galloway. In north-western England it appears in small numbers, and has not yet been ascertained to nest, but Mr. Oldham tells me it does so commonly in western Anglesea. A few specimens have been reported from Orkney; it is not known to have occurred in Shetland and seldom in the Outer Hebrides.

FULIGULA CRISTATA (Leach). TUFTED
DUCK.

In 1883 the late Mr. Jeffcott, in some notes contributed at a meeting of the Isle of Man Natural History Society, mentioned this species as an occasional visitant to Man. The only specimen he had seen was in the possession of the late Mr. M'Meiken.

Mr. W. S. Baily, as recorded by Mr. Kermodé, 'shot a fine young drake at Castletown in August 1888.' Mr. Baily writes me that this specimen was killed on the dam of Castletown Mill, just outside the town.

Since 1887, when this species was detected breeding on Lochrutton, it has spread to many of the lochs of Galloway,

but in north-western England is a sparing winter visitor, though nesting in many other parts of that country and of Scotland. Mr. Oldham thinks it breeds in Anglesea. In Ireland it has within the last twenty-five years established itself as a resident in many counties, as Antrim, Armagh, and Monaghan; and it is a fairly numerous winter visitor in localities where it does not breed.

The Tufted Duck has been known to breed in Orkney, but not in Shetland, where, however, it is of frequent occurrence. As far as our present information goes it is scarce in the Outer Hebrides.

FULIGULA MARILA (Linn.). SCAUP DUCK.

Whether from lack of competent observation or otherwise, little is known of the Scaup on Manx waters; but as it is a pretty common winter migrant all round us, there can be little doubt that it is of regular occurrence on our coast, though in the absence of deep bays and estuaries, its visits are probably seldom prolonged.

Mr. Kermode states that he has Manx specimens of both male and female; the former, a fine example, shot at Sulby 3rd February 1885. (The appearance of this species on inland waters in Britain is exceptional.)

In 1891 several locally-killed specimens appeared in Douglas poulterers' shops, and the local taxidermist stuffed two specimens (drake and duck) during that winter. Early in 1893 other specimens were obtained on our shores.

The Scaup is a numerous winter visitor to the northern coast of Ireland, and frequents Lough Neagh also. It sometimes appears in Galloway in large flocks, and is not uncommon on the estuaries of Cumberland and Lancashire.

It is found, usually rather sparingly, in Shetland (where it has been suspected of nesting), in Orkney, and in the Outer Hebrides (where it has lately been ascertained to breed). It is generally a fairly common winter visitant to Britain.

FULIGULA FERINA (Linn.). POCHARD.

There is with respect to this species the same dearth of information, but considering its general distribution it can scarcely be very infrequent. It is, however, more a frequenter of inland waters than the last, and may therefore be expected to be less abundant in Man. Mr. Kermode, in his revised list of 1888, notes it 'Regular winter visitor, in small numbers.' Specimens have been obtained from time to time, as in 1885 (when, as Mr. Kermode relates, a winged specimen, which was being persecuted by Gulls on the beach of Ramsey, was taken by Mr. K. Lucas, and kept some months in captivity, growing very tame), 1890, and 1897.

The Pochard has recently been recorded by Sir H. Maxwell as breeding in Wigtownshire (the locality being almost within sight of our coast), and it has been said to nest also both in Down and Antrim. Mr. Oldham believes that a few breed in Anglesea. As a winter visitor it occurs with more or less frequency round the Irish Sea. In Kirkcudbrightshire it is, according to Mr. Service, not abundant; and while not uncommon on the Lancashire coast, is in Cumberland more frequent on inland waters. It is a regular winter visitor to Orkney. Little is known of its distribution in Shetland or the Outer Hebrides; in the latter, however, it has been found to breed. In Britain generally it is a pretty abundant winter visitor.

CLANGULA GLAUCION (Linn.). GOLDEN-EYE.

Mr. Kermode thinks that this species, though a regular visitant, is present in small numbers only, but the writer's experience tends towards the conclusion that, at least in the Douglas district, it is the most common of the diving Ducks.

The specimens are seldom full-plumaged drakes, but there are two fine male examples in the Isle of Man Natural History Society's collection at Ramsey. Dr. Clague, of Castletown, has another handsome specimen, and Mrs. T. H. Kinvig yet another.

The Golden-Eye frequents both fresh and salt water throughout Ireland, especially in the north. It is sometimes common in Galloway, and is regular and not infrequent on bays, estuaries, and inland waters, on the English side of our sea. It abounds in Orkney and Shetland, but not perhaps in the Outer Hebrides. In Britain generally it is a pretty common winter species.

ÆDESMIA NIGRA (Linn.). COMMON SCOTER.

The first recognition of this bird as a Manx species we owe to Mr. W. S. Baily, who shot an immature drake in Castletown Bay in the surf just opposite King William's College on 20th January 1889. On 13th April following Mr. Baily saw another specimen, 'which he thought might be the same bird he had seen going south in the autumn'

(*Y. L. M.*, i. ii. 83). Dr. Clague, of Castletown, has an immature Scoter, with whitish cheeks and fore-neck.

On 10th December 1903 three or four, which seemed all or mostly adult drakes, were swimming just outside the rocks on the inside of Langness; on 18th December 1904 the writer surprised four under the rocks almost at the extremity of the same peninsula, and he thinks that small dark Ducks observed in this neighbourhood at other times during the winter months probably belonged to this species, which will likely be found to be of sparing but regular occurrence.

Round the coast of the northern half of Ireland the Scoter is a regular and often abundant winter visitor, frequenting Belfast Lough in enormous numbers. It is described as sometimes numerous off Kirkcudbrightshire, especially at Southerness, though rare in Wigtownshire; and is fairly abundant, and sometimes seen on fresh water, on the English shores of the Irish Sea. It is an uncommon bird in Orkney and Shetland, also in the Outer Hebrides. It is a common and often abundant winter visitor to Britain in general, but especially on its eastern coast.

MERGUS MERGANSER, Linn.

GOOSANDER.

The Goosander has rarely been identified, and is probably of very casual occurrence in Man.

Mr. Kermode 'about 1885' saw two which had been shot in Peel Bay, as stated elsewhere, in November 1881. In January 1894 Mr. G. Adams had two, said to be from Santon and St. John's respectively; these were both females.

A Merganser which frequented Douglas Bay in November of the same year was perhaps of this species, which in female dress is not easily distinguished from the next.

The species is a somewhat rare winter visitor, but in small numbers appears every year in the mainland districts nearest the island. It is seemingly more common in Galloway than with us, and on the English side is not infrequent on lakes and estuaries, rivers and reservoirs. It is uncommon in Shetland (where, however, it has perhaps bred) and in Orkney, and has once only been certainly recorded in the Outer Hebrides. It is however extending its nesting range on the Scottish mainland.

MERGUS SERRATOR, Linn. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.

Though doubtless occurring regularly as a winter migrant, this species is scarce in Man. It has been met with, however, both on salt and fresh water. During the often-mentioned snow and frost of 1895, on 18th February, a full-plumaged male was found dead on Douglas shore, at the north of the Bay.

The species is common in Ireland in winter, and also breeds in many parts, as on Carlingford Lough, and islands in Strangford Lough and Lough Neagh. It is said by Gray and Anderson to nest sparingly in Wigtownshire, but in Kirkcudbrightshire seems to be a winter visitant only. On the north-west coast of England it regularly appears as a winter migrant, but is rare in the interior. It nests, often commonly, on all the groups of the outer Scottish isles, as well as in the north and west of the mainland.

MERGUS ALBELLUS, Linn. SMEW.

In the Wallace collection were two female Smews from the Isle of Man. One of these, purchased by the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, was presented by him to the Isle of Man Natural History Society, and is in the Museum at Ramsey. There is no other Manx record.

A very casual visitor to Ireland, the Smew has been obtained both in Antrim and Down. It has two or three times occurred in Galloway. The records from Lancashire, and especially from Cumberland, are rather more frequent. A very few specimens have been obtained among the outer Scottish isles. It breeds in the far north, and appears more commonly on the eastern than the western coasts of Britain.

COLUMBA PALUMBUS, Linn. RING DOVE.

Manx, **Calmane-Keeylley* (M. S. D.)=Wood Pigeon. (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Calman coille*; Irish, *Colm*, *Colum*=Dove; Latin, *Columba*.)

Although, as noted by Mr. Kermode, large flocks sometimes appear in winter, the Wood Pigeon can hardly be described as comparatively abundant in Man. It is fairly well distributed over the cultivated land, and occasionally one or two resort to the seashore.

Mr. Graves has repeatedly noted the liking of the Wood Pigeon for the young buds of trees, and has watched them at work on the slender branches of the beech just bursting into leaf, their weight breaking off long sprays of the twigs

and fragments of buds, which lay plentifully on the ground below.

The same observer was told by a man who formerly lived near Sulby that he has there on still nights caught these birds by burning sulphur below the trees where they roosted, when they would fall stupefied to the ground with a heavy thud.

Such woodland as exists in the Isle of Man is pretty generally inhabited by the Ring Dove at nesting time, and it breeds freely in the strips of plantation along the course of many of the upland glens. The nests are usually placed at no great height on the branches of the larch and other trees, and I have seen a nest which consisted of a few sticks added to the wreck of a (probably) Magpie's of a previous year. Mr. Graves has seen a nest at Greeba in the fork of a pine. Towards the end of April and in May breeding becomes general, but as late as 19th September (1897) Mr. Graves found a nest built upon ivy covering a little rocky scarp in Glen Rushen, which contained a young bird and an egg just chipping. The face of the rock was sheltered by a small ash, the only tree in the neighbourhood. Mr. Allison long ago found on a rocky ledge in Glen Auldyn Pigeons' eggs which he thinks belonged to this species.

There are considerable tracts, especially at the north and south ends of the island, where almost the only trees are groups around the farm-houses, and from which the Ring Dove is nearly or altogether absent as a breeding species.

The species is common and resident on all our neighbouring shores. Large numbers immigrate in winter to Ireland. It is a straggling visitor to Shetland, but now breeds in various localities in Orkney, and possibly in one or two of the Outer Hebrides.

COLUMBA ŒNAS, Linn. STOCK DOVE.

The earliest definite record of this species was in November 1900, when Mr. E. Turner, of Castletown, shot three out of a flock of about sixty near that town. One of these specimens is now in the Ramsey Museum. Mr. Turner tells me, however, that he shot four exactly the same at Ronaldsway in the end of October 1899. As early as 1885 Mr. Graves had been told that 'Rock Doves' bred in the Greeba rocks, some five miles inland. In 1895 grey Pigeons were repeatedly seen by the writer on the Lonan coast, between Laxey and Garwick, and in later years a few on the Santon cliffs, but he was in doubt as to the species. On 31st March 1898 two, seemingly entirely grey, were seen among the nesting Gulls on the brows of German. In the summer of 1902, however, Mr. Graves found on various occasions undoubted Stock Doves in several localities on the coast between Peel and Glenmay, which unquestionably were breeding among the broken crags and boulders, though he failed actually to find a nest. During the same summer he also saw one on Greeba, and Pigeons reported from the shores between Fleshwick and Dalby were probably of this species (see *Zool.*, 1903, p. 316). So too those which, as I am told by Mr. H. Cannell, haunt and doubtless nest in the lofty pile of precipice and steep broken hillside at Hyastal (Ord. Map, 'Fheustal') in Dalby.

Mr. Allison and other residents in Maughold report that besides the Pigeons in the caves of Maughold Head, to be referred to under the next heading, others breed in several places in that parish on the coast, as amid the stony brows at Ballaskeig, and in the ivy-clad crags near the outlet to the sea of the deep and precipitous Dhoon Glen. From the



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

BROWS OF GERMAN.

(Above Lady Strand. Nesting place of Stock Doves, Jackdaws, and Gulls.)

Photo.

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nature of these sites the Pigeons inhabiting them are no doubt Stock Doves.

The occurrence of the Stock Dove in Man is quite in keeping with the northern and western extension of its breeding range in late years, as noted below.

Since writing the above, Mr. T. H. Nelson has recorded (*Zool.*, 1903, p. 391) that in May 1896 Mr. W. E. Teschemaker and he 'found a nest of this bird, containing two young ones, in a hole near the cliff-top between Seafield (St. Anne's) and Derby-haven. The young Doves were kept in a wicker cage, but did not take kindly to captivity, judging from the quaint remark made in the following year by the Manx servant who attended to them: "It is not tamer they are getting, but wilder," and soon afterwards they were set at liberty. In August of the present year I saw a pair of Stock Doves near St. Anne's Head.'

In 1905 the writer also saw Stock Doves near Port Grenaugh.

Thus the coasts of Patrick, Maughold, and Santon, all once strongholds of the Rock Dove, have all been colonised by this species.

Early in December 1904 Mr. W. Kissack gave me two Stock Doves, which had been shot from a considerable flock on Langness. Mr. Turner again obtained others later in the same month, and there can be no doubt that the species is of regular occurrence every winter in the Castletown neighbourhood, where the birds are called 'Blue Rocks.'

In Ireland the Stock Dove was first recorded in 1875, since which it has been found nesting in Antrim, Down, Armagh, Louth, Wicklow, and other counties. In 1876 it was first found breeding in Southwick, Kirkcudbrightshire, by Mr. Service, and has since spread over 'Solway.' In Cumberland and Lancashire, where it breeds both among the fells and the sand-hills, its range is likewise extending;

and it nests on the Carnarvonshire coast, and in Anglesea. One specimen has been obtained in Shetland, and several are reported from Orkney, but none, so far, from the Outer Hebrides. The species is found in many parts of England, and is spreading in Scotland.

COLUMBA LIVIA, Bonnaterre. ROCK DOVE.

Manx, **Calmane ny creggey* = Rock Dove. (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Calman creaiqe*.)

The Manx coast, broken into innumerable caverns and chasms, offers at short intervals, in almost its whole circuit, such retreats as the Rock Dove loves, and in the earlier half of last century it was common in Man.

Townley, describing his excursion from Port Erin to the Calf, says: 'After we had doubled the first point in the main island, we saw great numbers of wild Pigeons, that lodge and breed in the holes of the tremendous rocks which surround and guard that westerly peninsula of Mona; but they were so very wild as not to allow us to come within gun-shot of them. They appeared entirely to resemble the blue dove-coat (*sic*) Pigeon, but smaller.' During his visit to Peel he had some of these wild Pigeons served up to him. They were, he says, 'darker than the dove-coat Pigeon, legs and feet red, beaks yellow, and were good eating. Vast quantities breed in the high rocky cliffs all the way from Peel Island to the Calf. They are a very shy bird, not easily approached by a gunner, but boys scramble up the rocks and take the young ones out of the breeding holes.'

Robertson, about the same time, writing of the birds inhabiting the Calf, says: 'Gulls, wild Pigeons, and Puffins are the most numerous.'

Mr. A. G. More learned from Dr. Crellin of the breeding of this species in the Isle of Man, and it is probably from his paper on the 'Distribution of Birds in Great Britain,' that the Rock Dove has been noted as Manx in standard works.

In Maughold Mr. J. R. Moore tells me that numbers used to be found between Dhoon and Port Mooar, and Mr. J. Quayle, of Ballakilpherick, states that he has seen them in hundreds on the coast between Fleshwick and Dalby, and mentions especially the long and narrow Ooig Stack and the arched passage called Ghaw¹ Hooil as haunts. Mr. H. E. Gelling remembers that forty years ago they were numerous in a cave on the Santon coast, the many dark caves and fissures of which seem peculiarly suitable. Strooan Calmane, or Pigeon Stream, which falls into the sea over the cliffs of Douglas Head, perhaps takes its name from the Rock Dove.

Old residents told Mr. Haddon, of Maughold, that wild Pigeons formerly bred on the rocky slopes of North Barrule, a mile or two inland, and this report, if correct, likely refers to Rock Doves, or feral House Pigeons, as it is not probable that the Stock Dove had then arrived.

In Thompson's time Rock Doves nested inland in the Irish mountains.

In spite of this abundance at no very remote time, it is doubtful whether any pure-bred Rock Doves now exist in Man. It is rather difficult to account for the extinction of a bird which nested so numerously, though Mr. Quayle says

¹ The word *Ghaw* (chasm, cleft), familiar under various spellings in the place-names of Iceland, Orkney, and Shetland, is in Man confined to the south-western coast, where it often occurs.

that it suffered much from shooters, and that the breeding caves on the west coast were netted by parties in boats.

A few years ago Mr. F. S. Graves found on two occasions, on the same ledge in the Ooig Mooar, the remains of a Pigeon's nest, which from its situation, far in the darkness of that sea-cave, could hardly have been a Stock Dove's; and Pigeons undoubtedly nest in small numbers in the caves of Maughold Head, but the writer has not been able to identify any of these as the wild white rumped bird, nor to obtain certain indication from his correspondents there;¹ while in other parts the confusion between escaped tame birds, true Rock Doves, and Stock Doves is difficult to unravel. Mr. J. C. Crellin, however, writing in 1895 (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 25), says that he saw a pair, which he seems to have considered genuine Rock Doves, in the neighbourhood of Castletown, in the summer of 1894,² and in the following autumn several birds, single and in pairs, in the north of the island.

The Rock Dove nests in many places on the rocky coasts of Ireland, as in Donegal and Wicklow, but seems to have disappeared from the mountains of Down and Antrim, as from the coast and islands of Dublin, though still found on the shores of the former counties. It still nests in Gallogway, mixed with birds of the domestic breed. It is doubtful if any, of at least genuine Rock Doves, breed at St. Bees; it is, however, an irregular straggler to north-western England. It is a familiar and characteristic inhabitant of the outer isles of Scotland, as of those of Ireland. It is mainly confined to the western, northern, and north-eastern coasts of Britain.

¹ Mr. Callow attributes the present scarcity of the cave Pigeons in Maughold to the attacks upon them by parties of visitors in boats, who shoot and scare the birds. He has known them for fifty years.

² See, however, under last heading.



G. B. Caven, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

COAST BETWEEN GLENMAY AND PEEL.

Photo.

TURTUR COMMUNIS, Selby. TURTLE DOVE.

This bird is a rare straggler to Man. Dr. Crellin, according to Mr. Kermode, had a note of one shot at Ballaugh by Mr. W. Powys. Another was shot, according to the same authority, at the Dhoon, Maughold, on 27th June 1895, and in the same summer or autumn Mr. Adams received one from Santon. 'A few years ago' General Brereton is said to have seen one near Ramsey.

A scarce visitor to Ireland (and chiefly to its southern districts), the Turtle has nevertheless occurred in Down, Antrim, and Donegal; also, a few times, in Galloway. In Cumberland and Lancashire it is also a rare and occasional visitant, but has likely nested in the former at least. It now nests in a number of places in Cheshire, and is quickly extending its range. There are a number of records for Orkney and Shetland, and a few recent ones from the Outer Hebrides. It is in Great Britain a somewhat southern species, little known in northern England or Scotland.

SYRRHAPTES PARADOXUS (Pallas).

PALLAS'S SAND GROUSE.

During the immigration of 1863 four specimens were killed at one shot on 21st September by Mr. Thellusson at the Point of Ayre, probably the locality in the island most suitable to the habits of the bird. The flock from which these were obtained consisted of sixteen birds. Other Sand Grouse were, during the same immigration, sold by Wade, a

Ramsey butcher (*Y. L. M.*, i. pt. ii. p. 72).¹ Specimens were during the year obtained in the north and east of Ireland, in Cumberland, and in Lancashire.

During the great immigration of 1888 the island received its share of these strange visitants. They were first observed in Lancashire on 20th May in that year, and appeared in Cumberland about the same time, or possibly earlier, while on 28th or 29th of the month one was shot in Co. Down. In close agreement with these dates, a flock of eight appeared at the Lhen, Andreas, on 26th May,² and two, a male and female, were shot. On the 28th, out of a flock of fifteen near Ballaskeig, Maughold, another was killed by Mr. Creer (*Zool.*, 1888, p. 265). These birds were flushed in a turnip field. On 21st October another was killed at the Lhen, this time from a party of eleven, and on 2nd January 1889 Mr. E. Thellusson shot one near the Windmill, Ramsey. 'This was seen alone at 1.30 P.M. It passed the Mill with a flight like that of a Golden Plover, and uttered a loud cry when disturbed, something like that of a Jay. The contents of the crop of this bird were sent to me, and consisted of seeds of dock and atriplex of different species, with vetch and mustard, and in a less degree polygonum, pimperl, and gorse, only four seeds of grass, and a good deal of sand.'

Mr. Kermode, to whom we are indebted for the above details, states that they were again seen in June and July 1889, in November and December 1890, when from seven to eleven appeared about the Lhen, and in January 1891, when one was shot in Maughold, being the last report of their appearance.

¹ In *Y. L. M.*, iii. 536, Mr. Kermode says he has heard of only one specimen in that year (an evident slip).

² So in *Y. L. M.*, iii. 536, but the parallel records in *Y. L. M.*, i. pt. ii. p. 71, and *Zool.*, 1888, p. 265, say 22nd.

According to *Birds of Ireland*, Sand Grouse had all disappeared from that country by the end of 1888, and this seems also to have been the case in Lancashire, while the last record for Cumberland was in September 1889.

It is noticeable that all the Manx specimens were obtained and observed in the north of the island, and that the sand-dunes of the Lhen seem to have been the headquarters of the species. 'The birds taken,' Mr. Kermode says, 'were in good condition, their crops filled with the seeds of grass and weeds. Evidently they found plenty of food.'

In 1863 Cumberland, Lancashire, Kirkeudbrightshire, and northern Ireland were all visited.

In 1888, as above noted, the tide of immigration flowed over all the coasts of the Irish Sea, including Galloway, but comparatively few are recorded from Ulster; while the sand-hills of Walney and Ravenglass, and the neighbourhood of Southernness, were favourite places of sojourn.

Both migrations reached Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides.

PHASIANUS COLCHICUS, Linn.

PHEASANT.

The history of the Pheasant in Man is brief. Sacheverell (1693-94) and Feltham (1797-98) both remark that no Pheasants existed in Man in their time, and the writer has not been able to find any old records of their introduction, which, however, would probably be attempted in imitation of the fashion of English and Scottish proprietors.

The Game Act of 1835 states that there were then no Pheasants in Man, but that it was intended to introduce them with 'Moor-fowl, Heath-fowl, or Grouse,' and until 1837 none of these were to be destroyed by any person.

In 1880 Mr. Kermode remarks upon the species: 'Introduced at different times, for the amusement of poachers. I am told there is still *one*, which may be seen occasionally.' In the revised list he notes, 'A few preserved,' but in 1901 omits the bird altogether.

Mr. Crellin tells me that in the north they have frequently been tried, but get no chance to increase. They were, for instance, kept by the late Mr. E. C. Farrant, of Ballakillingan, Bishops Powys and Straton, and Mr. Crellin himself, all with almost equal want of success. Regarding the last Bishop's Court experiment, Bishop Straton, in answer to my inquiry, writes me under date of 28th December 1904 that very few birds, certainly not more than half a dozen, survive there. The Bishop's head gardener tells him that they have been seen in the glen forming part of the demesne during last autumn, but he himself has seen none since the spring; he attributes the loss of the birds chiefly to the unseasonably cold weather which several years prevailed in June and July. Within the last few years Pheasants introduced at Ballagawne, Rushen, have, as Mr. H. Cannell tells me, become extinct. At the Nunnery, according to information supplied by Mr. Leigh Goldie-Taubman, the late Sir J. S. Goldie-Taubman had in the seventies some Pheasants in the shrubberies surrounding the mansion-house. In the winter of 1872 the family, which had wintered in Algeria, was disappointed on returning to find that they had disappeared. About 1894 Mr. L. Goldie-Taubman procured eggs, and hatched out a number of young birds, nearly all of which were destroyed by getting damp on a night of almost tropical rain. The few survivors died before the autumn; the last one, which on a Sunday had ventured near a public path through the grounds, being seen and stoned to death by boys.

In 1902 seven hundred and ninety Pheasants were

registered by game-dealers as imported into Man, but no native specimens recorded. In 1903, however, one Manx bird appears (at Ramsey) with eight hundred and thirty-five 'foreign,' and in the autumn of 1904 a Pheasant, according to a newspaper report, was seen at Snugborough in Braddan; so that stray birds possibly still survive elsewhere as well as at Bishop's Court. Since writing as above I hear from Mr. Allison (January 1905) that there are now some Pheasants in the vicinity of his house at Maughold, which at times come into his fields and garden.

The Pheasant is numerously preserved in the neighbouring parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland. It has been introduced into Orkney, where, however, it did not thrive, and at Stornoway and in North Uist, where perhaps some still exist.

PERDIX CINEREA, Latham. PARTRIDGE.

Manx, **Kiark-rhenee* or *rheinnee* (M. S. D., Cr., 1 Sam. xxvi. 20) = Fern Hen; *Patrag*, *Eean-patrag* (M. S. D.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic and Irish, *Cearc Thomain*; Sc. Gaelic, *Cearc Chruthach*; Irish, *Paitriasg*.) M. S. D. applies *Kiark-rhenee* also to the Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*).

The statement in Camden (MS., xviii. 14) that Partridges though imported will not live in the isle, is one of the many errors of that account. Sacheverell (1693) says: 'The Earl (*i.e.* William, ninth Earl of Derby) has . . . sent over Partridge which thrive very well, though my author (Chaloner) says his grandfather was not so fortunate in his experiment; I suppose the Hawks destroyed them.' (I do not find this statement in Chaloner's work on Man, but it is made in Blundell's (MS., xxv. 46), from which it

was likely copied into the 1695 Camden¹ as above. The Denton MS. (1681), which however is of little authority, mentions Partridges among the wildfowl of Man. A law published at Tynwald on 24th June 1687 enacts: 'That whosoever shall be found to destroy, annoy, or kill any of the Partridges either young or old that are set forth in or about Ballakillingan, in Kirk Christ Lezayre, or in any other place where they do frequent, such person or persons are to be fined in III£ to the use of the Rt. Honble. Lord of this Isle, and to endure a monthe's imprisonment by way of corporal punishment besides.'²

In 1776 Rev. John Christian, Vicar of Marown, mentions Partridge among the 'chief wildfowl' of that parish (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 31). In 1835 the Game Act recites that 'Partridges have become very scarce.'

¹ Blundell's *History*, though for more than two hundred years unprinted, was extant in a number of manuscripts, and extensively made use of by later writers on Man. He says: 'Neither patriges nor farkers will live there, altho' imported, as was experienced by James, late Lord of Man, who of purpose brought over thither some out of England.' What are 'farkers'? Probably (as kindly pointed out by Mr. L. R. M. Strachan in answer to an inquiry in *Notes and Queries*) 'Forkers,' *i.e.* young Partridges (according to New English Dictionary a Suffolk word).

² *Statutes of the Isle of Man*, vol. i. p. 144 (Clause 4 of Act). Clause 5 proceeds: 'That forasmuch as it is observed that Kytes, Ravens, Scar Crowes, and Magpies are very destructive and prejudicial not only to the said Partridges, but also unto Lambs, Goslings, Chickens, and such like young brood, as the tenants and inhabitants of this Isle have oft complained of that they have been much annoyed by such ravenous creatures: Therefore it is ordered that whosoever shall shoote or kill any Kytes or Ravens shall for every head they bring in receive IIId. a peece, and for every Scar Crow they kill receive jd. per head, and for every Magpie receive ob. per head, which the Moars of the parishes are ordered to pay them accordingly and to receive an allowance for the same upon their accounts. Provided that there be no fraud or cozenage used by those that destroy the said ravenous fowle in bringing in of young ones; which is left to be ordered and redressed at ye Governor's discretion.' 'Kyte' is here probably a general term. The Moars were (and still are) the collectors of 'Lord's Rent' in the several parishes. Ballakillingan, in the beautiful country where the northern hills meet the plain, and then as now one of the principal houses of the isle, was the seat of the family of Curghey, or Curphey. Ewan Curghey, who was in possession in 1687, had played a leading part in the troubled times of the Commonwealth and Restoration, and for a time had lost its estates.

In 1839 Forbes (Quiggins's *Guide*, 2nd ed.) noted the species as 'not uncommon,' and doubtless from then till the present day it has continued to flourish. It is now very fairly distributed, though perhaps hardly to be called abundant. A favourite refuge, as expressed by the Manx name *Kiark-rhennee*, is the bracken on the lower hillsides and the selvages of rough land along the coast. There are evidently also some on the Calf, where, according to Robertson, they were plentiful towards the end of the eighteenth century.

In 1902 one hundred and eighty-five Manx Partridge, and three hundred and forty-six imported, appeared in the game record, and in 1903; respectively eighty-four and three hundred and seventy-four.

Partridges are well, though unevenly, distributed through Ireland, and are common in the north-eastern counties, as on the English and Scottish shores of the Irish Sea. They have been introduced with little success into Orkney and the Outer Hebrides, but not Shetland.

COTURNIX COMMUNIS, Bonnaterre.

QUAIL.

WET-MY-LIP.

The earliest writer to mention the Quail as occurring in the Isle of Man seems to be Forbes, who about seventy years ago describes it as 'not uncommon.' It is, about the same time, included in the Game Act of 1835. The sixth edition of Quiggins's *Guide* (1858) says: 'A few still remain,' and its comparative abundance is remembered by many persons still alive. By 1870 the bird had probably become scarce, if not extinct, and in 1880 Mr. Kermode stated that for some years he had not heard of one.

In the early part of the last decade, however, the Quail began to appear again not infrequently here, as in Ireland and Great Britain.

In June 1892 a specimen was found dead on the South Quay, Douglas. In September of the same year one was seen by Mr. J. C. Crellin (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 71), and he writes of the next year (*ibid.* 204): 'It is many years, more than twenty, since the Quail was so abundant in the island. From north to south these birds might be heard uttering their peculiar and sweet note. Though so numerous in the spring and summer time, yet, strange to say, they were not nearly so plentiful in September as I should have expected.'

One in Mr. Kermode's collection at Ramsey was shot in Onchan, 14th November 1894. Toward the middle of June 1899 Mr. Crellin heard one near the highroad between Ballachurry and Ramsey. A few years ago an egg, with the end broken in and partly emptied, which had been picked up in a field in the higher part of Braddan, was given to Mr. Leach. Mr. J. J. Gill reported to Mr. Kermode a nest containing six eggs found in a field of green corn at Rheast Moar, near Ramsey, also in a recent year.

In 1902 six Manx Quail, against eighteen imported, were registered. In 1903 there were none at all.

Mr. Kermode records that Dr. Crellin once shot a cream-coloured specimen (not now, at least, at Orrisdale).

The family of Quayle, of Clychur, Crogga, and Castletown, bear on their coat-of-arms three Quails proper; the crest is a Quail, and one of the mottoes '*Qualis Ero Spero.*' It is needless to say that the name, a frequent one in Man, has no real connection with that of the bird (*Manx Note-Book*, No. 8, p. 169).

The Quail used to be numerous, at least at certain times and places, in Ireland, but has now much diminished. Its history is much the same in Galloway and north-western

England. Mr. Oldham heard Quails in Anglesea in 1904. It has bred sporadically in Shetland, Orkney, Lewis, and North Uist. It is mostly a summer migrant in Britain, its distribution being sporadic and uncertain.

LAGOPUS SCOTICUS (Latham).

RED GROUSE.

Manx, *Kellagh ruy* = Red Cock; *Kiark freoaie* = Heath Hen (M. S. D.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Cearc Fhraioch, Coilleach-Ruadh*; Irish, *Cearc fraoich*.)

The statement in the Denton MS. (1681), 'They (the Manx) have store of moor-game both gor and gray,' can hardly have been correct. Sacheverell (1693) distinctly states that there were then no 'heath game'¹ in Man. In 1748 the enactment relative to game implies by its mention of Grouse that they then existed in Man.

In 1776 Rev. John Christian includes Grouse among the wildfowl of Marown; in 1789 the Duke of Athol issued notices (of which a copy is now in possession of the High Bailiff of Castletown) threatening the disturbers of his 'Growse'; and Feltham in 1797 says that they 'abound.'² Robertson, a little earlier, tells us that they were plentiful also on the Calf, but John Quayle, C.R., who held that island from the Duke of Athol, writes in 1776 to his brother-in-law, James Moore: 'My efforts to plant Deer

¹ Perhaps this means Black-game only, and Denton's remark was true of the Red Grouse.

² A letter written by Captain Samuel Cable, R.N., to Lieut.-Col. J. L. Philips, from 'Balla-na-How,' Onchan, and dated 24th August 1797, mentions that the sons of Mr. Banks, of that place, obtained one day a little before four brace and a half of moor game on the mountains. (Faraday, *Manchester Memoirs*, vol. xlv. No. 8, p. 29.)

and Grouse upon the Calf have totally failed'¹ (*Manx Note-Book*, No. 8, p. 171). In 1835 the Game Act states that 'Grouse, though formerly abundant, are now entirely extinct,' but that it is intended to re-introduce them. Whether any attempt at this was then made or not, in 1839 they were, Forbes says, no longer to be found.²

Mr. J. C. Crellin tells me the last pair of these old Grouse was once to be seen stuffed in the Douglas Head lighthouse, having been killed during the breeding season (the hen on the nest!).

About 1880 Grouse were re-introduced (Mr. Crellin tells me, in the first instance by the late Mr. J. Brooke, of Druidale), and are now resident in limited numbers in various parts of the uplands which are covered with heather. Such moors are the highest portion of the southern hills, including the summit of South Barrule; the ridge south of Karrin between the glens of Ballaugh and Sulby; Greeba and its northward prolongation; and the lofty smooth fells clothed with purple heath and blaeberry which form the divide of the Cornah and Laxey valleys, and descend toward Dhoon in the long slope of Slieu Ruy.

The author much regrets that on one at least of these shootings the detestable pole-trap has been introduced.

Of seven hundred and sixty-six Grouse registered in 1902 twenty only were Manx, and in 1903 nineteen out of seven hundred and forty-seven.

The species is plentiful in suitable parts of the surrounding

¹ Mr. Quayle adds: 'But I have fitted up a Banqueting House in that place, where I should be happy to see you next summer.'

² There is some slight discrepancy, which I cannot explain, in the statements as to the exact time when the older breed of Grouse failed on our hills. Some of my local informants are sure that it continued into the forties, but this may have been re-introduction. Mr. Wm. Kerruish says that his personal acquaintance with the Red Grouse on the Maughold hills was between the dates (approximately) of 1837 and 1846; after the latter year the species was extinct.

districts. It inhabits the Outer Hebrides and Orkney (in the latter it is said to have been at one time extinct), but hardly survives in Shetland, where attempts have been made to acclimatise it.

This, the only bird confined to Britain, is found here in the north and west wherever there is heather.

TETRAO TETRIX, Linn. BLACK GROUSE.

Manx, **Kellagh Dhoo* = Black Cock.

With the exception of the remark of the Denton MS., quoted under the last heading, I have failed to find in old writers any trace of the Black Grouse in Man. Considering its Irish status, it is hardly likely to have been indigenous here.

When Black-game were introduced I have been unable to discover, but there can be no doubt that they did exist upon our hills in the earlier half of last century. Mr. Allison, of Maughold, after communicating to me what he had heard of their occurrence in that parish, was good enough to interview on my behalf Mr. Wm. Kerruish, of Balfellin, a farmer of over eighty, but still hale and strong. When Mr. Kerruish was a boy he used to accompany Mr. John Banks, of Balnahow (now called Howstrake), Onchan, to hunt these birds. 'He used to see coveys of up to nine or ten, and several old cocks together, I think he said as many as twenty.' They frequented Glen Cherry and the lofty hill-top covered with blaeberry overlooking the Laxey Glen, and also about Cornah farm. As Mr. Kerruish became older he himself shot both Black-game and Grouse, sixty-five years ago, or he thinks perhaps two or three years

later.¹ Both species became extinct about the same time, but the Black-game apparently somewhat earlier. As the Act of 1835 states that there were then no 'Moor-fowl, Heath-fowl, or Grouse' on the island, we must put back this date a little, or suppose that the framers of the law had not perfectly correct information, or that the bird was introduced or re-introduced about 1835, and soon again became extinct. Mr. Kerruish thinks that the disappearance of the game was due largely to the increase of the mining population in the neighbouring Laxey valley.

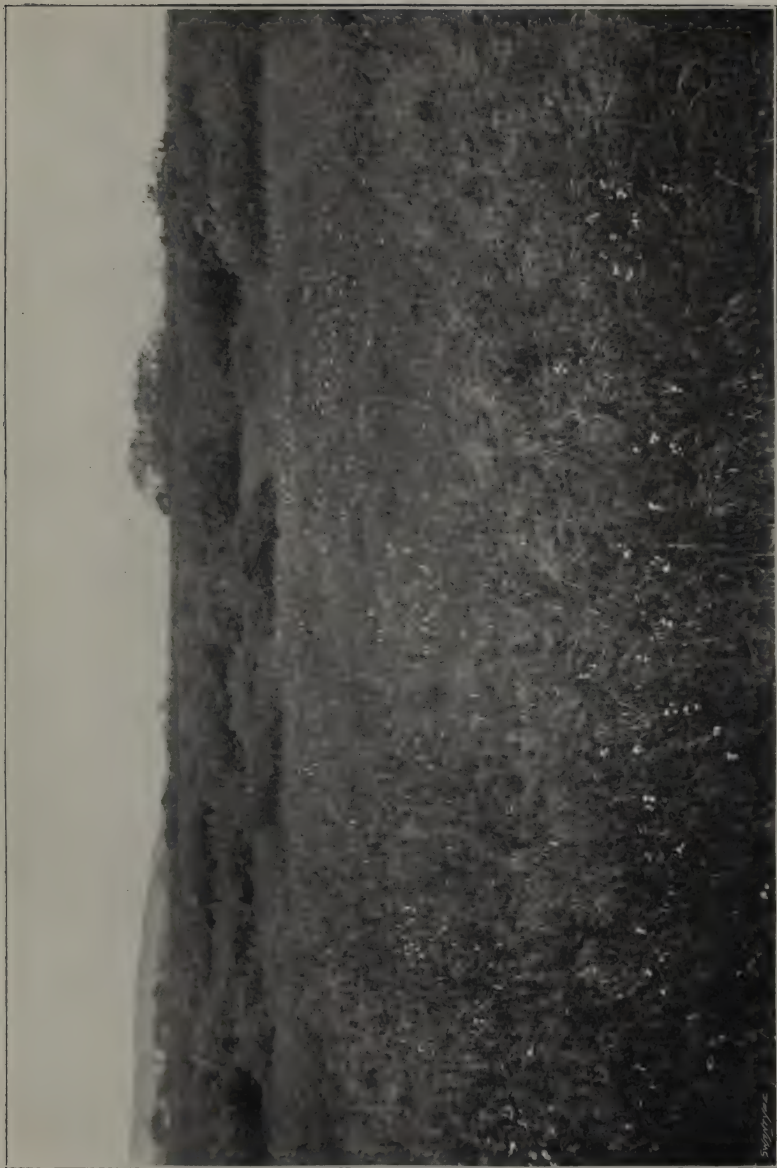
We can readily imagine that it was during the Athol lordship² that the Black Grouse was introduced, the Duke and those connected with him being familiar with it in Scotland.

Mr. Kermodie, in his list of 1880, notes the species, with the remark, 'Recently introduced and not yet become extinct!' but does not mention it in his subsequent list. I cannot give any particulars of the doubtless ineffectual attempt at acclimatisation here noticed. Black-game, as well as Capercaillie and Willow Grouse (*Lagopus albus*), the 'Ptarmigan' of the poulterers, are now sometimes common in Douglas shops: the dealers' return shows a hundred and thirty-two of the first species in 1903.

Originally dispersed over Great Britain, the species is now chiefly found in Scotland and North England. To Ireland it seems not to have been native, and attempts to introduce it there and to the Scottish outer isles have not prospered.

¹ In a later communication to me Mr. Kerruish says he thinks he last saw Black-game about 1842. There is also at Sulby, as Mr. J. Radcliffe has told me, a tradition of the former presence of Black-game on the central hills.

² 1736-1829. It is worth noting that the extinction of the game seems to have followed immediately on the passing of the manorial rights of the Duke to the English crown. His 'sovereignty' had ceased in 1765.



F. S. Graves.

WATER-RAIL'S NESTING GROUND IN THE CURRAGH.

Photo.

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RALLUS AQUATICUS, Linn. WATER-RAIL.

SCAREGRASS (cf. 'Scarragrise,' Lanc.); WATER WREN (Kermode).

This species is included in the Game Acts of 1882 (not in that of 1835). In 1888 Mr. Kermode notes it as resident in small numbers.

The retiring nature of this bird and the haunts it inhabits make it very difficult to judge of its distribution and abundance, but specimens have been taken all over the island. Mr. J. Maddrell tells me that he has often flushed them from the ditch-like, partly artificial, streams flowing into Poolvash, along which rank vegetation grows abundantly. Mr. Adams says that they are found about the Nunnery and the pond at 'Belle Vue,' and during the winter of 1901-2 he saw quite a number of specimens, alive and dead. During the same winter Mr. T. Fargher sent me a specimen from Lonan, and I have been told that it is not rare about Laxey, though the steep slopes and rapid waters of that district seem very ill-suited to its habits. In the Curragh, which on the contrary seems very suitable, I was unable to hear of it, until Mr. Graves in May 1903 found a disused nest with fragments of shells, and later, on the 6th of June, he discovered another with eight eggs. This was a light poor structure of grass, lined with fragments of rush, built in a damp waste thickly sprinkled with willow bushes (*Zool.*, 1903, p. 317). On 21st June a third nest with six eggs was found in the same locality. The scraps of rush which in all or most of these nests formed the principal part of the structure were from half an inch to three inches long, making a fairly thick though not deep cup. The stems had evidently been deliberately broken into these small pieces. The nests were closely

concealed under the thick growth of the last year's grass rushes, in one case by the side of a small low willow bush.

I have two eggs, found by Mr. T. Morrison with the help of a dog in the marshy land on the Congary, near Peel, and this was the only information I had gathered as to its breeding in Man till Mr. Graves's discovery as above noted. Mr. Allison has since told me that the nest has been found in the neighbourhood of a small 'dub' in Maughold.

A single specimen is registered in the Chief Constable's Game Record for 1903. In earlier years I have more than once seen the bird in dealers' shops at Douglas. On 10th March 1905 I flushed a Water-rail, doubtless resting on migration, from one of the little stony pools on Scarlett Point. It immediately dropped into another and disappeared, no doubt beneath one of the huge boulders scattered about both land and water, for other cover there was none.

It is resident around the Irish Sea, but on the English shores is not known to nest except rarely. It breeds extensively, and sometimes even abundantly, in Ireland. It occurs in the Outer Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland, but its breeding in the last, and perhaps at present in the second, is doubtful. In Great Britain it is generally distributed, but rarer in Scotland.

PORZANA MARUETTA (Leach). SPOTTED
CRAKE.

The late Mr. Jeffcott reported a specimen obtained by him in autumn while snipe-shooting, probably in the seventies, and in the Castletown neighbourhood.

A Spotted Crake, shot at Greeba on February 1885, and



WATER-RAIL.



J. Kewley.

MOOR-HEN.

Photo.

NESTS IN THE CURRAGH.

now in the Ramsey Museum, was recorded by Mr. Kermode in his list of 1888, but in that of 1901 inadvertently appeared under the heading of Baillon's Crake.

In October 1892 I saw at Mr. Adams's a specimen of the Spotted Crake which had been picked up dead at Onchan, killed, Mr. Adams thought, against the telegraph wires in the village (Mr. Kermode says in the preceding month, September).

Though rare in Ireland, the Spotted Crake has occurred both in Down and Antrim. It has often occurred in Galloway, and has bred in Dumfriesshire, and is a scarce migrant, chiefly in autumn and winter, in the opposite English districts. It is believed to be of regular autumnal occurrence in Shetland, and there is statement of its observation in Orkney, but it is not recorded from the Outer Hebrides. It has been found in the south and east of England and in some Scottish localities.

(*Re* record of the Little Crake (*Porzana parva*, Scop.) in *Zool.*, 1847, see under next species. It has once occurred in Ireland, and in a few instances in north-western England.)

PORZANA BAILLONI (Vieillot). BAILLON'S CRAKE.

'A bird recorded as a Little Crake by Captain W. H. Hadfield (*Zool.*, p. 5280) as shot by him near Ramsey, Isle of Man, in 1847, was subsequently referred by him to Baillon's Crake' (*Zool.*, Second Series, p. 3272, under date of 7th September 1872). (See Yarrell, 4th ed., iii. p. 150, note, and p. 156.)

The original record of Captain Hadfield is as follows:—

' Little Crake (*Crex pusilla*) in the Isle of Man. Extract from note-book :—

“ Isle of Man, 1847.—When looking for Snipes at the Dog-mill swamp, about two miles from Ramsey, a Crake was shot by me, which, from its wavering flight and somewhat similar size, I at first took for a Jack Snipe, but it proved to be a Crake, the smallest I had ever seen, being considerably less than the Jack Snipe.” Although I am aware that the Little Crake has occasionally been met with in the southern counties, I am not so sure that it has been found before so far north as the Isle of Man.—Henry W. Hadfield, High Cliff, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, September 8, 1856.’

The Greeba specimen mentioned by Mr. Kermode (*Y. L. M.*, iii. p. 537) is, as stated under the last heading, a Spotted Crake.

There are two records from Ireland, and a few from north-western England (one in 1886). It has occurred principally in southern England.

CREX PRATENSIS, Bechstein. LAND-RAIL.

CORNCRAKE. Manx, **Eean* or *Yeean-raip* (M. S. D.); *Eean-raip* (Cr.)=the bird (which cries) ‘raip.’

Though the Corncrake is still a common and regular summer visitant in Man, I am disposed to agree with Mr. Kermode that it has diminished in numbers. Here, as elsewhere, it is doubtless year by year subject to variation in abundance, caused, in part at least, by the degree of peril experienced during the nesting season and in migration, for which latter it seems singularly unfit. It is

generally first heard towards the end of April (Mr. Ker mode notes it on 16th April (1888), the earliest date known to me), and in the first week of May the familiar note, in itself harsh and wearisome, but pleasant by association with the fairest season of the year, becomes general over the land. It is specially incessant during the evening twilight, recalling its vocalisation by a Manx farmer (whether following tradition, I do not know) as 'Late, late.' The bird is said to be found also on the Calf. (Mr. Crellin says it was first heard there in 1899.) It is included in our earlier, as in our present, Game Act; but in 1903 none are registered.

The departure of the Corncrake, now silent, is less noticeable than its arrival, but a specimen is occasionally met with in winter; thus one was seen, and almost caught, at Harcroft, near Douglas, on 23rd November 1893.

The Land-rail is common in Ireland, and occasionally occurs in winter. It abounds in Wigtownshire, and in Kirkeudbrightshire, Mr. Service remarks, is to be heard 'in every field.' In Cumberland and Lancashire it is usually common, but found to vary, as above noted, in different years. It is very abundant in Lleyn. It is found in all the outer groups of the Scottish isles. In Orkney it is said to have decreased. It is distributed over Britain, but is somewhat local.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS (Linn.).

MOOR-HEN.

WATER-HEN. Manx, **Kiark-ushtey* (M. S. D.)=Water-hen. ('A Coot,' Cr.) (Cf. Sc. Gaelic and Irish, *Cearc uisge*.)

Though common in suitable localities, the Water-hen is in Man by no means the familiar object of rural life that

it is in many parts of Britain. Except in the northern lowland, ponds scarcely exist in Man, and the streams are usually too shallow and rapid to suit the habits of the bird.

In the Douglas district the Water-hen's stronghold is the western valley toward Peel, and along the comparatively deep and herbage-bordered Dhoo it is very abundant. It may be met with where still water with sufficient cover occurs, even along the course of streams generally so swift-flowing as the Glass and Santon burn; there are numbers on Onchan pond, which in summer is nearly choked with vegetation, and it abounds on the lower part of the Sulby, and on the small ponds in the north; while in Ballaugh Curragh it seems by no means so numerous as might have been expected. It is far from abundant on the waters about Castletown.

As recorded by Mr. Kermodé, several were picked up dead by Mr. Clarke during the great frost of February 1895, when the Sulby was quite frozen over, and Mr. Crellin observes that the Water-hen was very scarce during the following year. Mr. Kermodé also mentions its roosting on trees, and I have seen nests built among the branches of willows, and, at Kirby, rhododendrons just over the water.

In May 1901 we saw on the Calf of Man a Water-hen's nest built in a hole in the bank of a small dam near the shore, and on the water the mother bird with five downy young. When this nest was built there would be no cover on the dam, but the foundation of another appeared to be commenced among a little low vegetation now springing.

The Water-hen is common in the surrounding districts. It is found in Orkney, and even in Shetland, and, probably in general not plentifully, in the Outer Hebrides.

FULICA ATRA, Linn. COOT.

The Coot is by no means common in Man, and though the late Dr. Crellin, as recorded by Mr. Kermode, used to find the nests in Ballaugh Currags, and I had also heard of its long ago nesting there from the late Deemster Gill, it seems to have been supposed that it had become a winter visitor only, until in May 1900 I found it still breeding in the above-mentioned locality in Ballaugh. Here it might be easily overlooked, owing to its skulking habits at this season, were it not betrayed by its loud and singular cry. While visiting the place, it was evident that a certain number of Coots were scattered over the wet land, and after some search, I found in a grassy patch, varied by a few small willow bushes, which formed part of a shallow swamp, a nest with eggs, and the remains of several others, tending to show that the same little plot had several times been used for nesting purposes. Under the occupied nest was a kind of raft of dry horsetails, perhaps also the remnant of a former nest. All these nests were composed of Horsetails (*Equisetum*), and were comparatively small, by no means the imposing structures which the species constructs among the reed beds of the Cheshire meres.

Coots are numerous also on Onchan pond, where they spend the year and doubtless nest. Although suitable localities are not numerous in Man, it is likely that a few more breeding places may be discovered.

On 12th March 1895 I roused one, doubtless migrating, from among the coast boulders at the foot of the cliffs of Martland, in Lonan.

The Coot is resident all round us; in winter it is hardly

seen in Lancashire, and in Cumberland it then congregates on the larger lakes. It breeds plentifully in Orkney and sparingly in Shetland, and is found also in the Outer Hebrides, where it nests, though its distribution there is but vaguely indicated. It is well distributed as a British species.

CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS, Linn. GOLDEN PLOVER.

Manx, **Ushag reeisht*, *reisht*, or *reeast* (M. S. D. and Cr.) = bird of the waste; **Fedjag* (pronounced 'Fashag') *reeast* (Cr. and M. S. D.) = whistler of the waste; *Feddag* (M. S. D.). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Feadag*, *Feadag-bhuidhe*; Irish, *Feudog*, *Feadog*, *Fidiog*.¹)

Mr. J. C. Crellin (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 381) mentions seeing a Golden Plover on the Ayre as late as 7th May (1897) and adds, 'I have heard that their nests and young ones have been found on the mountains in the north of the island.' It is far from unlikely that a few breed in the Isle of Man, but this is the only evidence I have been able to gather, and the numbers must be very small. The reports of a number of persons familiar with our highlands—sportsmen and shepherds—are entirely negative. I have seen a specimen, perhaps a home-breeder, in Castletown Bay on 7th August.²

The species is a well-known winter visitor, arriving in

¹ A height in Arbory bears the name of Cronk Fedjag, and another in Michael, that of Cronk-ny-Fedjag.

² On 23rd August 1797 'Lewthwaite,' writes Captain Cable, from Balnahow, Onchan, '... brought home two brace of Golden Plover, a Partridge, a Snipe, and a fine Rail.' (Faraday, *Manchester Memoirs*, vol. xlv. No. 8, p. 30.)

October or the end of September. The numbers vary greatly from year to year, and their movements are very erratic, hard weather sometimes bringing great numbers to the pastures in the lower country, even to the coast; a few Golden Plover are sometimes associated with a flock of Lapwings.

Fifty-three Manx 'Plover'¹ against twelve imported, were recorded in dealers' books in 1902, and in 1903 respectively five and ninety-five, seemingly a strange discrepancy (but see under Lapwing). The species occasionally appears in the Migration Reports.

The well-known Manx folk legend of the Lhondoo and Ushag-reaisht is thus given in Mr. Moore's *Manx Folk-Lore*, p. 150. 'It is said that once upon a time the haunts of the Lhondoo were confined to the mountains, and those of the Ushag-reaisht (*Charadrius pluvialis*) to the lowlands. One day, however, the two birds went on the borders of their respective territories, and, after some conversation, it was arranged to change places for a while, the Ushag-reaisht remaining in the mountains till the Lhondoo should return. The Lhondoo, finding the new quarters much more congenial than the old, conveniently forgot his promise to go back. Consequently the poor Ushag-reaisht was left to bewail his folly in making the exchange, and ever since has been giving expression to his woes in the following plaintive querulous pipe:—

“Lhondoo, vel oo cheet, vel oo cheet?”

(“Blackbird, are you coming, are you coming?”)

‘The Blackbird, now plump and flourishing, replies:—

“Cha-nel dy bragh, cha-nel dy bragh!”

(“No, never! no, never!”)

¹ Lapwings are separately recorded.

'The poor Ushag-reaisht, shivering :—

“T'eh feer feayr, t'eh feer feayr !”

(“It's very cold, it's very cold !”)

Some Manx people say that the name 'Ushag-reaisht' is applied to some smaller bird, perhaps the Redwing or Snow Bunting; but the story, with its imitation of the Plover's well-known cry, cannot apply to either of these. Mr. Moore says that this is also the 'little red bird of the black turf ground,' in the ballad on pp. 149, 150 of *Manx Folk-Lore*; but the description seems very inappropriate.

The species is abundant in Ireland in autumn and winter; it breeds also in many places, and does so both in Down and Antrim. In Galloway it is frequent both as a resident and migrant. A few breed on the coast mosses on the English side of the Solway, but more on the high inland moors; in winter it is sometimes very plentiful. It nests in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides. In Great Britain the Golden Plover is in summer nearly confined to Scotland and northern England.

SQUATAROLA HELVETICA (Linn.). GREY PLOVER.

This species probably visits Castletown Bay regularly in small numbers.

Mr. Adams tells me that specimens were obtained there in mid-winter both in 1890 and 1891, and Mr. Unsworth, as recorded by Mr. Kermode, has a specimen shot by him at Langness from a flock of five in November 1894. Mr. Baily has not unfrequently met with it on Langness, principally, he tells me, in the very early mornings during

spring and autumn. There is also a specimen in the collection of the late Mr. Kinvig at Castletown. Mr. Kermode adds that 'the birds used to be common about Castletown,' but it must be remembered that the name is often applied to the Golden Plover, which still occurs comparatively plentifully in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Lumsden told Mr. Kermode he had shot Grey Plovers 'many years ago near Peel.'

The species is an annual winter visitor to Belfast Lough: its numbers are limited in Ireland generally. It visits Galloway and north-western England, usually sparingly, but Mr. Service says that sometimes considerable flocks appear on the Scottish Solway. It has occurred scarcely in all the outer groups of Scottish islands, and is probably rare in the Outer Hebrides. In Britain it is most plentiful on the east side.

ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA (Linn.). RINGED
PLOVER.

MILLER or MILLARD, SEA-LARK, SAND-LARK. (The latter names applied to this and other small shore birds.)

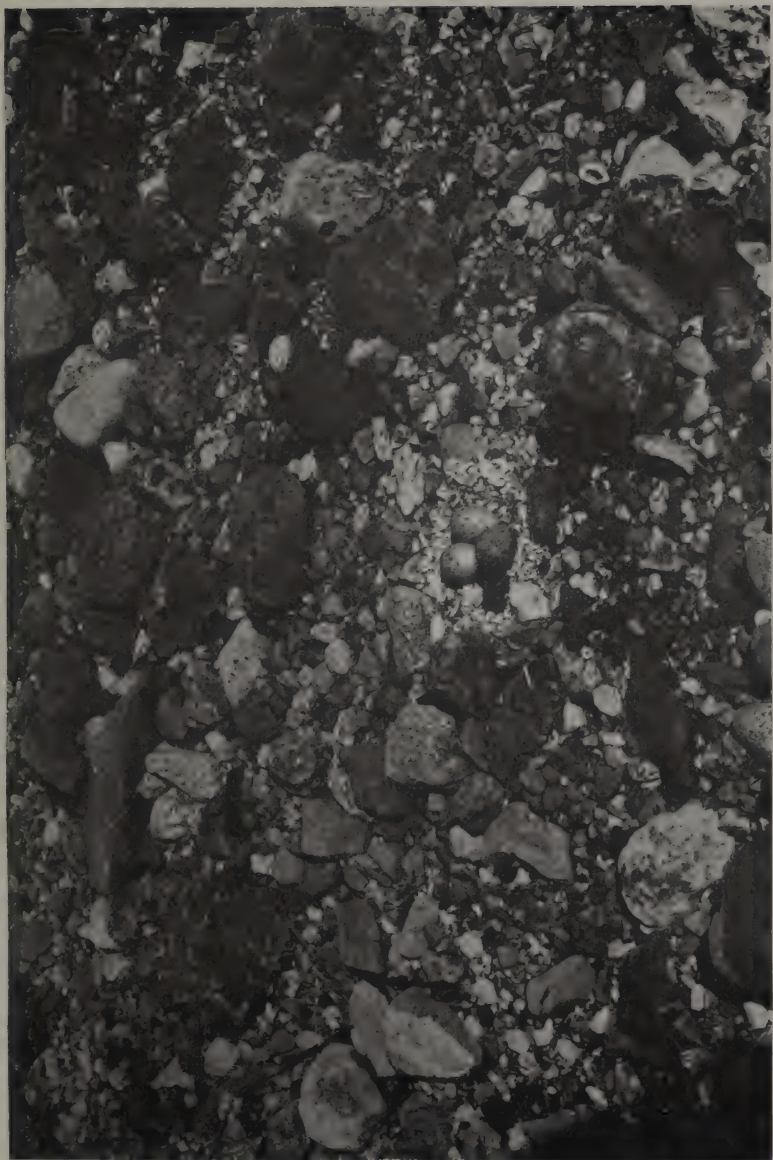
This pleasant little shore bird is in Man by far the most abundant and best distributed of the species of kindred life frequenting the tide-edge. It is, however, resident here only on sandy and gravelly shores, and though these extend all round the north end of the island from Michael to Ramsey, they are elsewhere almost confined to a few of the larger bays, where the surrounding land is too well occupied by man to give the birds a chance to nest. None appear to breed, as they do in other parts of Britain, on turf

places among the sea-side rocks, and the island offers no suitable inland resorts.

All the year round, except at nesting time, a few inhabit the sands of Douglas Bay. Here they are fairly familiar, and on a very wet Sunday in January 1886 I even saw a few running on the concrete surface of the Harris promenade, on which gravel had been thrown by a high tide from the shore a short distance below. The Ringed Plover is common on Castletown Bay, as also on the Bay-ny-Carrickey, and a very few pairs probably breed on the shingle at least of the former, for I have observed birds which seemed by their action to be nesting, and I years ago saw eggs said to have been got at this part of the island, while in 1903 I was shown two nests near Poolvash amid the rough shingle surrounding Pool Richie. These latter nests were neatly lined with minute fragments of white shells and a few small stones, which amid the brown and grey stones characteristic of the place made the site very much more conspicuous than it would otherwise have been. In 1904 Ringed Plovers also nested near Poolvash, and between Derby-haven and Cass-ny-hawin, and a nest was found on the little beach at Scarlett.¹ At Poolvash in this year there were at least four nests, and they were carefully watched by the residents who found them, but all, as Mr. J. Maddrell tells us, were washed away by a high tide; some of the birds nested again, however. In 1902 a pair was evidently nesting at the 'White Beaches' at Dalby. On the northern coast, as above indicated, it is common, and breeds on all the more retired portions of the far-extending shingle, and on the sandy warren of the Ayre. In Laxey Bay I have noted chance stragglers only.

The eggs are laid, as a rule, not earlier than the third

¹ In 1905 at least two pairs were nesting at Scarlett among the quarry rubbish which covers the base of a little disused pier.



J. Newley.

NEST OF RINGED PLOVER, POOLVASH.

Photo.

To face page 206.

week in May. Some nesting hollows are neatly lined with fragments of stone and shell; others have no lining whatever; innumerable excavations of the same nature, like trial nests, may be found on the same ground. The site is usually just above high-water mark, as with the Oystercatcher, and these two birds are usually found breeding in company, but on the Ayre the nesting ground of both extends a little further inland. Mr. Graves found a nest on the Ayre in a situation unusually sheltered, among the high growth of sea-reed.

One was killed at Langness light 12th May 1904, an unusual occurrence with this, as with most waders.

The species is common on all the low coasts of Ireland, its numbers being increased in winter. It abounds in Galloway, and nests all along the sandy coasts of Cumberland and Lancashire, except where banished by the growth of towns. It is a characteristic and conspicuous bird of all the Scottish groups of isles, wherever suitable localities occur.

EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS (Linn.).

DOTTEREL.

The only Manx specimen on record was shot by Mr. F. M. Stephen, of Douglas, at Ballacutchell, Santon, in the autumn of 1896, and is in his possession. It is said to have been a female, and is in very dull plumage with a slight trace of red underneath. The locality is cultivated upland, some five hundred feet above sea-level.

There are but twelve records for Ireland, mostly in the autumn migration, but it has been met with in Antrim, Down, and Donegal (in neither county since 1854). It

still breeds very scarcely on some of the high Cumbrian hills, and it is said also on those of Kirkcudbrightshire, and is occasionally met with on the shores on both sides of the Solway. It has very rarely occurred in Shetland and Orkney, in the latter of which, however, it is stated to have bred; there is no certain record for the Outer Hebrides. It nests also on some of the mountains of the Scottish mainland, but has become a very scarce British species.

VANELLUS VULGARIS, Bechstein.

LAPWING.

PEEWIT. Manx, **Eairkan* (M. S. D.); *Earkan*¹ (Cr.). The 'Lapwing' of Lev. xi. 19 is so rendered in the Manx Bible. The word is derived from *Eairk*, 'a horn.' (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Adharcag-luachrach*, *Adharcan-luachrach*; Irish, *Adhaircín*; Welsh, *Conchwiglen*; Bret., *Kernigel*; Provincial English, *Horn Pie*, *Horniwink*.)

In the winter season large numbers of Lapwings often visit the island in an erratic manner, and the bird is then seen sometimes in large flocks, especially in the northern and southern lowlands, but generally the species is much less abundant than on the mainland.

Lapwings breed probably in almost every parish in Man, mostly on patches of rough and somewhat damp waste of greater or less size, such as are found especially on the lower portions of the hill-ranges, but in general only a few

¹ In Lezayre there is a hill farm entitled Parknearkin or Park-ny-earkan, and Mr. Moore derives from the bird's name that of a shore in Maughold, Traie-ny-Earkan or Earaghyn, which I have locally heard explained in the same way; but another perhaps more likely derivation is given in *Y. L. M.*, vol. i. part. ii. p. 75.



J. Kerley.

LAPWING'S NEST IN THE CURRAGH.

Photo.

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pairs will be found in each locality, and the total number of nesting birds cannot be large. Such breeding resorts are the Nunnery Howe, the 'Gareys' at Ballacreech, Slegaby, and Slieu-meayl in the Douglas district, the highlands at the Braid, in Marown, a gorsy common near Balnahow in Santon, and the secluded ridge between the coast and the Rhenass Valley in German. Some breed at Eary Cushlin under Cronk ny Ireay Lhaa, on the rough edges of Dalby Point, on the Curragh and elsewhere in Ballaugh, and on the Ayre among Oyster-catchers and Ringed Plovers. On the bare waste ground in the interior of the Calf of Man they were perhaps in May 1901 more numerous comparatively than anywhere I have seen them on the larger island.

Laying commences about the beginning of April. Lapwings are not numerous enough in Man to suffer systematic persecution for the sake of their eggs.

Twenty-eight specimens only (all Manx) appear in dealers' books in 1902, the species being included in our Game Act of 1882 (not in that of 1835). In 1903 only one (recorded as Manx), but the figures for 'Plover' in the two years seem to indicate some confusion of names in the registration.

Mr. Kermode records a white specimen taken by Mr. Curphey, of Arbory, in January 1897. As might be expected, Lapwings often appear in the migration reports at both seasons. On 20th October 1886 a large flock appeared in the afternoon at Langness. After the great rush of 20th February 1890, nine were picked up dead at the Point of Ayre light (Crellin, *Y. L. M.*, i. ii. p. 271). In the great movements on 10th, 11th, and 12th November 1887, they travelled with Thrushes, Larks, Linnets, Curlews, etc., the whole forming dense mixed flocks at the Chickens during almost the entire night of the first-mentioned date.

The species is abundant in the surrounding lands; a large winter immigration takes place in Ireland. It breeds in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides, not, however, abundantly in the two latter groups.

STREPSILAS INTERPRES (Linn.).

TURNSTONE.

This bird is probably a regular, though not abundant, visitant to many parts of the Manx coast, and parties, from six to twenty, may be observed at any time during at least two-thirds of the year. The earliest date at which I have noted the species is 20th August, when Mr. Graves saw one at Langness, and the latest 16th May, but I see them comparatively seldom, and I have no doubt that the period of their appearance in Man could easily be extended. Mr. Crellin, according to Mr. Kermodé, has observed the Turnstone 'sometime during the summer,' and he confirms this to me, remarking that there were two birds in very beautiful plumage. Mr. Baily also states that he has shot the bird in full summer plumage, likely in the month of June. It is well known that birds sometimes linger very late, and even seem to pass the whole season on the British coast. At Douglas I have seen Turnstones on the reef of Conister; in Castletown Bay they appear yearly, and may be met with at both sides of the town; they are often very tame, rising with their peculiar twittering notes almost at the foot of the passer from the low tide-rocks which best suit them.

The Turnstone is not numerous on the adjacent shores of England and Scotland; in Ireland it is apparently more

plentiful, and especially frequents remote rocky islands. It occurs in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides, and has been reported or supposed to nest in all these groups.

HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS, Linn.

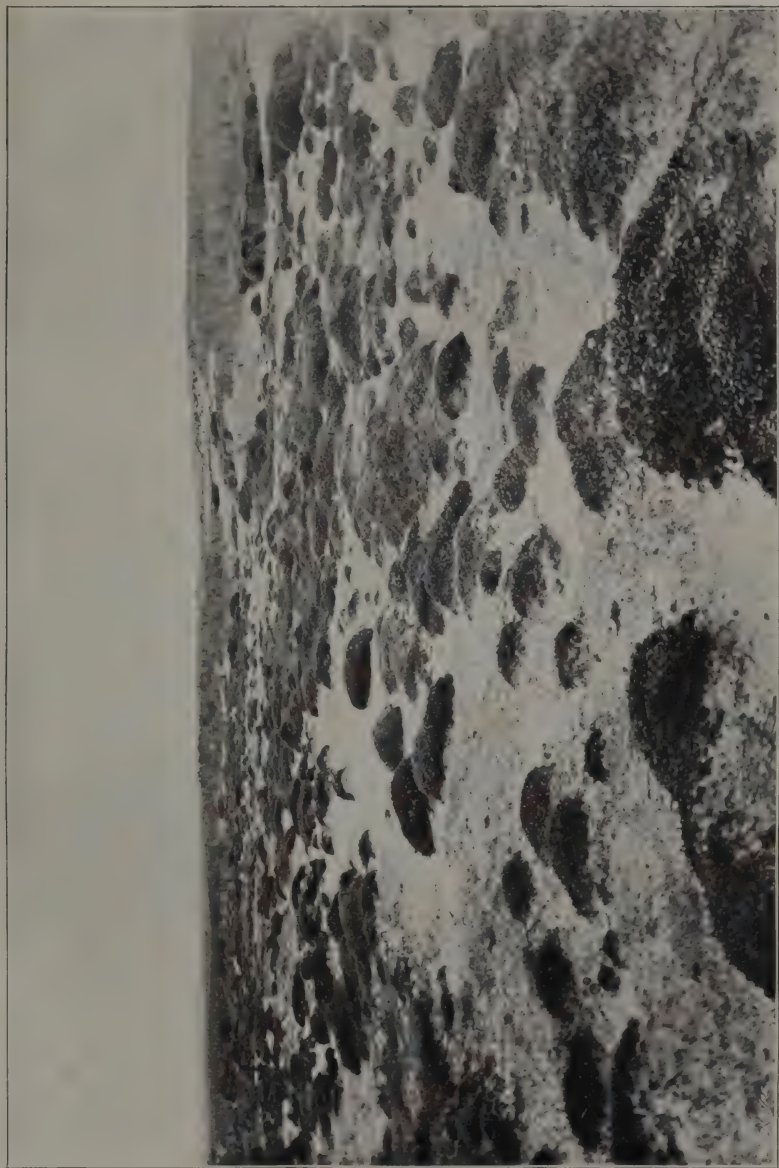
OYSTER-CATCHER.

SEA PIE. MANX, **Garey-vreck*,¹ *Garee-breck* (Cr.); **Bridgeen*.¹ *Vreck* = pied. For *Garey* see *Fauna of the Outer Hebrides*, p. 117, where the equivalent *Gearra*, of doubtful meaning, is said to be applied to various animals and birds. In the same work *Gearra-breac* is given as a name of the Black Guillemot (*Uria grylle*). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Bridean*, *Gillebride*; Irish, *Gillebride*.)

On the quieter portions of the sandy coasts of the isle, the Oyster-catcher is a familiar and dominant species. Many nest along the shingle-beaches from Orrisdale to Ramsey, and on the Ayre their incessant clamour is the unfailing accompaniment of a summer ramble, ever associated with the steep banks of shingle, the quivering haze, the hot sand, and the low bright flora of that interesting tract. On the Ayre they breed over the common generally in the barer parts, but elsewhere in the sand I have found their nests only in the immediate neighbourhood of the high-water line. The eggs are laid here at the end of May, and the clutch ordinarily consists of three, but on 8th June 1892 a bird at Orrisdale had been hatching two eggs only, and another but one, as noted by Mr. Graves. The eggs, laid without nest-lining in a depression among

¹ The name *Garey-vreck* is used in the north and *Bridgeen* in the south of the island.

stones which they frequently resemble in size, are very difficult to find, but, when in sand, are often to be detected by the tracks or runs made by the birds. In the vicinity of the actual nesting site are many similar hollows empty, though often carefully prepared. In the earlier stage of breeding operations the birds stand or run by the edge of the water near their nesting place with apparent unconcern, but later they rise and fly over the head of the intruder with their sharp squeaking whistle. On the lofty coast of the central part of the island this species is not common, though where a fringe of reefs and tide-pools is laid bare at low water, a few may here and there be observed. Some Oyster-catchers haunt Maughold Head, and a few, as Mr. E. Callow tells me, breed there; in Laxey Bay they are stragglers of very rare occurrence. I have seen a pair in Douglas Bay resting upon shingle at the Crescent, but the species is generally very shy of the presence of man. A small number inhabits for most of the year the bays of Derby-haven and Castletown, and frequents the whole coast from Santon to Perwick, but I do not know any instance of breeding within these limits. On the Calf Sound and on its low skerries a few are to be seen; a pair nests regularly on Kitterland, a little rocky islet with a grassy cap, and others on the Calf itself, where in 1901 a pair was evidently breeding on rough grassy land near a small pond at some height above the sea, and where we saw also some eggs which had been taken on the turfy edge of the crags. Some Oyster-catchers breed also on the rocky promontories of Dalby, and thence small flocks or single birds visit at low tide the whole coast southward to Port Erin. Mr. Kermode says that near Peel there was some years ago a nest on a ledge of rocks along with those of the Herring Gull, and it is said to have nested regularly at White Strand, north of that town.



G. B. Covert, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

THE AYRE.
(Sand and heather.)

Photo.

To face page 212.

There is probably little difference between the numbers of this bird in summer and winter. It occasionally appears in the migration reports (once, in April, at the Chickens).

The Oyster-catcher is common all round the Irish coast; on the east its breeding places are few, but become more plentiful from Down northwards; it nests on many rocky islets, as the Copelands. It is abundant on the Solway and the bays and estuaries of Galloway, breeds in many places there and on the Cumberland and Lancashire coasts, and commonly on the coasts and isles of Carnarvon. It is a conspicuous breeding species in the Scottish isles.

PHALAROPUS FULICARIUS (Linn.).

GREY PHALAROPE.

Mr. Kermodé records a specimen in the Orrisdale collection which was shot near that place 12th December 1860.

In November 1891 another was found on the railway line near Union Mills, which was supposed to have been killed by striking the telegraph wires. Many specimens were about this time obtained in Ireland, and some in Cumberland.

Mr. Kermodé has a specimen shot at Port Lewaigue in September 1892.

In November 1894 Mr. E. Turner obtained one on Langness, and in December 1898, a second on a pool of brackish water under the old farmhouse on the same promontory.

Of one hundred and six recorded occurrences in Ireland, Down and Antrim have furnished thirty-one. It has not infrequently occurred in Kirkcudbrightshire, but is very

occasional in Cumberland and Lancashire. It has been a few times reported from Orkney and Shetland and the Outer Hebrides. It is a species breeding in the far North, of pretty regular occurrence in Britain as a passing migrant.

SCOLOPAX RUSTICULA, Linn.

WOODCOCK.

Manx, *Ushag rhennee* = fern bird.

Woodcock are mentioned by John Christian, Vicar of Marown¹ in 1776, as among the migratory birds of that parish. Townley (October 23, 1789) writes: 'I have heard of the arrival of one woodcock, in this (Douglas) neighbourhood.' In his list of 1888 Mr. Kermode notes that the Woodcock has occasionally been known to breed in Man; he does not repeat this in his later account, and there is no evidence known to me, though it seems not unlikely. Mr. Kermode mentions one shot by Mr. W. Kermode, Peel, on 12th May 1890.

Woodcocks arrive usually in October (Mr. Kermode's earliest date is 13th), and leave in March. Mr. Crellin, however, heard of two at Sulby (one of which was shot) on 12th September 1896, and another was found dead at Milntown (according to the same observer, on 8th August 1903), while Mr. H. S. Clarke saw one near Sulby on 14th September in the same year, and yet another was picked up on the railway line near the same village on 19th September; these being doubtless British bred birds, and those of 8th August and 19th September probably killed by contact with telegraph wires. Mr. Allison, also, tells me that he has seen a Woodcock in July.

¹ MS. in possession of Mr. A. W. Moore, *Y. L. M.*, ii. 29.

The principal haunt of the species in Man is amid the cover under the plantations in ravines such as Injebreck, Rhenass, and Glenroy, but it occurs usually not very plentifully.

One hundred and eleven Woodcock, of which all but eight are entered as Manx, were purchased by dealers in the island in 1902. In 1903 eighty-two were entered, seventy-two being native.

Woodcock were killed striking the Point of Ayre light on the nights of 2nd and 3rd November 1880 (seemingly on each night), and on 7th October 1879 the species is noted at Douglas Head.

It is generally common in Ireland, and breeds in every county; great numbers arrive in Ulster on migration. In parts of Kirkcudbrightshire it nests, and in many places in north-western England, but is more abundant as a migrant. It occurs more or less in all the outer groups of Scottish isles, and is reported to breed in all.

GALLINAGO CŒLESTIS (Frenzel). COMMON SNIPE.

Manx, **Coayr-heddagh* (M. S. D.); *Coar-chrattagh* (Cr.); *Yn Choayr haittagh* or *haddagh* (Roeder, who translates 'the antic goat'); **Coar-ny heddagh*. In these names *Coar* (Crane or Heron) should no doubt be *Goar* (Goat). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Gobhar Athar*, *Meannan Athair*, etc.; Irish, *Gobhar-oidche*; *Minean aerach*, *Gabhairin a reota*; ¹ German, *Himmelziege*; French, *Chèvre céleste*, etc.)

The Snipe is a fairly plentiful game-bird in Man, and at times is found in considerable abundance about the many little wild damp tracts interspersed over the country.

¹ The last two names applied in *Birds of Ireland* to the Jack Snipe, but surely in error, for the latter does not 'bleat' in this country at least.

Many of these birds are doubtless passing migrants, especially in autumn and spring, on their way to winter or summer quarters, south or north. Mr. Crellin says that the spring flight passes through the island in March or the beginning of April, and the autumn migrants are numerous in October and November.

Two hundred and fifty-two Manx Snipe, according to the Chief Constable's report, appeared in the books of Manx game-dealers in 1902, against thirty imported. This probably includes 'Jacks.' In 1903 appeared two hundred and seven native, and twelve imported specimens.

In the autumn of 1879 (without more exact date) a Snipe is recorded at Douglas Head. On 18th November 1880 one was killed during snow, at the lantern at the same station, and 10th November 1885 one at Langness, and on 22nd November 1886 another was reported at Langness (M. R., p. 101, wrongly 22nd October on p. 113). The only occasion when I have met with Snipe on the shore was Christmas Day 1904, when three rose around me from the edge of Castletown Bay under the Golf Links. They had been sheltering just beneath high-water mark, where the low weedy rocks met a shingly beach, heavily heaped with masses of wrack cast up by the tide, but I was not able to make out exactly where they hid under these circumstances.

Snipe breed very sparingly in Man, as in the Ballaugh Curraghs, in the 'moaneys' of the upper part of Lonan, and the marsh land at Greeba. According to Mr. Roeder (*Isle of Man Examiner*, 13th September 1902), the 'Ghoayr haittagh' is sometimes looked upon as a mythical creature, and the curious quivering trill which is an accompaniment of the love-season of the Snipe disconnected from its real author. 'There is something,' said his informant, 'the old people called the ghoayr haddagh, shouting in the island

of a calm night. His voice resembled that of a goat, but much larger, like laughter, ha, ha, ha, for a minute or two, as if it was a goat with the ague. Many people have been frightened by it. It seems to live in bogs and marshy places, and people passing those places in the night and hearing ha, ha, ha, on a sudden, were often terrified.¹

The Snipe is abundant all round the Irish Sea, and breeds more or less in suitable localities. It is a common resident in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides.

LIMNOCRYPTES GALLINULA (Linn.).

JACK SNIPE.

Though from its haunts and habits little known except to sportsmen, this little bird is far from rare in the Isle of Man. Mr. Kermodé even calls it plentiful. Mr. Crellin notes one on 1st September 1879, an unusually early date, as they usually arrive toward the end of that month.

Mr. Kermodé records one killed at the Point of Ayre light on 14th September 1883, an early date.

In Ireland this species is supposed to be most numerous in the North; it is described as not very abundant either in Galloway or in north-western England. It occurs in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides.

¹ 'Die Volkanschauung knüpfte, wie Jäckel sich ausdrückt "an die uralten dämonologischen Vorstellungen an, wie sie bereits bei unseren heidnischen Vorfahren Glaubensartikel waren." Beim Anhören des "meckernden" und "wiehernden" Tones, der noch in tiefer Dämmerung über dem einsamen Moor und Sumpf aus unsichtbarer Höhe herabschallte, dachte der Unkundige am wenigsten an einen harmlosen Vogel, und an die Bezeichnung des Urhebers als Capella cælestis, fliegende Geiss, Moorlamm, Himmelspferdchen, u. v. a. knüpfte er allerlei mystische Vorstellungen. Noch heute schreckt der Bewohner schleswigscher und dänischer Heidedörfer die unartigen Kinder mit der Spuckgestalt des "Schorrebock und Horsegjök"' (Naumann, 9, 184).

'La Chèvre martine selon les paysans est la femelle du diable' (Forez, *Nelas* in *Rolland*, ii. 357).

TRINGA ALPINA, Linn. DUNLIN.

There is scarcely a month in the year in which this species may not be observed on the Manx coast, though seldom in the immense flocks described in other localities. Through the winter season a few regularly consort with larger numbers of Ringed Plover in Castletown Bay, the mixed flocks feeding and flying with the most complete accord. Here the wires which carry telephonic communication along the Langness isthmus to the Golf Links Hotel and the lighthouse are sometimes fatal to both species in their flights from bay to bay.

In May I have seen large numbers on the north-west coast, and in July the return movement seems already to have commenced; a large proportion of these migrants is in full breeding plumage. In these migrations Dunlins temporarily frequent many spots where none are to be seen in winter, and may be met with more or less along the whole coast, especially where there are sandy or gravelly nooks, or low reefs under the cliffs. A flock of Dunlin in flight is a very pretty sight, but not more beautiful than a single bird in the russet, black, and white of the summer plumage, running daintily among the white pebbles of a beach like the Traie Vane, or in the clear, shallow water at the edge of the northern sands.

At Douglas the bird is not common, and those that appear there are but stragglers; but on 7th January 1894 I saw one flying along the Victoria Pier, while a few others were on the sands with Ringed Plovers and Purple Sandpipers. Stray single birds are often very familiar. On 8th August 1893 a single bird was on the beach below the Esplanade; the roadway was crowded with summer visitors, many were walking on the sand, and the bird,

under electric light as bright as day from the 'Palace' opposite, ran about almost among the feet of the passers-by. On the 1st September of the previous year I had been much surprised at the similar fearlessness of a Dunlin almost at the same place; but the more permanent residents at Castletown are decidedly shy.

On 4th August 1886 a 'large number' of Dunlin was reported from Langness lighthouse. To this species or the Ringed Plover may also likely be referred the occurrences of migrant 'Sandlarks' sometimes in considerable flocks at Point of Ayre and Bahama lights in June and September, as recorded by Mr. Kermode under *Tringoides hypoleucus*, *Y. L. M.*, iii. 539.

During most of the year the Dunlin is abundant on the Irish coast; it has bred, among other counties, in Donegal, and, it is believed, Armagh. It nests in both shores of Galloway, and sparingly in a few coast localities on the English side of the Irish Sea, and on the fells further inland. It is very common on both the Scottish and English shores of that sea at other seasons. It breeds rather sparingly in Shetland, commonly in Orkney and the Outer Hebrides.

The Dunlin does not nest in midland or southern England, but is a common migrant on all British coasts.

TRINGA MINUTA, Leisler. LITTLE STINT.

Mr. Kermode includes this in his last list, with the remark, 'Mr. Crellin has seen this little bird.' Mr. Baily secured two specimens in the spring of 1889 on the sands of Castletown Bay; they were in company with the Dunlin, not infrequent there.

The Little Stint is most numerous on the eastern coasts of Britain, being much rarer and more local in the west and in Ireland. It seems not to be recorded at all for the Outer Hebrides.

TRINGA SUBARQUATA (Güldenstädt).
CURLEW SANDPIPER.

Mr. Kermode has an example in the Ramsey Museum, which was picked up dead on the shore at Douglas in August 1881. He says that the Curlew Sandpiper has been taken at Sulby by Mr. E. Thellusson, and has 'heard of one or two other instances.' Mr. Baily shot two specimens while feeding with Dunlins on the sands below King William's College. This was probably in the spring of 1888.

In Ireland this species is most frequent on the east, and has been noted chiefly in the bays of Dublin and Belfast. It is a straggler in Galloway, and a scarce migrant (chiefly in autumn) in north-western England. It visits Shetland regularly. It is most abundant on the eastern coasts of Great Britain.

TRINGA STRIATA, Linn. PURPLE
SANDPIPER.

This species has been noted in various localities all round the island. It is nowhere abundant, and its habits are such as to bring it under the notice of a close observer only.

In September 1882 I observed a small party on the rocks at Port St. Mary, near what is now the base of the Alfred Pier. On 27th February 1883 Mr. Crellin, as recorded by Mr. Kermode, shot a specimen at Orrisdale. Mr. Baily (*Y. L. M.*, i. ii. p. 83) notes also a pair at Langness on 13th April 1889, and has shot a specimen on the rocks at Scarlett. In the Castletown neighbourhood I did not myself meet with the Purple Sandpiper till February 1905, when I observed a little party of six on the same Scarlett rocks. The coast at this place is a platform of bare volcanic ash, grey-green in colour, out of which rise loftier masses of dark basaltic rock, and which drops to the sea in a low cliff, often beaten by a strong surf. On the surface are little shallow pools. The birds feed and rest on the edge of the crags and among the little basins, just within reach of the sprinkling of the spray, and exhibit the usual trustful familiarity of the species. Mr. Kermode mentions that he used to notice this Sandpiper as a winter bird at Port Lewaigue. Mr. T. H. Nelson tells me that he and Mr. Bacon saw a pair at Spanish Head in May 1896. For a number of years, from 1889 to 1905, I noted a small flock of the species regularly during the colder months in Douglas Bay, which they inhabited continuously, my earliest recorded date being 9th November, and my latest 11th April. On the sands under the town is a little bar of rocks, running at right angles with the line of the tide, and covered at high water. The birds invariably frequented the little reef while it was uncovered, eagerly moving out along it as the water ebbed, wading and sometimes swimming through the pools, and alighting on little isolated pieces of rock on which they clustered like bees, while at times only the floating weed about them showed the presence of foothold. In such positions, though not so gracefully formed as the Dunlin,

these Sandpipers were very pretty objects, the yellow of the beak and legs being distinctly seen, while the wings, which they raised to balance themselves, displayed the lighter colouring beneath, contrasting with the general dull grey of their plumage. This dark tint agreed admirably with the weedy surface of their feeding ground, so that their creeping, mouse-like motions alone betrayed them, or their low, weak calls, which sometimes mingled in a kind of conversational twittering as they moved in close company. They were extremely tame, allowing approach within a few yards, and then rising, usually only to settle again a few yards further away. From time to time this familiarity proved fatal, several, to my knowledge, being shot, while one was killed by a stone. When persistently annoyed by dogs or some of the many passers-by, they flew out, like the Ringed Plovers of the adjoining sands under the same disturbance, to Conister, the isolated reef on which the 'Tower of Refuge' stands, and where they likely also spent the time of high tide. In 1889-90 I noticed only some half-dozen birds, but by 1893 at least fifteen frequented the place. After leaving Douglas in 1895 I had little opportunity of observing the flock, but it was seen again in 1898 by Mr. F. Nicholson, and on 3rd December 1903 I noticed a few birds at the usual spot.

I never saw nor heard of others at Douglas, although the shore abounds in rocks similar to those so much resorted to by this flock.

The species is found in limited numbers on the coast of Ireland, including Antrim and Down; also on that of Galloway, and on the English shores of the Irish Sea, where, however, probably from the lack of rocks, it appears to be scarcer. It occurs on the coast of Carnarvon. It is pretty abundant in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides, often lingering

later into summer, and even suspected to have bred in some of the islands.

Breeding in Faroe, Iceland, and other northern lands, the Purple Sandpiper is well distributed, but local, and not numerous, on the British coasts.

TRINGA CANUTUS, Linn. KNOT.

It is strange that this species, which occurs locally, but in places very abundantly on the surrounding coasts, is almost unknown in Man. Though mud-flats and estuaries, such as it prefers, are scarcely to be found, it must surely be more frequent, at least as a straggler, than our present information would imply. About New Year 1900 a specimen shot in Castletown Bay (where, as Mr. Baily tells me, the species had also previously been obtained by him) passed into the hands of Mr. Adams, and on 22nd August 1903 I observed two birds in the same locality, the only individuals of this species I have ever seen alive in Man. The shore frequented by them consists of a succession of low limestone reefs, partly bare, partly covered with wrack, just reached by high tides, which have filled the hollows between them with water, forming shallow pools fouled by decaying weed, which was also abundantly strewn over the neighbouring sands and shingle beaches, and formed the feeding ground of many Ringed Plovers and Dunlins, all, together with the Knots, extremely tame. The Knots moved among the pools and weed, when nearly approached edging away by rapid running, and sometimes requiring rather an effort on my part to make them take wing. They frequently uttered a low, peculiar, and very characteristic

note, like 'tyak';¹ their plumage bore no trace of red colouring.

A specimen at Kelvingrove, Glasgow, was received from Mr. W. J. Dawson, Point of Ayre, on 6th September 1897.

Nesting very far north, the Knot is in general less abundant on the western than the eastern shores of Great Britain, and is little in evidence in the Scottish isles. In Ireland, though local, it is in many places abundant, and a plentiful visitant to the low-lying coasts of Lancashire and the Solway; in Wigtownshire, Gray and Anderson thought it uncommon.

CALIDRIS ARENARIA (Linn.).

SANDERLING.

Mr. Kermodé reports a specimen in the collection of Mr. Unsworth, Douglas. Mr. Baily procured two under Hango, Castletown; they were feeding with Ringed Plovers on the sands there.

This species, like the last, though probably uncommon, can scarcely be so rare as the want of evidence seems to indicate.

The Sanderling occurs in Ireland chiefly in autumn, on the east coast; it is not abundant in Belfast Lough. In Galloway it is said to appear in very small numbers, usually for a week or two in early autumn. On the English coasts of the Irish Sea it is local; the mouth of the Mersey and parts of the Solway being frequented. It occurs in the Outer Hebrides and (apparently scarcely) in Orkney and Shetland. It is found on most sandy coasts of Britain.

¹ The usual cry of the Knot is, no doubt correctly, given in standard works as something quite different, 'a musical note like the syllables "tui-tui, tui-tui,"' uttered while flying (Sharpe), but Naumann describes also the sound above mentioned.

TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS (Linn.).
COMMON SANDPIPER.

The Sandpiper may best be described as a bird of double passage, which makes a rather lengthened stay in the isle. The earliest date on which I have seen one is 19th April; by the beginning of May they are of general occurrence, but from the middle of that month to the end of June one is very rarely seen. Before the commencement of July, however, the return movement has already set in, and during that month and August they are again common, but I have no note of one seen in September. It is singular, if correct, that the Sandpiper should not breed in the Isle of Man, whose streams seem so well adapted to its habits; it can scarcely be for lack of the necessary food, as it spends considerable time on our waters during migration. I have never seen a pair whose actions suggested nesting, nor does Mr. Kermodé know of a case, and as above noted, it is rarely observed during the actual season when laying and incubation might be expected.

On passage the Sandpiper is found along the lower and wider portions of our principal streams, as the Silverburn, the Glass, whose shingly and gorse-bordered margins above Douglas are an unfailing resort, and the Sulby, where Mr. Kermodé says the ford near the head of the tide west of Ramsey is a favourite haunt. But the species is also extremely characteristic of a 'burn-foot' where there is a gravelly beach, as at Glenmay strand, Cass ny hawin in Santon, and Groudle. I have seen it on similar ground on the shore at Grainsh, near Ramsey (where there is no stream); but it is also found on the zone between high and low water mark at the base of our steepest sea-promontories, like Bradda, Contrary Head, and Stroin Vuigh, where it

creeps over the sloping weedy surface like a Purple Sandpiper, and I have observed it on the rocks of Peel Castle Island, and of the Calf. I have never seen it on the sands. It usually appears in pairs or family parties, never in flocks. As mentioned under a former heading, the occurrence of numbers of small shore birds at lights, by whatever name they may have been returned to the British Association Committee, should be referred to other species. On the 5th May 1885 two are recorded, however, at Langness, the identification apparently sanctioned by the Committee's representatives.

The species is common in Ireland, breeding especially on the larger waters, like Lough Neagh; in Galloway it breeds on all the streams and lakes, as also all over the hill districts of Cumberland and Lancashire, and in Anglesea. It is a summer resident in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides, but usually more scarce than on the mainland. In Great Britain generally it is a northern and western breeding bird.

HELODROMAS OCHROPUS (Linn.). GREEN SANDPIPER.

One in the Orrisdale collection was shot in 1883 (*Y. L. M.*, iii, p. 539). Mr. J. C. Crellin obtained this bird at the Pollies in Ballaugh, a pretty and interesting little pond, which lies surrounded by gorse bushes and fringed with bogbean and royal fern in a circular hollow among the fields. A curious feature of the pool is that it is crossed by a hedge of firm soil, planted with willows and brambles, and with a beaten track in the middle.



Photo.

G. B. Couch, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

THE POLLIES, BALLAUGH.

(A northern pool with flowering bogbean.)

To face page 226.

Of sixty-nine recorded Irish occurrences, three took place in Down, and six in Antrim. It has been found some half-dozen times in Kirkcudbrightshire, and is recorded as a scarce autumn visitor in north-western England. It is unrecorded from the outer Scottish isles except once (South Uist). It is most plentiful in the eastern counties of Britain.

TOTANUS CALIDRIS (Linn.). REDSHANK.

Manx, *Goblan-marrey* (Cr.)=beaked (bird) of the sea.

In 1862 Dr. Crellin mentions this species (*in lit.* to A. G. More) as not ascertained to nest in Man. Thirty or forty years ago, Mr. Kermode says, the Redshank was common about the then waste and muddy borders of the 'Old River' at Ramsey, where it is now seldom seen. Mr. Crellin has noted a few on the Ballaugh and Michael coast, Mr. Leach occasionally observes it in Douglas Bay, and Mr. Graves has seen a few on passage in Peel neighbourhood, one being in a field with Gulls and Rooks. Except in the Castletown district, I have seen a Redshank only two or three times, once only in the north. From Kentraugh to Cass ny hawin, however, it is quite common, and from its oddities of cry and flight, is in Castletown Bay the most noticeable of all shore birds. It remains for the greater part of the year; and in fact even during the early summer, when most have left, an odd bird is often present. The Redshank exhibits a great amount of white on the wing when flying, and with its long legs stretched out behind (giving rise to the story of a 'black and white bird with a red tail') it wheels and darts above the tide-

rocks, or in full view of the road, stands bowing fantastically on some isolated boulder in a shallow pool, while its ringing notes rouse to flight the Gulls, Ringed Plovers, and Curlews within hearing.

The Castletown Redshanks sometimes come up the harbour above the town. On 8th October 1901 I saw one fly over the houses, and calling loudly, alight on the asphalt of one of the courts of the Castletown Tennis Club's ground, which was wet by a heavy shower, and which it probably took for a piece of beach.

On 17th December 1887 at 7 P.M. one was caught at the lantern at Langness.

Like the Heron, the Redshank frequents Langness to its very extremity, consisting of two or three almost isolated outliers, masses of sharp-edged slate-rock with grassy tops, past which on the open side at certain times the tidal currents run in powerful and strongly agitated races. It is the quieter western side facing Castletown Bay that is specially attractive to the Redshanks. The promontory is an interesting place, not only for the golf links at its base and the ruins on the attached Fort Island, but for the fine views of sea and land, from the Chickens to North Barrule, which it everywhere commands.

The species has never been known to breed in Man.

It is pretty well distributed in Britain, especially about estuaries.

In Ireland it is abundant, though in the breeding season more local than at other times; it nests on Lough Neagh and the islets in Strangford Lough. Mr. Service says that an increased number breed in Kirkcubrightshire, where it is otherwise common, and Gray and Anderson reported it as nesting in numerous Wigtownshire localities. It hardly nests in Lancashire, except a pair or two at Walney; a few breed at Ravenglass, and numbers on the Solway, and in



P. G. Raffle.

CASS NY HAWIN,
(Burnfoot of the Santon river.)

Photo.

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winter it is common on the coasts of Cumberland and Lancashire. A few breed in Shetland and many in Orkney. They appear to be scarce, at least in summer, on the Outer Hebrides.

TOTANUS CANESCENS (J. F. Gmelin).
GREENSHANK.

Mr. W. S. Baily shot a Greenshank near Castletown 24th January 1889 (Kermode, *Y. L. M.*, i. ii. p. 72; iii. p. 539), and Mr. Unsworth, of Douglas, has, according to the same authority, a specimen from the same neighbourhood. Mr. Baily writes me that he has seen the bird at Langness on one or two other occasions. It will probably be found that the species appears regularly in very small numbers.

The Greenshank is a scarce but regular visitor round the Irish coast. At Strangford Lough a few spend nearly the whole year. It also visits, very sparingly, the Scottish and English sides of the Irish Sea; Mr. Service thinks that it may breed in Galloway. It is found with something of the same sparseness in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides; in the two latter it is said to breed, or have bred, as it does in the north of the mainland and in Skye.

[*MACRORHAMPHUS GRISEUS* (J. F. Gmelin).
RED-BREASTED SNIPE.

Captain H. W. Hadfield writes thus in *Zoologist* (p. 5251):
'Extract from note-book, Isle of Man, 1847.—When snipe-shooting in a marsh near the Point of Air (*sic*) a bird

suddenly rose before me, which I at first supposed to be a snipe, but owing to its more rapid as well as peculiar flight, soon discovered my mistake. I fired, but it was out of shot almost before I could raise my gun to my shoulder. I again flushed it with no better success, but having been careful in marking it down, proceeded to stalk it, taking advantage of any cover or inequality in the ground, with my gun ready to be brought to the shoulder and finger on the trigger; so that when sprung the third time I was fortunate enough to shoot it, but on picking it up saw at once that it was not a snipe. Although an old hand at snipe-shooting (having in less than two seasons killed eight hundred snipes out of this and the neighbouring marshes), I almost despaired of being able to bag it, from its great shyness as well as rapidity of flight. I consulted an old work on Ornithology without finding it, but subsequently, on referring to Macgillivray's *Manual*, met with a faithful description of it in the grey longbeak.—Henry W. Hadfield, High Cliff, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 2nd August 1856.'

I have not found the above occurrence referred to in any standard work, but Mr. T. A. Coward points out that it is recorded by Harting (*Handbook of British Birds*, 1901, p. 435). There have been in Great Britain about sixteen well authenticated occurrences of this American straggler, and two in Ireland.]

LIMOSA LAPPONICA (Linn.). BAR-TAILED
GODWIT.

This species appears on our coast regularly in small numbers. I find no records except from the southern district between Poolvash and Derby-haven, but it is

hardly likely that its occurrences are confined to this tract. Except in autumn and early winter I have only once observed it (20th December 1903, when I saw a single specimen on the sands of Castletown Bay), but Mr. Adams had a specimen which was shot about the New Year at Langness, and Mr. Baily mentions a pair at the same place on 6th April 1889. In Castletown Bay Godwits frequent sandy places, where they wade in the shallows, often in company with small shore birds, amid the crowd of which the size of the few larger birds gives them a comical appearance, like a few elders in charge of a party of children. Like many species which reach us from high northern latitudes, they are far from shy; in general they are silent birds, but when disturbed utter in flight a rather low harsh note, singly or a few times repeated, difficult to imitate in words, but very different from that of any shore-bird known to me. I have not seen more than five together.

The Bar-tailed Godwit is fairly common all round Ireland, where there are tracts of sand and mud. On the Solway, both English and Scottish, it is sometimes abundant, and is known also on the bays of Luce and Wigtown. On the Lancashire coast it is not generally numerous. It is rather scarce in Orkney and Shetland, but occurs sometimes plentifully in parts of the Outer Hebrides.

LIMOSA AEGOCEPHALA (Linn.). BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.

In the Wallace collection was an immature specimen labelled as Manx (Macpherson, *Zool.*, 1899, p. 420). A few have been obtained in Ireland chiefly in autumn,

when it has repeatedly occurred in Belfast Lough; a few also in Kirkcudbrightshire, and it is recorded as a scarce autumnal migrant on the English shores of our sea. Its occurrence in Orkney is somewhat doubtful; one specimen at least has been obtained in Shetland, and two in the Outer Hebrides. It is most plentiful on the east of England, where it formerly bred.

NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS (Linn.).

WHIMBREL.

Suitable parts of our coast are visited by the Whimbrel in small numbers with regularity on migration, especially in spring. I have heard it passing over the neighbourhood of Douglas and met with it in May in various localities along the northern coast, never more than a few birds together. In the early summer the coast around Castle-town is fairly well stocked with Whimbrel. The species is quickly betrayed and readily identified by the musical rippling cry, usually or always uttered during flight; the Curlew sometimes makes use of a somewhat similar call, but its utterance does not constitute the same clear and definite succession of similar notes. Little parties of Whimbrel resort to the salt pools among the Langness rocks (not the sands) during the ebb, and are, in comparison with the Curlew frequenting the same spots, very tame. Much of their feeding, however, is likely done during the night and early morning on the sand links and grassy fields behind the bays. I have seen twenty together on the sward of Fort Island, but such a number is unusual.

I note them earliest on 14th April; by the end of that month and during May they are most abundant.

On the return migration I heard a single bird passing Castletown on 13th July 1897, and on 24th July 1898 saw one on Fort Island, and on 27th July 1901 another at Scarlett, and during August and September a few are noted, but their numbers at this season are still smaller than in spring.

Whimbrel appear, as might be expected, in the migration reports from Langness in May and August. On all the British coasts the Whimbrel is of double passage; in Galloway it is rather scarce, and generally on our neighbouring shores its distribution is the same as in Man. It breeds sparsely in Orkney and Shetland, but abundantly in the Faroes and Iceland.

NUMENIUS ARQUATA (Linn.). CURLEW.

Manx, **Crottag* (M. S. D.) (pronounced 'Crothag'), i.e. *Cruit-tagh* = crooked or humped, in allusion to the beak. (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Crotachmhara*, *Crotag-mara*; Irish, *Crotach*.)

The Curlew is common along our shores wherever it finds a considerable surface of sand and rock exposed at low water, together with retirement sufficient for its safety. It is rarely seen in the bays of Douglas and Laxey (in the latter of which, sandy as it is, it is quite rare to meet with any shore bird), and it is absent from the stretches of sheer coast, and is most plentiful on the long reaches of sand and shingle, interspersed with stony pools of the northern flat, and again among the low weedy rocks and boulders of the south. I have met with a number on the Calf Island.

Even during the breeding season the coast is never entirely deserted. On migration the Curlew also passes Man in great numbers, its weird cries being very noticeable at night, when during thick weather the lights of the towns seem to attract the flocks. They appear in the migration reports on many dates; thus on 3rd November 1881 Curlews were flying all night round the Bahama light-vessel, and around the rock lighthouse at the Chickens on 15th January 1887. One was killed at the lantern at Douglas Head on 2nd November 1881.

In comparison with the great number of non-breeding individuals very few nest in Man. Like the Sandpiper, Dipper, Ring Ouzel, Grey Wagtail, and Wheatear, all conspicuous birds of the hill-districts surrounding the Irish Sea, the Curlew seems to dislike our island as a summer residence, and in 1862 Dr. Crellin mentions the species as not ascertained to nest here. A few, however, breed on the swampy moorlands in which the branches of the Sulby take their rise; a few pairs nest in the dark heathy land about the head of Glen Rushen, and a few couples in the Curragh.

Mr. Roeder gives the following note about the Curlew in his 'Folk-Lore of the South of the Isle of Man' (*Y. L. M.*, iii. p. 137): 'The first bird St. Patrick heard in landing on the island¹ "a whistling bird," was the collyoo (the Curlew), and ever since nobody would find the bird's nest in the Isle of Man,' a story which illustrates the difficulty of marking the exact site amid the featureless wastes the bird inhabits.

The chief breeding haunt, at the head, as above noted, of Sulby Glen, is a wide, desolate hollow, the sides of which

¹ According to a folk-tale, supplied me by Miss Morrison, of Peel, Saint Patrick, wandering on the sea in a thick mist, discovered his nearness to the Manx shore by hearing the voices of the Curlew, the Goat, and the Cock, all three of which he blessed.

sink in long, smooth slopes from the highest mountains of the island, whose summits close in the view. Along the main ravine in the centre are a few patches of low trees, one of which contains a small rookery. Northward the sides of the glen close in upon it more steeply and picturesquely, broken by rocky scarps, and the increased stream foams into frequent waterfalls as it struggles through the defile, but in this topmost valley there is no rock nor rapid flow of water; the whole scene at the Curlews' nesting time is of the sallow faded hue of the last year's grass. The wet ground round the spring heads becomes, later on, gay with white flowered cotton-grass, purple butterworts, rose heather (*Erica tetralix*), and orange bog asphodel, and verdant with fresh fronds of sphagnum moss, but is now without flower or green-blade. In this solitude rings out the keen, wild, and musical note, one of the most delightful sounds in nature, and the dun-coloured birds flit like ghosts high above the dreary landscape. Even at its breeding grounds the Curlew is exceedingly shy and wary, and keeps at a great distance from the intruder.

During the great frost and snow of 1895 a living specimen was found buried in the snow near Kirk Michael, and another was picked up dead in the garden of a house in that village.

The Curlew breeds in the Dublin, Wicklow, and Antrim mountains; on nearly every hill and moor in Galloway, and all over the fells of north-western England; it nests also in Anglesea. On the coasts it is of course abundant. It nests sparingly in Shetland and Orkney, and apparently not at least commonly in the Outer Hebrides.

STERNA MACRURA, Naumann. ARCTIC
TERN.

Manx (Tern in general), *Gibbyn Gant*=Gannet of the sand-lance (*Ammodytes*); *Spyrryd*=Spirit (Kermode); *Spithag*.

In 1880 Mr. Kermode includes in his list both the Common and Arctic Terns, the former with a query, but in 1888 the Common Tern alone appears. In 1901 he states that *S. macrura*, *S. fluviatilis*, and *S. minuta*, all breed on our coasts. There is, however, but one colony of medium-sized Terns in the Isle of Man. A specimen found dead on the nesting ground on 11th June 1898 is an Arctic Tern. Skins exhibited by Mr. Crellin, one of which is now in the Ramsey collection, to the Isle of Man Natural History Society in 1899 belong to that bird, and as all the birds seem to lay in precisely the same situation just above high water mark, this, together with the great variation and rich colouring of the eggs confirms the idea entertained by the writer that all are of the same species. Dr. Crellin mentions this colony in 1862. He writes: 'There are generally hundreds of birds of this kind come to breed, but this year the people in the neighbourhood said that there were very few. Indeed, though I was in the midst of them and their breeding ground for several hours, I think that I never saw more than eight at a time. Of course there were a great many more than that number, but there used to be dozens of them in sight at once.'

The main part of the colony consists of some twenty-five pairs, but after an interruption of some extent a few more birds nest on the shingle in exactly the same position round a corner of the coast-line. The eggs are placed amid the large piled-up shingle, in hollows which hardly seem to have received from the birds any preparation for their



F. S. Graves.

NESTING GROUND OF ARCTIC TERN.

Photo.

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reception ; the dried wrack which sometimes accompanies the clutch may as well have found its way into the cavity by chance. I have seen, however, a 'nest neatly paved with pebbles,' and another with some straws of the sea-reed. So regular is the distance from high water mark, that it is very easy, when once the position of a clutch has been marked, to find more, for the 'nests' are at no great space apart. As above noted, the variety of colour, the bold markings, and the frequent utter absence of anything like an artificial nest, are very characteristic of this species. The eggs in each clutch, however, correspond pretty closely in colour. Some are pale green in ground, others buff or olive, the deep brown markings being often very large and rich in tint, while there are also pale neutral stains. On an average laying commences about the beginning of June, and the full number is more often two than three. The colony has been regularly frequented by about the same number of birds since 1896 ; it is doubtless of some age.

On 5th August 1901 Mr. Graves and I saw at this nesting place an immense flock of Terns, mixed with 'Black-headed Gulls,' which whirled in a wild fantastic cloud over the sea, and settled in swarms on the shingly beach. Making allowance for young birds, then probably on the wing, the number seemed vastly in excess of what the residents could amount to.

Sixteen Terns are reported from the Bahama on 26th August 1880, Terns (without particulars) from Douglas Head in autumn of 1881, large numbers flying north from the Chickens on 8th August 1884, and two also from the Chickens, 23rd May 1887 ; the only Manx migration entries I have observed.

This is the most numerous Tern on the Irish coasts ; it nests, sometimes in company with the next species, on

many islets in County Down, on the Skerries near Portrush, and on Inishtrahull. On the Scottish side of the Irish Sea, it nests at Southernness, and on the English only at Walney, where it is now vastly outnumbered by the Common Tern, if indeed any of the present species still remain there; but it breeds in various places in North Wales. It is the common and abundant Tern of the Orkneys, Shetlands, and Outer Hebrides, and is the predominant species in Scotland generally.

STERNA FLUVIATILIS, Naumann.

COMMON TERN.

I received from Mr. Adams an immature specimen of this species, taken some years ago in the neighbourhood of Douglas. Terns of any kind are very little known in Man outside the immediate neighbourhood of their nesting places, but in autumn Peel Bay appears to be regularly visited by a few. In October 1891 one of these was shot, and passed into possession of Mr. J. Claque; it is a Common Tern nearly in perfect plumage. On 28th September 1894 Mr. Graves saw a small party, and in September 1895 Mr. Adams received another specimen from the same town, which also proved to be of this species.

The Common Tern breeds on the Copelands and on islands in Carlingford and Strangford Loughs; also on the Murray Islands in Fleet Bay, and elsewhere in Galloway, where, however, the writer is uncertain as to the species of the Terns in some of the colonies. On the English coast it is the predominant species, breeding in the north-west



F. S. Graves.

Photo.

NESTING PLACE AND EGGS OF ARCTIC TERN.

(Amid drift of highest tides.)



F. S. Graves.

Photo.

NESTING PLACE AND EGGS OF LESSER TERN.

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at Rockcliffe, Ravenglass, Walney, and Formby. There are colonies in Anglesea. It breeds sparingly in Orkney, and possibly in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides.

STERNA MINUTA, Linn. LITTLE TERN.

This species seems to have been unnoticed in Man until 1898, when I found a colony on waste land immediately adjoining the beach. There were perhaps twenty pairs, nesting on a tract of bare yellow sand, with little vegetation, but plentifully strewn with small loose stones. Later in the year they seemed to have removed to the inner part of the beach itself, and in 1899 and 1900 I found a number of nests in this second locality. Here the breeding ground was on the inside of a large bank of shingle and sand cast up by the sea, while on its landward side was a sand bar covered with sea-reed, which divided it from the waste on which I had first located the breeding station. Much of the ground was covered with luxuriant tufts of a broad-leaved silvery coloured orache (*Atriplex laciniata*) and with fruiting plants of Sea-purslane (*Honckenya peploides*), but the nest hollows were in bare sand. I have since found their eggs on both the former and latter grounds, and in 1903 some nests were further out toward high water mark. Sometimes eggs are laid without any preparation whatever, even a shaped cavity being dispensed with; but I have seen also a rather neat paving of small gravel.

The Little Tern commences to lay about the beginning of June; a clutch of two eggs is somewhat more frequent than one of three. Compared with those of the Arctic Tern, the

colouring varies little, but there seem to be two predominant types, one bluish grey, the other sand coloured; I failed to make out, however, that these tints always corresponded to the surroundings, though the grey was of much the tone of the pebbles of slate shingle, and the buff closely resembled that of the bare sand. The Little Tern looks singularly large on the wing.

Apart from this colony there are no records for the island. Little Terns nest, or have nested, on Dublin Bay, the coast of Louth, and Strangford Lough; they are local and not abundant in Ireland. They breed in at least one locality in Galloway, and they do so at Walney and Ravenglass, though other English sites on our sea have been forsaken. They nest also on the Welsh coast of the Irish Sea. The Little Tern has been reported from Orkney, but not from Shetland; there are two colonies in the Outer Hebrides. The species has yet many colonies, and others have been deserted, along the British coasts.

[*STERNA CANTIACA*, J. F. Gmelin.
SANDWICH TERN.

Mr. G. Adams wrote Mr. Kermode 'that one was shot at Ramsey 23rd August 1892, and sent to him to be mounted' (*Y. L. M.*, iii. p. 540).

There is nothing unlikely in the occasional occurrence of this species, which nests at Southernness, and at Ravenglass, within sight of the Manx hills, but at present it may be better to bracket it.]

HYDROCHELIDON NIGRA (Linn.).

BLACK TERN.

On 15th October 1903 Mr. E. Turner shot the only Manx specimen of this species at the pools on the base of Langness. It was an immature specimen with pure white underparts, and some mottling of brown on the upper plumage (*Zool.*, 1903, p. 460).

The species has ceased to breed in Britain, but is still a not infrequent passing migrant, especially in the eastern and southern counties of England. Records from Galloway are rare, but it has repeatedly occurred in the opposite English counties. In Ireland it is decidedly uncommon, but has occurred in Antrim, Down, and especially on Dublin Bay.

RISSA TRIDACTYLA (Linn.). KITTIWAKE.

Manx, **Perragh* (like the 'Black'-headed Gull).

The species was recorded as a Manx breeding bird by Mr. A. G. More, on the authority of Dr. Crellin. There is only one colony of the Kittiwake on our coasts, and that a comparatively small one. On the Calf of Man, a little east of the Stack, a recess in the high sheer cliffs ends in a cave, and around the entrance to this the nests are placed on the usual little shelves, the lowest being some twenty feet above high water. The deep green sea washes up to the precipices and covers the floor of the cavern, over the gloom of which the beautiful dove-like birds flit like spirits of whiteness. A little further to the east is another group of

nests, but the whole form practically one settlement. I have heard it stated by Port Erin boatmen, that the birds have decreased in their recollection. There are perhaps some thirty or forty pairs. Eggs appear to be laid about the beginning of the second week in June. I am told that this colony has existed for at least forty years, and it is no doubt the one mentioned by Dr. Crellin as above.

As decidedly a sea-bird as the Guillemot or Gannet, the Kittiwake usually, except during its nesting time, keeps to the open water, but yet sometimes, especially in stormy weather, is seen off our coasts and harbours, as about Christmas 1894, when a number of this species, some adult, others immature with black collars and wing bars, were daily about the Victoria Pier and the harbour at Douglas. Dead specimens are occasionally cast ashore after storms, but on the whole the bird is not a familiar one in the Isle of Man.

On 13th June 1895 a number of immature Kittiwakes were roosting on the cliffs of Maughold Head, and this habit was well known to boatmen of the neighbourhood as a common occurrence. On 5th July 1898 very large flocks of Gulls, which were resting along the beach of the Ayre, were composed chiefly of mature individuals of this species.

The flight of the Kittiwake has a peculiar wild ease and grace, and it flings itself from time to time with force upon the water, a habit also of other species of Gull, which do not, however, so habitually practise it. In winter it sometimes utters a slight Sandpiper-like sound, quite different from any other gull-utterance with which I am acquainted.

On 22nd November 1887 ten Kittiwakes were reported at the Chickens, the light-keepers adding, 'These birds are seldom here at this season in such numbers.'

The Kittiwake breeds at Rockabill and Lambay, on Ireland's Eye and on Rathlin, on the Scar Rock in Luce Bay (and on Ailsa Craig), but not on the English side of the



F. S. Graves.

Photo.

THE STACK AND WESTERN CLIFFS OF THE CALF.

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Irish Sea, round which it occurs, not very abundantly, out of the nesting season. Numbers nest on the Bird Rock near Nevin; it breeds also on Ormes Head and on Puffin Island. It is a well-known inhabitant of the wildest precipices of the Scottish isles. It breeds on many of the more precipitous headlands and islands of Britain.

LARUS GLAUCUS, O. Fabricius. GLAUCOUS
GULL.

Mr. Kermodé has in the Ramsey Museum a specimen (immature) shot by Mr. Kinvig, of Castletown, in the southern district in 1880, and he states that the same gentleman saw an adult bird in 1886. A specimen (the last mentioned or another) is in Mr. Kinvig's own collection, and it is in similar plumage to that at Ramsey. In January 1898 another immature specimen was received by Mr. G. Adams from Mr. Corrin of Peel; and in the early part of 1901 still another was killed on Lynague¹ beach, German, and came into the possession of Mr. Kermodé of Lynague¹ farm.

There have been several occurrences in Down and Antrim, and a few on the opposite coast of England; the species has also been (rarely) obtained in Galloway. It is a regular winter visitant to Shetland, but is much scarcer in Orkney, and its degree of abundance in the Outer Hebrides has scarcely been determined. It is a northern bird, and most frequent on the northern parts of our own coasts.

¹ Ordnance Sheet, 'Lhiannag.'

LARUS ARGENTATUS, J. F. Gmelin.

HERRING GULL.

Manx, **Foillan* (M. S. D. and Cr., pronounced 'Fölyan'). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Faoilean*, *Faoileag*; Irish, *Faoilleann*, *Faoileog*; Welsh, *Gwylan*; Breton, *Gwelan*, *Goulen*.) **Gubb* (pronounced 'Gube'), or *Gubbon* (Cr.)=the young mottled Gull.

The Herring Gull is perhaps the dominant bird of Man. Not only may it be seen at all seasons on every part of the coast, but it may be met with over the whole isle in the cultivated fields, and even flying across the central wastes, where, however, it seldom seems to alight. It swarms in the bays and harbours, even in the nesting season, though then a large proportion of the birds there found is immature. It has favourite resting places inland, as on the gravelly edges of the Neb at the Congarey, and on Castletown Claddagh along the Silverburn, where the ground is often strewn at moulting time with the feathers. In Douglas Harbour it is a tame and amusing bird, thronging the piers and quays to pick up fishermen's offal, and hanging round the great steamers, as they arrive and depart. Legal protection,¹ as I am informed by old residents, has greatly increased its abundance within the memory of man. The vast multitudes to be seen, after the breeding season, in favoured places, as sometimes at Cass ny Hawin, and on the sands of the Bay of the Carrick at Strandhall or Mount Gawne, form a striking spectacle, shore and rocks being as if whitened by a sudden snowfall.

From Perwick round to Peel, the whole south-western and western coast of the isle may be looked upon as one great gullery of this species; on the east its breeding places are more scattered. It nests nowhere inland, and few if

¹ See the 'Sea-Gull Preservation Act, 1867,' at end of volume.

any of its nests are even on the Calf (where more than elsewhere they are formed on nearly level ground), as much as twenty yards inside the edge of the rocks. Mr. C. H. Cowley, however, tells me that he once saw, near Peel, a nest built on a refuse heap in a grass field, close to the brows, but sloping inland. His attention was drawn to it by the attacks made by the sitting bird on lambs which ran up upon the hillock.

A small but perhaps increasing number nests on the coast of German about Glen Cam, and again under Knocksharry, but the great western colonies begin at the 'Ladder' on Peel Hill, and are continued round Contrary Head to Glenmay, being very numerous on the brows, and spreading even to the boulder-strewn shores, about Traie Cabbage.¹ On the low points between Glenmay and the Lhag there are no nests, but the breeding ground begins again at the Stack (of Dalby) and is continued almost without interruption—spots peculiarly favoured being easily known by their rich green colour—to the near neighbourhood of Fleshwick. At the Gob yn Ushtey, on the steep verdant slopes to the north of that point, they are particularly numerous, and among the rushes of earth and stone which descend from the wild mountain sides about Lhag ny Keilley and the Slock, there are many nests. Bradda again is well tenanted, especially the slopes about Ghaw Dhoo and the Carn, which bear perhaps the densest Gull population anywhere on the main island, but strange to say, few or none breed on the very similar coast between Port Erin and the Calf Sound. On the Calf there are immense numbers, especially on the southern promontories, and on the lofty brows between the lighthouse and Gibbdale. Returning to the main island, Herring Gulls breed

¹ So called from the growth there of sea-kale (*Crambe maritima*). Such mixtures of Manx and English occasionally occur in our place-names.

abundantly on the south side of Spanish Head overlooking the Sound, on the screens under the 'Chasms,' and on towards Perwick, from which there is a break over the low southern coast until Santon is reached, where between Santon Head and Port Soderick there is a picturesque colony, centering on the 'shelves' near Pistol. North of Port Soderick a few breed, or bred, on the seaward side of the Marine Drive at Rhebogue and Wallberry. No gulls are known to breed on Banks's Howe or Clay Head, but between Laxey and Dhoon a small settlement exists about Martland; a few nests are annually placed on the sea-face of the waste and lonely Barony Hill. There are small stations on comparatively low rocks at Gob ny Ow, near Traie ny Uainague, and elsewhere on the Maughold coast, south of the head of that name, where a larger colony exists, occupying ground on both sides of the extreme point, and giving to a strand underneath the name of Traie ny Foillan. (Creg yn 'oillan, Lag ny Foillan, Gob ny Voillan, and Ellan ny Foillan¹ in other localities also owe their names to the resort of Gulls).

During the whole year the mewing and wailing clamour of the Herring Gull is one of the most familiar of our natural sounds, more common even than the caw of the Rook, and in spring every shore rings with the clear laughing note, as true a signal of the return of brighter days as the sight of the first Wheatear or Swallow. Long before building operations commence, the breeding resorts, which indeed are never entirely forsaken, are crowded, and mated pairs are seen perched side by side in silent content, a beautiful spectacle in their pure and elegant nuptial plumage.

Nests vary greatly in appearance, sometimes a wisp of grass in a rudely scratched hollow, sometimes a substantial and almost neat structure. On the south of the Calf of

¹ Ellan ny Foillan is a field inland on Loughan-y-Eiy (Lezayre). See Moore, *Manx Names*, p. 128.



F. S. Graves.

NESTS OF HERRING GULLS ON THE CALF.

Photo.

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Man many nests are placed among the blossoming sea-pinks which thickly carpet the promontories, and are great brown structures, entirely formed of the turf of these plants, the surface all round being torn and cut by the strong bills of the birds. The nests are not usually built on the sheerest crags, or directly over the sea, and they are often easily walked to, but sometimes also in a niche of an inaccessible precipice. They are often more or less sheltered by an outcrop behind them; the Herring Gull loves half cavernous situations. At the end of the season the place where many nests have been situated is often bare, and as it were burnt by the occupation of the birds. Out of the nesting season, the roosting places, even when on the range of the cliffs used for nesting, are usually low down and near the water's edge. To such, numbers of Gulls may be seen returning regularly towards evening, and following definite routes in their line of flight.

The eggs, almost invariably three in number, are sometimes laid before April has ended, but much more frequently about the end of the first week in May, there being much uniformity in this respect. They vary much in the shade of colouring and abundance of markings. Mr. James Kewley has a specimen, of a uniform pale blue-green colour with only some dust-like specks near the large end; it is a little less than the normal size, and was in a nest with two others of an ordinary type.¹ The young birds crawl about the brows as soon as hatched, showing much instinct in concealing themselves, and are jealously watched by the parents, even after to some degree acquiring the power of flight. As late as August, large mottled birds may be still seen on the lower portions of the rocks, with the large pure-plumaged parents standing guard, and in their clumsy essays at swimming, these nurslings are often

¹ Dwarf eggs are not very uncommon. On 21st July 1905 I saw on the Calf a newly-built nest with one fresh egg.

thoroughly drenched, and seem with difficulty to regain the shore.

In a nest on the Calf in 1901 were a few mangled beetles (*Carabus nemoralis*, *Parynotus elevatus*), and in others some small worms, evidently intended for the first food of the young. (Graves and Ralfe, *Zool.*, 1901, p. 471.)

In hard winters, Herring Gulls gather in great numbers to feed on the refuse of towns, or to avail themselves of food cast out to them by sympathisers. This was particularly the case in the early months of 1895, when a noisy throng of this species and the 'Black'-headed Gull came day by day to be fed in the Woodburn district of Douglas. In such weather, middens and the premises of farms are frequented, and in spring time all over the island, the great grey birds flock after the ploughman with eager familiarity—a beautiful and characteristic sight of our island. Doubtless it is thus of great use in destroying grubs of injurious insects, but it also takes much newly sown grain, as may be seen by observation at its nesting and roosting places. Mr. Graves has seen in such a place a pellet containing one hundred and forty-four grains of barley, oats, and wheat, practically unaffected by the bird's digestive organs, and in addition a quantity of husks of oats; and he notes that this seems to suggest that grain is not a natural food to the Gull. The Herring Gull frequently alights on walls and the chimneys of houses, especially in towns; in Castletown it may daily be seen on the battlements of Castle Rushen and the tower of St. Mary's.¹

The splendid flight of the Herring Gull, well contrasted with the more active though less stately performance of the smaller species, may be witnessed to perfection about our towns. Thus, in the great storm of 13th January 1895,

¹ Mr. Roeder says that in Manx weather-lore, a Gull alighting on the chimney of a house betokens stormy weather at hand. (*Manx Notes and Queries*, p. 32.)



T. H. Graves,

NEST OF HERRING GULL.
(Traid Cabbage.)

Photo.

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when the water beat along the whole two-mile sea-front of Douglas in masses of seething foam, and the roadways flowed like rivers, the Gulls, in the very face of the raging wind, hovered calmly above the scene of enormous commotion.

The Herring Gull appears to be a nest robber in Man as in other localities, for I have repeatedly found about its colonies the broken egg-shells of Shags, Razorbills, and Puffins. According to the testimony of farmers, it also readily robs the nests of domestic fowls where accessible to it, carrying away the eggs on its beak, and Miss Teare, of Ballabeg, saw one fly off with a chicken in full view of the enraged owner. Mr. W. R. Teare has been assured that it commonly kills and eats rats, and residents in his parish (Arbory) told him that in the time of the great snow (February 1895), the Herring Gulls, 'like hawks,' hunted down and devoured the starving small birds.

I cannot help remarking on the singular fact (specially striking in connection with so large and conspicuous a species, the whole of whose remains can scarcely be speedily done away with), that amid the multitudes of living Herring Gulls by which we are constantly surrounded, the sight of a single dead specimen which appears to have died naturally is most rare and exceptional.

The Herring Gull nests, usually on the coast, where suitable localities occur in Britain. It is the most abundant marine breeding Gull in Ireland; it nests at Lambay and on the Antrim coast. In Galloway it breeds at various stations, but on the opposite coast of England only at St. Bees; it nests also on Bardsey and the Lleyn coast, and abundantly on the cliffs of Anglesea. In Ireland it is said to have no inland colonies, but there is at least one such in Wigtownshire, and one until lately existed at Foulshaw Moss, near Morecambe Bay. It is very common in the Scottish isles.

LARUS FUSCUS, Linn. LESSER BLACK-
BACKED GULL.

PARSON, PARSON GULL. Manx, **Foillan Saggyrt* = Priest Gull.

This species seems to have first been recorded as nesting in Man by Yarrell, on what authority I do not know. Mr. Kermode, according to his list of 1888, seems to have been unaware of its breeding. In May 1891 Mr. Graves found considerable numbers nesting at the Calf on the isolated rocks of the Burrow and the Stack, and the writer has several times since had opportunities of visiting the colonies there. The Burrow is a fine mass of rock about one hundred feet high, rent by a lofty chasm almost to the summit and standing off the south-east end of the Calf. The Stack lies off the west end of the same islet, separated by a deep and narrow channel with precipitous sides, but on the seaward not very difficult of ascent. It is a double-peaked pyramid, and fishermen say that the present species breeds on the barer southern summit, and the Herring Gull on the greener northern portion, a statement which I think is roughly correct. The colony on the Burrow, which has a fairly flat top, is also mingled with Herring Gulls. On the southern points of the Calf itself also many Lesser Black-backs nest among the kindred species, showing however a tendency to form groups of their own, and I think that they seldom choose the more precipitous situations.

In other nesting settlements of the Herring Gull on the main island, a few of the dark-winged species mingle, while from some it appears to be entirely absent. At Pistol I have noticed one pair only; the nest of these was, in 1893, placed very low down on a flat shelf little above sea-level, and on 10th June contained one singularly dark and



F. S. Graves.

THE BURROW.

Photo.

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handsomely blotched egg, and two others more ordinary. At Tring Vuigh there are a few pairs, and on Knocksharry cliffs one or two. The nesting habits of *L. fuscus* and *L. argentatus* are very similar; on the Calf we thought that nests which had many feathers mixed in their structure usually belonged to the former, and while in 1901, at the end of May, the Herring Gull had frequently hatched out, we did not identify any young as belonging to the Black-back, which undoubtedly is somewhat later in laying. All through the year, in winter as in summer, the Lesser Black-back is a scarcer associate of the Herring Gull, and all round the island, in the harbours of Douglas and Peel, on the shores of Michael and Castletown, one, two, or a small party may be seen among a crowd of Herring Gulls, whom they also accompany to the inland fields.

Less common than the Herring Gull in Ireland, this species breeds on Lambay and Rathlin, and inland among the Antrim mountains. It nests on the coast and some lochs in Galloway, and is said to be not very numerous in Kirkcudbrightshire, but common in Wigtownshire. It breeds also on some of the Lakeland moorlands, and is frequent on the Lancashire and Cumberland coast-line. It nests on Anglesea much less abundantly than the Herring Gull. It is a summer resident in the outer isles of Scotland, where it appears seldom to be as plentiful as the Herring Gull, and to be little known in winter. It is, in Britain, somewhat more local than the last species.

LARUS CANUS, Linn. COMMON GULL.

The Common Gull appears in small numbers on our coast in autumn, winter, and spring, and is very apt to be

overlooked among the vastly superior numbers of the 'Black'-headed and Herring Gulls, which are our 'common' species, and with which it associates. On the sands of Douglas, a few are regularly to be seen, distinguishable from the 'Black'-heads by their stouter build, more leisurely flight, and the want of the bright colour on beak and legs, and from the Herring Gull, which in colour and make it much resembles, by its smaller size. I have met with the species also on the sands at Laxey and Kirk Michael, and if I have failed to recognise it in the south and in other parts of the northern shores, it is probably for lack of closer observation which will likely detect it in most similar localities. It does not seem probable that any nest in Man, though it has colonies very near our coasts, and is believed to be an increasing species.¹

In Ireland, where it is local as a breeding species, the settlements nearest to us are in Donegal, on lakes and the coast, while in Galloway it nests, not numerously, on the Fleet Islands and other points within view of the Isle of Man. It is not known to breed in England, but scatters all round the coasts of the Irish Sea in winter. It is abundant, and has large colonies on many of the outer Scottish isles, as well as on the mainland and those more adjacent to it.

LARUS MARINUS, Linn. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

PARSON GULL. Manx, *Juan vooar* = Big John ;
Juan mooar (Cr.).

This fine bird is by no means of uncommon occurrence on our coast, the specimens being mostly single birds, and

¹ But see Addenda.

appearing principally in the winter months. The bays of Douglas and Peel are frequently visited, and Mr. Kermode notes them also in Ramsey Bay in the early part of the year, the Black-back usually to a certain extent keeping company with Herring Gulls, but often flying or resting on the water at a little distance from the flock.

Its breeding in Man has often been suggested. Mr. Kermode says that two isolated rocks, north and south of Peel, have been pointed out to him as occasional nesting places, and persons in that town believe that it breeds in that neighbourhood, but eggs shown to me seem to belong to *L. argentatus* or *L. fuscus*, and the Black-backs which I have seen on that coast are of the latter species. Nevertheless the island appears to offer many suitable localities, and it would be premature positively to deny its residence. On 15th April 1898 I saw a pair of mature birds on the Santon coast, but they certainly were not breeding there. On 1st May, in the same year, I observed another at the salt-pools on Langness, and on 10th June 1900 a mature specimen on the beach at the Point of Ayre, with a number of immature birds, likely of the same species. It is to be remembered that there are nesting places in Wigtownshire almost within sight.

This species breeds, or formerly bred, on Lambay, and has stations in Donegal. It nests sparingly on the coast of Galloway, and at least at one station there on an inland lake. It formerly bred also at several places in north-western England, where it is now as a breeding species entirely or almost extinct, its stations in England generally being few. There are a few nesting stations on the coasts of Carnarvonshire and Anglesea. As a winter visitant it is well distributed round the Irish Sea. It breeds on all the outer Scottish groups.

LARUS RIDIBUNDUS, Linn. 'BLACK'-
HEADED GULL.

Manx, **Pirragh* (Cr.), probably from the note. I have heard this given as *Perac*, *Parrac*, and even '*Parrakeet*.' Cregeen translates 'a species of gull, pinguin' (*sic*), but it is to this species and the Kittiwake that the name is applied. (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Tarroch* = Kittiwake; Lanc., etc., *Turnock*.)

There is no record of the breeding of this species in Man, though it is likely enough that when the marshes were most extensive colonies did exist. It is now very abundant upon our coast during the greater part of the year, though almost wholly absent during the nesting season. It is most common in the larger bays, as Douglas, Ramsey, Castletown, and Carrickey, but any small creek with a beach, as Garwick, Cass ny Hawin, Greenock,¹ is sure to have its little flock or party. It settles on low rocks, where large numbers often spend the night, but is never known to alight on elevated cliffs. During the severe weather of 1895 when 'Black'-headed Gulls haunted the streets of Douglas for scraps, it was very noticeable that they never settled on the houses as did the crag-inhabiting Herring Gulls which accompanied them. Like the latter species it comes inland, sometimes in big flocks, and mingling with Rooks and Lapwings, and as much of its food is doubtless derived from the fields as from the shores. During the winter months a flooded meadow is a favourite haunt, and the species appears in flocks or small parties on such meagre sheets of fresh water as our island affords. I have seen the dark hood assumed as early as 23rd December (1894, Douglas) and 26th December (1897, Scarlett). About

¹ Better 'Grenaugh' = sunny.

the end of March the 'Black'-headed Gull leaves our shores, and although there is no time when a few stragglers may not be seen, the great body is absent until the middle of June, when they begin to return, still bearing the 'black' feathers on the head. In summer these birds often behave as if still at their nesting grounds; thus on 29th June 1887 a great flock on the Jurby coast flew over me with agitated cries, and on 25th June 1895 the same action was noticeable in flocks at the Lhen. The tern-like cries and evolutions, at all times very characteristic of the species, are specially remarkable before a change of weather.

Comparatively few of our birds are in the variegated immature stages of plumage, which do not last so long in this species as in the Herring Gull.

Though in general a very abundant Irish species, this Gull does not nest in eastern Leinster, but does so on Lough Neagh and some lakes in Down. In Galloway it has a number of stations, also in Cumberland, where it nests in vast numbers at Ravenglass, just opposite Man; it also breeds on Walney, and at a few other localities in Lancashire. There is, according to Messrs. Coward and Oldham, one large colony in Anglesea. In Shetland it is a scarce resident, but much more abundant in Orkney and the Outer Hebrides. Its colonies are more numerous in Scotland than in England, though the latter possesses some very large ones.

STERCORARIUS CATARRHACTES (Linn.).

GREAT SKUA.

Mr. Kermode includes this species with the remark 'off the south of the island in autumn.' A specimen was taken

in Douglas Bay in November 1903. It was caught on a hook, and after being kept alive for a short time came into the possession of Mr. G. Adams, who still has it.

This apparently disappearing species is a rare bird round the Irish Sea, as generally on British waters, but has been obtained on most of the surrounding coasts. It has a few breeding colonies in Shetland, where under protection its numbers have of late increased. On passing from its northern stations it appears to affect the eastern rather than the western coast of Britain.

STERCORARIUS POMATORHINUS (Temminck). POMATORHINE SKUA.

An immature specimen was taken in Mr. Dickinson's garden at Ashfield, near Douglas, in October 1890, and is now in the Ramsey collection.¹ During this and the following month several occurred in Ireland, where the species is rare. It is a straggler in Galloway and Cumberland, but apparently rather more frequent on the Lancashire coast. It is most abundant on the east side of England. In Orkney and Shetland it has appeared rarely, but seems more frequent off the Outer Hebrides.

¹ Some confusion and error, for which the author thinks he is partly responsible, has got into the entries of Pomatorhine and Richardson's Skuas in *F. L. M.*, iii. p. 541. He is not sure that he can now quite clear the matter, but believes that the records of a Pomatorhine Skua 'caught in a garden at Douglas in 1889,' that of another 'taken at Glencrutchery, near Douglas, 15th November 1890,' and that of an immature *Richardson's* Skua, 'taken in a garden, near Douglas, October 1890, in stormy weather,' all refer to the same specimen, that mentioned above.

STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS (J. F. Gmelin).
RICHARDSON'S SKUA.

Manx, **Shirragh varrey* = Sea-Hawk.

Mr. Kermode says that two were shot at Douglas, 26th April 1880. On 28th September 1884 I observed one among Gulls off the Victoria Pier, Douglas. A specimen from the Wallace collection was presented to the Isle of Man Natural History Society by Rev. H. A. Macpherson. Mr. Strappini showed Mr. Kermode the head, tail, and wing of one, and said he had shot the species off the Calf.

The species is probably much more common a little to sea than might be imagined from the meagre notices of its capture. It is well known to fishermen by the Manx name given above as occurring on their grounds, and I noticed one in crossing from Douglas to Liverpool on 18th May 1885.

This is the most common Skua on the Irish coast, occurring especially in autumn. It is not frequent, however, anywhere round the Irish Sea, though it occurs also on its Scottish and English coasts. It breeds in a good many localities in Shetland, and more locally in the Outer Hebrides and in Orkney.

It is more frequent on the east than on the west of England.

PROCELLARIA PELAGICA, Linn. STORM
PETREL.

Manx, **Kitty* (pronounced 'Kirry') *varrey* = Sea-Kitty (*i.e.* Wren).

Jardine (vol. iv. p. 259) says of this species: 'We have seen small parties off Douglas Harbour in the Isle of Man

in June, but did not discover any breeding-station.' No station has since been found; yet considering the nocturnal habits of the bird and the remote and hidden nature of its haunts, it can hardly yet be considered impossible that it breeds, or has bred, on our shores.

Manx records are, however, rare. On 27th September 1891 I saw two Petrels in Peel Bay. 'They were flying backwards and forwards near the shore wall, dipping to the surface of the water in their characteristic way, and coming so close that I could distinctly see the thin light-coloured line across their wings. As the town houses extend all along the beach, the birds attracted a number of boys, who threw stones at them and quickly drove them away' (*Zool.*, 1892, p. 28). About the same time a specimen procured in the south came into the hands of Mr. Adams. In reporting these occurrences to the *Zoologist* I hesitated to name the species to which these belonged, but have now no doubt that they were Storm Petrels. It was at this time, after south-west gales, that Petrels of this and especially of the Fork-tailed species appeared in such numbers in Ireland.

Mr. Kermode mentions a specimen picked up dead at Port Erin, 3rd January 1892.

Train says that a number were cast ashore after a great storm in January 1839.

At the fishing-grounds Petrels are not unfamiliar to our fishermen.

This species breeds on two small islands off the north coast of Antrim, and at various sites in Donegal; it has occurred, often storm-driven, all round the coasts of our sea. It nests in a good many localities among the Scottish isles.



Photochrom Co., Ltd.

PEEL BAY.
(Gulls and fishing boats.)

Photo.

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PROCELLARIA LEUCORRHOA (Vieillot).
LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL.

In the Migration Report for 1887 Messrs. Black and Beggs report from the Chickens, under date of 21st November 1887, 'One Fork-tailed Petrel flying about the rock at 7.30 A.M.'

Heavy storms have from time to time strewn the species broadcast over Ireland, and it has similarly occurred around the Irish Sea, usually in the autumn months. It breeds in several of the Outer Hebrides.

PUFFINUS ANGLORUM (Temminck).
MANX SHEARWATER.

PUFFIN, MANX PUFFIN.

Willughby described the Shearwater (*Ornithologia*, 1676, p. 252; *Ornithology*, 1678, p. 334) from a young specimen taken from the nest, and almost certainly Manx, as is shown by the detailed description of the Calf of Man, and the habits of the birds nesting there. Ray saw later, in Tradescant's Museum and that of the Royal Society, other specimens, which he assigns to the same species, but this must remain uncertain. In the catalogue of the Royal Society's Museum, printed in 1681 and compiled by N. Grew, no mention of *Puffinus anglorum* is found, but an entry under 'Puffin, *Anas arctica*: They breed in Island, in the Isle of Mona, in Scotland, in those of Fero and the Syllies; also in Ireland, and other places.'¹ In the *Museum*

¹ I have to thank Messrs. Harrison and White for searching on my behalf the archives of this Society; also Professor Newton for much kind correspondence, in which he has fully discussed the subject with me. It is to be feared that no further light is now to be obtained on the subject, and the discrepancy with Ray's statement is difficult to explain.

Tradescantianum (1656), as Professor Newton kindly informs me, the 'Puffin' is simply given without note or comment.

From Ray's English version of the *Ornithology* (p. 334) I quote as follows: 'At the south end of the Isle of Man lies a little Islet, divided from Man by a narrow channel, called the Calf of Man, on which are no habitations but only a Cottage or two lately built. This Islet is full of Conies which the Puffins coming yearly dislodge and build in their Burroughs. They lay each but one Egg before they sit, like the Razorbill and Guillem, although it be the common persuasion that they lay two at a time, of which the one is always addle. They feed their young ones wondrous fat. The old ones early in the morning, at break of day, leave their Nests and Young and the Island itself, and spend the whole day in fishing on the sea, never returning or once setting foot on the Island before evening twilight;¹ so that all day the Island is so quiet and still from all noise as if there were not a bird about it. Whatever fish or other food they have gotten and swallowed in the day-time, by the innate heat or proper ferment of the stomach is (as they say) changed into a certain oily substance (or rather chyle), a good part wherof in the night time they vomit up into the mouths of their young, which being therewith nourished, grow extraordinarily fat. When they are come to their full growth, they who are intrusted by the Lord of the Island (the earl of Darby²) draw them out of the cony holes; and that they may the more readily

¹ This would generally be thought an error of superficial observers, who took for granted that the birds were absent on account of their quietness, while they really spent the day in their holes; but Macpherson (*Brit. Birds*, p. 116) emphatically states: 'In the Hebrides the Shearwaters are chiefly diurnal in their habits, and may be seen sporting over their fishing grounds on any breezy day.'

² In 1643 Richard Stevenson, of Balladoole, whose family had long been in possession of the Calf, was persuaded or pressed by James, Earl of Derby, who had then taken up his residence in Man, to give up the islet to him, receiving in exchange certain 'closes' in the north, and yearly payment of five hundred Puffins.

know and keep an account of the number they take, they cut off one foot and reserve it, which gave occasion to that Fable that the Puffins are single-footed. They usually sell them for about ninepence the dozen, a very cheap rate. They say their flesh is permitted by the Romish Church to be eaten in Lent, being for the taste so like to fish. . . .

‘We are told that they breed not only on the Calf of Man, but also on the Silly (*sic*) Islands. Notwithstanding they are sold so cheap, yet some years there is thirty pounds made of the young Puffins taken in the Calf of Man. Whence may be gathered what number of birds breed there.’

The equivalent Latin passage is as follows: ‘*Australi termino insulae Monae (quae in medio mari Angliam inter et Hiberniam sita, aequalibus fere intervallis ab Anglia, Scotia et Hibernia distat, perque triginta milliaria ab Austro in Aquilonem porrigitur) alia adjacet insulula angusto freto dirempta, The Calf of Man dicta, inculta prorsus aut duobus tribusve tantum tuguriolis nuper extractis habitata, cuniculis scatens, quos quotannis vere adventantes Puffini abigunt, inque eorum foraminibus nidificant. Ovorum unicum una vice pariant, quem admodum Anas Arctica, Alka, etc., quamvis vulgo persuasum sit, eos duo semper ova ponere, quorum alterum perpetuo sit infaecundum. Pullos exclusos mirum in modum saginant. Matres summo mane, quam primum illucescit, nidos et pullos ipsamque insulam deserunt, totumque diem in mari piscando impendunt, nec unquam ante crepusculum vespertinum redeunt, aut ullibi in insula pedem figunt. Quicquid piscium*

Within the next fifty years it appears that the right of the Stevensons to these Puffins was repeatedly questioned, and finally Governor Sankey in 1696 refused delivery of them. In 1704 a petition was addressed to the Lord of Man by John Stevenson—a curious document, which, by the courtesy of his present heir, Mr. W. A. Stevenson, I am enabled to reproduce at the end of this article. The result of the application is not known.

aliusve esculenti per totum diem deglutiverint, innato ventriculi seu calore seu alia quadam vi occulta in substantiam quandam oleosam (ut aiunt) facessit, cujus bonam partem noctu in pullorum ora evomunt, qui eo enutriti supra modum pinguescunt. Adultos quibus id muneris a soli Domino datum est cuniculis extrahunt; et ut expeditus captorum numerum ineant, teneantque, pedem alterum abscindunt et reservant. Hinc orta fabula, Puffinos esse monopodes. Pullos duodenos novem plerumque denariis nostrae monetae vendunt, satis vili pretio. Eorum esum tempore Quadragesimae permissum aiunt, quod videantur quodammodo piscibus affinis, sapere scilicet carnis.'

The colony had already been briefly mentioned in Camden (1586), and Chaloner, in 1656, had already given a quaint account of the 'Puffines' of the Calf; 'nourishing (as is conceived) their Young with Oyl; which drawn from their own Constitution, is dropped into their mouths; for that being opened there is found in their crops no other sustenance but a single Sorrel leaf, which the Old give their Young, for digestion's sake, as is conjectur'd; the flesh of these Birds is nothing pleasant fresh, because of their rank and Fish-like taste; but, pickled or salted, they may be ranked with Anchoves, Caviare, or the like; but profitable they are in their feathers, and Oyl, of which they make great use about their Wooll.'¹

After this almost every describer of the Isle of Man has something to say of the 'Puffin,' but little information is

¹ William Blundell, who came to Man in 1648, and whose manuscript, written about the same time as Chaloner's treatise, was published only in 1876 by the Manx Society, quotes the latter's account of the 'Puffins' word for word, remarking: 'From hence (the Calf) have the islanders, I mean ye Manksmen, their puffins, which are here as numerous as in the Island of Bardsey, in the west point of Anglesey. Concerning those puffins, Mr. Chaloner hath made so perfect, exact, and excellent an observation of whatsoever concerneth them, that I cannot omit to impart it to my reader, for his recreation as well as mine.' Shearwaters still breed on Bardsey (*Zool.*, 1902, p. 16).

added, and we fail to get anything that looks like an account by a person who had visited its breeding place and observed the birds. Bishop Wilson says that young were ready to fly about the 15th August; that they were then 'hunted,' and great numbers, few years less than four thousand or five thousand, taken. They were, he adds, almost one lump of fat. 'They who will be at the expense of wine, spice, and other ingredients, to pickle them, make them very grateful to many palates, and send them abroad; but the greatest parts are consumed at home, coming at a very proper time for the husbandman in harvest.'¹

In the account of 'The profits of the Calve Island this year' (1708) is included 'the Puffins of ye s^d Isle this year being 2618 birds at 1d., 13: 05: 06' (*Manx Note-Book*, No. 8, p. 190). John Quayle, C.R., in his formerly quoted letter to his brother-in-law, James Moore (1776), says: 'The other day I sent you a Kegg of Puffins. . . . I hope ere this comes to hand that you have received and tried the Puffins.'

Pennant (1776) *Brit. Zool.*, ii. p. 551, tells us: 'These birds are found in the *Calf* of *Man*; and as Mr. *Ray* supposes in the *Scilly isles*; they resort to the former in February; take a short possession of the rabbit burrows, and then disappear till April; they lay one egg, white and blunt at each end, and the young are fit to be taken the beginning of *August*; when great numbers are killed by the person who farms the isle; they are salted and barrelled, and when they are boiled are eaten with potatoes. During the day they keep at sea fishing; and towards evening return to their young; whom they feed, by discharging the contents of their stomachs into their mouths; which by

¹ Mr. W. A. Stevenson tells me that the Puffins of the *Calf* are said to have been regularly tithed for the benefit of the Church, and a certain rock at the Sound, where the division was made, is still pointed out.

that time is turned into oil ; by reason of the backward situation of their legs they sit quite erect.¹ They quit the isle the latter of *August* or beginning of *September* ; and, from accounts lately received from navigators, we have reason to imagine, that like the *storm finch*, they are dispersed over the whole *Atlantic ocean*.²

Townley, on his arrival in the island, desired to see something of the ornithological curiosity of which he had heard, and was told at Douglas that for this purpose he must go to the Calf. He visited the islet on 11th June 1789, but does not seem after all to have seen the Shearwaters, and adds little to our information concerning them. His account of the Calf, however, is interesting.

‘When we had got safely landed . . . we ascended a very steep hill up towards the herdsman’s house ; the only one now in the solitary isle ; and that inhabited by only one *old* man and his *old* wife, each having attained the age of seventy and upwards. The old man was gone out upon his bird-catching business, but soon returned with his booty of eight sea-parrots. . . . Nightly plunderers are the only people they have either to fear or guard against. Their visits being for the injurious purposes of destroying the rabbits and puffins, two main articles of traffic and profit, belonging to the island. . . . I found myself quite mistaken in the opinion I had formed respecting the sterility of the

¹ Evident confusion with *Fratercula*.

² In none of these old accounts is any mention made of the strange nocturnal clamour of the Shearwaters. But can Waldron’s story (‘Description of the Isle of Man,’ 1731, *Manx Soc.*, vol. xi. p. 67) of the spirit which haunted the coasts have originated in this noise, described as infernal by modern writers ? ‘The disturbed spirit of a person shipwrecked on a rock adjacent to this coast wanders about it still, and sometimes makes so terrible a yelling that it is heard at an incredible distance. They tell you that houses even shake with it ; and that, not only mankind, but all the brute creation within hearing, tremble at the sound. But what serves very much to increase the shock is that, whenever it makes this extraordinary noise, it is a sure prediction of an approaching storm. . . . At other times the spirit cries out only, “Ho, ho, ho !” with a voice little, if anything, louder than a human one.’

island, having often heard, from vague reports, that it was unable (from its produce) to support any living creatures, except rabbits and puffins; but I found it abounding in sweet pasturage; that the surface of the ground in general consisted of a very fine turf intermixed with some satches of short heath, or ling, and some (it is true) of barren rocks. I asked the old man, why they had no sheep upon the island, as the pasturage seemed admirably adapted for that valuable, profitable stock. He answered, that sheep were so handy to carry off, and had been so frequently stolen by sea-faring plunderers, that it was thought advisable to pasture the island with young stock of the cow-kind; of which I saw several grazing about.' Townley went round the greater part of the Calf both by land and sea, and proceeds to describe the Burrow and Eye, the Stack, the Sound, and the Cow (Cow Harbour). 'The rabbits upon the island,' he remarks, '(according to the old man's information) have formerly made a hundred and forty pounds per annum; puffins,¹ and the feathers of the sea-birds, about half that sum; but the profits on both these articles have diminished, since the rats have got such a footing in the place.'

Robertson (1794), whether from personal observation we do not know, mentions the species as breeding only at the Calf on the rocks. Feltham (1798), though he notes at the Calf the 'Razor-bill (*Alca torda*),' and the 'Puffin (*Alca arctica*)' (*sic*), says nothing of the Shearwater. Woods (1811) states that rats, escaping from a wrecked Russian merchant vessel, 'some years ago' almost exterminated the Puffins; he confuses 'puffins' and 'sea-parrots,' and his visit to the Calf was too late in the year (September) for him to see the various birds at their breeding places. Sir William Jardine

¹ By 'Puffin,' Townley, like previous authorities, doubtless means Shearwater. Although *Fratereula arctica* existed on the Calf, and was also eaten (see above, and under article 'Puffin'), he mentions it under the name of 'Parrot' and 'Sea-Parrot.'

(iv. p. 255) says of his visit in 1827, 'We were much disappointed in scarcely being able to trace even the recollection of their former abundance,' and adds, 'We are not aware of this Shearwater having been seen in the Solway, or about its entrance, for many years.' The same author wrote in 1836 to T. C. Heysham: 'We went . . . to seek the Manks Petrel, but were unsuccessful. The people said that it had left the Calf several years previously, and if any number had been there we should not have missed them.' (Macpherson, *Vert. Fauna of Lakeland*, p. 454.)

The bird had some time before 1827 disappeared from the Calf, and it is quite likely that the confusion of the species with *Fratercula arctica*, which extended even into the scientific world, has caused its extinction to be placed much later than was really the case. Thus Train in 1845 calls it 'Coulterneb Puffin' and 'Tommie-noddie,' and states that it visited the Calf 'down to the beginning of the present century.' Statements, sometimes vague, sometimes (like Woods' as above quoted) definite, that the advent of rats to the Calf was the cause of its extinction or departure, are to be found in Manx literature, and Jardine attributed its loss to the Calf being more frequented and a lighthouse built. Yarrell (1st ed. 1843, vol. iii. p. 508) also ascribes its disappearance there to the settlement of man, and says of its diminution in general that it is 'wholly occasioned by the wanton and greedy destruction of their eggs and young.' Perhaps the rivalry of *Fratercula arctica*, now so very dominant on the Calf, may have had more to do with it, as Messrs. Harvie-Brown and Buckley suggest in the case of deserted breeding stations in the Hebrides. In Naumann's great work (copied on p. 30, vol. xii. of the new edition from the original) it is said, 'An solchen Orten, wo sehr viele dieser Vögel auf einem Platze nahe beisammen nisten, wie früher an mehreren Stellen auf Man,

wie auf Skomer oder St. Kilda, haben sie den Rasen so unterwühlt, dass der darauf wandelnde Fuss alle Augenblicke einsinkt.' But upon what authority these details are given, and the statement made that there were several stations, is not mentioned.

In Macpherson and Duckworth's *Birds of Cumberland* (p. 182) it is stated that when Professor Macpherson, visiting as a Commissioner of Northern Lights, inquired after the Shearwater at the Calf in 1885, he was told that large numbers were still observed in that neighbourhood (see below), and the authors suggest from this that the species may still possibly breed on some part of the coast of Man; nothing further, however, has since been reported to justify this surmise. The Manx Shearwater cannot, however, be very rare in the Irish Sea. In the summer of 1890 Mr. Adams had a specimen obtained off our south coast; on August 19 and 25, 1892, according to Mr. Kermode, several were shot in Ramsey Bay. On 12th July 1893 I picked up a dead specimen at Port Skillion, Douglas. On 8th August 1895 Mr. Kermode saw a number near the Point of Ayre; on 13th July 1905 I observed about six in the tideway off Langness.

On 9th August 1885 'a large number of Manx Petrels' is reported at Langness at 3 P.M.

A few nest on the Wicklow and Dublin coasts, and very many on Rathlin Island. It does not breed in south-western Scotland,¹ and is rare and irregular on the English side of the Irish Sea, but breeds on Bardsey and elsewhere off Carnarvonshire. It nests also in Orkney, Shetland, and the Outer Hebrides, but appears to be generally decreasing in numbers.

'8th June 1704.—The Case of John Stevenson, of Balla-

¹ On 26th May 1904 I saw a few close to the Scar Rocks in Luce Bay.

doole, in relation to his Claim of Five hundred Puffins yearly out of the Calf of Man.

‘First, That the s^d Calf was in possession of my Ancestors for near the space of a hundred years till y^e year 1643 when the Right Hon^{ble} James Earl of Derby¹ (of happy memory) being constrained by the calamities of those times to retire to this Island requesting my Grandfather that for the better provision of his Lordship’s house, he would let him have the benefit of the said Isle, whereupon my Grandfather out of the deep sense he then and always had of his Lop.’s sufferings, conveyed to his Lop. the said Calf, and in lieu thereof his Lop. assigned certain Closes on the North side of Man to my Grand-father and his Heirs for ever; and his Lop. well knowing the said Closes were not an Equivalent to the s^d Calf did at that time agree to allow my Grand-father Five hundred Puffins yearly out of the s^d Calf, as by a Certificate under the hand of the right Hon^{oble} Countess Dowager of Derby in the year 1656 may appear, pursuant to w^{ch} agreem^t my Grand-Ffather had and Rec^d the s^d Puffins during his Lop.’s life, and in the year 1651 his Lop. and his whole Retinue being engaged in the Royall Cause in England his s^d Countess not having the like occasion for the s^d Calf, did then honourably (according to the power she had in her Lord’s absence) in consideration of the fidelity and good service done by my Grand-Ffather, surrender again the s^d Calf, as by a Deed now upon Record may also appear: But at that juncture the usurping powers immediately succeeding, and my Grand-Ffather neglecting to put her Lap.’s Grant in execution, he cou’d not then possess himself of the s^d Calf nor even of his yearly number of Puffins, untill he had first obtained

¹ This was the ‘Great Stanley’ whose career eight years later ended so tragically at Bolton. His residence in Man was marked by grave disturbances, and on his death a popular revolution handed over the island to the forces of the Commonwealth.

the Certificate above mentioned w^{ch} the Lord Fairfax¹ was so amply satisfied with, that he gave immediate orders for the continuance of the s^d Puffins, and Mr. Chaloner his Lop.'s Governor was so far convinced of the reasonableness of the demand that he not only paid them as formerly, but also allowed for the year my Grandffather was behind whilst the matter was in question; And so it was yearly continued during the usurpation, and afterwards without any interruption till the year 1668, when my Lord Charles by some suggestions, was put upon to order his officers here to demand an Acco^t of my Grand-ffather and others what goods they kept in the Calf, as also what Puffins my Grandffather had out of the same, w^{ch} Order I presume was accordingly observed, and the Puffins appeared to be my Grandffather's Right: for in that year and every year afterwards during his Lop.'s life there was an allowance always taken in the Acco^{ts} for them, as by the charge of the respective stewards may appear: But in the year 1683 my Grandffather deceasing, the then steward making a doubt whether the s^d Puffins were to be continued as formerly, the whole matter was then again enquired into by Gov^r Heywood, and the same represented to Earl William who it's presumed was fully satisfied therewith, because the s^d allowance was that year and afterwards paid and allowed in the Acco^{ts} till the year 1696 Govern^r Sankey by what power not yet known took upon him to cause the s^d yearly payment to cease.

'And now forasmuch as the s^d Puffins have been yearly paid and allowed to my Ancestors for the course of 53 years (w^{ch} of itself may seem a sufficient Title) and also that in that time the matter was thrice called in question and still the Puffins found to be justly due, there being no one instance

¹ To whom the royalty of Man was made over by the Commonwealth government.

of any writing or Tryall evincing the contrary: And forasmuch as the Right Hon^{ble} Charlotte, Countess of Derby, hath so generously demonstrated her true sense of my Grandfather's fidelity and loyalty both to her Lord and herself in the time of her greatest distresses—First, by her deed of Surrender of y^e Calf and afterwards by her Certificate confirming our right to the Puffins, and moreover in regard that the said Countess and her Lord together often declared their firm intentions if ever they were restored to their own, not only to resettle the Calf on my Ancestors but to give greater instances of their favour. And lastly, forasmuch as the s^d Calf is at this time worth 30£ p. ann. (tho' nothing improved since it came into the Lord's hands), and the land w^{ch} was given in lieu of the same, together with the allowance of Puffins not worth half that sum: Upon all these considerations, it is humbly hoped his Lop. will be graciously pleased so to order the s^d Puffins yearly as formerly that there be hereafter no further uneasyness on that account.

' *June 9th, 1704.*

'This is a true state of Mr. Stevenson's case as it appears to us, having examined the Records and other papers laid before us, and this we attest, pursuant to our Hon^{ble} Lord's Order to us requiring a just representation of this matter.

'THO. SODOR AND MAN.

ROBT. MAWDESLEY.

JOHN PARR.

CHRIST. PARKER.

WILL. ROSS.

JOHN ROWE.

' *12th June 1704.*—This is a true copy of the original sent to our Hon^{ble} Lord, and Examined by me,

' WM. SEDDEN,

D. Cler. Rotul.'

COLYMBUS GLACIALIS, Linn. GREAT
NORTHERN DIVER.

Manx, **Arrag-vooar* or *wooar* (applied somewhat vaguely), see under 'Cormorant.'

During the winter months Divers are far from rare on the Manx coast, and the writer thinks that the present species is likely at least as abundant as the Red-throated, but the examples are always or nearly always immature. Mr. Kermode thinks that Peel and Castletown Bays are specially frequented, and in the former Mr. Graves and I saw four as late as 5th May in 1901; another spent in Castletown Bay apparently the whole summer of 1903, and lingered (assuming the single bird seen to be always the same) to the spring of 1904. The former at least were not, however, in complete plumage, and Manx specimens are rarely obtained in that state, though Mrs. T. H. Kinvig has one such, and a second almost as good; and a fine adult in Mr. Adams's hands in December 1896 showed traces of the bands on the neck.

This species is pretty regularly, though not in general abundantly, met with each winter all round the coasts of the Irish Sea. It is common and well known about the outer isles of Scotland.

COLYMBUS ARCTICUS, Linn. BLACK-
THROATED DIVER.

Mr. Kermode states that he has a male taken off the Vollan, Ramsey, 21st January 1886, and a female taken in Ramsey Harbour, February 1900.

This is in the Irish Sea, as in general about Britain, the rarest of the Divers; it has been met with in Louth and

Dublin, and once or twice on Lough Neagh. It is reported to occur off Galloway on migration in early spring and late winter; on the English side few have been obtained. It breeds in the Outer Hebrides, possibly in Orkney and Shetland, where, however, it is always rare.

COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS, Linn.
RED-THROATED DIVER.

This species is probably of regular winter occurrence around the island. About the end of September 1890 a beautiful specimen, with grey head and red throat, and very little spotted, was killed at Douglas near the Victoria Pier, and came into possession of Mr. Kermode; it is now in the Ramsey Museum. During the following winter several frequented the bay, fishing frequently between the Pier and Conister, and were readily observed. They swam very much submerged, often with the head and neck almost buried, and seemed merely to sink in diving, not throwing themselves out of the water in the fashion of Shags.

This species is of regular occurrence in the Irish Sea, as on all British coasts and estuaries, and on its western side appears to be considered the commonest Diver; it has even bred in Donegal. On the other coasts it is not considered numerous. It breeds in Shetland, in Hoy, and in some of the Outer Hebrides.

PODICEPS CRISTATUS (Linn.). GREAT
CRESTED GREBE.

In December 1896 (not the winter of 1895-96, as the writer by a slip stated in *Y. L. M.*, iii. p. 550), there was in

Mr. Adams's hands an immature Grebe, probably a young bird verging on maturity, whose head and neck showed the peculiar longitudinal striping, while the former bore rudiments of the two crests conspicuous in this species.

This Grebe breeds on lakes in Antrim, at Knowsley in Lancashire (and on many meres in Cheshire), also in Anglesea, and has nested in Wigtownshire; in winter many have been observed in Dundalk Bay, but at this season it is generally rare in our seas. It has been reported, but seldom, from Orkney and Shetland. It nests in many English and a few Scottish localities, and has occurred on most of our coasts in winter.

PODICEPS GRISEIGENA (Boddert). RED-NECKED GREBE.

This rare species, strange to say, is in Man the most frequently recorded of the larger Grebes; there are no Irish records during the whole period covered by ours. Mr. W. S. Baily has reported seeing one off Castletown, 16th February 1889, and another at Derby haven on 17th April 1889 (*Y. L. M.*, i. pt. ii. p. 83). In December 1894 one was shot in Ramsey Bay by Mr. Hines (according to Mr. Kermode). In February 1895 a fine specimen, killed off the south of the island, came into the possession of Mr. W. E. Taylor, Port Erin. This bird had the grey cheeks and chestnut neck of full plumage.

In October 1902 Mr. Adams received another from Derby haven, an immature specimen with striped head, but with traces of red on the neck.

Antrim, Down, and Donegal have between them three recorded occurrences; nor has it been more numerously

obtained on other coasts of the Irish Sea. It has been reported from Orkney and Shetland, but not from the Outer Hebrides. It is most common on the eastern coasts of Britain.

PODICEPS AURITUS (Linn.). SCLAVONIAN
GREBE.

In the winter of 1893 a specimen of this Grebe was taken off Langness in a trammel net, and is now owned by Mr. James Brearley, of Douglas. It is in lustrous dark and white plumage, bearing no trace of the curious head adornments of the nuptial dress (*Zool.*, 1894, p. 64).

This is regarded as the commonest non-breeding Grebe on the Irish coast; and Belfast Lough has a number of records, yet round the Irish Sea generally it is only scarce. It appears on migration, in some places not uncommonly, among the outer Scottish islands, and has been supposed to breed. It is rarer on the western than on the eastern coasts of England.

PODICEPS NIGRICOLLIS (C. L. Brehm).
EARED GREBE.

Mr. Kermodé has the only known Manx specimen, shot at the 'Dog Mills' Bride, on 22nd September 1879 (*Y. L. M.*, iii. 342). This is a rather early date for the species.

A very few specimens have been obtained in Down and Antrim, Galloway, Cumberland, and Lancashire. One is on record for Orkney, and one for South Uist. It has principally been obtained on the eastern and southern coasts of England.

TACHYBAPTES FLUVIATILIS (Tunstall).

LITTLE GREBE.

This bird was first noticed as a Manx resident by Mr. J. C. Crellin, who observed it breeding on the Lough at Bishop's Court (*Y. L. M.*, pt. i. p. 377; ii. pp. 71, 203). I have since found it nesting in the Curragh at Ballaugh, and on a pond in the same parish. Mr. Adams tells me that he has often seen it on a small artificial piece of water near Douglas, but it is not known whether it breeds there, and Mr. Leach has also observed it on the mill-dam at Tromode. I have seen a nest in a singularly dry situation, on a clump of rushes at the edge of a pond, but quite away from the water; but possibly the pool had somewhat shrunk after it was built. Other nests, however, were floating in knee-deep water full of bog bean and other vegetation. One examined on 7th June 1900 was formed chiefly of moss, with a substructure of dead rushes. Eggs are usually laid in April, but I have seen a set nearly fresh on 24th May; and on 22nd May 1904 Mr. F. S. Graves found a nest with three fresh eggs, while the young of the first brood were close to the nest and nearly full grown. In winter the species occurs more widely, and is found on salt water as well as fresh. I have one which was killed on the sea at Derby haven, and Captain Wales of Laxey obtained a specimen from a tide-pool in the harbour of that place, which attempted to escape only by diving.

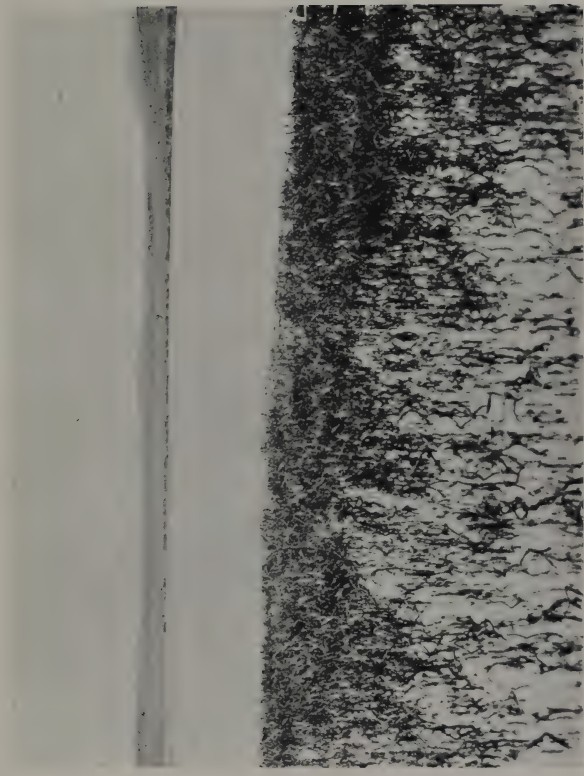
Mr. Crellin tells me that some years ago a Little Grebe was caught at Bishop's Court on the highroad, a strange place to find this species.

Mr. Graves adds the following note on the species:—

'A Little Grebe which I caught last year (1902) did not show the slightest alarm when handled, nor attempt to fly

when placed on the palm of my hand. It pecked viciously at my other hand when I attempted to touch it. When placed on the ground it ran rapidly for a distance of forty yards without being able to rise from the ground, although it freely used its wings. I brought the bird home and kept it until the next day, and had a good opportunity of watching its habits. When sitting on a flat surface its legs were placed quite flat on the ground, pointing outwards, but when it ran, as it could do rapidly, it used the two end joints of the toes, the legs then being bent and the body being inclined forward in an upright and awkward position; when checked it would at once settle down and defend itself with its beak. When placed in the water its movements were different and beautiful. It dived and swam with outstretched neck, the legs being worked together in even beats; the wings were not used to aid it. On coming to the surface the body at first was much submerged, but it would soon raise itself by treading water, and, after fluttering its wings and shaking its feathers, would settle buoyantly on the water and preen its feathers, which it was always careful to arrange after coming to the surface. When swimming on the water its legs were moved alternately in an outward direction, and were kept low in the water. It could check itself when swimming on the surface with great suddenness. When I gave it some small live fish, it caught them in the water, then after repeatedly wetting and squeezing them in its bill would swallow them. It also ate a few spiders, always treating them in the same way. After swallowing any food it carefully rinsed its bill. When preening its feathers while on the ground, an operation it was evidently not used to, it had difficulty in retaining its balance.

‘On the Curragh I have seen them dive, when alarmed, with a clumsy splash.’



J. Kenley,

NESTING PLACE OF LITTLE GREBE.

(The Lough, Bishop's Court.)

Photo.

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The Little Grebe is common over Ireland, but in Gallo-way is either rare or overlooked. As a breeding bird it is not frequent in north-western England, but more common and widely distributed in winter. It is common, Mr. Oldham tells me, in Anglesea. It nests in Orkney, but is not positively known to do so in Shetland or the Outer Hebrides. It is generally rarer in Scotland and northern England.

ALCA TORDA, Linn. RAZORBILL.

DUCKER, DIVER, SPRECKLED BIRD, CHANNEL. Manx, *Coltrag*, *Galtrag* (M. S. D.); *Coltrag* (Cr.); *Coltragh* (Kermode); **Kione-ureck*=pied head (J. R. Moore). (Cf. Sc. Gaelic, *Coltrachan*=Puffin.)

A century ago Feltham remarked on the abundance of this species at the Calf, and fifty years later Train, writing of the effects of the 'memorable tempest of the 6th and 7th January 1839,' relates that thousands of sea-birds were found dead on the beach, chiefly about Spanish Head, and that among these the *Alca torda*, or Razorbill, were very numerous. Among the birds wrecked by winter storms on our shores it still preponderates.

Except at their breeding season and breeding place, Razorbills are not much seen near the shore, though now and again single birds or small parties make their appearance. Except on the immediate nesting cliff they rarely land; yet I have in a few instances seen them seated on low rocks by the tide-edge.

The broken and creviced cliffs of our island are better suited to their breeding habits than to those of the Guillemot, and they are, if not more abundant, more widely distributed.

As far as I have observed, the Razorbill does not now breed on the east coast, though Mr. Kermodé says he has found one or two nesting at Maughold Head and Laxey. On the west it does so in a number of localities. The most northern of these is the precipitous Peel Hill, where it is scarce, and a few are also found on Gob ny Chassan (an interesting little station, which at low water it is possible to walk underneath, a rare thing with this species), and a few other spots north of Glenmay. At Stroin Vuigh there is a small colony on craggy ledges facing south; and in pairs, or greater numbers, it is found past the Slock towards Fleshwick, and again on Bradda, where it mixes with Guillemots at Amulty. There appear to be a very few between Port Erin and the Calf Sound, where scarcely any other sea-birds nest. But its headquarters are on the south-western precipices, facing the Calf, and on that islet itself, where, though much less abundant than the Guillemot, it nests plentifully on the western cliffs, on the Stack, and at Kione Roauyr, overlooking the Sound. In the south it is well known by the name of 'Speckled Bird,' likely a translation of the Manx *Ushag-vreck*, 'Pied Bird,' a very suitable name.

The Razorbills rarely crowd at these stations, and never to the same extent as the neighbouring Guillemots. Their egg is generally placed in a crevice, where the bird crouches often partly out of sight, but this is not at all invariably the case; at Stroin Vuigh, in 1901, several were laid on the open earthy surface of a broad shelf, partly overgrown with luxuriant sea-feverfew, where they were much soiled by their surroundings. Mr. Graves tells me that in the Peel neighbourhood he has frequently, during the season of 1904, noticed one or two old birds, followed by a young one clamouring for food, and following them in their dives.

On 30th March 1887 Razorbills were reported in great numbers at the Chickens 'about a fortnight earlier than



G. B. Cowen, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

BRADDA HILL.
(The Calf in the distance.)

Photo.

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last year.' Mr. Kermode says that the Razorbill appears in Ramsey Bay about 16th April; Mr. Graves has noted it at 'The Ladder' in pairs on 23rd March. It leaves its western breeding places about the end of July.

The Razorbill is usually a very silent bird, but utters occasionally, when disturbed, a low murmuring croak.

The Razorbill breeds on Lambay and Ireland's Eye, on the Gobbins and Rathlin, and on the Scar Rock and the Ross, Kirkcudbrightshire; on the English north-western coast only at St. Bees. It nests also on Bardsey, Orme's Head, and elsewhere in Carnarvonshire and Anglesea. It is a common summer resident in the Scottish isles. It is an Atlantic species, and breeds on most rocky shores of Britain.

LOMVIA TROILE (Linn.). COMMON
GUILLEMOT.

Manx, **Stronnag* (not in dictionaries), perhaps from *Stroin*=nose, in allusion to its pointed beak; or its derivative *Stron*, *Stronneraght*=snuffle, from the murmuring cry.

'About the rocks of the Calf,' as we are told by Bishop Wilson, 'an incredible number of all sorts of sea-fowl breed, shelter, and bask themselves in summer, and make a sight so agreeable, that Governor Chaloner was at the pains to have a sketch of one of these shelving rocks, with a vast variety of birds sitting upon it, taken and printed with his account of the isle.'

And Townley enthusiastically exclaims: 'There is such a mixed multitude of birds as no other spot in the universe can exhibit, for there are numbers so astonishingly great that I do not know how to liken them, but by scriptural

comparison, as the stars of the firmament, or the sand upon the sea-shore.'

The crowding sea-birds, which so moved to admiration these worthies of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, belonged mainly, it is probable, to this species and the Puffin, which are still very abundant upon the Calf, to which, and the high cliffs of the adjacent end of the main island, the Common Guillemot is almost restricted, the Isle of Man in general lacking the sheer ledged walls of precipice which it prefers. A few have been seen, presumably breeding, on the Peel Hill cliffs; on Stroin Vuigh there was in 1894 a small colony mixed with Razorbills, but in 1899 I observed here very few Guillemots, and since 1900 Razorbills only. Some one hundred and fifty birds nest in a picturesque cavernous situation on Bradda, a little way from Fleshwick, and a little further west on the same headland a few inhabit a very lofty and sheer face of rock. On the Calf they are abundant, both on the east and west, the precipices under the lighthouses and the opposite Stack holding a great many on their perpendicular sides, somewhat mixed on the main islet with the Kittiwake colony. ('On the west side of the Calf,' says Feltham (1798), 'the rocks are steep; the quantity of birds called muirs, etc., incredible.') About the Sugar Loaf, on the high cliff nearly under the 'Chasms,' they are also numerous, and easily observed from a salient point close to the enclosure. There is another station under Cronk Moar, a little west of Spanish Head.

All the year round the Guillemot is found at a little distance to sea, and like the Razorbill, a few may frequently be observed near the coast.

It arrives and leaves the stations almost at the same time as the Razorbill. Mr. Kermode relates that about 1869 as many as seven hundred were found dead on



F. Isant.

THE SUGAR LOAF.
(And ledges occupied by Guillemots.)

Photo.

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Douglas shore. Like the Razorbill, but in less numbers, it is often cast ashore upon our coasts.

Mr. Kermodé, in *Y. L. M.*, iii. 543, describes his experiences with a captive specimen, which was readily tamed, and after being set free returned voluntarily to its master.

The Guillemot breeds at Lambay and Rathlin, at the Scar, the Ross, and St. Bees, and at various points in Carnarvonshire and Anglesea. Outside the breeding season it is met with in the Irish Sea in a somewhat irregular degree of abundance, the greater portion of the summer birds being supposed to move southward in the coldest weather. It breeds abundantly on the northern and western isles of Scotland, as in most suitable localities along the British coasts.

URIA GRYLLE (Linn.). BLACK GUILLEMOT.

SEA PIGEON (so named also in Ireland and on the North American sea-coast).

Dr. Crellin reported this species to Mr. A. G. More as breeding in small numbers in the Isle of Man. 'I have ascertained,' he writes on 19th July 1862, 'that the Black Guillemot breeds here, though not in large numbers like the common bird of that name. . . . I saw only five birds, two pairs and an odd one, which latter I killed after taking some trouble.' It had previously been observed here by Sir W. Jardine, who had 'no doubt that it was at the time breeding,' and notices of its residence here have since found their way into most standard works.

The assertion sometimes made of a decrease in numbers of this pretty and interesting sea-bird, it would, perhaps, be difficult to substantiate. In the localities with which I am

best acquainted I am inclined to believe that it is rather more than less numerous as compared with twenty years ago.

On the west there are some four or five nesting localities, some of them very near together; and small parties inhabit, or recently inhabited, at least two spots on the east. Mr. W. S. Baily observed birds in the Calf Sound, on whose shore none have been found breeding, and it is quite likely that some small colonies have been overlooked, as the birds keep very close to their stations, and often swim right under the steep rocks. They mix little with other sea-birds, and do not place their nests amid the great congregations of allied species which are to be found in the same neighbourhoods. Their haunts are often cavernous places in a broken coast. The largest settlement, which numbers some twenty pairs, is in holes under the top of a low but steep cliff, with deep water beneath it. Here the eggs are laid in holes and crevices in the loosened rock. One or two pairs nest almost on the top of the cliff, some sixty feet above the sea, in holes in the grassy cap; one of these, which is tenanted yearly, has two entrances, and may originally have been made by a rabbit. A few pairs nest rather away from the main colony, round a rocky head, in crevices below the overhanging edge at the top of a steeply sloping bed of rock.

A little further on is a very small group, located on either side of a cavernous gully, in holes and crevices of the hard rock.

In another case the birds nest among the fallen boulders of a recess at the foot of a precipice, only some few yards above high tide, and almost inaccessible from the land. This is probably a new colony.¹ In another locality I have seen a nesting hole low down on the cliff at the seaward end of a long gully, the entrance very open to view and not

¹ Details about these stations mainly from Mr. Graves.



F. S. Graves.

NESTING PLACE OF BLACK GUILLEMOT.

(Among the fallen stones under the cliff in the foreground. On the precipice itself breed the Peregrine Falcon, Herring Gull, Shag, and Jackdaw, and just round its corner the Raven.)

Photo.



F. S. Graves.

EGGS OF BLACK GUILLEMOT IN NESTING HOLE.

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overhanging the sea. The same holes are resorted to regularly year after year.

As early as February I have observed the birds on the water outside the station, and heard their dreary whining cry—a curious sound, which is not, however, frequently uttered.

On 20th May 1901 Mr. Graves saw twelve birds evidently pairing. Two or three birds which he took to be males would in an animated way chase another (presumably a female); suddenly all would dive and the pursuit be continued beneath the water, the white wing patch and red feet being then very noticeable. The wings, as well as the feet, were used in swimming beneath the water. Some birds had then paired, and they were in couples close together, and the male jealously kept off any intruder.

They scarcely, however, begin to lay before the end of May (Mr. Graves gives 25th May, when he found two fresh eggs, as his earliest date).

The Black Guillemot is far from well known about the localities it frequents, but has attracted the attention of the coast fishermen, who call it Sea Pigeon; and one little colony had acquired the quaint name of 'Sam's Hens,' or 'Sam's Chickens,' from a man whose cottage was near their breeding haunt.

As above mentioned, the species is seldom seen in summer even at a short distance from the station, but after disappearing thence it scatters over the sea, and now and again specimens in the very dissimilar winter plumage are procured along the coast. In September 1890 a young individual attracted much notice among boatmen at Douglas, frequenting for about a week the sea under the promenade, nearly opposite the Granville Hotel, attaching itself to the spot with a curious persistence, swimming and diving with amusing fearlessness among the pleasure-boats kept for hire,

and though often chased, always saving itself by its skill in diving, which it did so incessantly that it spent more time below than above the surface. While moving through the clear green element its white wing spots were very conspicuous; it uttered at times its weak piping cry. Strangely enough, in September 1891, the same or another appeared at precisely the same place.

The Black Guillemot breeds at various places on the east coast of Ireland, as Bray Head, Lambay, and some localities in Antrim. It has been seen at the Scar, where also it perhaps nests, but is a very rare visitor to the English side of the Irish Sea. As the Tystie it is a well-known inhabitant of Shetland, and is abundant in suitable localities in Orkney and the Hebrides. The species does not breed in England, nor, now at least, in Wales, and perhaps not on the east coast of Scotland.

MERGULUS ALLE (Linn.). LITTLE AUK.

The Little Auk is a rare straggler to the Isle of Man, mostly, no doubt, the victim of winter storms. Mr. Kermodé says, without giving further data, that it has 'been taken rarely at Douglas, Ramsey, and Castletown, between August and the end of January.' The former month would be an unusually early date for this species. Perhaps there has in some instances been confusion with young specimens of the Puffin. There is, however, a Little Auk in the Orrisdale collection; Mr. Crellin mentions (*Y. L. M.*, ii. 203) a specimen washed up dead in Peel Bay in December 1893; and Mr. H. S. Clarke has one which was taken on 22nd March 1901 (an unusually late date) in Douglas Harbour (both also recorded by Mr. Kermodé). The latter is a

mature specimen, in winter plumage. A similar bird is in possession of Mrs. T. H. Kinvig, of Castletown.

Mr. Ussher notes seven specimens from Antrim and three from Down. It has occurred very rarely in Galloway, Cumberland, and Lancashire, sometimes even a considerable distance inland. About the northern isles of Scotland it is a much more common winter visitor, but is rare in the Outer Hebrides. It is an Arctic species, and decidedly most frequent on the east coasts of Scotland and England.

FRATERCULA ARCTICA (Linn.). PUFFIN.

PARROT, SEA PARROT. Manx, *Pibbin* (Cr.); *Poltrag* (Kermode).

The Puffin is in summer very numerous on the Calf, where a century ago it was noted by Townley and Feltham. The former found them used as food on the Calf. 'We got,' he says, 'a second refreshment from our stores, to which was added, by the very civil old lady, a dish of cold parrots, with an assurance from her that they were excellent food, and that they afforded a broth, or soup (*sic*), that was uncommonly good and nourishing. I tasted one of the birds, and found it savoury, not ungrateful to the palate, and was therefore induced to purchase the new-taken ones, in order to try their excellency in the article of broth, or soup, which was so highly commended by the old lady.'

There is much ground on the islet suited to its breeding habits. Above, and sometimes alternating with the sheerer cliff, are steep slopes of soil covered with a rich growth of scurvy-grass, sea-campion, and sea-feverfew, and sometimes, as on much of the north-west of the Calf, mixed with fallen debris of stone and great earth-fast boulders, amidst which the nesting holes are inaccessible. On the east side, about

Kione Roauyr, however, they are perhaps most numerous, and in the season the agitated tideways of the Sound are dotted with their swarming multitudes. They are here very tame, and sit on the grassy burrowed verge of the brows within a few yards of the spectator. About Spanish Head, just opposite, they also nest in smaller numbers, and Mr. Graves in 1896 noticed a large colony among the fallen stones at the bottom of the cliff at the Chasms; and these are the only mainland stations where at least they are at all plentiful, though I have been told of a few on Bradda and on Peel Hill in the breeding season, and residents in Maughold think that a few, formerly at least, bred there.

In winter the Puffin becomes extremely scarce, but we probably have a few off our coast at all seasons. They are reported at the Chickens in large numbers, with Razorbills, on 30th March 1887.¹

The Puffin breeds on Lambay, its only nesting place on the east of Ireland, and in vast abundance on Rathlin. It is not known to breed on the Galloway coast, though it possibly does so on the Scar. On the English side of the Irish Sea it does not breed, and is chiefly known from storm-driven specimens. There is a large colony on St. Tudwal's, and it nests in numbers on Priestholm and near the South Stack lighthouse, Holyhead. Its enormous colonies among the Scottish isles are well known. There are few stations on the south and east coasts of England, but many in western Ireland, Wales, and Scotland.

¹ Among a set of 'unpublished sketches in the British Museum, supposed to date from the middle of the 17th century,' and of which there are copies in the Manx Museum at Castletown (a large number of them being views of Castle Rushen), are two of birds. One of these apparently represents a Puffin. The yellow beak, very long, is crossed by red bands, and the black head has a white spot before the eye, something after the fashion of that on the Great Auk. This picture has the legend, 'These kind of Birds are about the Isle of Man.' The other, 'A Landskip with Gaunts,' shows two Gannets, pretty well drawn, on a crag, and it is added, 'being birds that mount like faulcons i' th' aire, and when they see their Prey strike into the water.'

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THE SEA-GULL PRESERVATION ACT, 1867.*

ISLE OF MAN, TO WIT.

An Act to Prevent the Destruction of Sea-Gulls.

Preamble.

WHEREAS during several years past the birds commonly designated gulls or sea-gulls, which formerly abounded on the coasts of this Island, have become very scarce by reason of the extensive destruction of them by persons seeking their plumage: And whereas it appears, by evidence taken before a Committee of the Tynwald Court, that the said birds are considered of great importance to persons engaged in the herring fishing, inasmuch as they indicate the localities where bodies of fish may be: And also that they are of much use for sanitary purposes, by reason that they remove the offal of fish from the harbours and shores: And it is deemed advisable to prevent the destruction of the said birds. We, therefore, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, Deemsters, and Keys of the said Isle, do humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lieut.-Governor, Council, Deemsters, and Keys, in Tynwald assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows (that is to say) :—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as 'The Sea-Gull Preservation Act, 1867.'

Construction of Act.

2. In the construction of this Act the word 'Gull' shall include the black-headed gull, the common gull or seamew, the herring gull, the kittiwake, skua gull, and every other species of gull or sea-gull, by whatever name it may be distinguished; and shall also include the gannet or solan goose, the shag¹ and the guilimot,†

* [The *numbered* notes to these Acts are those of the editor of the official volumes of the Manx Statutes.]

¹ Repealed as to the 'shag or cormorant' by the Salmon and Fresh Water Fishery Act, 1882, sec. 48.

† *Sic.*

and it shall be sufficient in a prosecution under this Act to prove with respect to the nature of the bird, that it is commonly known in this Island by any of the foregoing designations.

3. Any person who within this Island or within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court¹ of this Island, shall wilfully kill or destroy any gull, or shall take from the nest an egg of any gull, or shall wilfully break, spoil, or destroy an egg of any gull in the nest, shall for each offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

Gulls and eggs of gulls not to be destroyed.

4. Any person who shall have in his possession any dead gull, or any undressed plumage having the appearance of being recently stripped from any gull, or an egg of any gull, shall be deemed to have killed or taken such gull or egg as aforesaid, unless he shall prove the contrary.

Evidence.

5. Every penalty or forfeiture payable under this Act shall be proceeded for and recoverable as in the case of summary proceedings taken under the Petty Sessions Act, 1864,² and at the suit or instance of any harbour-master, constable, or any other person, before a High Bailiff or a Justice of the Peace, anything in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Recovery of penalties.

6. One moiety of every penalty recovered under this Act shall be paid to the informer. Provided always, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, in his discretion, to remit, mitigate, or suspend the payment of such penalty.

Moiety of penalty to informer.

Royal Assent dated 29th February 1868.

Promulgated 6th July 1868.

¹ See the Isle of Man Judicature Act, by which jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty is transferred to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man.

² See the Petty Sessions Act, 1864.

THE GAME ACT, 1882

ISLE OF MAN, TO WIT.

*An Act to amend the Laws relating to Game in the Isle of Man and for other Purposes.*¹

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, etc., as follows (that is to say):—

PRELIMINARY.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Short title. | 1. This Act may be cited as 'The Game Act, 1882.' |
| Definitions. | 2. In this Act, unless repugnant to the context,— |
| 'Game.' | The word 'game' includes pheasants, partridges, woodcocks, snipe, landrail, watterrail, quail, plover, lapwing, wild ducks, widgeon, teal, wild geese, grouse, moorfowl, heath-fowl, black game, and also hares : |
| 'Vermin.' | The word 'vermin' shall mean rats, stoats, weasles, and wild cats : |
| 'Game dog.' | The expression 'game dog' shall mean a greyhound, pointer, setter, spaniel, or mongrel-bred dog of any of such species ; also, a lurcher, bull-dog, and bloodhound ; and also, any dog made use of for the purpose of coursing and shooting : and the expression 'common dog' shall mean any other description of dog : |
| 'Common dog.' | |
| 'Coursing.' | 'Coursing' shall mean coursing with greyhounds : |
| 'Gun.' | The word 'gun' includes a firearm of any description, and an air-gun, and any other kind of gun from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged : |
| 'Justice.' | The word 'justice' means a justice of the peace, and includes a high-bailiff : |
| 'The Board.' | The expression 'the Board' means the Highway Board. |
| Repeal. | 3. The Acts mentioned in the first schedule hereto are repealed. |

¹ Amended by Highway Act, 1889. See notes on following pages.

PROTECTION OF GAME.

4. No person shall carry about a gun for the purpose of killing game, nor use any greyhound, hound, or other dog for the purpose of coursing, hunting, or otherwise endeavouring to capture, injure, or destroy any game, nor be in pursuit of game at any time unless he shall have obtained a licence to kill game, in this Act referred to as a 'game licence.'

No person to kill game without licence.

Any person acting in contravention of this section without such licence first had and obtained shall on conviction thereof before a deemster, high-bailiff, or two justices forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty.

5. Any person carrying a gun (except on a public highway) and having with him at the same time any dog, shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be in pursuit of game; but the term 'pursuit of game' shall not apply to the case of persons who without guns shall be following any pack of hounds or any greyhounds or other dogs which shall be in charge of and under the management of a person licensed to kill game, nor to any person in pursuit of rabbits or vermin on land in his own occupation, or on the lands of another with the previous written consent of the person entitled to give the same.

Persons having both dog and gun to be deemed to be in pursuit of game.

6. Where the landlord or lessor of any land has reserved to himself, or to himself, his heirs, and assigns, by any deed or writing, the exclusive right to the game on such land, then such persons respectively, for the purpose of prosecuting trespassers in pursuit of game on such land without the consent of such persons respectively, shall be deemed the legal occupiers of the said land; and any one who shall enter or be upon the said land in search of or in pursuit of game, without the consent of such persons respectively, shall be deemed a trespasser.

Landlord entitled to game on lands demised may prosecute trespassers.

7. Any owner or occupier of any lands, or any person authorized in writing to shoot or sport over any lands, whether exclusively or otherwise, may serve upon any other person a notice, either written or printed, or partly written or partly printed, against trespassing in pursuit of game upon such lands, such notice shall sufficiently specify the lands to which it is intended to refer, shall be duly dated, and shall be signed by the person giving the same, and if at any time during twelve months immediately following the service of such notice, the person upon whom it has been served

Trespass notices.

shall trespass upon the lands mentioned therein, or any part thereof, carrying a gun or using any greyhound, hound, or other dog for the purpose of coursing, hunting, or otherwise endeavouring to capture, injure, or destroy any game, or setting snares or nets capable of catching or destroying any game, or being otherwise in pursuit of game, such person shall for the first offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding two pounds, and in default of payment be imprisoned for a period not exceeding one month; and for every subsequent offence shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds nor less than two pounds, and in default of payment be imprisoned for any period not exceeding three months, nor less than one month, at the discretion of the Court before whom such person shall be convicted. Every such notice when served shall remain operative for twelve months from the date of service, and may be renewed from time to time as the same expires, by service of a fresh notice in lieu thereof. All prosecutions for penalties under this section shall be at the suit of any person by or on whose behalf any such notice shall have been given or served, and any penalty when recovered shall be paid to the person who shall sue for the same :

Provided always, that notwithstanding anything in this section contained, any such notice shall become inoperative upon the person by or on whose behalf such notice shall have been given or served ceasing to have the right to shoot or sport on the lands specified in such notice.

8. Any person who shall be found carrying a gun or using any greyhound, hound, or other dog for the purpose of coursing, hunting, or otherwise endeavouring to capture, injure, or destroy any game, or who shall be in pursuit of game on any lands, by the owner or occupier of such lands, or by any other person having the right of shooting or sporting over such lands, or by any person licensed to kill game, shall on demand produce a licence to him to kill game for inspection to any such person; and on refusal to produce the same, or to give his true name and surname and place of abode, within this Island, shall on conviction as aforesaid forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds nor less than one pound.

9. Any person who shall kill or take any game, or be in pursuit of game, or use any gun, dog, net, or other instrument for the purpose of taking any game on a Sunday or Christmas Day, or at any other time between the hours of eight o'clock in the evening

Any person on demand bound to produce game licence.

Hours and times within which it shall not be lawful to kill game.

and seven o'clock in the following morning ; or who shall kill or take any grouse, moorfowl, heathfowl, or black game between the first day of January and the twelfth day of August in any year, or any partridge, landrail, or quail between the first day of January and the twelfth day of September in any year, or any pheasant between the first day of January and the first day of October in any year, or any hare between the first day of February and the twelfth day of September in any year, or any woodcock, snipe, wild duck, widgeon, teal, wild goose, or plover between the first day of April and the twelfth day of September in any year, shall upon conviction as aforesaid forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding five pounds.

10. Any person who shall at any time put or cause to be put any poison or poisonous ingredient, or sow any poisoned seed, on or in any ground, whether open or enclosed, or on any highway or foreshore, so as the same may be accessible to and liable to cause injury or destruction to any game or any bird whatsoever, shall upon conviction as aforesaid forfeit and pay a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty for laying poison or sowing poisoned seed to kill game or birds.

11. Any person who shall take the eggs of any game, or wilfully destroy the same ; or trace or course any hare in the snow ; or take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy any hare with any gin, net, hair pipes, or unlawful instrument ; or wilfully kill any hare in its seat or form, shall on conviction as aforesaid forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

Unlawful to destroy eggs or trace hare in snow.

12. It shall be lawful for any constable or peace-officer, in any highway, street, or public place, or on any private grounds (provided such constable or peace-officer has authority from the owner or occupier of the same), to search any person whom he may have good cause to suspect of coming from or being upon any land where he shall have been unlawfully in search or pursuit of game ; or any person aiding or abetting such person and having in his possession any game unlawfully obtained, or any gun, part of gun, or nets or engines used for the killing or taking game ; and also to stop and search any cart or other conveyance in or upon which such constable or peace-officer shall have good cause to suspect that any such game or any such article or thing is being carried by any such person ; and should there be found any game, or such article or thing as aforesaid, upon such person, cart, or other conveyance, to seize and detain such game, article, or thing ; and such

Power to constables to search persons without warrant in certain cases.

constable or peace-officer shall, in such case, apply to some justice for a summons citing such person to appear before a high-bailiff or two justices; and if such high-bailiff or justices shall be satisfied that such person shall have obtained such game by unlawfully going on any land in search or pursuit of game, or shall have used any such article or thing as aforesaid for unlawfully killing or taking game, or shall have been accessory thereto, or if such person have in his possession any net, spring, trap, or wire for unlawfully killing or taking game, such person shall, on being convicted thereof, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding two pounds, and shall forfeit such game, guns, part of guns, nets, and engines, or other instruments as aforesaid, and the same shall be by the high-bailiff or justices before whom the case shall be heard be directed to be sold or destroyed; and no person who, by direction of a high-bailiff or justices, in writing, shall sell any game so seized shall be liable to any penalty for such sale; and if no conviction takes place the game or any such article or thing aforesaid, shall be restored to the person from whom it has been seized.

Power to search suspected premises.

13. Whenever it shall be made to appear on oath and in writing that there is reasonable cause to suspect that any net, hair pipe, trap, snare, or other thing used for the unlawful killing or taking game is concealed in any dwelling-house, outhouse, garden, yard, or other place or places, it shall be lawful for any justice to issue a search warrant for the discovery of such nets, hair pipes, traps, snares, or other things as aforesaid; and, if so found, the same shall be forfeited, and the person in whose possession the same shall be found shall forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds.

Pheasant and grouse may not be destroyed until 1885.

14. It shall not be lawful for any person whomsoever under any pretence, or at any season, to take, kill, or destroy, any pheasant, black game, moorfowl, heathfowl, or grouse until the prescribed time, namely until the first of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; and if any person in the meantime shall unlawfully take, kill, or destroy, or have in his or her possession (except for the purposes of breeding or preserving), any pheasant, black game, moorfowl, heathfowl, or grouse, or any pheasant, black game, moorfowl, heathfowl, or grouse which he cannot show has been imported as dead game into this Island, such persons so offending shall for every offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

15. Nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to the taking away or abridging any power or prerogative of Her Majesty, her heirs, or successors ; and further, that it shall be lawful, as heretofore, for the Governor for the time being to kill game subject to the provisions of this Act, and to grant in any one year to three persons game licences without payment of duty.

Prerogative of Her Majesty not interfered with by this Act.

Power to Governor to kill game and grant three licences yearly free of duty.

SALE OF GAME.

16. No person, not having a game licence, shall sell or offer for sale any game, unless such person shall have obtained a licence to deal in game (in this Act referred to as a 'game-dealing licence'), and no person having a game licence shall sell or offer for sale any game to any person other than a person having a game-dealing licence. Any person acting in contravention of this section shall forfeit and pay for every head of game so sold or offered for sale a sum not exceeding two pounds.

Persons dealing in game to be licensed.

17. A game-dealing licence may be granted to any person being a householder, or keeper of a shop or stall, but not to an inn-keeper, or person licensed to sell beer, wines, or spirits, by retail, nor to the owner, guard, or driver of any mail coach or car, or of any stage coach, stage waggon, van, or other public conveyance, nor to a carrier or higgler, nor to any person in the employment of any person to whom a game-dealing licence may not be lawfully granted. Any game-dealing licence held by any person to whom a game-dealing licence may not lawfully be granted shall be absolutely void.

Game-dealing licence.

The holder of a game-dealing licence shall be empowered thereby to buy game at any place from any person who may lawfully sell game, and also to sell game at one house, shop, or stall only kept by him.

18. Every person licensed to deal in game shall affix to some part of the outside of the front of his shop or stall, and shall keep there a board having in clear and legible characters thereon his name in full, together with the following words, that is to say, 'Licensed to deal in game.'

Name of dealer to be affixed outside his shop, etc.

19. Every person licensed to deal in game shall keep a book, in such form as the chairman of the Highway Board may from time to time direct, in which shall be fairly entered from day to day all game which he shall purchase from any person, and stating

Licensed dealers in game to keep a book, to be open for inspection.

the name, residence, and occupation of the person from whom such game was purchased, and the kind and numbers of such game, and which book shall be at all times open to the inspection of any chief-constable, inspector or sergeant of police (one of whom shall at least once a week inspect such book), or any person holding a game licence and who, upon production of his licence, may require to inspect the same; and if such person so licensed to sell game shall buy any game from any person in this Island without making such entry on the day of such purchase, or shall fail to make entry in such book of all game imported by him for sale not later than the day after such importation, or shall make any false or fictitious entry therein, or shall, on request, refuse to show the said book to any chief-constable, inspector or sergeant of police, or person holding a game licence, every such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum of money not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty for buying game from persons other than licensed dealers.

20. If any person not being licensed to deal in game shall buy any game from any person whatsoever, except from a person licensed to deal in game, or *bonâ fide* from a person affixing to the outside of the front of his house, shop, or stall, a board purporting to be the board of a person licensed to deal in game, every such offender shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay for every head of game so bought a sum of money not exceeding five pounds.

Penalty on licensed dealers buying game from persons not having game licence or certificate or otherwise offending.

21. If any person being licensed to deal in game shall buy or obtain any game from any person not authorised to sell game for want of a game licence, or for want of a licence to deal in game, or if any person being licensed to deal in game shall sell or offer for sale any game at his house, shop, or stall, without such board as aforesaid being affixed to some part of the outside of the front of such house, shop, or stall, at the time of such selling or offering for sale, or shall affix, or cause to be affixed, such board to more than one house, shop, or stall, or shall sell any game at any place other than his house, shop, or stall where such board shall have been affixed; or if any person not being licensed to deal in game shall assume or pretend, by affixing such board as aforesaid, or by exhibiting any licence, or by any other device or pretence, to be a person licensed to deal in game, every such offender being convicted thereof shall forfeit and pay a sum of money not exceeding five pounds: Provided always that the buying and selling of game

by any person employed on the behalf of any licensed dealer in game, and acting in the usual course of his employment, and upon the premises where such dealing is carried on, shall be deemed to be a lawful buying and selling in every case where the same would have been lawful if transacted by such licensed dealer himself: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any licensed dealer in game from selling any game which shall have been sent to him to be sold on account of any other licensed dealer in game: Provided also that it shall be lawful for any innkeeper or keeper of any refreshment-house, without any such licence for dealing in game as aforesaid, to sell game for consumption in his own house, such game having been procured from some person licensed to deal in game.

22. Any person licensed to deal in game who shall buy or sell, or knowingly have in his house, shop, stall, possession, or control any game after the expiration of ten days (one inclusive and the other exclusive) from the respective days in each year on which it shall become unlawful to kill or take such game respectively as aforesaid; or any person not being licensed to deal in game who shall buy or sell or offer for sale any game after the expiration of ten days (one inclusive and the other exclusive) from the respective days in each year on which it shall become unlawful to kill or take such game respectively as aforesaid, or who shall knowingly have in his house, possession, or control any game (except birds of game kept in a mew or breeding-place) after the expiration of fourteen days (one inclusive and the other exclusive) from the respective days in each year on which it shall become unlawful to kill or take such game respectively as aforesaid, shall, on conviction as aforesaid, forfeit and pay for every head of game so bought or sold, or found in his house, shop, possession, or control (unless imported, the proof whereof shall rest on the person in whose possession it may be found), a sum not exceeding one pound.

Possession of game illegal after 10 days in dealers, and 14 days in other persons, from expiration of season.

USE OF GUNS.

23. No person shall use or carry a gun elsewhere than in a dwelling-house or the curtilage thereof without having obtained a licence to use and carry a gun, in this Act referred to as a 'gun licence'; or otherwise than in accordance with the terms of such licence.

Penalty for using a gun without a licence.

Any person acting in contravention of this section shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds: Provided always, that the said penalty shall not be incurred by the following persons, namely:—

Exceptions,

- (1) By any person in the naval, military, or volunteer service of Her Majesty, or in the constabulary or other police force, using or carrying any gun in the performance of his duty, or when engaged in target practice:
- (2) By the Governor, or by any person having a game licence:
- (3) By any person carrying a gun belonging to a person having a game licence or a gun licence, and by order of such licensed person and for the use of such licensed person only, if the person carrying the gun shall, upon the request of any constable or owner or occupier of the land on which such gun shall be used or carried, give his true name and address, and also the true name and address of his employer:
- (4) By the occupier of any lands using or carrying a gun for the purpose only of scaring or killing birds other than game and birds protected by 'The Sea-Gull Preservation Act, 1867,' or of killing vermin or rabbits on such lands; or by any person using or carrying a gun for the purpose only of scaring birds other than game, or killing vermin on any lands by order of the occupier thereof:
- (5) By any gunsmith or his servant carrying a gun in the ordinary course of the trade of a gunsmith, or using a gun by way of testing or regulating its strength or quality in a place specially set apart for the purpose; or by any person carrying a gun to or from a gunsmith:
- (6) By any person carrying a gun in the ordinary course of his trade or business, or as a signal gun on board any vessel, or as a common carrier.*

In any suit or prosecution for the recovery of the penalty imposed by this section, it shall be sufficient to allege that the defendant used or carried a gun without having a licence in force

* A very short Act, passed in 1901, amends by adding here a clause (not necessary for the present purpose to quote) in favour of 'Rifle Clubs.'

under this Act, and it shall lie upon the defendant to prove that he is a person not incurring the penalty by virtue of the proviso contained in this section.

24. Where a gun is carried in parts by two or more persons in company, each and every one of such persons shall be deemed to carry the gun. Two or more persons carrying a gun in parts.

25. It shall be lawful for any officer of constabulary, or any constable, or parochial surveyor, or the owner or occupier of any lands on which any person using or carrying a gun shall be, or the authorized servant of any owner or occupier, or any person licensed to kill game or carry a gun to demand from any person using or carrying a gun (not being a person in the naval, military, or volunteer service of Her Majesty, or in the constabulary or other police force, using or carrying a gun in the performance of his duty) the production of a licence granted to such person under this Act. If the person upon whom the demand is made shall not produce a game licence or a gun licence duly granted to him under this Act, and permit the person demanding the production thereof to read such licence, it shall be lawful for him to require such person so using or carrying a gun to declare to him immediately his true name and surname and place of residence; and if such person so using or carrying a gun shall refuse to declare his true name and surname and place of residence as aforesaid, he shall for such refusal forfeit a penalty not exceeding five pounds, over and above any other penalty to which he may be liable under this or any other Act of Tynwald; and, in the case of an officer or constable making such demand, it shall be lawful for such officer or constable to arrest such person so refusing, and to convey him before any high-bailiff or justice, to be dealt with according to the provisions of this Act. Licence to be produced on demand, or name and address declared.

26. It shall be lawful for any officer of constabulary or constable who may see any person using or carrying a gun to enter and remain so long as may be necessary upon any lands, or upon any premises (other than a dwelling-house or the curtilage thereof), for the purpose of making the demand specified in the preceding section. Authorized officers may enter upon lands.

Dogs.

27. No person shall keep a dog without having obtained a licence so to do, such licence being in this Act referred to as a 'dog licence.' No person to keep a dog without licence.

Any person acting in contravention of this section shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five pounds.

Every person in whose custody, charge, or possession, or in whose house or premises any dog shall be found or seen shall be deemed to be the person who shall keep such dog unless the contrary be proved; and the owner or master of hounds shall be deemed to be the person keeping the same.

Nothing in this section contained shall render a licence necessary in the case of a dog kept and used solely by a blind person for his or her guidance, or render such person liable to any penalty in respect of a dog so kept or used; nor in the case of a dog under the age of six months, the proof of which age shall, in case of a prosecution for a penalty, lie upon the defendant; nor in the case of a dog brought to and remaining in this Isle for a period of fourteen days only in any one year.

Licence not required for dog used for guidance of blind person.

Production of licences.

28. If any person who shall have taken out a dog licence shall not produce and deliver such licence to be examined and read by any surveyor-general or parochial surveyor of highways, or by any constable, or by any other person having a dog licence, within a reasonable time after any such officer or person shall request the production of the same, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding five pounds.

New licence not necessary for current year on transfer of dog by sale or gift.

(29. When any dog shall be transferred by sale or gift by its owner to any other person, it shall not be necessary for such person to take out a new licence for such dog if there shall be in force a licence for the same for the then current year, provided such person shall produce to a person authorized to issue dog licences such licence, and procure to be made an endorsement thereon that the person to whom such dog described in the licence had been sold or given is then the owner thereof, which endorsement shall be made without any fee being payable therefor.)¹

LICENCES AND DUTIES.²

Game and gun licences to be issued at offices of the Board.

30. Game licences, game-dealing licences, and gun licences shall be issued at the office of the Board, and shall be signed on behalf of the Board by their secretary. A register of each description of

¹ Repealed by the Highway Act, 1889.

² By the Highway Act, 1889, Section 40, the provisions of this Act as to licences are to be applicable throughout this Isle, and each parochial surveyor shall for any purpose connected with licences and duties be the parochial surveyor of any part of a town, village, or local government district within his parish.

such licences issued shall be kept at the office of the Board, in which register shall be entered the date of issue and the name, description, and place of residence of the person licensed. The register shall be *prima facie* evidence of the matters stated therein.

Register to be kept.

Every person applying for any of such licences shall deliver into the office of the Board, when so applying, in writing, his name in full, description, and place of residence.

31. Dog licences shall be issued at such convenient places throughout this Isle as may be appointed by the Board,¹ and shall be signed on behalf of the Board by their secretary, or by such person as may be authorized by the Board. Every officer authorized to issue dog licences shall keep a register of all licences issued, in which register shall be entered the date of issue, and the name, description, and place of residence of the person to whom such licence shall be issued. The register shall be *prima facie* evidence of the matters stated therein.

Dog licences to be issued at convenient places throughout this Isle.

Every person applying for a dog licence shall deliver to the person authorized to issue the same and to whom the application shall be made, in writing, his name in full, description, and place of residence, together with a description of the dog in respect of which the licence may be required, which last-mentioned description shall be set forth in the licence.

32. Each person who may be authorized to issue dog licences shall forward his register of licences to the Board, and furnish such copies thereof, and account for and pay to the Board the duties in respect of the licences issued, at such times as may be directed by the Board.

Person issuing dog licences to forward his register to the Board.

(33. The Board shall on or before the first day of March in each year cause to be published in two or more newspapers circulating in this Isle, and by affixing or posting up, on or near the door of every court-house and parish church within this Isle, a printed or written notice stating from whom dog licences can be obtained, and the said notice shall continue so affixed for a period including two consecutive Sundays at least next after the day on or before which the same is hereinbefore required to be published: Provided

The Board to publish notices each year stating from whom dog licences can be obtained.

¹ By the Highway Act, 1889, Section 39, dog licences to be issued only in district where owner of dog resides. By Section 36 of such Act, person keeping dogs to fill in return to be supplied by the Highway Board.

always that no proceeding of any kind, nor any act done by any person in pursuance of this Act, shall be deemed to be invalid or unlawful by reason of such notice not having been published, placed, or kept affixed as aforesaid.)¹

Duration of licence, etc.

34. Each licence under this Act shall be in force until the first day of April next after the date thereof.

Licences may be according to the forms in the second schedule hereto.

Registers of licences may be perused by surveyor of highways, constable, etc.

35. All registers of licences under this Act may be perused by any surveyor of highways or constable free of charge, and by any other person on payment to the person keeping the register of a fee of three pence, between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and six o'clock in the evening on every day except Sunday.

Licence duties.

36. The following duties shall be payable in respect of licences issued under this Act (that is to say):—

For a game licence	£3 3 0
For a game-dealing licence	0 10 0
For a licence to keep a game dog	1 1 0
For a licence to keep a common dog	0 5 0
For a gun licence	1 0 0

All such duties shall be paid to the Board, and shall be added to the Highway Fund.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Recovery of penalties.

37. All penalties under this Act the recovery of which is not otherwise provided for, shall be recovered summarily at the suit of any parochial surveyor, head or other constable, or any other person before a deemster, high-bailiff, or two justices.

All such penalties when recovered shall be applied, one-half to the informer, and the other half, together with the proceeds of the sale of any article forfeited and ordered to be sold under the provisions of this Act, shall be added to the Highway Fund.

Persons forging or fraudulently altering licences guilty of felony.

38. Whosoever shall forge or fraudulently alter, or shall utter, dispose of, or put off, knowing the same to be forged or fraudulently altered, any licence to be issued under this Act, or any

¹ Repealed by Highway Act, 1889. Other provisions as to dog licences made by such Act.

endorsement on any such licence to be made under this Act, shall be guilty of felony ; and on conviction such person shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to penal servitude for any term not exceeding ten years and not less than five years, or to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, and with or without solitary confinement, for any term not exceeding two years.

(39. Any person who may, under this Act, be authorized to issue licences shall for the purposes of 'The Highway Act, 1874,'¹ be deemed to be an officer employed by the Board.)

Persons issuing licences to be deemed officers of the Highway Board.

MISCELLANEOUS.

40. The Board shall, between the first and fifteenth days of May, the twelfth and thirtieth days of September, and the first and fifteenth days of December in each year, publish in two or more newspapers printed and circulated within this Isle alphabetical lists of the persons to whom licences under this Act may have been granted for the then current year, together with the places of residence of such persons ; and the Board shall from time to time forward to the head-constable the names of all persons licensed under this Act.

Publication of names of licensed persons.

41. All expenses connected with the printing of licences and the publication of the names of persons licensed shall be paid out of the Highway Fund.

Expenses to be paid out of Highway Fund.

42. Nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to authorize any person to enter or trespass upon any lands unless authorized by the owner or occupiers thereof.

Trespass on lands.

43. Any licence granted under this Act to any person who shall be convicted of any offence under this Act shall on such conviction be absolutely null and void, if so ordered by the Court before whom such person may be convicted.

Licencee on conviction to forfeit licence.

44. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect any licence issued under the Acts repealed hereby ; but any such licence shall continue in full force for the period for which the same shall have been issued ; nor shall any person be required to take a dog licence before the twelfth day of May next after the promulgation of this Act in respect of any dog for which the dog duty for the year ending that day shall have been paid.

Repeal of Acts not to invalidate licences granted thereunder.

¹ Highway Act, 1874, repealed by Highway Act, 1889.

SCHEDULES.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE. (SEC. 3.)

ACTS REPEALED.

Date of Promulgation.	Title of Act.	Extent of Repeal
14th August, 1835.	An Act for the Better Preservation of Game.	The whole Act.
3rd March, 1874.	The Gun Licence Act, 1873.	The whole Act.
3rd March, 1874.	The Highway Act, 1874.	So much of section 2 as relates to the interpretation of the expressions 'game dog' and 'common dog'; and section 43, so far as it relates to the duties on dogs; and so much of sections 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 as relates to dogs.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE. (SEC. 34.)

FORM OF LICENCES.

No. 1.—*Game Licence.*

A.B., of [place of residence and description], is licensed to kill game until the 1st day of April next following the date hereof.

This licence is granted subject to the provisions contained in 'The Game Act, 1882.'

Given this day of
Licence number,

C.D.,
Secretary of the Highway Board.

No. 2.—Game-dealing Licence.

A.B., of [place of residence and description], being a householder (or keeper of a shop or stall, as the case may be), is licensed until the 1st day of April next following the date hereof, to buy game from any person authorized to sell game; and also to sell at his house (shop or stall) any game so bought, provided that the said A.B. shall affix to some part of the outside of the front of his house (shop or stall), and shall keep there, a board having thereon, in clear and legible characters, his true name and surname, together with the following words: 'Licensed to deal in game.'

This Licence is granted subject to the provisions contained in 'The Game Act, 1882.'

Given this day of
Licence number,

C.D.,
Secretary of the Highway Board.

No. 3.—Gun Licence.

A.B., of [place of residence and description], is licensed to use and carry a gun until the 1st day of April next following the date hereof, within the hours of six in the morning and nine in the evening.

N.B.—This Licence does not authorize the holder thereof to kill or sell game.

This Licence is granted subject to the provisions contained in 'The Game Act, 1882.'

Given this day of , 18 .
Licence number,

C.D.,
Secretary of the Highway Board.

No. 4.—Licence to keep a Game Dog.

A.B., of , in the town [or parish] of , is licensed to keep a dog [here insert the colour, breed, and other description] until the 12th day of May next.¹

¹ 'Until the 1st day of April next' substituted by Highway Acts of 1883 and 1889.

This Licence is granted subject to the provisions of 'The Game Act, 1882.'

Given this day of , 18 .

C.D.,

Secretary of the Highway Board.

[or *E.F.* (Person authorized by the Board).]

No. 5.—Licence to keep a Common Dog.

A.B., of , in the town [or parish] of , is licensed to keep a dog [here insert the colour, breed, and other description] until the 12th day of May next.¹

This Licence is granted subject to the provisions of 'The Game Act, 1882.'

Given this day of , 18 .

C.D.,

Secretary of the Highway Board.

[or *E.F.* (Person authorized by the Board).]

Royal Assent, dated 29th June 1882.

Promulgated, 5th July 1882.

¹ 'Until the 1st day of April next' substituted by Highway Acts of 1883 and 1889.

THE WILD BIRDS PROTECTION ACT, 1887.

ISLE OF MAN, TO WIT.

An Act to Prevent the Destruction of Wild Birds.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the protection of wild birds of the Isle of Man during the breeding season: We therefore, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, Deemsters, and Keys of the said Isle, do humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, Deemsters, and Keys, in Tynwald assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows (that is to say) :—

1. This Act may for all purposes be cited as 'The Wild Birds Short title. Protection Act, 1887.'

2. The words 'wild birds' shall for all purposes of this Act be Definition of terms. deemed to mean all wild birds.

3. Any person who between the first day of February and the first day of September in any year after the passing of this Act shall knowingly or wilfully shoot or attempt to shoot, or shall use any boat for the purpose of shooting or causing to be shot, any wild bird, or shall use any bird lime, trap, snare, or net, or other instrument for the purpose of taking any wild bird, or shall expose or offer for sale, or shall have in his control or possession after the fifteenth day of February any wild bird recently killed or taken, or shall use any net, bird lime, trap, snare, or lantern, for the purpose of taking or killing any wild bird at any time, shall, on conviction of any such offence before any high-bailiff or justice of the peace, in the case of any wild bird which is included in the schedule hereunto annexed, forfeit and pay for every such bird, in Penalty for shooting or taking wild birds.

respect of which an offence has been committed, a sum not exceeding one pound, in addition to the costs, or, in default of payment of such fine and costs, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding one month; and in the case of any other wild bird, shall, on conviction as aforesaid, forfeit and pay for any such wild bird, in respect of which an offence has been committed, a sum not exceeding five shillings, or, in default of payment of such fine and costs, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding ten days.

Exemption from penalties in certain cases.

4. A person shall not be liable to be convicted under the last preceding section of exposing or offering for sale, or having the control or possession of, any wild bird recently killed, if he satisfies the Court before whom he is charged, that the killing of such wild bird was lawful at the time when, and by the person by whom, it was killed, or that the wild bird was killed in some place to which this Act does not extend, and the fact that the wild bird was imported from some place to which this Act does not extend, shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that the bird was killed in some place to which this Act does not extend.

Section 3 not to apply to person authorized to kill wild birds except those in the schedule.

5. Section three shall not apply to any bird not included in the schedule hereto annexed, killed or taken by the owner or occupier of any land, on such land, or by any person authorized by such owner or occupier.

Penalty for taking or destroying eggs or nests.

6. Any person who shall, between the first day of February and the first day of September in any year, take or wilfully destroy on such land the eggs or nests of any wild bird, shall, on conviction before any high bailiff or justice of the peace, for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding five shillings, or, in default of payment of such fine and costs, if costs be awarded, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding ten days; but the provisions of this section shall not apply to the case of any eggs or nests of any birds, other than those included in the schedule hereto annexed, taken or destroyed by or under the authority, or with the consent, of the owner or occupier of the land on which the eggs or nests may be.

Penalty for refusing to give name and place of abode.

7. Where any person shall be found offending against this Act, it shall be lawful for any person to require the person so offending to give his Christian name, surname, and place of abode; and in case the person so offending shall, after being so required, refuse

to give his real name or place of abode, or give an untrue name or place of abode, he shall be liable, on being convicted for any such offence, to forfeit and pay, in addition to the penalty imposed by section three, a sum not exceeding ten shillings, or, in default of payment of such fine and costs, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding ten days.

8. All offences mentioned in this Act which shall be committed within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty shall be deemed to be offences of the same nature, and liable to the same punishments, as if they had been committed upon any land in this Isle, and may be dealt with, inquired of, tried, and determined in such place in the said Isle in which the offender shall be apprehended, or be in custody, or summoned, in the same manner in all respects as if such offences had been actually committed in that place; and in any information or conviction for any such offence, the offence may be averred to have been committed 'on the high seas.'

As to trial of offences committed within the Admiralty jurisdiction.

9. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to affect in any wise the unrepealed provisions of 'The Sea-Gull Preservation Act, 1867,' and of 'The Game Act, 1882,' or of section 48 of 'The Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Act, 1882.'

This Act not to affect provisions in 'Sea-Gull Preservation Act,' 'Game Act,' etc.

10. All penalties under this Act shall be payable to the Crown, and may be sued for and recovered in the name of any person who may proceed for the recovery thereof.

Recovery of penalties.

SCHEDULE.*

Names of Birds.	Synonyms and Local Names.
American Quail, .	Colin.
Auk,	Marrot, Murre, Razorbill, Scout.
Avocet.	
Bee-eater.	
Bittern,	Miredrum.
Cornish Chough, .	Red-legged Crow.
Cuckoo.	
Curlew,	Whaup, Whimbrel.
Diver,	Loon.
Dunlin,	Oxbird, Ploverspage, Purre, Stint.
Goatsucker, . .	Fern Owl, Night-hawk, Night-jar.
Godwit.	
Goldfinch.	
Grebe.	
Hoopoe.	
Kingfisher.	
Lark.	
Merganser, . . .	Smew.
Nightingale.	
Oriole.	
Owl.	
Petrel,	Fulmar, Shearwater.
Phalarope.	
Dotterel,	Sealark, Stonehatch, Oyster-catcher, Thick-knee.
Pochard,	Dunbird.
Puffin,	Coulterneb, Marrot, Sea-parrot, Willock.
Reeve,	Ruff.
Robin.	
Roller.	
Sand-piper, . . .	Summer Snipe, Greenshank, Redshank.
Spoonbill.	
Tern,	Sea-swallow.
Eider Duck, . .	Shelldrake, Shoveller.
Wren.	
Woodpecker.	

Royal Assent, dated 15th September 1887.

Promulgated, 27th March 1888.

* The strange confusion of names in this schedule will readily be observed.

ADDENDA.

PASSER MONTANUS. TREE SPARROW.

IN 1905 Mr. Leach observed Tree Sparrows at Oakhill, near Port Soderick. In the spring of the same year I found a small colony at the Scarlett limestone quarries, and during the summer Mr. Graves and I noted the species in quite a number of localities in the south of the island, as at the old limekilns at Billown (where it was doubtless breeding), in Castletown, at Strandhall and Mount Gawne; on the Calf, near the ruined buildings in the 'Glen,' and at Port Grenough, Santon (near Seafield, where Mr. Bacon had previously found it). There were only a few at each place. At Scarlett one nest (and likely more) was placed in the high wall which retains the quarry road, and is built up from rocky ledges on the shore, against which at high tide the sea washes; the nest at this time being directly over the water, about fifteen feet below.

It seems probable that further observation will show that the Tree Sparrow is dispersed over the entire island.

STURNUS VULGARIS. STARLING.

The following extract from the *Isle of Man Times* is perhaps sufficiently curious to justify insertion:—

RESOLUTE STARLINGS.—A PITY TO DISTURB THEM.

To the Editor.

We have at the brewery an escape steam-pipe, nine inches in diameter, leading from the copper through a wall to the open air. Every Monday this pipe is cleaned, before using it during the week to convey hot steam from the boiling copper. For the past three Mondays part of a starling's nest has been cleared out from it; the birds having been building from Friday in each week, which is the last day steam passes through it.

Yesterday evening when it was cleaned, a perfect starling's nest, with two eggs in, was removed. This the birds must have built and finished since Friday night. I was sorry to be obliged to interfere with the domestic arrangements of so industrious and determined a couple.

J. W. CLINCH.

LAKE BREWERY, DOUGLAS, *May 9th, 1905.*

P.S.—10th May 1905.—Hot steam passed through the pipe until four P.M. yesterday, but between daybreak and six A.M. to-day, another (5th) nest had been begun, and had to be removed.

PYRRHOCORAX GRACULUS. CHOUGH.

The interest attaching to the discovery of inland and artificial nesting-places of the Chough led me during the early summer of 1905 to visit the localities mentioned on page 90. At the former of these sites, remote from habitation, and with quite uncultivated surroundings, the 'wheel-case' is close to the stream, with parallel walls some twenty feet high, and now commencing to crumble at the top. The joist-holes inside are in two rows, one low down, the other about five feet beneath the summit. At one end the masonry abuts upon the hillside, so that it is possible to get upon the walls, and from the top of each to look into the cavities of that opposite. No birds were seen at this nest (20th May), but in a hole of the higher row was a nest well formed of sticks (apparently gorse) behind a small plant of male fern which grew at the opening. In another hole seemed to be some slight remains. The boy who guided us to the spot told us that he had in different seasons seen three nests in this building, the eggs on one occasion being easily discernible. Mr. James Kewley, who accompanied me, succeeded in obtaining (no easy matter, from the position in which the photographer had to work) the opposite picture, which shows the nesting-hole.

The second site is in one of the main glens of the island, a little dale of that character common to so many of our valleys, in which woods, pastures, and heathery wilds are pleasantly mingled. The case is close to the stream and a road, and is a larger structure than that just described. I had been told that the nest of this year was already destroyed in defiance of the law, and on arriving at the building (27th May), I found its lining of wool, hair, and



G. B. Covert, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

WHEEL-CASE IN WHICH CHOUGHS NEST.
(Second site, p. 314.)

Photo.

To face page 314.

moss lying on the ground within, while in a hole at the height of about fifteen feet the sticks of the structure (heather, gorse, and thorn, mostly slender) still remained, close to the mouth of the opening, which was not deep, and easily visible from beneath.

The late Mr. T. H. Kinvig, who had some experience of the nesting habits of the Chough, thought that an unusual number of its eggs were unfertile, an interesting observation in view of the decrease of the species.

LARUS CANUS. COMMON GULL.

Mr. J. J. Gill, of Ramsey, has kindly communicated to me that in June 1904 an egg, still unblown, was shown to him which he at once recognised as belonging to the species, and he learned that it had been taken on the Manx coast on the 23rd of that month, there being two others in the same nest. The reported finder does not now recollect having met with any eggs at this place smaller than those of the Herring Gull, which abounds there, and in May 1905 I failed to see any Common Gulls along these shores, which however seem very suitable for their residence, being comparatively low, with many of the small rocky irregularities amidst which this species likes to nest. The specimen egg is, without doubt, a Common Gull's; the date is very late, but this may perhaps be accounted for by the constant robbery (in spite of Acts of Tynwald) which takes place among the Gulls' nests on these easily accessible rocks.

LOMVIA TROILE. COMMON GUILLEMOT.

Among a large number of this species observed on the Calf in 1905, Mr. Graves and I could make out only one bird of the Ringed variety, and I have found no note of other Manx specimens, but this point deserves further attention. Of many eggs seen on the same islet, an immense majority was of a green colour.

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