





H-9







2  
824  
Smith  
4

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE DEVOTED  
CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS ON THE BRITISH LIST

EDITED BY

H. F. WITHERBY M.B.E. F.Z.S. M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN M.A. M.B.O.U.

AND

NORMAN F. TICEHURST M.A. F.R.C.S. M.B.O.U.

Volume XIII.

JUNE 1919—MAY 1920.



WITHERBY & CO.

326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON





## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
NEST AND EGGS OF THE BITTERN. ( <i>Photographed by Emma L. Turner</i> ) .. .. .	7
YOUNG BITTERNS "On the Defensive." ( <i>Photographed by Emma L. Turner</i> ) Plate I .. .. facing	8
NESTLING BITTERN about two days old. Eldest of three Hatched Out. ( <i>Photographed by Emma L. Turner</i> ) .. .. .	10
YOUNG BITTERNS 7-10 days old. ( <i>Photographed by Emma L. Turner</i> ) .. .. .	11
FRONTSPIECE OF THE ASHBURNHAM PAMPHLET ..	16
The Seventh Illustration of "AVIS PUGNAX" in Aldrovandus .. .. .	17
PIED WAGTAILS ( <i>Motacilla a. lugubris</i> ) and WHITE WAGTAILS ( <i>M. a. alba</i> ) in various plumages to show differences and similarities. Plate 2 facing	37
BARDSEY ISLAND. East Bay and Lighthouse Plateau. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) .. .. .	43
BARDSEY ISLAND. East Coast Cliffs. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) .. .. .	45
HERRING-GULLS following the Plough, Bardsey Island. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) .. .. .	49
The Late Dr. J. WIGLESWORTH .. .. .	53
MIGRATION ROUTES, Bardsey Island .. .. .	69
CARRION-CROW ( <i>Corvus c. corone</i> )—3 days old ..	78
SPARROW-HAWK: Preening. ( <i>Photographed by J. H. Owen</i> ) .. .. .	119
SPARROW-HAWK: Making the body into a sun-screen. ( <i>Photographed by J. H. Owen</i> ) .. .. .	121
SPARROW-HAWK: She turned her back to the sun, and, in turns, the young made use of her shadow. ( <i>Photographed by J. H. Owen</i> ) .. .. .	122
SPARROW-HAWK: The young panting and lying exhausted with necks outstretched. ( <i>Photographed by J. H. Owen</i> ) .. .. .	123
YOUNG BUZZARD takes a Shower Bath. ( <i>Photographed by T. Lewis</i> ) .. .. .	140
LONG-TAILED SKUA. ( <i>Photographed by O. G. Pike</i> )	143
BLACK-NECKED GREBE. ( <i>Photographed by O. G. Pike</i> ). The Nest uncovered .. .. .	148
Arriving at the Nest: Plate 3. Uncovering the Eggs: Plate 4. On the alert, watching for the	

	PAGE
Dabchick: Plate 5. Female on Nest, Dabchick arriving. She rapidly covered her eggs, then stood over them ready to receive the enemy: Plate 6. On the alert: Plate 7. Female sitting, male arriving: Plate 8. The change. Male on Nest, female leaving: Plate 9. Male resting: Plate 10	
<i>facings</i>	153
Migration of birds over the Mediterranean Sea. CHART AND DIAGRAMS . . . . .	173-6
NESTING HOLE OF THE MANX SHEARWATER. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) . . . . .	183
MANX SHEARWATER. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) . . . . .	184
BARDSEY ISLAND—North Face. Breeding Haunt of MANX SHEARWATER. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) . . . . .	185
HERRING-GULL. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> )	192
MERLIN: Locality "A." June 1st, 1913. Nest on summit of sand-hill in foreground. ( <i>Photographed by G. C. S. Ingram</i> ) . . . . .	203
MERLIN'S NEST and Five Eggs at "A." May 21st, 1916. ( <i>Photographed by G. C. S. Ingram</i> ) . . . . .	204
MERLIN'S NEST, Eggs and Young at "B." June 15th, 1919. ( <i>Photographed by G. C. S. Ingram</i> ) . . . . .	205
STORM-PETREL with Young about 3 days old. ( <i>Photographed by Mrs. Gordon</i> ) . . . . .	233
WEATHER CHART for Morning of October 29th, 1919 . . . . .	254
WEATHER CHART for Morning of October 30th, 1919 . . . . .	255
STRANGE NESTING-PLACE OF COAL-TIT . . . . .	273
KNOT on Nest, Cape Sheridan, Grinnell Land. ( <i>Photographed by the late Rear-Admiral R. E. Peary</i> ) . . . . .	279
BREEDING GROUND OF KNOT, Cape Sheridan, Mount Pullen in distance. ( <i>Photographed by the late Rear-Admiral R. E. Peary</i> ) . . . . .	280
NEST AND EGGS OF KNOT, Cape Sheridan. ( <i>Photographed by the late Rear-Admiral R. E. Peary</i> ) . . . . .	281
NEST OF COMMON GULL, Dungeness, Kent, June 9th, 1919. ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) . . . . .	303
COMMON GULL, Dungeness, Kent, June 11th, 1919. "She . . . shuffled down and sat." ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) . . . . .	304
COMMON GULL on the Nest, Dungeness, Kent, June 11th, 1919. "Panting with the heat." ( <i>Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst</i> ) . . . . .	305

Birds

# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

JUNE 2,  
1919.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 1.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

PART 3 READY JUNE 18th.

A  
**Practical Handbook**  
OF  
**British Birds**

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.  
EDITOR OF BRITISH BIRDS (MAG.).

*Authors of the Various Sections:*

ERNST HARTERT, Ph.D., M.B.O.U.

ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

AND THE EDITOR.

*Illustrated with  
Coloured Plates  
Half-tones  
and Numerous  
Text Figures.*



*Practical  
Original  
Up-to-date.*  
—  
Price 4s. net  
per part.

FULL PROSPECTUS AND COLOURED PLATE POST FREE.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, London.

IN EIGHTEEN PARTS

Part 2 ( - 64 PAGES - ) April 30th, 1919  
(Two Coloured Plates)

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGICAL

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.

TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

CONTENTS OF NUMBER I, Vol. XIII. JUNE 2, 1919.

	PAGE
Additions and Corrections to the <i>Hand-List of British Birds</i> . By the Authors .. .. .	2
The Bittern in the Norfolk Broads. By Emma L. Turner, F.L.S., H.M.B.O.U. (Plate 1) .. .. .	5
The Ruff—An Early Record. By W. H. Mullens, M.A., LL.M...	13
Obituary :—The Late Frank Norgate (A.H.P.); the Late Dr. J. Wigglesworth .. .. .	21
Notes :—	
Birds Covering their Eggs at Night During the Laying Period (J. H. Owen) .. .. .	23
Crows, Rooks and Starlings <i>versus</i> Kestrels and Peregrine Falcons (E. Leonard Gill) .. .. .	23
Continental Jays in Norfolk (Dr. B. B. Riviere) .. .. .	25
Large Flocks of Hawfinches in Surrey and Kent (Howard Bentham) .. .. .	26
Serins in Sussex (Dr. E. Hartert) .. .. .	26
Wood-Lark in North Lincolnshire (W. S. Medlicott) .. .. .	26
Grey Wagtail Nesting in Warwickshire (R. H. Baillie) .. .. .	27
Pied Flycatcher in South Wales (H. J. Vaughan) .. .. .	27
Unusual Site for Chiffchaff's Nest (S. G. Cummings) .. .. .	27
Breeding Habits of the Nightjar (S. G. Cummings) .. .. .	27
Field-Notes on Nesting Kingfishers (E. W. Henty) .. .. .	28
On the Procuring of Food by the Male for the Female among Birds of Prey (J. H. Owen) .. .. .	29
Little Owl Breeding in Shropshire and Radnorshire (H. E. Forrest) .. .. .	30
Status of the Little Owl in Leicestershire (W. H. Barrow) .. .. .	30
Long-eared Owl Laying Twice in Same Nest (L. S. Dear) .. .. .	30
Peregrine Falcon Attacking a Boy (H. Kirke Swann) .. .. .	31
Rough-Legged Buzzards in Norfolk (W. H. M. Andrews) .. .. .	31
American Goshawk in Ireland (W. J. Williams) .. .. .	31
Smews off Aberdeenshire (Miss Mary G. S. Best) .. .. .	32
Short Note—	
Exhibition of Eggs .. .. .	32

NOTE.—We are much indebted to Mr. G. E. LODGE for the new drawing of the Red Grouse which appears on our cover.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE  
HAND-LIST OF BRITISH BIRDS.  
(THIRD LIST)

BY

THE AUTHORS.

THE following additions and corrections to our *Hand-List of British Birds* (1912) are additional to those in the two lists already published (see *Brit. B.*, IX., pp. 2-10, XI., pp. 2-5). It should be remarked that these lists refer only to nomenclatural revisions and to species or subspecies added to the list since the publication of the *Hand-List*. No attempt has been made to include additional records or revisions of distribution, for which *A Practical Handbook of British Birds* (now in course of publication) should be consulted.

Add—

13a. *Sturnus vulgaris zetlandicus* Hart.—THE SHETLAND STARLING.

*STURNUS VULGARIS ZETLANDICUS* Hartert, Nov. Zool., XXV., p. 329 (1918—Shetland Islands. Type: North Yell).

For further remarks on this form compare *Bull. B.O.C.*, XXXIII., pp. 63-4, *Scott. Nat.*, 1915, pp. 3-4, and *Brit. Birds*, XII., pp. 207-8 and *A Practical Handbook of British Birds*, p. vi.

117. *Muscicapa albicollis* Temminck.

*MUSCICAPA ALBICOLLIS* Temminck, Man. d'Orn., p. 100 (1815—). instead of *Muscicapa collaris* Bechstein.

Bechstein's *M. collaris* of 1795 is preoccupied by Latham's *M. collaris* of 1790, which referred to an African bird. The next available name for the Collared Flycatcher must therefore be used. The Rules of Nomenclature demand this alteration, and the principle "Once a synonym always a synonym" must be scrupulously accepted.

127. *Phylloscopus humei præmium* Math. & Ire.

*PHYLLOSCOPUS HUMEI PRÆMIUM* Mathews and Iredale, Austral Av. Rec., III., p. 44 (1915—Russia).

instead of *Phylloscopus superciliosus superciliosus* (Gm.).

*Motacilla superciliosa* Gmelin 1789 was preoccupied by the use of the same name in 1783 by Boddaert for an American Warbler, and Gmelin's name cannot therefore be used for the Yellow-browed Warbler, for the same reason as explained above under *Muscicapa albicollis*.



151. The name *Sylvia dartfordiensis* Latham.  
was first published in Syn. B. Suppl., I., p. 287, 1787.

208. *Alcedo atthis ispida* L.  
instead of *Alcedo ispida ispida* L.

Linnæus, Syst. Nat., ed. X., I., p. 109 (1758—Egypt ex Hasselquist), described under the name of *Gracula Atthis*, the Egyptian Kingfisher, which is a very closely allied form of our European Kingfisher. Therefore the correct name of the British bird must be: *Alcedo atthis ispida* L.

Add—

248a. *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* (Wilson).—THE  
AMERICAN GOSHAWK.

FALCO ATRICAPILLUS Wilson, Amer. Orn., VI., p. 80, pl. 52,  
Fig. 3 (1812—Philadelphia).

*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* W. J. Williams, Brit. B., XIII.,  
p. 31.

DISTRIBUTION.—*Ireland*.—One, an adult male, shot near Strabane (co. Tyrone), Feb. 24th, 1919 (*ut supra*). One said shot near Shechallion (Perths.) about May 1869 (*Ibis*, 1870, p. 292), another in Galtee Mts. (Tipperary), February 1870 (*op. cit.*, p. 538), and another shortly afterwards near Parsonstown (King's co.) (*Zool.*, 1871, p. 2525).

DISTRIBUTION.—*Abroad*.—North America from north-west Alaska, north-west Mackenzie, central Keewatin and north Ungava to Michigan and New Hampshire, and in mountains south to Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Winters from Alaska and south Canada to north Mexico, Texas, Missouri, Indiana and Virginia.

370. *Philomachus pugnax* (L.)  
instead of *Machetes pugnax* (L.).

The generic name *Machetes* is antedated by *Philomachus* anonymous, Allg. Literatur Zeitung, 1804, II., No. 168, Col. 542, Monotype "*Tringa pugnax* (L.)." (*Cf.* Richmond, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, LIII., p. 581.)

The name *Pavoncella* Leach is not admissible, as Leach's Catalogue was never published. It is a mere list of names intended for the use of the officials of the British Museum as labels.

372. *Crocethia alba* (Pall.)  
instead of *Calidris alba*.

*Calidris* Illiger 1811 is preoccupied by *Calidris* anonymous, Allg. Literatur Zeitung, 1804, II., No. 168, Col. 542, therefore *Crocethia* Billberg, Syn. Faunæ Scand., I, 2, tab. A and p. 132

(1828—New name for *Calidris* Ill.) must be used as the generic name of the Sanderling. (Cf. Richmond, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, LIII., p. 581.)

435. *Larus hyperboreus* Gunn.

instead of *L. glaucus* Brünn.

*Larus glaucus* Brünn. 1764 is preoccupied by *Larus glaucus* Pontoppidan 1763. Therefore :

*Larus hyperboreus* Gunnerus, Leem's Beskr. Finn. Lapp., pp. 226, 283 (1767—Lapland) must be used for the Glaucous Gull.

In *Austral Avian Record*, III., pp. 122, 123 (1917), Messrs. Mathews and Iredale criticize our nomenclature of European Bullfinches and give the name *Pyrrhula pyrrhula nesa* to the British Bullfinch, because, in their opinion Macgillivray's name *pileata* is a mere synonym of *P. pyrrhula*. In *Brit. Birds*, II., p. 131, however, Hartert has fully stated his reasons for avoiding the creation of a new name, and accepting *pileata*. To repeat shortly : Macgillivray gives as the habitat *only Great Britain*, adding that it is also *said* to occur in the northern and temperate parts of Europe, and further that he never saw individuals belonging to another species, "although I have heard it said that such have been met with." It is therefore beyond dispute that Macgillivray only and solely described the British Bullfinch. Messrs. Mathews and Iredale would make his name *pileata* a synonym of *Loxia pyrrhula* L., because the author quoted as synonyms Linnæus's and Temminck's names, but in this he was clearly in error, and the fact that supposed synonyms are erroneously added does not invalidate a new name.

The same applies to Vieillot's *Pyrrhula europæa*. Vieillot writes of and describes only the birds of his country (France), though he adds *Loxia pyrrhula* Latham (not Linnæus) as a synonym, the latter being most probably the British Bullfinch, then believed to be identical with the north European form. Moreover, Vieillot, six pages later (p. 293), clearly distinguishes as a race, without giving it a name, the large, brightly coloured northern Bullfinch, which is rarely caught near Paris and in Normandy, as Vieillot said. There is, therefore, no reason to adopt another name unknown to us, except in synonymical lists. *Pyrrhula rufa* Koch might perhaps, be ruled out, because both *P. pyrrhula pyrrhula* and *P. p. europæa* occur in Bavaria, and there is nothing in the description to show which form served for the short diagnosis of the author.

## THE BITTERN IN THE NORFOLK BROADS.

" A GREAT ENTAIL."

(PLATE I.)

BY

EMMA L. TURNER, F.L.S., H.M.B.O.U.

IN spite of its furtive and semi-nocturnal habits, the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) is not a bird whose presence can be concealed from the general public. If the Bittern is to maintain in peace time the steady increase in numbers which it has attained during the war, public opinion must be enlisted on its side. Somewhere Ruskin wrote : " God has given us the earth for our life. It is a great entail." It will now be the duty of every ornithologist, and especially of every member of the B.O.U., to guard this recovered inheritance which our forefathers wasted so shockingly. I know that it is the orthodox thing to say that the Bittern, and other lost breeding species, died out owing to the reclamation of the fens. Those who finally assisted in the destruction of our rarer breeding marsh birds started this theory in order to cover up their own sins ; and we have gone on deluding ourselves into this belief. It is not true. The Bittern was driven out by drainage from some fens such as Whittlesea, but there are, and always have been, vast tracts where the Bittern would breed if unmolested.

During the war the Bittern has steadily increased in numbers and the deep resonant challenge of Bittern calling to Bittern across the great wide silence of the misty marshes, or heralding the gorgeous pageant of a Broadland dawn, is now a familiar sound in some areas. Nevertheless, in Norfolk alone Mr. Riviere has collected evidence of fifteen Bitterns having been shot between midsummer 1917 and midsummer 1918. On the whole, the war has been a godsend to the birds of Great Britain, because it has kept the majority of gunners and collectors busy elsewhere. It remains to be seen whether the numbers of breeding Bitterns will increase during the next few years, whether they will decrease, or merely remain stationary.

The first Bittern's nest was located in July 1911 by James

Vincent and myself (see *Brit. B.*, V., pp. 90-7). There is good evidence to prove that one or two pairs have nested there regularly ever since. In addition to these, in 1917 a nest with two half-fledged young was found in another locality. In 1918 I knew of seven nests within an area of four square miles, making nine in all for that year. Two more pairs are said to have nested on some marshes several miles from the original breeding site.

The following is a list of dates for some of the 1918-19 nests :—

1918.  
 1st pair. March 24th.—Four eggs, two hatched by April 1st ; young drowned out, April 16th.  
           April 28th.—Second clutch of two eggs. Nest and eggs destroyed, cause unknown, May 16th.  
 2nd pair. Nest found April 3rd, four eggs, two only hatched.  
 3rd pair. Nest found May 19th, five eggs, three hatched by May 27th.  
 4th pair. Nest found June 20th, two nearly fledged young.
1919.  
 1st nest. April 8th, one egg ; April 17th, five eggs ; first young hatched, May 3rd ; last young out May 8th ; all five hatched.  
 2nd nest. Found April 17th, five eggs. One young out on 18th and one chipping. All out when nest was next visited on April 26th.  
 3rd nest. Found April 17th, five eggs ; all out by May 11th.

The Bittern is more or less gregarious, or at any rate sociable, in its habits. Two pairs were found nesting in close proximity last year, and two more pairs within a square mile. They do not require a big breeding area in order to supply the young with food. Such food as Bitterns require is always plentiful in the fen country. The young are fed largely on fish. Eels seem to be swallowed whole, or in halves, according to the size of the eel and the capacity of the bird. One half-grown Bittern I picked up in the reeds promptly disgorged one eel nine inches long, and seven inches of another eel. The youngest of a brood of three on another occasion regurgitated a nice little fillet of fish which had been beautifully prepared for him. The gullet of the young Bittern on these occasions swells out to the size of a fowl's egg. One realizes then that the capacity for storing away food in the adult bird must be considerable. A man at Sutton told me recently that he picked up three young frogs from one nest, each one nipped on one side and flattened out on that side.

The Bittern does not always nest amidst the densest cover, nor in the most inaccessible reed-beds. One nest I saw in 1918 was certainly in deep water, but only a few feet from a dry rand.\* On May 6th, 1919, I photographed a nest with six eggs. A normal clutch of Bittern's eggs consists of four or five. The nest was placed in quite an unusual situation. Hitherto all that I have seen were in more or less dense reed-beds. This one was in thin sedge not more than 18 or 20 inches high, and



Fig. 1. NEST AND EGGS OF THE BITTERN.  
(Photographed by Emma L. Turner.)

so sparse that I was able to photograph the nest and eggs through the surrounding vegetation. This nest was found accidentally on April 26th by a man who did not know at the time what kind of a nest it was. It then contained two eggs. On May 4th there were six eggs and the Bittern was flushed from the nest.

There is a considerable difference between the young Bitterns when hatched, but as they all hatch within three or four days,

\* "Rond," or "rand." The swampy margin of a river or broad. Usually applied to the boggy ground between the water and the river wall.

it seems as if the old bird begins to incubate as soon as the first egg is laid, and that the eggs are not laid on alternate days as I have stated in a previous paper.\* The Bittern does not always trouble about the later eggs. In 1918 there were several left derelict in the various nests I saw. These when broken contained perfectly formed young. Frequently also the youngest Bittern, being so much smaller and weaker than his brethren, comes to grief. The young are very strong and active when two or three days old and also very pugnacious.

From the fact that the female does not always bring off the entire clutch, and also because the male booms most of the day some distance from the nest, I doubt very much whether the males take any share in feeding the young. Both this season and last, the males as soon as the young were a few days old, went away from the nesting area and frequented reed-beds much farther off.

This season there seems to be a scarcity of male Bitterns. It is possible when this is the case that the Bittern may be polygamous, but so far the evidence is not absolutely conclusive. In one reed-bed three nests have successfully hatched off, while only one male has boomed there, and only one has so far been flushed. But last year it took me some time to discover two males in the same reed-bed where two females had nested. Bitterns seldom boom together. They challenge each other, and one after another responds until all the males whose localities I can vouch for, have boomed in turn, and then the first strikes up again. Therefore, if there were several males in one small area booming in turn it would not always be possible to differentiate between them.

During the period prior to incubation the female sometimes utters a soft booming sound when her mate is near. It is not a deep resonant boom like that of the male, but a subdued "wumph, wumph," akin to the contented grunt of a female Water-Rail when the male approaches.

Owing to their extreme furtiveness, Bitterns are perhaps more difficult to watch than any other birds. It needs weeks

\* *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, 1918.*





YOUNG BITTERNS "ON THE DEFENSIVE."  
(*Photographed by Emma L. Turner.*)



of continuous observation sometimes to elucidate one single point in their life-history. When feeding young the Bittern ceases to be shy and furtive. It is then seen regularly on the wing all day long and pursues its regular line of flight to and from its chosen feeding-ground, regardless of noisy yachting parties or busy marshmen. Up to the time of hatching and after the young are fledged I have never seen Bitterns on the wing during the daytime. They may of course be flushed, but when this occurs they merely drop into cover as soon as possible. When family cares absorb its life the Bittern seems quite suddenly to throw aside its habitual reserve and to become not only bold, but also extremely garrulous. When the female rises from the nest she utters the hoarse croaking call-note "aark, aark," and continues calling until she alights on the feeding-ground. She takes from forty to sixty minutes to collect food. She then makes a bee-line for home, calling loudly all the time. When passing overhead, you can see her gullet distended with food. If surprised near the nest, or in any way really alarmed, she swallows the food, and immediately goes off to collect a fresh supply. She does not alight close to the nest, but perhaps 50 or 60 feet away and then walks to the nest. Individual Bitterns vary temperamentally. One may be absolutely fearless and fly to and fro at a fair height, and be visible from any point of vantage. Another will merely skim over the reed-beds and thus frequently escape observation unless your eyes are glued to the marshes. The soft colouring of the Bittern harmonizes completely with the top of the reed-beds in early summer. The dead feathery flower of last year's reeds (*Arundo pragnitis*) form a grey-gold belt a few inches above the new season's growth, which does not attain its full height till mid-June. In certain lights, therefore, a Bittern may easily escape detection when it is just floating over the top of the reed-beds.

Bitterns resort to the same feeding-grounds for several days in succession, provided there is no alteration in the level of the water. They love a partially silted up dyke where the water is only a few inches deep and where there are sheltering

reeds. They also resort to the many little lagoons hidden amongst the reed-beds. In calm weather the feeding-ground is usually some distance from the nest. During gales and rough weather Bitterns are seldom in evidence and



Fig. 2. NESTLING BITTERN ABOUT TWO DAYS OLD. THE ELDEST OF THREE HATCHED OUT.

*(Photographed by Emma L. Turner.)*

probably they then resort to some place nearer home. One week in June, during which the water rose five or six inches, one of the Bitterns I had under observation regularly visited a shallow marsh more than a mile away from her nest. This

feeding-ground really belonged to another Bittern, and both frequented it together.

The nestling Bittern is the quaintest little bird imaginable.



FIG. 3. YOUNG BITTERNS 7-10 DAYS OLD.  
(*Photographed by Emma L. Turner.*)

When two days old he is about four inches high and his clothing consists of a filmy garment of golden-brown down. His head seems to consist of two large blue eyes surmounted by

a burnished halo of down. The down is almost an inch long ; it is very fine in texture and blows all over his face in a high wind. It does not form a complete covering, but follows the line of the feather-tracts ; neither does it conceal the wonderful blue of his skin. In a very few days the quills begin to sprout, but the down still surrounds him like a mist. The long, thick, ungainly legs, supporting a curiously attenuated body, are redeemed from ugliness by their brilliant colouring. His feet seem several sizes too large for him. After a week or so, the colour of the down changes to a marabou brown and the iris takes on a greenish tinge. The legs, bill and all the bare patches of skin are a uniform blue-green. In certain lights, this colouring is iridescent ; the tiny Bittern is thus completely camouflaged. These soft browns and blue-greens harmonize completely with the dull sheaths of the reeds, and with the young green reeds themselves, for the body-colouring is like sunlight filtered through green reeds.

The nestlings soon learn to take cover in the reed-beds at the slightest approach of danger. They walk off the nest and away from the intruder, who, meanwhile, is fighting his way slowly through the thick, tangled reeds, which may be ankle or even knee-deep in water.

There are generally one or two secondary nests near the original nursery and as time goes on the young Bitterns make little matted platforms upon which they stand. But they return to the nest to be fed until nearly full-grown. They make a loud raucous sound when hungry, something between a quack and a grunt, or a blending of both. When fledged they resort to open marshy spaces in the reed-beds and there await their parents.

The males begin to boom near their nesting areas early in January and continue booming until the end of June. One very curious fact I noticed was that about June 17th the Bittern's voice begins to break ; the break may only occur two or three times a day, and the Bittern may still boom lustily for another week ; but it is the beginning of the end, and gradually the birds lapse into silence.



## THE RUFF—AN EARLY RECORD.

BY

W. H. MULLENS, M.A., LL.M.

AT the dispersal of the famous Ashburnham Library in 1897 there was sold for the sum of nineteen guineas a small eight-paged, black letter pamphlet, of which the facsimile title page or cover is here figured.

Probably, as a note in the copy before us suggests, it is one of the very few now in existence, and it certainly is of the utmost rarity, but at the time of its publication it must have attracted considerable attention and have achieved a somewhat extensive circulation, for, as we shall see later, it undoubtedly came under the observation of that illustrious author and most accomplished plagiarist, Ulyses Aldrovandus (1522-1605), then residing at Bologna in Italy.

But apart from its rarity, this quaint tract is certainly of very considerable interest to the student of early Ornithology, inasmuch as it appears to contain not only the earliest mention of the title Ruff or Ruffe as applied to *Machetes pugnax* and the first record of that bird in the British Isles, but is also, as far as we have been able to ascertain, the first printed work in which the figure or description of the Ruff is to be found. The pamphlet, as an examination of its text will show, was clearly written as a protest against certain extravagant fashions in the dress of that period, but the fact that "Divers Fowlers were sent for to see them, but neither could tel what Foules they were, or ever had seene or hearde of the like" would certainly seem to warrant the conclusion that the Ruff was up to that time an unknown or at least an unobserved bird in the Lincolnshire Fens.

It has hitherto been generally accepted that the earliest reference to the Ruff was that given by Aldrovandus under title "Avis Pugnax" in the first edition of the third volume of his History of Birds\* published at Bologna in 1603 or some

\* This was the "third and last tome" of the *History of Birds* 1599-1603 forming part of the thirteen folio volumes of Aldrovandus dealing with Natural History, many of which were however posthumously published under his name. Its title is as follows, *Ornothologiæ hoc est de avibus Historiæ, Libri XII.*

seventeen years later than the pamphlet now under notice. Aldrovandus gives a considerable account and seven illustrations of the Ruff and Reeve specimens of which and details of their habits he received from a correspondent in the Low Countries, and observes, among other particulars, "They say that these birds are likewise found in England," but though he gives no authority for this statement, the source of his information is apparent when his seventh figure of the bird (here reproduced in facsimile) is compared with that in the frontispiece of the pamphlet. It may be mentioned in passing that none of the great contemporaries or predecessors of Aldrovandus made any mention of the Ruff. The chief of these were William Turner (1500-1568), whose *Avium Historia* appeared at Cologne in 1544, and to whom we owe our first account of British birds: Conrad Gesner (1516-1561), who published at Zurich in 1555 his third volume of *The History of Animals*, which deals exclusively with birds,\* and Pierre Belon of Mons (*ob.* 1564), who in that same year issued from the sign of the "Fat Hen" in Paris his *History of the nature of Birds with their descriptions and portraits*.†

Although the *New English Dictionary* gives a reference to the use of the word Reeve as the female of Ruff in 1634 (Althorp MS.); and another to its presence in Herrick's *Hesper*, Panygeric Sir L. Pemberton, no further mention of the Ruff occurs until we find it included in Christopher Merrett's (1614-95) *Pinax Rerum*, 1666. The *Pinax* which contains the first extensive list of British Birds has "*Avis pugnax* J. 154 t. 52 A Rough est tertia in Tab" which being translated reads "*Avis pugnax* Johnstonus ‡ [*Historiæ Naturalis* 1650-53] page 154, plate 52, a Rough, this is the third figure given in the plate." A reference to Johnstonus, however, shows that he derived the whole of his account of the Ruff, which he describes under title *Avis pugnax* from Aldrovandus,

\* Title, *Historiæ Animalium, Liber iii., qui est de Avium Natura.*

† Title, *L'Histoire de la Nature des Oyseaux, avec leur descriptions, et naïfs portraits, . . . écrite en sept livres.*

‡ Johannes Johnstonus (1603-75).

that he does not mention it was found in England, and that while he figures six illustrations of the Ruff and Reeve he omits the seventh figure given by Aldrovandus above mentioned. Merrett further goes on to state that the female of the Ruff was called "a Reev" and that it was found in Lincolnshire, and there he leaves the matter. It was not indeed till the appearance of Francis Willughby's (1635-72) *Ornithologia* in 1676 that we have any information as to the habits and distribution of the Ruff in this country. Willughby says, "In the cock bird a circle of long feathers, something resembling a Ruff, encompasses the Neck under the Head, whence they took the name of Ruffs." He further adds, "They breed in Summer-time in the Fens of Lincolnshire about Crowland."\* It only remains to append a spaced title and collation and a verbatim transcript of the black letter text of the Ashburnham tract.

A most wonderfull, and true report, the like | never heard of before, of divers unknowne Foules having the Fethers | about their heads, and neckes, like to the Frysled fore tops, Lockes | and great Ruffes, now in use amongst men and women. Lately taken at Crowley in | the Countie of Lyncolne, and seen alive and deade by divers Right Worshipfull and | Credible Persons: whereof the names of some are herein remembred.

The collation is as follows:—1 vol. 8vo, Black Letter Sig. 1, A 2, pp. 8 (inclusive of front or cover with title and cut of Ruff as below).

Subjoined is the full transcript of the text :

A most wonderfull, and true report, the like never hearde of before, of diverse unknowne Foules : having the Fethers about their heads, and neckes, like to the frysled fore-tops, Lockes, and great Ruffes now in use among men, and Women : latelie taken at Crowley in the Countie of Lyncolne in 1586.

I present thine eyes (friendly Reader) with a Spectacle

\* Walter Charleton (1619-1707), in his *Onomasticon Zoicon*, published in 1668, also mentions "*Avis Pugnax* the Ruff (because in fighting they raise up there feathers on the necke like a double Ruff)."

A most wonderfull, and true report, the like neuer heard of before, of diuers vnknowne Foules hauing the Fethers about their heads, and neckes, like to the Frysted fore-tops, Lockes, and great Ruffes, now in vse amongst men and women, Lately taken at Crowley in the Countie of Lyncolne, and seene aliue and dead by diuers Right worshipfull and credible Persons: whereof the names of some are herein resembred,



FRONTISPIECE OF THE ASHBURNHAM PAMPHLET.

*Avis pugnax septima.*



THE SEVENTH ILLUSTRATION OF "AVIS PUGNAX" IN ALDROVANDUS.

lesse fitting the Pensill of a Paynter, or the pen even of Plinie himselfe, than a subject the rarenes thereof, worthy a contemplative and considerate observation. The signification whereof, had it sometimes happened in Ægypt, Syria, Greece, Rome, or even now amongst the Heathen people, would and should no doubt not a little travel,\* and that not unprofitably, their Wyzards, Calcars,† Oracles, and Altars. But we or many of us, are lately grown such naturall Philosophers, in Argumentes of like Prodigies (if I may so terme them) that we forme ourselves and many others natural, or at the least wise negligent fooles in not reverently admyring them. Even the dreames of Pharo interpreted by Joseph became profitable to Ægypt and to all Israel. Neither did Balthasar tremble without cause at the hand-wryting or ever it was expounded by Daniel. Neither yet in vayne shined the Starre in the East, directing the three wise men to our Saviour in Bethlem. Infinite are the Histories authentically and profane of Ghosts, Beastes, Byrds, Motions, Flames, Visions, and such like other, presaging and foreshowing the wel or ill threatened to some Estates or particular persons or as it were, dumbly preaching reformation in some abuses: which for brevity omitting, I hasten to a most rare and true report, of a most straunge and wonderful Sight, happening of late dayes even in England, seene and certified by many personages of great authoritie, worship and credite. Of which it thus followeth. In the yeare of our Lord God 1586, within the parish of Crowley nere adjoyning to the pastures of the Lordship of Hatfield in the Countie of Lyncolne, one Richard Wallar, and Richard Preston, of the same parish of Crowley, having set certaine Lime-twigges, intangled and caught in the same seven great Foules, all of one bignes, & of intermixt coloures: the like whereof were never seen or heard of in any Countrie, by any man having hitherto seene them or their pictures: which being lively in their true coloures purtrayed by one Blackborne a Paynter in Yorke, at the procurement of the right Worshipfull Sir Henry Lee Knight, are diversly amongst divers persons dispersed. Three of the same foules were brought and presented to the same Sir Henry Lee, then lying at his brothers house at Hatfield in Yorke-

\* *i.e.*, travail.

† Calcar—a spur, in what sense our anonymous author here applies it seems obscure, unless perchance he had in his mind the proverb "*Vatibus addere calcar.*"

shire. The Fethers on their heads and fronts grewe and stood out, not unlike to the frysled haire of men or women : and the Fethers about their necke, being of divers coloures, grew and stood up very high, even, and formally like unto great Ruffes : and were hilde (?) up with stiff quilles, as it were Wyers or Supporters, such as are now commonly used of our Gallants. These Foules going loose, seemed so careles of their libertie and to escape, that (though threatened by shaking and shoving with the handes, or otherwise) they woulde not shrinke from, or shunne any person : retayning still as it were one and the same countenance, their use was all three in rankwise, and with great stateliness to walke divers turnes up and downe in the Hall, and then eftsoones to stay and drawe all their heades and billes together. Standing so a long time, as it were in consultation or counsell of some weightie matter, and then to fall againe to walking, refusing to take, and not seeming to make account of any meate, which they were oftentimes offered. In this order they continued until they all three dyed one after another, about three dayes after their taking. When they were dead not any man with both his handes could scarce stirre one of their fethers about their neckes. Divers Fowlers were sent for to see them, but neither could they tel what Foules they were, or ever had seene or hearde of the like.

What these Foules were, what their flight hither, what their taking heere, their forme, Fethers, coloure, or order before remembred should signifie, I cannot prognosticate : only this I observe, that what seemed chieflie supernaturall in them, the like, in respecte of our Ornamentes, is superabundant in us. It were thinke I an happy error (if it be an error) that our frysled and over-ruffed Dames would construe these Foules to bee frysled and ruffed Divels : and I wish that the reporte of these monstrous Byrdes might admonish some Rufflers, that themselves are monstrously men. Let us at length remember, that our Creator hath formed us, not to deforme our selves, being Images of his own similitude. A few thinges (alas) suffise nature, and every thing superfluous is merely vicious. Naked were we borne, and naked in effect shall we be buried : and then onely was man altogether happy, when man lived altogether naked, the very sight therefore of apparel should worke us to bee so farre off from Pride and ostentation thereof, that remembering the same to be onely the Coveringes of our shame, and the tragicall

Badges of Adam his transgression, and successively from him of our original sinne, we, Swan-like, at the sight of such our blacke feete, should deject our vaine and proud Plumes : with this resolution, that the bravest are but as blossomes, that the longest liver shall dye : and then, that the loveliest Creature, shall lye even as the loth-somest carcas : and our silken bodyes shall become stinking Carrions. But lest I should rather seem to preach (the which I cannot) than to reporte a Prodigie (for so I conceive it) I conclude, that however credulous or incredulous Reader that, or shall not, make profit of this our monstrous spectacle, being far stranger than is here paynted or penned, assured am I, that more Eyes can witness it, than that any doubttes or cavilles can refet [*i.e.* refute] it, or I shall neede wordes to affirme it. Farewell and flie Pride.

*Penes auctorem sit fides.*

The names of divers righte worshipfull and credible Persons, having seen the foresaid Foules whilst they lived, and after they were dead.

William Bonner, Gentleman verifieth this to be true.

Thomas Mall, Baylife of Hatfelde.

Ambrose Ransford gentleman and attendant unto Sir Henrie Lee witnesseth the same.

M. Thomas Rickard.

M. Simond Wormley.

M. Thomas Pamer. With infinite others.

AT London,

Imprinted by Robert Robinson dwelling in Fetter Lane, and are to be solde at the Corner Shoppe at Fetter Lanes End.



## OBITUARY.

## THE LATE FRANK NORGATE.

BY the death at the age of 75, on February 20th, 1919, of Frank Norgate, of Sparham, son of the late Canon Norgate, rector of Sparham, Norfolk has lost one of its most painstaking and accomplished field-naturalists. Mr. John Henry Gurney, with whom he frequently corresponded, describes him as "an extraordinarily acute and accurate observer"; who "was very much crippled with asthma, which hung to him all his life, on account of which he would spend whole days, and sometimes nights, too, out of doors." This, in a letter, Norgate confirmed, with some lucidity, as recently as November 27th, 1918.

He writes: "I [am] sorry about the felling of my happy hunting ground—Foxley Wood [by the military] where, when I was trying to sleep on the ground one night, three foxes kept racing round and round me barking."

Norgate's activities carried him into various branches of natural science: birds' eggs, lepidoptera, botany, and especially ornithology receiving his careful attention. His collection of eggs was a considerable one, and has been described "as second to none"; it contained Cuckoo's eggs from the nests of no less than thirty species of birds. In a note to Mr. Gurney he states that "I have found time to soak your Kite's egg to pieces, and have restored it, as well as I can from the inside, with shellac and tissue paper." This egg is noted by him as "Norfolk, about 1825. Given by Edward Lombe of Melton to John Henry Gurney." From some letters lent me by Mr. Gurney, Norgate seems to have somewhat mercilessly robbed desirable nests, and being unable to climb, taught the Brandon boys to assist him, more especially in his quest of Crossbill's eggs.

Nevertheless, it is refreshing to know that his great experience was used in 1873, when he gave evidence before the Select Committee on Wild Bird Protection, whereat he told a story of a gamekeeper who always destroyed Nightingale's nests, for fear the birds should keep his Pheasants awake at night! He rendered valuable assistance to Dr. Hind when compiling the *Flora of Suffolk*, and besides being the first to record the nesting of Crossbills on the Norfolk and Suffolk borders, he also was one among the first to capture and record the oleander moth. Flint implements and folk-lore also claimed his attentions.

It is a great pity that Norgate's notes and observations have not been placed in permanent book form by him, his extreme modesty making him content to impart his knowledge to others, with the result that Norfolk ornithological literature has, to an extent, gained something by his evidently unceasing labours. Stevenson, in 1866 (*Birds of Norfolk*) frequently acknowledges his estimable assistance, speaking of him as "a young naturalist who takes considerable interest in the habits and formation of birds." This is shown in regard to waterfowl, particularly on nesting-habits of Pochards and Tufted Ducks, given in diary form from daily observation, which Stevenson deemed extremely valuable, remarking that "it would be impossible to condense without detracting from their value." He also quoted Norgate's observations on Crossbills, to the breeding-habits of which two whole pages are devoted.

Norgate contributed a few papers to the *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society*, the first being read in March, 1876, "On the Nesting habits of certain birds, with a view to their encouragement by the erection of nesting-boxes," a curiously naïve recommendation by such an egg-expert. This paper covers eleven pages. In 1878 he devotes twelve pages to bats and other mammals, three of these dealing with the breeding-habits of moles. Two or three other papers followed, described as "Miscellaneous Notes," "Nesting of Crossbills," "Nesting of the Hobby," and "Entomological Notes." The List of the Norfolk Mammalia in Mason's *History of Norfolk* (1884) was also contributed by him.

A.H.P.

### THE LATE DR. J. WIGLESWORTH.

WE deeply regret to learn of the tragic death of Dr. Joseph Wiglesworth, who fell while climbing the cliffs at Hurlstone Point, near Porlock, Somerset, in search of Peregrine Falcons on May 16th, 1919.

Dr. Wiglesworth had for some years been working at the birds of Somersetshire, and had contributed a number of notes on the subject to our pages. He was also well known to ornithologists by his little book *St. Kilda and its Birds*, published in 1903. We hope in a future issue to give a more extended notice of his life and work.



# NOTES

## BIRDS COVERING THEIR EGGS AT NIGHT DURING THE LAYING PERIOD.

A POINT that appears to have received very little attention is as to which birds cover their eggs or not at night during laying. This point, of course, refers only to birds that habitually leave the nest after laying an egg.

All the Tits cover their eggs at night and leave them during the day until they actually start incubation. In the case of the Long-tailed Tit, both birds of the pair spend the night in the nest, as a rule, during the laying and incubation periods. Many other birds also cover the eggs at night, Pipits and Buntings in particular.

The Finches (Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Linnet) also cover the eggs at night, but may not start to do so until the second egg is laid, or even later.

These birds go on to the nest before sunset, and are away early in the morning, the egg having been deposited in the interval.

My observations give the Thrushes and Hedge-Sparrow as examples of birds that do not habitually cover their eggs at night, and their time of depositing the egg is very variable and in the daytime.

The point seems to me rather an interesting one and needing careful observation of a number of nests of each species. Perhaps readers of *British Birds* can supply further instances of each type.

J. H. OWEN.

## CROWS, ROOKS AND STARLINGS VERSUS KESTRELS AND PEREGRINE FALCONS.

EVEN in England it is no unusual thing to see Carrion-Crows (*Corvus corone*) or Rooks (*C. frugilegus*) pursuing Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*) in the air. In France, where both Kestrels and Crows were so much more plentiful, it was a spectacle that was correspondingly frequent, and the following notes on these occurrences and on others more or less like them, may possibly be of interest.

Usually the attack by the Crow is a rather desultory affair. It gives one the impression that the Crow cannot resist the temptation to worry the Hawk, but that he is not inclined to be led far out of his way over it. Always, however,

he gives a surprising display of agility on the wing. Though not with the same easy grace, he can apparently match any manœuvre of the Kestrel's. The chase is not always short and desultory either. On two occasions, first near Bapaume and two years later near Etaples, I was the witness of a most determined and sustained attack. The course of it was so similar in the two cases as almost to suggest a game with recognized rules. The birds flew at a good height and roughly in a circle, the diameter of the circle being something like a mile. Most of the way round the course the Carrion-Crow was pressing hotly, and it often looked as though the Kestrel was only dodging its swoops with difficulty. But towards the end of the flight the Crow, on each occasion, seemed to content itself with keeping abreast of the Hawk on the inside. It looked then as if the Hawk might easily have escaped but was deterred by something in the rules. After half a mile or so of this there was a sudden and sensational change—a wild plunge at a steep angle into a group of trees. It was thrilling enough even on the Kestrel's part, but to see the Crow respond instantly with a precisely similar plunge hard in the wake of the Hawk was a sight to make one disbelieve one's eyes. Both times the Hawk gained the trees just in time, and the Crow sheered off.

On such occasions as this it is possible that the Hawk is carrying something which the Crow hopes to make it drop. Anyhow, it seemed as if the two birds were agreed that a certain clump of trees should constitute the base of the action, and that it was the Crow's business to prevent the Hawk from reaching it. The more casual chases that one ordinarily sees have such a matter-of-course air that I can hardly believe there is a motive of robbery in them every time.

The persecution of the Kestrels seems to be carried on more zealously by Carrion-Crows than by any other birds, but Hooded Crows (*C. cornix*), Rooks and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) all take part in it pretty frequently. At any rate between Kestrels and Rooks, however, there is sometimes a truce. Not far from Arras in 1917 a pair of Kestrels had their nest in the middle of a good-sized rookery, and though they were noisy and much in evidence the Rooks showed no resentment. When Starlings attack a Kestrel they do it as a flock and the Kestrel usually takes refuge in a tree, but one such chase that I was watching ended ignominiously in the Kestrel throwing itself into the grass of a hayfield.

I do not remember to have seen either Crows or Starlings

attempt any action against a Sparrow-Hawk or a Harrier, but one of the few Buzzards that I saw in France was being pestered by a Carrion-Crow. Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) seem to be more than immune from attack; they are frequently the aggressors. In the autumn of 1916 I saw signs of a considerable southward migration of Peregrines, in places as far apart as the Ancre Valley and Rouen; and near Rouen one of the Peregrines gave chase to a Rook. The birds climbed to a great height in the air and were also moving fast across the line of sight. Long after the Peregrine, with its lighter colour, had become indistinguishable against the thin clouds, I could still see the Rook as a black speck and trace the frantic dodgings to which it was driven to avoid the swoops of the Falcon. Peregrines often attack Starlings, sometimes swooping through a flock and sometimes pursuing single birds. A headlong chase across the Seine that I once witnessed ended in the Starling hurling itself in the nick of time into a bush on the far bank, while the Peregrine saved itself by an impossible-looking turn which shot it into the sky like a rocket.

Peregrines and Starlings, again, were concerned in the most amazing spectacle I have ever seen in the bird world. It was at Corbie on the Somme, in the winter of 1916-17. A large flock of Starlings appeared, rushing across country at no great height but at tremendous speed, and thrown continuously into singular contortions. As they passed, the cause of the contortions became visible. The flock was being attacked by three Peregrines working together. One after another they climbed above it and dashed themselves into and through it, and the Starlings, in that curious way that makes them act in a flock like points in a living jelly, rushed up to meet each swoop and then split their ranks to let it through. The Peregrines were swooping in rapid succession and the strange jelly-like writhings of the flock of Starlings were incessant—the whole display whirling over the country at something that looked like a hundred miles an hour—  
[Cf. *Br. Birds*, X., p. 293.—EDS.] E. LEONARD GILL.

#### CONTINENTAL JAYS IN NORFOLK.

In a previous note (*antea*, Vol. XI., p. 259), I recorded the occurrence of Continental Jays (*Garrulus glandarius glandarius*) in Norfolk, during the winter of 1917-18.

During the past winter, 1918-19, although Jays have been unusually numerous, I have only been able to procure five specimens sufficiently undamaged to be worth preserving.

Two of these, however, are undoubtedly of the Continental race, and I think there can be little doubt that they occur annually in Norfolk. B. B. RIVIERE.

#### LARGE FLOCKS OF HAWFINCHES IN SURREY AND KENT.

ON March 21st, 1919, I observed two large flocks of Hawfinches (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*) on Holmwood Common, Surrey, which I estimated to number approximately 150 and 100 birds respectively. I have not previously noticed the Hawfinch to be unusually abundant in the locality named, or in the surrounding district, and possibly these large gatherings may indicate some immigratory movement.

The birds were unusually wary, and they appeared to be feeding upon seeds of the holly, there being large numbers of these trees on that part of the common frequented by the flocks.

The Hawfinches were still present in considerable numbers on March 27th, but most of them appeared to have left by April 20th, on which date my friend Mr. H. H. Farwig tells me he only observed about twenty birds.

Mr. Farwig also informs me that on March 29th, 1919, he noticed a flock of 80 to 100 Hawfinches on Tunbridge Wells Common. HOWARD BENTHAM.

#### SERINS IN SUSSEX.

THERE are in the Tring Museum a pair of Serins purchased from Mr. A. F. Brazenor, taxidermist, of Brighton, who stated that they were netted by a bird-catcher near Rottingdean, Sussex, on December 6th, 1918. The bird-catcher said that he saw several more at the time. *Serinus c. germanicus* Laubmann 1913, inhabiting Germany and perhaps also Holland and northern France, seems to be more greenish or less bright yellow than the typical Mediterranean *S. c. serinus*. So far, however, only a small series of this form has been compared, but if these distinctions are found to hold good, then the two birds above recorded undoubtedly belong to this duller form and not to *S. c. serinus*. E. HARTERT.

#### WOOD-LARK IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

ON March 31st, 1919, I saw and heard a male Wood-Lark (*Lullula arborea*) near Frodingham, in north-west Lincolnshire. I made every effort to ascertain if the bird was nesting, but had to conclude that it was merely a passing visitor, as I could not find it on several occasions afterwards. It is a very scarce bird in Lincolnshire. W. S. MEDLICOTT.

## GREY WAGTAIL NESTING IN WARWICKSHIRE.

As the late A. G. Leigh gives (*antea*, Vol. XII., p. 231) few records of the nesting of the Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla c. cinerea*) in Warwickshire, it is worth recording that I found a nest of this species containing two young at Leamington Spa on May 5th, 1918.

R. H. BAILLIE.

## PIED FLYCATCHER IN SOUTH WALES.

ON April 16th, 1919, while fishing on the Usk just below Brecon, I saw a cock Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*) in very fine plumage flying about and feeding by some willows on the bank of the river. This bird, is I think, rather rare in South Wales, so it may be worth recording.

H. J. VAUGHAN.

## UNUSUAL SITE FOR CHIFFCHAFF'S NEST.

ON June 8th, 1918, in east Anglesey, I saw a nest of the Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*) built in a small gorse bush growing out of rock on a bank bordering a lane. As this was the only bit of gorse in the immediate neighbourhood of the nest, it seems strange that such a site should be selected when more suitable cover was available on all sides. The nest was much exposed to the weather and passers-by and contained half-fledged young, but they were killed by cold and wet weather shortly afterwards.

S. G. CUMMINGS.

## BREEDING HABITS OF THE NIGHTJAR.

FOR four consecutive years, 1915-18, I found a pair of Nightjars (*Caprimulgus e. europæus*) breeding on the extensive sand-dunes on the Carnarvon Bay coast, at precisely the same spot, during the first week in August. When first discovered in each successive year, the young were the same age (about a week old), and on subsequent occasions when I inspected them the female parent bird was brooding on or close to the young even when well fledged. The late date suggests a second brood, and the fact of the young birds being found in the same place yearly, and at the same date, infer that they were the product of the same pair—or possibly their descendants—returning annually to this breeding ground. This local attachment to a breeding site on the part of the Nightjar is well known, but it is the more remarkable on a long stretch of sand-dunes where there is a great similarity of ground. Unless the exact spot be marked, it is no easy matter to find the young again on revisiting the

locality. I found that when the young were partly feathered they frequently moved away from the "nest" on being disturbed and hid in the marram grass, but invariably returned to it. It was curious to see some nesting Terns—Common and Lesser—mobbing the female Nightjar when she took flight on being put off her young. S. G. CUMMINGS.

#### FIELD-NOTES ON NESTING KINGFISHERS.

REFERRING to "Notes on the Kingfisher," by W. Rowan (*antea*, Vol. XI., p. 218) and "Field Notes on the Kingfisher," by Helen M. Rait Kerr (*antea*, Vol. XII., p. 36), I watched a pair of Kingfishers which nested in the same hole in the sandy bank of a Cheshire stream in April 1914 and May 1916. The hole was about five feet up, and the birds always perched on a root hanging down from the top of the bank before entering the nest. In both years when I first began to watch they were evidently feeding young. I noticed that the fish was always held crosswise in the beak when the birds flew up, but after they had perched on the root they shifted the morsel in their beaks until they had fixed it lengthwise, and then flew with it to the hole. If the fish was a large one the shifting operation seemed to cause them considerable difficulty.

Mr. Pycraft, in *The British Bird Book* (Vol. II., p. 456), quotes the late Mr. Bosworth Smith as stating that the young are fed by regurgitated food. Once while I was watching, a bird flew to the perch and remained there stationary for five minutes; it seemed uneasy, moving its head from side to side and making a swallowing motion. Eventually it vomited what seemed to be a piece of fish. Of course it may have been a very tough fish; on the other hand, being reluctant to enter the hole owing to my presence, the bird may have regurgitated prematurely. But while I watched I never saw the birds enter the hole without fish in their beaks.

In 1914 I watched the Kingfishers going to the nesting-hole on the 19th and 20th April. I did not visit them again till the 25th, when I noticed them flying to the old hole, and also to a new hole a few feet from the old one. On examining the new hole I found that it was only a few inches deep and recently excavated; there was fresh sand beneath it. My next visit was on 2nd May, when the birds visited the old hole only; there was no sand beneath the other hole, and it had apparently been abandoned.

I twice saw a bird dive from a branch not ten yards from my "hide" (which consisted of a brown mackintosh flung



over a couple of hurdles). It went in with a flop, and did not appear to be attempting to catch anything.

The young were fed at intervals of ten to fifteen minutes.

E. W. HENDY.

### ON THE PROCURING OF FOOD BY THE MALE FOR THE FEMALE AMONG BIRDS OF PREY.

A POINT that needs careful investigation is the procuring and distribution of the food-supply among birds of prey during the period from before the nest is complete to the end of incubation. My observations on this period are rather limited, but as the results are interesting I hope that others may be able to add to them.

The cock Kestrel (*Falco t. tinnunculus*) procures food for the hen, I think, as an amatory offering. Several times I have watched cock Kestrels bring game, mostly mice, to somewhere near the neighbourhood of the nest, and from a lofty perch call loudly at intervals to the hen to come for it. More than once during April 1919, long before Kestrels had begun to lay in the district where I was, the cock has brought his game to a perch almost over my head and called. It may be that he has procured a supply in excess of his needs, but I do not think this is the case, as I cannot recall an instance of the hen offering to supply the cock.

The cock Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*) certainly procures part of the food for the hen from the time laying commences, if not earlier. These birds have larders where they keep any excess of food, and the cock brings food from the larder to the hen in the nesting hole as she requires it, or rather in excess of her requirements. This food is of various forms, and consists of small birds up to the size of a Blackbird, as well as various kinds of mice and shrews. For example, on one day the surplus consisted of a short-tailed field-mouse, and a pigmy shrew, on another of a monster short-tailed field-mouse; while on another day the hen was feeding on earth-worms, a favourite food in the winter.

A striking peculiarity is at once noticeable about the food brought for the hen's use, and that is, that it is whole and not beheaded or dressed in any way, as it is when brought for the young. This is true of the food brought to Kestrel, Owl and Sparrow-Hawk at this period.

The cock Sparrow-Hawk brings food for the hen while she is laying, and waits till she leaves the eggs: she then eats it on some favourite dining-place near the nest.

J. H. OWEN.

## LITTLE OWL BREEDING IN SHROPSHIRE AND RADNORSHIRE.

ALTHOUGH there have been many records of the occurrence of the Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*) in Shropshire, no instance of its nesting here has been hitherto reported. Capt. M. Blundell Hawkes informs me, however, that on May 5th, 1919, he found a Little Owl sitting on three eggs in a hole in an apple tree at Stanton Lacy. A few days later another nest with eggs was found in the outskirts of Shrewsbury. Mr. Owen R. Owen also tells me that on April 28th, 1918, he found a nest with five eggs at Knighton, Radnorshire; the bird sat very close. Later, he found another nest containing young.

N. E. FORREST.

## STATUS OF THE LITTLE OWL IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*) seems to have increased in numbers very rapidly during the last few years in this county. The head-keeper of a large estate informed me that over forty were trapped there during the season of 1918 alone, and at the present time it is the commonest species of Owl near Leicester. This is the more remarkable when it is remembered that it was first recorded from the county in January 1900, and was not proved to breed with us till 1906.

W. H. BARROW.

## LONG-EARED OWL LAYING TWICE IN SAME NEST.

ON April 14th, 1918, near Folkestone, Kent, I took a clutch of six eggs of the Long-eared Owl (*Asio o. otus*) from the deserted nest of a Magpie. On passing the nest again on April 30th I was surprised to find it occupied, and containing one egg of a second laying. A few days later it contained four eggs, but as I left the neighbourhood and did not return, I was unable to ascertain how many were laid.

What made this appear more surprising was the situation of the nest, which was not one to which a Long-eared Owl would be expected to give preference. It was in a wood, consisting of larch trees of about twenty feet in height and absolutely devoid of foliage, the nest being at the top of one of them, while within fifty yards was a thick plantation of spruce, containing many old nests and appearing in every way more suitable to the usual habits of this bird.

L. S. DEAR.

[Magpies are rather partial to larches, and do not make any effort at concealment. The laying of a second clutch by the Long-eared Owl in the same nest is rather unusual and suggests a scarcity of suitable nesting-places. The nests in the spruce plantation may not have been suitable.—F.C.R.J.]

## PEREGRINE FALCON ATTACKING A BOY.

ON April 5th, 1919, a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (apparently an immature bird) appeared at Barnet and stooped at a Sparrow in a field close to the houses. It was mobbed by some Rooks, one of which it struck into some water, but still stuck to its prey. A boy coming up to see the cause of the disturbance hit at the bird on the ground with his fist and was attacked by the Falcon, which tore his face and hands. The bird then made off with its prey, still mobbed by the Rooks, which prevented it rising until clear of the field.

H. KIRKE SWANN.

## ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARDS IN NORFOLK.

AT Rockland Broad, Norfolk, on April 19th, 1919, I saw a pair of Rough-legged Buzzards (*Buteo l. lagopus*) circling round. One was persistently mobbed by a single Crow. After the Crow left they rose to a great height. I was just able to distinguish the white at the base of the tail.

W. H. M. ANDREWS.

## AMERICAN GOSHAWK IN IRELAND.

AN adult male of the American Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*) was shot near Strabane, co. Tyrone, on February 24th, 1919, and was sent to me for preservation. The bird was perfectly fresh on arrival, and the stomach was empty. The bird was in fine plumage and showed no trace of having been in captivity. The owner of the bird called it "an eagle," and had no idea what the bird was; nor would he part with it, as he got it as a present from the man who shot it. I have no doubt that the bird was a genuine migrant. I forwarded it when freshly skinned to Mr. Witherby for examination, and he sent it on to Dr. Hartert.

W. J. WILLIAMS.

[We can confirm Mr. Williams's statement that the bird showed no signs whatever of having been in captivity: it was indeed in very perfect plumage. The bird was a typical adult male of the American form *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*, whose range is, according to the *Check-list of North American Birds*, the boreal zones of North America from north-western Alaska, north-western Mackenzie, central Keewatin and northern Ungava south to Michigan and New Hampshire, in the mountains even to Pennsylvania and New Mexico; while it occurs in winter south to Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Indiana and Virginia. The *Check-list* also separates

another subspecies, *A. g. striatulus* Ridgway, inhabiting the boreal zone of the Pacific coast region.

*A. g. atricapillus* differs from the typical Goshawk *A. gentilis gentilis* in the very different under-parts, the feathers of which have the black shaft-lines developed into wider stripes, while the cross-bars are more ashy-grey and broken up into irregular cross-markings. The upper-parts are slightly more ashy-grey, the crown generally more blackish. The young bird has the under-parts as a rule paler and more heavily spotted.

Three occurrences of the American Goshawk in the British Islands have been previously recorded, curiously enough all three in 1869 and 1870. Robert Gray recorded the first as having been shot by a keeper a few months previous to May 1869 (when he secured it roughly skinned) near Shechallion, Perthshire (see *Ibis*, 1870, p. 292). The second was recorded in the same volume of the *Ibis* (p. 538), by Sir Victor Brooke, as having been shot in February 1870 in the Galtee Mountains, co. Tipperary. This specimen is still in the Science and Art Museum, Dublin. The third example was stated by Mr. A. B. Brooke to have been shot shortly after the one above mentioned near Parsonstown, King's co. (*Zool.*, 1871, p. 2525). However, neither Newton in "Yarrell" (4th ed.) nor Howard Saunders in his "Manual" admitted the bird to the British List, while Ussher in his *Birds of Ireland* relegated it to the Appendix amongst those species whose claims were considered to be insufficient. It would appear that the bird was excluded by these authors partly on account of the probability of American land-birds receiving "assisted passages" by perching on vessels, but we do not think that this possibility should exclude a bird of powerful flight like a Hawk, even though it be a short-winged species.

E. HARTERT. H. F. WITHERBY.]

#### SMEWS OFF ABERDEENSHIRE.

ON April 18th, 1919, I saw four Smews (*Mergus albellus*), three adult males and one female off Peterhead. So many, adults especially, are not commonly seen, I believe, on this coast and the occurrence appears worth recording.

MARY G. S. BEST.

EXHIBITION OF EGGS.—We are informed by Mr. C. Borrer that the eggs of the Warblers will form the principal feature of the exhibition in connection with the fifth Oological dinner, which will be held on September 10th, 1919.

## **"THE ZOOLOGIST"**

Messrs. Witherby & Co. purchased the whole of the Stock of the above Magazine, and past Subscribers desiring to complete their Sets should make early application for Volumes, as the number now remaining is very limited.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

## **JOHN WHELDON & Co.**

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## **WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.**

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

*All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.*

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND.

**WANTED.**—Gould's "Birds of Asia."—Give price and full particulars to T., Office of "British Birds," 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**FOR SALE.**—150 Original Sketches (mostly in colour) of Various Birds, by the late J. G. Keulemans. Can be viewed at the Office of "British Birds," 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**YOUNG MAN**, 26, married, just demobilized after 4 years' service, Legal Career ruined through war, interested in Natural History, specialising in collecting of British Birds and Eggs, seeks position as Collector, Agent, etc., for Private Collector or Museum. Willing travel abroad.  
C.F.A.R., c/o "British Birds."

# JUNGLE PEACE

By WILLIAM BEEBE

"This is a wonderful book—a book of Nature's miracles . . . He is the Maeterlinck of open-air science working in the least known of natural wonderlands."

"It is impossible even to give a catalogue of the new visions of wonderment . . . which he conjures up on every page."

*Morning Post.*

• • • • •  
"I should have missed something good if I had never seen 'Jungle Peace.'"

*Westminster Gazette.*

• • • • •  
"In it are records of extraordinary scientific interest, in language which has all the charm of an essay of Robert Louis Stevenson. He tells of bird and beast and plant and insect, of the hoatzin, a bird out of place in the modern world, a bird which comes down unchanged from a time when birds merely fluttered instead of flying—and had only recently learned to flutter instead of gliding. Whatever he touches he turns into the gold of truth, rightly interpreted and vividly set forth—as witness his extraordinary account of the sleeping parlour of certain gorgeous tropic butterflies."—*The late Theodore Roosevelt in a review of the American Edition.*

Now Ready.

Illustrated.

8s. net.

LONDON: WITHERBY & CO.

# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

JULY 1,  
1919.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 2.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

PART 3 NOW READY.

A  
**Practical Handbook**  
OF  
**British Birds**

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.  
EDITOR OF BRITISH BIRDS (MAG.).

*Authors of the Various Sections:*

ERNST HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U.

ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

AND THE EDITOR.

*Illustrated with*  
*Coloured Plates*  
*Half-tones*  
*and Numerous*  
*Text Figures.*



*Practical*  
*Original*  
*Up-to-date.*  
—  
Price 4s. net  
per part.

FULL PROSPECTUS AND COLOURED PLATE POST FREE.  
WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, London.

IN EIGHTEEN PARTS

Part 3 (80 PAGES) June 18th, 1919  
(Two Plates)



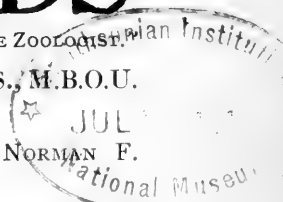
# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.



CONTENTS OF NUMBER 2, VOL. XIII. JULY 1, 1919.

	PAGE
Further Notes on the Bittern in the Norfolk Broads. By Emma L. Turner, F.L.S., H.M.B.O.U. . . . .	34
The Pied and White Wagtails. By H. F. Witherby. (Plate 2)	37
Note on the Drumming of Woodpeckers. By J. S. Huxley . .	40
The Birds of Bardsey Island. Part I. By N. F. Ticehurst, M.B.O.U. . . . .	42
The Late Dr. Wiglesworth. (Rev. F. L. Blathwayt, M.B.O.U.) . .	52
Notes :—	
Grey Wagtails Nesting at a Distance from Water (Rev. E. U. Savage) . . . . .	56
Winter Immigration of Goldcrests and Firecrests in Kent (H. G. Alexander) . . . . .	56
Great Tit Laying in an Open Nest (F. W. Headley) . . . .	56
Hoopoe in Shropshire (H. E. Forrest) . . . . .	57
Adult Cuckoo Killing Nestling Birds (F. W. Headley) . .	57
Hobby in Bedfordshire (The Duchess of Bedford) . . . .	58
Osprey on the Norfolk Broads (Dr. S. H. Long) . . . . .	58
Night-Heron in Anglesey (T. A. Coward) . . . . .	58
Gannets in Derbyshire (Ernest Grindey) . . . . .	59
Fulmar Petrels in Yorkshire in Summer (George W. Temperley)	59
Great Crested Grebes Nesting in Kent (D. H. Meares) . .	59
Black-necked Grebe on Kent and Sussex Border (H. E. Castan)	60
Red-Throated Divers in Derbyshire and Leicestershire (Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain and W. H. Barrow) . . . . .	60
Dotterel in co. Dublin (Geo. R. Humphreys) . . . . .	61
Greenshank in Warwickshire (Miss B. A. Carter) . . . .	61
Shifting of Breeding-grounds by Terns (H. E. Forrest) . .	61
Iceland Gulls in the Orkneys (Surgeon-Lieut. J. M. Harrison, R.N.) . . . . .	62
Coloration of Soft Parts of some Birds (Miss Marjory Garnett)	62
Short Notes :—	
Early Arrival of Garden-Warbler and Wryneck. Great Crested Grebes in Scotland . . . . .	63.
Letters :—	
The Late Frank Norgate (Rev. J. G. Tuck) . . . . .	64
Incubation during the Laying Period (Collingwood Ingram) . .	64.

## FURTHER NOTES ON THE BITTERN IN THE NORFOLK BROADS.

BY

EMMA L. TURNER, F.L.S., H.M.B.O.U.

I REFERRED last month (*antea*, p. 7) to a Bittern's nest found amongst sedge. This nest was composed of sedge with a few rushes laid across the top. As a rule Bitterns' nests are made of dead reeds. I am now able to supply data with regard to this nest.

April 26th.	2	eggs.
May 4th.	6	„
„ 25th.	3	young hatched.
„ 27th.	5	„ „

On May 28th I photographed the young about 6.0 p.m. The three eldest birds stood in a row and regarded me with quiet interest. They were quite docile and did not object to being handled. The fourth crouched near his brethren, while the fifth showed a great desire to shelter beneath the others. This bird could not have been more than 24 hours' old. I was much struck by the way in which these nestlings used their "hands." The youngest bird used them when moving across the nest. The older birds supported themselves also with their hands when standing upright against the reeds, the thumb in each case being extended. As I approached the nest, the female was just flying away in search of food. I walked swiftly up to the young, and found the smallest one still wrestling with an eel about seven inches long. The tail was hanging out of his beak, and he made great efforts to swallow the loose end of his meal before retreating. In order to do this he crouched down in the nest, supporting himself by extending his wings and turning them outwards towards me, and pressing his "hands" hard into the nest. I was more than ever struck with the abnormal appearance of newly-hatched Bitterns. These nestlings were the youngest complete family I had as yet seen. They looked like some queer, uncanny, prehistoric links between the reptile and the bird. The extraordinary brilliance of the blue skin

when seen in bright sunlight accentuates their likeness to the reptiles.

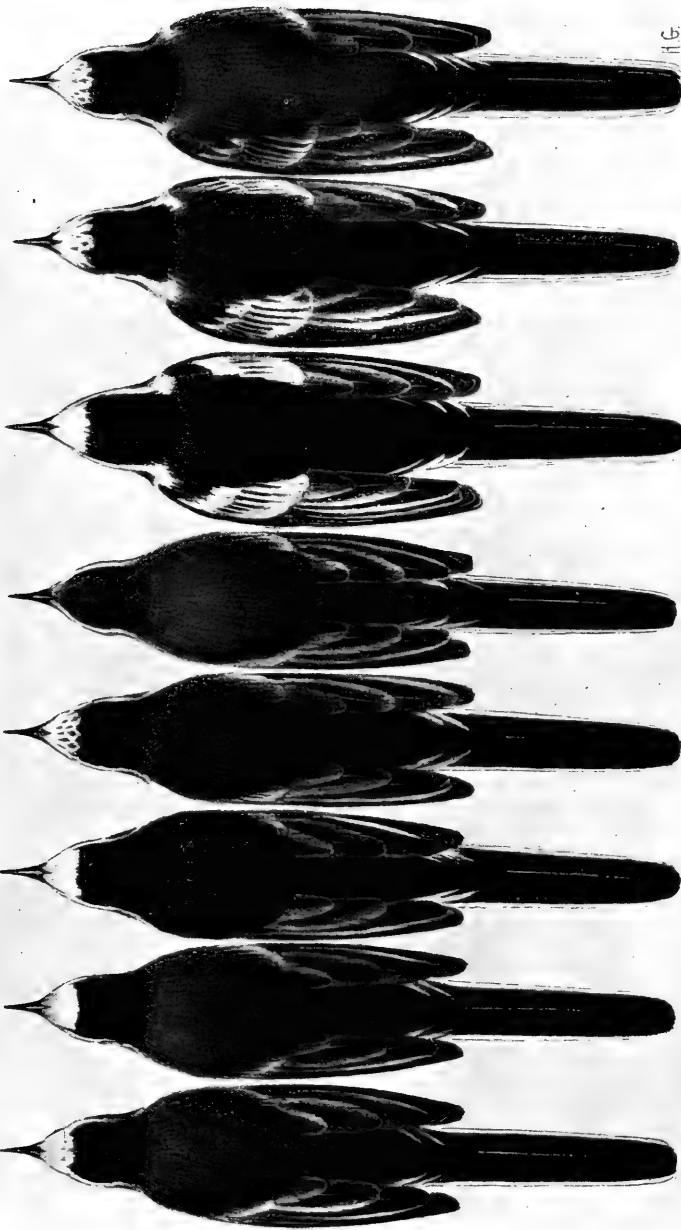
I saw them again two days later. They were a fine healthy set of nestlings, still easy to handle, and showing no disposition to fight. A week later (June 7th) all five hastily retreated from the nest, one after the other, running rapidly through a little path which led from the nest to thick cover. We retrieved them one by one, and when brought back they evinced considerable pugnacity. Still I was possessed with the feeling that I was handling something other than a bird, and as each in turn darted a vicious thrust at my hand or eyes, I almost expected to see a forked tongue thrust forth. The marsh was quite dry when I photographed them on May 28th, but on June 7th the water had risen considerably, so that it was almost up to my knees. The nest, however, was safe, as the water had reached its highest level and would fall during the next few days.

The male was booming near, but his voice had broken and he could only produce two resonant booms after several trials. These preliminary gurgling sounds were like unsuccessful attempts at blowing a bugle. Yet he had been the champion of the marshes. I have heard him boom seven, eight and even nine times in succession, especially during the night of May 15th, when the moon was full. There is a marked individuality about each Bittern's boom. One would like to know whether the strength and peculiar resonance of some males' voices, and the number of times they boom, is due to age, or whether it is merely the result of individual virility. For some weeks one male always produced five booms in succession, with the usual two seconds' interval between each; then, after a four seconds' pause, he boomed a sixth time. After May 28th he dropped from six to five booms with a four seconds' interval between the fourth and fifth. But on the night of June 11th, when the moon was nearly full, he was again booming six times.

One Bittern has boomed irregularly, and with obvious effort all the breeding season. By May 15th this bird failed to produce more than one boom, preceded on every occasion by

two or three abortive efforts. On the night of June 11th booming was continuous from 8.0 p.m. (solar time) until 1.30 a.m. It was one of the brightest and stillest nights I have ever known. Bitterns challenged each other unceasingly and sometimes the boom of one bird overlapped that of another. No two birds seemed to boom in exactly the same key. One far-away Bittern's voice was decidedly high pitched. Distance and atmospheric conditions may partly account, perhaps, for these variations in tone, but they are, nevertheless, as individual as are the lowings of different cows.





1 ♀ 1<sup>st</sup> Summer  
Pied Wagtail.

2 ♀ ad Summer  
White Wagtail.

3 ♀ ad Winter  
Pied Wagtail.

4 ♀ 1<sup>st</sup> Winter  
Pied Wagtail.

5 ♀ ad Winter  
White Wagtail.

6 ♂ ad Winter  
Pied Wagtail.

7 ♂ 1<sup>st</sup> Winter  
Pied Wagtail.

8 ♂ ad Winter  
White Wagtail.

116

(HALF NATURAL SIZE.)

Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla a. lugubris*) and White Wagtails (*M. a. alba*) in various plumages to show some differences and similarities.

## THE PIED AND WHITE WAGTAILS.

(PLATE 2.)

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

THE accompanying plate has been very carefully and accurately drawn by Mr. Grönvold to illustrate some of the differences as well as the similarities in the Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla a. lugubris*) and the White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*). The plate is to appear in a forthcoming part of *A Practical Handbook of British Birds*, but as there is often difficulty in distinguishing the two birds, and as Mr. Grönvold's drawing is so useful, I thought that the readers of *British Birds* would appreciate the plate even if some of them afterwards see it in the *Handbook*.

One point which the plate clearly brings out is the similarity between the adult female White Wagtail and the first summer (*i.e.*, one year old) female Pied Wagtail. In fact, the female Pied Wagtail in this plumage is often so difficult to distinguish from the female White Wagtail that I always look with suspicion on those records of the interbreeding of the two races in which it is stated that the *female* was the White Wagtail. If the bird is not obtained I do not believe it is possible to make certain that a female in summer is a White Wagtail and not a first summer Pied, and it is often difficult enough to do so by a careful comparison of skins.

The similarities and differences of the two birds in their various plumages are set out below, but I have done this only briefly here, and those who wish to know all the differences in detail should consult the *Practical Handbook*.

## MALES.

1. *Adult Pied Wagtail* (Fig. 6) in winter and summer is always distinct because it always has black on its mantle, whereas the White Wagtail never has black on the mantle in any plumage.

2. *Adult White Wagtail* (Fig. 8) can be confused in *winter* with those examples of first winter males and females of the Pied Wagtail which have no black on the mantle. But the Pied in first winter has the fore-head and ear-coverts tinged with yellowish and the fore-head usually also mottled with black, whereas in the adult White Wagtail these parts are generally pure white but sometimes they have a tinge of yellow. Also

the mantle of the White Wagtail is of a purer and paler grey and the flanks are paler, while the wing-feathers are not so brownish as they are in the first winter Pied Wagtail. But all these differences are variable, and I have seen examples difficult to distinguish. In *summer* plumage the adult male White Wagtail, having no black at all in the mantle, can only be confused with those first summer female Pied Wagtails which have scarcely any black in the mantle, but even in the field the adult *male* White Wagtail is distinguishable by the purer and paler grey of the mantle, while the black of its throat extends further towards the breast than in the female Pied Wagtail.

3. *First Winter and Summer Pied Wagtail* (Fig. 7). In *summer* the black in the mantle always distinguishes it from any White Wagtail but in *winter* it can be confused with the White Wagtail as explained in the first portion of paragraph 2.

4. *First Winter and Summer White Wagtail*. In *winter* is distinguished from any Pied by the slight amount, or absence, of black on the crown, also the fore-head is usually grey and not white, and the mantle is generally a paler grey though this is not always so. The first *summer* White Wagtail is like the adult, except for browner wings and tail, and can be distinguished as explained in the second portion of paragraph 2.

#### FEMALES.

5. *Adult Pied Wagtail* (Fig. 3) always has black on the mantle, though usually less than in the adult male, and can be distinguished by this feature from any White Wagtail.

6. *Adult White Wagtail* (Figs. 2 and 5). In *winter* can always be distinguished from any Pied by the absence or slight amount of black on the crown and by the grey and not white fore-head (sometimes a little white shows, as the bases of the feathers are white).

In *summer* it can be confused very easily with those first summer female Pied Wagtails which have only a very slight trace of black in the mantle. Some examples have only a feather or two with a little black, and this can only be seen by the closest examination. The only differences in such birds are comparative, viz., the slightly paler mantle of the White and the rather darker rump of the Pied.

7. *First Winter and Summer Pied Wagtail* (Figs. 4 and 1). In *winter* can be confused with the adult male White as explained in the first portion of paragraph 2. In *summer*



can be confused easily with the female White Wagtail as explained in paragraph 6.

8. *First Winter and Summer White Wagtail.* In *winter* can be distinguished more certainly than the adult female from any Pied Wagtail, because it has no black on the crown and only very rarely indeed does any white show on the fore-head. In *summer* it is also rather easier to distinguish from the Pied because there is less white on the fore-head and more white on the chin and usually more grey and less black on the crown than in the adult female White Wagtail.

#### JUVENILES.

9. These are alike in the two forms, except that the White Wagtail is usually rather paler on the upper-parts and has no black on the fore-head, which in the Pied Wagtail is blackish.

## NOTE ON THE DRUMMING OF WOODPECKERS.

BY

J. S. HUXLEY.

THE jarring or drumming sound produced by the Greater and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers (*Dryobates major* and *D. minor*) in spring is usually supposed to be produced mechanically by the rapidly repeated impact of the beak on hard wood. Mr. Warde Fowler recently showed me a letter from a correspondent (Dr. J. Eddison of Leeds) who had heard and seen a Greater Spotted Woodpecker drumming day after day last May. It had frequently chosen the same spot for its performance, a dead branch, hollow for part of the way; this branch was eventually cut away, and there was no trace to be found of any mark made by the beak where the bird had been hammering, though the blows struck were audible for five hundred yards. This entire absence of dents had led Mr. Fowler to wonder whether the sound could not be produced entirely by the bird's voice organ.

This supposition is, I think, unnecessary. In the first place, my own observations on Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers show that they do actually touch the wood with their beaks when drumming.\* Further, one need not suppose that a violent impact is required to produce the sound. As long as rapid blows succeed each other regularly, very small force will be necessary to set the wood vibrating in such a way as to give out a powerful sound. It is the periodic enforcement of vibration by fresh blows, not their intensity, that will provide the right conditions.

In this connection, some account of the habits of an American species, the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), may be of interest. This species is abundant in the Southern States, and drums not only on trees, but on all sorts of artificial objects. While staying in Georgia one spring, I was usually woke by one or more of these birds performing on the tin roof of the house. The sound then produced did not at all resemble that made by the bird when drumming on a tree. The most conclusive evidence, however,

\* Dr. Eddison, in a second letter, is quite certain of this (W.W.F.).

that the sound is instrumental and not vocal, was supplied by a bird seen near Pass Christian in Mississippi. It was first observed drumming on a telephone post. The sound was rather dull, and did not appear to satisfy the bird, which presently flew up to the top of the pole. This was cut sloping like a roof and was covered with tin. Drumming on this produced a note that was metallic, but still dull. After a further short interval the bird flew down close to where the metallic arm projected carrying the insulator, and there settled itself so as to be able to drum upon the thin bit of metal. This was not altogether easy; but the sound given out was now a clear, ringing, metallic note, and seemed to satisfy the bird, which remained drumming for several minutes, and came back repeatedly after short absences.

This drumming differs from that of our Woodpeckers in having a slower rhythm, but otherwise seems to be executed in quite the same way. The deliberate choice of the best sounding spot and substance is interesting. The arrival of man and his artificialities has allowed the bird to indulge a taste for loudness not permitted it in nature.

But while reasoning from analogy is not completely conclusive, the habits of the American species make it distinctly more probable that the sound produced by the Spotted Woodpeckers is an instrumental and not a vocal one. Assuming this to be so, we see that our species have not developed the desire to search for agreeable sound-producers to such an extent as their American relative. They do, however, appear to select one or a few special places for their drumming, and there can be little doubt that these are chosen on account of their resonant properties, the bird trying many boughs before it selects one as its drumming place for the season.

As to the function of the drumming, it is without doubt of sexual significance, and very similar to the song of most monogamous singing birds: partly a stimulant to the other member of the pair, partly a signal of the bird's presence, but also a channel for the release of the mental excitement of the pairing season, and so pleasurable in itself.

## THE BIRDS OF BARDSEY ISLAND.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.B.O.U.

## PART I

PRIOR to 1913 Bardsey would appear to have been visited twice only by people who afterwards gave any account of its birds, and beyond one or two brief references by Ray and Bingley in the 17th and 18th centuries, nothing exact appears to have been known about its avifauna until 1902.

The comparative remoteness of the island and the difficulties of getting to it, owing to the fierceness of the surrounding tides and still more to the uncertainty of getting away again, probably account in a great measure for this neglect.

In 1901 Mr. O. V. Aplin, after one or more failures in previous years, spent two days, May 23rd and 24th, there, and in 1905 Mr. T. A. Coward was on the island from the 14th to the 16th of June. The former published a very full account of the island and the birds he met with in the *Zoologist* for 1902, and embodied Mr. Coward's notes, where they differed from his own, in a subsequent paper in the volume for 1910. Since then it became apparent from the returns sent in by the lighthouse keepers to the Migration Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club that a considerable volume of migration passed the island in spring and autumn, and that a visit at one or other of these seasons, might be productive of useful results in obtaining records in greater detail than is possible for the lightkeepers. With this object in view, I felt that it would be desirable to pay a preliminary visit at a time when practically no migration was going on, so as to obtain at first hand a fairly accurate estimate of the bird-population in summer. I was fortunate enough to be able to cross to the island twice in 1913 without waiting and without having to make a more prolonged stay than I wished. My first visit lasted from June 12th to the 25th, and I had intended returning on September 3rd. Owing, however, to the intervention of other matters I was unable to reach the island until the 9th, but

Mr. J. K. Stanford, who had arranged to accompany me, got there on the previously arranged date, and the observations therefore up to the 9th are his alone, while the subsequent ones up to the 22nd are our joint work. Unfortunately, Mr. Stanford was not provided with a permit to visit the lighthouse at night, and so was unable to see anything of the nocturnal movements which were visible, as it so happened, on those nights alone. He was able, however, to get an



BARDSEY ISLAND. EAST BAY AND LIGHTHOUSE PLATEAU.

idea of what had happened during the nights in question, by, on the following mornings, looking over the bodies of the birds killed against the lantern.

For a description of the island Mr. Aplin's paper above mentioned should be consulted, but it is necessary in connection with the migration observations that follow to mention here one or two of its geographical features. It is about two miles long by three-quarters of a mile at its widest part, the northern end broad and tailing off to a point at its southern extremity. It lies

some two miles to the south and slightly to the west of the extreme end of the Lleyn peninsula of Carnarvonshire, with its long axis almost north and south (slightly N.E. and S.W.). It is divided into two unequal halves (the northern being the larger) by the east and west bays, which though not quite opposite one another, only leave a narrow neck of land joining the two portions together. The eastern third, or rather more, of the northern half is occupied by the "mountain" an oval, smooth-sided hill rising to 548 feet, its steep, slippery slopes clad with scrubby turf, with patches of bracken and short gorse, with numerous outcropping rocks. The remainder is cut up into small arable and pasture fields, with enclosures of scrub gorse, that is cut for fodder, separated by high turf or turf-topped, stone walls. Down the centre runs a small stream, along which are situated several tiny, swampy enclosures for growing osiers, while just before it reaches the west bay it runs through one or two rush-grown swampy pastures. A narrow rim of scrubby grass and lichen-covered ground surrounds the cultivated area on the north and west sides, separating it from the low, rugged cliff that forms the periphery of the island. The ten or eleven farms lie along the foot of the mountain on the road that runs up from the east bay and skirts its western slope. The southern portion of the island, on which stands the lighthouse, is covered for the most part with short, scrubby grass, heather and lichens, with a few small clumps of gorse, and forms a low, slightly hog-backed plateau, rising in the centre to some fifty feet above the sea.

Most of the migrants were found in the potato and root crops and in the brambles, etc., growing on the walls in the cultivated area, chiefly at the south-eastern end where the cover is best, though after a heavy night-movement at the lantern, there were always some in the gorse on the lighthouse plateau, which was almost the only ground used by Wheatears, while occasionally numbers were found sheltering in the rock crannies and tiny bays round the southern half of the island. A few, such as the Goldcrest, were only met with in the tamarisk and

other bushes in the farmhouse gardens, the Waders that halted on such a comparatively inhospitable shore had perforce to use the coastal rocks, while the warm, dry sand of the west bay formed a sure attraction to the passing bands of Wagtails.

A curious feature revealed by the three sets of summer observations is the instability of the breeding population of



BARDSEY ISLAND. EAST COAST CLIFFS.

such species as the Redbreast, Wren, Song-Thrush, Wheatear, Stonechat, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, etc. Mr. Aplin suggests that this is due to the fierce winter storms that occasionally sweep the island, wiping out the resident species. Though this may be a factor, at any rate with such species as the Wren, it must be remembered that the individuals of many are very few in number and with few exceptions migratory, and if it be true, as is generally assumed and has been proved in a number of instances, that the same individuals or their young frequently return to their former homes, the accidents

of migration would be enough to account for the total absence or great diminution of a species in any given year. It is probably what goes on to a large extent everywhere, but being confined here to a limited and easily examined area with a normally low population the result is more marked and more evident.

No attempt has been made to arrive at any deductions from our autumn observations, the facts as observed have simply been summarized. It would be too hazardous to draw any conclusions from observations made in a single season and over so short a period. There are several points on which speculation might be made, but much more work requires to be done; more observations than we were able to make at the north-western corner of the island would undoubtedly help, while further visits at other times, particularly in October, would furnish a great deal of additional and interesting information. These, of course, have for obvious reasons been out of the question for the last four years.

In order to make this account as complete as possible I have gathered together and summarized as far as can be done from the lighthouse reports the status of each species as a migrant, and these being based on a period of six years should, so far at any rate as the autumn is concerned, be fairly accurate. The spring returns not being nearly so full, their summary is probably less so, and may need subsequent amendment. Mr. Aplin's and Mr. Coward's notes as published are referred to also under the species which they recorded, while the records from the British Association migration reports are also mentioned where necessary.

The following records of the weather during our stay in September 1913 will save repetition:—

- Sept. 3.—A dull misty night, wind E. to N.E. slight.  
 „ 4.—Cloudy night, wind E.S.E. slight, increasing to a very strong S.E. breeze during the day, fine to 4.0 p.m.  
 „ 5.—Overcast night, with a moderate breeze from E.S.E. and passing showers, followed by a fine, hot morning.  
 „ 6.—Cloudy night, with a moderate E.S.E. breeze, rain in the early morning; a dull day, wind dropping at 4.0 p.m.  
 „ 7.—Cloudy night, with a moderate E.S.E. breeze, increasing to a strong breeze from the E. during the day, fine.



- Sept. 8.—Cloudy, passing showers, wind S.W., changing at night to N.W.; a moderate breeze.
- „ 9.—Drizzling rain early, cleared in the afternoon. Wind N.W. changing to a gentle N.E. breeze in the afternoon.
- „ 10.—Fine and hot. Wind N.N.E., strong, dying away in the evening.
- „ 11.—Fine and hot. Wind S.W., slight in the morning, S.E. and stronger in the afternoon; thick fog for an hour at 5.0 p.m.
- „ 12.—Fog during the night. Fine and hot day. Wind S.W., strong.
- „ 13.—Rain during the night with strong N.E. wind. Dull, grey day; rain and wind continuing. Very cold.
- „ 14.—Rain all night to 7.0 a.m. and at intervals all day. Wind N.E., changing to S.W. in the afternoon and increasing to half a gale. Brief sunny intervals at times.
- „ 15.—Fine, sunny day. Wind half a gale from S.W., moderating to a slight breeze at night.
- „ 16.—Fine and sunny. Wind N.E., moderate.
- „ 17.—Fine and sunny. Wind N.E. slight, freshening in the afternoon. Hazy fog all round the horizon.
- „ 18.—Fine, very hot. No wind; slight breeze from N.E. in evening. Horizon veiled in fog.
- „ 19.—Dull, grey day. Wind S. by W., strong. Heavy rain from 2.0-4.0 p.m. Horizon veiled in fog.
- „ 20.—Wind changed to N.W. in the night and blew half a gale all day, moderating slightly towards evening. Dull, grey morning, fine early, but heavy rain later and at intervals. Brief intervals of sunshine after 10.0 a.m.
- „ 21.—Fine, hot and sunny. Wind N.W., slight.
- „ 22.—Fine, but dull early; drizzling rain later. Wind S.E. moderate.

#### THE RAVEN (*Corvus c. corax*).

Not recorded by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 a family party of five (two adults and three young) were seen flying along the north face of the mountain on the 12th and one or more were seen on each occasion on which the locality was visited. Three were seen flying round the top of the mountain on the evening of the 21st. From the constancy with which these birds frequented this locality it seems probable that it was their home. Not seen in September.

#### THE CARRION-CROW (*Corvus c. corone*).

Resident.

Recorded both by Mr. Aplin "one pair," and by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 odd birds were seen from time to time about the fields and a pair were always about the east bay or the point at its northern entrance, Pen Cristin. Their nest was in the low cliff here, but could only be seen from the sea; the first young one was seen with the parents on the 20th. There was also a nest of the year, well lined with wool, at the extreme southern end of the island and two others of more

doubtful date on the west coast of the northern half. The breeding population was therefore two, and possibly three or more pairs, as the east coast no doubt has suitable localities, but cannot be worked to any extent.

The same number of birds was about the island in September and no fluctuation was noticed. The Pen Cristin pair still stuck very much to the east bay, the others were mostly seen feeding on the stubbles.

A single record from the lighthouse of a flock of "Crows" (250) seen flying east on December 23rd, 1913, would probably refer to the Rook (*C. f. frugilegus*), which, however, has not yet been recorded from the island.

#### THE JACKDAW (*Coleus monedula spermologus*).

Resident.

Breeds numerous in the low cliff below the grassy slopes all round the north and east sides of the mountain, but apparently not elsewhere. In June 1913 constantly seen about the farms, where they came to pick up scraps, with which they flew over the mountain to feed their young on the other side. The first young bird was seen visiting the farms for food with the adults on the 19th.

In September most of the birds were assembled in a flock, comprising about thirty individuals and nearly all, if not all of them, adults and in full moult. The young of the year, therefore, as with the Choughs, had already left the island. The flock was constantly seen feeding on the stubbles.

#### THE CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*).

Resident.

Mr. Aplin's observations suggest that there may have been two breeding pairs in that year.

In June 1913 Mr. Chapman, one of the lightkeepers, who had been on the island three years, told me that the year he came a pair of Choughs nested in the low cliff on the east side near the lighthouse, and the birds were constantly seen about the two bays, but that he had not seen a Chough since, so that it is evident that any breeding at the northern end of the island do not often wander far from the mountain. In this year there was one breeding pair, whose nest was presumably on the north or east side. On June 12th the five young were on the wing with their parents, and some of them were seen almost every time I visited the north or east sides of the mountain, but they were not seen elsewhere. The young were still being fed by their parents on the 13th,

although they were picking about for themselves and almost indistinguishable by size from the old birds.

The young birds appeared to have left the island before September 3rd, and only the old ones were seen. Three out of four times when seen they were feeding on stubbles in the cultivated area.

#### THE STARLING (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage from the second week of February to the second week in April (occasionally to the third week). In



HERRING-GULLS FOLLOWING THE PLOUGH, BARDSEY ISLAND.

largest numbers in the latter half of March. Occasionally also recorded in January as with the *Turdidæ*.

Autumn passage from the first week in September to the end of November, and in some years to the end of December. In largest numbers in October and November.

Occasional records at the end of July possibly represent the departure of some of the local young.

As a summer resident recorded both by Mr. Aplin and by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 it was numerous all over the island, except in its southern half and on the higher parts of the mountain. Mr. Aplin gives an account of its various breeding resorts, to which may be added rabbit holes on the eastern face of the mountain.

Some were flying about in family parties on June 12th, several broods had not then left the nest, and one in the lime-kiln had not left by the 23rd. The first flock (about three families) was seen at roosting time on the 13th, after which date the flocks gradually increased in size and remained more or less together throughout the day. A good deal of their feeding was done amongst the tidal rocks on the west coast, and many went to roost in the low, sandy cliff round the west bay.

In September, although birds were taken at the lantern on the 3rd/4th and 6th/7th, the numbers present from the 3rd to the 15th showed little fluctuation. There was a slight increase on the 5th and another on the 8th, but otherwise the numbers were pretty much those of the summer population, and many young birds had not yet completed their autumn moult. There were several large flocks, that fed in the fields and went to roost at night after characteristic evolutions in the osier beds, besides many odd birds that kept about the farm buildings. During this time also one large flock was always present round the lighthouse buildings. This flock, as well as a good many of the others, disappeared during the night of the 15th/16th. Two nights later a considerable number of new birds came in and were found in the early morning flying about in small flocks in an aimless and unsettled manner, and constantly perching on the roofs of the farms, boathouses and the stays of the lighthouse flag-staff. These birds had all passed on before noon, but their departure was not witnessed. A similar increase on a smaller scale was noticed on the morning of the 21st, and these newcomers likewise passed on before midday.

#### THE HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*).

Once recorded from the lighthouse, a single bird on December 21st/22nd, 1913.

#### THE GREENFINCH (*Chloris ch. chloris*).

Greenfinches are mentioned (*B. A. Migration Report*, 1884) by the lightkeeper as being present amongst flocks of small birds (Larks, Linnets etc.) seen during the day on September 20th.

#### THE BRITISH GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis c. britannica*).

Once recorded from the light, a single bird on October 29th/30th, 1910, also recorded by Mr. Aplin, May 23rd to 24th, 1901, "at least one pair and I believe more." None were seen by Mr. Coward or by myself.

THE LINNET (*Carduelis c. cannabina*).

Recorded from the light as a diurnal migrant only in autumn, between mid-September and the second week in October; once in mid-November (*B.A. Migration Report*, 1884).

As a summer resident, "several seen" by Mr. Aplin and recorded also by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 fairly common throughout the cultivated area, especially so in its southern half, and amongst the gorse on the southern slope of the mountain, less numerous along its western face. Mostly seen in pairs and family parties, some few pairs still feeding young in the nest on the 12th, but most of the young were already on the wing. The bulk of the summer residents had already left the island by the beginning of September, and on the 3rd only six birds were seen. These had increased to a dozen by the 4th, and on the morning of the 8th Linnets were numerous all over the cultivation, evidently having arrived during the night. Most of these new-comers had gone again by the morning of the 10th. On the following morning a good many more had come in with Meadow-Pipits and Corn-Buntings, and the fields were full of them early, but by 10 a.m. most of them had passed on. A further reduction took place during the night of the 16th/17th, and on the evening of the 17th a small flock was watched over the southern shoulder of the mountain and out to sea along the usual Pipit route. On the morning of the 21st a new lot of Linnets was found in the fields, but these again passed on before 10 a.m.

THE CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla c. cœlebs*).

Recorded regularly in autumn and occasionally in January and March, to a large extent as a diurnal migrant.

Probably a regular double passage migrant.

Autumn passage from the third week in September to mid-November. Frequently seen on the island in large flocks in the second half of October.

Recorded by Mr. Aplin as "Fairly common, in fine song," and therefore presumably present as a summer resident. Not seen by Mr. Coward nor by myself in June.

In September, a female arrived on the 14th, three birds on the 18th and another on the 21st. None of these stayed longer than one day. Evidently the autumn passage was only just commencing.

(*To be continued.*)

### THE LATE DR. J. WIGLESWORTH.

THE news of the tragic death of Joseph Wiglesworth, which occurred on May 16th last, came as a great shock to many, and the science of ornithology has lost a most devoted adherent. From the naturalist's point of view, he may be said to have died in harness, as he met his death while investigating the possible site of an eyrie of Peregrine Falcons near Porlock in Somerset. He left Porlock Weir alone on the morning of the 16th, but as no one witnessed the accident, it is impossible to say exactly what occurred; the evidence, however, tended to show that he was killed by a fall, the body being discovered on the shore two days later.

Joseph Wiglesworth was born in 1853, and was of high medical distinction. He was a Doctor of Medicine of London and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and had been medical superintendent at Rainhill County Asylum, near Liverpool, for thirty years. He became a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1898 and joined the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society in 1914. Of the Ornithological section of this Society he became Recorder in 1915, and on the death of Lord St. Audries (first president of the section) Dr. Wiglesworth succeeded to the office in 1918, his enthusiasm for the welfare of the section being unbounded. Dr. Wiglesworth's published writings on birds were not voluminous, and perhaps on this account his great field-knowledge of our birds was not generally realized.

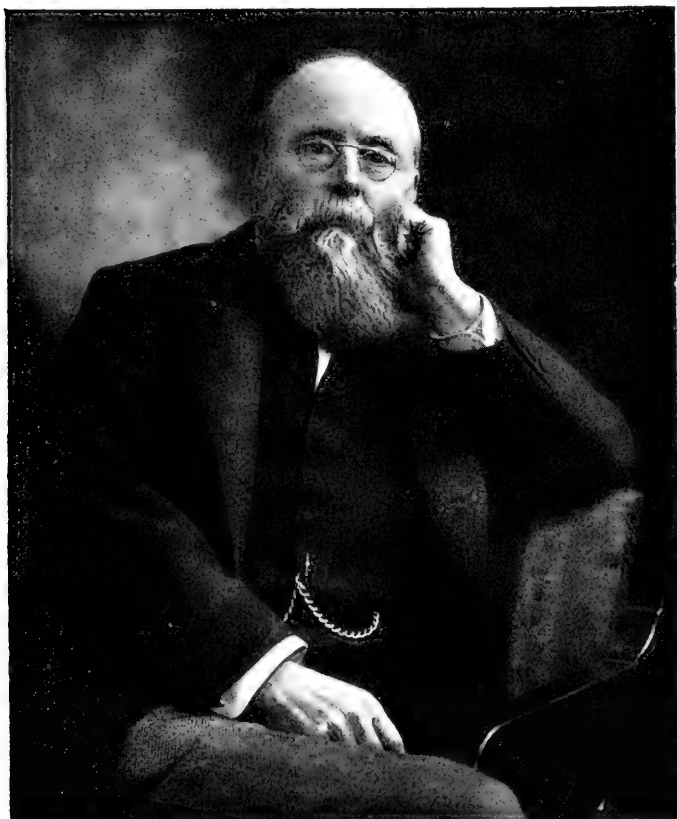
On October 13th, 1899, he delivered his Presidential address before the Liverpool Biological Society, the subject of which was "Flightless Birds," and in Vol. XV. (1901) of the *Transactions* of the same Society appeared an article by him entitled "Notes on the Spread of the Fulmar."

In the summer of 1902 he visited St. Kilda and spent three weeks on the island, and on his return delivered a most interesting lecture before the Liverpool Biological Society on the ornithological results of the expedition. This lecture has been reprinted in book form from the *Transactions* of the Society, and being of very great merit, deserves to be more widely known.

Readers of *British Birds* are acquainted with several short notes, chiefly on rare birds in Somerset, which have appeared from his pen in this periodical.

Dr. Wiglesworth had a magnificent collection of books on birds in his library, which he had got together at great expense

and trouble, and possessed also a very complete collection of British birds' eggs which he had himself collected during his many ornithological rambles up and down the British Islands. It is pleasant to hear that these, in all probability, will not be dispersed.



THE LATE DR. J. WIGLESWORTH.

Some five years ago Dr. Wiglesworth, with his wife and son, came to live at Winscombe in the Mendip Hills of Somerset, and he at once threw himself with extraordinary energy into the investigation of the birds of the county. Two articles he wrote were published in the *Somerset Archaeological and*

*Natural History Society's Transactions* for 1917 and 1918 on "The Little Owl in Somerset" and "The Heronries of Somerset" and these display something of the care with which he personally verified all records, so far as lay in his power. His energy was directed towards gaining a first-hand personal knowledge of the present avifauna of the county and also towards verifying the records of the past, discovering the whereabouts of rare stuffed Somerset birds, and persuading the owners to present these to the Taunton Castle Museum. In all these directions he had already achieved a large measure of success, and the expeditions he undertook on foot over the Quantocks, Exmoor, along the coast-line, and elsewhere in the county would have taxed the strength of many a younger man.

The writer of this notice, who some eighteen years ago compiled the list of Somerset birds for the Victoria County History series, first came in touch with Dr. Wiglesworth through correspondence early in 1916, and first met him the following year. It was evidently Dr. Wiglesworth's intention, though he does not seem to have declared it very definitely, to publish a book on the Birds of Somerset, and the writer has a pile of correspondence which passed between him and the late Doctor during the last three years. A good book on the birds of the county is much needed, and many were looking forward to the day when such a work should be published under the guidance of Dr. Wiglesworth. It is much to be hoped that his notes and records are sufficiently written and collected to make this work still possible.

But what of the man himself? His widow, to whom our deep sympathy goes out, as the only child, a son in the R.A.F., was killed in a flying accident during the war, informs the writer that his most intimate friends were medical men, who are writing about his medical work. May the present writer give a characteristic example of his love of field-work among the birds? It was June 13th, 1917. We had planned to meet at a wayside station to explore the osier beds in the Somerset headquarters of the Marsh-Warbler. On looking out of the train the writer saw Wiglesworth on the platform, and so was about to alight. "Don't get out," he exclaimed with the enthusiasm of a boy, "we will go on to the next station, I know a better place, and I have got your ticket." And then for the next few hours we spoke and thought of little else but birds. Everything else might have ceased to exist, unless it were the lovely roses in the cottage gardens, for Wiglesworth had a passion for flowers as well. Soon we were in the midst of the Marsh-Warbler's haunts. Several pairs were about, and



suddenly, as we were admiring the beautiful basket nest with the handles woven round the osier and meadowsweet, a cock bird struck up his song and Wiglesworth was lost to the world. On and on went the bird, flinging out carelessly that wonderful song of his without rest or pause, minute after minute, until we thought he would drop exhausted by his rapture. But on and on went the song; now it was Blackbird, now Thrush, now Swallow, now Greenfinch, then other familiar strains, stamped nevertheless with a certain individuality which gave them all an additional charm, and when at last the amazing performance was over, we looked at each other in astonishment, feeling that we were in the presence of a master singer. That was the passion of Wiglesworth, as the writer knew him, to be among his beloved birds. He wrote notes assiduously, he hunted up records with unbounded energy, but first and foremost he was a field-naturalist. Whether on some remote island among the sea-fowl, or on sea-cliff, mountain or moor, it was the truth about the bird inhabitants that he must discover. No casual rumour was enough for a definite record; he must, if possible, be there to prove it with his own eyes and ears, and in the very midst of this search for truth he met his sudden death.

F.L.B.

# NOTES

## GREY WAGTAILS NESTING AT A DISTANCE FROM WATER.

A PAIR of Grey Wagtails (*Motacilla c. cinerea*) brought off a brood this year from a nest in a hole under a window-sill in Sizergh Castle, Westmorland. The Castle is a mile from the River Kent. E. U. SAVAGE.

[See *British Birds*, V., pp. 133 and 165, for other instances of breeding at a distance from water.—F.C.R.J.]

## WINTER IMMIGRATION OF GOLDCRESTS AND FIRECRESTS IN KENT.

SINCE the frost of 1917 Goldcrests (*Regulus r. anglorum*) have been extremely scarce near Cranbrook, as in many other parts of the country, and in the breeding season of 1918 I only knew of two or three pairs, all in extensive pine woods a few miles away. On Oct. 22nd, 1918, I first noticed two birds near Cranbrook, and a few days later Goldcrests had become quite abundant in all pine regions; I also saw a few apparently on the move westwards in hedges, and on the 30th two in the flat country near the Rother. I did not observe any further movement of Goldcrests after the end of the month, but on Nov. 16th I saw a female Firecrest (*Regulus i. ignicapillus*). The following day I saw a male in another place. The former bird I did not see again, but the latter remained till Dec. 3rd., after which it disappeared. In the spring I kept a close look-out for it again, and sure enough it reappeared on March 6th and stayed till the 31st, frequently singing. During the winter two Goldcrests had haunted the same place, but these disappeared after March 16th, and the number in Angley Park, where in early March there had been a party of nearly twenty, gradually diminished, till at the end of the month only one or two were left, though on April 3rd I saw a party of about eight at another part. In one or two other places in the neighbourhood I heard Goldcrests singing vigorously in early April, as if they had established themselves again for breeding purposes.

H. G. ALEXANDER.

## GREAT TIT LAYING IN AN OPEN NEST.

ON May 23rd a Haileybury boy, E. B. Coventry, found in an open nest in a hedge eggs that looked like those of a Great

Tit (*Parus m. newtoni*). On going to the place again the next day he found a Great Tit on the nest. Two days after, I went to see the nest myself. Unfortunately, the eggs had been taken. It was apparently an old Blackbird's nest with a few feathers added by way of lining. F. W. HEADLEY.

[An open nest of this kind is well figured in Nelson's *Birds of Yorkshire*, I., pl. to face p. 110.—F.C.R.J.]

#### HOOPOE IN SHROPSHIRE.

ON April 26th, 1919, a male Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) was picked up at Burlton, near Wem. It was in perfect plumage. This bird has been recorded over a dozen times in Shropshire, usually in spring, but in 1895 one was shot at Claverley, near Bridgnorth, in November. H. E. FORREST.

#### ADULT CUCKOO KILLING NESTLING BIRDS.

ON May 25th, 1919, a Cuckoo (*Cuculus c. canorus*) paid two visits to the ivy that covers the dormitory wall on the east side of the school quadrangle at Haileybury. After the second visit a boy got a ladder and inspected the place. He found there the nest of a Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla a. lugubris*), containing three young Wagtails just hatched, and what he took for a fresh Cuckoo's egg, just deposited on the top of the young nestlings. When he tried to blow the egg it turned out to be just on the point of hatching. On May 26th the Wagtail's nest received no visit, as far as is known, from the Cuckoo, but on May 27th she came twice, and on the second occasion, clinging to the ivy just below the nest and seizing the three young Wagtails, she flung them back over her head on to the asphalt below. Mr. C. A. Ronald can vouch for all the facts. I saw the young birds on the asphalt shortly after they were ejected. In *British Birds*, September, 1915 (Vol. IX., p. 95), an instance of an adult Cuckoo killing young nestlings is recorded. F. W. HEADLEY.

[The following case, though not absolutely conclusive, throws strong suspicion on the Cuckoo. The eggs in a Hedge-Sparrow's nest in a bush against the wall of my house hatched out on May 26th, 1918. At midday I heard a Cuckoo close to the place, and on reaching the spot was surprised to find the nest empty. One of the young Hedge-Sparrows, still breathing, was caught among the creepers a few inches below the nest, but I could see nothing of the others. I replaced the young bird in the nest, but it was soon cold and dead. The nest could not have been reached by a cat, and there are no Crows, Magpies or Jays close at hand.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

## HOBBY IN BEDFORDSHIRE.

As the HOBBY (*Falco s. subbuteo*) is now a rare bird in Bedfordshire, it may be worth recording that I had a very close view of one on May 24th, 1919, at Woburn. It was alternately chasing and being chased by Sand-Martins, and came within a few yards of the motor in which I was sitting.

M. BEDFORD.

## OSPREY ON THE NORFOLK BROADS.

IN *British Birds*, Vol. XII., p. 47, I recorded an Osprey (*Pandion h. haliaëtus*) at Scoulton Mere, Norfolk, on May 23rd, 1918. On May 11th, 1919, after having just flushed a Bittern from her nest of six eggs, five of which have since hatched out, I saw an Osprey sailing over an adjacent Broad, when it suddenly held itself up in its flight and made a stoop vertically downwards. I could not see it take the fish, owing to some intervening trees, and the bird was lost to sight for about ten minutes, during which time I imagined it was devouring its prey. It then rose again into the air and sailed round and round, and as it came into the sun identification with glasses was easy. This bird remained in the district for about a week, and was several times seen by a marshman to catch fish from the Broad.

S. H. LONG.

## NIGHT-HERON IN ANGLESEY.

AN adult Night-Heron (*Nycticorax n. nycticorax*) was shot by a farmer at Rhos Neigr, Anglesey, on May 31st, 1919. I received the bird, sent for identification, on June 3rd, but owing to its decomposed state could not ascertain the sex nor the colour of the irides. Certain points of its coloration seemed to me to differ from the descriptions I have consulted. The crown, back and scapulars are usually described as black with bottle-green reflections, but they seemed to me to lie between Ridgway's "plumbeous" and "blackish slate," with distinctly *indigo* sheen. The upper mandible was blackish-slate; the lower blackish at the tip, reddish at the base. The lores and skin round the eye were dark green. Allowing for a certain amount of deepening of colour, it is difficult to reconcile this with the various descriptions given, most of which were probably taken from dry skins. These are: "dark slate-grey" (Seeböhm); "pale green" (Sharpe and Pycraft); "yellowish-green" (Dresser); "lead-colour" (Saunders); "bluish-grey" (Saunders in *Yarrell*). The legs and feet were ochre-yellow,

the claws black. There were two and only two white nuchal plumes. The total length was about 22 in. Wing, 285 mm. Culmen, 68 mm. Tarsus, 80 mm.

Forrest (*Fauna of North Wales*, p. 257) mentions Eyton's undated Anglesey record, and a report without details for Flint.

T. A. COWARD.

### GANNETS IN DERBYSHIRE.

ON April 16th, 1919, during stormy weather, I saw at Fenny Bentley, near Ashburne, two Gannets (*Sula rassa*) which passed overhead at about twenty feet from the ground. There are about ten previously recorded occurrences of this species in the county, including one seen flying in a south-westerly direction over Thorpe on March 1st, 1917, and nine recorded by Mr. Jourdain in the *Victoria Hist. of Derbyshire*, p. 138.

ERNEST GRINDEY.

### FULMAR PETRELS IN YORKSHIRE IN SUMMER.

In a note on "the Fulmar in Kincardineshire" in *British Birds*, Vol. VIII., p. 125, the following sentence occurs: "Is it too much to hope that some day the Fulmar will appear on the Yorkshire cliffs?" I am glad to be able to report that the Fulmar (*Fulmarus g. glacialis*) has now "appeared" on these cliffs, though whether it is yet breeding there is not ascertained. On June 14th, 1919, when walking along the top of the cliff at Speeton I saw a couple of these beautiful birds. They were beating regularly backwards and forwards along the face of the cliffs between Speeton and Bempton during the whole afternoon. The "Climbers" of Buckton tell me that the birds have been there all the season—that is, from the second week in May. One man told me that he had seen as many as three birds at a time, but I could only be sure of a couple. The birds patrol the cliffs all day long while the climbers are at work, and have never yet been seen to alight on the rock. Whether the birds are actually breeding remains to be proved, but there is no doubt that they have most persistently haunted these cliffs for several weeks.

GEORGE W. TEMPERLEY.

### GREAT CRESTED GREBES NESTING IN KENT.

ABOUT mid April 1919 a pair of Great Crested Grebes (*Podiceps c. cristatus*) arrived on a lake in north Kent. Subsequently they nested under some willows overhanging the water from an island in the lake, and on June 2nd I was pleased to see the old birds swimming about, followed by four

young birds, well grown and showing the conspicuous grey and white neck stripes very clearly.

In the *Birds of Kent* it is stated that these birds have never bred in Kent ; so this record may be of interest.

The locality is an eminently suitable spot for them.

D. H. MEARES.

[Great Crested Grebes nested for the first time in Kent in 1911 (A. Trevor-Battye, *Field*, October 21st, 1911) on the lake at Hever, where they have since established themselves. A year or two previously they also nested for the first time on the lake at Eridge, which is not far distant, but in Sussex.—N.F.T.]

#### BLACK-NECKED GREBE ON KENT AND SUSSEX BORDER.

WHILE I was staying at Wittersham, Kent, a Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*) was brought to me for identification. It was shot on April 21st, 1919, in a flooded field on the River Rother ; the field being, I believe, partly in Kent and partly in Sussex. The bird was not quite in full summer plumage, the throat being speckled with white, although the light chestnut ear-tufts were present. The upturned beak was very noticeable.

H. E. CASTENS.

[This would appear to be the first record of this species from Kent in spring, and it has always been one of the rarest visitors to the county in winter. Now that it is in process of establishing itself, however, as a breeding species in several localities in these islands, occurrences in spring are naturally to be looked for and should become more frequent. Needless to say at this time of year, the birds should receive rigid protection.—N.F.T.]

#### RED-THROATED DIVERS IN DERBYSHIRE AND LEICESTERSHIRE.

A RED-THROATED DIVER (*Colymbus stellatus*) was shot by Mr. G. H. Peach, of Birdsgrove Farm, on the River Dove, above Hanging Bridge (between Ashburne and Mayfield), on April 3rd, 1919. It was brought to Mr. J. Henderson, of Clifton, for identification the same evening, and he kindly informed me of the occurrence. The bird was in good condition and had no trace of the red throat. There are only about four definite records of this species for the county, the last of which was from the same locality as the present specimen in 1895.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

A FEMALE Red-throated Diver (*Colymbus stellatus*) was shot

on Thornton Reservoir, Leicestershire, in February 1918. In its gullet were several perch and a trout. Only about half a dozen of the previous records for the county are at all definite.

W. H. BARROW.

#### DOTTEREL IN CO. DUBLIN.

ON April 27th, 1919, while the north-easterly blizzard, which appears to have swept over the greater part of the British Isles, was raging, I identified three Dotterels (*Charadrius morinellus*), at Kilbarrack, co. Dublin. They were in a field of young wheat about 200 yards from the sea. On examining the birds through a pair of binoculars, two were seen to be adults in full breeding plumage. The other I considered was an immature bird, as it had none of the bright colouring on the under-parts, nor did it show any dark brown on the crown. The white eye-stripe, however, was clearly defined, and quite as prominent as in the adult birds, but the white crescent across the upper-breast was indistinct. When moving on the ground these birds reminded me of the Ringed Plover, displaying the same habit of running rapidly for two or three yards, with lowered head, stopping suddenly, and repeating the movement after a few moments' interval.

This, the fifteenth record of the Dotterel in Ireland, is particularly interesting, as it is the first known visit of the species to co. Dublin, and the second occasion on which it has occurred in Ireland during the month of April.

GEO. R. HUMPHREYS.

#### GREENSHANK IN WARWICKSHIRE.

As the Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) is an uncommon visitor to Warwickshire, it is, I think, worth recording that I saw one in Sutton Park on April 13th and 14th, 1919.

B. A. CARTER.

#### SHIFTING OF BREEDING-GROUNDS BY TERNS.

ACCUMULATING evidence shows that in North Wales all the species of Tern that breed in the district are prone to shift their nesting ground from year to year. Details will be given in the forthcoming *Supplement* to my "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but I will give here just one striking example. At Point of Air, near Prestatyn, a colony of Lesser Terns (*Sterna a. albifrons*) have been known to breed ever since 1866, when they were recorded by H. Ecroyd Smith. No other species was noted there until 1910, when Mr. R. D. Roberts found two pairs of Common Terns (*S. hirundo*)

nesting on the same ground. There were three pairs next year, and then the colony increased enormously till in 1916 Mr. C. Oldham reckoned there were at least 150 pairs of Common Terns nesting there: he counted 126 nests with eggs on 15th July. In 1917 I went over the ground myself and found it almost deserted—only a few odd birds flying about. A large military camp had been formed along the foreshore, and the Terns (both species) were so constantly disturbed that they deserted the locality almost entirely.

H. E. FORREST.

#### ICELAND GULLS IN THE ORKNEYS.

ALTHOUGH the Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) is well known to occur annually in the Orkneys, the following results of fairly constant observation from July 1918 to February 1919 in Scapa Flow may be worth recording.

1. Oct. 28th and Nov. 9th, 1918, Scapa, N., an immature bird assuming adult plumage, apparently the same individual on both dates (*cf.* Vol. XII., p. 190).
2. Dec. 2nd and 3rd, 1918, Scapa, S., apparently a bird of the year.
3. Jan. 6th, 1919, Scapa, N., a very pale immature bird in company with two *L. glaucus*.
4. Feb. 25th, 1919, Scapa, N., an immature bird.

During this period five *L. glaucus* were seen.

J. M. HARRISON.

#### COLORATION OF THE SOFT PARTS OF SOME BIRDS.

ACCURATE information on the colouring of the soft parts of birds seems so scanty that the following notes made from living or freshly killed specimens may be of interest:

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala c. clangula*), immature. (1) ♂ first winter, Windermere, December 18th, 1917. Iris: yellowish-brown. Bill: black, merging into a broad yellowish-brown streak along the ridge of the upper mandible, nail black. Feet: dull orange; webs and back of leg dark brown. (2) ♀ first winter, Windermere, December 29th, 1917. Iris: rather browner than in (1). Bill: yellow-brown, darker at the base, nail black. Feet: yellower than in (1), and the legs clouded with dusky. The bills of young duck and drake Goldeneyes are described by Mr. J. G. Millais in his *Diving Ducks*, Vol. I., pp. 83, 84, as slaty-blue and bluish-black, respectively.

MOOR-HEN (*Gallinula ch. chloropus*).—Macgillivray (Vol. IV., p. 548) says of this bird: "The iris which is very narrow,



seems red at a distance, but is composed of three rings, the outer hazel, the middle dusky, the inner bright red." In a living one which I examined on May 25th, 1918, the iris was not noticeably narrow; round the pupil was a very narrow line of pale yellow, then came a rather wider ring of black, which merged into the rich crimson of the rest of the iris.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*). ♀ Windermere, January 8th, 1918 (see *British Birds*, XII., p. 22.) Iris: Bright pinkish-orange, with a white hair-line round the pupil. Eyelids: brownish-orange; lores, dusky. Bill: blue-grey, shading to pale flesh on the basal third; the upper mandible is very narrowly margined with blackish and has a streak of the same colour along the ridge, extending to just below the nostril at the base. Feet: tarsi, blue-green; toes, slate-grey, darker at the edges of the lobes, and fading to pale pinkish-yellow at the base of the second and third digits, which have a piece of wrinkled olive-green skin between them. Back of foot black, tinged with greenish on the tarsus.

The following note was given me by my brother, D. G. Garnett: GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Colymbus immer*). In an immature male, shot on Windermere, January 1917, the light parts of the webs of the feet were a deep salmon-pink while the bird was alive, but faded to whitish very soon after death. The pink colour in the living bird is, of course, due to blood circulating through the capillaries of an unpigmented area; the blood, at death, accumulates in the big veins, and consequently the part becomes colourless.

MARJORY GARNETT.

EARLY ARRIVAL OF GARDEN-WARBLER AND WRYNECK.—Mr. H. D. Astley states that he saw a Garden-Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) at Brinsop Court, Hereford, on March 31st and Mr. J. H. Crow records a Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*) near Newbury, Berks, on February 28th, 1919 (*Field*, April 12th, 1919, p. 445).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE AS A BREEDING BIRD IN SCOTLAND.—Mr. W. Evans summarizes (*Scott. Nat.*, 1919, pp. 49-50), the nesting records of *Podiceps c. cristatus*, showing how the bird has spread as a breeding species in Forth during the last 20-30 years. But Mr. Evans is inclined to doubt if there are as many breeding in the area now as there were ten years ago, and in any case it would appear that the increase has been checked.

In the same journal (pp. 67-77) the Misses E. V. Baxter and L. J. Rintoul publish a very interesting and useful study of the extension of the breeding range of this bird in Scotland, which

has taken place in the last twenty-five years. A chronological list is given and each area is treated in detail. The bird's chief breeding centres in Scotland are in the faunal areas of Forth, Tay and Clyde. In Solway there are records of only three colonies, in Tweed it is not so common as one would expect, while for Moray there is only one record. It is not known to breed in any other area.

## LETTERS.

### THE LATE FRANK NORGATE.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—With reference to the obituary notice (*antea*, p. 21), it may be well to point out that it was to the late Mr. Thomas Southwell that Norgate gave his notes on the breeding of the Pochard and Tufted Duck in Norfolk. A reference to the third volume of the *Birds of Norfolk* will show that after the death of Mr. Stevenson in 1888 Mr. Southwell completed the volume, and quoted Norgate's notes on several species. When I was at work on the article on Birds for the *Victoria History of Suffolk* Norgate gave me most valuable assistance by reading over the MS. From 1888 to 1903 we saw a good deal of each other; in the latter year he left Bury and went to live at Anerley. However, we corresponded regularly and used to exchange magazines, those I sent to him being often returned with humorous criticisms. His last contribution seems to have been to the *Zoologist* for 1897 (p. 164) on "Human Bones at Bromehill." Born on the last day of 1842 he was in his 77th year at his death, not in his 75th as stated in the notice. Some of his East Anglian friends doubtless wished that he had been laid to rest in the county of his birth, where so many Norgates lie, but he was buried in a piece of ground belonging to the Church of St. John's, Upper Norwood, which he always attended.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. J. G. TUCK.

### INCUBATION DURING THE LAYING PERIOD.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—Mr. J. H. Owen's note in the last number (*antea*, p. 23) was of great interest to me, as I have also been making a study of the same subject. My object in doing so was to prove a theory that all birds have to incubate at intervals during the laying period if they wish to synchronize the hatching of the whole clutch. It is, I believe, a demonstrable fact, and one well known to poultry fanciers, that a relatively stale egg will take a longer time to incubate than a perfectly fresh one—hence the necessity of interrupted incubation during the laying period.

COLLINGWOOD INGRAM.

WESTGATE-ON-SEA.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND.

**WANTED.**—Gould's "Birds of Asia."—Give price and full particulars to T., Office of "British Birds," 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**"BRITISH BIRDS" Vols. 1 and 2 wanted.**

Address S., Office of "British Birds."

**"ZOOLOGIST."** Complete set of 74 vols. for Sale, Bound in blue cloth, morocco backs, good condition.

Offers to Z., Office of "British Birds."

# JUNGLE PEACE

By WILLIAM BEEBE

THE BOOK OF THE YEAR  
FOR THE NATURALIST.

The work contains "records of extraordinary scientific interest, in language which has all the charm of an essay of Robert Louis Stevenson. The author tells of bird and beast and plant and insect life of the British Guiana jungle. Whatever he touches he turns into the gold of truth, rightly interpreted and vividly set forth."

PRESS COMMENTS.

"This is a wonderful book—a book of Nature's miracles . . . He is the Maeterlinck of open-air science working in the least known of natural wonderlands."

*Morning Post.*

"I should have missed something good if I had never seen 'Jungle Peace.'"

*Westminster Gazette.*

"Pictures that linger in the memory as real literary gems."—*Scotsman.*

"His narrative sparkles with countless jewels of description."—*Daily Graphic.*

"Passion for the scientific study of nature and an eye that nothing escapes are matched by his gift for vivid description."—*Athenæum.*

"Enthralling in its vivid reproduction of some of the most wonderful and little-known scenes in nature."—*Yorkshire Post.*

Now Ready.

Illustrated.

8s. net.

LONDON: WITHERBY & CO.

# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

AUGUST 1,  
1919.

Vol. XII.  
No. 3.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

PART 3 NOW READY.

A  
**Practical Handbook**  
OF  
**British Birds**

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.  
EDITOR OF BRITISH BIRDS (MAG.).

*Authors of the Various Sections :*

ERNST HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U.

ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

AND THE EDITOR.

*Illustrated with*  
*Coloured Plates*  
*Half-tones*  
*and Numerous*  
*Text Figures.*



*Practical*  
*Original*  
*Up-to-date.*  
—  
Price 4s. net  
per part.

FULL PROSPECTUS AND COLOURED PLATE POST FREE.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, London.

IN EIGHTEEN PARTS

Part 3 (<sup>80 PAGES</sup>  
Two Plates) June 18th, 1919

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

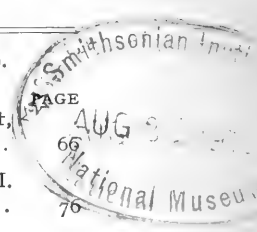
EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 3, Vol. XIII. AUGUST 1, 1919.

The Birds of Bardsey Island. Part 2. By Dr. N. F. Ticehurst, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc. . . . .	66
The Yellow Wagtail in the Seine-Inférieure. By the Rev. J. M. McWilliam . . . . .	76
Down Tracts in Nestling Birds. By Collingwood Ingram, M.B.O.U. . . . .	78
Notes:—	
Spring Immigration of Jackdaws on the Hampshire Coast (Editors) . . . . .	80
Migration of Starling from Finland to the Mediterranean (H. W. Robinson) . . . . .	80
Abnormal Clutches of Chaffinch's Eggs (A. Mayall and Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain) . . . . .	80
Grey Wagtails Nesting at a Distance from Water (J. Steele Elliott) . . . . .	81
Pied Flycatcher in Suffolk in Spring (J. K. Stanford) . . . . .	81
Large Clutch of Wren's Eggs (J. H. Owen) . . . . .	82
Some Notes on the Wryneck (J. K. Stanford and Dr. N. F. Ticehurst) . . . . .	82
Unusual Nesting Site of Kestrel (J. F. Thomas) . . . . .	84
Hobby in Shropshire and Worcestershire (J. Steele Elliott) . . . . .	84
Kite in Kent in 1822 (H. S. Gladstone) . . . . .	84
Spoonbill in Hampshire (Sir Thomas H. C. Troubridge) . . . . .	85
American Blue-winged Teal in Anglesey (L. R. A. Gatehouse) . . . . .	85
Long-tailed Duck feeding on Grain (Dr. J. M. Harrison) . . . . .	85
Turtle-Dove breeding in North Lancashire (Dr. H. J. Moon) . . . . .	86
Introduction of Red Grouse to Somerset (Stanley Lewis) . . . . .	86
Pheasant breeding in Sparrow-Hawk's Nest (Major Van der Weyer) . . . . .	87
Short Notes:—Common Scoter breeding in Ireland. Little Auk in Derbyshire in May) . . . . .	87
Letter:—The Drumming of Woodpeckers (Captain N. Tracy) . . . . .	88



## THE BIRDS OF BARDSEY ISLAND.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc.

## PART 2.

THE HOUSE-SPARROW (*Passer d. domesticus*).

Unrecorded from the light.

As a resident seen "in fair numbers about the farms" by Mr. Aplin and by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 it was breeding numerous about the farms and in the stone walls round the fields in their vicinity, but absent from those more distant. All were remarkably clean, bright-looking birds (as already commented upon by Mr. Aplin) and evidently unmolested, as they were remarkably unsuspecting and allowed close-range photography without the use of any cover. The first young ones were seen out of the nest on the 23rd. In September the same numbers were present and no fluctuation was noticed.

THE CORN-BUNTING (*Emberiza c. calandra*).

Unrecorded at the light.

As a summer resident recorded as "common" both by Mr. Aplin and by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 scattered pairs were found all over the cultivated area, numerous in the southern half, scarce in the north. Not found to the east of the road where the few enclosures on the lower slope of the mountain are derelict. The males were as usual very conspicuous, but the females were seldom seen and were presumably still sitting.

In September some young birds were only just out of the nest on the 8th, and three pairs were still feeding young on the 11th. One young bird had a great many white feathers in each wing. The old ones were in full moult. In the early morning of the 11th the numbers present were greater than usual, and it was clear that there had been an immigration during the night with Meadow-Pipits and Linnets. These surplus birds had all disappeared again by 10 a.m., and, thereafter no further fluctuation in numbers was noticed.

THE YELLOW BUNTING (*Emberiza c. citrinella*).

Three times recorded from the light, single birds in each case: April 10th/11th, 1913, November 20th/21st, 1911, and December 5th/6th, 1913.

The absence of the species in summer is rather remarkable.



THE ORTOLAN BUNTING (*Emberiza hortulana*).

An immature bird was taken at the lantern on September 2nd/3rd, 1913, and on the next morning another was clearly identified on one of the field banks amongst a flock of Common Buntings, which were constantly visiting a patch of standing oats. Its silvery note, uttered on the wing, was always very distinctive. None were seen on the 5th, but the same bird or another was seen on the 6th, while two fresh ones were identified on the 7th. No more were then seen until the 11th, when another single bird was seen, having evidently arrived with Meadow-Pipits, Linnets and Common Buntings during the night. Each one of these birds proved difficult of approach: they sat high up on bramble-sprays growing from the top of the turf walls, in exactly the same way as the Common Buntings, but with glasses their greenish tint and pinkish bills could be clearly seen. The last bird when flushed flew out of sight to the east over the southern shoulder of the mountain, evidently following the usual Pipit route.

THE REED-BUNTING (*Emberiza s. schæniclus*).

Twice recorded from the light, a few on April 14th/15th, 1912 and one on February 27th/28th, 1913.

THE SNOW-BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).

One record, December 5th/6th, 1913.

THE SKY-LARK (*Alauda a. arvensis*).

A regular double-passage migrant in considerable numbers.

Spring passage from the second week in February to mid-April; in largest numbers in the latter part of February. Occasional records in January as with the Starling and *Turdidæ*.

Autumn passage from the last week of September to mid-November, in some years to the third week of December; in largest numbers in October.

One of the most surprising things about the avifauna of Bardsey is the absence of the Sky-Lark as a summer resident, which has already been commented upon by Mr. Aplin, nor were any seen by Mr. Coward nor by myself.

In September 1913 we were too early to see anything but just the beginning of the autumn migration, though two birds had arrived before the 3rd and were seen in the same place daily up to the 14th, when a third had joined them. Three or four new ones came in on the night of the 16th/17th, and on the morning of the 21st there were quite a lot in the fields of roots and potatoes.

THE TREE-PIPIT (*Anthus t. trivialis*).

Unrecorded from the light.

On the morning of September 5th, 1913, six, which had evidently arrived overnight, were found sitting about on the bramble-covered walls of the cultivated area. They disappeared in the course of the afternoon and the only other one seen was an injured bird, that had struck the light; it was found on the 9th, but had probably been on the island since the 5th.

THE MEADOW-PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*).

Probably a regular double-passage migrant, but owing to the chiefly diurnal character of its movements but scantily recorded from the lighthouse.

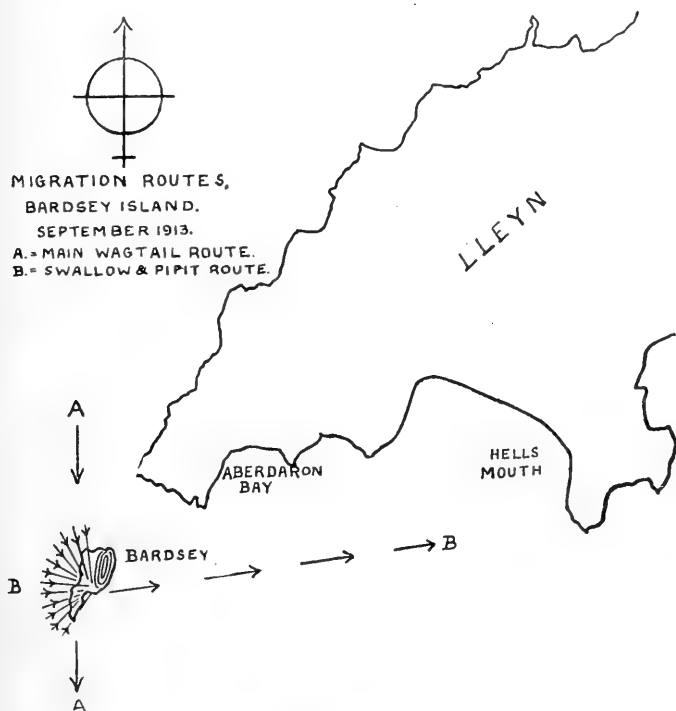
Four spring records, February 17th/18th and April 14th/15th, 1912, and March 24th/25th, 26th/27th, 1914. Two autumn records, October 2nd/3rd and 8th/9th, 1913.

As a summer resident recorded by Mr. Aplin as "some about the mountain and lower pastures" and also seen by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 Meadow-Pipits were quite numerous all over the cultivated area and apparently taking the place of the Sky-Lark, the males constantly soaring aloft and singing. Distributed also in scattered pairs along both the east and west slopes of the mountain, but absent from the highest parts, where cover is practically absent. Two young ones able to fly were seen on the 14th, but for the most part, young were being fed in the nest at that date. A pair with young in a nest in scrub gorse on the 21st were watched and photographed at close quarters. The female was much less frightened at the tent than the male and brought food to the young quite three times to his once. The young were fed at intervals of seven to ten minutes and the food consisted of flies, green caterpillars and daddy-long-legs, almost all of it gathered in a neighbouring potato field. The nest was cleaned and the fæces carried away and dropped by both parents.

On September 3rd and 4th the number of Meadow-Pipits on the island was much about the same as in June, after allowing for the normal increase due to the broods. They were scattered about all over the island. On the mornings of the 5th and 6th there had evidently been overnight arrivals, as there were a good many more birds in the potato fields than on the 4th, and there were more birds elsewhere as well. A similar increase was again noticed on the 8th, but these

new arrivals and many of the others with them had disappeared again by mid-day.

On the early morning of the 10th the first daylight passage movement was noticed; it comprised three birds only, travelling with a dozen Swallows and a Grey Wagtail. They appeared to be coming from the north-west and were following the western slope of the mountain round, at about half its



height (say 200 feet in total altitude above sea level) and over the low part of its southern shoulder and so out to sea to the east or slightly north of east, taking a line for the promontory on the east side of Hell's Mouth Bay, which is the first bit of the Welsh coast visible on topping the southern shoulder of Bardsey mountain. The Pipits present on the island on this day were probably the summer residents only.

On the 11th a considerable number and on the 12th smaller numbers had arrived overnight and were found, chiefly, in

the potato fields, which were full of them on the 11th. On each day these extra numbers had passed on before 10 a.m., but their departure was not witnessed. On the 13th, 14th and 15th only the usual numbers were present.

On the 16th a very large number had arrived and at 6.30 a.m. the island was full of them and migration was still going on and continued uninterruptedly until 8.30 a.m. The birds travelled in small parties and were passing continuously across the whole of the island south of the mountain. Many of them took the same course as those on the 10th, and this is evidently the main route of the species at this season; others came in more directly from the west, but all tended to turn a little to the north of east as soon as they cleared the mountain and could see the land beyond. A great number of the birds that had arrived earlier and stopped to feed, resumed the same course when put up. After the main passage was over, small parties continued to arrive in succession all the morning at the southern point of the island, coming in low over the sea from the south-west. Some stopped to feed on the short grass and rocks before resuming their flight, while others passed on without stopping straight up the eastern shore towards the southern shoulder of the mountain, whence they doubtless turned more to the east, on to the course the earlier ones had taken.

On the 17th there were no overnight arrivals, but a few came in at the southern point in the early morning, from the south-west, up to 10 a.m. These all stopped to feed, several of them afterwards starting off towards the east, but after a short flight turned back and landed farther up the coast as though afraid to venture farther, there being no land in sight, owing to fog.

On the 18th and 19th there were no overnight arrivals, and only quite a few came in at the southern point up to 10 a.m. On these two days they arrived from a point a little to the north of west, but otherwise their direction of flight was the same as on the 16th and 17th. On the 20th there was no migration and only the resident population was seen. On the 21st there was a small overnight or early morning arrival, both in the cultivated area and at the southern point, where there were a good many throughout the morning, but no actual arrivals were witnessed. Two parties, however, were seen departing: one of them followed the usual route up the east coast, while the other went off to the south, along the usual Wagtail route. The surplus birds in the cultivated area had all gone before mid-day.

THE ROCK-PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta petrosus*).

Once recorded from the light. A few on March 24th/25th, 1913.

As a summer resident recorded by Mr. Aplin as "fairly common" and by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 distributed all round the coast, decidedly scarce at the north end, some six or seven pairs along the west coast of the northern half, most numerous of all round the southern half of the island. Not seen away from the coast line. All feeding young in the nest (or possibly some still sitting) on the 12th, and no young seen out of the nest up to the 23rd.

In September there seemed to be fewer birds than in June, but no fluctuation was noticed, and there was no evidence of any migration. The old birds were in full moult.

THE YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava rayi*).

Unrecorded from the light in spring; three autumn records, viz.: August 30th/31st, September 4th/5th and 5th/6th, 1913. Probably a regular autumn passage migrant in small numbers.

In September 1913 four were seen on the 7th and 8th, a single bird on the 17th and two on the 19th. They were all feeding in the pastures round the cattle, and their coming and going were not witnessed. On the 21st two single birds came down the southern half of the island from the north and went on out to sea to the south, following the usual Wagtail route.

THE GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla c. cinerea*).

Unrecorded at the light, but probably a regular passage migrant in small numbers, at any rate in autumn.

In September 1913 three or four birds were seen along the north coast on the 3rd, and then no others were seen until the 9th, when a single bird came over the farms below the southern shoulder of the mountain at 10 a.m. It was travelling in company with a dozen Swallows and three Meadow-Pipits, and appeared to be coming from the N.W. at a fair height, and with them followed the usual Pipit route. On the 11th another single bird, again travelling with Swallows, followed the same course. On the 14th five came down the centre of the island and passed southward out to sea from its tip, following the usual Wagtail route.

On the 15th two single birds followed the same course. On the 16th one was seen at the farm, one was heard passing over, and a third was seen flying high over and taking the same course as those on the 10th and 11th. All these movements

took place in the forenoon. On the afternoon of the 20th a single bird was seen in the fields.

THE PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba lugubris*).

Four light records: January 18th/19th, 1912, a few; October 15th/16th, 1911, one; September 3rd/4th, a few, and 5th/6th, one, 1913.

Probably a regular double-passage migrant and almost certainly so in autumn, but chiefly diurnal, so that, with the other Wagtails and Pipits, the light records do not convey a correct idea of its status.

As a summer resident apparently represented by a single pair. Doubtfully recorded (probably owing to omission to make a note at the time) by Mr. Aplin. Old and young seen by Mr. Coward.

In 1913 the single pair was seen almost daily and were watched to their nest on June 20th. It was situated on a small projecting rock under an overhanging gorse tump half way up the mountain side above the farms, and contained fully fledged young.

In September 1913 its migratory movements were those detailed below under the next form, the two races often travelling in company. On the whole, however, the White Wagtail was in larger numbers, particularly on those days when the movements were heaviest.

THE WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba alba*).

Twice recorded at the light, viz: September 9th/10th, 1910, and September 3rd/4th, 1913. Without doubt a regular passage migrant, at any rate in autumn, but chiefly diurnal. In spring it has been recorded as a regular migrant from the Merioneth and Anglesey coasts.

The movements of this bird and the Pied Wagtail were one of the chief migratory features of September 1913, and were almost always performed in company. From the 3rd to the 5th about forty birds were present on the island, and probably comprised both forms, but this is not certain. The summer residents and their young were either mixed with these or had already gone.

A movement recorded at the lantern on the night of the 3rd/4th caused no appreciable change in their numbers, but following another on the 5th/6th, only quite a few birds were left and all had gone by the 9th. On the 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 19th and 21st, single birds, and small numbers up to eight were seen passing on the routes about

to be described. On these days the passage lasted from early morning to 10 or 11 a.m. On the 16th, 17th and 18th the movement was of far greater intensity, especially on the 16th and 17th, when it was practically continuous, in small parties from early morning to noon. On all three days White Wagtails predominated. On the 16th, and to a lesser extent on the 17th, two distinct routes were being pursued at once. We found that the two best observing places for these birds were the west bay, where there is a small area of dry sand, frequently used by them as a halting and feeding place, and the southern tip of the island, where a point could be found commanding a view of the tip, the sea on each side, a good view to the north and a long stretch of both east and west coasts, and here, as also on the roofs of the lighthouse buildings near by, the birds often halted also. The main Wagtail route passed from north to south along the west coast. The birds arrived either from the north (or the north-west, it is not quite certain which) and could be seen when at the west bay coming down low over the rocks from the north and passing on with or without halting, either down the coast, or down the centre of the island, to its southern tip, where they flew straight out to sea directly south. Nearly all the small parties on the other days followed this route, and only once did we see a party flying across the cultivated area and they were going in the same direction.

The other route, which we came to recognize as the Pipit route, was only seen used by Wagtails at the southern tip of the island. Here the birds came in, flying low over the sea from the south-west (one party came in from the west on the 16th) and after crossing the tip of the island, with or without halting, they continued in the same direction which took them directly up the east coast towards the southern shoulder of the mountain, where they were lost to view. It is probable, however, that from this point they followed the same route taken by the Meadow-Pipits (*q.v.*), which would bring them to the Welsh coast in the neighbourhood of Hell's Mouth.

#### THE BRITISH GOLDCREST (*Regulus r. anglorum*).

Probably a regular double-passage migrant, but at present there are only two spring records, viz.: April 14th/15th and 20th/21st, 1912, of small numbers on each night. Autumn passage from second week in September to the first week in November. Occasionally in early December. Numbers always small.

In September 1913 no more than four or five were seen on any one day, and none were seen anywhere except in one of the farm gardens, where they stuck pretty closely to some tamarisk bushes. There were two birds there on the 4th, and fresh birds arrived on the 8th, 9th, 16th and 21st; and the majority only made a stay of one day.

THE SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa s. striata*).

A regular double-passage migrant in small numbers.

Spring passage, from the end of the first week in May to the first week in June.

Autumn passage, from the end of the first week in August to the fourth week in September.

As a summer resident evidently not constant, recorded by Mr. Aplin as "several about the farm gardens," but not seen by Mr. Coward. It is, of course, possible that some, at any rate, of the birds seen by Mr. Aplin were halting migrants.

In June 1913 represented by two pairs that were nesting in the neighbourhood of one of the willow-beds in the centre of the cultivated area. There were certainly no birds in the farm gardens.

In early September small numbers probably passed on most nights between the 2nd and 9th, as specimens were taken at the lantern on four nights, and from two to six were seen about the island on each day from the 3rd to the 7th. There were none on the 8th, but three were seen on the 9th, two on the 10th, and one, the last, on the 12th. Some of these birds were found frequenting the rocks at the south end of the island and in this situation proved very puzzling to identify.

THE PIED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*).

Unrecorded from the light prior to the autumn of 1913, when a few occurred on August 30th/31st and a single bird was killed on September 25th/26th. Three were found on the island on September 3rd, and these of course may have been there since August 31st, or they may have arrived the previous night, when a heavy movement was recorded at the lantern, though the species was not represented amongst the birds killed. They had all gone on the 4th, but five more were seen on the next day. Only one of these remained on the 6th, and this was the last seen.

THE CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*).

Probably a regular double-passage migrant, but only once recorded in spring, viz.: a considerable number on April 11th/12th, 1910.



A regular autumn passage migrant, in considerable numbers, from the second week in September to the second week in October.

In September 1913 a few came to the lantern on the nights of the 6th/7th and 8th/9th, but none were seen on the island until the morning of the 10th, when four or five were identified in one of the farm gardens, where they remained all day. Two only were left on the next morning and these had gone by the 12th. A few probably arrived on the night of the 15th with a number of Willow-Warblers, Sedge-Warblers and Meadow-Pipits, but only one bird was positively identified the next morning. None were seen after.

#### THE WILLOW-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, from the beginning of April to the end of the first week in May (once May 19th/20th).

Autumn passage, from the beginning of August to the end of September; in largest numbers in early and late August and mid-September.

As a summer resident, possibly a pair or two breeding in some years. Recorded by Mr. Aplin, "a few about the low-lying parts," which *may* have been a late band of halting migrants; not seen by Mr. Coward. In 1913 a single bird was seen singing in one of the sycamore trees by one of the farms on June 15th, but was not seen or heard before or after.

In September 1913 the island was full of Willow-Warblers on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th, following large "takes" at the lantern; the brambles, potatoes, gorse clumps and rock crannies round the coast being full of them. After the 9th a gradual diminution took place, and only single odd birds were seen between the 12th and 15th.

On the 15th/16th a further small influx took place, that had all disappeared by the 17th, and the only others seen were three on the 20th.

(To be continued.)

## THE YELLOW WAGTAIL IN THE SEINE- INFÉRIEURE.

BY

THE REV. J. M. McWILLIAM.

THE distribution of the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla f. rayi*) in France seems never to have been worked out by British ornithologists. Indeed it is very remarkable how little attention has till lately been given by them to the parts of France nearest our own shores. In the *Hand-List of British Birds* it is stated that the Yellow Wagtail appears to breed in small numbers in west France, and the latest B.O.U. *List of British Birds* says simply that it breeds in N.W. France. During the war several naturalists expressed surprise at seldom or never meeting with it in various districts in the war-zone.

In the summer of 1918 I was stationed in the Havre area, and had many opportunities of seeing this bird. Lemetteil, in his *Catalogue Raisonné des Oiseaux de la Seine-Inférieure*, published in 1874, states that this is the district where it is commonest. His description of its distribution leaves little to be desired. He describes it as being very common and widespread in the arrondissement of Havre, while rare elsewhere. He states, too, that the Blue-headed Wagtail, (*Motacilla f. flava*) while not rare in the west of the Seine-Inférieure, is more local there than in other parts of France. He notes the differences between the two races with the greatest care.

What he has to say of the distribution of this bird was exactly borne out by my experience. I saw a fair number of them, obviously nesting, in the neighbourhood of Havre, though I did not give the time necessary to find any nests, which it would have been difficult to do. I saw the first—a pair—on May 12th and on the 14th several pairs. Subsequently I was able to go to the place for a quarter of an hour or so fairly often, and during the next month or two I was always able to find the Wagtail. The birds were generally very tame indeed. They frequently allowed me to go within ten yards of them, and it is needless to say that I examined them with the greatest care, using prism binoculars on one occasion.

I happened also to spend several days at Etretat, about fifteen miles from Havre, during the nesting season, and there too, and by the roadside between the two places, I

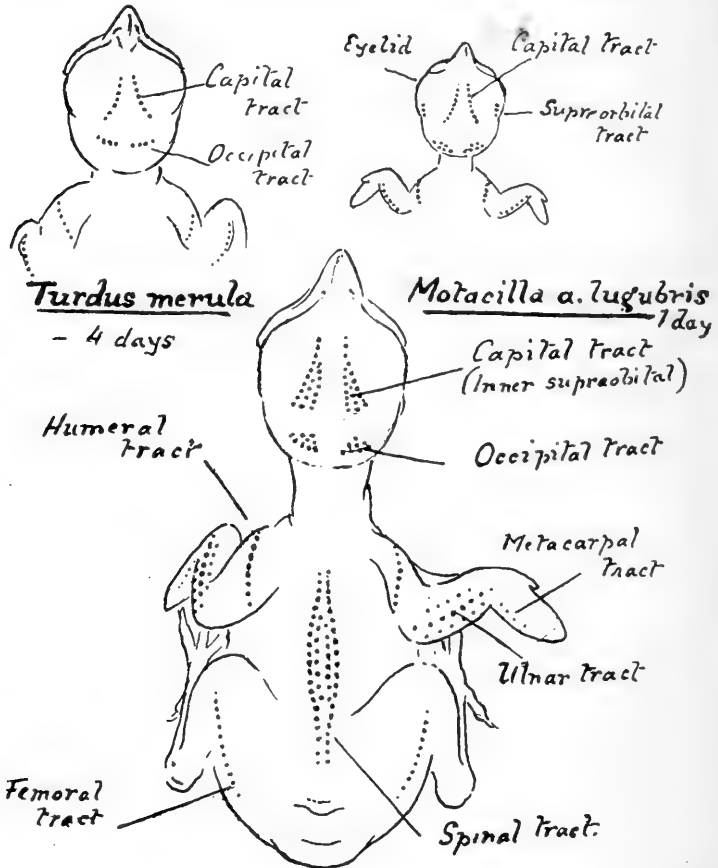
saw several Yellow Wagtails. Of course, at times I was only able to identify my birds with more or less approximate certainty, but I can say that during my stay in the Havre area I never once saw a Wagtail which I had any reason to believe was *Motacilla f. flava*, though I have no doubt that I should have found them if I had been out in the country more often. How far the colony of Yellow Wagtails extends I had not the opportunity of finding out for myself.

I have got a water-colour picture of *Motacilla f. rayi* painted from the life in 1868, by M. Arcade Noury, of Havre, at Acquigny, near Caudebec, on the south side of the Seine. Degland in his *Ornithologie Européenne*, 1849, says that it appears on passage in the neighbourhood of Paris, Amiens, Dieppe, and Abbeville, but it seems that one must not attach too much weight to his statements. The fact that other men have failed to find it, or have seen it only on rare occasions, in other places not very far distant from Havre, would go to prove that Lemetteil was right in describing this locality as the principal stronghold of the species in France.

## DOWN TRACTS IN NESTLING BIRDS.

BY  
COLLINGWOOD INGRAM.

ON p. \*xiv. of the *Practical Handbook of British Birds* diagrams are given of the dorsal and ventral aspects of an altricial bird



for the purpose of subsequent reference to the pterylosis of the pre-pennæ down found in nestlings.

The position of the so-called "inner supra-orbital tract" in the diagram of the upper parts is certainly not typical for

an ordinary passerine species. This fact, coupled with what appears to be a rather misleading name, prompts me to make the following suggestions.

Instead of "inner" and "outer supra-orbital tracts," more distinctive terms would be "capital tract" for the former and "supra-orbital tract" for the latter. My reasons for coming to this conclusion are these:—

i. In the majority of newly-hatched passerine birds (i.e., *Motacilla a. lugubris*, *Parus major*, *Turdus viscivorus*) the forward ends of the so-called "inner supra-orbital tracts" spring from points much nearer the centre of the crown than the lids of the closed eyes. These tracts then run in diverging lines along either side of the head (cf. accompanying figures).

ii. The so-called "outer supra-orbital tracts" are very frequently wanting; consequently the comparative term "inner" is usually unnecessary and, therefore, misleading.

While on this subject I would like to draw attention briefly to the marked difference between the nestling Rook (*C. frugilegus*) and that of the Carrion-Crow (*C. corone*). As may be seen in the accompanying figure, the latter is relatively well supplied with down. This is smoky- or greyish-white in colour and matches fairly well the "under down" of the adult bird. When newly-hatched the skin of the body is a deep yellowish flesh-colour and only acquires the blackish tinge after about the fourth day. The inside of the mouth changes from dull orange-yellow at hatching to a reddish-yellow during the first twenty-four hours, and later (by about the third day) to a rich carmine or purplish red.\*

In the Rook the down is more scanty and of a dark smoke-grey colour. It is completely absent from the head, while the humeral and spinal tracts are noticeably abbreviated. The skin and inside of the mouth are also much darker immediately after hatching than in the Carrion-Crow.

\* The adult has the tongue and roof of the mouth blackish.

# NOTES

## SPRING IMMIGRATION OF JACKDAWS ON THE HAMPSHIRE COAST.

IN confirmation of the statement on page 21 of the *Practical Handbook*, that there is evidence that Jackdaws (*Colæus monedula*) arrive on the south coast of Hampshire at the beginning of April, Mr. Howard Atkins sends the following records from the Havant district:—

March 17th, 1914. A large flock passing over on migration to the N.E.

March 21st, 1916. A few arrived.

April 1st, „ A small party going N.E.

April 6th, „ A small flock going N.E.

April 13th, „ A few, apparently migrants (?).

April 14th, „ A decided increase.

He adds that he can remember similar movements in previous years, particularly of very large flocks going N.E. during February 1912, but he did not keep a diary prior to the dates above mentioned.

The observations were made from the first rising and wooded ground going northward from the Hampshire coast, the winter roosting place of Jackdaws being to the north-west not the north-east of this spot; while the local birds were not at the same time of year flying in the same way or in the same direction.

EDITORS.

## MIGRATION OF STARLING FROM FINLAND TO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

A YOUNG Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) marked on June 8th, 1914, with one of Professor Palmèn's rings, No. 604, in the village of Monola, 15 kilometres south of Wiborg, Finland, by Fr. and A. Lonnfors, reached the Mediterranean coast of France. The leg, with the ring attached, was found by the gardener in the park of the Chateau de la Redorte, Department Aude. The date is uncertain, but the brief notice sent by the owner of the castle, M. A. Brugnière de Gorgot, was dated July 26th, 1915. The distance between the two places is 2,640 kilometres.

H. W. ROBINSON.

## ABNORMAL CLUTCHES OF CHAFFINCH'S EGGS.

ON May 17th, 1919, I found near Burnham, Bucks., a nest of the Chaffinch (*Fringilla c. œlebs*) containing eight eggs.

There was no difference in the type of egg, so I cannot say whether this large clutch was the result of two birds laying in the same nest or not. Subsequently on May 29th I ringed six young birds from this nest, two of the eggs proving infertile.

A. MAYALL.

DR. A. H. FOSTER, of Hitchin, Herts., recently sent to me for examination a clutch of seven eggs taken from the nest of a Chaffinch (*Fringilla c. cœlebs*) near Hitchin, Herts., in June 1918. Of these six were normal in appearance and all were much of the same type. The seventh egg was decidedly larger, measuring  $20.5 \times 16$  mm., with a pale blue ground and a few fine brown spots and streaks at the big end.

As this egg might possibly have been that of a Cuckoo (*Cuculus c. canorus*) I had it carefully weighed and found it to be exactly 153 mg. in weight, while the average weight of five of the Chaffinch's eggs from the same clutch was 123 mg. As the average weight of a Cuckoo's egg is 231 mg., and the lightest of over 700 eggs weighs 165 mg., we may infer with certainty that the egg is not that of a Cuckoo, but most probably that of the Chaffinch.

In this case we have a clutch of seven eggs. The ordinary set in this species very seldom exceeds five. Sets of six may be found in many collections, but few collectors have met with this number personally more than once or twice in the course of their nesting career. F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

#### GREY WAGTAILS NESTING AT A DISTANCE FROM WATER.

It is seldom that the Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla c. cinerea*) nests out of sight, or any distance away from a stream, as recorded by your correspondent (*antea*, p. 56), although I have known a nest in the rock face of the railway cutting through the Wyre Forest, some 250 yards from water. This year a pair chose to nest in a hole in the back wall of my stable, some fifty yards from the stream and on the opposite side of the building. This nesting site had been previously occupied by a pair of Blackbirds, whose nest the Grey Wagtails adapted to their own requirements by merely re-lining it.

J. STEELE ELLIOTT.

#### PIED FLYCATCHER IN SUFFOLK IN SPRING.

THERE are only scattered records of the Pied Flycatcher (*M. h. hypoleuca*) in Suffolk in spring. Babington (*Cat. of the Birds of Suffolk*) mentions six occurrences in April

and May between 1813 and 1883, and one in June. In the B.O.C. Migration Reports there are the following isolated records: May 12th, 1911. Outer Gabbard Light: "several coming from the east." May 6/7th, 1912: "one at Southwold Light." May 10th, 1913: "Suffolk (passing)." To these I should like to add the following: my brother, H. M. Stanford, saw a male at Aldringham on May 4th, 1917, and a female on May 6th. We observed a male at the same place on May 5th, 1919.

This bird passes through in autumn in some numbers, but is easily overlooked in wooded country, as it keeps to the tree tops. When several are about, the call-note is very striking.

J. K. STANFORD.

#### LARGE CLUTCH OF WREN'S EGGS.

At the beginning of May 1919 a nest of the Wren (*Troglodytes t. troglodytes*) near Little Dunmow, Essex, contained sixteen eggs, an abnormally large number. They were left in the nest and hatched out in due course. It was a hopeless task to attempt to count the young, as it would have been impossible to replace them without running the risk of smothering some of them. I do not know how many actually survived the nestling period, but a large percentage at the lowest computation. After the exodus there were no added eggs left in the nest, so that probably every egg hatched, but if any of the young had died during the nestling period, their bodies would have been removed by the parents.

J. H. OWEN.

[The normal clutch of the Wren may be taken at six eggs, sometimes seven, while sets of eight occasionally occur. Mr. E. E. Pettitt informs me that he has taken a clutch of nine, and Mr. H. Massey has found sets of ten and eleven at Didsbury, and also possesses a clutch of fourteen eggs from Ireland. Howard Saunders (*Manual*, p. 116) states that sixteen young have been found in one nest. The discrepancy in this species between normal and abnormally large clutches is very remarkable and should be investigated.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

#### SOME NOTES ON THE WRYNECK.

THE Wryneck (*Jynx t. torquilla*) is more often heard than seen, and the following notes of its habits, as observed in East Suffolk, may be of interest. For some years I have noticed that this bird will eject Tits, nest, eggs and all,



from their nesting-boxes, and lay its own eggs on the bare floor of the box. In May 1919 a Wryneck was seen locking into a box containing young Coal-Tits about one day old. Two days later, I saw a Wryneck emerge from this box with its beak full of rabbit-fur, and found the young Tits dead on the ground below, with the greater part of the nest. The Wrynecks removed the whole nest piecemeal, but did not occupy the box. There were several vacant boxes close at hand, so "economic pressure" cannot be the explanation.

These Wrynecks began to lay on June 8th, in another box sixty yards away. They had certainly not tried to breed in any other box previously, though they arrived, as usual, in mid-April. The fact that I found half-grown young in the same garden on June 25th, 1912, and again on June 22nd, 1914, suggests that they arrive some time before they begin to nest. (I have also found young ones as late as August 1st, 1909.) In 1912 the box they occupied contained six addled eggs and three young ones, but as there is no attempt at a nest, the heat during incubation must be very uncertain. This year I visited the box on several occasions when the bird was on, both before and after the clutch was complete, and on no occasion was she covering the eggs completely. Twice I found her sitting *beside* the eggs, and once half-covering them, with three eggs plainly visible beside her. Unfortunately, I was unable to keep systematic records of this throughout the incubation period.

On the autumn migration I have several records of this bird alongshore between July 28th and September 4th, mainly in furze bushes, but its passage is, of course, very difficult to observe.

J. K. STANFORD.

SINCE 1907 until the present year I have kept notes so far as I have had time to do so on a number of nesting-boxes near Tenterden in S.W. Kent. The boxes available have always been in excess of the demand, and yet out of the eight years in which a pair of Wrynecks (*Jynx t. torquilla*) have nested in them, only twice have they done so without previously evicting one or more pairs of Tits. In some years they emptied three different boxes before finding one to suit them, in others after emptying one or two they have eventually laid in a previously unoccupied one. In this district the laying of the first egg works out pretty constantly at about May 20th.

In another instance that came under my notice, where there were only two nesting-boxes in a town garden, a pro-

longed struggle took place for possession between a Wryneck and a Great Titmouse (*P. m. newtoni*). After nearly a fortnight the Wryneck remained the victor. N. F. TICEHURST.

#### UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF A KESTREL.

BOWDEN HOUSE SCHOOL, Seaford, Sussex, stands thirty feet from a road leading to the Downs. On the side facing the road, a short pipe leads the rain water from the roof into a funnel, about a foot in diameter, and thence the water runs to the ground, forty feet below. In this funnel a Kestrel (*Falco t. tinnunculus*) is breeding. The nesting-place is only four feet from the window of an occupied bedroom. The whole buildings are modern and contain over eighty boys and others. The 0.32in. of gentle rain which fell on June 20th caused some commotion, but the birds have not deserted. The tail of the sitting bird could be seen from the ground below, and was first noticed on June 10th, while young, several days old, were observed on July 10th. Incidentally House-Sparrows have built in the "conduct pipe" above the Kestrels' nest.

J. F. THOMAS.

#### HOBBY IN SHROPSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE.

As recent records from Shropshire and Worcestershire are scanty, it may be worth recording that a Hobby (*Falco s. subbuteo*) made its appearance in the Dowles Valley close to the Manor House on the evening of June 4th, 1919. Frequently it circled around over the open land, but the greater part of the time was spent toying around the adjoining plantation, either gliding over the woodlands, rising and falling with their contours, or passing in and out around the larger tree tops of this hill slope. It eventually roosted within the covert. A hurried attempt to construct what I thought might have proved a suitable nest for it to occupy in the top of one of the larger oak trees, did not prove successful, as I have not seen this Falcon there since.

J. STEELE ELLIOTT.

#### KITE IN KENT IN 1822.

WHEN at Hutton-in-the-Forest, near Penrith, on January 4th, 1917, I saw there a stuffed specimen of the Kite (*Milvus milvus*) (male) labelled as "shot 26 Nov., 1822, by moonlight, at Broome Park, Kent."

HUGH S. GLADSTONE.

[Though of course a winter record does not prove anything, it is not unlikely that this bird is one of the native stock of Kites: cf. *History of the Birds of Kent*, p. 281.—N.F.T.]

## SPOONBILL IN HANTS.

HEARING that a Spoonbill (*Platalea l. leucorodia*) had been seen several times recently on the Blackwater (in Hampshire), I went down there on June 22nd, 1919, and ascertained from John Crouch, the keeper, that he saw the bird first on May 24th, and from that time onward on several occasions up to about June 14th, in fact, whenever he went there. He is well acquainted with the bird, having seen it before on several occasions. None of the ten records quoted in the *Birds of Hampshire* (p. 206) apply to the month of June.

THOMAS H. C. TROUBRIDGE.

## AMERICAN BLUE-WINGED TEAL IN ANGLESEY.

At the end of last season (1919) near Holland Arms, Anglesey, I shot a male American Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). The bird rose from a marsh near some pools. At the time, there were several flocks of Common Teal (*Anas c. crecca*) on and around these pools. During the winter these pools are frequented by large numbers of wildfowl, mostly Mallard, Teal and Wigeon, which come from an estuary about four miles away. There is no private water anywhere in the county, as far as I know, where fancy waterfowl are kept, and during the course of nearly twenty years regular shooting here I have never yet come across any semi-tame or very unusual waterfowl. I have kept the skin.

L. R. A. GATEHOUSE.

[Mr. T. A. Coward, who has seen the skin, remarks upon the prismatic colour of the speculum. When viewed at various angles it was black, showing but little gloss, metallic reddish-bronze or brilliant metallic green. The crescentic white patch in front of the eye was slightly flecked with dark grey. There was nothing in the condition of the plumage or feet to lead one to suppose that it had been in captivity.]

## LONG-TAILED DUCK FEEDING ON GRAIN.

EARLY in March 1919 I had forwarded to me from the Orkneys, a male Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) which had been shot on February 27th in the Bay of Kirkwall.

When I had completed the skinning of the bird, I proceeded to the routine examination of the stomach contents, and was surprised on opening the viscus, to find them to consist entirely of wheat grain, and to exhibit a total absence of the small bivalves and marine forms usually selected.

The presence in the Bay of Kirkwall at that time of a

number of ships laden with grain explains the origin of the food.

Mr. L. A. Curtis Edwards, to whom I recently mentioned the matter, has kindly forwarded to me the following reference from "Some More Scraps About Birds," by Charles Murray Adamson, 1880-81, p. 187, to an analogous case, as follows:—"1852, Feb. 1.—Quantities of Scoters in bays at Holy Island. Fishermen said a cargo of grain had been lost and that they were feeding on it. Is this likely? They rarely seem to feed so near the shore. I am not aware whether Scoters will eat barley, but if Eiders and Scaups will, I do not see why Scoters should not also."

Mr. Edwards goes on to explain that "The remarks about Eiders and Scaups refer to some birds in captivity which Adamson fed on barley and oats with apparent success."

The selection exercised by this bird in favour of the new food supply in preference to its more orthodox dietary is noteworthy.

JAMES M. HARRISON.

[The late Alfred Crawhall Chapman also refers to the same occurrence in the *Zool.* 1887, p. 12. A sailing vessel, the *Falcon*, loaded with grain, was wrecked off Holy Island in September 1851. At first about a dozen Scoters frequented the scene, feeding on the grain, but afterwards many hundreds of these birds, as well as Long-tailed Ducks, were daily to be seen greedily devouring the floating grain as it was washed out of the ship.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

#### TURTLE-DOVE BREEDING IN NORTH LANCASHIRE.

RECORDS of the Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia t. turtur*) nesting in north Lancashire are few enough to justify reporting that on June 29th, 1919, I found a nest containing two eggs near Lytham, Lancashire.

Last year I saw a pair near the same spinney, but did not find the nest.

H. J. MOON.

#### INTRODUCTION OF RED GROUSE INTO SOMERSET.

QUITE recently I had the pleasure of handling eggs of the Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*), found in a nest in the heather on Exmoor. Since their introduction into Somerset in 1916 by Sir Edward Mountain, the birds have greatly increased, the laying seasons of 1918 and 1919 both proving very favourable. In one particular locality they are believed to be more plentiful now than the Blackcock (*Lyrurus t. briannicus*).

STANLEY LEWIS.

## PHEASANT BREEDING IN SPARROW-HAWK'S NEST.

DURING the present season (1919) at Lochinch in Wigtownshire, a Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) laid an in old Sparrow-Hawk's nest in a larch, twenty-six feet from the ground.

When I saw it the hen was sitting hard, but about a week later the keeper climbed up when the hen was off to see whether the eggs were hatching. Two of the chicks dropped out when he began to climb, and two more left as he reached the nest. He brought down the two remaining ones with him, while the seventh egg was addled. The chicks were none the worse for their fall and were seen to join the hen Pheasant.

B. VAN DE WEYER.

[Pheasants have been recorded as breeding in old nests at heights varying from nine to thirty feet from the ground on numerous occasions. The old nest of the Wood-Pigeon appears to be most frequently used, but those of the Sparrow-Hawk and Owls are also occasionally taken possession of, as well as Squirrels' dreys. Photographs of a Pheasant sitting in a spruce twenty-two feet from the ground will be found in the *Birds of Yorkshire*, II., pl. to face p. 524. Cf. also *Field*, June 23rd, 1877; June 15th, 1895; June 14th, 1902; June 1st, 1907; June 19th, 1909, etc; *Zool*, 1876, p. 5046; 1894, pp. 227 and 266, and 1911, p. 159. The Rev. C. F. Tomlinson (*in litt.* June 7th, 1916) informed me that he had found a Pheasant sitting on twelve eggs in an old Squirrel's drey in a spruce near Ripon at least fifteen feet from the ground.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

COMMON SCOTER BREEDING IN IRELAND.—Mr. H. B. Rathborne reports that Common Scoters (*Oidemia n. nigra*), though not nearly so numerous as in 1918, when they were present in exceptionally large numbers (cf. *Brit. Birds*, XII., p. 215), are still breeding in the district where they were first discovered by the late Major Trevelyan. About seven pairs were nesting in the neighbourhood and two nests containing eight and five eggs respectively were personally examined by Mr. Rathborne in 1919.

LITTLE AUK IN DERBYSHIRE IN MAY.—In Mr. N. H. FitzHerbert's Ornithological Record for Derbyshire, 1918, p. 177 (*Journ. Derby. Arch. & Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 1919), is a note on the capture of a Little Auk (*Alle alle*) in full summer plumage in the village of Egginton near Derby, which was brought alive to the Rev. F. F. Key on May 24th, 1918. All previous records of this species in Derbyshire have been during the winter months, from November to February.



# LETTERS



## THE DRUMMING OF WOODPECKERS.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—I was much interested in the article on the Drumming of Woodpeckers (*antea*, p. 40). I have, on several occasions, got to very close quarters with the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates m. comminutus*) when it has been drumming. In May 1914, when on a holiday in Hampshire, I happened to be up a tree inspecting a Green Woodpecker's (*Picus v. pluvius*) nesting hole, when a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker settled on a dead branch about four yards away from me and started drumming. I noticed that it had its beak open all the time, and seemed to vary the sound by slightly opening and closing its beak.

In May 1916 I had a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker under observation for about a fortnight. Every morning between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. it came to the same dead branch and drummed for several minutes. I used to conceal myself in a spot about forty feet away from it and watch it through powerful binoculars. I noticed on every occasion, that it had its beak open when drumming and varied the sound by opening it a little further, or by partially closing it. The bird never shifted its position on the bough whilst drumming, but occasionally paused and scratched the back of its head with its right foot, and then commenced again. . . .

N. TRACY.

KING'S LYNN.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

Now Ready. Issue limited to 200 copies, of which 100 are for sale.  
8vo, wrappers. Price 4s. net.

A SYNOPTICAL LIST OF THE

## ACCIPITRES

OR DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

PART I. (Sarcorhamphus to Accipiter)

By H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.

Comprising a list of species and subspecies described up to 1914, with a full key to the distinguishing characters of the genera, species and subspecies and the distribution of each form.

LONDON: JOHN WHELDON & Co., 38, GREAT QUEEN STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND.

**BRITISH BIRDS.**—For SALE, owing to death of Subscriber, a Complete Set of above up to end of 1918. Vols. 1 & 2 bound, others in parts. What offers? W., Office of "British Birds."

"BRITISH BIRDS" Vols. 1 and 2 wanted.

\* Address S., Office of "British Birds."

**"ZOOLOGIST."** Complete set of 74 vols. for Sale, Bound in blue cloth, morocco backs, good condition.

Offers to Z., Office of "British Birds."

# JUNGLE PEACE

By WILLIAM BEEBE

THE BOOK OF THE YEAR  
FOR THE NATURALIST.

The work contains "records of extraordinary scientific interest, in language which has all the charm of an essay of Robert Louis Stevenson. The author tells of bird and beast and plant and insect life of the British Guiana jungle. Whatever he touches he turns into the gold of truth, rightly interpreted and vividly set forth."

PRESS COMMENTS.

"This is a wonderful book—a book of Nature's miracles . . . He is the Maeterlinck of open-air science working in the least known of natural wonderlands."

*Morning Post.*

"I should have missed something good if I had never seen 'Jungle Peace.'"

*Westminster Gazette.*

"Pictures that linger in the memory as real literary gems."—*Scotsman.*

"His narrative sparkles with countless jewels of description."—*Daily Graphic.*

"Passion for the scientific study of nature and an eye that nothing escapes are matched by his gift for vivid description."—*Athenæum.*

"Enthralling in its vivid reproduction of some of the most wonderful and little-known scenes in nature."—*Yorkshire Post.*

Now Ready.

Illustrated.

8s. net.

LONDON: WITHERBY & CO.



# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

SEPT. 1,  
1919.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 4.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

PART 4 READY SEPTEMBER.

A  
**Practical Handbook**  
OF  
**British Birds**

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.  
EDITOR OF BRITISH BIRDS (MAG.).

*Authors of the Various Sections :*

ERNST HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U.

ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.  
AND THE EDITOR.

*Illustrated with  
Coloured Plates  
Half-tones  
and Numerous  
Text Figures.*



*Practical  
Original  
Up-to-date.*  
—  
Price 4s. net  
per part.

FULL PROSPECTUS AND COLOURED PLATE POST FREE.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, London.

IN EIGHTEEN PARTS

Part 3 (80 PAGES  
Two Plates) June 18th, 1919

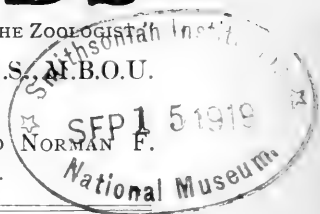
# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST" Institute

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.



CONTENTS OF NUMBER 4, Vol. XIII., SEPTEMBER 1, 1919.

	PAGE
Observations on the Cuckoo. By Edgar Chance, M.B.O.U. ..	90
The "British Birds" Marking Scheme. Progress for 1918. By H. F. Witherby .. .. .	96
The Birds of Bardsey Island. By N. F. Ticehurst, F.R.C.S., M.A., M.B.O.U. Part 3 .. .. .	101
Notes:—	
Continental Jays in Oxfordshire and Sussex (L. A. Curtis Edwards) .. .. .	107
Pied Flycatcher in Staffordshire (W. Davies) .. .. .	107
Young Garden-Warbler fed on Moths (H. Atkins) .. .. .	108
Multiple Nests of Blackbird (A. W. Marriage) .. .. .	108
Cuckoo's Eggs and Nestlings in 1919 (J. H. Owen) .. .. .	109
Green Woodpecker in the Isle of Wight (A. Arnold) .. .. .	109
Diving Powers of Shoveler (C. Oldham) .. .. .	110
Velvet-Scoters in Summer off Carnarvonshire (R. W. Jones)	111
Rock-Dove absent from Cheddar Cliffs (S. Lewis) .. .. .	111
Sandwich Tern bred on Farne Islands recovered in Cumber- land (H. W. Robinson) .. .. .	111
Short Note:—Godman Memorial .. .. .	111
Review:— <i>Birds and the War</i> .. .. .	112

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE CUCKOO.

BY

EDGAR CHANCE, M.B.O.U.

IN *Country Life* of October 26th, 1918, and subsequently in *British Birds* (XII., pp. 182-4), there appeared "Some Notes on the Cuckoo," which described in detail how I found nine eggs of the Cuckoo (*Cuculus c. canorus*) during the month of June, eight deposited in the nests of Meadow-Pipits (*Anthus pratensis*) and one in the nest of a Sky-Lark (*Alauda a. arvensis*). The site is a small common in Worcestershire, less than a mile in circumference, and the nine eggs were undoubtedly the product of one Cuckoo.

Last year's interesting study inspired me to see what could be achieved again this season, particularly when so soon as May 18th, in searching the common with friends, a solitary Cuckoo's egg was found deposited in a Meadow-Pipit's nest, the egg bearing such a similarity to last year's series as to leave no doubt whatever that the same Cuckoo was back in the locality and about to victimize the Meadow-Pipits on the same common this year.

Anticipating this probability, I had visited the common on May 11th, and finding two incubated clutches of Meadow-Pipits' eggs, removed these in order to provide a greater incentive for the Cuckoo this year should she return. It will be recollected that I argued last year that the number of eggs which a Cuckoo might lay in a season probably depended in great measure upon the number of available nests of the particular species which nature inclined her to victimize, the theory being that a Cuckoo will tend to deposit her eggs in the nests of that species to which her own foster-parents belonged.

No record was made of the precise amount of time I spent on the particular common this year, but it is certain that considerably over one hundred hours is a moderate estimate. Incidentally, I spent the night of June 11th on the common, sleeping on a rug with my miner friend, Mr. Simmonds, to the services of whom—with those of his collie dog—tribute was paid in my notes last year. All the same,

I was disappointed in my hope of having the good fortune to see the Cuckoo carrying one of its eggs to the nest of one of its victims, wishing to confirm the view that the Cuckoo deposits its eggs in the foster-parents' nest with its bill and not with its claw.

It would take too long, and would probably not be of sufficient interest, to describe in detail my study of this particular Cuckoo this season, but the following facts seem to be worthy of record.

Between May 18th and July 5th there were found by myself and others (I myself always being present) no less than eighteen nests of the Meadow-Pipit on the common, from sixteen of which I took (and possess) an egg laid by the same Cuckoo, and in each of the other two nests an egg of the same Cuckoo was hatched, the two young Cuckoos in due course flying and being identified for the rest of their lives with "Wetherby" rings. As already stated, the first egg of this series of eighteen was found and probably also deposited on May 18th. The last egg found I took from the nest on July 5th, about two days before it would have hatched. If, as I reckon, this egg was deposited about June 24th, then it was the last of the series of eighteen actually laid, and it would appear that the whole series was laid as nearly as may be calculated at intervals of an egg every forty-eight hours.

It is a distinctly interesting fact that from the time the nest containing the first Cuckoo's egg was found, every Meadow-Pipit's nest found on the common contained an egg laid by the same Cuckoo, whereas not one of the many Sky-Larks and other species, whose nests were found on and surrounding the common, was victimized by this Cuckoo.

It is perhaps also worthy of note that the first, seventh and tenth eggs this season belonging to this Cuckoo, were found in nests containing no egg of the foster-parents. The first was exchanged for an egg of another Meadow-Pipit (one of those I had taken from the two incubated clutches on May 11th). From the behaviour of the birds when the nest was found it was not deserted, but as the Meadow-Pipit did not subsequently lay an egg in the nest she evidently

resented being deprived of the Cuckoo's egg in exchange for one much more like her own. The seventh egg was exchanged for an egg of a Sky-Lark, and this Meadow-Pipit subsequently laid four eggs. The tenth egg was found at 11 o'clock in the morning after the night slept on the common, and that also was replaced with a Sky-Lark's egg which had done similar service in two other nests, and as the Meadow-Pipit never laid an egg in the nest I conclude that in this case, at any rate, if not on the other two occasions, the Cuckoo deposited her egg before the Meadow-Pipit had started to lay—an action which would be more likely to be resented by the foster-parents than when the Cuckoo merely exchanges its own egg for that of a solitary egg of the foster-parent.

On more than one occasion this season, just as observed last year, the Cuckoo was seen to fly from a definite spot on the common chased by one or both of the Meadow-Pipits, on which spot a Meadow-Pipit's nest containing a Cuckoo's egg was subsequently found.

It will be recollected that last year, in three nests out of the nine from which I took eggs from this same Cuckoo, a second Cuckoo, laying an entirely different egg, also deposited an egg. On July 5th this year, besides finding the eighteenth egg of the first Cuckoo, I found two more Meadow-Pipits' nests each containing an egg of the other Cuckoo, the eggs bearing an unmistakable resemblance to those laid by this second Cuckoo last year. It would be distinctly interesting to know why the second Cuckoo only deposited two eggs on the common this year, especially as those two eggs were deposited in the only two other Meadow-Pipits' nests found on the common during the season. Judging by the incubation, I estimate that those two eggs were deposited about the 28th and 30th of June; in other words, about four days after the first Cuckoo had completed her series. Were it not for the fact that the two Cuckoos shared three nests last year, I should be inclined to the opinion that the first Cuckoo was of an extra pugnacious and jealous disposition, and declined to brook any rivalry as regards her attentions to the Meadow-Pipits.

The fact that the Cuckoo found every Meadow-Pipit's nest which existed on the common during the period above named, strongly supports my theory of last season that the Cuckoo does not deposit her eggs in any haphazard fashion, but first finds out, by the process of watching its dupes, the nests in which to deposit its eggs, doing so on a subsequent visit. This I was able to corroborate at Broadway, Worcestershire, for on seeing a Cuckoo fly from a hedgerow at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th, I immediately found at the spot a Hedge-Sparrow's nest containing five fresh eggs, whilst on returning to the nest on the following Monday morning, I found, as anticipated, that the Cuckoo had again visited the nest and had replaced one of the Hedge-Sparrow's eggs with one of its own.

It should be clearly understood that, at the most, there were not more than ten pairs of Meadow-Pipits nesting on the common this year, two pairs of which had almost their whole time occupied in tending their young, which were either hatched or too far advanced in the process of incubation before the first Cuckoo commenced to lay. Consequently, had I not taken the first laid eggs of the Cuckoo, she would certainly not have had opportunity to lay such a large series, at any rate in nests of the Meadow-Pipit. It will be agreed that this tends to confirm my theory that the number of eggs which any Cuckoo will lay in a season is dependent upon the facilities afforded to her. If it is suggested that the Cuckoo might have laid eggs additional to the eighteen above referred to in nests other than those of the Meadow-Pipit, my reply is that it is extremely unlikely, for the reason that I found three other Cuckoos' eggs on or bordering the common in nests of a Hedge-Sparrow, Pied Wagtail and Tree-Pipit respectively, each entirely different from the other and all absolutely different from the series of sixteen which I possess of this year's laying and nine of last year's laying of the same Cuckoo.

The suggestion that the first eighteen eggs may have been the product of two Cuckoos—closely related and consequently laying similar eggs—cannot be seriously considered ;

because had there been two Cuckoos laying during the same period, it is inconceivable that every Meadow-Pipit's nest should have contained one egg of the Cuckoo, and in no single case more than one egg.

I am in a position to exhibit to anyone interested, thirty-four Cuckoo's eggs taken from the common during this and last season, twenty-five of which I claim to have been laid by one Cuckoo in the two seasons, six by the second Cuckoo in two seasons, and one each by three other Cuckoos, and after seeing the eggs any authority would corroborate that they were undoubtedly laid as claimed.

The following summary is an accurate record :—

	Date Cuckoos' eggs found and taken.	Nest then con- tained C = Cuckoo's egg. P = Meadow Pipit's egg.	Incubation.	Remarks.
1	May 18th	1 C.	Fresh	Pipit never laid to another Pipit's egg given her in exchange for Cuckoo's
2	May 22nd	1 C. & 3 P.	One day	—
3	May 22nd	1 C. & 4 P.	Fresh	On 20th this nest contained three Pipit's eggs only
4	May 28th	1 C. & 3 P.	Fresh	—
5	May 28th	1 C. & 4 P.	Fresh	—
6	May 31st	1 C. & 4 P.	Fresh	On the 30th nest contained four Pipit's eggs only
7	June 3rd	1 C.	Fresh	Exchanged egg for that of Sky-Lark to which Pipit laid four eggs
8	June 8th	1 C. & 1 P.	Fresh	Exchanged egg for that of Sky-Lark to which Pipit laid three more eggs
9	June 12th	1 C. & 4 P.	Eight days	—
10	June 12th	1 C.	Fresh	Exchanged egg for that of Sky-Lark, but Pipit never laid



	Date Cuckoos' eggs found and taken.	Nest then con- tained C = Cuckoo's egg. P = Meadow-Pipit's egg.	Incubation.	Remarks.
11	June 21st	1 C. & 2 P.	Fresh	Nest found building on 17th; eventually took three Pipit's eggs from nest.
12	June 21st	Young Cuckoo	About five days' old	Two young Pipits lay on edge of nest, only dead a few hours. Ringed Cuckoo June 29th
13	June 22nd	1 C. & 2 P.	Fresh	Nest appeared deserted when found; no eggs subsequently laid
14	June 22nd	1 C. & 4 P.	One day	—
15	June 22nd	1 C. & 4 P.	Four days	—
16	June 23rd	1 C. and fragments	Not incubated	Cuckoo's egg stuck fast to nest containing fragments of Pipit's eggs; probably deserted 7-14 days
17	June 28th	Young Cuckoo	About two days' old	Nest containing one Pipit's egg chipping; three dead young Pipits' outside nest
18	July 5th	1 C. & 4 P.	Ten days	—
19	July 5th	1 C. & 4 P.	Three days	Nest found building; on June 29th it contained two eggs and I saw a Cuckoo fly from nest at 8 p.m.; at 9.30 next morning nest contained three Pipit's eggs only
20	July 5th	1 C. & 3 P.	Four days	—

NOTE.—Nos. 1 to 18, Same Cuckoo. Nos. 19 to 20, Other Cuckoo.

## THE "BRITISH BIRDS" MARKING SCHEME.\*

PROGRESS FOR 1918.

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

I MUCH regret that it has not been possible for various reasons to complete and publish this report before, and I must beg forgiveness, especially of those who are particularly interested in the scheme.

One would not expect much ringing to be done in the last strenuous year of the war, and it seems to me a matter of congratulation that our total, although low compared with other years, is as high as it is. The following are the totals :—

NUMBER OF BIRDS RINGED.				
In 1909	..	..	..	2,171
„ 1910	..	..	..	7,910
„ 1911	..	..	..	10,416
„ 1912	..	..	..	11,483
„ 1913	..	..	..	14,843
„ 1914	..	..	..	13,024
„ 1915	..	..	..	7,767
„ 1916	..	..	..	7,107
„ 1917	..	..	..	6,926
„ 1918	..	..	..	5,937
Total	..	..	..	<u>87,584</u>

Mr. F. W. Holder, who headed the list for 1917, is again in that position, but in partnership this year with Mr. H. Caunce, with the splendid total of thirteen hundred and forty-nine. Dr. H. J. Moon with six hundred and fifty-six and Mr. H. W. Robinson with six hundred have once more proved themselves most ardent supporters, as also have Mr. J. Bartholomew with four hundred and twenty-eight and Mr. A. Mayall with three hundred and fifty-five. Messrs. Blagg,

\* For previous Reports see Vol. III., pp. 179-182, for 1909; Vol. IV., pp. 204-207, for 1910; Vol. V., pp. 158-162, for 1911; Vol. VI., pp. 177-183, for 1912; Vol. VII., pp. 190-195, for 1913; Vol. VIII., pp. 161-168, for 1914; Vol. IX., pp. 222-229, for 1915; Vol. X., pp. 150-156, for 1916; Vol. XI., pp. 272-276, for 1917.

Vaughan and Masefield, Captain Boyd and Mr. and Miss Blyth, who have all well over two hundred each, are also well-known "ringers," while the totals of those who follow, though smaller, are none the less very welcome.

The recoveries reported during the year of birds ringed were not very satisfactory, and I have little doubt that this was chiefly due to want of publicity. Now that newspapers can afford a little space for such subjects, I hope that those who are keen on the scheme will do their utmost to make its objects known locally. The more widely the scheme is known the more recoveries will be reported, and, of course, upon this the success of the scheme largely depends. In this connection I quote below some suggestions which Dr. H. J. Moon has kindly sent me :—

1. Frequent letters to local papers from ringers giving details of the scheme and asking for information of recovered birds (the number on the ring and the date and place recovered to be sent to the Editor, 326, High Holborn).

2. When applying for leave to go over estates, see the owners personally, and interest them in the scheme.

3. Interview farmers, keepers, gardeners, labourers and groundmen on golf links. Ask them to show you nests and then ring the birds in their presence. If any are recovered notify the one who showed you the nest. In time you will find a "village naturalist" to train into a valuable assistant.

4. Take every opportunity of giving short talks at local schools, and enlist the boys in your service and get them to help find nests. Thus serving the double purpose of ringing large numbers of birds and checking egg-taking.

I do not propose in this report to give any details of recoveries, but I am preparing a series of tabulated records, which I hope to publish very shortly.

The percentage of recoveries now stands at 2.9, this being calculated on the 81,647 birds ringed from 1909 to 1917, of which 2,403 have been reported up to date. As in former reports, I have given below the detailed percentages of recoveries in certain species, and must express my regret that a few errors were made in these figures in the last report.

## SOME PERCENTAGES OF RECOVERIES.

Species.	Number Ringed 1909-17.	Number of these Recovered to date.	Percentages of Recoveries.
Starling .. ..	6,488	334	5.1
Greenfinch .. ..	2,326	25	1.0
Linnet .. ..	1,082	13	1.2
Chaffinch .. ..	2,377	34	1.4
Sky-Lark .. ..	1,577	15	.9
Meadow-Pipit .. ..	1,168	17	1.4
Pied Wagtail .. ..	684	18	2.6
Spotted Flycatcher .. ..	630	1	.1
Willow-Warbler .. ..	1,610	13	.8
Whitethroat .. ..	332	3	.9
Mistle-Thrush .. ..	574	16	2.8
Song-Thrush .. ..	8,454	127	1.5
Blackbird .. ..	4,761	147	3.0
Redbreast .. ..	2,444	112	4.5
Hedge-Sparrow .. ..	1,657	39	2.3
Swallow .. ..	6,064	43	.7
Martin .. ..	1,560	13	.8
Sand-Martin .. ..	685	3	.4
Cuckoo .. ..	96	5	5.2
Sparrow-Hawk .. ..	60	10	16.6
Heron .. ..	110	17	15.4
Mallard .. ..	640	138	21.5
Cormorant .. ..	470	82	17.2
Shag .. ..	156	15	8.9
Gannet .. ..	198	12	6.0
Wood-Pigeon .. ..	164	7	4.2
Lapwing .. ..	3,756	98	2.6
Redshank .. ..	270	13	4.8
Curlew .. ..	193	13	6.7
Snipe .. ..	192	14	7.2
Woodcock .. ..	345	44	12.7
Sandwich Tern .. ..	678	8	1.1
Common Tern .. ..	3,093	74	2.4
Black-headed Gull .. ..	11,950	513	4.3
Common Gull .. ..	514	14	2.7
Herring-Gull .. ..	511	17	3.3
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2,621	111	4.2
Puffin .. ..	901	1	.1

## NUMBER OF BIRDS " RINGED."

MESSRS. F. W. Holder and H. Caunce (1349), Dr. H. J. Moon (656), Messrs. H. W. Robinson (600), J. Bartholomew (428), A. Mayall (355), F. E. Blagg (279), H. J. Vaughan (253), J. R. B. Masefield (236), Capt. A. W. Boyd (228), Mr. R. O. Blyth and Miss A. Blyth (224), Mrs. Rait Kerr (184), Major H. S. Greg (139), Messrs. A. C. Greg (103), K. Fisher (81), J. A. Anderson (72), T. A. Coward (67), J. G. Maynard (62), Lt. G. Brown (57), Mr. E. de Hamel (57), Mrs. T. E. Hodgkin (50), Miss B. A. Carter (45), Miss F. Pitt (43), Mr. C. H. Stobart (43), Mrs. Patteson (39), Mr. J. Appleby (38) Capt. M. Portal (30), Messrs. G. T. Atchison (26), T. C. Hobbs (25), Rev. E. U. Savage (24), Miss V. E. and Mr. D. A. J. Buxton (22), Messrs. E. W. Hendy (21), H. G. Alexander (20), and many others who have ringed under twenty each.

	'09-'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	Total
Rook .. ..	65	35	23	5	45	6	38	23	240
Jackdaw .. ..	31	6	15	33	26	23	29	9	172
Jay .. ..	8	4	7	7	4	—	—	6	36
Starling .. ..	1558	1469	1133	646	914	368	560	219	6867
Greenfinch .. ..	336	439	381	344	190	382	254	260	2586
Twite .. ..	—	—	24	18	—	—	—	—	42
Redpoll, Lesser .. ..	8	19	45	22	1	37	—	4	136
Linnet .. ..	148	64	148	151	214	195	162	173	1255
Bullfinch .. ..	24	18	22	20	29	23	18	21	175
Chaffinch .. ..	380	360	331	397	252	319	338	262	2639
Sparrow, House .. ..	202	60	175	17	7	3	—	—	464
Sparrow, Tree .. ..	90	33	27	14	7	4	9	4	188
Bunting, Yellow .. ..	48	127	41	32	47	32	47	62	436
Bunting, Reed .. ..	50	17	39	49	15	18	98	54	340
Lark, Sky .. ..	60	138	390	253	328	195	213	150	1727
Pipit, Tree .. ..	59	38	27	42	4	16	8	5	199
Pipit, Meadow .. ..	134	120	318	169	183	131	113	85	1253
Wagtail, Yellow .. ..	1	—	22	28	13	12	16	9	101
Wagtail, Grey .. ..	24	23	17	22	7	12	—	8	113
Wagtail, Pied .. ..	83	100	114	110	93	93	91	17	701
Tit, Great .. ..	297	73	221	67	65	10	16	16	765
Tit, Blue .. ..	210	124	228	70	3	12	11	5	663
Tit, Coal .. ..	38	9	24	7	10	—	—	—	88
Tit, Marsh .. ..	28	3	17	1	3	—	—	—	52
Tit, Long-tailed .. ..	3	5	28	1	1	3	—	—	41
Wren, G.-crested .. ..	31	—	1	—	1	7	—	—	40
Shrike, R.-backed .. ..	30	9	8	14	14	29	13	16	133
Flycatcher, S. .. ..	152	54	84	84	78	63	115	100	730
Chiffchaff .. ..	23	5	14	9	—	5	8	6	70
Warbler, Willow .. ..	296	266	251	271	257	123	146	154	1764
Warbler, Wood .. ..	39	7	20	9	—	2	—	18	95
Warbler, Reed .. ..	14	14	60	37	1	15	19	54	209
Warbler, Sedge .. ..	17	21	43	—	4	32	53	72	242
Warbler, Garden .. ..	25	17	20	9	15	16	9	1	112
Blackcap .. ..	19	4	7	23	23	12	17	9	114
Whitethroat .. ..	108	21	43	25	40	61	34	40	372
Whitethroat, L. .. ..	25	15	20	8	23	23	3	11	128
Fieldfare .. ..	78	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	85
Thrush, Mistle .. ..	90	83	82	85	98	91	45	33	607
Thrush, Song .. ..	1389	739	1197	1818	1131	1500	680	789	9243
Redwing .. ..	27	4	5	4	1	2	—	—	43
Ouzel, Ring .. ..	9	22	20	22	—	8	—	3	84
Blackbird .. ..	1009	448	626	975	499	751	453	446	5207
Wheatear .. ..	17	34	19	57	23	17	8	17	192

	'09-'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	Total
Whinchat ..	65	21	41	69	53	26	54	65	394
Stonechat ..	29	8	55	30	2	12	—	—	136
Redstart ..	51	26	31	42	40	6	—	13	209
Nightingale ..	15	—	8	4	7	7	—	5	39
Redbreast ..	580	282	355	471	249	263	244	204	2648
Sparrow, Hedge ..	333	226	268	269	228	193	140	98	1755
Wren ..	109	76	101	141	134	106	26	34	727
Dipper ..	35	23	15	23	17	10	5	11	139
Swallow ..	1170	421	653	734	896	720	1470	714	6778
Martin ..	214	104	160	275	198	208	401	137	1697
Martin, Sand ..	91	1	118	182	44	133	116	29	714
Nightjar ..	6	11	4	9	2	6	7	2	47
Wryneck ..	31	12	11	31	22	34	25	29	195
Cuckoo ..	21	23	23	6	5	5	13	14	110
Owl, Long-eared ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30
Owl, Barn ..	10	19	14	9	14	3	6	—	75
Owl, Tawny ..	19	18	7	13	17	—	11	14	99
Kestrel ..	6	8	—	10	10	5	6	7	52
Hawk, Sparrow ..	24	11	5	11	4	5	—	2	62
Heron, Common ..	49	30	24	2	1	4	—	1	111
Sheld-Duck ..	27	10	1	2	9	—	—	—	49
Mallard ..	170	52	200	76	42	30	70	4	644
Teal ..	25	1	22	10	25	1	12	—	96
Wigeon ..	4	—	2	11	38	15	6	1	77
Duck, Tufted ..	5	—	20	15	22	3	—	—	65
Cormorant ..	28	54	266	122	—	—	—	21	491
Shag ..	4	23	15	114	—	—	—	—	156
Gannet ..	—	—	134	56	8	—	—	—	198
Shearwater, Manx ..	—	60	9	—	—	—	—	—	69
Wood-Pigeon ..	45	33	26	18	17	14	11	20	184
Dove, Stock ..	11	7	9	9	2	3	4	1	46
Dove, Turtle ..	23	—	10	4	11	10	3	8	69
Oystercatcher ..	31	6	10	31	6	—	7	3	94
Plover, Ringed ..	47	20	28	20	7	4	2	14	142
Plover, Golden ..	4	13	7	6	9	4	—	6	49
Lapwing ..	590	676	558	1078	444	242	168	154	3910
Sandpiper, C. ..	44	36	24	23	13	20	7	25	192
Redshank ..	36	68	28	61	27	15	35	25	295
Curlew, Common ..	58	55	15	39	9	10	7	17	210
Snipe, Common ..	45	34	22	44	6	13	28	19	211
Woodcock ..	84	57	83	89	32	—	—	3	348
Tern, Sandwich ..	160	22	203	270	—	—	23	—	678
Tern, Common ..	2291	380	51	195	1	1	174	761	3854
Tern, Arctic ..	26	1	3	47	—	—	8	—	85
Tern, Little ..	44	85	35	9	—	1	—	1	175
Gull, B.-headed ..	5194	2660	3915	164	—	13	—	4	11950
Gull, Common ..	432	27	11	17	—	20	7	—	514
Gull, Herring ..	170	178	82	61	—	19	1	—	511
Gull, L. Blk.-bkd ..	211	122	454	1317	214	219	—	84	2621
Gull, G. Blk.-bkd ..	22	1	2	53	—	—	—	—	78
Kittiwake ..	15	—	2	16	—	—	—	50	83
Razorbill ..	34	—	2	24	—	—	—	4	64
Puffin ..	31	108	207	553	—	2	—	2	903
Moor-Hen ..	57	24	39	34	65	21	27	24	291

NOTE.—Forty-four species, of which less than thirty individuals each have been ringed, are omitted from this list as also are game-birds and those of which the identification was not certain.

THE BIRDS OF BARDSEY ISLAND.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc.

(Continued from p. 75.)

PART 3.

THE NORTHERN WILLOW-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus eversmanni*).

Once recorded in spring, viz. : April 10th/11th, 1913.

In September 1913 there were two birds of this race amongst the Willow-Warblers taken at the lantern on September 2nd/3rd and 6th/7th and at least one was identified amongst the brambles on the morning of the 16th.

THE WOOD-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus s. sibilatrix*).

A single Wood-Warbler was beaten out of one of the gorse clumps near the lighthouse on September 9th, 1913. It could only flutter and had evidently been injured against the lantern during the preceding night.

THE GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (*Locustella n. naevia*).

A regular double-passage migrant, in, for the species, comparatively large numbers.

Spring passage from mid-April to the third week in May.

Autumn passage from the first week in August to the first week in October.

In largest numbers at the end of August.

In September 1913 Grasshopper-Warblers occurred at the light on three nights in the first nine days of the month, and single birds were seen in the standing corn on the 3rd and 5th, while on the 9th several were "walked" out of the potato fields. None were seen later.

One day the lighthouse-keepers cleaned out the trumpets of the fog-syrens, removing some two or three dozen desiccated bodies of birds, and curiously enough quite a high proportion of these were Grasshopper-Warblers, most of the others being Sedge- and Willow-Warblers.

THE SEDGE-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schænobænus*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, from end of April to beginning of June.

Autumn passage, from the beginning of August to the end of September, in largest numbers at the end of August.

It also occurs regularly as a summer resident, though probably in varying numbers. Recorded by Mr. Aplin as "one or two about the willow-beds," and also by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 it was, with the exception of a single pair that had their territory in the corner of a meadow much

overgrown with cow parsley, etc., entirely confined to the seven tiny willow-beds: the largest of these held two pairs and the others a pair each, so that in this year there was a total of nine breeding pairs. One of the males had picked up and incorporated into his song a number of Blackbird notes, so that now and then his song was barely recognizable. They were all feeding young in the nest on June 20th.

The summer residents had apparently all left the island before September 3rd, for although Sedge-Warblers occurred at the light on the night of the 2nd/3rd, none was seen on the island on that day and only six on the 4th. Further examples were taken at the lantern on three more nights between then and the 9th, but only single scattered birds were found in the daytime, until the latter date, when there was a fair sprinkling in the potato fields. These had all gone by the next day; single birds were seen on the 11th and 12th, a few on the 16th, and one only on the 18th.

#### THE GARDEN-WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*).

Once recorded from the light in spring, a few on May 12th/13th, 1914.

A regular passage migrant in small numbers in autumn between the middle of August and the first week of October.

None was seen on the island in September 1913, though single birds were taken at the lantern on three nights in the first week.

#### THE BLACKCAP (*Sylvia a. atricapilla*).

Once recorded from the light in spring, a few on April 21st/22nd, 1912.

A regular passage migrant in autumn between the second week in September and the end of October.

#### THE WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia c. communis*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, from the third week in April to the beginning of June.

Autumn passage, from the third week in August (once August 6th/7th), to the beginning of October, in heaviest numbers from the end of August to mid-September.

As a summer resident evidently not constant. Reported as "fairly numerous about the taller gorse" by Mr. Aplin, and seen also by Mr. Coward. In the latter case the birds must almost certainly have been breeding, though in the former it is possible that the birds seen were a late band of migrants halting. In June 1913 there was certainly not a bird on the island.

In September 1913 considerable numbers came to the



lantern on five nights between the 2nd and 9th and many remained on the island during the succeeding days. They were found amongst the brambles growing on the turf walls, amongst the potatoes, and in the gorse clumps on the southern plateau. At times these places were full of Whitethroats, particularly on the mornings of the 3rd, 7th and 9th and to a less extent on the 16th. All had gone by the 17th, and no others were seen up to the 21st.

#### THE FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*).

A regular passage migrant in spring and autumn in considerable numbers, but not coming to the lantern as frequently or in such large numbers (which it never does) as the majority of the *Turdidæ*.

Spring passage, mid-February to mid-April, latest record April 24th. January movements as with Song-Thrush and Redwing recorded in 1910 only.

Autumn passage, the last week in October, (earliest date 24th) to the last week in November, occasionally to mid-December.

#### THE MISTLE-THRUSH (*Turdus v. viscivorus*).

Recorded at the lighthouse six times in spring and seven times in autumn, between July 1908 and June 1914. Allowing for the numerical inferiority of the species as compared with the other *Turdidæ* and the comparative infrequency with which it comes to the light anywhere, it is not improbable that these records represent a regular passage past the island in spring and autumn. The dates covered by the records are between February 18th and April 1st and September 14th and November 6th. The numbers seen were always small, except on November 5th, 6th, 1908, and February 23rd/24th, 1909, when considerable numbers were recorded.

Not seen by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

On June 12th and 19th, 1913, I saw an adult bird, feeding round or drinking at a spring on the mountain side at the northern end of the island. On each occasion it came from and went back to the enclosed gardens at one of the northern farms. There are one or two fruit and sycamore trees in these gardens, where it seems not at all improbable that the bird had a nest and young. The species seems to have increased and extended farther west in W. Carnarvon of recent years, which lends support to this probability, though its breeding on the island would be a still greater extension of its range.

Single birds were present on the island on September 16th, 17th and 20th.

THE BRITISH SONG-THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos clarkei*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, second week in February to the end of March, and occasionally to the second week in April. Light records on single nights in January (occasionally on three or four successive nights) in some years are probably weather movements, either downward in severe winters or upward in unusually mild ones.

Autumn passage, end of August to the third week in December, once as early as July 10th/11th; in largest numbers between mid-September and mid-November.

Evidently not a constant summer resident, as none was seen by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 a single pair with a brood of full-grown young were found in one of the tiny osier beds, which was evidently their home, as they only left it to feed on an adjoining meadow. In the course of six days they had only travelled as far as one of the other osier beds near by. Between September 3rd and 16th a dribbling migration was in progress, the numbers being quite small, and except on the 4th a few were seen each day up to the 22nd.

All the birds hitherto seen have been of the British race.

THE REDWING (*Turdus musicus*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, mid-February to the third week in April. January movements recorded in some years as with Song-Thrush. Heaviest numbers in the last half of February and in March.

Autumn passage, from the beginning of October to the first week in December, occasionally to the third week. Heaviest numbers between the middle of October and the second week in November.

THE RING-OUZEL (*Turdus t. torquatus*).

Probably a regular double-passage migrant in small numbers. Twice recorded from the light in spring, small numbers on April 11th/12th, 1910, and 12th/13th, 1912.

Recorded in autumn between the third week in August and the fourth week in October in 1908, 1910, 1911 and 1913, always in small numbers. In September 1913 two immature birds were seen on the 3rd and an adult on the 5th. Each of them stayed for one day only.

THE BLACKBIRD (*Turdus m. merula*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, second week in February to the first week in April, latest date recorded April 20th. Heaviest numbers

between mid-February and the first week in March. January movements as in Song-Thrush and Redwing, but by no means every year.

Autumn passage, first week in October to second week in December, occasionally to the fourth week. Heaviest numbers between mid-October and mid-November, occasionally early in October also.

As a summer resident it is numerous all over the cultivated part of the island and breeding also some two-thirds up the western and northern slopes of the mountain. As Mr. Aplin has already remarked they are "very conspicuous and tame," and singing from every kind of elevated vantage point. Several birds in 1913 had very curious songs, quite Ring-Ouzel-like at times, and more than one had picked up the notes of the Redshank. Nests were found in the farm gardens, on the turf top of a stone dyke, where presumably the majority of them build, and in an angle of a low cliff high up the mountain. Only a few young birds were out of the nest on June 12th.

The greater proportion of the locally bred young had left the island before September 3rd, and nearly all the Blackbirds seen were adult birds deep in the moult. A few birds apparently through their moult were seen on the tidal rocks between September 3rd and 8th, and these were possibly early passage migrants.

#### THE WHEATEAR (*Enanthe æ. enanthe* and *Æ. æ. leucorrhœa*).

A regular double-passage migrant in considerable numbers.

Spring passage, from the end of March (earliest date 29th) to the second week in May; the earliest record of the large race, April 20th, the latest date of the small race, April 20th.

Autumn passage, from mid-August to the first week in October, once October 10th. Earliest record of the large race, August 31st; latest record of the small race, September 25th.

As a summer resident evidently not constant, which is surprising, as there are plenty of suitable nesting sites, stone dykes and rabbit holes, etc. Recorded by Mr. Aplin as "fairly common," and also seen by Mr. Coward, on both of which occasions the birds ought to have been, and no doubt were, breeding.

In 1913, however, between June 12th and 24th, not a bird was seen, and the species is not one that can be missed, if breeding on a small island.

The Wheatear migration was one of the features of the early days of September 1913. Beyond one or two scattered

birds outside the cultivated area along the west coast, the only part of the island used by them as a halting ground was the bare, uncultivated plateau round the lighthouse. This, after a migration night, swarmed with them; while on the 3rd every tiny bay and inlet among the southern rocks was also crowded with Wheatears sheltering from the wind. From this date to the 17th there was a nightly arrival or departure (or both), but the numbers present were never so high as at first and sank to one or two birds only on the 8th, 12th and 17th. The latter remained up to the time of our departure. The large race was already present in small numbers on September 3rd, while an arrival on the night of 13th/14th consisted entirely of birds of this form.

THE WHINCHAT (*Saxicola r. rubetra*).

Not recorded from the lighthouse, but is probably a double-passage migrant.

In September 1913 three birds were present on the 3rd, and two others had arrived by the 4th. All five were seen on the 5th, two had gone on the 6th and all by the 8th. Five or six new ones arrived on that night, and two only remained on the 10th and these had gone by the 12th. A single bird appeared on the 20th and left the same night. The earlier birds were all seen on the southern half of the island with the Wheatears, but the others were scattered singly along the bramble-covered walls in the cultivated area.

THE BRITISH STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata hibernans*).

Two light records only, small numbers on February 17th/18th, 1912, and a single bird on the 27th/28th, 1913.

It is probable that the Stonechat is, perhaps irregularly, a double-passage migrant.

As a summer resident evidently not constant. Not seen by Mr. Aplin; a single excited male seen by Mr. Coward, who deduced the probable presence of a female and brood.

In June 1913 there were at least three pairs on the lower slopes of the mountain just above the cultivation and one pair at least in some gorse-covered fields on the west side of the island. It was, therefore, quite as plentiful as on any area of equal extent and nature on the mainland. One pair was building on the 12th, while others were feeding fledged young.

In September the young and old birds were present in the same numbers, and no fluctuation was noticed.

(To be continued.)

# NOTES

## CONTINENTAL JAYS IN OXFORDSHIRE AND SUSSEX.

UP to the present it appears that identified examples of the Continental Jay (*Garrulus g. glandarius*) have been recorded only from the littoral counties of Kent, Sussex and Norfolk. I am now able to show that the migration of this form extends far into the interior of the country.

In January 1917 I received in the flesh a male Jay which had been shot on the 16th at Cokethorpe, near Witney, Oxfordshire. I suspected at the time that it belonged to the Continental form, but laid it aside until an opportunity should occur of comparing it with identified examples. This, by the kindness of Dr. N. F. Ticehurst, I have now been able to do, and we are both agreed that the specimen is referable to *Garrulus g. glandarius*.

The fact of the immigration of Jays into Oxfordshire in autumn and winter is not new, such an immigration having been noted by Mr. C. Matthew Prior as far back as 1877 (*Zool.*, 1878, p. 133). Also, in the course of a correspondence in the *Zoologist* which followed the paper by the late Mr. John Cordeaux, "On the Migration of the Common Jay" (*op. cit.*, 1883, pp. 1-3), Mr. O. V. Aplin recorded the increase of Jays in Oxfordshire in the autumn and winter of 1882-83 (*op. cit.*, 1883, p. 128). In a renewal of the discussion on this subject some twenty years later, Mr. Aplin says of the Jay at Bloxham, "Very few breed in this neighbourhood, but more visit us every autumn" (*op. cit.*, 1903, p. 28).

I took advantage of the availability of Dr. Ticehurst's series to examine all the Jays in my collection, with the result that we discovered another example of *Garrulus g. glandarius*, a male shot at Fairlight, near Hastings, Sussex, on December 8th, 1903.

It appears from the published records that an immigration of Jays into this country may be looked for about the first or second week of October, and it would be of interest if examples from other counties could be submitted to examination, so that the extent of the migrations of the Continental race in Britain may be determined.

L. A. CURTIS EDWARDS.

## PIED FLYCATCHER IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

As records of the Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*) are by no means common in Staffordshire, the following note may be of some interest. On May 13th, 1919, at Stourton, I

saw and heard a male singing in some old willows, which had been pollarded several years ago. It stayed here just three weeks, during which time I frequently watched it. For the first fortnight it sang persistently, but afterwards became less vigorous. It had a habit of going into holes in the willows as if prospecting for a nesting site, but although a careful watch was kept, no mate appeared and eventually it disappeared about June 3rd. One point of interest about this bird was that it was probably only in its second year, as the upper parts were brownish rather than black, and the frontal patch was not prominent; in fact, if the bird had not been such a persistent singer, it might almost have been taken for a female.

W. DAVIES.

#### YOUNG GARDEN-WARBLER FED ON MOTHS.

ON July 4th, 1919, I had under observation at Havant for some hours a Garden-Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) which had brought a single young one to an old pear-tree in my garden. The old bird returned to the young one, usually every few minutes, from a line of apple-trees, carrying a single good-sized moth of a light buff colour. She passed within a yard of me, as a rule, often, if I moved a little, indulging in a very faint "inward melody" only audible within a yard or two; and I was able to note that when she flew direct to the young each time, the wings of the moth had not up to then, at any rate, been removed. I never saw any other prey taken to the young bird, and all the moths were about the same size, carried across the beak, and of the same or a closely similar species. The whole hunting was done for hours on the same apple-trees; and, so far as I could see, the under-sides of the leaves alone were searched.

I have not noted the adult Garden-Warbler, or young when able to feed itself, feeding upon moths, but always searching the twigs for small life, as with other warblers; but usually, I think, or often, at a lower elevation than most.

HOWARD ATKINS.

[The Green Oak-Moth is very largely made use of, when abundant, for feeding the young by not only Garden-Warblers, but Blackcaps, Willow-Warblers and Nightingales and probably other species. In the case of the Willow-Warbler at any rate, they are given to the young whole, *i.e.* wings and all.—N.F.T.]

#### MULTIPLE NESTS OF BLACKBIRD.

A PAIR of Blackbirds (*Turdus m. merula*) this year (1919) near Chorley, Lancs., brought off a brood in early spring, the nest being in a normal position against a wall amongst shrubs.

The second attempt caused us much interest. The hen bird was noticed to be carrying a great lot of stuff into an outhouse, and on investigation I found the beginnings of no less than five nests, one between each pair of the roof-supports. These other nests were eventually completed and lined, and four eggs were laid in the middle nest. I noticed the hen bird commenced to sit, and on the third day when I looked she was sitting on one of the empty nests. After that day I never saw her in the shed again.

A. W. MARRIAGE.

[For other notes on multiple nest-building see *Brit. Birds*, V., pp. 132, 166; VII., p. 346; XII., p. 68.—Eds.]

#### CUCKOO'S EGGS AND NESTLINGS IN 1919.

CUCKOOS (*Cuculus c. canorus*) were very numerous in the district round Felsted during the summer of 1919. They began to lay about the middle of May and continued to do so until almost the end of June. They were not heard after June 28th. Twenty-one nests were found containing eggs or young of Cuckoos by members of the School Scientific Society. The first egg was found on May 19th in a Hedge-Sparrow's nest. The last nestling kept under observation left the nest on July 22nd. Eighteen of the finds were in Hedge-Sparrows' nests, one in that of a Greenfinch, one in a Greater Whitethroat's and one in a Pied Wagtail's. Of the eight young kept under observation, until the end of the nestling period, three did not live to fly, *i.e.*, 37.5 per cent. (compare *Brit. Birds*, Vols. VI., pp. 330-3; VII., pp. 233-4; VIII., p. 118; IX., pp. 96-7; X., pp. 141-2; XI., p. 160). At the time of writing (July 28th), young Cuckoos are quite numerous in the district.

In one case the Cuckoo's egg was practically fresh and the Hedge-Sparrow's eggs within a day of hatching. I reared one Cuckoo in a Spotted Flycatcher's nest to try to get photographs of the birds feeding it when fledged. The Flycatchers proved extremely difficult subjects: one bird would not perch, but fed the Cuckoo while hovering in front of it and without alighting at all. The other bird sometimes perched by the Cuckoo, but often alighted very gently on the Cuckoo's back, and even on its head, and fed it from that position with lightning rapidity.

J. H. OWEN.

#### GREEN WOODPECKER IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

As some interest attaches to the date on which the Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis pluvius*) first began to breed in the Isle of Wight, as recorded by your correspondents (cf. *Brit. Birds*, XII., pp. 161, 210 and 237), perhaps it would be

advisable to publish the following extract from my own notes : " The Green Woodpecker nested in Brittlesford Wood, I.W., this year [1910]. As far as I know it is not recorded in the Island as a breeder." Brittlesford Wood is at the head of Wootton Creek, about midway between Cowes and Ryde. I had seen the bird once or twice in the Island before this date, but had never known it to breed, and an old friend and keen observer, resident in the Island, informed me that he had never seen the bird till shortly before 1910.                   ARTHUR ARNOLD.

#### DIVING POWERS OF SHOVELER.

ONE day in mid-August I was looking at the waterfowl in a secluded corner of one of the reservoirs at Tring, and noticed with some surprise a Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*) in the act of diving. It was up again presently, but did not remain long on the surface ; for, first immersing its head, it flipped under again with all the address of a Dabchick. This performance was repeated more than twenty times in the course of a few minutes, and may have gone on for longer still, but the bird passed from sight behind some intervening rushes. The duration of the dives was from 6-8 seconds, and, after coming to the surface, the bird always rose in the water and flapped its wings. I could not tell its age with certainty : it may have been a bird of the year, but, even so, it was full grown and bore no obvious sign of immaturity. Upon what it was feeding I cannot say, but on more than one occasion I saw its mandibles open and close again in a way that suggested the crushing of an object of some size, possibly a *Limnæa* or other mollusc. Now, the downy chicks of many surface-feeding Ducks, *e.g.*, Mallard and Teal, are expert divers, whether for the purpose of obtaining food or evading danger, as anyone knows who has watched a domesticated Mallard with a young brood on a horse-pond. This aptitude is soon lost, however, although possibly it persisted until maturity among the ancestors of our surface-feeding Ducks, and one seldom sees a full-grown bird dive unless it is wounded or in imminent peril. I feel sure that behaviour such as I have described, the regular and purposeful employment of diving in order to obtain food, is unusual in a full-grown Shoveler—it was at any rate quite new in my experience—and is perhaps to be regarded as the exceptional persistence of a habit that is usually lost in early life.                   CHAS. OLDHAM.

[For previous notes on the diving of surface-feeding Ducks (including the Shoveler) see *Brit. Birds*, Vols. IX., p. 301 ; X., p. 22.—EDS.]



VELVET-SCOTERS IN SUMMER OFF  
CARNARVONSHIRE.

FROM an ex-coastwatcher's hut on the Great Orme's Head, I got an excellent view on August 4th, 1919, of a flock of five Velvet-Scoters (*Oidemia f. fusca*). They flew in an easterly direction, that is, towards Liverpool Bay. The white patch on each wing showed up very clearly. The occurrence suggests that, in addition to the large numbers of non-breeding Common Scoters (*O. n. nigra*) which annually "summer" off the North Wales coast, a few non-breeding Velvet-Scoters, too, occasionally summer in that part of the Irish Sea.

RICHARD W. JONES.

ROCK-DOVE ABSENT FROM CHEDDAR CLIFFS.

IN the *Zoologist*, 1903, pp. 108, 230, I recorded the breeding of the Rock-Dove (*Columba l. livia*) at Cheddar Cliffs, Somerset. This statement was based on information supplied by Mr. West, of Cheddar, but I am now satisfied that it is erroneous. I am now residing at Cheddar and find that the Rock-Dove is altogether absent, but on the other hand the Stock-Dove (*Columba ænas*) is plentiful and breeds freely in the cliffs.

STANLEY LEWIS.

SANDWICH TERN BRED ON FARNE ISLANDS  
RECOVERED IN CUMBERLAND.

ON July 15th, 1919, I found in a colony of Sandwich Terns (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*) at Ravenglass, Cumberland, a dead bird, bearing on its leg ring No. 83020.

The bird was marked as a nestling on July 16th, 1914, at the Farne Islands, Northumberland, by Miss R. Pease. The bird had no doubt bred at Ravenglass, and the recovery is interesting, in showing that the species does not always return to its parent colony to nest.

H. W. ROBINSON.

GODMAN MEMORIAL.—A strong committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild, F.R.S., to establish a memorial to the late Frederick Du Cane Godman, F.R.S. It has been decided that the memorial shall take, primarily, the form of a bronze tablet with medallion portraits of Godman and Salvin, and that this tablet, with a suitable inscription, should be offered to the Trustees of the British Museum, to be placed in the Natural History Museum.

The Committee hope to be in a position to do something additional to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Godman, by

helping to establish a less local form of memorial. Dame Alice Godman and her two daughters have offered to establish a Trust with the sum of £5,000, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to making collections for the advancement of science and for the benefit of the Museum, a project which has met with the warm approval of the Trustees of the British Museum. The Committee propose that any amount received by them over and above that required for the bronze tablet shall be added to this Exploration Fund. Contributions to the Memorial should be sent to Mr. C. E. Fagan at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

### REVIEW.

*Birds and the War.* By Hugh S. Gladstone, M.A., F.R.S.E. Skeffington, 5s. net, illustrated.

THIS is a well-arranged little book divided into the following sections: I. Utility and economy of birds in the war, containing a very interesting chapter on the use of Carrier Pigeons, a chapter on economic ornithology, and others on birds and birds' eggs as food; II. Sufferings of birds in the war, dealing with birds in captivity, destruction of birds at sea, and the effect of air raids; III. Behaviour of birds in the war zone; IV. Effect of the war on birds; and a concluding chapter on the ornithologists killed, but in this only the British are taken into account. As Mr. Gladstone foresees, much careful observation and study will be required in the next few years before we shall know with any exactness what effect the war has had upon birds, not only in the actual fighting zones but also in other parts, such as the British Islands, where changed conditions of farming, forestry, game-keeping, and so on, must all have an effect.

Meanwhile, Mr. Gladstone has written an interesting book of a popular nature and he has made it a readable one, which could not have been an easy task, as cuttings from newspapers and journals of all kinds have been used in its compilation. The source of the information is given in each case, but it is not always clear where the author is merely quoting and where he is expressing his own opinion, and the observations are often not reliable. It may be remarked that in 1918, when the collecting of eggs of Black-headed Gulls was under expert supervision, nearly 100,000 were gathered, so that this source provided a real food-supply and not merely a luxury, as Mr. Gladstone supposes.

H.F.W.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

# JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

# WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND.

**"ZOOLOGIST."** Complete set of 74 vols. for Sale, Bound in blue cloth, morocco backs, good condition.

Offers to Z., Office of "British Birds."

**TO MEMBERS OF THE B.O.U.—For Sale,**  
A fine Series of the "IBIS" from 1877 to 1916, 36 vols., original cloth, 2 unbound, to be disposed of at a greatly reduced price. Address X., c/o "British Birds" Office.

# JUNGLE PEACE

By WILLIAM BEEBE

THE BOOK OF THE YEAR  
FOR THE NATURALIST.

The work contains "records of extraordinary scientific interest, in language which has all the charm of an essay of Robert Louis Stevenson. The author tells of bird and beast and plant and insect life of the British Guiana jungle. Whatever he touches he turns into the gold of truth, rightly interpreted and vividly set forth."

PRESS COMMENTS.

"This is a wonderful book—a book of Nature's miracles . . . He is the Maeterlinck of open-air science working in the least known of natural wonderlands."

*Morning Post.*

"I should have missed something good if I had never seen 'Jungle Peace.'"

*Westminster Gazette.*

"Pictures that linger in the memory as real literary gems."—*Scotsman.*

"His narrative sparkles with countless jewels of description."—*Daily Graphic.*

"Passion for the scientific study of nature and an eye that nothing escapes are matched by his gift for vivid description."—*Athenæum.*

"Enthralling in its vivid reproduction of some of the most wonderful and little-known scenes in nature."—*Yorkshire Post.*

Now Ready.

Illustrated.

8s. net.

LONDON: WITHERBY & CO.

# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

OCT. 1,  
1919.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 5.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

PART 4 NOW READY.

A  
**Practical Handbook**  
OF  
**British Birds**

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.  
EDITOR OF BRITISH BIRDS (MAG.)

*Authors of the Various Sections :*

ERNST HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U.

ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

AND THE EDITOR.

*Illustrated with*  
*Coloured Plates*  
*Half-tones*  
*and Numerous*  
*Text Figures.*



*Practical*  
*Original*  
*Up-to-date.*  
—  
Price 4s. net  
per part.

FULL PROSPECTUS AND COLOURED PLATE POST FREE.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, London.

IN EIGHTEEN PARTS

Part 3 (80 PAGES  
Two Plates) June 18th, 1919

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 5, Vol. XIII. OCTOBER 1, 1919.

	PAGE
Some Habits of the Sparrow-Hawk. (7) The Effects of Sunshine. By J. H. Owen .. .. .	114
Recovery of Marked Birds .. .. .	125
The Birds of Bardsey Island. By N. F. Ticehurst, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc. Part 4. .. .. .	129
Notes:—	
Status of Yellow Wagtail in Westmorland (A. Astley) ..	135
On the Breeding of the Lesser Redpoll in Glamorganshire (G. C. S. Ingram) .. .. .	136
Wild Hybrid between House-Sparrow and Tree-Sparrow (J. B. Nichols) .. .. .	136
Number of Eggs laid by Marsh-Warbler (A. Thomas) ..	137
Are Cuckoos ever Reared by Greenfinches? (N. F. Ticehurst)	137
Fierce Attack on a Cuckoo by a Meadow-Pipit (N. H. Joy) ..	138
One Pair of Meadow-Pipits Feeding Two Young Cuckoos (T. A. Coward) .. .. .	139
Young Buzzard takes a Shower Bath (Dr. T. Lewis) .. ..	140
Probable Montagu's Harrier Breeding in Sussex (H. Kirke Swann) .. .. .	141
Whooper in Ross-shire in June (D. Macdonald) .. ..	141
Large Clutch of Eggs of Little Grebe (Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain)	142
Woodcocks Perching on Trees (Charles C. Dallas) .. ..	142
Probable Long-tailed Skua in Hertfordshire (O. G. Pike) ..	143
Letter:—Weights of Cuckoos' Eggs (P. F. Bunyard) .. ..	144

## SOME HABITS OF THE SPARROW-HAWK.\*

BY

J. H. OWEN.

## (7) THE EFFECTS OF SUNSHINE.

THE watching of the Sparrow-Hawk in wet and rough weather is delightful and fairly easy, especially during the nesting season. The study of the bird in bright sunshine is equally entrancing, but a great deal more difficult. All notes obtained outside the nesting season are, more or less, matters of luck. During the nesting season observations may sometimes be made by cutting away branches round the nest so as to let the sun in on the nest during the most suitable hours. Here again, however, it is necessary that the sunshine shall fall on the nest without touching the front of the hut. Otherwise, the building of the hut will be a much more complicated business if it is to be thoroughly successful. Apart from the nesting season many of the bird's actions are influenced by sunshine. For example, sunshine is almost a necessity for preening. For adults there seems to be a normal time for certain operations, such as preening, bathing, hunting, flying and building: sun and wind have great effect on these operations, not only as to their duration and completeness, but even as to their actually taking place at all. My notes on most of these points outside May 1st–August 1st are necessarily scanty, but I will give my conclusions, and perhaps those who have been lucky enough to have made further observations will add to them.

The Sparrow-Hawk is a clean bird and bathes fairly regularly, but it is a matter of great good fortune to be able to watch one at work in a perfectly wild state. My friend, and sometime pupil, Mr. F. N. Stocker, was lucky enough to do so on several occasions during August 1916. On each occasion he was hiding in a hut to kill Wood-Pigeons coming to grain. There was a copse with a late brood of young Hawks adjoining one side of the field, and by luck his hut commanded a view of a piece of ground on the edge of a stream. Daily, if the sun was strong, the Hawks came and bathed on the edge of the gravel at mid-day. Their motions were the same as those of other birds, but the most enjoyable movement was the throwing of water over the back and the twist of the head over the shoulders to wash the feathers and wipe the moisture off. The bathing would last several minutes,

\* For previous articles on this subject see *Brit. Birds*, X., pp. 2, 26, 50, 74, 106; XII., pp. 61, 74.



and then the bird went up to a dead bough, exposed to sun and wind, and there first dried and then sunned and preened itself thoroughly. The drying motions he described were identical with those I have described *antea*, Vol. X., pp. 9-10. He only saw the Hawks bathe on warm sunny days. These statements agree entirely with my own observations, but I have not been so lucky as to secure a series of observations such as he did.

Most of the cases I have seen of bathing have been by accident: I have usually come across the bird in the act while stalking some other creature. It seems that the Hawks prefer running water, if it can be got, and choose a gravelly place where the water is shallow: they stand in the water where it is an inch or slightly more in depth. I have seen them wash thus on the Severn, the Vyrnwy, the Tanat, the Morda and other of the border streams, and in Essex on one or two of the tiny streams that mostly have no name. The Chelmer, the largest stream in the district, has very few such spots on it near Felsted School.

I have surprised Hawks in similar situations, in other than fine weather, at various times of the year. On these occasions I have never yet had the luck not to disturb the Hawk, and therefore do not know whether the bird was bathing or drinking. It is curious that I have never seen a Sparrow-Hawk drink, and am, therefore, inclined to think these birds were there for a bath and more alert through the weather than in hot sun: for in hot sun there is no doubt that the bird is at times indolent, or at any rate not particularly alert.

In 1916 I got a keeper to cage some young birds from a nest, and after they were six weeks' old we put dishes of water in the cage. They seemed disinclined to bathe when it was cold, or when anyone was in sight. In the hot sun, however, one would immediately bathe, if the spectator was well screened, with the usual motions, but neither of the other birds would use the polluted water. The young birds used slightly different methods of drying to the adults, or rather similar methods on a reduced scale, *i.e.*, they hung their wings half spread to the sun and wind and seldom more than half fanned the tail.

Hunting, apart from supplying food to the nest, seems to take place chiefly early and late in the day, especially in the hot months and on very sunny days. Sometimes the bird will hunt in the hot hours, but I think this is the result of unsuccessful expeditions earlier, and is sometimes merely for amusement. Several times in August I have seen a Hawk sweep from a perch into a flock of birds, or over a single bird,

scaring its prey badly, but making no attempt to kill one, and returning at once to perch. I was extremely lucky on the evening of August 26th, 1918, to witness a cock Sparrow-Hawk playing with a large rabbit in this way.

The Hawk had, in my opinion, just fed, and was sunning itself on a low, bare branch of a spruce on the side of a wood. Fifty yards away was a similar bare branch of an elm. There was no fence round the wood, but a wide, deep ditch, which had recently been "mudded out" into the wood in large heaps, and the outside of the mounds was quite dry. While the Hawk was sunning, a rabbit came and sat up on the top of a mound about half-way between the trees. Down swept the Hawk at once, and the rabbit flattened itself almost into the ground as the Hawk passed and then leapt some two feet into the air and sat up again; the Hawk alighted on the elm branch. Then it turned and swept back over the rabbit to the spruce, with the same motions by both. This happened several times before I was spied, but I had seen enough to be sure of one thing, and that was that the Hawk never dropped its foot, *i.e.*, it never struck or intended to strike at the rabbit, but was merely playing. The bird was sunning itself when the sun had lost its power, about three-quarters of an hour before setting. Two evenings later I had time to revisit the same spot and made a long detour to get to a point whence I could view the same spot unseem, but there was no Hawk on either perch. After waiting a while I got over a fence into the field adjoining the wood and, just as I got clear of the fence (which ran to the right from the wood), a hen Hawk left a sunning branch in an oak not far from the fence and swept down towards the ground away from me. Out of the aftermath a Partridge jumped up at the Hawk, which swerved up and back to the perch; this happened three times, and then the old Partridge flew away with some of the brood. Then the Hawk swept down again at the rest, which were running for the fence and just got off the ground as the Hawk got over them. The Hawk passed over one, almost touching it, and all the birds dropped into the grass again. This happened at least twice more before the Partridges gained the fence. Yet the Hawk never once attempted to seize the bird, but was obviously merely playing.

These instances both took place in the evening: I have seen others of a similar nature in the mid-day sun, but not with mammals.

Of preening in the sun at the nest I have written before. As or pteening at other times, birds seem to vary very considerably, but not many of them will select a site in

the full strength of the sun for the operation. Preening normally seems to follow a meal as night does day: the usual site selected is a dead and sloping branch, in my experience not so often a horizontal branch: a live branch with a good length free from twigs is also often used both for a feeding place, particularly by the hen during the incubation period, and for preening afterwards. After the main brooding period is over, the hen will select some such site near the nest and the choice of this site appears to depend on the direction of the wind. It is usually up-wind from the nest, probably because the cock brings the food down-wind or across wind to such a position relative to the nest. Another great point in the selection of the site seems to be a clear view of the nest and as much space in other directions as is possible in the wood. The amount of sun power the bird requires appears also to depend on the nature of the wind, *i.e.*, the colder the wind the more likely the bird will be to get in the full sun. This habit on the part of the sitting bird of perching somewhere not far away, when not brooding, makes it necessary to get a friend to relieve one at a stated time. Otherwise the hen will see you getting out of the hut, and that very soon makes her a difficult subject, to put it mildly. I have several peep-holes as a rule, and have learned by experience to look up-wind first, but it is best to investigate all trees in the immediate neighbourhood of the nest for likely perching branches as soon as it is decided to leave the hut. I have many times found a bird using a projecting end of the hut frame as the look-out post. The amount of time a bird can spend without moving on one of these perches is quite astonishing. Except for turning the head occasionally and sometimes changing its stance from one foot to both or the other, she may not stir for hours. Last June on one hot day I watched my hen in the same spot for more than three hours, and was very thankful when some children came into the wood and frightened her. At the time the sun had not reached the nest; it being Sunday morning, and my arrangements having been made chiefly for afternoon watching.

Even for their curious flights sun and the wind must not be over a certain mild strength, at any rate low down. It seems useless to watch for these flights if there is rain, fog or much wind. At any rate, I have often got up here before daybreak to watch, on what seemed, at that hour, an ideal morning, but which after dawn turned out wet or windy, but without success. Building, and more especially early building, is spasmodic and seems again to depend on the weather. I have found a new nest as early as February 17th (1918)

almost complete. February 16th and 17th were very sunny days, the 15th fairly sunny, 8th and 9th sunny. The last week of January, too, was very fairly sunny. This nest was in the same fork which the birds had used in 1917, when the nest was robbed and torn down. In March the boys found the nest and at once, knowing it was new, began to climb up to it so that the trunk was absolutely shiny before the end of the term. I think some of the village boys used to visit it in the holidays, for in May the bird had not laid, but started a new nest at the end of April and completed it in a very few days, but never got a chance to incubate.

In 1917 this pair was building in March. I used to get up early to try and find out if they built before sunrise and had a succession of foggy or misty mornings. The hide was of faggots and some way from the nest. I never saw either bird near the nest before 8 a.m. No addition was visible except after a sunny day, sometimes then very little, and sometimes quite a lot generally after the brightest day. When, however, one arranges the branches round the nest by judicious lopping, so as to get the sun on the nest at a convenient time for hut observation, one cannot only get interesting notes at close quarters, but occasionally a desirable photograph. I have done this at four of the nests I have hutted. The first time I did it foolishly, and the heat on the hut was consequently almost unbearable when the sun was on it. I only got very few notes or photographs, because after my first terrible sufferings from the heat I arranged strings from the hut to make a noise on the ground in order to put the bird off as soon as the heat became really oppressive. This bird was brooding, and always "stuck it out," though in great distress; the sun made her pant almost as soon as she got on the nest. She opened her bill and not only did her tongue work, but the whole of her body vibrated with the panting. Twice I watched her thus for periods of over three hours on successive days at the end of July. During these spells the cock did not come near, and as the young were newly hatched and did not want much food, it was obviously unnecessary to hunt in that heat; it is possible, of course, that sometimes he was out of luck, but the same thing happened at other nests during about the same hours too often for mere chance to be the right explanation.

My other huts were better arranged. Two were built in trees next to the nest-tree and one in the nest-tree. In the first two there was no need to cut the foliage over the hut, and in the third I was careful to leave as much as possible. In each of these cases I had the hut ready some days before

the bird could be due to hatch : in one all the eggs were infertile.

In the first of these, before the eggs hatched, as soon as the sun fully got on the nest the bird would stand up on the rim, and preen and stretch herself. She would never stand for long, but do a bit, then sit, and then get up and do a little

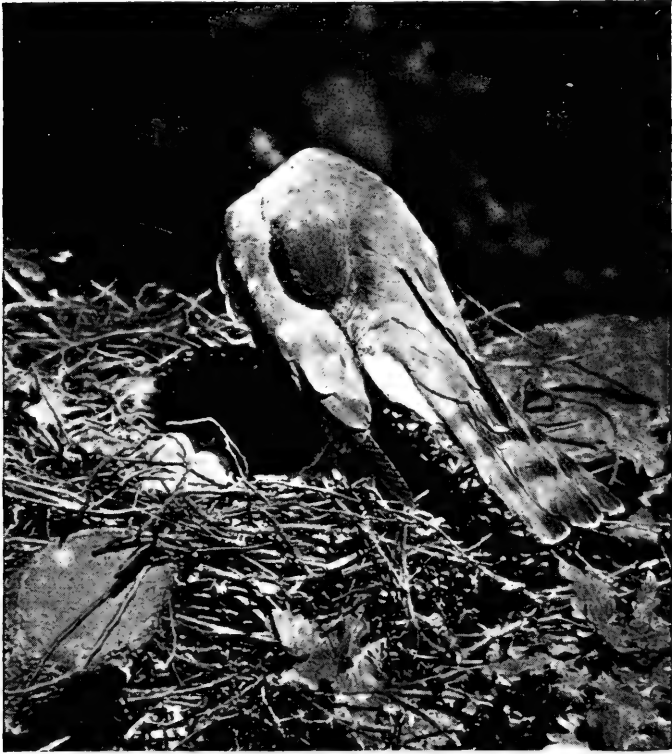


Fig. I. SPARROW-HAWK : Preening.  
(*Photographed by J. H. Owen.*)

more. At other times she used merely to stand up to stretch and after a minute or so brood again. When the young were hatched she usually confined herself to stretching, and did much less preening. During the nestling period, however, there was always considerable wind, and the sun never really worried her even when it was full on the nest, as the days were seldom really hot.

In the second nest, the hen did a great deal of preening and very little stretching while the sun was on the nest. At this nest the sun was full on it from 2.30 to 5, and we had some really hot days. She sat only for short periods during the time the sun troubled her, and occasionally flew away from the nest, to return shortly with a small twig. These twigs were sometimes placed with care, but more often quite casually dropped on the rim of the cup.

Unfortunately, she never made the slightest pause on the nest when she brought a twig, and so I never succeeded in getting a photographic record of it. This bird also brought fresh leaves to the nest occasionally and dropped them in the cup of the nest. The curious thing was that she always brought elm leaves, and there was no elm tree within a hundred yards, the nest being in an oak wood and actually built in an oak. Young ash, poplars, lime and hornbeam lay between the nearest elm and the nest. The wood is more than sixty acres in extent, and I do not think there are half a dozen elms in it. The selection of elm leaves is the more curious as the Hawk usually builds the greater part of the nest of the same wood as the tree in which the nest is placed. The other nest gave better results, as I had strong sun on the nest every afternoon I visited it after the eggs had hatched. This bird was very timid and often stayed away for some time after I had got into the hut. She would usually wait until she had got food from the cock, and then come and feed the young. After the meal, which of course she served up with her back to the wind, she would not brood if the sun was very strong. She would try to make her body a sun screen instead, even when the young were very small. She would partly expand and depress her wings so that her bulk would throw a big shadow. Then if her body was not in a direct line from the sun to the young she would gradually edge round the rim of the nest until it was ; that is, until the rays of the sun were directly on her back. She then, while the young were very small, would very slowly move forward into the cup of the nest and crouch there so that the young were completely shaded by her. At this stage she did not fan her tail at all. As the young grew and filled the nest her methods became different. Her tail was slightly fanned, and instead of crouching low over the young she gradually assumed a more upright position. Her wings were not so much expanded and she made no attempt to screen all the young. She simply turned her back to the sun, and if a young one wished to make use of her shadow, it was welcome to it. Usually only one did so, or tried to do so, at a time, but the heat kept the young perpetually

shuffling round the nest, and, therefore, the one in the shade was nearly always changing. The hen's powers of endurance were wonderful, and the time she kept the crouching position amazed me, for she would not alter it at all until the cock came again, after it might be two or three hours, or even until



Fig. 2. SPARROW-HAWK : Making the body into a sun-screen.  
(Photographed by J. H. Owen.)

the shadows began to cover the nest again ; although she would be panting all the time. Sometimes she would be brooding before the sun reached the nest, and then she did not get up, but simply brooded on. The young could not endure to be under her and squirmed their bodies free, panting and lying exhausted on the nest with their necks outstretched. If the hen happened to be away, when the sun came on the



Fig. 3. SPARROW-HAWK : She turned her back to the sun, and, in turns, the young made use of





Fig. 4. SPARROW-HAWK : The young panting and lying exhausted with necks outstretched.  
(Photographed by J. H. Owen.)

nest, the young were very soon in difficulties. They panted and could not keep still, but crawled or rather squirmed their way all over the nest. Dozens of times I have expected to see one topple off the edge of the nest, and been on the point of slipping out to rescue it; but instinct, I suppose, has warned it to change direction and regain safety. Sometimes two of them in their wanderings run up against each other, and the contact seems to quieten them for a short time, but soon they recommence their rambles. At times all the young will be spread-eagled about the nest; necks outstretched, wings partly so, bills open and bodies absolutely flat on the nest. Of course the heat takes the energy and life out of the young very much. This is evidenced by their disinclination to feed if the cock brings a meal during the hot spell. There is none of that rapid drawing up to the "joint" that takes place in a more comfortable temperature. Neither is the rapid simultaneous grab for the bit torn off by the hen much in evidence. Instead, it may be that not one will attempt to get up to be fed. Then the hen's anxiety is really touching. She seems quite at a loss to know what to do. She may tear off bits and, after holding them in the tip of her bill for a short time, swallow them herself. She may reach over another bit and offer it to one or other of the young. If it is accepted that youngster usually turns and comes up to the normal position and then the chances are that more of the young may follow. But they have no appetite and seem to sicken of the food, and the hen has to eat most of it herself. At a very early stage she may help the young to the proper position; after that I have seen her tear off a bit of meat and draw it across the top of the nestling's bill: after this is done once or twice the young one usually opens the bill, and then the meat is put in very quickly and gently, and is very languidly bolted.

As the young get fledged and are able to stand they are left to seek shade for themselves, and I think that under the circumstances they begin to climb up branches away from the nest at an earlier age than usual. In wet weather the young cannot preen; in warm, dry weather they spend an enormous amount of their time preening when once brooding has stopped; if, however, the sun gets on them, in any strength, they are quite incapable of the exertion required.

## RECOVERY OF MARKED BIRDS.

THE following have kindly sent in subscriptions towards the expenses of the Marking Scheme since the last acknowledgment was made : Mr. J. Appleby, Lt. G. Brown, Miss B. A. Carter, Mr. K. Fisher, Major H. S. Greg, Miss N. H. Greg, Mr. T. C. Hobbs, Mrs. Hodgkin, Mr. A. Mayall, Major W. E. Mackenzie, Messrs. J. F. Madden, J. G. Maynard, Miss E. Mellish, Dr. H. J. Moon, Mr. C. H. Stobart.

JAY (*Garrulus g. rufitergum*).—68402, ringed at Salcombe Regis, Devon, as a nestling by Mr. A. Mayall on May 28th, 1918. Reported near Sidforth on December 31st, 1918, by Capt. P. E. Anderson-Morshead.

STARLING (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*).—89,799, 89,556, ringed at Orpington, Kent, as adults by Mr. S. Kendall Barnes on February 8th, 1917, and December 13th, 1916. Reported at Sevenoaks on January 28th, 1919, by the editor of the *Shooting Times*.

89,612, ringed as above on November 1st, 1917. Reported at Farnborough, on September 13th, 1919, by Mr. F. Green.

89,885, ringed near Shrewsbury, Salop, as an adult by Mr. A. Mayall on February 13th, 1917. Reported at the same place on February 2nd, 1919, by Mr. W. Wilson.

91,286, ringed at Eton, Bucks., as 89,885, on November 14th, 1918. Reported at Windsor Castle in June, 1919, by Mr. A. Rayment.

83,671, ringed at Oldham, Lancs., as an adult by Mr. H. W. Robinson, on December 25th, 1914. Reported near the same place on April 19th, 1919, by Mr. J. Dowd.

86,894, ringed at Lymm, Cheshire, as an adult by Mr. O. J. Wilkinson, on February 11th, 1917. Reported near the same place on January 5th, 1919, by Mr. R. H. Gotobed.

82,251, ringed at Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, as an adult by Miss A. Blyth, on January 27th, 1917. Reported at the same place on December 28th, 1918, by the ringer.

87,755, ringed at Cheadle, Staffs., as a nestling by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, on June 2nd, 1916. Reported at Aston Lodge, Derby, in March, 1919, by Mr. T. Boden.

LINNET (*Carduelis c. cannabina*).—GS90, ringed at Southport, Lancs., as a nestling by Mr. F. W. Holder on July 2nd, 1918. Reported near the same place on November 20th 1918, by the editor of *Cage Birds*.

- CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla c. cælebs*).—DN26, ringed at Orpington, Kent, as an adult by Mr. S. K. Barnes on February 4th, 1917. Reported at the same place on November 6th, 1918, by the editor of *Cage Birds*.  
JU5, ringed near Tamworth, Warwick, as a nestling by Mr. E. de Hamel on September 15th, 1918. Reported near the same place on December 26th, 1918, by Mr. T. Malpos.
- SKY-LARK (*Alauda a. arvensis*).—F.V. 69, ringed at Withington, Manchester, as a young bird by Mr. F. Bruton, on May 29th, 1918. Reported at Cheadle, Cheshire, on July 30th, 1919, by the editor of *Cage Birds*.
- BLACKBIRD (*Turdus m. merula*).—87,806, ringed at Orpington, Kent, as a nestling by Mr. S. Kendall Barnes on May 25th, 1916. Reported at Farnborough, Kent, on November 17th, 1918, by Mr. J. R. L. Bartlett.  
DF48, ringed at Torrance, Stirling, as an adult by Mr. J. Bartholomew on April 1st, 1917. Reported at the same place on November 20th, 1918, by the ringer.  
87,008, ringed near Lytham, Lancs., as a nestling by Dr. H. J. Moon and Mr. F. W. Sherwood on May 16th, 1916. Reported near the same place on January 28th, 1919, by the editor of the *Lytham Times*.  
88,805, ringed at Great Crosby, Lancs., as an adult by Mr. J. Appleby, on June 9th, 1916. Caught at the same place January 12th, 1918 and February 6th, 1919, by the ringer and released with the same ring.
- SONG-THRUSH (*T. ph. clarkei*).—90,897, 90,885, 88,990, ringed at Lytham, Lancs., as young birds by Dr. H. J. Moon on April 23rd and June 1st, 1918. Reported at or near the same place, May 10th, June 16th, and July 29th, 1919, by Mr. A. Sergeant and Mr. Beasley.  
B.R. 97, ringed at Glenorchard, Stirling, as a nestling by Mr. J. Bartholomew, on May 21st, 1916. Reported from near the same place in March, 1919, by the ringer.
- REDBREAST (*Erithacus r. melophilus*).—F.S. 28, ringed at Bardowie Castle, Stirling, as a young bird by Mr. J. A. Anderson, on May 12th, 1918. Caught and released with same ring at Torrance, Stirling, on January 27th, 1919, by Miss Bowie.
- HEDGE-SPARROW (*Prunella m. occidentalis*).—B.O. 26, and F.U. 98, ringed at Cheadle, Staffs., as adults by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, on May 30th, 1916, and November 13th, 1917. Caught and released with the same rings at the same place on February 10th and 9th, 1919, by the ringer.

SWALLOW (*Hirundo r. rustica*).—DR89, ringed at Johnstown Bridge, co. Kildare, as a nestling by Mrs. H. M. Rait Kerr on July 7th, 1917. Reported at Lurgan, co. Armagh, in June, 1919, by Mr. W. Austin.

KESTREL (*Falco t. tinnunculus*).—68,476, ringed at Southport, Lancs., as a nestling by Mr. F. W. Holder on June 17th, 1918. Reported near Ormskirk on July 16th, 1919, by Mr. J. Cooper.

67,745, ringed at Hebden Bridge, Yorks., as a nestling, by Mr. T. F. Greenwood, on July 1st, 1917. Reported near Winsford, Cheshire, on January 1st, 1918, by Mr. H. R. Fitton.

TEAL (*Anas c. crecca*).—67,043, ringed at Leswalt, Wigtownshire, as an adult by Mr. J. Law, on March 21st, 1917. Reported five miles from the same place on September 16th, 1919, by Major M. Portal.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*).—34,123, ringed at Alnwick, Northumberland, as a nestling by Mr. W. Meech (gamekeeper to Lord W. Percy), on August 27th, 1915. Reported near the same place on November 20th, 1918, by Col. R. W. Carr Ellison.

WIGEON (*A. penelope*).—36,917, ringed at Tamworth, Warwick, as a bird of the year by Mr. E. de Hamel on October 6th, 1915. Reported at Uralsk, about 280 miles north of Guriev, north of the Caspian, on April 21st, 1918, by an officer of the Ural Cossack Army.

TUFTED DUCK (*Nyroca fuligula*).—65,061, ringed at Alnwick, Northumberland, as a young bird by Mr. W. Meech (gamekeeper to Lord W. Percy), on August 27th, 1915. Reported at Fallodon in December, 1918, or January, 1919, by Lord Grey of Fallodon.

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*).—50,160, ringed at Melidgan, Scilly Isles, as a nestling by Mr. H. W. Robinson on April 20th, 1914. Reported at Blagdon Reservoir, Somerset, on July 11th, 1914, by Mr. B. W. Tucker.

WOOD-PIGEON (*Columba p. palumbus*).—26,083, ringed at Torrance, Stirlingshire, as a nestling by Mr. J. Bartholomew on June 17th, 1918. Reported at the same place on August 27th, 1919, by the ringer.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—91,651, 91,601, HN9, ringed at Torrance, Stirling, as nestlings by Mr. J. Bartholomew on July 8th, June 2nd, June 11th, 1918. Reported near the same place in November and December 11th, 1918, and April, 1919, by Mr. A. Dickson and the ringer.  
88,119, ringed at Kinnelhead, Dumfries, as a young one

by Mr. J. Bartholomew, on May 27th, 1917. Reported at Summerhill, co. Meath, on January 20th, 1919, by Mr. M. J. Gallagher.

**REDSHANK** (*Tringa totantus*).—19,710, ringed at Hornby, Lancs., as a young bird by Mr. H. S. Greg, on June 10th, 1918. Reported at Heswall, Cheshire, on February 16th, 1919, by Mr. H. Blount.

**SNIPE** (*Gallinago g. gallinago*).—90,620, ringed near Southport, Lancs., as nestling by Mr. F. W. Holder on June 8th, 1917. Reported at Ballyglunin, co. Galway, on December 7th, 1918, by Mr. J. J. Blake.

**SANDWICH TERN** (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*).—83,020, ringed at Farne Islands, Northumberland, as a nestling by Miss A. Pease on July 16th, 1914. Reported at Ravenglass, Cumberland, on July 15th, 1919, by Mr. H. W. Robinson.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*Larus ridibundus*).—29,303, ringed at Delamere Forest, Cheshire, as a nestling by Capt. A. W. Boyd, on June 13th, 1912. Reported at Hale, near Liverpool, on January 30th, 1919, by Mr. R. Critchley.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus f. affinis*).—34,383, ringed at Foulshaw, Westmorland, as a nestling by Mr. H. W. Robinson on July 6th, 1915. Reported at Leighton Park, near Carnforth, Lancs., on May 1st, 1919, by Mr. R. C. Yates.

37,614, ringed as above on July 25th, 1919. Reported near Cardigan, on September 7th, 1919, by Dr. C. Richardson White, D.S.O.

38363 ringed at Farne Islands, Northumberland, as a nestling by Mr. H. J. Vaughan on Aug. 26th, 1918. Reported near Lisbon, Portugal, in November 1918, by Mr. L. R. Wyllie & Mr. W. C. Tait.

38,375, ringed as above on same date. Reported at Agadir, Morocco, in December 1918 by M. Edmond Mengneau.

## THE BIRDS OF BARDSEY ISLAND.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc.

(Continued from p. 106.)

### PART 4.

#### THE REDSTART (*Phœnicurus ph. phœnicurus*).

Once recorded from the light, several on September 4th/5th, 1913.

In September 1913 single birds were seen, mostly on the gorse-topped walls on the southern shoulder of the mountain, on the 3rd, 6th, 7th and 12th, and two on the 5th and 9th. Those on the 5th, 9th and 12th were new-comers.

#### THE BRITISH REDBREAST (*Erithacus rubecula melophilus*).

No spring records from the light.

An autumn passage migrant in small numbers, between the end of August and the end of October.

As a summer resident not always present, as it was not seen either by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 a single bird inhabited the garden of one of the farms and probably had a nest and young there, but so silent and skulking was it, that it eluded identification for ten days.

In September 1913 none were seen until the 9th, when there were quite a few scattered about the island, even on the tidal rocks; nearly all these had disappeared by the 12th, and the one or two left stayed until they were joined by a good number on the night of the 15th/16th, and these remained at any rate, up to the 21st.

#### THE BRITISH HEDGE-SPARROW (*Prunella modularis occidentalis*).

Unrecorded from the lighthouse. Certainly an occasional passage migrant in autumn. Summer resident.

Recorded by Mr. Aplin as "pretty common in the lower parts," and also by Mr. Coward.

In 1913 it was quite common along the line of the farms and extending about half way up the side of the mountain, especially at the southern end, where cover is more abundant. Present also all over the cultivated area, but in scattered pairs only. Very bright, clean-looking birds, and the males singing all day; indeed, it may be regarded as *the* warbler of the island. Fledged young were out of the nest on June 12th, but with

down still present on their heads and being fed by their parents.

Up to September 10th, allowing for the increase due to the young broods, the numbers on the island were the same as in June.

On the 11th a very distinct increase was noticed, and there were quite a few in the potato fields, in the early morning, having evidently arrived during the night with Meadow-Pipits, Linnets and Common Buntings. By the next day the numbers had again dropped to the normal, and no further fluctuation was noticed.

#### THE WREN (*Troglodytes t. troglodytes*).

A single record from the lighthouse, viz.: one bird on April 30th/May 1st, 1913.

As a summer resident evidently very variable and not constant, as it was not seen by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward, though the former expresses the opinion that it must have been there.

In June 1913 it was fairly common and with much the same distribution as the Hedge-Sparrow, though not so numerous and not going higher up the hill than the enclosures. Very few were found in the cultivated area at any distance from the farms themselves.

In September the summer residents and their young were still present, and no fluctuation in numbers was noticed.

#### THE SWALLOW (*Hirundo r. rustica*).

One spring and one autumn record from the light, viz.: May 5th/6th, 1911, and September 25th/26th, 1913. Without doubt a regular double-passage migrant, but chiefly diurnal.

As a summer resident recorded by Mr. Aplin as "a good many," and also by Mr. Coward, and as it was present also in June 1913 it probably breeds regularly. In the latter year the breeding population was about five or six pairs, and these were seen round the farm buildings where they nest, or hawking along the coast, particularly over the dry sandy shore of the west bay, which was evidently a favourite feeding ground. On June 15th, a blazing hot day, with a faint S.E. breeze, Swallows were passing south down both shores of the southern half of the island in ones, threes, and fives, about twenty in all being seen. They did not seem to be feeding, and were flying in a steady, purposeful way as though migrating.

The local residents had apparently left the island before September 3rd, as on this day only a few birds were seen and



they were crossing the island in a southerly or south-easterly direction. On the 4th a party of six or eight crossed the southern end of the island in the early morning, coming from the south-west and leaving to the east-south-east. No Swallows were seen on the next two days, but on the 7th two were seen, which were flying along, what was afterwards found to be the usual route of this species, and which is the same as that used by the Meadow-Pipit (*q.v.*). From the movements of this species, those of the Swallow only differ in that the birds are more numerous; and so when at its heaviest, as on September 19th, the passage develops into a regular stream, and the area of arrival seems to be a wider one, so that birds make the land all down the west coast and converge fanwise towards the southern shoulder of the mountain. Thus they arrive from the N.W. or W.N.W., those making the land at the northern end of the island cross the cultivation and follow round the curve of the western slope of the mountain; those landing farther south cross the cultivation in a more or less due easterly direction; while those coming in towards the southern end, head more and more to the north of east, so that there is a regular concentration of the stream over the southern shoulder, over which they all leave the island on the aforementioned Pipit route. The passage takes place in the early morning, up to 9.30 or 10 a.m., and the birds as a rule travel in small parties, which, when the movement is at its maximum, blend into a continuous stream.

On the 8th some twenty or five and twenty birds followed this route, on the 10th a dozen, on the 11th detached parties were passing up to 9 a.m.; on the 12th the movement was resumed in greater numbers and lasted till 8.30 a.m. There were no movements on the 13th and 14th. Only a single bird passed, going south-west, on the 15th. On the 16th, when there was a large Pipit migration, not a single Swallow was seen. On the 17th about a dozen passed between 8.30 and 9 a.m. A very few came in at the southern point of the island on the 18th between 9 and 10 a.m. and followed the Pipit route up the east coast. On the 19th birds were passing in a continuous stream, as already described, from early morning to 11 a.m. Those that arrived at the southern point, came in low over the waves from a point a little to the north of west, rose to cross the low promontory, and sinking again on the other side, swung at the same time to the north, so that they left on a course a few points to the north of east. Curiously enough, during the whole time of this big movement, the mainland towards which the birds were heading was

invisible owing to fog, and Pipits under similar circumstances appeared to fear the passage.

No birds were seen on the 20th, but on the 21st the passage was resumed on a smaller scale and small parties were seen crossing the whole of the southern half of the cultivated area.

#### THE HOUSE-MARTIN (*Delichon u. urbica*).

Unrecorded at the lighthouse, but doubtless a regular double-passage migrant.

Recorded by Mr. Aplin, "several seen, but not breeding." Not seen by Mr. Coward.

On the afternoon of June 20th, 1913, two passed over the southern half of the cultivated area, flying low, towards the north, and one was hawking over the fields on the 21st. These were, no doubt, visitors from the mainland.

In September 1913 no House-Martins were seen until the first large Swallow movement on the 12th, when a few were seen travelling with them. On the 13th a single bird was seen, beating up against a strong north-easterly wind, that it could hardly make any headway against. On the 18th a party of a dozen were flying round over the cultivation, feeding, but their arrival and departure were not witnessed. No others were seen.

#### THE SAND-MARTIN (*Riparia r. riparia*).

Not recorded from the lighthouse, but probably a regular double-passage migrant.

A few were seen by Mr. Aplin, but none either by Mr. Coward or by myself, which is only to be expected.

In September 1913 single birds were seen flying about the island on the 5th, 6th, 10th and 13th. The latter was flying round the farm in the evening in a tired and dazed manner. It had been a bitterly cold day, with a strong N.E. wind and rain. The bird evidently sought shelter for the night inside the old lime-kiln, for here it was found dead the next morning. On the 15th two were seen flying south past the west bay; while on the 19th a single bird (of course there may have been more) was accompanying the Swallows in their big movement.

#### THE SWIFT (*Apus a. apus*).

Not recorded from the light, but probably a regular double-passage migrant.

Not recorded by Mr. Aplin, but many were seen by Mr. Coward, though no nesting place was found.

In June 1913 eight appeared on the evening of the 14th,

hawking about high over the fields. Two were about the same place on the next morning, a single bird on the afternoon of the 17th, and two more at sunset. On the 21st one or more were flying over the fields all day. I could find no evidence of nesting, and the birds were, perhaps, visitors from a colony on the mainland.

In September only two were seen, and these were flying round over the fields on the 5th about 5 p.m.

#### THE NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus e. europæus*).

Twice recorded from the light, a few on June 2nd/3rd, 1910, and a single bird on August 29th/30th, 1913.

#### THE WRYNECK (*Jynx t. torquilla*).

In September 1913 a Wryneck was taken at the lighthouse on the 5th/6th, and a second was seen on one of the turf walls in the cultivated area on the 6th, looking strangely out of place in such a locality, and a surprising enough record so far west.

#### THE CUCKOO (*Cuculus c. canorus*).

Three times recorded from the light, June 2nd/3rd, 1910, May 8th/9th and August 6th/7th, 1912. Probably a regular double-passage migrant.

As a summer resident recorded by Mr. Aplin, "several," but not seen by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 one or a pair seen or heard almost daily from the 13th to the 22nd. On the 21st heard all day up to 9 p.m. On several occasions being chased by Meadow-Pipits, which would, no doubt, be the chief foster-parents.

Not seen in early September 1913.

#### THE PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco p. peregrinus*).

Mr. Aplin saw a male on both the days he was on the island, and concluded from its actions that it had a mate sitting. Seen also by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 a male flew past me at some distance, when I was on the north face on the 14th and 19th, but I saw nothing of it on the other two days I was in that locality, nor did I see a female or find any evidence that they had nested on the island in that year.

On the evening of September 19th a Peregrine was hawking over the southern part of the cultivation and stooped six or eight times within a hundred yards of me, on the last occasion rising with a bird, that looked, through the glasses, like a Meadow-Pipit in his claws. As he hovered, after rising,

for a second or two, he brought his feet and the prey forward, and bending his head down gave the latter a nip behind the head, which fell limply dead when he let go of it. He then flew off to the rocks at Pen Cristin. The whole action was clearly visible through the glasses.

THE MERLIN (*Falco columbarius aesalon*).

Not recorded either by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward. On June 12th, 1913, a male flew past me high overhead, near the top of the north face. It was, no doubt, a visitor from the mainland (there was a brood of young in an old Crow's nest on the west side of Aberdaron Bay).

One or more were seen almost daily in September, three being present on the 3rd. The abundant Meadow-Pipits and Linnets afforded them plenty of food.

THE KESTREL (*Falco t. tinnunculus*).

Apparently an occasional visitor only. Single birds were seen both by Mr. Aplin and Mr. Coward. On June 15th, 1913, a single female was flying over the south-western slope of the mountain, and from time to time perching on the outcropping rocks. No evidence of nesting was obtained.

In September one was seen daily from the 3rd to the 12th, and again on the 19th.

THE COMMON HERON (*Ardea cinerea*).

Not recorded in spring or summer.

In September 1913 Herons were met with occasionally on the coastal rocks at low tide or on the reef off the west bay. The largest number seen was five on the 5th.

DUCKS.

There are three records from the light of ducks (species undetermined) in good numbers, on November 13th/14th, 1909, March 14th/15th and October 21st/22nd, 1912. On November 25th/26th, 1910, many Teal (*Anas c. crecca*) were at the lantern, and one was killed. The lightkeepers told us that they occasionally see a few ducks on the island in late autumn.

(To be continued.)

# NOTES

## STATUS OF THE YELLOW WAGTAIL IN WESTMORLAND.

MACPHERSON in his *Fauna of Lakeland* (p. 112) gives the impression that the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava rayi*) is distinctly uncommon in the Lake District. He writes: "Ray's Wagtail is a decidedly scarce summer visitant to Lakeland. . . . A few pairs breed sporadically in Cumberland . . . but it never occurs in any numbers, not even on migration."

The fact is that the Yellow Wagtail is far from being a scarce bird in Westmorland, where it is probably more numerous in the nesting season than the more typical Grey Wagtail. However, it must be sought for in certain places only, but in these chosen haunts it will be found fairly frequently. The type of locality favoured by this bird is almost invariably delta-land where the streams enter the lakes, flat marshy fields which are subject to constant flooding during the winter months. On some of these rough swampy fields up to as many as six pairs breed every year, and such land is to be found on almost every lake. A "lake-head" is practically certain to be occupied by one or more pairs while round such a lake as Windermere there are many suitable sites where the birds are present every year.

The average date of arrival in the spring is about 24th April and the birds commence to construct their nests almost immediately after arriving, though the eggs are not usually laid till about the middle of May. As a rule one brood only is raised, but in 1918 one pair that I had under observation certainly had a second nest. The young from the first nest were seen on the wing about the end of June, while on July 7th I watched the old bird busily engaged in building a second nest, which was being lined with white cow's hair. A second nest, however, is unusual.

While the birds are only to be found on the low-lying swampy ground through the summer, it is very noticeable that from about the middle of August to the middle of September they are much more generally distributed, coming freely into fields and even gardens at some little distance from the water. In spite of Macpherson's remark about scarcity on migration, I am inclined to think that there is a considerable autumnal

movement through the district, and that these birds seen towards the end of August are on migration, and are not members of the regular breeding stock. A. ASTLEY.

#### ON THE BREEDING OF THE LESSER REDPOLL IN GLAMORGANSHIRE.

As a breeding species the Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis l. cabaret*) is by no means common in southern Glamorganshire, in fact I look upon it as rather scarce, although in winter small parties are constantly to be seen.

On May 14th, 1910, I was fortunate enough to discover a nest practically completed and ready for eggs, in a fork of a small alder about ten feet from the ground. On visiting it on May 19th, there were four eggs, the fifth and last being laid on the 20th. All the young were hatched out on May 30th, and they left the nest on June 11th. Sitting did not actually commence until the full clutch was laid. This gives an incubation period of ten days, and a fledging period of twelve.

It is interesting to note that on June 13th, within 100 yards of the nesting place, I observed a female busily engaged in pulling off fluff from the cloth coverings of some small fish-rearing ponds. I was not able to find any other nest, but have no doubt in my own mind that this pair of birds raised a second brood, as there were certainly no other Redpolls in the district. GEOFFREY C. S. INGRAM.

#### WILD HYBRID BETWEEN HOUSE-SPARROW AND TREE-SPARROW.

IN May 1918 I received a Sparrow killed at Fordham, near Colchester, Essex, on May 1st, 1918. It appeared to me to be a hybrid between a House-Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*) and a Tree-Sparrow (*P. montanus*). Dr. Hartert has kindly examined it for me, and he writes me: "The Sparrow you sent me cannot be anything else but a hybrid between the House- and Tree-Sparrow. It has nearly all the characteristics of a Tree-Sparrow, but is larger, especially the bill is much bigger. The black on the throat is more extended than in the Tree-Sparrow, although a little less than in the House-Sparrow, and the chestnut of the crown is darker, more really chestnut. It is an interesting bird." I see M. Suchetet records only three examples in a wild state in his book *Oiseaux Hybrides à l'état sauvage*. J. B. NICHOLS.

## NUMBER OF EGGS LAID BY MARSH-WARBLER.

IN Saunders's *Manual* (2nd edition, p. 82) the number of eggs in the clutch of the Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*) is given as five to seven, and similar statements are also made in Seebohm's *History of British Birds*, I., p. 378, and Sharpe's *Handbook of the Birds of Great Britain*, I., p. 235. I am aware that continental dealers occasionally send over clutches of six eggs from the Continent, but from a somewhat extensive acquaintance with this species in the west of England, have come to the conclusion that in England, at any rate, this bird has a tendency to lay less rather than more than five eggs in the clutch. Dozens of nests which I have inspected contained only four eggs, while I have very often found the bird incubating clutches of three, and occasionally have met with two only. However, this year (1919) for the first time in fifteen years' experience, I found a nest with six eggs, in Gloucestershire, and should be interested to learn whether any of your readers has had a similar experience.

ALFRED THOMAS.

[It is difficult to guess upon what authority the statements of Seebohm and Saunders mentioned above were made. The normal clutch of the Marsh-Warbler is undoubtedly four to five eggs, and clutches of six are exceptional on the Continent, while we are not aware of any previously recorded instance in England. Naumann says the eggs are generally four or five, more rarely six in number, while Rey says that the clutch consists of five eggs, sometimes four only, while he never met with six. R. B. Sharpe and A. G. Butler have copied the statements of Seebohm and Saunders into their works, but in Howard's *British Warblers* and the *British Bird Book* the information is more correct.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

## ARE CUCKOOS EVER REARED BY GREENFINCHES ?

MR. J. H. OWEN in his notes (*antea*, p. 109), on "Cuckoo's Eggs and Nestlings in 1919," mentions the finding of a Cuckoo's egg in a Greenfinch's nest, but he does not refer to the subsequent history of this egg. In volume VI., p. 331, Mr. Owen records that a young Cuckoo left the nest of a Bullfinch "alive" and apparently well. There does not seem, however, to be any other information, at any rate, I have been unable to find any, about the hatching of Cuckoo's eggs and the rearing of the young birds by other than purely insectivorous species. Possibly the occurrence of Cuckoo's eggs in the nests

of "hard-billed" species being somewhat unusual, more often than not leads to the taking of the eggs and so opportunities for subsequent observation are lost, but it must occur from time to time that young Cuckoos are found in nests of these species. My attention was first drawn to this subject by an experiment that I made this year. On May 18th I found a Hedge-Sparrow's nest in south-west Kent containing a Cuckoo's egg and two of the owner's, a third lying recently broken on the grass a few yards from the nest. Now this was the first and only Hedge-Sparrow's nest on this property since the stock was completely wiped out by the 1916-17 winter, and as I was particularly anxious that they should rear a brood, and it being perfectly obvious that if the Cuckoo's egg remained in their nest they would not do so, I removed it and placed it in the nest of a Greenfinch that contained three eggs (removing one of the latter). The Greenfinch's nest was the only one available at the moment, in the correct stage for substitution. The Cuckoo's egg was of the ordinary Pied Wagtail type. Both birds completed their clutches and the Hedge-Sparrows reared their brood. The Cuckoo's egg also hatched and the Greenfinch's eggs or young were evidently ejected in the usual manner. I was unable to revisit the nest, however, until June 14th, when I found the young Cuckoo dead in the nest. It had evidently lived and been fed by its foster-parents for some days, as it had died on reaching the stage when the larger quill-feathers had just begun to sprout. It is exceedingly unlikely that any accident had befallen the foster-parents.

It seems to me that this result is really what one would naturally expect, the regurgitated, partly digested, vegetarian food supplied by the Greenfinches suffices for the young Cuckoo until it reaches a certain size and stage of development, but is insufficient or the proteid in it is inadequately digested in sufficient quantity when the purely insectivorous Cuckoo reaches that size and requires to begin to make feathers. The question naturally follows: are young Cuckoos ever reared to maturity by Greenfinches? N. F. TICEHURST.

#### FIERCE ATTACK ON A CUCKOO BY A MEADOW-PIBIT.

I WAS standing in the open in the middle of a marsh near Dublin, in June 1919, when two Cuckoos (*Cuculus c. canorus*) came flying by, one about five yards behind the other. The second one made the usual call note, and was, therefore,



probably the male. The first one was evidently a female, judging by its subsequent activities and general appearance. Soon after the Cuckoos had passed me about six Meadow-Pipits (*Anthus pratensis*) joined in a pursuit of the female. Then the cock bird went away from her and she flew up and down the marsh four or five times. When she did this it was curious to see a Meadow-Pipit attack her furiously as she passed a particular spot. Twice I saw it actually settle on her back and hang on to a feather. On both occasions the Pipit was knocked off to the ground by the Cuckoo making a sudden turn to one side. The Cuckoo subsequently settled in this spot, and three Pipits kept on flying up into the air, then down on to the ground near her. This they gave up doing after about ten minutes. NORMAN H. JOY.

#### ONE PAIR OF MEADOW-PIPITS FEEDING TWO YOUNG CUCKOOS.

On the "Burrows" at Tenby, on August 7th, 1919, I watched two young Cuckoos tended by a single pair of Meadow-Pipits. They were practically full grown and fairly strong in flight, though they frequently alighted amongst the dunes and called continuously for food. If one bird rose to follow one of the Pipits, the other also flew and alighted near it. Presumably, as only two birds were feeding them, they had been reared in the same nest and neither had succeeded in dislodging its companion.

Though apparently about the same age, they were strikingly distinct in plumage. Both had the usual pale edges to the feathers and the white nape spot, but the ground-colour in one was the normal rufous above and buff beneath, whereas in the other it was grey above and almost white below. I could not say if one Pipit confined its attention to one particular Cuckoo, for both Pipits were often absent seeking food at the same time. I did, however, feel satisfied that the two were fed by different methods. The foster-parent approached the grey Cuckoo from in front and passed the food into its wide-open mouth, but when a Pipit fed the red bird it mounted upon its back, jumping on from behind, and fed it from there. As a rule the Pipits, after delivering the food, hopped or flew out of the way to avoid the vicious dig which usually follows the receipt of a gift, but once a Pipit transferred the food in three instalments, the Cuckoo keeping its mouth open until the last had been received and then pecked at the donor.

T. A. COWARD.

## YOUNG BUZZARD TAKES A SHOWER BATH.

RECENTLY I made a curious observation upon a young Buzzard (*Buteo b. buteo*), which has been in my possession since it was completely enclosed in down. The young bird (I do not yet know its sex) was hatched about May 23rd, 1919, and is now (August 4th) just shedding the last flakes



of down. It takes a bath on alternate days and has done so for a week or more. In the evening of August 4th it rained heavily and I expected to see the bird retire to its shelter; it did not do so, but flew to a perch in the open and stood lifting its wings to the horizontal and sometimes higher; then it would flap them and return them again to the horizontal position and fully outstretched as the rain beat upon

them. As the wings became heavy with moisture the latter was shaken off or the wings were drooped to the sides. But they were never closed, and the original movements and postures were soon resumed again. The harder it rained the more outstretched the wings were held; as the rain abated the outstretching would decrease. It took some time to convince me that the bird was welcoming the hard shower, but eventually I found this conclusion irresistible because, while it still rained, the bird commenced on the perch those curtseying movements which, while bathing, immerse the lower breast and belly-feathers. These movements were repeated on more than one occasion. When the rain ceased the bird flew to its shelter and remained there for the night. I attempted to photograph the Buzzard with the wings horizontal, but movement, which was never quite absent, and a hopeless light made it impossible; however, I was able to obtain a picture of the resting position, assumed when the horizontal position became tiring, and of this I enclose a print.

T. LEWIS.

#### PROBABLE MONTAGU'S HARRIER BREEDING IN SUSSEX.

WHEN at Brighton last month Mr. W. Swaysland told me that a Harrier had bred on the Downs near the town in the spring of 1919, and four young were hatched, which were taken by some boys, one of them having been brought to him. He thought it to be Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*), not the Hen-Harrier, and from his description it seems tolerably certain it was this species, which has bred formerly near Brighton.

H. KIRKE SWANN.

#### WHOOPER IN ROSS-SHIRE IN JUNE.

ON June 5th, 1919, when proceeding to fish on Loch Beannacharan, an extension of the Meig, one of the main affluents of the River Conon, I was surprised to find a Whooper (*Cygnus cygnus*) on it, which had undoubtedly arrived overnight. It remained on the loch until the morning of June 13th, but in the interval, paid visits to some of the smaller hill lochs. I found the bird somewhat shy when I attempted to approach it on foot, but vehicles passing did not disconcert it to the same extent. While the plumage was perfectly white, it showed a trace of immaturity in the upper mandible, which was of a creamy-yellow colour, instead of the full lemon-yellow of the adult Whooper.

D. MACDONALD.

## LARGE CLUTCH OF EGGS OF LITTLE GREBE.

MAJOR C. SMEED recorded a remarkable clutch of ten eggs of the Little Grebe (*Podiceps r. ruficollis*) from west Sussex in May 1918 (*Br. Birds*, XII., p. 189). At the time I had never heard of more than seven eggs being found in a nest, and that only very rarely, but Mr. N. S. Mundy, a well-known and reliable observer, states in a letter to Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, that on August 30th, 1919, he found a nest of Little Grebe on the river below Oxford with eight eggs. He did not take them, and on revisiting the spot on September 8th found the bird still sitting. Instances of the breeding of the Little Grebe in September have already been recorded in *Brit. Birds*, II., p. 242.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

## WOODCOCKS PERCHING ON TREES.

ON May 27th, 1919, I was drifting down the River Bure in a sailing boat on a still day, and close to Wroxham Broad I saw a bird perched on one of the topmost branches of a dead tree, some 50 yards ahead. I thought at first it was a Turtle-Dove, but bringing my glasses to bear upon it, was intensely surprised to see that it was a Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*).

There was nothing to impede a distinct view of the bird, and I could see the bird's plumage and markings perfectly, and though it was perched with its back towards me, an occasional turning of the head gave a good view of the beak and eye, as the boat slowly drifted by. My friend, Major Robertson was in a wherry some 300 yards behind, and I rowed back immediately to call his attention to it. The bird never moved, and as we again drifted slowly past, we had a good look at it at not more than 30 yards distance, and both were sure that it was a Woodcock. The two men in the wherry also agreed with us.

I may mention we both know the bird well, and have probably shot and handled some hundreds.

Mr. Pegg, of Wroxham, who is a keen naturalist and observer of birds, assures me that he had twice seen Woodcocks perched in trees and on one occasion he put the bird off, and was quite sure of its identity.

A friend of mine to whom I related this incident also told me that he was one day coming home from shooting through a wood in Wales with another guest, when they saw two birds perched in a tree. One of them flew off, but the other remained till they were within shot, and on its taking wing my friend shot it, and found on picking it up that it was a Woodcock.

Since writing the above I have seen another Woodcock perch in a tree. This was on September 14th, in the Isle of Arran, when Commander Chambers and I put up a Woodcock out of some bracken, and the bird flew into a wood and alighted on a small nut tree. It remained perched long enough for us to have a good look at it.

CHARLES C. DALLAS.

[For other recorded instances of the Woodcock and other Waders perching see *British Birds*, Vol. IX., p. 254; cf. also note by Mr. E. Harvey (*Field*), December 13th, 1913.—EDS.]

#### PROBABLE LONG-TAILED SKUA IN HERTFORDSHIRE.

ON August 27th, 1919, I saw a Skua flying over the Tring Reservoirs. It settled on the banks, and I found that I was able to get to within a few yards of it. The following day,



which was very stormy, I was able to take several photographs of it as it swam on the rough water or settled on the banks. By taking care not to make any sudden movement, I managed to get to within a yard of it, and by kneeling on the ground could examine it closely. It was about 12 inches in length. The head and breast were almost pure white, the top of the head being very slightly spotted, back and wings were greyish-black, the feathers being edged with white, with here

and there just a trace of pale brown in the edging. The bill was grey, tipped with black, and the legs light grey, with the feet black.

Dr. Hartert and I examined the skins in the Tring Museum, comparing them with the photograph, and there seems little doubt that the visitor to the reservoirs was a Long-tailed Skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*).

While I watched the bird it caught several small fish, and also pecked at the remains of a half-pound roach which was lying on the bank; whether it caught the latter I could not say, as this might have been left there by an angler. The Skua showed no signs of fear, and even after some small boys had pelted it with stones it returned to its favourite corner, remaining there until August 30th. O. G. PIKE.

## LETTER.

### WEIGHTS OF CUCKOOS' EGGS.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain is probably quite correct in his identification of the Chaffinch's egg mentioned in the August issue of *British Birds* (*antea*, p. 81); it would, however, be dangerous to assume that an egg could not be a Cuckoo's because it weighs only 153 mg.

The average weight for Cuckoos' given, 231 mg., is evidently Rey's weight for 710 eggs, all of which we may safely assume were of Continental origin; my average weight for 54 British eggs is 224.3 mg., which is considerably lighter for the average than Continental eggs.

The maximum weight given in *Oologia Universalis Palæarctica*, George Krause, is 320 mg. and the minimum 150 mg., the average given in *Oologia Neerlandica*, Lechner, is 231 mg., which is also evidently Rey's average.

My maximum weight is 299 mg., and the minimum 151 mg., below the maximum Continental, and 1 mg. only above the minimum.

Weights and measurements are of considerable value and interest in identification when taken in conjunction with general characteristics. The latter point apparently influenced Mr. Jourdain in his decision.

CROYDON.

P. F. BUNYARD.

[The weight was, of course, taken in conjunction with the size, texture of shell and other characteristics. Lechner gives no information as to the number of eggs weighed, and Krause's figures are similarly defective. Many of Rey's eggs were of British origin, as may be seen by reference to *Altes und Neues*. Personally I am of opinion that very strong corroborative evidence is necessary in the case of all supposed Cuckoos' eggs below 160 mg. in weight.—F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND.

**"ZOOLOGIST."** Complete set of 74 vols. for Sale, Bound in blue cloth, morocco backs, good condition.

Offers to Z., Office of "British Birds."

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts. ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

Part 1 Ready October.

A  
**GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
OF  
**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY**

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO END OF 1918.

By W. H. MULLENS, M.A., LL.M., F.L.S. H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.  
Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

A record, arranged under County headings, of printed books, published articles, notes and records relating to local Avifauna.

In 6 parts, Demy 8vo, at 6/- net each.

---

Ready October.

A HANDBOOK  
TO THE VERTEBRATE  
**FAUNA OF NORTH WALES**

By H. E. FORREST.

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district. Just the information required by the Naturalist resident in or visiting North Wales is thus provided in a concise form.

Demy 8vo.

Cloth.

6s. net.

---

Ready October.

**METEOROLOGY FOR ALL.**

BEING SOME WEATHER PROBLEMS EXPLAINED

By DONALD W. HORNER, F.R.MET.SOC., etc.

Author of "Observing and Forecasting the Weather,"  
"Weather Instruments and How to Use Them."

With Text and Half-Tone Illustrations.

A compendium of information about the Weather as it daily affects the lives of everyone. The "dry" terseness of the text-book has been avoided, but the information given is comprehensive and reliable, and of a practical nature.

Crown 8vo.

Cloth.

Illustrated.

6s. net.

---

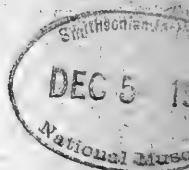


# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

NOV. 1,  
1919.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 6.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

PART 5 READY NOV. 5th.

A  
**Practical Handbook**  
OF  
**British Birds**

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.  
EDITOR OF BRITISH BIRDS (MAG.).

*Authors of the Various Sections :*

ERNST HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U.

ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.

Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

AND THE EDITOR.

*Illustrated with  
Coloured Plates  
Half-tones  
and Numerous  
Text Figures.*



*Practical  
Original  
Up-to-date.*  
Price 4s. net  
per part.

FULL PROSPECTUS AND COLOURED PLATE POST FREE.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, London.

IN EIGHTEEN PARTS

Part 4 (<sup>64 PAGES</sup>  
Three Plates) Sept. 26th, 1919.

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.  
TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

---

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 6, VOL. XIII. NOVEMBER 1, 1919.

---

	PAGE
The Black-necked Grebe. By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S...	146
Some Points in the Sexual Habits of the Little Grebe with a note on the Occurrence of Vocal Duets in Birds. By J. S. Huxley..	155
Notes :—	
Some Ornithological Notes from Shetland (R-Adml. C. Greaatorx) .. .. .	159
Birds feeding upon Winged Ants (Miss L. J. Bawtree) ..	160
Number of Eggs laid by Marsh-Warbler (J. H. Symes) ..	160
Pied Flycatchers on Migration in London (J. K. Stanford) ..	160
Migration of Fieldfare from Finland to South of France (H. W. Robinson) .. .. .	161
Combat between Hedge-Sparrow and House-Sparrow (F. D. Welch) .. .. .	161
Late third Brood of Swallows. (H. Massey), .. ..	161
Numbers in Swallow Broods in 1919 (H. W. Robinson) ..	161
Meadow-Pipits fiercely attacking Cuckoo (Capt. H. F. Stoneham) .. .. .	162
One Meadow-Pipit feeding two young Cuckoos (E. A. Wallis)	163
Little Owl breeding in Shropshire (Miss F. Pitt) .. ..	163
Little Owl in South Devon (L. R. W. Loyd) .. ..	164
Goshawk in Lincolnshire (W. S. Medlicott) .. .. .	164
Spoonbill in Hampshire (Sir T. H. H. Troubridge)	165
A Wood-Pigeon's Ruse (H. A. Booth) .. .. .	165
Bar-tailed Godwits in Shropshire (H. E. Forrest) .. ..	165
Black-headed Gulls returning to their Parent Gullery (H. W. Robinson) .. .. .	165
Abnormal late Hatching of Partridges (M. Portal) .. ..	166
Letter : Observations on the Cuckoo (P. F. Bunyard) ..	166
Reviews :—	
<i>Report on Scottish Ornithology in 1918, including Migration</i> ..	168
<i>The Selection of Helix nemoralis by the Song-Thrush</i> .. ..	168
<i>Hybrid Gulls</i> .. .. .	168

## THE BLACK-NECKED GREBE.

BY

OLIVER G. PIKE, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

(PLATES 3 TO 10.)

Most ornithologists and egg-collectors know that the Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*) nested on the Tring Reservoirs (Herts.), last year, so I am giving away no secrets when I say that my photographs and notes were obtained there. Personally, I am sorry that the haunt was mentioned, as a number of egg-collectors endeavoured to take the eggs this year. One company of four men made a desperate effort to obtain the eggs, and waded out to the nest a distance of over one hundred yards, through a most treacherous reed-bed, using the "hide" I had erected near the nest as a guide, but fortunately a Dabchick had its nest close to that of the Black-necked Grebe, and when the men arrived at my hide they were evidently in too great a hurry to look around, for they failed to see the nest of the Black-necked Grebe, and went off with the clutch of Dabchick's eggs, no doubt thinking that they had the eggs of the former bird!

My notes are confined to the birds on Marsworth reservoir, as I did not have time in the nesting season to watch those on the other reservoirs. Four birds arrived on May 10th, 1919, and in the evening the males were fighting desperately, while the two females kept at a distance of about twenty yards and watched the fight. One male was very aggressive, and followed the other. The battle for a time was most violent, the birds falling over one another in the water, dashing at each other and diving. I watched this for about an hour. The next morning there was only one pair on this reservoir, so I came to the conclusion that the pair that had nested here last year had returned, and also succeeded in driving off another pair that wished to remain on the reservoir. I had seen two pairs on Wilstone Reservoir on the 10th also, and as I could only see the two pairs there on the 11th, the second pair from Marsworth were evidently the pair that arrived about that date on a more distant reservoir.

On May 11th I watched the birds during the morning and evening. They were chiefly occupied in diving for food, the average time of remaining under being 27 seconds. On the 12th the birds were going through their courting exercises. These at times are very pretty. They will face each other, and one gives a curious snake-like twist of the neck followed by a rapid shake of the head, very much like the courting exercise of the Great Crested Grebe, but altogether they make a very much greater show than the latter species. On the evening of the 12th, after a short courting show like this, both birds swam across the reservoir and entered the reeds at the spot where the nest was last year. The male kept close to his mate, and one could not help noticing, how, if they passed a Coot, or if another bird approached them, he placed himself between the possible enemy and his mate.

On May 13th and 14th both birds were out on the reservoir, and I did not see them enter the reeds, but on the 15th, they remained in the reeds practically all the day, and I supposed that they were nest-building. On the following day both birds again swam into the reeds at 10 a.m. At 6.30 that evening I saw the male bird leave the reeds at a point I was watching, close to where I estimated they would build, but there was no sign of the female. The whole of the 17th was spent in the same way, the male again showing himself in the evening. I spent about an hour in searching for the nest, without result. At 6.30 a.m. on the 18th both birds were out on the reservoir feeding, but at 10 a.m. only the male was to be seen, and I inferred that the hen was sitting.

The next day I decided to have a good search for the nest, and in the evening my boat was driven almost as far as it would go into the reeds at the point where I thought the birds were nesting, and I noticed that the male swam up to the edge of the reeds and seemed very concerned, so I felt that I was on the right track. Later I found a nest that I thought was the one I wanted, but it was doubtful, as there were so many Dabchicks about. This nest contained four eggs, covered over, the covering being well trodden down, so that from a short distance it looked like an empty nest.

The Dabchick usually throws the covering material over loosely, so this fact alone made me think this might be the Black-necked Grebe's nest. It was about 25 yards from the bank, so I took the bearings of it as well as I could, and the



BLACK-NECKED GREBE: The nest uncovered.

(*Photographed by O. G. Pike.*)

following morning went to the spot, and waded out to it. I moved just one or two reeds, so that the nest could be seen slightly from a tree on the banks, then climbing into this, and waiting a very short time, I was rewarded by seeing the Black-necked Grebe return to her nest, uncover her eggs, and settle down.

The following day, one of the keepers and myself constructed a hide on the water, about 25 feet from the nest, at which we were at work  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours altogether, and the bird returned to her nest very soon after we left. It was not my intention to attempt any photography for another week. On May 24th I noticed both birds on the reservoir, so I waded out to the nest, and found that it had been robbed. We thought at the time that a Moorhen had taken the eggs, or a rat, as there were signs on the nest that one of these mammals had been there, but when I discovered later on that egg-collectors were watching me, I am more inclined to think that one of these human egg-robbers was the culprit.

However, it was really a blessing in disguise, as the birds spent another week in courting and I saw some very pretty exercises that I would otherwise have missed. They evidently decided to waste no time before building again, but the difficulty was to discover where they would build, as the reeds were now growing up rapidly, and becoming very dense. On May 25th both birds were in quite another part of the reservoir, and at intervals throughout the day they were love-making. In this, the male would often swim casually away from his mate for a distance of about 30 yards; he would then dive, and one could tell by the actions of the female that he was coming towards her under the water; just before he appeared, she would lay her neck full length on the water, and raise her wings over the back in the form of a shield, and wait for him. With most unerring precision he always came up about a yard in front of her, and with head lowered swam rapidly to her. As they met both birds looked as if they were standing directly on their tails, and with necks extended, breasts and beaks almost touching, they faced one another. One would now shake its head, and the other immediately followed with exactly the same action. Both had the head feathers erected, and for about 15 seconds they remained like this, but suddenly dropping to the water, they swam together rapidly side by side, and one would again shake its head and the other repeated the movement; then one would preen a feather on the back, and this move-

ment was exactly followed by its companion, for 10 or 15 yards they would swim together like this, their bodies almost touching, then both dived simultaneously. After a long performance like this, both birds went through a lengthy toilet, washing themselves and preening their feathers. They ducked their heads, throwing water over their backs, laid their necks flat on the water, and swimming rapidly in this position, made a splashing by rapidly reversing, and beating the water with their wings.

From May 26th to the 29th, these performances were repeated several times daily, although they both entered the reeds at various points and remained in a short time, but they seemed determined not to give away the spot chosen for their new home. On the 30th, only the male was to be seen during the morning, and I watched him enter the reeds twice in the southern corner of the reservoir, the place where I imagined they would build the second nest, as the reeds there were the most dense, and most difficult to search on the whole lake. For three days I waded this part, traversing almost every yard, and also searched with a boat, and in the evening of June 2nd I found a Grebe's nest containing two eggs, and as both Black-necked Grebes were in a very excited condition on the margin of the reeds I felt sure that this was their second nest. On June 6th, I placed my hide, which was built at the end of a punt, just at the entrance to the reeds opposite the nest, moving it a little nearer each evening, until on the 10th it was in position. On the 12th, I entered the hide at 10 a.m. with my cameras, and a good stock of film and plates, and told the keeper to call for me not before 6 p.m. We cut a small lane in the reeds from the nest to my hide so that I could have a clear view for my cameras, and then I settled down for the day, expecting to secure a good set of photographs. The keeper had only been gone about a quarter of an hour when I saw a movement in the thick reeds. Suddenly there was a splash in front of the nest, and up came my bird as I thought, it turned its head and it was a Dabchick! I will not attempt to repeat what



followed, for if I did it would not be published! During the day I made many attempts to attract the attention of the keeper by shouting, and each time I did this, the two Black-necked Grebes left the reeds opposite the boat and seemed very concerned. I knew by this that the nest was close at hand, but as the reeds were so dense it seemed an almost hopeless task to find it. The keeper arrived at length, and we spent about two hours in searching for the nest, with no result. The following morning we again searched, and found another Grebe's nest about four yards from the Dabchick's containing three eggs. On comparing these with those of the Little Grebe, they were found to be slightly larger, and the nest itself was certainly larger, being half as large again. By just swerving my punt slightly, we got it in position, and on June 14th I again entered my hide, being all ready at 10 a.m.

Exactly at 10-15 the hen Black-necked Grebe arrived, showing not the slightest concern at the reeds being cut between her nest and my boat, and she leisurely went to her nest and carefully uncovered her eggs, then settled down. She had not been sitting many minutes when the Dabchick arrived, coming up close to the nest. Instantly the Black-necked Grebe was on the alert, she stood up on her nest, hurriedly covered her eggs, and made a low growling noise like "zur-zur-zur" repeated many times. The Dabchick jumped on to the nest and a desperate battle of beaks and wings took place. The Dabchick caught its opponent's beak in her own, slipped back off the nest, endeavouring to pull the bird above her into the water. She almost succeeded in this, and actually had the Black-necked Grebe's head under, when the latter freed itself, and made a violent dash at the enemy, and succeeded in driving it away. For several minutes she sat on her nest looking very fierce, and turning her head in all directions, and not until she was quite sure that the Dabchick had left did she settle down.

At 11-15 the male arrived, bringing with him a beakful of nesting material, which he handed to his mate. She placed it in position, left the eggs, and immediately swam away.

The male amused me very much. Never have I seen a bird so bored at his task of sitting upon the eggs! For a short time he preened his feathers, then lolled over on his side with one leg waving languidly in the air, pushed his beak down on to his breast and closed his eyes. Now and then he would raise his head and peer anxiously into the reeds, no doubt to see if his mate was coming. But all the time he remained, not once did he show that he was conscious of having eggs underneath him. However, something occurred that showed that he was well aware of the importance of his charge, for during one of his sleeping bouts the Dabchick suddenly came up close to the nest. There was no hesitation in his actions then, without a moment's doubt he was up on the nest, and with crest raised, and wings open he waited for the attack. It was not long in coming, for the Dabchick jumped at him, and he met the enemy with such a rain of blows from beak and wings that it seemed considerably surprised, for it fell back and dived. It then swam round the nest under water, and the bird above turned on its nest watching its actions, and the instant it came up, he was at it again. A desperate fight took place, and as I had my bioscope in position I secured a record of the battle. When this was over he settled down once more, remaining on the alert for about 15 minutes, then again seeming to be very bored, lolled on to his right side, pushed out his leg, and closed his eyes.

At 1.30 the female arrived and I never saw a bird show such pleasure at being relieved from his task as did the male. He left the nest, swam round it while his mate was settling down, then dived and brought up a good beakful of weeds from the bottom, handed these to the bird on the nest, repeated the dive several times, each time bringing up more nest material and placing it around the edge of the nest. For two or three minutes he waited near the nest, then seemed to swim right away, but five minutes later he was back, and in his beak was a large flat reed blade, longer than himself. Of this he seemed very proud, and placed it on the side of the nest, then moved to another position, and again moved it,



BLACK-NECKED GREBE : Arriving at the nest.  
(*Photographed by O. G. Pike.*)



BLACK-NECKED GREBE: Uncovering the eggs.  
(*Photographed by O. G. Pike.*)



BLACK-NECKED GREBE : On the alert, watching for the Dabchick.  
(*Photographed by O. G. Pike.*)



BLACK-NECKED GREBE: Female on nest, Dabchick arriving. She rapidly covered her eggs, then stood over them ready to receive the enemy.

(Photographed by O. G. Pike.)



BLACK-NECKED GREBE : On the alert.  
*(Photographed by O. G. Pike.)*



BLACK-NECKED GREBE : Female sitting, male arriving.  
(*Photographed by O. G. Pike.*)





BLACK-NECKED GREBE: The change. Male on nest, female leaving. Note the ear-tufts wet and clinging together in the male, these soon dry.

*(Photographed by O. G. Pike.)*



BLACK-NECKED GREBE : Male resting. The male brought the reed-blade seen in the front of the nest and repeatedly altered its position.

*(Photographed by O. G. Pike.)*

placing it immediately in front, much to my annoyance, as a large object like this right across the front of the nest would look an ugly object in a photograph, coming out as it did a vivid white.

At 4.20 he arrived again, to take his turn at sitting, and gave me much pleasure by removing the objectionable reed blade to the other side of the nest. He still showed signs of boredom, and slept a good part of the time. I left my hide at 6 p.m.

On June 17th, I was again in my hide, being ready for photography at 11 a.m. At 11.15 the female had returned. She was a great contrast to her mate, as she constantly turned her eggs, and showed the utmost care, and was on the alert the whole time. The male arrived at 12.25. He brought with him some nesting material, handed this to his mate, quickly dived and brought more, the energy he showed in presenting these gifts to his mate looked as if he thought that if he offered enough, he might be let off his task! However, the hen left her eggs, and he took his turn. After this change, the hen added to the nest, swimming into the reeds and bringing back a beakful of water weeds. When she was sitting on the eggs, this often added material was carefully placed on the edge of the nest, no doubt to be ready for covering up her eggs. When covering them, she was far more deliberate than the Dabchick, and after covering them, she did not dive but always swam off, and waited not far away in the reeds.

The female returned to take charge at 4.35 and remained on the nest until I left at 6 p.m.

The first egg hatched on June 20th. As the hen left the open water and remained in the reeds on May 30, I presumed that she began to sit on that date on the first egg laid, showing that incubation lasts twenty-one days. At this period the whole appearance of the nest altered, and from being a loose, rather untidy structure, it was turned into a round saucer-shaped nest, with perfectly smooth sides, while the inside was also smooth. So compact was it, that at a short distance it looked as if it might be cut out of stone. Also when the sitting

bird left, if startled or otherwise, no attempt was made at covering the eggs, the chief reason being that there was no loose material on the nest with which to do this. No doubt the nest became trodden down like this through the young bird climbing in and out, although it seemed almost impossible for one small youngster to make such an alteration in such a short time. The second egg hatched the following day, while the third fell out of the nest into the water, and did not hatch.

The first young bird to leave was taken possession of by the male, and the hen looked after the other. For the next twelve days they remained with their parents, often riding on their backs, and taking food that was brought to them. They also learned to pick up flies from the surface. From July 3rd to the 8th, the weather became cold and stormy, and all four birds remained in the reeds, but with an improvement taking place they came out, and at this time the young were very capable divers, going down and bringing up food for themselves, although each parent still had charge of one baby. They were a contrast to the young of the Great Crested Grebe of the same age, as the latter are fed almost entirely by the parents until the fourth week.

At this period I had to give up systematic watching, and only saw the birds occasionally, as my work kept me fully employed, in fact all through the nesting season I was not able to give all the time I should have liked to these birds, but I have endeavoured to give some account of their nesting habits. In conclusion I want to appeal as strongly as possible to egg-collectors to give these beautiful and interesting birds a chance. If left alone they will increase, but if harassed by having their eggs taken, they will very soon be driven away to haunts farther afield.

SOME POINTS IN THE SEXUAL HABITS OF THE  
LITTLE GREBE, WITH A NOTE ON THE  
OCCURRENCE OF VOCAL DUETS IN BIRDS.

BY

J. S. HUXLEY.

DURING April, 1919, I had an opportunity of seeing something of the habits of the Little Grebe or Dabchick (*Podiceps r. ruficollis*). Although my observations do not pretend to completeness, they are of some interest if taken in comparison with the more fully-known habits of a related species, the Great Crested Grebe (Huxley, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1914).

In this latter species it has been possible to distinguish three quite separate forms of sexual actions—those taking place at the time of pairing-up, those connected with the act of coition, and self-exhausting ceremonies performed by both birds of the pair together after pairing-up. In the second class of ceremonies the sexual adornments (ruff, ear-tuft, etc.) are never employed, while in the third class they always are. The ceremonies of the third class are mainly mutual, the actions being identical in both male and female; but there are a few, more rarely performed, where the rôles of male and female are dissimilar; and one which is entirely unisexual, performed by one bird only.

The season was too late for the observations of the pairing-up actions in the Dabchick; I am not aware of their having been elsewhere recorded. Ceremonies of the second class I was not able to see. If they exist, in all probability they take place among thick reeds near the nest. It was only ceremonies of the third class that I had the opportunity of observing.

The Dabchick shows a seasonal change of plumage, the colours and patterns of the head becoming more striking for the nesting season. It differs, however, from all the other British species of the family in never possessing any tufts, crests, or frills on the head. It is therefore interesting to find that the common form of mutual ceremony in this species depends not on visual stimulation as in *Podiceps cristatus*, but on an auditory stimulation. It is in fact a duet, performed together by both birds of the pair.

The note of the Dabchick is very startling, consisting of a long shrill peal, somewhat like the neigh of a horse transposed into a very high region of the scale, and mixed with some wildness and a certain quality of laughter. This note may be given by a single bird, but it is more often heard as a

duet. It varies considerably in length and quality. Sometimes it is fairly short, and consists only of a single phrase. At other times it is pitched higher, and oscillates up and down in a series of very short phrases. In this case it almost always lasts a much longer time.

I have no doubt that careful observation will distinguish a number of lesser variations given under slightly different emotions.

The duet in its most typical form is given by the two birds of a pair close together, more or less facing each other, with their necks stretched straight up. It is thus accompanied by an attitude somewhat different from the ordinary, a little stiff and ceremonial in character. It may issue from among the reeds, or from a pair on the open water. As far as my observations go, it is not preceded by any special action. The birds may be resting, fishing, or swimming steadily. Frequently the birds will come up after a number of fishing dives, give a duet, and at once start fishing again. If not very close together at the start, they almost always swim towards each other during the performance. Neither does the ceremony lead to other sexual actions. Like the head-shaking of the Great Crested Grebe, it is self-exhausting, and after it is over the birds resume their previous activities.

I have so far seen no other mutual ceremonies in this species, but it is quite possible from analogy with *P. cristatus* that there is one common and several rarely performed ceremonies, which latter I have not yet had the luck to witness.

When the call is begun by a single bird from among the reeds (i.e., when the birds of a pair are very likely not within view of each other) there is often not a true duet, but after the lapse of a few seconds another bird, which we cannot be positive is the mate of the first, takes up the call, and prolongs it for some time after the other has stopped.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

SWIMMING HABITS.—The pond where I was watching is a good-sized sheet of water, over half a mile across, with small reed-beds along one shore only. In spite of this the Dab-chicks were to be seen on every part of the water, almost invariably in pairs. They have a curious habit of making interminable journeys across the pond, for no apparent reason, the two birds swimming close together at a sharp pace. During these journeys the neck is held rather straight, not bent forward, as in the Great Crested Grebe. Now and again the head is dipped quickly till it touches the water as if to

drink and at once raised again. Whether the birds are really drinking, or whether it is a ritual act like the habit-preening of *P. cristatus*, I am not yet sure. The journeys may occasionally be broken by a duet. The Great Crested Grebe does not seem to have this journeying habit.

INFLUENCE OF WEATHER.—The Dabchick appears to feel change of weather even more than the Great Crested Grebe. On a cold, overcast day, one would be lucky to hear a couple of duets in a whole morning, although if the morning before had been warm and light the pond would have been ringing with them.

SEX DIFFERENCES.—I was not able to distinguish differences in the quality of the sound emitted by male and female, although the existence of a difference is possible. Difference in size between the members of a pair is, however, always clear and more marked than in *P. cristatus*. There is also, I believe, a slight difference in brilliance of coloration.

DUET CEREMONIES IN OTHER BIRDS.—Vocal sounds uttered simultaneously by both birds of a pair are of course found in many species of birds with mutual ceremonies, but they are usually subservient to ceremonies based on visual display. This is so in the Great Crested Grebe, where the bouts of head-shaking are almost always accompanied by a special note. The answering of call-note with call-note cannot be properly called a duet, nor can the conversational interchange recorded by Kearton to take place between male and female Snipe when both are brooding together. In certain Owls, however, true duets exist. I have myself heard them in the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) in Texas and in a smaller species in the Rocky Mountains. In the latter species the duet is rudimentary. The birds sit on neighbouring trees in the twilight and answer each other with a special note, similar in the two sexes, for half an hour or more. It is an action, I would say, of purely sexual significance, although not worked up into any elaborate ceremony of high emotional tension. This quality of raised emotion and short specific ceremonial is distinct in the Dabchick, and also in the above mentioned *Strix varia*. This bird has a definite phrase in hoot, beginning low, increasing in rapidity and rising in pitch at the same time up to a climax, and then sinking with a swooping sound and something of a break in the voice to a last single note. Rhythm and pitch are both very definite. According to the Negroes, the bird says: "Who, who, who, who cooks for you-all?" The phrase

may be given by a single bird, but it is much more often heard as a duet. The duet is remarkable in being accurately timed ; the notes of one bird alternate with those of the other, so as to produce the effect of an echo. Sometimes there is a difference in quality as well as in time, the phrase being given in a hooting tone by one bird and by the other as a peal of demoniac laughter. The effect of this is very weird. This duet may be said to be better organised than that of the Dabchick.

So far not much attention has been paid to this subject, but I have no doubt that observation will bring to light many new examples of duets in birds.



# NOTES

## SOME ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM SHETLAND.

THE following facts about birds in Shetland may be of interest to readers of *British Birds*.

The old gardener at Hayfield, Lerwick, states that Black-birds (*Turdus m. merula*) first nested in Shetland about 1891 or 1892, and they have nested in this garden ever since. I believe they are fairly common in many parts of Shetland.

A Song-Thrush (*T. philomelus* ? subsp.) nested in the garden of Dr. Munro at Kergord, Weisdale, this year (1919), and hatched out two young ones from the nest of five eggs. Dr. Munro says that a pair were seen last summer (1918) there but he does not think any young were hatched, though he was away at the time. As he is trying hard, and with some success, to raise trees in Shetland, perhaps this may have attracted them.

In 1918, late in the season, I saw three young Gannets (*Sula bassana*) on the cliffs of Noss, and this year took particular notice to see if the birds had built again, as Gannets are not very common in Shetland, and I do not think they usually have built here. This year in the same spot there are five pairs nesting.

On the Island of Mousa I found an Eider Duck (*Somateria m. mollissima*) on its nest, built on the top of a rough wall about five feet from the ground. These walls are very irregular and there was a large sharp stone between the two eggs in the nest. The bird had evidently tried to get the two eggs together and failed, as both eggs were much cracked.

The Fulmar Petrels (*Fulmarus g. glacialis*) now appear to build on every cliff round the Shetlands, and so many nest here now that some are forced to build in places which can easily be reached by human hands. The Richardson's Skuas (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) are also very numerous and the Great Skuas (*S. s. skua*) are now quite common. These latter build to my certain knowledge on Hermaness, Noss, Fetlar, Hascosay, and Foula. I believe they will be found at two or three other places also, but I have not had an opportunity of verifying this.

An interesting incident was told me by the Rev. Millar, of Clousta, who saw a fierce fight going on over a rocky knoll between a pair of Merlins (*Falco c. aesalon*) and seven Hooded Crows (*Corvus c. cornix*). A day or two afterwards, he and I

climbed up this knoll and found a Merlin's nest with eggs, whilst in the vicinity we saw three Hooded Crows' nests all empty, and evidently the Merlins had driven them out and possibly destroyed their eggs. He tells me since that he has not seen the Crows in the vicinity again.

The reports of the breeding of Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and Red-throated Divers (*Colymbus stellatus*) in 1919 are very satisfactory. There appear to be Red-throated Divers on most of the lochs on the western side of Shetland, and many more than there were last year.

C. GREATOREX.

#### BIRDS FEEDING UPON WINGED ANTS.

ONE hot day in August, 1919, swarms of winged ants appeared in my garden at Colchester, Essex, and it was very curious to see how the birds flocked to them from all directions. The ants climbed a small stake in a flower bed and made it a sort of jumping off place; as they mounted into the air one by one they were seized upon and devoured. Swallows, House-Sparrows, Spotted Flycatchers, Greenfinches and others were all eager for what I suppose was to them a great treat, until one wondered how many, if any, of the ants would escape. The clever way in which the Sparrows imitated the Flycatchers in catching the insects on the wing, a fact which I had noticed before, was especially interesting. The only exception was the Robin, a special pet, which after sampling a few ants and performing a kind of waltz round them decided that "the game was not worth the candle" and went off in disgust.

LUCY JANE BAWTREE.

#### NUMBER OF EGGS LAID BY MARSH-WARBLER.

WITH reference to Mr. Thomas's note on this subject (*antea*, p. 137), my experience of the number of eggs laid by the Marsh-Warbler is that the usual clutch is four or five. I have examined a good many nests since 1911 and can vouch for the fact that not one of them had more than five eggs. My observations were confined to the county of Somerset.

JOSEPH H. SYMES.

#### PIED FLYCATCHERS ON MIGRATION IN LONDON.

IT may be worth recording that on September 16th, 1919, in the grounds of the Hurlingham Club, I heard the unmistakable note of a Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*), and just caught a glimpse of two of these birds chasing each other in the top branches of a poplar.

J. K. STANFORD.

MIGRATION OF FIELDFARE FROM FINLAND TO  
SOUTH OF FRANCE.

ON January 7th, 1914, a Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) was shot west of Toulouse in the Department of Gers in south-west France, which bore upon its leg one of Professor Palmen's rings numbered 386.

On making enquiries it was found that the bird was marked by J. Snellman, in the Parish of Jomala on the Aland Islands, Finland, on June 4th, 1913, the distance between the two places being about 2,220 kilometres, and the time after marking just over seven months. The information of the recovery was sent by M. Gourdon Auguste, of Monguillem, Gers.

H. W. ROBINSON.

COMBAT BETWEEN HEDGE-SPARROW AND HOUSE-  
SPARROW.

DURING this summer a scene occurred which showed the comparative fighting capabilities of the House-Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*) and the Hedge-Sparrow (*Prunella m. occidentalis*). Two of the latter regularly bathe in a pan put in the garden for birds to drink from during hot weather, and one day when one approached the pan it was occupied by a House-Sparrow. A regular fight started, mostly in the pan or on the edge of it, lasting about two minutes, which ended in the defeat of the House-Sparrow, the Hedge-Sparrow's beak being, it would seem, better suited for aggressive pecking. Since then all House-Sparrows have, so far as I have seen, declined battle and retired on the approach of either Hedge-Sparrow.

FREDERICK D. WELCH.

## LATE THIRD BROOD OF SWALLOWS.

A PAIR of Swallows (*Hirundo r. rustica*) had a third brood in the same nest this year (1919) in one of my out-houses at Didsbury. I was away from home the week the young were hatched, but on October 6th they left the nest and to-day, October 15th, the five young and their parents were hawking in the rain and sleet. The cold was intense and the young eventually came into the house-porch for shelter, but on the weather clearing up they were soon out again.

HERBERT MASSEY.

## NUMBERS IN SWALLOW BROODS IN 1919.

HAVING published the percentage of broods of Swallows (*Hirundo r. rustica*) for several years in *British Birds*, I again

have the pleasure of doing so for 1919, as found in north Lancashire and Westmorland.

Although slightly better than that of 1918, the summer of 1919 was not a good one for Swallows like those of 1911, 1915 and 1917, it was better than 1916 and 1910, and very much better than 1913. June showed 62 per cent. of full broods as compared with 60 per cent. in June 1918, 65·5 per cent. for June 1917, and 68 per cent. for June 1915. During July they fell to 14·2 per cent. as compared with 33 per cent. last year, and August showed an increase with 21·3 per cent. as compared with 13·5 for August last year. For the whole summer 38·9 per cent. showed full broods, as compared with 35·2 per cent. last year, 45·7 per cent. in 1917, 28·6 per cent. in 1916, and 50 per cent. in 1915.

	Nests visited.	Broods of six or more.	Broods of five.	Percentage.	
				Average full broods.	Average brood.
1909 .. .. .	11	0	0	0	3·27
1910 .. .. .	45	0	15	33	3·89
1911 .. .. .	60	3	24	45	4·4
1912 .. .. .	20	0	8	40	3·95
1913 .. .. .	22	0	3	13·6	3·27
1914 .. .. .	None				
1915 .. .. .	38	5	14	50	4·65
1916 .. .. .	42	0	12	28·5	4·0
1917 .. .. .	70	4	28	45·7	4·3
1918 .. .. .	51	4	14	35·2	4·19
1919 .. .. .	59	0	23	38·9	4·11

H. W. ROBINSON

### MEADOW-PIPITS FIERCELY ATTACKING CUCKOO.

WITH reference to Mr. Norman Joy's note on this subject (*antea*, p. 138). perhaps a similar observation of my own would be of sufficient interest to record.

For six months during 1913 I was on detachment duty in the Wicklow Mountains and had unusual opportunities for watching birds in those unfrequented spots, where the Snipe and Corncrake bred in scores and the Golden Eagle was occasionally seen.

On May 23rd, 1913, I saw three Cuckoos flying together uttering the familiar notes. One then parted company and was immediately mobbed by a host of small birds. This Cuckoo flew to the ground, and a Meadow-Pipit flew straight at it and viciously pecked it repeatedly as it did so, even catching hold of its feathers. Later the other two Cuckoos

passed again, and the third bird flew up from the ground and joined them and all three flew away southwards in extended order, the one being hotly pursued and still viciously mobbed by small birds, mostly Meadow-Pipits, all the time uttering its usual note.

On another occasion I watched a fight between a Snipe and a Cuckoo over our camp at a great height.

H. F. STONEHAM.

#### ONE MEADOW-PIPIT FEEDING TWO YOUNG CUCKOOS.

MR. T. A. COWARD'S note on p. 139 of a pair of Meadow-Pipits feeding two young Cuckoos, is somewhat similar to one which I sent to *Brit. Birds* (Vol. III, p. 164) some years ago, except that in my experience there was only one Pipit which fed the two Cuckoos alternately. The district where I made this observation is the moors north of Scarborough. Meadow-Pipits are very common on these moors, but the Cuckoo is not a specially common bird, and one would imagine that there are always enough Pipits' nests available to make it unlikely that two Cuckoos' eggs need be put into the same one. Would not any small bird which had reared one young Cuckoo be likely to feed another which chanced along and began crying for food, even though its own foster-child was already claiming much attention?

E. ARNOLD WALLIS.

#### LITTLE OWL BREEDING IN SHROPSHIRE.

As the increase and spreading of the Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*) is a subject of some interest it may be worth while recording that Mr. T. H. Robins found it breeding for the first time in this district in 1919 in a hollow tree at the Croft, Morville, near Bridgnorth. Little Owls were seen there in 1918, having been reported in the neighbourhood in 1917. The young ones were only discovered to be Little Owls when able to fly. Mr. T. H. Robins then shot one (he had previously protected them, believing the nest to be that of a Tawny Owl), and sent the body to me. The bird was fully fledged but unmistakably only just out of the nest.

I have heard of so many Little Owls being seen in the same locality that it is probable a second nest was somewhere in the vicinity but escaped detection.

FRANCES PITT.

[The Little Owl was first definitely recorded as breeding in Shropshire by Mr. Forrest, *antea*, p. 30. EDS.]

## LITTLE OWL IN SOUTH DEVON.

It may be worthy of record that on September 19th, 1919, I saw a Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*) in some stunted trees near my house at Branscombe, south Devon. A week later this or a similar bird could be seen all day in an orchard some half mile from the spot where it was first observed. It was very far from wild and there is no possible doubt as to the species.

LEWIS R. W. LOYD.

[A Little Owl was recorded in south Devon in November, 1911 (*Brit. Birds*, V., p. 333), and it now breeds regularly in Somerset and Dorset.—ED.]

## GOSHAWK IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

ON the afternoon of October 5th, 1919, which was a brilliant, cloudless day, I was sitting in my garden at Normanby, Lincs., when suddenly a large number of Rooks, Jackdaws, and Starlings, which were feeding in the field adjoining the garden, came over with a rush and much drumming of wings, evidently greatly perturbed. I jumped up to see what was the cause, expecting a hawk. After a few seconds I saw a large hawk mixed up with the Rooks; a larger bird than the Rooks: he was round winged and heavy. I watched him go round the garden, some trees being between me and him, so that I could not get a clear view, although I had very strong suspicions as to what he was. However, in a few seconds he came back over me rising fast, and soared at about 100 feet over me, gradually getting higher and higher; in about four minutes he was out of sight. I watched him all the time through my x8 prismatic monacle, which I always carry, and got a splendid view of him. He was without any doubt a Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), almost certainly a male. He had no jesses on, and I should say he was a wild bird, from his flight and behaviour. As I have seen these birds wild on the Continent and kept them for hawking rabbits, I know the bird well, and am quite convinced of this bird being a Goshawk. He was too heavy and large to have been even a gigantic Sparrow-Hawk, the only other thing he could have been.

The Rooks and Jackdaws followed him more or less and eventually were lost to sight up in the blue. It was astonishing how they rose to such a height in such a short time without any apparent effort.

W. S. MEDLICOTT.

## SPOONBILL IN HAMPSHIRE.

THE Spoonbill (*Platalea l. leucorodia*) recorded on p. 85 as having been seen at Beaulieu since May 24th, 1919, was last observed on August 15th. I think there is no doubt that it went away about this time peacefully and did not come to any untimely end.

THOMAS H. H. TROUBRIDGE.

## A WOOD-PIGEON'S RUSE.

ON September 15th, 1919, I found the nest of a Wood-Pigeon (*Columba p. palumbus*) in a hawthorn in the garden at Bedale, Yorks. It was quite low down—only about ten feet above the ground—and contained its complement of eggs. Each time I have disturbed the bird it has fluttered down to the ground and then hopped along with flapping wings just like a winged Pigeon attempts to escape. It continues in this way until it is about a hundred yards from the nest when it flies close to the ground for another hundred or so before rising and settling in a tree. Naturally a bird with a broken wing would have had some difficulty in getting into a tree, but the Pigeon in question had apparently overlooked that detail.

This is the only time I have ever seen or heard of a Wood-Pigeon playing the "broken-wing" trick. I should be glad to know if any of your readers have seen it done.

H. A. BOOTH.

[We have once seen a Turtle-Dove behave in much the same way, but we know of no case recorded of a Wood-Pigeon doing so.—ED.]

## BAR-TAILED GODWITS IN SHROPSHIRE.

ON September 18th, 1919, three Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa l. lapponica*) were killed at one shot out of a flock flying high over Black Hill, Clun, in south-west Shropshire. The species has been recorded several times in the county, but always single birds in winter. The present occurrence is remarkable, both for the date and for the birds being in a flock and apparently migrating.

H. E. FORREST.

## BLACK-HEADED GULLS RETURNING TO THEIR PARENT GULLERY.

IN my article on "The Result of Marking Black-headed Gulls" (*Larus ridibundus*) I mentioned three cases of birds being found dead in their parent gullery at Ravenglass, Cumberland, during the nesting season, two two years and one three years after being hatched there. (See *Brit. Birds*, Vol. VIII, p. 218.)

Since then (1915), six more have been picked up dead amongst the nests in the same parent colony as follows:—

No.	Found Dead.	Period since Ringing.
61009	May 2, 1916	2 years, 11 months
64160	End of May, 1916	2 years, 11 months
60683	May, 1917	4 years
31101	May, 1917	6 years, 11 months
28911	May, 1917	4 years, 11 months
62044	July 12, 1918	5 years, 1 month

As all these nine birds were found dead actually in the colony where they were hatched, not only in the nesting season, but also during the laying part of it, with the exception of the last, they were all probably nesting in their parent gullery, and the last-mentioned had been dead quite a month when found.

H. W. ROBINSON.

#### ABNORMAL LATE HATCHING OF PARTRIDGES.

IN Wigtownshire there were very large numbers of Partridges (*Perdix p. perdix*) not three weeks old on September 18th, 1919. I knew of a nest of eleven hatching on August 19th, and near Dumfries, a nest hatched on September 1st.

If there were only an isolated case, this might pass unnoticed, but as on each farm one finds coveys now (September 20th) only just able to fly, late hatching is certainly unusually prevalent this year and worthy of record.

Partridges generally hatched rather late this year, the majority between June 12th and 20th, but granted that some pairs lost their nests from heavy rain on June 12th, why should there be so long an interval between the nests? Is it a possible solution that pairs lost their *brood* and nested again?

These late coveys run from twelve to eight young.

M. PORTAL.

#### LETTER.

##### OBSERVATIONS ON THE CUCKOO.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—Having always religiously refrained from active participation in controversy concerning Cuckoo problems, I am rather reluctant to criticize Mr. Edgar Chance's notes in your September issue mainly because the more experience one has in field ornithology, the more one becomes convinced that it is impossible to dogmatize concerning the habits of birds. My own candid opinion is that the problem will never be finally solved for the simple reason that no two pairs of birds ever behave in exactly the same manner; evolution is probably much more rapid in regard to general habits of birds than we imagine.

Mr. Edgar Chance is to be highly congratulated on his remarkable achievement, only those who have had experience with the Cuckoo in



the field will be able to appreciate his patience and dogged perseverance. Unfortunately however his work has added nothing new to our knowledge on this very interesting problem. The artificial conditions brought about by the systematic taking of the eggs entirely destroy the value of the results obtained.

Mr. Chance says, "Had I not taken the first laid eggs of the Cuckoo, she would certainly not have had opportunity to lay such a large series." Exactly! the clutch is abnormal since the conditions were rendered abnormal.

Having seen this remarkable series I have no hesitation in confirming that the eggs are the produce of the same bird, or jointly the produce of birds closely related, *e.g.*, mother and offspring or possibly a sister.

Cuckoos would naturally have a better opportunity to become parasitic on a common species like the Meadow-Pipit, than on a rarer one like the Grasshopper-Warbler, or the Nightingale, better facilities being offered because several nests are often in one comparatively small area, and the breeding-range of the Cuckoo is very limited.

The taking of first nests of the Meadow-Pipit would cause second nests to be available for the Cuckoo in about ten days; and in all probability if second nests were disturbed third nests would become available in a further ten days; for from experience I have found that ten days is sufficient time for a bird of this species to build the nest and lay eggs after its last nest was disturbed. Hence the Cuckoo had nests available for roughly 30 days; thus artificial conditions were created. Mr. Chance estimates the number of Meadow-Pipits at not more than ten pairs. If this was so some of them must have had late first nests, or they must have attempted to breed a fourth time.

There is, as far as I am aware, no concrete evidence to prove Prof. Newton's theory that the type of egg is perpetuated by the offspring.\*

Though I have met with certain evidence which would in a measure support this, it would be premature to assume that such is the case, but one would naturally expect that it is so.

Mr. Chance informs us that he spent over one hundred hours on this small common. The actual time between the first and last laying of this particular Cuckoo occupied about 1,176 hours, *i.e.*, from May 18th to July 5th. How can he be sure of what happened in 1,076 hours? The possibility of a second Cuckoo (*i.e.*, of an offspring) must not be lightly dismissed, and it can hardly be bearing in mind that most Cuckoos' eggs are deposited with the fosterer at daybreak. Of this I have the most undeniable evidence.

Cuckoo's eggs are sometimes found alone in nests. If the foster-parent only had one egg and this was removed by the Cuckoo on its first visit, the absence of a foster parent's egg is accounted for. I only possess certain knowledge of one case where the Cuckoo's egg was deposited before those of the fosterer. This was in a Hedge-Sparrow's nest. About 5 a.m. the latter was empty; a Cuckoo was seen to visit the nest just after inspection and she deposited her egg.

The method of depositing the egg was settled, at least to my satisfaction, by Mr. A. H. Meiklejohn and is fully recorded in the *Zoologist*, 1900, pp. 262-4, the egg being swallowed and then regurgitated. The value of this note should not be overlooked, Mr. Meiklejohn being a most careful observer. We must also bear in mind that Cuckoos have been found with broken eggs in the gullet. That the egg is deposited by the claw I do not think has ever been seriously accepted.

CROYDON, Sept. 13th, 1919.

P. F. BUNYARD.

\* "And it can hardly be questioned that the egg of the daughter would more or less resemble those of the mother."—*Dict. of Birds*, p. 123.

## REVIEWS.

*Report on Scottish Ornithology in 1918, including Migration.* By Leonora J. Rintoul and Evelyn V. Baxter. Forming the July-August, 1919, issue of *The Scottish Naturalist*.

THE last year of the war was, no doubt, the worst for ornithology, at all events at home, for observers were then fewest. This annual report affords rather striking proof of this assertion, while it has also suffered in interest by the fact that migration during the year ran a very normal course without any great rushes of Continental visitors. The Report is arranged in the same useful and comprehensive way as previous ones and is no less valuable because of its unavoidable "dullness." The following are interesting records:—

**HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*).—One was caught in January, 1918, in a damaged condition at Castlecraig, Peebleshire, in which county the bird has not previously been recorded.

**ORTOLAN BUNTING** (*Emberiza hortulana*).—Four on the Isle of May on May 6th, 1908, and six on the 9th.

**BLACK REDSTART** (*Phœnicurus o. gibraltariensis*).—Single birds occurred on the Isle of May on several days in April and May.

**CONTINENTAL HEDGE-SPARROW** (*Prunella m. modularis*).—One at Muckle Flugga Lantern (Shetlands) on April 6th, 1918, is identified as of this form.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** (*Buteo l. lagopus*).—One on April 28th, 1918, at Vallay is, we believe, only the second record of this bird from the Outer Hebrides.

**GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*).—Mr. W. Berry recorded that he found a nest of this species in east Fifeshire in May, 1918, and in August two young birds were shot. This forms the first record of the breeding of the Gadwall in the Tay area.

**GREY PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—One was found in a dying condition at the Mull of Galloway on February 21st, 1918—an unusual date.

**BLACK TERN** (*Hydrochelidon n. nigra*).—One frequented a small loch near the lighthouse on North Ronaldshay for the first fortnight in June, 1918. This is, we believe, only the second recorded occurrence of the bird in the Orkneys.

**IVORY-GULL** (*Pagophila eburnea*).—One is recorded from North Ronaldshay on November 3rd, 1918.

*The Selection of Helix nemoralis by the Song-Thrush.* By Maud D. Haviland and Frances Pitt. (*Annals and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, June 1919).

IN this paper the authors criticize a previous paper by Mr. A. E. True-man on "Shell-banding as a means of Protection." They bring forward some carefully collected evidence from which they infer that the selection of snails by Thrushes is entirely haphazard, that many-banded specimens of *H. nemoralis* being apparently more abundant in bushy, shaded places are less likely to be taken by Thrushes and finally that the young Thrush does not recognize and crack snail-shells instinctively, but each individual learns to do so by experience. If the last be true it is rather curious that the habit is so rare in birds.

*Hybrid Gulls.* By Einar Lönnberg (Arkiv för Zoologi, Stockholm). IN this paper Prof. Lönnberg discusses very fully certain hybrids between *Larus fuscus* and *L. leucopterus* and *L. marinus* and *L. glaucus* most of them reared in Zoological Gardens, but one of the latter being a wild hybrid. The pamphlet is written in English and is very well illustrated by a number of text figures and three coloured plates.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

*Parts 1 & 2 Now Ready. Issue limited to 200 copies, of which 100 are for sale. 8vo, wrappers. Price 4s. net each.*

## A SYNOPTICAL LIST OF THE ACCIPITRES OR DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

By H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.

Comprising a list of described species and subspecies. (Part 2 includes a revision of genus *Buteo* with description of new forms, also revision of *Micrastur*, and continues list to *Lophoactus*.)

LONDON: JOHN WHELDON & Co., 38, GREAT QUEEN STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS, which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2., ENGLAND.

**FOR SALE** ABOUT 300 ARCTIC STUFFED BIRD-SKINS  
*Fifty different species (many rare) in summer or eclipse plumage, and young.* Price £75

G. DINESEN, Bird-Collector,  
DANEBROGSGADE 8, COPENHAGEN, B, DENMARK.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10.6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts.  
ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

BOOKS PUBLISHED by WITHERBY & CO.

---

Part 1 Now Ready.

A  
**GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
OF  
**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY**

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO END OF 1918.

By W. H. MULLENS, M.A., LL.M., F.L.S. H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.  
Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

A record, arranged under County headings, of printed books, published articles, notes and records relating to local Avifauna.

In 6 parts, Demy 8vo, at 6s. net each.

---

Now Ready.

A HANDBOOK  
TO THE VERTEBRATE  
**FAUNA OF NORTH WALES**

By H. E. FORREST.

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district. Just the information required by the Naturalist resident in or visiting North Wales is thus provided in a concise form.

Demy 8vo.

Cloth.

6s. net.

---

Ready November.

**METEOROLOGY FOR ALL.**

BEING SOME WEATHER PROBLEMS EXPLAINED

By DONALD W. HORNER, F.R.MET.SOC., etc.

Author of "Observing and Forecasting the Weather."

"Weather Instruments and How to Use Them."

With Text and Half-Tone Illustrations.

A compendium of information about the Weather as it daily affects the lives of everyone. The "dry" terseness of the text-book has been avoided, but the information given is comprehensive and reliable, and of a practical nature.

Crown 8vo.

Cloth.

Illustrated.

6s. net.

---

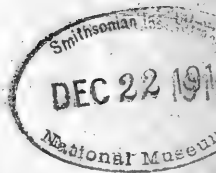
326, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1.

BRITISH  
BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

DEC. 1,  
1919.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 7.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

## IDEAL XMAS GIFTS.

# The Bird-lover's Home-life Series.

Each Volume contains 32 beautiful plates, artistically mounted, from PHOTOGRAPHS DIRECT FROM NATURE, with 40-60 pages of letterpress. **Crown 4to. Cloth 7s. 6d. net each.** Special Edition, bound half-leather, 10s. 6d. net each.

- No. 1. **The Home-life of a Golden Eagle.**  
Photographed and described by H. B. MACPHERSON. (3rd Ed.).
- No. 2. **The Home-life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and some Herons.**  
Photographed and described by BENTLEY BEETHAM.
- No. 3. **The Home-life of the Osprey.**  
Photographed and described by CLINTON G. ABBOTT, M.A.O.U.
- No. 4. **The Home-life of the Terns or Sea-Swallows.**  
Photographed and described by W. BICKERTON, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

---

## A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS.

---

Edited by H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

*Contributors*:—E. HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S. ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U. Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U. C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

Specially arranged for quick reference. Distinguishing characters simplifying identification, full description of all plumages. Breeding habits (nest, eggs, season, incubation, etc.) Food. Distribution and Migration.

WITH COLOURED AND  
MONOCHROME PLATES  
AND  
NUMEROUS TEXT FIGURES.



Parts 1 to 5 Now Ready.

*Practical. Original.*

*Up-to-Date.*

Demy 8vo. **4s.** net per part. (Special Edition Printed on India Paper. Price 5s. net per part).

---

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST"

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.  
TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 7, Vol. XIII. DECEMBER 1, 1919.

	PAGE
Ornithological Notes from Suffolk. By J. K. Stanford, M.C., M.A., M.B.O.U. . . . .	170
Notes on the Migration of Birds over the Mediterranean Sea. By C. Suffern . . . . .	173
The Birds of Bardsey Island. By N. F. Ticehurst, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc. Part 5 . . . . .	182
Notes :—	
Late Nesting of Linnets in Surrey (H. H. Farwig) . . . . .	194
Crossbill in Westmorland (A. Astley) . . . . .	194
Large Numbers of Bramblings in Worcestershire (J. Steele Elliott) . . . . .	194
Grey Wagtails Breeding in Kent and Sussex (H. H. Farwig) . . . . .	195
Willow-Tit in Ross-shire (J. Rudge Harding) . . . . .	195
Willow-Tit on High Ground in Aberdeenshire (Seton Gordon)	195
Swallow Ringed in Yorkshire found in South Africa (H. F. Witherby) . . . . .	196
Little Owl in Montgomeryshire (H. E. Forrest) . . . . .	196
Osprey in Yorkshire (Rev. M. A. Horsfall) . . . . .	196
Migration of Pintail from Denmark to Finland (H. W. Robinson) . . . . .	197
Greenshanks in Surrey (H. H. Farwig) . . . . .	197
Pomatorhine Skua in Monmouthshire (R. C. Banks) . . . . .	197
Spotted Crake in Ross-shire (J. Rudge Harding) . . . . .	197
Short Notes :—Black Redstart in Somersetshire. Distribution and Food of Little Owl. Great Snipe in Caithness and Lanarkshire. Quail in Cheshire . . . . .	198
Letters :—	
Wild Hybrid between House-Sparrow and Tree-Sparrow (A. Holte Macpherson) . . . . .	199
Weights of Cuckoos' Eggs (Herbert Massey) . . . . .	199
Reviews :— <i>A Synoptical List of the Accipitres. Some Further     Investigations on the Food of Wild Birds. Life Histories     of North American Diving Birds</i> . . . . .	200

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM SUFFOLK.

BY

J. K. STANFORD, M.C., M.A., M.B.O.U.

THE following notes were made on the Suffolk coast, chiefly during the spring and autumn of 1919. I had little chance to watch migration, and on the few days when I was out practically no movement was visible.

COMMON CROSSBILL (*Loxia c. curvirostra*).—The status of this bird in east Suffolk has puzzled me for years. In 1910 it bred in some numbers (*British Birds*, III., p. 371). Except for a very immature bird caught in July, 1911, I had no proof of its breeding since, though pairs and small parties had been very frequently seen. However, on February 16th, 1919, I watched a pair building and the nest contained half-fledged young on March 16th. I think at least two pairs nested and small parties were seen throughout April until May 3rd, when they completely disappeared. On May 30th Crossbills were back in some numbers near the coast, and on that date I saw a flock of six in the Woodbridge district also, where I had previously spent a week without seeing one. This bird is so tame and noisy and conspicuous that it is difficult to believe that its presence could have been overlooked during May. I have heard Crossbills singing in Suffolk in every month except July and November. They seem thirsty birds, and continually visit their drinking places, and I have noticed that the young birds, when just out of the nest and with mandibles still uncrossed, can be distinguished in the field by their pale, almost whitish, rump.

NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*).—I watched a pair of Nightingales feeding young at a range of about two feet on June 11th and 12th, 1919. The old bird almost invariably, after feeding the young one, plunged her beak into its gape a second time and removed something which she swallowed. Both birds appeared to *listen* for the voiding of the excreta, standing with head on one side and not looking into the nest at all.

BIRDS FLOCKING TO ROOST.—On June 11th, 1919, I found Starlings (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) already gathering from all directions to roost in the reed-beds on Thorpe Mere. On the 18th I saw a great assembly, mostly of immature birds, at Sudbourn. On the 11th there were also a considerable number of Sand-Martins (*Riparia r. riparia*) coming in to the reed-beds at dusk, which seems curious in the height of the breeding-season. In September, on the Alde, I saw thirty or forty Yellow Wagtails (*Motacilla flava rayi*) gathering to roost, once on a



wet salting and once in a reed-bed. This habit of flocking at dusk is of course very noticeable in the Pied Wagtail in winter.

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus e. europæus*).—I spent some hours at dusk watching Nightjars this year (1919) and two points were observable about their antics. The shrill, gurgling note at the end of the "churr" was invariably uttered when the bird was flying, and was always accompanied by clapping of the wings over the back. I never saw the wings clapped except when two birds were chasing each other. Time after time a bird would be churring on a branch, when another would come flying up from behind, calling "kewick." At once the churring bird would dart off its perch, clapping its wings and "gurgling," followed by the other. I never saw the wings clapped when a bird was flying alone.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio f. flammeus*).—On May 24th, 1919, Mr. B. Ringrose observed a Short-eared Owl hawking over a piece of common about 6 p.m. On the 26th, 27th and 28th, it appeared about the same time and we watched it flapping leisurely about in bright sunlight, covering a very big area, though we did not see it catch anything. On the 28th, after hunting for some time, it came back flying at a great height and settled on the tip of a fir tree at the edge of a young wood. When I came near the spot the other Owl suddenly appeared from the wood and flew all round me, calling "wac, wac, wac." On the 29th I watched one Owl go off hunting about 7 p.m. while the other began to call "ker . . wac" from the heather, which at this point was waist deep and dotted with young fir trees. When I came near both Owls mobbed me, calling loudly, and at intervals diving heavily into the heather or trees with shrill, mewing noises. One of them also would clap its wings rapidly three or four times under its belly and then bring them up straight over its back. Mr. Ringrose and I failed to discover a nest or young ones, and found only a well-grown young Lapwing, partly eaten, in the heather. On the 30th, when we visited the place at 10 a.m. in hot sunshine, one Owl was sitting on the top of a fir tree and very wide awake. They mobbed us in the same way and again on the 31st, and when I went at dawn on June 1st I found one still out hunting and one keeping watch. On this occasion I found what was probably the nest, a clearing at the foot of a stunted gorse bush, covered with feathers, droppings, scurf, and a few very small pellets. I believe myself that the young ones had been moved, but careful watch and a daily search completely failed to find them in the jungle of heather and fir trees, though we were mobbed every day at almost

the same spot. We noticed that these Owls sat in a hunched-up position, and not erect as the Long-eared Owl does, and that the ears were only raised at intervals. I had one Owl very close to me several times, and a conspicuous feature of the underwing was the dark marbling at the tip and a single dark line on the under wing-coverts. While watching one night I saw one Owl, to quote my diary, "do a sort of nuptial flight, twisting and flapping to and fro over the heather, and clapping its wings three or four times rapidly under its belly, before bringing them up stiffly over its back." The Long-eared Owl has a somewhat similar performance in springtime, but the wings are clapped once under the belly at the end of each slow wing-beat, as the bird flies along.

It is regrettable that our evidence of these Owls breeding is inconclusive, but after a week we had to admit ourselves defeated by a most watchful pair of birds. I saw a Short-eared Owl hunting the Orford marshes at 5 p.m. on June 5th, but had no other chance to visit the place. I have no record in the last fifteen years of this species attempting to breed in east Suffolk.

GREENLAND FALCON (?) (*Falco v. candicans?*).—On February 12th, 1919, a bitterly cold day, a greyish-white bird rose about sixty yards from me on Thorpe Mere, which I momentarily thought from its colour was a Gull, but its flight and appearance on the wing were unmistakably a Falcon's. I could not identify it with any greater certainty, as it went off very rapidly towards the Aldeburgh river.

COMMON BITTERN (*Botaurus s. stellaris*).—On August 4th, 1919, while waiting for ducks at flight time, a Bittern rose out of some reeds close to me. It circled up slowly to a height, uttering a hoarse note, and then disappeared towards the sea. I did not see it later, and think it was probably a passing migrant.

COMMON SHELD-DUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*).—With reference to the notes on communal laying by this bird (see *British Birds*, XI., p. 161), it may be worth recording that I have twice in recent years seen broods of young Sheld-Ducks being escorted by three old birds.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*).—Two males, and certainly one female, were seen almost daily by my brother, Captain H. M. Stanford, on a certain marsh from April 20th up to May 15th, 1919, but no nest was found. Usually the two males were alone together, though we flushed a pair off a dyke on May 15th, the last time we visited the marshes. This bird has not been known to breed in the neighbourhood or some years.

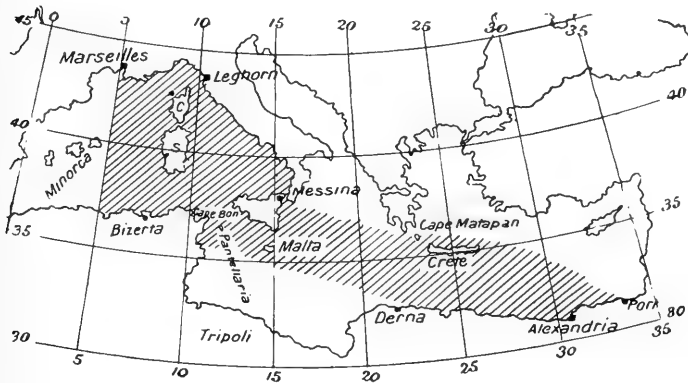
## NOTES ON THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

BY

C. SUFFERN.

THE following notes were made at different times over a period of one and a half years in the Mediterranean. Unfortunately, when I first got out there the spring migration of 1916 was just over; the only movement of "land"-birds seen at sea was that of thirteen Swifts flying southwards north of Cape Bon, on July 17th.

I had spent the previous year in the North Sea, and on my coming to the Mediterranean the scarcity of sea-birds



was in striking contrast to the hundreds of birds seen up north. Gulls were few and far between when we were at sea. There were a few at Malta, and we could always count on meeting a good number as we approached Port Said. On the other hand, Petrels were almost always with us from the moment we put to sea until our return to harbour. They first began to follow in our wake on May 27th off Portugal on our way out from Falmouth to Gibraltar. To return to the subject of this article, the first sign of autumn migration in 1916 was a Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia t. turtur*), which came on board near Linosa on September 7th. By September 18th migration had set in properly, and I made observations until October 4th. For the rest of the month, unfortunately, I was either in hospital or on sick leave, and



meeting in the longitude of Malta. Fig. 1 represents spring migration in 1917 in the western area ; fig. 2 shows it in the eastern area ; fig. 3 is a combination of the other two figs. The western area of fig. 1 has as boundaries roughly a line from Malta to Bizerta, from Bizerta to Marseilles passing seventy-five miles east of Minorca, from Marseilles to Leghorn, down the west coast of Italy, through the Straits of Messina to Malta. The eastern area of fig. 2 is bounded by a line from Malta to Messina, from Messina to Cape Matapan, from Cape Matapan to Suda Bay near Khania in Crete, thence to the African coast and then to Malta. Fig. 3 shows us that there was a fairly steady stream of migrants from the end of March to May 10th. Then for a fortnight or more no migrants

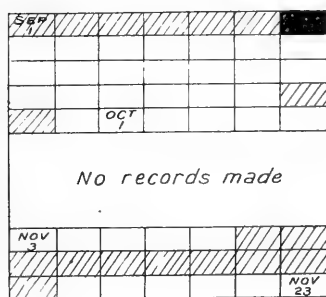


FIG 4.

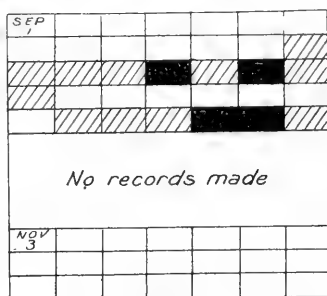


FIG 5.

AUTUMN MIGRATION 1916.

Fig. 4. WESTERN AREA

Fig. 5. EASTERN AREA.

were seen, but at the end of May and beginning of June there was another small migration in the eastern area if not in the western. Fig. 1 shows us that the gap occurred in the western area and suggests that migration northwards finished in the western area before that in the eastern. Unlike what occurred in the migration of the autumn of 1916, due to bad weather, there was no bad weather to account for the gap in May.

Figs. 4 and 5 are charts of the autumn migration of 1916 ; fig. 4 represents the western area, bounded by the longitude of Marseilles, the longitude twenty miles east of Corsica, and the European and African shores between them. Fig. 5 represents the eastern area, a strip about thirty miles wide between Malta and Crete. These charts show us scanty migration in September and the beginning of October ; after

that is an unfortunate hiatus already explained, followed by a period of rough weather in November in the western area in which not a single migrant was seen. It is possible that, as suggested for the spring migration, so the southward migration is over sooner in the western area than in the eastern. Perhaps rough weather alone cannot be made responsible for the gap, because migrants were met with in far rougher weather in April 1917.

Figs. 6 and 7 are charts of the autumn migration of 1917. Fig. 6 represents the western area, a narrow strip of sea from Malta to Cape Bon, and up the west coast of Sardinia to Marseilles. Fig. 7 represents the eastern area, bounded by a line from Malta to Port Said, from Port Said round the

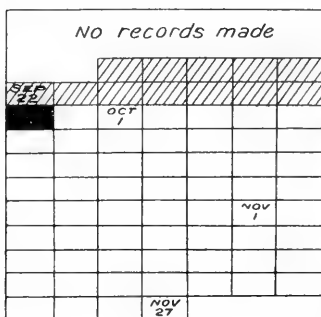


FIG 6.

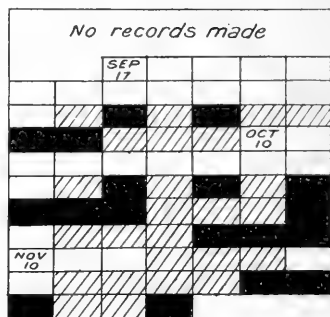


FIG 7.

## AUTUMN MIGRATION 1917.

Fig. 6. WESTERN AREA.

Fig. 7 EASTERN AREA.

east and north of Crete back to Malta. The gap in the middle of November is not due to rough weather: it is curious that as in the spring migration of the same year the main tide of migrants is followed by a gap, and then another small stream.

The division of the Mediterranean in this article into western and eastern areas is not entirely arbitrary, because there seem to be at least three main routes of migration apart from the Gibraltar line. There is certainly one from Cape Bon to Sardinia, Corsica and the Riviera, and another from Egypt to Crete and Greece; while very probably there is another from Africa to Malta, Sicily and Italy. (The Mediterranean west of a longitude seventy-five miles east of Minorca is beyond the scope of this article.)

The Cape Bon to Riviera line is evidenced by the following records :—

- One Swallow S. of Sardinia, April 6th.
- Two Redbreasts E. of C. Bon, driven by S. wind, April 8th.
- One Swallow and another bird W. of Sardinia, April 11th.
- One Swallow and a few Finches S. of Riviera, April 12th.
- One Swallow 70 miles N. of Bizerta, April 16th.
- One Turtle-Dove S. of Sardinia, May 9th.
- One Serin Finch W. of Sardinia, May 10th.
- One Turtle-Dove near Linosa : September 7th.

The Italian route is borne out by the following records :—

- One Wheatear 36 miles N.E. of Malta, March 23rd.
- One Nightjar E. of Malta, April 22nd.
- Swallows, Swifts and Martins S.W. of Malta, April 25th.
- Pied Flycatchers, Quails and Turtle-Doves, Malta, April 28th.
- Turtle-Doves and Wagtails E. of Malta, May 3rd.
- Whinchat 15 miles S.W. of Malta, May 27th.
- Grey Wagtails W. of Malta, September 29th.
- Redstart Malta, October 17th.
- Several passerine birds E. of Malta, October 22nd.
- Goldcrest S.W. of Malta, November 2nd.
- Pied Wagtail S.E. of Malta, November 3rd.
- Starling 90 miles E. of Malta, November 27th.

The Cretan route was very much used :—

- Small flock of passerine birds met at sea, one House-Martin, one Sparrow-Hawk, Willow-Warblers, Roller, Pipit, three Swallows, one Blue-headed Wagtail, S.W. off Greece, March 29th.
- Turtle-Doves W. of Crete, April 18th.
- Turtle-Dove between Derna and Crete, April 20th.
- Quail between Derna and Crete, April 21st.
- Turtle-Doves between Derna and Crete, April 30th.
- Turtle-Doves W. of Crete, May 2nd.
- Swallow W. of Crete, May 29th.
- Swallow W. of Crete, May 30th.
- Swallows and Martin W. of Crete, June 3rd.
- Swallow W. of Crete, June 4th.
- Turtle-Doves, Warblers, Finches, W. of Crete, September 18th.
- Swallows, Sparrow-Hawks, W. of Crete, September 20th.
- Warbler W. of Crete, October 3rd.
- Swallow, Wheatear, W. of Crete, October 4th.
- Turtle-Doves, Quail N. of Derna, October 1st.
- Swallow, Woodchat, Redstart, W. of Port Said, October 3rd.
- Quail, Rough-legged Buzzard, two Sparrows, between Port Said and Crete : October 6th.
- Swallows N. of Alexandria, October 7th.
- Kestrel, Whinchat N. of Derna, October 24th.
- Kestrel, Pied Wagtails, N. of Alexandria, October 26th.
- Swallows N. of Port Said, October 27th.
- Other birds reported by Officer of the watch as " Quail and Snipe " between Port Said and Crete, October 28th.
- Several small birds and one Redstart S. of Crete, October 29th.
- Wheatear N. of Port Said, November 7th.
- Many Swallows and Wagtails Port Said, November 8th.
- Wagtail and other small birds between Port Said and Crete, November 9th.

Willow-Warbler Port Said, November 22nd.

Pipits and Warblers between Port Said and Alexandria,  
November 23rd.

Warblers N.W. of Alexandria, November 24th.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Many were seen in Valletta market in autumn, but only one, immature, met at sea, ninety miles east of Malta, on November 27th, 1917.

FINCHES.

These were hard to identify on account of the light background.—September 18th, 1916: some settled on ship west of Crete; March 29th, 1917: a small flock met at sea, south-west of Greece; April 12th, 1917: a few south of Marseilles; October 22nd, 1917: several east of Malta.

SERIN (*Serinus canarius serinus*).

May 10th, 1917: one caught on board west of Sardinia in latitude 39° N.

HOUSE-SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).

October 6th, 1917: a pair (♂ + ♀) came on board between Port Said and Crete, and after trying several perches finally took shelter in the mouth of the steam siren. Later on the hen was caught by my servant, who wished to give it to the cat, but I released it.

PIPIT (*Anthus*).

March 29th, 1917: one south-west of Greece; November 23rd, 1917: Several between Port Said and Alexandria.

WAGTAILS (*Motacilla*).

The majority of Wagtails were seen against a bright sky and could only be recognised as Wagtails, without further specification. In addition to those recorded below, I saw several east of Malta on May 3rd, 1917, many off Port Said on November 8th, and one between Port Said and Crete on November 9th, 1917.

WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*).

October 26th, 1917: two off Alexandria; November 3rd, 1917: one on board all day, north of Tripoli.

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla c. cinerea*).

September 29th, 1917: several west of Malta chasing small moths, which had been blown to sea from land in sight.

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*).

March 29th, 1917: one came on board south-west of Greece.

GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN (*Regulus regulus*).

November 2nd, 1917: one blown on board and off to sea again in sight of Malta; wind S.W., very strong and blowing towards Malta. This wind had been blowing for two or three days, and two days previously had caused a Petrel to seek



refuge in the wardroom, when the ship was tied up in harbour at Malta, as already related.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*Lanius senator*).

October 3rd, 1917: one off Port Said.

WARBLERS.

Not only Wagtails but other small birds could not be properly identified for the reason already given. Thus I made the following records:—September 18th, 1916: Warblers settled on ship west of Crete; October 3rd, 1916: one Warbler perched on depth charge west of Crete; November 23rd, 1917: Several seen between Port Said and Alexandria; November 24th, 1917: one west of Alexandria.

WILLOW-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

March 29th, 1917: One settled on my canary's cage on the quarterdeck, south-west of Greece; November 22nd, 1917: one off Port Said. On another occasion which I cannot find recorded in my diary a Willow-Warbler spent a night at sea near Crete, by roosting in the stern of the starboard whaler.

WHEATEAR (*Ænanthe ænanthe*).

October 4th, 1916: one west of Crete; March 23rd, 1917: one rested on board 36 miles north-east of Malta; November 7th, 1917: one off Port Said.

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*).

May 26th, 1917: one came on board fifteen miles south-west of Malta; October 26th, 1917: one off Alexandria.

REDSTART (*Phœnicurus ph. phœnicurus*).

October 3rd, 1917: one off Port Said; October 17th, 1917: one at Valletta; October 29th, 1917: one fifty miles south of Crete.

REDBREAST (*Erithacus rubecula*).

April 8th, 1917: two off Cape Bon; fine weather, wind S. One of them was caught in an exhausted state by the Captain, and spent the night in my cabin, making repeated swoops at the canary's cage. It was released next forenoon at Malta and flew ashore.

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*).

The spring migration lasted from March 29th to June 4th. As regards the autumn migration the earliest date in 1916 was September 20th, and the latest date in 1917 was November 8th. The spring migration gave me the following records:—March 29th: three caught between Sicily and Crete; April 6th: one flew into the engine room in a west wind south of Sardinia; April 11th: one west of Sardinia, wind N.W. after blowing S.E. all morning; April 12th: one south of Marseilles; April 16th: one seventy miles north of Bizerta,

wind W. ; April 25th : several at Malta ; May 29th : one came on board west of Crete, no wind, sea like glass ; May 30th : one came on board east of Malta ; June 3rd : two flying against north wind east of Malta ; June 4th : one west of Crete.

The autumn migrations gave me the following records :— September 20th, 1916 : two between Malta and Crete ; October 4th, 1916 : one between Malta and Crete ; October 3rd, 1917 : one west of Port Said, fine weather, light wind N. There were very many Swallows at Port Said at this time. October 7th, 1917 : two caught north of Alexandria in the Captain's cap, and spent the night in my cabin ; one died of exhaustion next morning, and the other was liberated between Crete and Malta, and flew away vigorously to the south without hesitating to choose its direction. October 27th, 1917 : several off Port Said ; November 8th, 1917 : very few now at Port Said.  
HOUSE-MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*).

March 29th, 1917 : one south-west of Greece ; April 26th, 1917 : several at Malta ; June 3rd, 1917 : one flying against north wind west of Crete.

SWIFT (*Apus apus*).

July 17th, 1916 : thirteen flying south, north of Cape Bon ; April 25th, 1917 : several at Malta.

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europæus*).

April 22nd, 1917 : one flew by in northerly direction against gale from west, east of Malta.

ROLLER (*Coracias g. garrulus*).

March 29th, 1917 : one south-west of Greece.

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*).

April 25th, 1917 : several at Malta ; October 24th, 1917 : one north of Derna ; October 26th, 1917 : one north of Alexandria.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo lagopus*).

On October 6th, 1917, between Port Said and Crete one spent a whole forenoon flying from ship to ship of our convoy. Finally it settled on our mainmast and was shot from the bridge, but, unfortunately, fell into the sea, and we dared not stop to pick it up on account of submarines.

SPARROW-HAWK (*Accipiter nisus*).

September 20th, 1916 : four perched together on yard-arm west of Crete ; March 29th, 1917 : one south-west of Greece.

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

A few spend the winter at Malta : my earliest date being November 19th, 1916, and my latest April 25th, 1917. On May 13th, 1917, we met several west of Sardinia.

TURTLE-DOVE (*Streptopelia t. turtur*).

One Turtle-Dove came on board near Linosa on September 7th, 1916, and on September 18th several settled on the ship west of Crete. Several were seen north of Derna on October 1st, 1917. The spring migration gave me the following records:—April 18th: Turtle-Doves migrating north in strong westerly breeze west of Crete. One roosted at night in the winch on the quarterdeck and was caught, killed and eaten by a rat. April 20th: one Turtle-Dove caught and caged between Derna and Crete in bad storm with westerly gale (*v. sub* Quail). April 28th: several in Valletta market; April 30th: more going north against very slight north breeze between Derna and Crete; May 2nd: more met with west of Crete in slight north breeze, fine and calm weather with blue sky; May 3rd: several east of Malta; May 9th: one south of Ustica.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*Hydrochelidon leucoptera*).

May 26th, 1917: one came on board very exhausted and was captured and caged by one of the searchlight operators near Pantellaria; weather normal.

COMMON PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*).

One in Valletta market, September 29th, 1917.

QUAIL (*Coturnix c. coturnix*).

Before coming out to the Mediterranean I had heard and read of what a wonderful sight was the migration of Quails, and was very disappointed to see so little of them. The first I saw was one migrating on April 21st, 1917, between Derna and Crete in the roughest weather I have ever experienced at sea. The wind had been blowing from the north-west for six days and increasing in strength gradually, so that there is not much likelihood of that Quail having been overtaken at sea by rough weather. It must have migrated deliberately or blindly in spite of the storm. Nor was it the only migrant, the previous day a Turtle-Dove was caught and caged, and the following day a Nightjar flew by towards the north. The latter was flying only a few feet (about ten) above the waves. On April 28th a stroll to the Valletta market showed that the birdcatchers had made a good haul of live Quails. I did not see another on the spring migration. On October 1st, 1917, one flew by north of Derna, and on October 6th one was caught on board and eaten between Port Said and Crete. On October 28th the officer of the watch reported "Quail and Snipe" between Port Said and Crete. At Port Said the Arabs were said to be catching Quail by hitting them with sticks.

THE BIRDS OF BARDSEY ISLAND.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc.

(Continued from p. 134.)

PART 5.

THE COMMON CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*).

Seen off the island both by Mr. Aplin and Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 single immature birds were seen now and then on the reef off the west bay; one that was there all day on the 21st had a conspicuous white breast. In September there were constantly a few on the reef, and others were occasionally seen flying past at sea.

THE SHAG (*Phalacrocorax g. graculus*).

Recorded by Mr. Aplin as "a few along the east side, where, I think, they breed." Mr. Coward does not seem to have added any further details.

In June 1913 immature birds were seen daily on the reef off the west bay, and odd birds at other times flying or swimming on all sides of the island, but not in large numbers anywhere. One or two adults as well were always in the sea under the east cliffs, which looks as if they bred there, but the fact is still unproven. The low cliff is much broken up, and there are very probably caves suitable for them, though the two towards the southern end that I was able to reach were unsuitable and tenantless. It would only be possible to explore this range of cliff from the sea, a difficult matter at any time owing to the tides.

THE GANNET (*Sula bassana*).

Not recorded either by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 single birds were seen close inshore on the 12th, 16th, 20th and 23rd. The one on the 20th was immature, the others adult.

In September one and occasionally two were seen almost daily, generally fishing off the southern point.

THE STORM-PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*).

Single birds have been recorded from the light in most years between the end of July and the middle of November.

LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*).

Once recorded from the light, December 6th 7th, 1913.

THE GREAT SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gravis*).

A large Shearwater, dark brown above and brownish-white below, believed to be of this species, was seen off the southern point on September 12th, 1913.

THE MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus p. puffinus*).

By the fairly constant light records in early spring, this bird would appear to arrive in the neighbourhood of the island in the last two weeks of March. It comes to the lantern after that now and then throughout April and May, when the weather conditions are such as to render the light attractive.

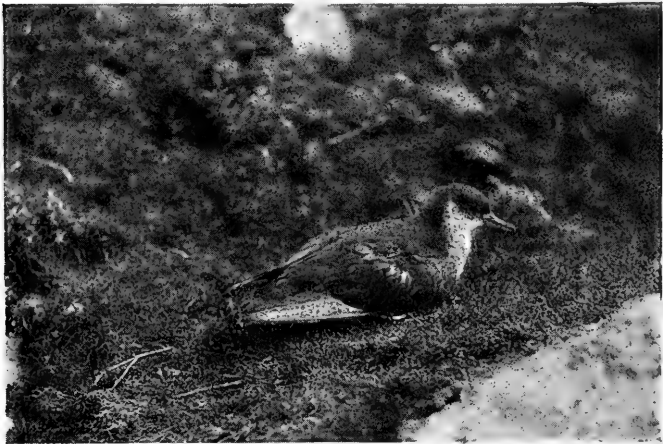


NESTING HOLE OF MANX SHEARWATER [EGG HAS BEEN MOVED TO ENTRANCE].

It is also recorded occasionally between mid-July and the second week in September.

Mr. Aplin has already given a very full account of the breeding colony on the northern slope of the mountain and I can add but little of importance. Judging by the "signs" at the entrances to the nesting holes I should put the population in 1913 at thirty to forty pairs. By far the greater number were nesting in natural holes beneath rocks, and only one here and there was in a rabbit hole, and nearly all were quite

inaccessible. I came to the conclusion by examining one bird that I caught that Shearwaters are unable to stand on the feet alone, the range of flexion at the tarsal joint not being sufficient to admit of this, and that when on the ground therefore they rest on the feet and tarsi. Propulsion forward is effected by a series of backward kicks, the feet being at the same time extended on the tarsi, the hind part of the body raised and the front lowered until almost if not quite on the ground. When setting off thus on sloping ground they can progress, with the help of the wings also, at a surprising pace.



MANX SHEARWATER.

While crossing the sound on June 12th I saw two or three birds off the east coast, otherwise I saw nothing of them by day, and it was not until the night of the 24th that I heard anything of them. On that night they appeared to be flying round and round the house, and so loud were their cries that at times they seemed to be passing close to the window. In the mass, the noise they made reminded me more than anything else of a litter of quarrelling or hungry spaniel puppies, while the individual cry which Mr. Aplin syllables "cock-cock-go-grow," sounded to me like "ke-wuk-ke-wow."

In September a young bird was caught on the 4th at the south end of the island; one hit the lantern on the 2nd/3rd, and another on the 7th/8th. No others were seen.

THE WOOD-PIGEON (*Columba palumbus*).

A single bird taken at the light on January 28th/29th, 1914, is the only record.

THE STOCK-DOVE (*Columba œnas*).

One seen on the mountain by Mr. Aplin was probably a wanderer from the mainland, though there is no reason why they should not breed in the rabbit holes, on the east face, as they do commonly on the mainland. Not seen by Mr. Coward nor by myself in June or September 1913.



BARDSEY ISLAND—NORTH FACE. BREEDING HAUNT OF MANX SHEARWATER

THE TURTLE-DOVE (*Streptopelia t. turtur*).

Three records from the light of single birds on August 31st/September 1st, September 2nd/3rd and 5th/6th, 1913.

Perhaps a regular autumn passage migrant in small numbers.

A single bird was seen by Mr. Aplin feeding in one of the fields. None seen by Mr. Coward. On June 16th, 1913, I put up a bird close to the withy-bed near the Chapel. It had evidently been drinking at the spring that emerges from the hillside there, and flew off over the fields at my approach. It was not seen again. One hesitates to deduce anything with regard to breeding from these two records, as the locality is

so far beyond the normal range of the species. It is safer for the present to regard these two individuals as vagrants.

In September a single bird was seen on a stubble on the 3rd.

#### THE OYSTERCATCHER (*Hæmatopus o. ostralegus*).

Three spring records from the light, between the end of March and mid-April, and four autumn ones between the first week of August and the first week of September.

As a summer resident recorded by Mr. Aplin as "fairly common, especially round the rocks of the south point and along the west side," also by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 it was distributed all round the island, nesting on or near the rocky margin. On the east coast it is impossible to compute the numbers, but wherever one could get a view of the lower part, a pair could generally be seen. This also applies to the eastern part of the north coast; on the western half there were three pairs, with two more at the north-west corner. On the west coast, north of the bay, there was only one pair. Round the southern half of the island there were some nine or ten pairs, possibly twelve; and another pair on a rocky stack in the east bay.

Most pairs had young by June 12th, a brood on that day being about three days' old. Five nests with eggs were found, one of which was just hatching on the 15th.

In September a great decrease in the summer population had already taken place by the 3rd, and from then to the 9th only three or four birds were seen each day. The numbers rose to about a dozen on the 10th, and decreased again to five or six on the 17th. On the 21st there was a real migratory movement: a flock of seventeen were on the rocks in the early morning, besides odd scattered birds. At the south point, where we sat the whole morning, we saw a flock of nine, evidently performing a migratory journey. We first heard their piping call in the distance, and picked them up far out at sea with our glasses. They were flying at a good height, perfectly straight and steadily from N.N.W. to S.S.E., which line took them at a tangent past the end of the island, and we watched them till out of sight a long way to the south.

#### THE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

Once recorded from the light in spring, March 29th/30th, 1911, and five times in autumn, November 5th/6th, 1909, October 28th/29th, 1910, August 29th/30th, September 2nd/3rd and 3rd/4th, 1913, in small numbers on each occasion.

Probably a regular double-passage migrant.



Not yet found present as a summer resident, though the barren north-western corner of the island would be a not at all unsuitable locality for it.

Eight Ringed Plovers were on the rocks round the coast on September 3rd, 1913. On the 4th two only were seen, and after that no more until the 9th, when two others arrived. Thenceforward some were seen daily, except on the 11th, 12th and 15th, but never more than eight. It is possible that the small fluctuations noticed from day to day represent the halting on passage of family parties. The numbers were higher and more constant from the 16th to the 21st than before the 16th.

#### THE GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius apricarius*).

Small numbers are recorded from the light on odd dates between early January and mid-March in 1881, 1910, 1912 and 1914, in September 1913 and in December 1884 and 1913.

#### THE LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, from early January to mid-April; in largest numbers from the end of February to the end of March.

Autumn passage, from mid-October to mid-November, occasionally to the third week in December.

Many birds halt on the island during migration, and the light records refer both to nocturnal and diurnal movements.

As a summer resident recorded both by Mr. Aplin and by Mr. Coward.

It is probable that some Lapwings had already nested and left the island by June 12th, 1913, as one of the lightkeepers told me of a pair, whose nest he had several times unsuccessfully searched for near the lighthouse, but there were no birds at that end of the island at all during my stay. Mr. Aplin also refers to the presence of birds in that locality. A flock of seven that passed over the island without stopping on the 13th lends support to this supposition. The only other birds seen were two pairs that had young on the barren north-west corner, an eminently suitable nesting ground.

In September the main autumn movement had not begun, and the few birds seen were no doubt travellers from no great distance, making a leisurely southward movement. The local summer residents had already gone by the 3rd. On that day two flocks were seen to arrive from the north and pitch into the fields at the north end of the island. These had gone by

the next day, and only two birds were seen. On the 5th two more had come, and two others on the 6th, and these six remained until the 9th. During the next two days only one remained, and it had gone by the 12th. On the 19th a flock of eight arrived on the west coast between 9 and 10.30 a.m., but their arrival was not witnessed. They remained about the fields for the rest of the day, but had gone by the next morning.

#### THE TURNSTONE (*Arenaria i. interpres*.)

Once recorded from the light, a single bird on July 31st; August 1st, 1913. Probably a double-passage migrant.

Not recorded by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 I found seven birds on the 15th (they may have been there before), scattered about the rocks round the southern half of the island, and after that date I saw them or some of them whenever I visited that locality or the west bay. Sometimes they were together and sometimes scattered. One was nearly in full summer plumage, the others in various stages of change, one or two showing hardly any trace of it at all.

In September twenty or more were scattered round the coastal rocks in small parties, and were encountered daily from the 3rd to the 12th. On the 13th, a day of strong N.E. wind, with rain and exceedingly cold, all the Waders on the island were concentrated in the east bay, the only sheltered spot, and here we counted forty-six Turnstones. It is doubtful whether this represents an actual increase on the numbers previously seen. It seems more likely that it was a mere concentration, the extra numbers having come in from the north and east coasts, where they might have been all the time without anyone being aware of their presence. There was possibly a decrease on the 17th; at any rate far fewer were found on that and the succeeding days than before.

#### THE KNOT (*Erolia c. canutus*).

A regular double passage migrant.

Spring passage, between mid-January and the end of March.

Autumn passage, from the beginning of September to the end of November.

#### THE SANDERLING (*Crocethia alba*).

A single Sanderling was seen on the coastal rocks on September 3rd, 1913.

THE LITTLE STINT (*Erolia m. minuta*).

A single bird was taken at the lantern on October 1st/2nd, 1913.

THE DUNLIN (*Erolia a. alpina*).

A regular double passage migrant.

Spring passage, from mid-March to the third week in May.

Autumn passage, from early August to early December, once on July 10th/11th.

On May 23rd and 24th, 1901, Mr. Aplin saw one or two in the east bay; but neither Mr. Coward nor I saw any in June.

In September 1913 three were seen on the 3rd and two each day from the 4th to the 8th. There were four or five on the 9th, and a single bird on the 13th was the only other one seen.

THE PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Erolia m. maritima*).

A single Purple Sandpiper was seen on the coastal rocks on September 3rd, 1913.

THE COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleuca*).

Once recorded from the light, a few on August 6th/7th, 1913.

One was seen by Mr. Aplin, and he suggests that it may breed; there are certainly one or more suitable places; but Mr. Coward saw nothing of the species, and there were none on the island in June 1913.

In September 1913 two were seen on the coastal rocks on the 3rd; two others on the 7th, and two others on the 16th.

It is quite probably a double-passage migrant, but the records are too few at present to say anything for certain.

THE COMMON REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*).

Once recorded from the light in spring, March 7th/8th, 1913, and twice in autumn, August 28th/29th and 30th/31st, 1913, and once in winter, December 12th/13th, 1909, on the last occasion in considerable numbers.

As a summer resident at present doubtful, though there are one or more suitable places for nesting. None were seen by Mr. Aplin, but Mr. Coward saw one (or more?). In June 1913 I found two pairs on the coastal rocks of the southern half of the island on the 15th, and each time I visited this part of the island I saw some. On the 17th there were three, on the 19th a flock of twelve, and on the 21st a flock of fifteen, old and young mixed. It is clear that a gradual downward movement was in

progress, past the island, and by that date any local bred young would have been old enough to have got down to the shore or even to have left the island, as had almost certainly happened with some of the Lapwings. Also there is the fact that some of the local Blackbirds had picked up Redshank notes, which they would hardly have had an opportunity of doing unless Redshanks were breeding near them; I have twice before met with Blackbirds that had acquired these notes, each time in a place where Redshanks were breeding in numbers. Personally, I believe that Redshanks breed on Bardsey, at any rate in some years.

In September there were quite a number scattered round the periphery of the island, considerably more than were there in June, but no fluctuation was noticed in their numbers. They were generally in small flocks of six or eight up to seventeen or eighteen birds, and always on the margin of the sea or on the uncovered rocks at low tide, except on the 13th, when owing to a N.E. gale they were concentrated with the Turnstones at the east bay and on a neighbouring stubble.

#### THE BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa l. lapponica*).

Once recorded from the light, in numbers on November 13th/14th, 1909.

#### THE COMMON CURLEW (*Numenius a. arquata*).

A regular double-passage migrant in large numbers.

Spring passage, from mid-February to mid-April.

Autumn passage, from mid-August to the end of October; also recorded once in January, and probably occurs in every month of the year.

Recorded both by Mr. Aplin and by Mr. Coward. In June 1913 single birds and pairs were seen on several occasions off the west coast and invariably flying south.

In September several small flocks were almost always present, and odd birds were often seen flying past the island or passing over. It is very difficult with this species to say whether any real migration was going on or not. The numbers were certainly smaller from the 4th to the 6th than they were on the 3rd, and a distinct increase was noticed on the 7th. From the 8th to the 12th a gradual diminution seemed to be going on. About thirty were seen on the 10th, and six only on the 12th and three following days. On the 16th the numbers rose to about thirty again, but after that date only about half that number were seen each day. One of their favourite feeding grounds was on the short, sheep-cropped

grass about three parts up the mountain side, but they were to be met with all over the island.

THE WHIMBREL (*Numenius ph. phæopus*).

Once recorded from the light, a single bird on May 14th/15th, 1913.

Probably a regular double-passage migrant.

Not recorded either by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 two birds haunted the extreme southern end of the island from the 15th to the 17th, and a third was heard calling on the west coast on the 21st.

In September three were seen on the 3rd, two on the 19th, and single birds on the 10th and 21st.

THE COMMON SNIPE (*Gallinago g. gallinago*).

A regular double-passage migrant.

Spring passage, from mid-January to the first week in April.

Autumn passage, from the second week in September to the end of November and occasionally to the fourth week in December.

In September 1913 single birds were put up from a boggy meadow, through which the single stream flows, on the 3rd and 12th and there were two there on the 9th. On the 17th one was flushed out of some bracken high up on the mountain.

THE JACK SNIPE (*Limnocryptes gallinula*).

A regular double-passage migrant.

Spring passage, from mid-March to mid-April, also recorded in January.

Autumn passage, from mid-September to mid-December, once as early as September 4th/5th.

THE WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*).

A regular double-passage migrant.

Spring passage, from the middle to the end of March.

Autumn passage, from the middle (occasionally the first week) of October to the end of November, and occasionally in mid-December.

Twice recorded in January, 14th and 20th (*B.A. Migration Report*, 1881).

THE COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*).

THE ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisæa*).

Both species without doubt pass the island on the spring and autumn passage every year. There are two records from the light of "Terns," species undetermined, in the first half

of September, and definite records of the Arctic Tern on August 22nd 23rd, 1909, 28th 29th, and September 2nd 3rd, 1913.

In September 1913 two Common Terns were seen in the east bay on the 7th and 8th, one of them remaining till the 9th. An adult and two young ones arrived there on the 10th and remained feeding about the bay all that day and the next. They were absent on the 12th, but returned for one day on the 13th.



HERRING-GULL.

One would perhaps have expected Terns of some species to breed on the island ; they might well do so at the southern end or the north-west corner, but none were seen either by Mr. Aplin, Mr. Coward or myself.

THE BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*).

An occasional visitor, perhaps regular in spring and autumn. Recorded by Mr. Coward, but not seen by Mr. Aplin.

In June 1913 three adults following the plough on the 19th were the only ones seen. In September two were seen on the 7th, three on the 15th, and one on the 19th.

THE HERRING-GULL (*Larus a. argentatus*).

A summer resident in large numbers, and probably occurring about the island in most months of the year. The low cliff, largely step like in character, beneath the steep grass slopes and just above the tide-washed rocks on the north and east sides of the mountain, form one huge Herring-Gull colony. There are slight breaks here and there, caused by short areas of precipitous rocks and caves, but the colony is practically continuous the whole way round. Mr. Aplin suggests that at the time of his visit a few pairs may have been breeding at the southern point of the island, but there were none there in 1913, nor could I find any elsewhere.

The mortality amongst the young birds seems to be high. I found several that had died from falling off the nesting shelf, and any that wandered into the territory of another pair of birds were unmercifully attacked, and if unable to reach shelter eventually killed and eaten. Out of twenty-nine broods ringed only eight consisted of the full number of young.

There were always some thirty or forty Herring-Gulls about the east bay, where they attended the arrival of the boats or visited any of the fields where ploughing was going on. The nesting birds were always in pairs; so perhaps these were birds that had lost their broods or had for other reasons given up breeding operations. They were, with rare stray exceptions, all fully adult.

In September adults and immature birds were present in large numbers, chiefly in the east bay, but a good many were always round the coast, particularly at the south end. The numbers present showed no fluctuation, but were considerably less than the summer population.

THE BRITISH LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus affinis*).

Probably a regular double-passage migrant.

Recorded by Mr. Coward, but not by Mr. Aplin.

On June 23rd, 1913, a single bird was seen flying south down the west coast. In September a single adult bird appeared on the reef off the west bay on the 11th. On the next day there were two there in the morning and a dozen in the afternoon, evidently a migratory party halting. On the 14th only one was left, and it had gone by the next day.

(To be continued.)

# NOTES

## LATE NESTING OF LINNETS IN SURREY.

ON August 6th, 1916, I observed on Holmwood Common, Surrey, a pair of Linnets (*Carduelis c. cannabina*) carrying nesting material, which would appear to be a very late date for this species. H. H. FARWIG.

[Late breeding seems to be not uncommon with this species. Mr. R. H. Read found two nests with eggs on August 2nd, 1897, in Cambridgeshire and two nests with eggs and one with young on August 1st, 1898, in the same district (*Zool.*, 1897, p. 430; 1898, p. 415). A nest with young is reported from Kilnsea, Yorkshire, on September 1st, 1886 (*Birds of Yorks.*, I., p. 186) and one with four eggs from Brighton on October 28th, 1887 (*Zool.*, 1888, p. 105).—F.C.R.J.]

## CROSSBILL IN WESTMORLAND.

THE Crossbill (*Loxia c. curvirostra*) is an irregular visitor to Westmorland, and though probably more often present than is supposed, there are only few definite records of its occurrence. Macpherson in his *Fauna of Lakeland* gives a few records for the county, and during the great irruption of 1909-10 two or three reports were published in *British Birds* (Vol. III., pp. 227 and 333, and Vol. IV., p. 83).

It may therefore be of interest to place on record that on October 29th, 1919, a specimen in perfect red plumage was picked up dead near Ambleside, and was brought to me in the flesh the same day. I have had more than one unconfirmed report of Crossbills having been seen during the last few months, and it is possible that this bird may have been in the neighbourhood for some time. A. ASTLEY.

## LARGE NUMBERS OF BRAMBLINGS IN WORCESTERSHIRE.

It would be of interest to know if this is going to be a " Brambling year " generally. Hereabouts (Bewdley) there are no large beech woods, only small and mixed plantations and isolated trees. I have never previously in my sixteen years' residence here known the Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) otherwise than in small numbers mixed with other finches. This year it appears to be very general, and on November 7th in Cliff Wood, Upper Arley, which is a part of the Wyre Forest,



my son and I saw by far the largest concourse feeding on the fallen beech-mast that I have ever witnessed. It is very difficult to estimate numbers under certain conditions, but there was one flock of at least several thousand birds all feeding within quite a restricted area, not more than about twenty-five yards across, the other forest trees around seemed to be alive with this bird, and I do not think I should over-estimate their numbers if I concluded there were not less than five thousand in all. I did not detect any Chaffinches or other species of finch among them.

J. STEELE ELLIOTT.

#### GREY WAGTAILS BREEDING IN KENT AND SUSSEX.

It may be of interest to record that on May 10th, 1919, I discovered the nest of a Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla c. cinerea*) in a hole in a wall bordering a small stream in Kent; the eggs were, however, cold and the nest deserted. Also on June 22nd, 1919, I found in Sussex another nest containing four young newly hatched; the nest was placed among some thick ivy near the top of a wall and well concealed. I had found the birds breeding in both these localities in 1915 and 1917, and have every reason to believe that they do so regularly. Neither of these nests was in a locality that has previously been recorded.

H. H. FARWIG.

[For previous records for Kent *vide A History of the Birds of Kent*, pp. 93-94 and *Brit. Birds*, IV., p. 18, and for Sussex, *Brit. Birds*, VI., pp. 17, 101; VIII., p. 200.—EDS.]

#### WILLOW-TIT IN ROSS-SHIRE.

IN Part 4 of *A Practical Handbook of British Birds* it is stated that the British Willow-Titmouse (*Parus a. kleinschmidti*) breeds in parts of the Spey valley, but is otherwise unknown in the north, except for a few isolated records elsewhere in the Moray area. It may be worth recording, therefore, that on June 24th, 1919, I saw in east Ross-shire a family of what I described in my note-book as Marsh-Tits, but which were no doubt Willow-Tits.

J. RUDGE HARDING.

#### WILLOW-TIT ON HIGH GROUND IN ABERDEEN-SHIRE.

ON September 17th, 1919, when crossing the hills from Braemar to Aviemore I was surprised to see a Willow-Titmouse (*Parus atricapillus* subsp. ?) just under 2,000 feet above sea level. No woods or trees of any kind were within sight, and a few hundred yards farther up the hill Ptarmigan are often seen.

The small Tit appeared quite happy, calling to himself and searching for food amongst the heather. Seemingly he must have been on migration. The spot was about four miles south of the boundary between Aberdeen and Inverness.

In the valley of the Spey in Rothiemurchus forest the birds are fairly numerous. This would be about 12-15 miles to the north.

SETON GORDON.

#### SWALLOW RINGED IN YORKSHIRE FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA.

I HAVE received the following letter from the Bishop of Glasgow :—

SIR,—I have just returned from South Africa. When in East Griqualand, staying with the Rev. M. Williamson of Ensikeni, Riverside Post, I was shown an aluminium ring that had been taken off a Swallow's leg. The bird was picked up about the 21st of February, 1919, in Michael Gwensa's cattle kraal. The ring was marked "Witherby, High Holborn, London," and inside were the letters and figures "J.M.53."

The Swallow was very thin and exhausted. The natives all thought it boded ill-luck for Michael, and considered that it was a clear case of witchcraft for a bird to appear from nowhere with a ring round its leg and alight in someone's cattle kraal!

ARCHIBALD GLASGOW & GALLOWAY.

This Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica*) was ringed as a nestling by Mr. H. W. Robinson at Low Bentham, Yorkshire, on August 19th, 1918. I am sure that all the readers of *British Birds* will join me in thanking the Bishop of Glasgow for having transmitted this very interesting record.

This is the fourth Swallow ringed in Great Britain which has been found in South Africa, the others being: Staffordshire, adult, May 1911, Utrecht, Natal, December 1912; Ayrshire, nestling, July 1912, Orange Free State, March, 1913; Lancashire, nestling, July 1915, Grahamstown, Cape Province, February 1916. It is remarkable that all four have been found on the eastern side of South Africa.

H. F. WITHERBY.

#### LITTLE OWL IN MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

ON October 25th, 1919, a Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*) was shot by a keeper at Llanllugan, near Newtown, Montgomeryshire. This is a first record for the county, and shows how the species is steadily extending its range north-west.

H. E. FORREST.

#### OSPREY IN YORKSHIRE.

WHILE fishing for salmon on the Yorkshire Esk near Whitby, at the end of September, I saw an Osprey (*Pandion h.*

*haliaëtus*). I was about fifteen yards from the bird on three different days, and the last time it had a trout of about half a pound in its claws and flew straight over my head, about ten yards up, not seeming to take much notice of me.

M. A. HORSFALL.

#### MIGRATION OF PINTAIL FROM DENMARK TO FINLAND.

No less than four Pintail Ducks (*Anas acuta*) marked with Herr Chr. C. Mortensen's rings on the Island of Fanö on the west coast of Denmark, have been recovered in Finland. The first was marked on September 21st, 1908, and shot in Finnish Lappland, near the hamlet of Kemijarvi, on August 4th, 1909, being accompanied by two half-fledged ones. The distance travelled was about 1,610 kilometres. The second was marked on October 1st, 1908, and was also shot in Finnish Lappland, in the village of Vuontisjarvi, in September 1912, having travelled about 1,640 kilometres. The third, an old drake, marked on October 19th, 1909, was shot on April 24th, 1910, at Krykslatt, Pikkala, Kalso, in south Finland, the distance travelled being about 1,060 kilometres. The fourth was marked at the end of September 1908, and was found dead in the lake of Nulusjarvi, parish of Muonio, in Finnish Lappland, in the last days of May 1914. The distance travelled was about 1,620 kilometres. H. W. ROBINSON.

#### GREENSHANKS IN SURREY.

ON August 30th, 1919, I observed at Hedgcourt Pond near East Grinstead, two Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) which were in company with a single Redshank (*T. totanus*.)

H. H. FARWIG.

#### POMATORHINE SKUA IN MONMOUTHSHIRE.

As the Pomatorhine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) is a scarce visitor to the west, it may be worth recording that one was shot on October 31st, 1919, near Pontypool, Monmouthshire. I saw it in the flesh and it was in a very emaciated condition.

R. C. BANKS.

#### SPOTTED CRAKE IN ROSS-SHIRE.

ON June 24th, 1919, a Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*), which had been killed by striking a telegraph wire, was picked up close to his house by Mr. MacNicol, who has a trout hatchery at Ardgay on the Ross-shire side of the Dornoch

Firth. I send you a wing to corroborate my identification of the bird.

J. RUDGE HARDING.

BLACK REDSTART IN SOMERSETSHIRE.—Mr. L. Harrison Mathews informs us that at the end of January 1919 he had under observation for a week or more a Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus o. gibraltariensis*) near Bristol. On February 2nd the bird came to an untimely end, and proved to be an immature male. Although the species is an annual visitor to the south coast, there do not seem to be many records in the neighbourhood of the Bristol Channel.

DISTRIBUTION AND FOOD OF LITTLE OWL.—Among a large number of letters to the *Field* on the subject of the Little Owl (*Athene n. noctua*), we may note that Mr. J. E. Knights states that one was taken and another seen a few miles west of the Tamar in *Cornwall* (November 1st, 1919, p. 603). Mr. L. R. W. Loyd, who reported a Little Owl from south *Devon* (*antea*, p. 164), writes us that it now appears that there was a pair in the neighbourhood. Mr. R. C. Banks writes that a pair attempted to nest in the summer of 1919 near Newport, *Monmouthshire*, in which county he had previously recorded the occurrence of the bird (Vol. XII., pp. 162 and 210). Readers are reminded that Mr. W. R. Lysaght recorded the breeding of this species "for four years past" in *Monmouth* (*t.c.*, p. 237).

Four correspondents to the *Field* state that the bird is destructive to the young of game-birds, while others mention the following taken as food: field-mice, House-Sparrow, Blackbird, Song-Thrush, Starling, beetles, grasshoppers, crane-flies, earthworms and blind-worm.

GREAT SNIPE IN CAITHNESS AND LANARKSHIRE.—Mr. H. Crum Ewing sent the Editor of the *Field* a *Gallinago media* which had been shot on September 12th, 1919, on the Rattar estate, *Caithness* (*Field*, September 27th, 1919, p. 442). Mr. J. Wormald reports the occurrence of a bird of the same species at Allershaw, *Elvanfoot*, *Lanarkshire*, on September 10th. This bird was identified by Mr. Hugh Wormald (*t.c.*, p. 490). Mr. T. R. Glyn also records an occurrence, but gives no details of the bird, near *Barnard Castle*, *Durham*, on July 31st (*t.c.*, p. 242), a very early date, and this reported occurrence requires confirmation before it can be accepted.

QUAIL IN CHESHIRE.—Mr. J. A. Dockray informs us that on September 24th, 1919, he shot a Quail (*Coturnix c. coturnix*) from a bevy of four (nine had been seen previously) at *Heswall*.



# LETTERS



WILD HYBRID BETWEEN HOUSE-SPARROW AND TREE-SPARROW.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—In his note on this subject (*antea*, p. 136), Mr. J. B. Nichols refers to the three examples of this hybrid in a wild state recorded by M. Suchetet in his book. Of these three, only one was actually secured; and that one, in France. But there are at least two other British records of wild specimens of this hybrid which were obtained.

One of these birds was secured at Aiglegill in the Lake District in the spring of 1892, and is recorded by the late Rev. H. A. Macpherson at p. lxxx. of the Prolegomena to his *Fauna of Lakeland*. This bird was examined by several members of the B.O.U., including Mr. O. V. Aplin, whose description of it is quoted.

The other was shot on January 13th, 1894, in a farmyard near Bury St. Edmunds, and was exhibited by Mr. J. E. Harting on behalf of the Rev. J. G. Tuck at the meeting of the Linnean Society held on February 15th, 1894. It will not escape notice that Bury St. Edmunds is not very far from Colchester, near which Mr. Nichols's specimen was obtained.

A. HOLTE MACPHERSON.

KENSINGTON, W.

## WEIGHTS OF CUCKOOS' EGGS.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—Referring to Mr. Bunyard's letter on this subject and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain's comment thereon (*antea*, p. 144), it would be unsafe to assume that no Cuckoo ever laid an egg that weighed under 160 mg., for there is no reason why a Cuckoo should not (like most other birds), lay a dwarf egg at times, but the size of the egg should always be taken in conjunction with the weight, and this Mr. Jourdain did. The smallest Cuckoo's egg I ever handled weighed 150 mg. and it was distinctly heavy for the size, for had it been the normal size it would have been over the average in weight. As regards this supposed Cuckoo-Chaffinch there should have been no difficulty in determining its parentage from the texture of the shell alone.

I give the weights of the 780 eggs of Cuckoo in my collection and for comparison I have taken the British and Continental eggs separately.

Of the 375 British eggs the minimum is 170 mg. and the maximum 290 mg., the average of the 375 being 225.98 mg.; of the 405 Continental eggs the minimum is 170 mg. and the maximum 295 mg., the average of the 405 being 228.36 mg.; the average of the 780 eggs is 227.22 mg. It will thus be seen that this average is a long way below that given by Rey. It is well known that British eggs of Cuckoo average less than Continental and I had always been puzzled over Rey's average, knowing that he had a fair number of British eggs in his collection. But on weighing some eggs found with Red-backed Shrikes (Continental), I found that they were above my average, and knowing that Rey had an enormous number of Cuckoos' with Red-backed Shrike I took the weights of my 24 sets of Red-backed Shrike (Continental) and found the average to be 230.625 mg. I think I then found the cause of Rey's 231 mg. average. Curiously enough, my maximum British Cuckoo egg (290 mg.) was found in the nest of a Red-backed Shrike.

DIDSBURY.

HERBERT MASSEY

# REVIEWS

*A Synoptical List of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey).* By H. Kirke Swann, F.Z.S. Parts I. and II. (Wheldon & Co.) 4s. per Part.

THIS List, which is clearly and well arranged, and contains much information in a compressed form, should prove of much use to ornithologists. The arrangement is systematic and much in the form of Sharpe's well-known *Hand-List*, with the addition of a précis of the main characters of each genus and each species and subspecies. As in Sharpe's *Hand-List*, the general distribution of each form is given in a separate column. Part I. treats of the Vultures, Harriers, Goshawks and Sparrow-Hawks. In this part there is not much of special interest if we confine ourselves to the British List, but we note that Mr. Swann omits England as a place of accidental occurrence for the Egyptian Vulture, although he includes it under the Griffon. We may also note that he separates Goshawks generically from Sparrow-Hawks and that he treats *A. atricapillus* (recently added to the British List) as a separate species and not as a subspecies of the typical Goshawk. In Part II. we have Buzzards and Eagles. In a footnote under *Buteo buteo zimmermannæ*, the eastern European rufous form of the Buzzard, we find the interesting statement that of eight rufous British-taken specimens in the British Museum six appear to belong to this race and two to *Buteo rufiventer* (= *desertorum*), the south-eastern Europe and western Asian form, which Mr. Swann treats as a distinct species. If, therefore, Mr. Swann's conclusions were accepted, both these birds would have to be added to the long list of casual visitors to the British Isles.

*Some Further Investigations on the Food of Wild Birds.* By Walter E. Collinge, D.Sc.

THIS is a valuable paper contributed by Dr. Collinge to the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture* (Vol. XXV., No. 12, pp. 1444-1462, March, 1919) and contains details, accompanied by excellent diagrammatic representations of the percentages of food, of the Jackdaw, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellow Bunting, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Song-Thrush and Fieldfare. In the first number of *The Journal of the Wild Bird Investigation Society*, which has just reached us, we find a paper on similar lines, but based on a small amount of material, on the food of the Barn-Owl.

*Life Histories of North American Diving Birds (Order Pygopodes).* By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Smithsonian Institution Bulletin 107.

IN 1910 Mr. Bent undertook to continue the work so ably begun by the late Major C. E. Bendire on the life-histories of North American birds, and this volume is the beginning of his task. Whereas the previous volumes by Bendire were in quarto and illustrated by coloured plates of eggs, this is in octavo and has numerous excellent photographic plates of the birds, their nests and habitats. The scope of the original work is enlarged and the various items of information are arranged under headings. There is much in this excellent work to interest British ornithologists, since a number of the species of Grebes, Divers and Auks are the same as our own.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

33, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d, each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS, which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2., ENGLAND

**FOR SALE** ABOUT 300 ARCTIC STUFFED BIRD-SKINS  
*Fifty different species (many rare) in summer or eclipse plumage, and young.* Price £75

G. DINESEN, Bird-Collector,  
DANE BROGSGADE 8, COPENHAGEN, B, DENMARK.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts.  
ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

BOOKS PUBLISHED by WITHERBY & CO.

---

Part 1 Now Ready.

A  
**GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
OF  
**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY**

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO END OF 1918.

By W. H. MULLENS, M.A., LL.M., F.L.S. H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.  
Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

A record, arranged under County headings, of printed books, published articles, notes and records relating to local Avifauna.

In 6 parts, Demy 8vo, at **6s.** net each.

---

Now Ready.

A HANDBOOK  
TO THE VERTEBRATE  
**FAUNA OF NORTH WALES**

By H. E. FORREST.

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district. Just the information required by the Naturalist resident in or visiting North Wales is thus provided in a concise form.

Demy 8vo.

Cloth.

**6s.** net.

---

Now Ready.

**METEOROLOGY FOR ALL.**

BEING SOME WEATHER PROBLEMS EXPLAINED.

By DONALD W. HORNER, F.R.MET.SOC., etc.

Author of "Observing and Forecasting the Weather."

"Weather Instruments and How to Use Them."

With Text and Half-Tone Illustrations.

A compendium of information about the Weather as it daily affects the lives of everyone. The "dry" terseness of the text-book has been avoided, but the information Given is comprehensive and reliable, and of a practical nature.

Crown 8vo.

Cloth.

Illustrated.

**6s.** net.

---

326, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1.

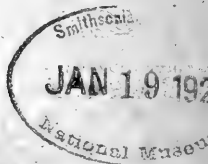


# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

JAN. 1,  
1920.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 8.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

## IDEAL GIFT BOOKS.

# The Bird-lover's Home-life Series.

Each Volume contains 32 beautiful plates, artistically mounted, from PHOTOGRAPHS DIRECT FROM NATURE, with 40-60 pages of letterpress. **Crown 4to. Cloth 7s. 6d. net each.** Special Edition, bound half-leather, 10s. 6d. net each.

- No. 1. **The Home-life of a Golden Eagle.**  
Photographed and described by H. B. MACPHERSON. (3rd Ed.).
- No. 2. **The Home-life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and some Herons.**  
Photographed and described by BENTLEY BEETHAM.
- No. 3. **The Home-life of the Osprey.**  
Photographed and described by CLINTON G. ABBOTT, M.A.O.U.
- No. 4. **The Home-life of the Terns or Sea-Swallows.**  
Photographed and described by W. BICKERTON, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

---

## A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS.

---

Edited by H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

*Contributors*:—E. HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S. ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U. Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U. C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

Specially arranged for quick reference. Distinguishing characters simplifying identification, full description of all plumages. Breeding habits (nest, eggs, season, incubation, etc.). Food. Distribution and Migration.

WITH COLOURED AND  
MONOCHROME PLATES  
AND  
NUMEROUS TEXT FIGURES.



Parts 1 to 5 Now Ready.

*Practical. Original.*

*Up-to-Date.*

Demy 8vo. **4s.** net per part. (Special Edition Printed on India Paper. Price 5s. net per part.)

---

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.  
TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

---

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 8, Vol. XIII. JANUARY 1, 1920.

---

	PAGE
The Nesting Habits of the Merlin in south Glamorganshire. By G. C. S. Ingram .. .. .	202
The Oystercatcher's Progress towards Maturity. By J. M. Dewar, M.D. .. .. .	207
The Birds of Bardsey Island. By N. F. Ticehurst, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc. Part 6 .. .. .	214
Notes :—	
Notes from Cornwall (A. W. Boyd) .. .. .	217
Notes from Leicestershire (W. H. Barrow) .. .. .	217
Late Nesting of Linnets (A. S. Corbet, S. B. Hodgson) ..	217
Red-breasted Flycatcher in Norfolk (Dr. B. B. Riviere) ..	218
Continental Hedge-Sparrow in Norfolk (Dr. B. B. Riviere) ..	218
Numbers in Swallow and Martin Broods in 1919 in Warwick- shire (H. J. Vaughan) .. .. .	218
Little Owls in Cornwall (P. D. Williams) .. .. .	219
White-tailed Eagles in Somerset (S. Lewis) .. .. .	219
A Wood-Pigeon's Ruse (H. J. Vaughan) .. .. .	219
Little Stint in Surrey (H. Bentham) .. .. .	220
Shelled Egg in Partridge of the Year (A. Silver) .. .. .	220

Short Notes :—

Large numbers of Bramblings in Worcestershire. Early Arrival of Redwings and Fieldfares. Black-tailed Godwits in co. Mayo. The British and Scandinavian Lesser Black- backed Gulls .. .. .	221
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Reviews :—

<i>A Naturalist's Sketch Book. A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the earliest times to the end of 1918. De Vogels van Nederland. Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna. A Handbook to the Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales</i> .. .. .	222
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

## THE NESTING HABITS OF THE MERLIN IN SOUTH GLAMORGANSHIRE.

BY

GEOFFREY C. S. INGRAM.

THE following notes are written with the intention of drawing attention to a rather unusual departure in the choice of nesting sites by the Merlin (*Falco c. aesalon*). Lack of time and the difficulty of getting to the localities have prevented me from giving more than a few hours per annum to the study of these birds. They have nested in one of the three localities I know of since 1898, and most probably still earlier, but my first personal acquaintance with them dates from 1912, when on June 23rd a nest containing three eggs of the Partridge (*Perdix p. perdix*) was found, on the top of a sand-hill some 40-50 feet high, and only two hundred yards from the sea. The eggs were on the point of hatching, and a female Merlin was sitting very hard on them. She was watched back to this nest on four separate occasions during the day. It was evident that some one had substituted the Partridge eggs for her proper clutch. I have wondered ever since what became of the youngsters when they hatched out.

This nest was a well-constructed one, quite different from the rough "scratch" which is usually thought good enough when the birds breed among typical surroundings.

My next visit to this spot was made the following year on June 1st, 1913, when a day was spent among the sand-hills. Detailed instructions were given me by my friend H. M. Salmon, who had visited the place a week before and located the nest, and so it was not long before I found the right sand-hill. The female left as I reached the foot, and climbing up I found another well-made nest of grass with four eggs therein, of the proper kind this time. To obtain a photograph was a tiresome job, as the space at the top of the dune could easily have been covered by a circle three feet in diameter.

I was unable to visit this haunt both in 1914 and 1915, but in 1916, my friend being home on leave, we made two special trips, and on the first, made on May 21st, after climbing and searching several sand-hills, we eventually struck the right one, the female Merlin dashing off as we climbed it.

There were five eggs in the nest this time, and as in previous years it was well constructed of dead grass. Our second trip was on July 9th, and as we neared the spot we were greeted by the female flying around us in a very agitated way, uttering

her alarm-notes continually. We soon spotted two fully fledged young perched on the top of a dune, and later came across two more. Altogether we saw that day the two adult birds and four young, the latter strong on the wing.

Nearly all the sand-hills in the vicinity of the nest bore on their summits some remains of the youngsters' meals. One in particular had four nearly fresh victims upon it, one headless but otherwise untouched, and quite fresh, another half eaten, another disembowelled and split. The remains were mostly



MERLIN: LOCALITY "A." June 1st, 1913.  
Nest on summit of sand-hill in foreground.  
(Photographed by C. C. S. Ingram.)

of young fledged Starlings (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) and a Green-finch (*Chloris c. chloris*) was also recognizable.

In June 1919 I found a pair nesting in a new locality, besides finding the usual nest at the old spot. These localities will henceforth be referred to as "A" and "B," "A" being the old site.

"B" was some six miles away from "A" and in exactly similar country, sand-hills bordering the seashore and rising in some cases to well over fifty feet in height.

Extracts from my diary will give all the information I was able to pick up.

June 7th, 1919.—Started to look around for the Merlins at "A." No signs of the birds, but I climbed to the top of several dunes, and after six attempts struck the right one, the female dashing off as I touched the long grass at the summit. The nest, as usual, was well made and screened by the long grass growing all around it. It was



MERLIN'S NEST AND FIVE EGGS AT "A." May 21st, 1916.

(*Photographed by C. C. S. Ingram.*)

entirely composed of dead grass, lined with pieces of the same, chopped up small, and contained four eggs, and a feather from the tail of the female.

June 8th and 9th.—Searched unsuccessfully at "B" for the nest of the second pair on both days.

June 13th.—Visited the nest at "A" again, and found two young and one egg in it, and one egg lying outside. On picking the latter up I found it was empty. There was a small hole in the shell through which the contents had escaped.

June 14th.—Made my third attempt to find the nest at "B," search-

ing all the morning without any luck, or seeing a sign of the birds. Came across a Nightjar (*Caprimulgus e. europæus*) sitting on her two eggs on the bare sand, halfway up a sand-hill. Went out again in the evening to "B" to put up a "hide" near the Nightjar's, and was rewarded with a fine view of the male Merlin mobbing two Ravens. The Merlin, flying quickly, singled out and overhauled one of the Ravens, and getting above it "stooped" like a flash, only to be met by beak and claws as the latter executed an amazingly quick sideways turn over on to its back, barking with rage. Met in this fashion the Merlin dropped below the Raven, which immediately righted itself and made off, only to be easily overtaken again by its game little adversary, who mounting



MERLIN'S NEST, EGGS AND YOUNG AT "B." June 15th, 1919.

(Photographed by G. C. S. Ingram.)

above once more, compelled it to turn over to receive the charge again. These tactics went on until the birds dropped out of sight behind a dune. It was a beautiful display on the part of both birds, and the quickness of the Raven in turning over to receive the Merlin, and righting itself again, was wonderful.

While erecting the "hide" at the Nightjar's nesting place I heard a Merlin's call, and soon spotted it outlined against the setting sun, on the crest of a long and high sand-hill. As I got my glasses on it, I was just in time to see another bird rise from the other side of the dune, alight for a moment beside its mate, and then drop back out of sight again. This little incident set me thinking. I made a wide detour around the bird which had remained on the dune, until I had the sun on it, and saw that it was the male. Walked towards it, and it flew off. Climbed

to the spot it had left, and found a lot of fresh feathers and blood. This confirmed what I had suspected, namely, that the male had brought his kill to this place, and called the female off the nest, and she had come and fetched the prey at the moment I saw the two birds together. Evidently the nest must be quite near, and looking around, I guessed on the high long sand-hill, just across a valley which divided it from the one I was standing on. Crossed this valley and climbed the opposite ridge, and almost immediately flushed the female from a nest containing two young and two eggs.

As was the case with all the nests found at "A," this one was well and strongly constructed of dead grass stems.

June 15th.—After spending the morning with the Nightjars, paid the Merlins a visit. The female was on the perch on the opposite side of the valley, and I flushed the male from the nest, which still contains two young and two eggs.

June 16th.—From the "hide" near the Nightjar's nest saw the male Merlin chasing a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco p. peregrinus*).

Paid a visit to the nest at "A" in the afternoon. There are three young now.

I did not see these nests again until June 29th, when accompanied by my friend, we paid them both a flying visit. The three young at "A" were all in fine condition, but we only found two young in the nest at "B." Evidently the other two eggs were addled, and had been thrown out or buried in the loose sand, as the nest had been. There was no sign of food in or around either of the nests.

There are one or two points of interest regarding these birds. The first is their choice of nesting sites, which seems to be not unusual in south Wales, for besides the two cases mentioned, I know of a third some twenty miles distant from "A," and in *The Birds of Pembrokeshire* the Rev. Murray A. Mathew, writes:

"The Rev. C. M. Phelps evidently met with a nest on the coast in the south of the county. He found a nest on the top of one of the high sand-hills not far from Tenby, which contained four eggs, and surmised that they might be those of a Merlin."

The second point is the substantial nature of the nests, so different from the usual scanty scrapes of the species. The photographs illustrate both points.

A third point is the behaviour of the parent birds when disturbed from the nest. When there were eggs or newly hatched young in the nest, on being disturbed they retired, and did not venture back until the disturber had left the neighbourhood, but they became very demonstrative, especially the female, when the young were older, coming to meet the intruder as the nesting area was approached, continually uttering their alarm-note and flying around in a very agitated state.



## THE OYSTERCATCHER'S PROGRESS TOWARDS MATURITY.

BY

J. M. DEWAR, M.D.

DATA were obtained from eleven families of Oystercatchers (*Hæmatopus o. ostralegus*) of known ages observed for periods ranging from birth up to the 23rd day, and from eight families of approximately known ages ( $\pm 2$  days) observed up to the 35th day. The locality was the basin of the River Tay in Scotland, and the period covered six breeding seasons (1909-1914). For identification reliance was placed on territorial isolation and the recognition of routine habits within the territory since it was found that handling the chicks tended to cause desertion of the territory, especially as the chicks grew older. Observation could not be prolonged with certainty beyond the end of the fifth week as katadromous migration begins at that time.

The young Oystercatcher is nidifugous, is well covered with down which matches the normal surroundings, and is attended and fed by the parents for at least five weeks after birth.\*

LOCOMOTOR ACTIVITIES.—The young remain in the nest for 1-2 days after birth, or at all events do not go more than a few feet away. Walking and running are well co-ordinated from birth, but muscular weakness at first interferes with progression. On the 1st day the wings are used as forelegs in walking. Improvement is very rapid. On the 3rd day the chicks run well and swim expertly. Locomotion on land appears to grade into locomotion in water without attention to the change of medium, at least in many cases. A tendency to make independent journeys is evident in the 2nd week, and by the 4th week needs to be restrained by the parents, especially as regards swimming and invasion of other territories.

Preliminary attempts at flight are seen about the 5th day as wing-flapping and leaping. Thereafter the wings are frequently exercised every day until actual flight becomes possible about the end of the 4th week. At first the chick shows no regard for the direction of the wind, but experience that facing the wind in taking off increases the lift is fixed in the 3rd week and therefore well before real flying is possible. Once this happens, flights become frequent partly from the

\* A fact known to F. Faber (*Ueber das Leben der hochnordisthen Vögel*. Leipzig, 1826. Heft II., s. 208).

tendency of the chick to repeat the act and partly from the parents moving from place to place more by flying than they did before. At the end of the 5th week the chick flies freely in response to a new and specific call from the parents who often direct the flight by flying one on each side of the chick. Adjustment to space relations and to air-conditions is gradually acquired.

**CROUCHING ACTIVITIES.**—Shortly after birth crouching is readily induced but does not last long. The young struggle when seized. By the 3rd day the chicks spread out and crouch apart when the alarm is given by the parents. Crouching is now persistent even when the chicks are handled. Worms are noticed but are not captured, and if put in the mouth are rejected. On the 5th day the response is almost perfect, limpness is marked, and any position is retained except the upside down position. In the 2nd week crouching is maintained even in the inverted position, and is resumed after feeding without a renewal of the initial stimulus. The bobbing of the adults tends to make the chicks crouch, but is not a completely effective stimulus. In one instance, crouching lasted continuously for  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours. In the 3rd week the mere attitude of watchfulness on the part of the parents causes the chicks to crouch, and towards the end of the week the choice of crouching place, previously directed by the adults, begins to be determined to some extent by the chick itself. On the 20th day chicks were seen to go out of sight in response to the observer's arrival without visible or audible direction from the adults. The act of flight may at first be followed by crouching. In the 4th week crouching is often supplemented by hiding in vegetation, and in the 5th week tends to be replaced by flight. In the 4th week the chicks show a tendency to stand for long periods close to large stones—a protective reaction in view of the relatively large size of the chicks.

**COVERING ACTIVITIES.**—The parents cover the young almost continuously for the first 2-3 days. Thereafter the young become very hardy and are covered very little unless the weather is cold or wet. The offer of cover does not evoke an immediate response till the 2nd week. At the end of the 4th week covering ceases.

**PREENING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.**—Preening was observed as early as the 5th day: bathing in the 2nd week. About the same time the bill when soiled begins to be wiped on the plumage. By the 4th week the secretion of the oil-gland is used to anoint the feathers. In the 5th week the

chick rests on one foot and sleeps with the bill under the scapulars.

FEEDING ACTIVITIES.—Feeding does not begin for 1-2 days after hatching takes place. Towards the end of the first day a little food may be brought by one of the parents and fed to the young from the tip of the bill. But pure *meconium* has been seen as late as 48 hours after birth. On the 3rd day large worms are brought in freely to the young, and offered in fragments which are pointed out to the young by the adults. From the 5th day onwards the young pick insects off the vegetation, but a regular search for surface food has not been observed at any stage. At the end of the 1st week the chick begins to test the soil by gently tapping it with the bill: at the same stage it can catch an object in mid air as it drops from the parent's bill. Large living insects cause an avoiding reaction until the parent crushes them. In the 2nd week the parent drops the food and leaves the chick to pick it up. At first the young seize worms at the nearest point. This happens most often to be one end of the worm. When it is the middle, much fumbling occurs before the chick reaches an end of the worm and swallowing becomes practicable. The act of seizing an earthworm at the proper place is not an immediate response till far on in the 3rd week. By the 11th day the chick can swallow a full-sized earthworm whole. The gentle tapping of the ground becomes an equally gentle probing, and fore-and-aft leverage appears. The chicks attend to the food activities of the parents and anticipate captures, but adjustment to the movements of living prey is as yet not always perfect. On the 12th day a chick was seen to spend much time chipping dried and empty caddis cases off stones, and on this day vertical tremor appears in probing; lateral leverage by the 14th day. In the 3rd week delay in striking at moving objects is well marked, serving for fixation. The chicks now probe and make captures in places pointed out to them by the parents, and apart from such aid are rapidly becoming fairly successful shallow probers when they are able to locate the food before they probe. Hammer-probing develops and the art of changing the direction of successive strokes of the bill without withdrawing the bill from the ground is acquired. Sensory experience grows rapidly and may outstrip the development of the motor apparatus, as is seen when the chick locates food beyond its reach and waits until the parent comes up and makes the capture. In the 4th week leaves are lifted aside to expose the underlying surface

to inspection, and from the 26th day the young feed directly from the deep probings made by the adult. In the 5th week the bill of the chick begins very visibly to assume the adult form. Definite tentative probing (probing mainly or entirely by touch) appears in the 5th week, and at first meets with little success. Often only cinders are retrieved. Circular leverage is the last act of the motor repertory connected with probing to appear. But in probing the chick still falls far behind the adult in vigour, rapidity, and certainty, and at the 35th day is not by any means able to feed itself by probing in the ground.

Since the egg-tooth persists and the bill remains unpolished for the first six days, and the characteristic feeding reactions of the species do not begin to appear until well on in the 2nd week, and true tentative probing is not seen until the 5th week when for the first time the bill approaches the definitive adult form, the assumption seems justified that the development of the bill in ontogeny differs from that followed in its phylogeny. The developmental stages of the bill in the individual have no adequate feeding mechanisms associated with them, which is what one would expect to be the case if the growth of the bill in the individual repeated its history in the species.

On the sensory side the feeding activity evolves from probing dependent on the visual factor to probing in which the sense of touch becomes more directly important than vision, which is relegated to the selection of suitable feeding places. It is remarkable that the process of acquiring the tentative probing habit should persist, since the successes at first and for some time are limited.

In another way the results are of interest. The highly specialized motor activities involved in opening up marine littoral shellfish, characteristic of the Oystercatcher, are shown to perfection by the last stage (?) chick reared entirely in an inland habitat. These activities appear as "play." In the 5th week the chick spends much time hammering at old tree stumps when these are available and levering off fragments of rotten wood. The chick acts precisely as it will do later in opening up mussels and other bivalves on the coast, though a considerable difference is manifest in the vigour, speed and control of the act at five weeks and at four months.

AFFECTIVE STATES.—Jerking the head and tapping the ground, characteristic reactions of waders generally, appear as early as the 6th day, and are an indication of excitement,

or possibly of alarm. Fear as shown by startled eyes and open bill is apparent by the 12th day. On the next day a definite sign of satisfaction is observed in sidewise waggling of the tail after feeding. Precocious sexual activities appear from the 4th week onwards as billing, the utterance of vocal trills, and later as nuptial pursuits of other chicks or of the parents. Rivalry for food appears as early as the end of the 3rd day, but at this stage the presence of other chicks probably has little to do with the behaviour. Curiosity or alarm in response to invisible auditory stimuli even at 200 yards distance is very evident in the 5th week. The attitude assumed is that described by Craig for Pigeons in alarm, and it is also assumed by young Oystercatchers when the adults are indulging in post-nuptial antics. As at these times the young eventually hide or crouch, alarm is probably the real affective correlate.

ATTENTION.—Attention is apparent on the 1st day, but objects as a whole are not recognized. Attention is attracted by parts which are not welded into a whole by perception. Thus the chick at first responds negatively to the human eye. Towards the end of the 1st day it is negative to the hands as well, but it is still positive to the trouser leg, or a large object moving away from it. By the 2nd day all parts of the person are reacted to as being dangerous, but it is doubtful if they form a connected whole for the chick before the 3rd day. At the end of the 1st week the chicks begin to attend to the signs of food in the ground and to the appearance of probings made by the adults. Attention of this kind becomes increasingly important as the chick grows older. At first attention quickly lapses: later it can be maintained for 2-3 minutes. In the 2nd week dangers at a distance are attended to and recognized, as well as auditory stimuli such as the danger call of the Lapwing, while from the 3rd week onwards the nuptial antics of the adults are closely watched.

IMITATION.—The following instinct is a more potent factor in nature than it appears to be in the laboratory. It is a direct incentive to bathing, preening, probing, and to flight. Its anticipatory value, however, is small. At the most it hastens the appearance of motor activities which are shortly due. But it serves a purpose in overcoming hesitation and in making a motor act more immediately effective.

ASSOCIATION.—The first reactions to danger are in reality responses to the danger calls and actions of the parents. Very early these reactions come to be associated with the

danger itself which in time will call out the appropriate response without the aid of the stimulus provided by the adults. Similarly the protective response becomes transferred to the danger calls of other individuals of the same or of different species. When in danger the young tend to run in a direction opposed to that taken by the adults, and thus the adults are able to control indirectly the direction taken by the young. Later the young learn to react appropriately to the position and direction of movement of the danger independently of the parents by acquiring spatial and other references for themselves. They also learn to discriminate among dangers and to modify their reactions accordingly on a basis of experience of the different modes of reaction of the adults to the same dangers. Thus running out of the way of cattle and hiding up on the approach of a man or a dog are in their discriminative aspect differential reactions acquired from experience of the different behaviour of the adults in the two situations.

Under the conditions of daily observation the first associations of the chicks are formed with the human danger. Under more natural conditions the first associations are probably formed with food. By the 2nd week the relation of crouching and free activity to the behaviour and calls of the adult is perfected. The food signal and the offer of cover evoke an immediate response. Dangers are recognized at a distance. Hunger is associated with the local feeding ground. The young try to induce the parents to leave the shingle (refuge) to feed, by tapping the parent's bill or (5th week) by tapping the ground before the parent, and if these fail by attempting to lead the adults in the direction of the feeding grounds. In the 3rd week certain signs are effectively associated with the presence of food deeply buried in the soil.

Learning is sensory rather than motor, inhibitory rather than formative. The motor responses are racial or specific characters which appear inevitably during progress towards maturity. They undergo remodelling and precisising through the action of experience. But new forms of motor response have not been observed. The motor reactions are innately connected with parental behaviour from which they are transferred to environmental stimuli, at first of a general type, later of a more definite character. The sensory field gradually widens simultaneously with the refinement of sensory discrimination which in the Oystercatcher appears mainly to be visual, auditory and tactual. Association consists here in connecting the products of improving sensory

discrimination with innate modes of response. Response is thus made more appropriate and more precise, while inhibition of response becomes more certain and more prolonged whenever the stimulus reacted to comes not from the parent but from the environment.

The life of the chick is a monotonous one and rarely involves situations to which an appropriate and adequate response is not forthcoming. When there arises or is provided a situation novel and urgent, yet capable of solution in a few seconds or less by a simple inference and an original piece of behaviour, the chick responds with and repeats the various actions that constitute its motor repertory, while the parent aroused by the appeal to its senses and emotions liberates several or all of its stereotyped reactions to "chick in danger" or "chick in difficulties," until sooner or later, or not at all, one or the other organism obtains relief from the unpleasant situation. Routine is also apparent in the daily round which is made up of an alternation of short spells of activity and of surprisingly long periods of inactivity during which the mental state of the chick appears to be an absolute blank. A similar physical and mental condition is observed in the young of other waders. It may favour growth and development.

## THE BIRDS OF BARDSEY ISLAND.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., M.B.O.U., etc.

(Concluded from p. 193.)

## PART 6.

THE GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*).

One breeding pair recorded by Mr. Aplin, and a bird or birds seen by Mr. Coward.

In June 1913 one or a pair of adults and an immature bird were always present amongst the Herring-Gulls in the east bay. These may have had their nest robbed or lost their young. There was also a nesting pair amongst the Herring-Gulls at the northern end of the island, and a second pair about half way along the east side. The latter could always be seen from the mountain top, but in neither case could I reach the nesting place, owing to the steep and slippery grass slopes.

In September one or both of a pair of adult birds was present in or near the east bay almost every day. They were the only ones seen.

THE KITTIWAKE (*Rissa t. tridactyla*).

Not recorded by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward.

From June 15th to the 21st, 1913, a large flock haunted the reef off the west bay; they moved for a time to the southern point of the island on the afternoon of the 15th, and here they could be examined at fairly close range. In September, single birds were seen on the 15th, 18th and 21st; while there was a good-sized flock off the southern point on the 17th.

THE RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*).

In May 1901 Mr. Aplin only saw two or three birds at the foot of the eastern cliffs. In June 1905 Mr. Coward computed the breeding population at, at least, twenty pairs, and judging by what little I could see in 1913 from the landward side, I should say that was about the number present in the latter year. They seemed to be scattered in isolated pairs amongst the Herring-Gulls, but none were breeding at any place that could be reached with a reasonable regard for safety.

In September a single bird was seen on the 19th.

THE COMMON GUILLEMOT (*Uria t. troille*).

In May 1901 Mr. Aplin saw about a score on the sea beneath the eastern cliffs and suggested that the breeding place was about the north-east corner.



In June 1905 Mr. Coward was able to verify this, and found fifty or sixty pairs at least and probably some hundreds sitting on whitewashed ledges.

In June 1913 on neither of my journeys did we sail sufficiently near to land for me to make any useful observations, and I only saw an odd pair or two on the water. I afterwards, when at the southern end of the Herring-Gull colony, saw one or two pairs on the sea, but never saw any "traffic" to and from the rocks.

None were seen in September.

#### THE BRITISH PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica grabø*).

Not recorded by Mr. Aplin in 1901, but Mr. Coward saw many in the tideway close in shore in June 1905 and suspected that some were breeding, but could not find where. In June 1913, while crossing to Bardsey, I saw no Puffins at all until near the eastern shore of the island, which would lead one to suspect that they were breeding there, though the numbers were small. On the other hand, while exploring the Herring-Gull colony, though a few Puffins were seen on the water, there was no "traffic" going on from sea to cliff, as was certainly the case with the few Razorbills seen.

It is important to note in this connection that 1913 was an abnormal year. The small Puffin colony on the mainland at Trwyn-y-Penrhyn was not tenanted, and though there were many hundreds of Puffins in the sea off Ynys-Gwylan-Mawr, there was no to-and-fro traffic going on at all between sea and land on June 25th and 26th. (Compare also reports from west coast of Scotland, *Report on Scottish Ornithology*, 1913, p. 17.)

The question as to whether Puffins breed on Bardsey, as they were said to do by Ray, in 1662, is therefore still doubtful.

None were seen in September.

#### THE LAND-RAIL (*Crex crex*).

A regular double-passage migrant in considerable numbers.

Spring passage, from the third week in April to the third week in May.

Autumn passage, from the third week in August to the fourth week in September.

As a summer resident recorded both by Mr. Aplin and Mr. Coward as numerous.

In June 1913 its voice was constantly heard by day and night all over the cultivated area. I computed the population as at least ten pairs.

In September they were occasionally seen when walking

out the potatoes, etc., for migrants, and one was beaten out of a gorse clump on the lighthouse plateau. The locally bred young had apparently left the island before the 3rd, as out of seven seen six at least were adults in a flightless condition.

THE WATER-RAIL (*Rallus a. aquaticus*).

A regular double-passage migrant in, for the species, comparatively large numbers, with a high mortality at the lantern.

Spring passage, from mid-March to the end of April; in largest numbers at the end of March.

Autumn passage, from the end of August to the third week in December.

On March 29th/30th, 1913, fourteen were killed and on November 5th/6th, 1909, fifty.

THE MOOR-HEN (*Gallinula ch. chloropus*).

Recorded from the light in spring on March 14th/15th, 1910, March 29th/30th, 1911, April 9th/10th, and May 5th/6th, 1913; in autumn, on November 5th/6th, 1912, August 31st/September 1st, September 8th/9th, October 4th/5th, and December 22nd/23rd, 1913. All, with one exception, single birds.

As a summer resident not recorded by Mr. Aplin or by Mr. Coward. On June 18th, 1913, I caught a young bird, that was just shooting its feathers on the back, outside one of the osier beds; two days previously I had found footmarks and a feather on the muddy bank of the little stream outside one of the other osier beds, so that there was certainly one, if not two, breeding pairs on the island.

In September 1913 single immature birds were seen daily up to the 8th. On that night an immature bird was killed at the lantern, and curiously enough, not another was seen on the island.

THE COOT (*Fulica a. atra*).

Twice recorded at the light, one on November 23rd/24th, 1913, and one on January 19th/20th, 1914.

THE RED GROUSE (*Lagopus scoticus*).

Mr. Forrest (*Vertebrate Fauna of N. Wales*, p. 310) states that in hard weather about 1898, many Grouse crossed over to Bardsey, and the lightkeepers have twice reported its presence on the island in recent years, viz.: one on April 20th, 1912, and four on April 2nd, 1914.

# NOTES

## NOTES FROM CORNWALL.

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*).—A single bird was seen with Chaffinches (*F. c. cælebs*) at Gunwalloe in Mount's Bay on November 4th, 1919, possibly a rather early date for this district.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phœnicurus o. gibraltariensis*).—Three were seen near Fowey on October 22nd, 1919, single birds in different places in the same district on the 26th and 29th, and a male at Gunwalloe on November 4th.

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*).—One was in Mount's Bay at Penzance on November 9th, 1919.

GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—One which was swimming in the Fowey River near Golant on October 31st, 1919, had still distinct traces of chestnut about the breast.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*).—Two in winter plumage were diving repeatedly just outside the harbour at Penzance on November 11th, 1919.

A. W. BOYD.

## NOTES FROM LEICESTERSHIRE.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio f. flammeus*) does not seem to have been recorded often from Leicestershire, so I may note that a male was taken at Queeniborough on October 13th, 1919.

HOBBY (*Falco s. subbuteo*).—A pair reared one young one which had left the nest by July 12th, 1919. They had used an old Sparrow-Hawk's nest in the fork of an oak.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*).—A female, moulting some of the primaries and wing-coverts, was obtained on July 14th, 1919, at Barkby Thorpe.

BLACK TERN (*Hydrochelidon n. nigra*).—A party of nine visited some flooded ground near Queeniborough several times during the first two weeks of May 1919. One I obtained taken on the 9th or 10th proved to be a fine adult male.

HUBERT BARROW.

## LATE NESTING OF LINNETS.

WITH reference to Mr. H. H. Sarwig's note (*antea*, p. 194) I found two nests of the Linnet (*Carduelis c. cannabina*) in

northern France during August 1918. On August 17th, one nest contained four slightly incubated eggs, and on August 28th the other also contained four eggs, which were quite fresh. It appears possible that August records of this species are often third broods.

STANLEY B. HODGSON.

I HAVE found Linnets nesting during August almost every year on the Salisbury downs. This year (1919) I found there a nest with three eggs on August 14th and the next day a nest with four eggs.

A. STEVEN CORBET.

#### RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER IN NORFOLK.

ON October 8th, 1919, after a gale from E.N.E. the night before, a Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa p. parva*) was shot on Cley beach and proved on examination to be a male in first winter plumage. This is, I believe, its first occurrence in Norfolk since 1908—in which year four were obtained—and, according to Mr. J. H. Gurney's notes, makes the fourteenth record for the county. Thirteen of these have occurred at Blakeney and Cley, ten in September and three (including the bird now recorded) in October, whilst one was obtained on December 10th, 1896, at Rollesby.

B. B. RIVIERE.

#### CONTINENTAL HEDGE-SPARROW IN NORFOLK.

ON October 17th, 1919, at Blakeney Point, a big migration of the usual late-autumn immigrants (Lapwings, Starlings, Sky-Larks, etc.) took place from east to west along the coast-line, amongst them being a few Hedge-Sparrows. At the end of the morning there were several of these birds in the "bushes," and I shot two. One of these proved to be a typical example of the Continental form (*Prunella modularis modularis*), the other being of the British race (*P. m. occidentalis*).

I believe the Continental Hedge-Sparrow has only twice previously been identified in England, viz., at Spurn, Yorks., on September 7th, 1882, and October 9th, 1911, though it has been taken a good many times on migration in Scottish islands.

B. B. RIVIERE.

#### NUMBERS IN SWALLOW AND MARTIN BROODS IN 1919 IN WARWICKSHIRE.

IN the course of my "ringing" expeditions in 1919 I examined a good many nests of Swallows (*Hirundo r. rustica*) and House-Martins (*Delichon u. urbica*) in Warwickshire. On the whole the average of broods was very low, and plainly worse than last year. In all, I visited nearly a hundred

nests, and only found one Swallow's nest with five, broods of four were quite rare, three being the most common number.

There was quite an alarming number of dead House-Martins, many of them fully fledged; in fact, in one farm alone, I found ten dead young, and in one nest captured a single young one, apparently in good health, on the top of four dead fully feathered birds. I am quite unable to explain this very prevalent mortality, unless it was caused by parasites, which, in this year, seemed to infest the House-Martin's nests even more freely than usual.

H. J. VAUGHAN.

#### LITTLE OWLS IN CORNWALL.

A LITTLE OWL (*Athene n. noctua*) was caught in a rabbit trap on December 4th, 1919, in this parish, St. Keverne, near Helston. One was taken to Truro Museum in the last frost, caught in a rabbit trap in Veryan. These are the first instances I have heard of in this part of Cornwall, since Rodd recorded one in the *Zoologist*, July, 1870. P. D. WILLIAMS.

[This is the most westerly record we know of. The Little Owls west of the Tamar, referred to on page 198 *antea*, being the first news of the bird having reached Cornwall. Mr. A. St. G. Sargeaunt writes to the *Field* (December 13th, 1919) from Padstow that two Little Owls were shot there towards the end of 1918 and that he has recently seen one and heard of two others in the same district.—EDS.]

#### WHITE-TAILED EAGLES IN SOMERSET.

AT the end of March, 1879, two White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) appeared in the deer park at Oare Manor, Exmoor. One was shot by Joe Kingdom, the keeper, after it had killed a Blackcock, and was set up at Barnstaple. It is now at Oare Manor in the possession of Sir E. Mountain and I had the pleasure recently of inspecting it and confirming the identification.

On March 9th, 1919, an Eagle of some kind swooped down over the dwelling house on Steep Holm, in the Bristol Channel, five and a half miles off Weston-super-Mare, going in a north-easterly direction. Thomas Sleeman, who was repairing the roof at the time, said that the bird came quite close to him and two ladies also saw it, but were unfortunately unable to identify the species.

STANLEY LEWIS.

#### A WOOD-PIGEON'S RUSE.

I WAS greatly interested in Mr. H. A. Booth's note about a nesting Wood-Pigeon's ruse (*antea*, p. 165). For on September

20th, 1919, I was very much puzzled by the conduct of a Wood-Pigeon (*Columba p. palumbus*) which I put off its nest in the centre of a tall belt of hazel bushes. The bird fluttered down to the ground, and then flapped along very awkwardly among the stems of the bushes. On emerging into the open, it fluttered along very slowly just above the ground for a considerable distance. Thinking it was wounded I pursued it, but soon realized that it was really unharmed. I was entirely at a loss to explain its behaviour, and thought it must have been due to stiffness and to being hampered by the bushes. But now that I have read Mr. Booth's letter, I am convinced that it was trying to decoy me away from the nest in exactly the same way as a Partridge does.

H. J. VAUGHAN.

#### LITTLE STINT IN SURREY.

ON July 22nd, 1919, I noticed a Little Stint (*E. m. minuta*) at Frensham Pond in the south-west of Surrey. I had the bird under frequent observation for about two hours. It returned repeatedly to a particular stretch of sandy shore close to the margin of the lake, and was by no means shy, allowing me on several occasions to approach to within seven or eight yards without taking alarm. The Stint was in the company of a Dunlin during the greater part of the time I had it in view, but once when the latter bird flew away to some distance on being disturbed, the Stint for a short time joined two Common Sandpipers, but very shortly returned to the Dunlin.

HOWARD BENTHAM.

#### SHELLED EGG IN PARTRIDGE OF THE YEAR.

A FRIEND sent me from Long Melford, Suffolk, on November 17th, 1919, the head and legs of a Partridge (*Perdix p. perdix*) which he had shot at Shumpling Hall on November 1st. When the bird was prepared for cooking it was found to contain a fully shelled egg, the broken pieces of which were also sent to me.

The tarsi were yellowish-green and finely and closely scaled and the bill and head were not so heavy in development as in an old bird. My friend has had thirty years' experience of Partridge shooting and he considered the bird a young one, with which I agree as does Mr. R. C. Banks, to whom I showed the head and legs. This seems an extraordinary case of precociousness, and so far as I know, unprecedented in the case of the Partridge.

ALLEN SILVER.

LARGE NUMBERS OF BRAMBLINGS IN WORCESTERSHIRE.—With reference to Mr. J. Steele Elliott's note on this subject (*antea*, p. 194), Mr. H. G. Alexander writes that Bramblings "have been abundant since the third week of October (the first was noted on the 5th) in the south Birmingham district (north Worcestershire.)" Mr. Thomas Smith writes that the birds are also abundant in the Trent valley, and adds: "Mr. Bruxner, of Rugeley, informs me that in his immediate neighbourhood there are many where previously he has never noticed them, and Mr. N. M. Brittain noted flocks of hundreds in the neighbourhood of Stone and Hilderstone about the end of October." Mr. Smith himself has not noticed more than usual in north Staffordshire.

EARLY ARRIVAL OF REDWINGS AND FIELDFARES.—Mr. N. H. Foster states (*Irish Nat.*, 1919, p. 107) that he saw six Redwings (*Turdus musicus*) on August 26th, 1919, at Hillsborough, co. Down. He also states that a flock of Fieldfares (*T. pilaris*) was reported in the *Northern Whig* at Dunadry, co. Antrim, about September 7th, and Mr. Foster considers that the identification was correct as the call-notes of the birds were well described.

BLACK-TAILED GODWITS IN CO. MAYO.—Miss M. Kirkwood reports (*Irish Nat.*, 1919, p. 108) that she shot a couple of *Limosa limosa* early in September 1919, on the estuary of the Moy.

THE BRITISH AND SCANDINAVIAN LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS.—Dr. Jonathan Dwight, in discussing (*Auk*, 1919, pp. 542-6) the nomenclature and differences of *Larus fuscus fuscus* and *L. f. affinis*, points out that in addition to the colour of the mantles there is an interesting difference in the wing-feathers of the two birds. In adults of *L. f. fuscus* three or four of the outer primaries are black, the fifth usually being the first to show a pattern, which is in the nature of a grey wedge, while in *L. f. affinis* the grey wedges begin on the first or second primaries and are more clearly defined. Dr. Dwight illustrates the difference by means of two black and white plates.



# REVIEWS

*A Naturalist's Sketch Book.* By ARCHIBALD THORBURN. (Longmans.)  
24 Plates in colour, 36 in collotype. £6 6s. net.

THIS book is an altogether delightful supplement to Mr. Thorburn's *British Birds*—a thickly crowded gallery of portraits. Here we have the pick of the artist's sketch book finely reproduced. Some are finished drawings, others are mere sketches of characteristic poses, and so on, and often these are even more charming than the finished pictures. All the sketches have life, and although some are reminiscent of the "Zoo," most bring one back to the wild. We like the little graphic notes here and there showing detail of feathers, bills or feet, and although these do not compare with such things by Wolf, nevertheless Mr. Thorburn has the master's hand. We think Mr. Thorburn is perhaps happiest amongst the Grouse and Ducks, and we also particularly like some of the Mammals depicted in some of the plates at the end of the volume. We feel sure that all those who are fortunate enough to become possessors of Mr. Thorburn's *Sketch Book* will spend many happy half hours with it.

*A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the earliest times to the end of 1918.* By W. H. Mullens, H. Kirke Swann, and Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain. Part I., 1919. (To be completed in six bi-monthly parts at 6s. per part.) Witherby & Co.

THIS is the sequel to *A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the earliest times to the end of 1912* by W. H. Mullens and H. Kirke Swann, which was published in 1916-17. We are glad to see that in the work now under review the services of the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain have been co-opted, for we are certain that this triumvirate comprises the three greatest experts as regards the study of the bibliography concerning British birds.

The book is not one to pick up for light reading but is purely a book of reference and as such may at once be described as invaluable. The object of the authors has been to collect, under counties, all the references to information concerning birds which have occurred in each particular county. These references are often to unexpected publications and to magazines, such as the *Field*, which have no indexes. The work is worthy of the highest praise: no public library should be without a copy and no student of the insular geographical distribution of British birds can afford to ignore it.

All authors of county histories of birds will appreciate the amount of labour and erudite research which this book must have cost its compilers; anyone who may contemplate writing the history of the birds of any particular locality will find in it a guide to obscure references which he might, had it not been published, have overlooked.

We have not as yet discovered any errors or omissions but we feel bound to refer to the arrangement of the book which we fear may make it difficult to consult. The alphabetical sequence of the counties continues throughout with no break and there is no key (which might well have been given in the head of every right-hand page) to the contents of each opening. This fault should be in part remedied by



eventually providing an index to the various counties but we should have welcomed breaks, to enable the addition of manuscript notes, even at the cost of more paper. And, à propos of paper, it is to be regretted that the book is printed on a paper of such an absorbent nature that we have found it, to our annoyance, impossible to write upon in ink: this fault is, of course, irremediable unless there is a second edition. From a literary and utilitarian point of view the book is more than welcome, for it will fill a long felt want in the libraries of all those who are serious students of British ornithology.—H.S.G.

*De Vogels van Nederland.* Door Dr. E. D. VAN OORT ('s Gravenhage, Nijhoff). Parts III.-V. 21s. 6d. per part.

WE have already described the plan of Dr. van Oort's fine work in our review of Parts I. and II. (Vol. XII., p. 263). In parts III.-IV. the author issues a correction regarding the use of brackets round authors' names, the uniform use of the brackets being due to a printer's error. Of the typical Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*) Dr. van Oort has records of only two examples, but as this is the form which breeds in the British Islands it has probably visited Holland more often. The breeding form of Holland is identified by the author as *Ph. c. sub-cormoranus* (cf. *antea*, Vol. X., p. 210). In the plate the birds are shown as nesting in trees. Then follow the "Hérons," of which Holland is fortunate enough to have as breeding species the Purple Heron, Night-Heron, Little Bittern, Stork and Spoonbill, in addition to the Common Heron and the Bittern, the only two which breed in this country. Part V. contains the Geese. The plates, which form a great feature of this fine work, are particularly useful as showing in most cases young and winter plumages as well as the summer adult.

*Die Vögel der paläarktischen Fauna.* Von Dr. E. HARTERT. Vol II. Part 3. London: Witherby & Co.

WE learn that this invaluable work is now to continue, Part 4 of Volume II. being in the press. The pity of it is, from our point of view, that the book is in the German language, but as it is by a very long way the most authoritative work on the Palæarctic avifauna, and is likely long to remain so, it cannot possibly be ignored by serious students of ornithology. Part 3, which is now before us, was published in Germany in October 1914 and contains the Eagles, Buzzards, Harriers, Goshawks, Sparrow-Hawks, Kites, Osprey and Vultures.

*A Handbook to the Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales.* By H. E. FORREST. (Witherby & Co.) 6s. net.

THE visitor to North Wales, who would hesitate to burden himself with the bulky *Vertebrate Fauna*, can slip this handbook into his pocket or bag. It will tell him briefly what is known about distribution, bringing published information up to date. Twelve years ago the "Fauna" appeared, and since then a number of workers have visited and written about Wales, adding species and proving what was formerly theory. West coast migration must now be recognized as of greater importance than used to be admitted. Specially useful are the observations of Dr. N. F. Ticehurst and Mr. J. K. Stanford at Bardsey Island, proving that the Ortolan, Wryneck and other unexpected species use this western route. More frequent watching would modify and enlarge our ideas. Of the resident workers Mr. R. W. Jones, by a constant

watch on a restricted area, has perhaps added most to our knowledge ; the Black Redstart must rank as a bird of double passage and winter visitor ; the Yellow and Blue-headed Wagtails are regular as migrants in areas where the former, even, does not nest ; and Mr. Forrest has admitted the error he made about the status of the White Wagtail on autumn passage. To have doubted this proved lack of personal knowledge of his area. The author, even now, does not realize the full value of Mr. Jones's observations : this is noticeable in his remarks about Richardson's Skua, a bird familiar to anyone who really knows the northern seas—Liverpool and Carnarvon Bays and the Anglesey coast ;—it is often present in considerable numbers. The addition of the Great Skua, about the same time that it was recognized off the Cheshire shores is also interesting. Mr. H. G. Alexander's recognition of the Willow-Tit is a challenge to Welsh observers. Two other most important additions are the Blue-winged Teal and Crane ; neither of which showed signs of previous captivity.

All the more interesting avian notes have appeared in *British Birds* or are extracted from published books ; there is but little original matter and in some cases this is rather trivial padding. The addition to the lists of mammals and reptiles are not upon firm foundation ; the bird section is the best. On the whole, however, Mr. Forrest has compressed into small compass a large amount of useful information, and every possessor of the "Fauna" will need this supplement.—T.A.C.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Glutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND

**FOR SALE** ABOUT 300 ARCTIC STUFFED BIRD-SKINS  
*Fifty different species (many rare) in summer or eclipse plumage, and young.* **Price £75**

G. DINESEN, Bird-Collector,  
DANEBOGSGADE 8, COPENHAGEN, B, DENMARK.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts.  
ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

Part 2 Now Ready.

A  
**GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
OF  
**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY**

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO END OF 1918.

By W. H. MULLENS, M.A., LL.M., F.L.S. H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.  
Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

A record, arranged under County headings, of printed books, published articles, notes and records relating to local Avifauna.

In 6 parts, Demy 8vo, at **6s.** net each.

---

Now Ready.

A HANDBOOK  
TO THE VERTEBRATE  
**FAUNA OF NORTH WALES**

By H. E. FORREST.

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district. Just the information required by the Naturalist resident in or visiting North Wales is thus provided in a concise form.

Demy 8vo.

Cloth.

**6s.** net.

---

Now Ready.

**METEOROLOGY FOR ALL.**

BEING SOME WEATHER PROBLEMS EXPLAINED

By DONALD W. HORNER, F.R.MET.SOC., etc.

Author of "Observing and Forecasting the Weather."  
"Weather Instruments and How to Use Them."

With Text and Half-Tone Illustrations.

A compendium of information about the Weather as it daily affects the lives of everyone. The "dry" terseness of the text-book has been avoided, but the information given is comprehensive and reliable, and of a practical nature.

Crown 8vo.

Cloth.

Illustrated.

**6s.** net.

---

# BRITISH BIRDS


AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

FEB. 2,  
1920.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 9.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

 **Bound copies Vol. I. (Passeres) ready April.**

# **A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS.**

Edited by **H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.**

*Contributors* :—**E. HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S.** **ANNIE C. JACKSON, H.M.B.O.U.** **REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.** **C. OLDHAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.** **N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.**

Specially arranged for quick reference. Distinguishing characters simplifying identification, full description of all plumages. Breeding habits (nest, eggs, season, incubation, etc.). Food. Distribution and Migration.

WITH COLOURED AND  
MONOCHROME PLATES  
AND  
NUMEROUS TEXT FIGURES.



PARTS 1 TO 6 NOW READY.

PRACTICAL. ORIGINAL.

UP-TO-DATE.

Demy 8vo. **4s.** net per part. (Special Edition Printed on India Paper. Price 5s. net per part.)

## **The Bird-lover's Home-life Series.**

Each Volume contains 32 beautiful plates, artistically mounted, from **PHOTOGRAPHS DIRECT FROM NATURE**, with 40-60 pages of letterpress. **Crown 4to. Cloth 7s. 6d. net each.** Special Edition, bound half-leather, 10s. 6d. net each.

No. 1. **The Home-life of a Golden Eagle.**

No. 2. **The Home-life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and some Herons.**

No. 3. **The Home-life of the Osprey.**

No. 4. **The Home-life of the Terns or Sea-Swallows.**

**A HANDBOOK  
TO THE VERTEBRATE**

## **FAUNA OF NORTH WALES**

By **H. E. FORREST.**

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district. Just the information required by the Naturalist resident in or visiting North Wales is thus provided in a concise form.

Demy 8vo.

Cloth.

**6s.** net.

**WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.**

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.  
TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

---

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 9, Vol. XIII. FEBRUARY 2, 1920.

---

	PAGE
Surrey Field Notes. By P. F. Bunyard .. .. .	226
On the Nesting of the Storm-Petrel. By Mrs. Audrey Gordon	232
Frederick Webb Headley. (M.V.) .. .. .	235
The "British Birds" Marking Scheme. Progress for 1919. By H. F. Witherby .. .. .	237
Recovery of Marked Birds .. .. .	241
Notes :—	
Notes on the Birds of Guernsey (R. H. Baillie) .. .. .	243
Sparrow-Hawk in London (H. B. Tidswell) .. .. .	243
Sheld-Duck Ringed in Hampshire recovered in Germany (A. Landsborough Thomson) .. .. .	244
American Wigeon in Stirlingshire (J. A. Anderson) .. .. .	244
Periods of Dives made by Long-tailed Ducks (Seton Gordon)	244
Long-tailed Ducks inland in Cheshire (A. W. Boyd) .. .. .	245
Red-breasted Mergansers off Anglesey in April and Puffin breeding on Skerries (G. R. Humphreys) .. .. .	245
Little Auk in Buckinghamshire (A. Heneage Cocks) .. .. .	246
Short Notes :—Adopting of Young by Carrion-Crows. Pied Flycatcher and Garden-Warbler breeding in Ross-shire. Great Grey Shrike in Essex. Fulmar Petrel breeding off North Uist. Common Redshank breeding in Outer Hebrides .. .. .	246
Letter :—The Authorship of [Sir] Charles Hastings' <i>Illustrations of the Natural History of Worcestershire</i> (H. S. Gladstone)	247

R



## SURREY FIELD NOTES.

BY

PERCY F. BUNYARD, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

HOUSE-SPARROW (*Passer d. domesticus*).—For the last two springs in one district these birds have taken possession of small clumps of thorn, the nests being easily reached from the ground.

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*).—Evidence of recent visits in the spring of 1919 to clumps of Scotch pines in the south-west districts was found, quantities of cones having been attacked, though the birds had evidently passed on as none was heard or seen.

CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirrus*).—On June 8th, 1919, I found a nest with four highly incubated eggs. The nest was placed at the bottom of a small beech growing on a bank by the road-side. I flushed the female several times, and on one occasion had a good view of the male, which came and settled on a fence opposite the nest. The eggs are typical Ciril's, but with the whitish ground-colour. This is the first time I have found the bird breeding in the county.

WOOD-LARK (*Lullula arborea*).—Though I have heard the Wood-Lark several times in the south-west districts, it was not until 1919 that I had the pleasure of finding it nesting in the county. On April 18th, 1919, I visited this district with Mr. Clifford Borrer and Mr. G. K. Baynes, and while we were walking on the edge of a large common, Mr. Baynes called my attention to two birds on the ground about 20-30 yards ahead, which he thought were Wood-Larks. Owing to previous experience with the species in Suffolk and with the aid of my glasses I had no difficulty in confirming his suspicions. We watched the birds for some time, when they both flew in the direction of a small bank between two sand tracks. We gave them some time before following up and in the meantime I heard the unmistakable note, and saw one of the birds on the opposite bank. We then visited the spot where they first alighted and I put up a bird almost at my feet. After a careful search Mr. Baynes discovered the nest with four fresh eggs, all of which were absolutely typical. The nest was placed among very short patchy ling in a very deep scratch-out exactly as I had found them in Suffolk. I visited the spot again in the evening and following day, and the birds were singing beautifully. There are Scotch pines within



40-50 yards of the spot. I mention this because I have found the birds show a distinct preference for Scotch pine localities.

Messrs. Borrer and Baynes having returned to London I was left to investigate further this interesting discovery. On the following day I visited a warreny spot which I considered a likely one for Wood-Lark, and it was not long before I heard the now familiar song. I searched in vain on the common side of the hedge, which was a turf wall on which small bushes and trees were growing. I then re-started my search on the field side which was of a warreny nature with short grass and bracken, and among the latter within a few yards of the hedge I spotted an undoubted Wood-Lark sitting close. She flew off on my stooping to the nest, exposing to view three typical eggs; the nest was neatly tucked away under a bower of bracken. I followed up my success on the following day by finding another nest with three eggs in the adjoining field in almost an exactly similar position, in this case the bird had not commenced to sit.

On May 4th, I revisited the district with Mr. Baynes and found another nest with four eggs, from which we flushed the bird. This was almost in the centre of the same field in which I found the third nest mentioned above, it was on a piece of uncultivated ground between two cultivated patches, very similar to the Suffolk ground, but there were no pines within 200 yards of this spot except a few isolated ones. On nearly every subsequent visit to this district I heard and saw Wood-Larks, and in June I put up several small parties which by their flight and pale colour appeared to be birds of the year.

Quite apart from the satisfaction of finding these birds plentiful in the county it is also satisfactory to know they were not entirely exterminated by the winter of 1916-1917, as reports from Suffolk (which I afterwards confirmed) led me to believe. I consider, however, that it is not at all improbable that the birds were driven south, and having found food and conditions suited to their requirements have remained. I am quite convinced that their present status in Surrey is not of long standing, at least not in this particular district, and it may prove to be temporary only. It is certainly a rare bird in Surrey. Bucknill apparently had no personal acquaintance with the species as a breeding bird, and says that the bird has not been noticed at all in Surrey by most of the modern observers (*Birds of Surrey*, p. 144). It certainly could not be easily overlooked by those who have had previous

experience of it, the note alone being sufficient to reveal immediately its presence and identity.

I have several times inspected "Wood-Larks'" eggs taken in Surrey and have found them to belong undoubtedly to the Sky-Lark, and in one case a whole series of the red mottled form of the Tree-Pipit were labelled "Wood-Lark" and the happy possessor was quite indignant when I informed him they did not belong to that species. I have only once seen a clutch of Wood-Larks which might possibly have been mistaken for Sky-Larks'—one egg however was almost typical, this and the size settled the question. I have usually found the Sky-Lark almost absent on typical Wood-Lark ground, which is generally of a sandy and stony formation.

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla c. cinerea*).—Successfully nested this spring in the locality already recorded by me in *British Birds*. Previous to the winter of 1916-1917 I had three breeding pairs under observation—a very satisfactory increase. This year's nest was discovered by Mr. G. K. Baynes.

COAL-TITMOUSE (*Parus a. britannicus?*).—On December 31st, 1918, I saw at Shirley near Croydon, a flock of about thirty Coal-Tits feeding under a large beech. I watched them with my glasses turning over the leaves apparently in search of food. The weather at the time was fine and mild. I have never before seen so many of these birds together, and cannot believe this was due to any recovery from the winter of 1916-1917. Did they belong to the Continental form, and were they on migration?

RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*Lanius collurio*).—I found this species breeding commonly in 1919 where at one time they had almost disappeared. All the nests, with the exception of three, contained clutches of 5 and 6. I was disappointed in not finding the Cuckoo again using their nests.

DARTFORD WARBLER (*Sylvia u. dartfordiensis*).—I very much regret to report that these birds have not yet again put in an appearance. Messrs. Borrer and Baynes with myself were all over their old breeding ground and we did not see or hear a single bird. Will they return and reinstate themselves?

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (*Locustella n. naevia*).—Very plentiful this year, or it may be I have got to know them better or at least their favourite haunts—the better one knows birds the easier it becomes to locate them and a rare bird becomes almost common to the initiated. On May 8th, 1919, I located two Grasshopper-Warblers and on May 23rd discovered both nests. The first was situated in a fairly large clump of dead

grass among gorse bushes, and the bird crept out as I tapped and kept creeping about with half-spread wings among the herbage in full view, and did not take flight until I commenced to inspect the nest which contained six fresh eggs. I then stepped back a few feet and in a moment the bird was back on the nest. The bird belonging to the second nest went right away in spite of the fact that incubation had commenced and though I remained near the nest for some time she did not put in an appearance or show any anxiety, affording a good example of two birds of the same species behaving in a totally different manner. This nest was in a similar position to the first, though the clump of dead grass was very much smaller. On June 6th the first pair of birds had completed their second nest and clutch of six, which I found only a few yards from their first, and the female again behaved in exactly the same manner.

MISTLE-THRUSH (*Turdus v. viscivorus*).—My personal experience is that these birds are still very scarce, and their recovery from the disastrous winter of 1916-1917 has only been slight. A few small flocks were seen about the pines in June 1918 and 1919.

STONECHAT (*Saxicola r. hibernans*).—A slight recovery from the severe winter was noticeable during the spring of 1919, but at least two males appeared to be without mates. On their favourite common near Croydon they have not yet turned up again.

HEN-HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*).—Mr. Borrer, Mr. Baynes and I watched a pair in the south-west district for some considerable time on April 18th, 1919. They were both flying in the air over a fairly marshy part of the common.

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*).—My first introduction to this species in the county was in 1906. While watching Dartford Warblers a bird settled on the ground only a few yards away from where I was concealed. I have seen them in the south-west district every year since. They generally arrive on the ground about May 4th, and may be seen every day right up to the end of the nesting season, sometimes wheeling about high in the air in their customary fashion, sometimes only just skimming the tops of the ling or water, hawking for dragonflies. As the breeding season approaches their Wryneck-like call may be heard at all times of the day, mostly in the neighbourhood of their prospective nesting sites. I am surprised to find that very few of the recent writers on this beautiful bird make any mention of the similarity of the call to that of the Wryneck—to my ears it is almost exactly the same, but of course in a much higher key.

On June 17th, 1916, I succeeded in locating my first nest in a Scotch pine. The bird left the nest, which was that of a Crow from which the eggs had been taken, without making a note of any kind and almost at the first tap on the tree. While I was climbing the tree the bird came quite close in her swoops and finally settled in the next tree in full view and remained there continually making her alarm-note while I was at the nest. The nest contained three typical eggs which were quite fresh, and deeply embedded in the lining of the nest. I waited near the tree for some time but without again seeing either of the birds.

In 1918 the birds were on the ground, but owing to the extensive tree felling going on in the district they were very much disturbed and apparently did not settle down to nest. On June 29th, 1919, I located my second nest as a result of three previous week-ends watching. My companion had already made several fruitless climbs when I got my glasses on to an old nest nearly at the top of a Scotch pine, on which I could quite easily distinguish the bird sitting, her white cheeks showing up conspicuously. We hit the tree several times but she refused to budge. My companion then threw up a piece of wood nearly hitting the nest, and the bird went off with a characteristic dip and away over the tops of the trees and again without a note. The nest contained three very beautiful and typical eggs, quite fresh. From the time she left the nest we neither saw nor heard the bird again. My experience with the Hobby's nest is limited to these two occasions, on which it will be seen that the sitting birds behaved in a totally different manner in spite of the incubation being in precisely the same stage.

The Hobby is by no means a rare bird in Surrey though one must be on the ground continually to appreciate its presence and I agree that it is most conspicuous in the afternoon and evening, though the alarm-note may be heard at all times of the day providing it is not too hot. It is very strange that there are so few records of its breeding in the county. I, however, apply the same remark to this species as I have to the Grasshopper-Warbler.

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*).—Several birds remained right through the spring of 1918 and 1919 in the south-west district, and from their behaviour I have no doubt that they bred somewhere on the commons.

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*).—Curlews show a decided increase in the south-west district, and I have counted ten or eleven birds in a day. I have known them here since 1906

and though always suspecting that they bred, I had no proof until the fact was recorded by Mr. J. M. Goodall. I know one keeper who assures me that he has known them to breed for the last fifteen years, and he related a story of how a dog of his had destroyed a nest by nearly catching the bird. I mention this for what it is worth.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—Many of the nests were placed on ground which had been cleared by the felling of the Scotch pines for trench logs. The ground was littered with the peelings and on these the birds deposited their eggs, after having made a deep scratch-out. One was placed right on the top of a large heap about fifteen inches high, the eggs being very conspicuous even from some distance. I noticed nearly all the eggs found on this material had a peculiar ochraceous ground-colour, which was possibly only a coincidence?

A clutch of four of these together with the nest were exhibited by me at the May meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club (*Bull. B.O.C.*, CCXLIII., p. 89).

## ON THE NESTING OF THE STORM-PETREL.

BY

AUDREY GORDON.

ON July 2nd, 1919, after waiting many days for the weather to moderate sufficiently, a companion and I sailed out to one of the smaller islands of the Inner Hebrides group and remained there till July 15th. This particular island is about one and a half miles long and half a mile broad, and rises to a height of 300 feet. It is composed of terraced basalt, and the coast-line is much indented with not too precipitous cliffs, forming an ideal nesting haunt for all kinds of sea birds.

On July 2nd, about half the Storm-Petrels (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) had laid, but all the eggs I found were evidently quite fresh. A great many pairs seemed to be still mating. They were present in all suitable situations all over the island—old broken walls, among big boulders and under heaps of round sea-worn stones, in some places a few feet above high tide mark, and in others as much as 100 feet above the sea. The easiest way to find the birds is by their strong peculiar smell, quite different from the smell of Puffins (*Fratercula a. grabæ*), which are occasionally found nesting among the Petrels.

On bright, sunny days the birds rarely make any noise in the nesting holes, but on dark, cloudy or misty days one can often locate them by their purring note, "Purr-r-r-r-chee-ka" repeated incessantly; I heard this note kept up without a break one night for over an hour. I think there is no doubt this is the mating song, although it is apparently made by both cock and hen. During the first week of July I frequently found both birds together in the nesting crevices, and often both "purred."

Our tent was pitched close beside a long beach of piled up round stones, under which some twenty pairs of Petrels were nesting, or about to nest, so we had a good opportunity to observe their nocturnal habits. They usually appeared first about 10.30 p.m. G.M.T., having gradually become more noisy from sunset onwards. On calm nights they did not call at all while flying, but on dark and stormy nights, or if misty, the noise of their calls was most weird. This fighting note is entirely different from the "purring" note—it is very loud for the size of the bird, and is quite unlike the sound produced by any other bird, as far as I am aware. The nearest rendering I can give in words is—"Cuch'-ah, cuch'-ah, cuch'-ah, coo'-ah," the accent being on the first syllable. It is very husky, and sometimes ends in a sort of shriek on a high note. As far as

one could make out in the uncertain light, the birds uttering this cry did not fly out to sea, but simply circled round the nesting area, at a great pace, like nocturnal Swifts. It is probable that this flight, accompanied by this queer cry, forms the display of the cock bird, and while it is going on, the hen bird remains in the rocky crevice and keeps up an incessant "purring." The period of greatest activity was about 2.30



STORM-PETREL WITH YOUNG ABOUT 3 DAYS OLD.  
(*Photographed by Mrs. Gordon.*)

a.m. G.M.T. As soon as it began to get lighter, the Petrels all returned to their holes, the activity ceasing very abruptly, but they continued "purring" for some time longer. On one occasion, at night, I disturbed a pair of Petrels close together on an open ledge of rock, both "purring." Possibly mating was taking place.

None of the eggs were hatched by July 15th, but most of the birds had laid by that time.

On August 23rd I again visited the island, on a perfect summer day. A nest found with the bird sitting on July 8th was found to contain a young one, which I estimated to be about ten days old. In a crevice in which an adult had been found without an egg on July 3rd, there was a chick apparently not more than three days old. These dates tend to confirm the belief that the Petrels sit for not less than thirty-five days; assuming that in the first case, the bird had been sitting for a day or two on July 8th and that the young one was nearly a fortnight old on August 23rd; and that in the second case the bird had begun to sit on July 16th or before, and the young one was three days old on August 23rd. On this date some birds were still sitting, but in every case the eggs looked near hatching. On another island I examined several more chicks of various ages, but none appeared to be more than about sixteen days old. I did not once hear the "purring" note.

On August 27th and 29th I visited another island, and found young ones varying from three days to about four weeks old. In one nest there was an unhatched egg of last year, showing that they use the same nesting crevice every year.

From the examination of all the chicks found, I made the following observations:—

Down about half an inch long, of a slate-grey colour. A very conspicuous bare circular patch on the top of the head. Bare white skin round the base of the bill, giving a vulture-like appearance. Skin white all over the body. Bill and legs and feet white in the newly-hatched chicks, except for the tip of the bill, which is black. They gradually get darker till at about four weeks old they are quite black like the adult. The feathers begin to appear at about this time.

The chicks keep up an incessant cheeping, something like the note of a young Oystercatcher, and they are consequently easy to locate. The egg-shell seems to be always left in the nest.

In shallow nesting places where there is dead grass and other debris among the stones, a sort of rough nest is made, but in the deeper crevices where no material is handy, no nest is made, and the egg is laid on the bare ground. The parent birds brooded the smallest young ones of only a few days old, but no parent bird was ever found with the older ones. It would be interesting to know whether the adults go a long way out to sea during the day, and then feed the young at night. But as I was unable to remain on the island this time, I could not ascertain this or whether the "flying" is still carried on at night after the young are hatched.



## FREDERICK WEBB HEADLEY.

It was with the deepest regret that the many friends of F. W. Headley heard of his unexpected death in a nursing home at Epsom on November 25th, 1919. As his oldest friend—our friendship dating from the year 1876, when we met on a reading party in North Wales—I welcome the opportunity of paying a heartfelt tribute to his memory; and his death, when he was in the full vigour of body and mind, is a loss not only to his school friends but to a larger circle in the world outside.

Headley was a many-sided man, and no one ever illustrated with greater success the precept—"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Son of the late Rev. H. Headley, of Brinsop Vicarage, near Hereford, he was born on April 10th, 1856. A scholar of Caius College, a First Class in the Classical Tripos, he was far more than a mere scholar. Appointed to a mastership at Haileybury College by the late Dr. Bradby in 1880 he at once proceeded to give proof of his versatility by taking a form on the modern side and teaching modern languages with marked success, though he had had no special training in French or German. He was devoted to literature, art and music, but the work with which he was specially identified was the study of natural science, and more particularly the life and flight of birds. He has left behind him at Haileybury lasting memorials in our well arranged Natural History Museum and our Natural History Society, many of whose members came under the spell of his inspiration and owed to him a real love of natural history. This would have been enough for most men, but it was not enough for Headley. Amid the calls of a busy life he found time to produce a series of books, which bear the impress of an acute and original mind: *The Structure of Birds*, 1895, *Problems of Evolution*, 1900, *Darwinism and Modern Socialism*, 1907, and *The Flight of Birds*, 1912.

But Headley was far more than an indoor ornithologist. As a field naturalist he had few equals. He knew every inch of the country for miles round Haileybury, and where every rare bird or flower was to be found; in the holidays he went farther afield, but always with the same objects in view. Though he was a keen mountaineer and a member of the Alpine Club, the birds of Switzerland appealed to him more than the mountains; he made expeditions to Algeria,

the south of Spain and the north of Germany, to islands in the Baltic and to Texel.

After thirty-five years of hard work he resigned his mastership in July 1914, when he hoped to realize the long deferred project of a lifetime, a tour of observation to the Soudan and other parts of the world, but it was not so to be. With the outbreak of war he at once volunteered his services and returned to Haileybury, resuming his work with the energy of a man of half his years. Throughout the war he had no holidays. His spare moments in term-time were given to work on the allotments of soldiers who were at the front, while his holidays were spent at a Y.M.C.A. hut, but even under these conditions he managed to finish the natural history part of *The Country Round Haileybury*, a book now ready for publication. There can be no doubt that he overtaxed his strength, and it is no wonder, that when he left Haileybury last July he felt war-weary. Writing to me in August, he said: "I feel very tired and I am advised to take a complete rest, but the best rest cure I can think of is a month at Bardsey Lighthouse, watching migration." This was the last time I heard from him, though a friend, with whom he was staying just before he started for Bardsey, told me he looked wretchedly ill; but he was so tough and vigorous that it came as a terrible shock when I heard that, after an operation for some internal trouble, he had passed painlessly away.

In Headley were happily combined striking gifts of body, mind and character, and he always used those gifts for the good of others. He was the personification of energy, unselfishness and devotion to duty. Of no man can it be more truly said that he "being dead yet speaketh"; and we cannot doubt that when he passed over the trumpet sounded for him on the other side.—M. V.

## THE "BRITISH BIRDS" MARKING SCHEME.\*

PROGRESS FOR 1919.

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

THE number of birds ringed in 1919 was not, I regret to say, very satisfactory as the total fell behind that of 1918, whereas one had hoped that it would have shown an improvement on that year. However, I trust that in 1920 we may be able to regain something like our old figures. The following are the totals :—

NUMBER OF BIRDS RINGED.				
In 1909	..	..	..	2,171
„ 1910	..	..	..	7,910
„ 1911	..	..	..	10,416
„ 1912	..	..	..	11,483
„ 1913	..	..	..	14,843
„ 1914	..	..	..	13,024
„ 1915	..	..	..	7,767
„ 1916	..	..	..	7,107
„ 1917	..	..	..	6,926
„ 1918	..	..	..	5,937
„ 1919	..	..	..	3,578
				<hr/>
Total	..	..	..	<u>91,162</u>

Mr. A. Mayall heads the list with five hundred and seventy-six. Mr. J. Bartholomew with four hundred and thirteen, and Mr. H. W. Robinson with four hundred and seven are excellent seconds, while Dr. H. J. Moon (three hundred and forty-nine) and Mr. J. R. B. Masfield (three hundred and fourteen) are well to the fore. Capt. A. W. Boyd has ringed two hundred, Messrs. H. J. and D. W. Vaughan nearly two hundred, Messrs. J. Appleby and F. E. Blagg well over one hundred each and Messrs. G. Brown and A. C. Greg nearly one

\* For previous Reports see Vol. III., pp. 179-182, for 1909; Vol. IV., pp. 204-207, for 1910; Vol. V., pp. 158-162, for 1911; Vol. VI., pp. 177-183, for 1912; Vol. VII., pp. 190-195, for 1913; Vol. VIII., pp. 161-168, for 1914; Vol. IX., pp. 222-229, for 1915; Vol. X., pp. 150-156, for 1916; Vol. XI., pp. 272-276, for 1917; Vol. XIII., pp. 96-100, for 1918.

hundred each. Others have ringed useful numbers and we have to welcome some new "ringers" and hope that the number will be greatly increased this year.

As there are many new readers of *British Birds*, it may be mentioned that rings, schedules and full instructions are provided free of charge to any subscriber who will undertake to use them. Applications should be made to me at 326, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

With regard to recoveries these have shown improvement both in numbers and interest, but as the percentages are practically the same as those given in my last report (Sept. 1919), it seems hardly worth while to repeat the table here. I would again remind those interested in the scheme that as much publicity as possible should be given to the object of ringing birds, so that rings may be reported with proper details when found.

In the next number I hope to be able to publish the first of a series of tabulated records of recoveries of each species.

#### NUMBER OF BIRDS "RINGED."

MESSRS. A. MAYALL (576), J. Bartholomew (413), H. W. Robinson (407), Dr. H. J. Moon (349), Mr. J. R. B. Masefield (314), Capt. A. W. Boyd (200), Messrs. H. J. and D. W. Vaughan (179), Messrs. J. Appleby (136), F. E. Blagg (121), A. C. Greg (90), G. Brown (90), Mrs. M. G., Miss V., and Mr. D. A. J. Buxton (82), Miss F. Pitt (75), Mr. J. Madden (65), Miss N. H. Greg (54), Mr. R. O. and Miss A. Blyth (52), Mrs. T. Hodgkin (41), Mr. J. G. Gordon (40), Rev. E. U. Savage (34), Mr. C. H. Stobart (33), Lon. Nat. Hist. Society (32), Messrs. R. E. Knowles (28), O. J. Wilkinson (25), T. L. Johnston (23), and many others who have ringed under twenty each.

	'09-'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	Total
Rook ..	100	23	5	45	6	38	23	3	243
Jackdaw ..	37	15	33	26	23	29	9	4	176
Jay ..	12	7	7	4	—	—	6	—	36
Starling ..	3027	1133	646	914	368	560	219	151	7018
Greenfinch ..	775	381	344	190	382	254	260	206	2792
Twite ..	—	24	18	—	—	—	—	—	42
Redpoll, Lesser ..	27	45	22	1	37	—	4	—	136
Linnet ..	212	148	151	214	195	162	173	46	1301
Bullfinch ..	42	22	20	29	23	18	21	20	195
Chaffinch ..	740	331	397	252	319	338	262	220	2859
Sparrow, House ..	262	175	17	7	3	—	—	—	464
Sparrow, Tree ..	123	27	14	7	4	9	4	17	205
Bunting, Yellow ..	175	41	32	47	32	47	62	29	465
Bunting, Reed ..	67	39	49	15	18	98	54	20	360
Lark, Sky .	198	390	253	328	195	213	150	51	1778
Pipit, Tree .	97	27	42	4	16	8	5	15	214

	'09-'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	Total
Pipit, Meadow ..	254	318	169	183	131	113	85	12	1265
Wagtail, Yellow ..	1	22	28	13	12	16	9	5	106
Wagtail, Grey ..	47	17	22	7	12	—	8	1	114
Wagtail, Pied ..	183	114	110	93	93	91	17	20	721
Tit, Great ..	370	221	67	65	10	16	16	8	773
Tit, Blue ..	334	228	70	3	12	11	5	—	663
Tit, Coal ..	47	24	7	10	—	—	—	—	88
Tit, Marsh ..	31	17	1	3	—	—	—	—	52
Tit, Long-tailed ..	8	28	1	1	3	—	—	—	41
Wren, G.-crested ..	31	1	—	1	7	—	—	1	41
Shrike, R.-backed ..	39	8	14	14	29	13	16	17	150
Flycatcher, S. ..	206	84	84	78	63	115	100	65	795
Chiffchaff ..	28	14	9	—	5	8	6	—	70
Warbler, Willow ..	562	251	271	257	123	146	154	108	1872
Warbler, Wood ..	46	20	9	—	2	—	18	3	98
Warbler, Reed ..	28	60	37	1	15	19	54	38	252
Warbler, Sedge ..	38	43	—	4	32	53	72	32	274
Warbler, Garden ..	42	20	9	15	16	9	1	14	126
Blackcap ..	23	7	23	23	12	17	9	—	114
Whitethroat ..	129	43	25	40	61	34	40	85	457
Whitethroat, L. ..	40	20	8	23	23	3	11	13	141
Fieldfare ..	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	85
Thrush, Mistle ..	173	82	85	98	91	45	33	21	628
Thrush, Song ..	2128	1197	1818	1131	1500	680	789	475	9718
Redwing ..	31	5	4	1	2	—	—	—	43
Ouzel, Ring ..	31	20	22	—	8	—	3	1	85
Blackbird ..	1457	626	975	499	751	453	446	386	5593
Wheatear ..	51	19	57	23	17	8	17	—	192
Whinchat ..	86	41	69	53	26	54	65	17	411
Stonechat ..	37	55	30	2	12	—	—	—	136
Redstart ..	77	31	42	40	6	—	13	15	224
Nightingale ..	15	8	4	7	7	—	5	5	51
Redbreast ..	862	355	471	249	263	244	204	162	2810
Sparrow, Hedge ..	559	268	269	228	193	140	98	110	1865
Wren ..	185	101	141	134	106	26	34	11	738
Dipper ..	58	15	23	17	10	5	11	5	144
Swallow ..	1591	653	734	896	720	1470	714	512	7290
Martin ..	318	160	275	198	208	401	137	87	1784
Martin, Sand ..	92	118	182	44	133	116	29	32	746
Nightjar ..	17	4	9	2	6	7	2	2	49
Wryneck ..	43	11	31	22	34	25	29	—	195
Cuckoo ..	44	23	6	5	5	13	14	7	117
Owl, Long-eared ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	30
Owl, Barn..	29	14	9	14	3	6	—	1	76
Owl, Tawny ..	37	7	13	17	—	11	14	18	117
Kestrel ..	14	—	10	10	5	6	7	3	55
Hawk, Sparrow ..	35	5	11	4	5	—	2	—	62
Heron, Common ..	79	24	2	1	4	—	1	—	111
Sheld-Duck ..	37	1	2	9	—	—	—	1	50
Mallard ..	222	200	76	42	30	70	4	—	644
Teal ..	26	22	10	25	1	12	—	33	129
Wigeon ..	4	2	11	38	15	6	1	2	79
Duck, Tufted ..	5	20	15	22	3	—	—	—	65
Cormorant ..	82	266	122	—	—	—	21	72	563
Shag ..	27	15	114	—	—	—	—	10	166

	'09-'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	Total
Gannet ..	—	134	56	8	—	—	—	—	198
Shearwater, Manx ..	60	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
Wood-Pigeon ..	78	26	18	17	14	11	20	9	193
Dove, Stock ..	18	9	9	2	3	4	1	5	51
Dove, Turtle ..	23	10	4	11	10	3	8	7	76
Oystercatcher ..	37	10	31	6	—	7	3	6	100
Plover, Ringed ..	67	28	20	7	4	2	14	1	143
Plover, Golden ..	17	7	6	9	4	—	6	—	49
Lapwing ..	1266	558	1078	444	242	168	154	123	4033
Sandpiper, C. ..	80	24	23	13	20	7	25	16	208
Redshank ..	104	28	61	27	15	35	25	3	298
Curlew, Common ..	113	15	39	9	10	7	17	4	214
Snipe, Common ..	79	22	44	6	13	28	19	3	214
Woodcock ..	141	83	89	32	—	—	3	—	348
Tern, Sandwich ..	182	203	270	—	—	23	—	53	731
Tern, Common ..	2671	51	195	1	1	174	761	—	3854
Tern, Arctic ..	27	3	47	—	—	8	—	20	105
Tern, Little ..	129	35	9	—	1	—	1	—	175
Gull, B.-headed ..	7854	3915	164	—	13	—	4	11	11961
Gull, Common ..	459	11	17	—	20	7	—	—	514
Gull, Herring ..	348	82	61	—	19	1	—	1	512
Gull, L. Blk.-bkd ..	333	454	1317	214	219	—	84	77	2698
Gull, G. Blk.-bkd ..	23	2	53	—	—	—	—	—	78
Kittiwake ..	15	2	16	—	—	—	50	1	84
Razorbill ..	34	2	24	—	—	—	4	—	64
Puffin ..	139	207	553	—	2	—	2	2	905
Moor-Hen ..	81	39	34	65	21	27	24	7	298

NOTE.—About fifty species, of which less than thirty individuals each have been ringed, are omitted from this list as also are game-birds and those of which the identification was not certain.

## RECOVERY OF MARKED BIRDS.

- STARLING** (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*).—89533, ringed near Shrewsbury, Salop, as an adult by Mr. A. Mayall on December 18th, 1916. Reported at Kingsland, Shrewsbury, in December 1919 by Mr. E. Rogers. 91567, ringed at Torrance, Stirlingshire, as a nestling by Mr. J. Bartholomew on May 22nd, 1918. Reported at Stockport, Cheshire, on September 13th, 1919, by Mr. J. Gosling.
- BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus m. merula*).—HN.50, ringed at Torrance, Stirlingshire, as a nestling by Mr. J. Bartholomew on June 6th, 1918. Reported at the same place in March 1919 by the ringer.
- SONG-THRUSH** (*T. ph. clarkei*).—91079, ringed at Lytham, Lancs., as a young bird by Dr. H. J. Moon, on April 13th, 1918. Reported at Little Layton, Blackpool, in October 1919 by Mr. L. Singleton. 87570, ringed at Limpsfield, Surrey, as a nestling by Mrs. Patteson, on June 10th, 1917. Reported at Woldingham, Surrey, on October, 14th, 1919, by Miss B. Westrup. 93910, ringed at Southport, Lancs., as a nestling by Mr. H. Counce, on June 21st, 1918. Reported at Cultha, co. Leitrim, in December 1919 by Mr. T. Gilchrist.
- REDBREAST** (*Erithacus rubecula*).—GU.36, ringed at Altrincham, Cheshire, as an adult by Capt. A. W. Boyd, on November 13th, 1918. Reported at the same place, on December 7th, 1919, by the ringer. Released with ring GU.29. CW.95, ringed at Gt. Crosby, Liverpool, as an adult by Mr. J. Appleby, on December 24th, 1916. Reported at the same place in January 1919 by the ringer.
- DIPPER** (*Cinclus c. britannicus*).—92028, ringed at Low Bentham, Yorks., as a nestling by Mr. H. W. Robinson, on June 13th, 1919. Found dead in a garden at Carnforth, near Lancs., on July 28th, 1919, and reported by the ringer.
- SWALLOW** (*Hirundo v. rustica*).—FT.9, ringed at Cheadle, Staffs., as a nestling by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, on July 3rd, 1917. Reported at Guecho, near Bilbao, north Spain, in March 1918 by Mr. J. Innes, British Vice-Consul. Found dead after snowstorm. GT.33, ringed at Levens, Westmorland, as a nestling by Mr. H. W. Robinson, on June 18th, 1918. Reported at the same place in June 1919 by the ringer. BH.64, ringed at Cheadle, Staffs., as a nestling by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, on July 5th, 1915. Reported as found dead (uncertain how long) at La Clemencière, en Lalleu, Ille-et-Vilaine, Brittany, in December 1915 by Madame C. Grignon.
- SAND-MARTIN** (*Riparia v. riparia*).—KS.76, ringed at Chalwey, Bucks., as a nestling by Mr. A. Mayall, on June 24th, 1919. Reported at Trignac, Loire Inférieure, France, in mid-August 1919 by M. A. Hervy.
- TAWNY OWL** (*Strix a. aluco*).—36894, ringed at Tean, near Cheadle, Staffs., as a nestling by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, on May 3rd, 1919. Reported at Bramshall, Uttoxeter, Staffs., on November 7th, 1919, by Mr. A. R. Heselwood. 36891, ringed at Croxden Abbey, Staffs., as a nestling by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield, on April 28th, 1919. Reported near Ashbourne, Derbyshire, on December 27th, 1919, by Mr. J. T. Harrison.
- MALLARD** (*Anas p. platyrhyncha*).—36675, ringed at Leswalt, Wigtownshire, as an adult by Mr. M. Portal, on February 28th, 1916.

- Reported at the same place on December 17th, 1919, by the ringer.
- CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax c. caybo*).—101826, 101812, ringed at Castle Loch, Mochrum, Wigtownshire, as nestlings by Mr. J. G. Gordon, on June 14th, 1919. Reported near Annan, Dumfriesshire on September 24th, 1919, by Mr. G. Bryson, and on Lough Neagh, Ireland, in December 1919 by Mr. J. Orr.  
103059, 103078, 103077, 103089, 103069, ringed at Summer Isles, Ross, as young birds by Mr. D. A. J. Buxton, on July 25th, 1919. Reported in Inverness-shire on November 20th, Loch Linnhe, in December, west coast of Ross-shire, December 22nd, 1919, Gareloch Head, Argyllshire, on January 6th, 1920, and Waternish, Skye, on January 10th, 1920, by Messrs. R. Macdonald, D. Cameron, J. Scott-Rae, R. Downie and J. Ronaldson.
- SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax g. graculus*).—103094, 103086, ringed at Summer Isles, Ross, as young birds by Mr. D. A. J. Buxton, on July 25th, 1919. Reported at South Uist, Outer Hebrides, and Stornoway, Lewis, on October 23rd and November 26th, 1919, by Mr. J. MacLellan and Mr. D. Martin.
- WOOD-PIGEON** (*Columba p. palumbus*).—26088, ringed at Torrance, Stirlingshire, as a young bird by Mr. J. Bartholomew, on May 15th, 1919. Reported at the same place on November 14th, 1919, by the ringer.
- LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*).—91617, ringed at Torrance, Stirlingshire, as a nestling by Mr. J. Bartholomew on August 19th, 1918. Reported near Mugardos, Parish of Joanza, Bilarc; near Coruna, north-west Spain, on November 19th, 1919, by Senor Marcelino Bayolo.
- SNIPE** (*Gallinago g. gallinago*)—92786, 92792, ringed at Southport, Lancs., as adults by Mr. H. Caunce, on May 27th and 28th, 1918. Reported near the same place on October 6th, 1919, by the ringer, and seven miles from Cork, Ireland, on January 7th, 1920, by Mr. C. B. Pearson.  
41681, ringed near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, as a nestling by Mr. A. Mayall, on June 11th, 1913. Reported at Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, on October 20th, 1919, by Major H. R. Sykes.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*Larus ridibundus*).—60709, ringed at Ravensglass, Cumberland, as a young bird by Mr. B. Picard, on May 31st, 1913. Caught after severe frost at Portobello, Midlothian, on November 14th, 1919, by Mr. W. A. Nicholson and released with same ring on 17th.  
26848, 26913, ringed at Ravensglass, Cumberland, as young birds by Mr. H. W. Robinson, on June 6th, 1912. Reported at Garston, near Liverpool in November 1919 by Mr. R. Henderson, and on Longton Marsh, near Preston, Lancs., in December 1916 by the ringer.  
63780, ringed at Delamere Forest, Cheshire, as a nestling by Capt. A. W. Boyd on June 21st, 1914. Reported at Border Stud Farm, Heswall Hills, Cheshire, on November 1st, 1919, by Mr. V. Rogers.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus f. affinis*).—37302, ringed at Foulshaw, Westmorland, as a nestling by Mr. H. W. Robinson on July 11th, 1919. Reported at Atherton, near Manchester, on December 2nd, 1919, by Mr. J. Ellison.
- MOOR-HEN** (*Gallinula c. chloropus*).—67496, ringed at Torrance, Stirlingshire, as a young bird by Mr. J. Bartholomew on May 11th, 1918. Reported at Bardowie Loch on June 22nd, 1919, by Mr. J. A. Anderson.



# NOTES

## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF GUERNSEY.

As little seems to have been written on the bird life of the Channel Isles since the publication of Cecil Smith's *Birds of Guernsey* in 1879, the following notes made during a visit to Guernsey in April 1919 may be of interest.

**RAVEN** (*Corvus c. corax*).—One seen at Fermain Bay on April 17th, and a pair between Point La Moye and Portelet Bay on April 22nd. Smith regards this species as an occasional straggler.

**ROOK** (*C. f. frugilegus*).—Now fairly common resident, a large Rookery being established near St. Andrews. Apparently in Smith's time it had not gained a footing in the island.

**CHOUGH** (*Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*).—One seen on April 22nd near Point La Moye.

**STARLING** (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*).—Now fairly numerous, formerly only common in winter, few staying to breed.

**TREE-CREEPER** (*Certhia* sp. ?).—One seen on April 26th.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** (*Colymbus immer*).—One in Grand Havre on April 28th.

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (*C. arcticus*).—A pair fishing off Martin's Point, Jerbourg, on April 15th, still in winter plumage.

**STOCK-DOVE** (*Columba ænas*).—Smith doubts the occurrence of this species, but I saw two pairs on April 22nd, one near Portelet Bay, and the other near Saints' Bay. As I was up above them I could see that they had entirely grey upper-parts, thus dispelling the doubt as to their being Rock-Doves.

R. H. BAILLIE.

## SPARROW-HAWK IN LONDON.

It may be of interest to record that my wife found a Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter n. nisus*) sitting on the kerb in Baker Street, on November 29th, 1919. The bird was in a weak condition and had, I think, struck some obstacle, but it ate uncooked liver and drank water, fairly freely, as if it were hungry. I was hoping it would have lived, but it died during the night.

H. B. TIDSWELL.

### SHELD-DUCK RINGED IN HAMPSHIRE RECOVERED IN GERMANY.

INCIDENTAL circumstances add to the interest of the following record of a Sheld-Duck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Case 906, ring "Aberdeen University 25886." This bird was marked as a duckling by Dr. Philip Gosse on July 16th, 1912, the locality being Blackwater, Beaulieu, Hampshire. On August 18th, 1917, it was shot at Ost Eversand, at the mouth of the Weser, Germany. The information passed through several hands in the hope of finding an indirect means of communication, but it has in fact only recently reached me through Mr. Mortensen, the Danish bird-marker. This bird was one of a brood marked by Dr. Gosse and is the third member to be recorded. The other two recoveries have already been published (*Scot. Nat.*, 1915, p. 339), Case 447 having been reported from Saltash in February 1913, and Case 448 from Schleswig-Holstein in August 1913.

A. LANDBOROUGH THOMSON.

### AMERICAN WIGEON IN STIRLINGSHIRE.

WHILE I was watching a flock of Wigeon on Bardowie Loch, on December 14th, 1919, I saw what was unmistakably an adult male American Wigeon (*Anas americana*). Later in the day Mr. J. Bartholomew and I saw it at closer range, when the dull white forehead and crown, the green patch extending behind the eye and the black spots on the other parts of the head showed clearly in comparison with the other male Wigeon amongst which it appeared to be quite happy. I think there is little doubt that this was a genuine wild bird, as it was quite as wary as the other Wigeon, of which there were about ninety.

J. A. ANDERSON.

### PERIODS OF DIVES MADE BY LONG-TAILED DUCKS.

THE following notes on the diving of the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) were made at Bamburgh, on the Northumberland coast. I saw nothing of these ducks during the severe weather of November 1919, but during December they were numerous just off-shore, especially on calm days (which are extremely rare) with a heavy swell on the rocks, for this probably stirs up their food.

On one occasion, December 16th, I timed a drake during six dives, as follows: 37, 37, 37, 30, 37, 37 seconds. As will be seen, his periods of submersion were extremely regular. On December 18th I watched for some time a pair diving energetically. The drake kept under longer than the duck,

half a dozen of his dives being as follows : 37, 42, 36, 35, 33, 32 seconds, and those of the duck, 33, 37, 35, 33, 33, 32 seconds. On emerging, the duck seemed to shoot up more buoyantly than the drake. In the afternoon I timed the drake for four dives, as follows : 42, 40, 42, 45 seconds. The periods during which the birds were above water between the dives I timed as follows : 10, 8, 6, 8, 7, 11 seconds. On December 21st I timed a pair diving and emerging almost simultaneously, as follows : 34, 32, 37, 38, 40, 43, 36 seconds. Before the two longest of these dives, the birds swam for some time on the surface of the water.

SETON GORDON.

#### LONG-TAILED DUCKS INLAND IN CHESHIRE.

ON December 7th, 1919, I saw two Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*) on "Marston Hole," one of the salt subsidences at Northwich in mid-Cheshire. One, which I saw more clearly than the other, was evidently a mature female with head and neck very much whiter than those of the other bird ; the second, which was diving repeatedly under a bank, was of much more dusky plumage, and as it had a tail distinctly pointed and rather longer than that of the female, was presumably a young male.

Mr. T. A. Coward, who saw the birds on December 10th had an excellent view of both, and is of the opinion that they were of the sexes suggested.

The Long-tailed Duck is very rarely seen on inland Cheshire waters ; in fact, the only previous record of which I am aware was of one on Marbury Mere—a neighbouring piece of water (*cf.* T. A. Coward, *British Birds*, Vol. IV., p. 219).

A. W. BOYD.

#### RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS OFF ANGLESEY IN APRIL AND PUFFIN BREEDING ON SKERRIES.

ON April 27th, 1913, I identified four male and five female Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*) on the sea off Penrhos beach near Holyhead.

With regard to the statement in the *Fauna of North Wales* (p. 403), that the Puffin (*Fratercula a. grabæ*) does not now breed on the Skerries, it is worth recording that, on June 18th, 1911, my friend Mr. W. Glynne Edwards, of Holyhead, showed me two Puffin's eggs, which he had taken on the Skerries two days previously.

Mr. H. E. Forrest informs me he overlooked the above notes when compiling his *Handbook to the Fauna of North Wales*.

GEO. R. HUMPHREYS.

## LITTLE AUK IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE passing so far inland as the south-west corner of Buckinghamshire of a Little Auk (*Alle alle*) is a sufficiently uncommon occurrence to merit putting on record. On December 8th, 1919, when standing close to my house (Poynetts, Skirmett), a bird which at the moment I took for granted was merely a Starling, appeared from behind some trees, 150 yards or less away. My attention was, however, immediately caught by the totally different flight from that of a Starling (or I believe to any passerine bird), whose flight may be described as "flickering"—the wings only occasionally showing below the belly line, and then only slightly, whereas this bird flew with its wings "flapping" every stroke to their full extent far below the body; and it was distinctly larger than a Starling. A Little Auk being one of the last birds one would expect here, it was not until it came close and passed me at a distance of under thirty yards that I was certain of my identification, for although many years ago I became very familiar with the species in Spitsbergen (and have skins in the adjoining room), I do not recollect ever seeing one in this country, and certainly none in this county (Bucks.), in which the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain tells me this is the seventh recorded example.

As it passed, its underside momentarily caught the light (on a grey, dark day, at 3 p.m.), and showed white inclusive of the throat which is black in summer. It was flying very slightly (perhaps a point) N. of W., a course which would lead it ultimately, if its strength held out, to the mouth of the Severn, somewhere probably in the Chepstow direction. From the fact that Little Auks, when met with inland, are generally picked up by hand in a moribund condition, it seems as if they could not feed in fresh water, and I have no recollection of ever reading of any example seen swimming in a river or other sheet of fresh water, and should be interested to learn whether this is so.

ALFRED HENEAGE COCKS.

ADOPTING OF YOUNG BY CARRION-CROWS.—Mr. H. S. Gladstone records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 166) that his keepers shot no less than four adult *Corvus c. corone* within three days and a fifth a week afterwards at a nest containing two young.

PIED FLYCATCHER AND GARDEN-WARBLER BREEDING IN ROSS-SHIRE.—Mr. D. J. Balfour Kirke records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 194) that he watched a Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa*

*h. hypoleuca*) and found its nest in the parish of Contin, east Ross-shire in May 1919. The bird has not hitherto been found breeding north of Inverness-shire in Scotland. Mr. Kirke also makes the equally interesting announcement (*loc. cit.*) that he found the Garden-Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) nesting in the same parish in May 1919. He had seen the bird and heard it singing in the previous summer, but failed to find the nest. In 1919 the bird returned and Mr. Kirke found the nest on May 24th, while on the 29th it had four eggs. The Garden Warbler was not previously known to breed north of south Perthshire.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE IN ESSEX.—Mr. William E. Glegg writes: "On December 25th, 1919, I identified a Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius e. excubitor*) in Epping Forest, Essex. The bird was boldly perched on the highest twig of a tree, and gave me plenty of time to get my binoculars on to it." On January 11th, 1920, Mr. Glegg saw probably the same bird at the same place.

FULMAR PETREL BREEDING OFF NORTH UIST.—Sir Arthur J. Campbell Orde records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 166) that *Fulmarus g. glacialis*, which has been extending its range so much of recent years, bred in 1919 on the Haskier Rocks, eight miles north-west of Griminish Point, N. Uist. This is a new locality. Four nests were found.

COMMON REDSHANK BREEDING IN OUTER HEBRIDES.—In discussing the status of *Tringa totanus* in the Outer Hebrides, Mr. F. S. Beveridge states (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 186): "From personal experience *T. totanus* is found to be common and resident, though breeding in no great numbers." This applies especially to Benbecula, North and South Uist, and Mr. Beveridge thinks it may be scarcer in Lewis, Harris and Barra.

### LETTER.

THE AUTHORSHIP OF [SIR] CHARLES HASTINGS'  
"ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE NATURAL HISTORY  
OF WORCESTERSHIRE" . . . LONDON . . . 1834.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—I possess a copy of this book annotated, about 1855, by a former owner, Edwin Lees, the well-known Worcestershire botanist (Mullens and Kirke Swann's *Bibliography of British Birds*, p. 346), who was honorary curator of the Worcestershire Natural History Society's Museum, a member of the Zoological Committee, and secretary to the Meteorological Committee.

My copy is of interest since the annotations go to prove that Edwin Lees wrote the greater part of the book; as the following notes will

show. On the title-page he has written: "With additional Notes by Edwin Lees, Co-Editor of the work." On p. 13 at the third paragraph, he has inserted this note: "Here commence those Illustrations of the Natural History of Worcestershire, the greater part of which were written by myself, E. Lees." He claims the authorship of pp. 37-47 and he notes that from the second paragraph of p. 56 to p. 84 is: "with the exception of one paragraph, entirely my own contribution," and this fact is the more interesting since these pages comprise the ornithology of the county. Again, he claims pp. 86-88 and on p. 90 writes: "The greater part of this sketch of the Geology of Worcestershire was drawn up by me and therefore I must be answerable for such errors as occur." He claims pp. 98-109, part of p. 121 and he states as regards the "catalogue of some of the rarer lepidopterous insects found in Worcestershire" (pp. 136-146, which it must be noticed is acknowledged as the work of Mr. Lees), that he compiled this list "partly from observation, but with great assistance from the beautiful cabinet of Lepidoptera collected by Mr. Abraham Edmunds." Of the "Catalogue of the most remarkable and interesting plants" (pp. 147-180) he observes: "Though not so stated, this account of the rarer plants indigenous to Worcestershire was drawn out entirely by myself. A few plants were contributed by Dr. Streeten of Worcester to the list." Finally he claims the list of "Mineral productions of Worcestershire" (pp. 181-184) as his work.

Thus it will be seen that Edwin Lees claims the authorship of nearly three-fifths of the 184 pages of the book. As regards the map—of which [Sir] Charles Hastings says he is "indebted to the exertions of Mr. Lees, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Strickland"—Edwin Lees notes: "the Rev. Thomas Pearson rector of Great Witley is here alluded to. But although Mr. Pearson sent a paper on the Mineralogy of Witley Parish to the Worcestershire Nat. Hist. Soc., he had in fact nothing to do with the Geological map."

The most interesting point, however, is the fact that Edwin Lees appears to have been responsible for the ornithological portion of the book (pp. 62-72) whereas this has been attributed to E. Brown (Mullens and Kirke Swann's *Bibliography of British Birds*, p. 284). The late Mr. R. F. Tomes, in the *Victoria History of the County of Worcestershire*, Vol. I. (1901), p. 142, states that the *Illustrations of the Natural History of Worcestershire* was "prepared under the auspices of a great authority, H. E. Strickland, and contributed to by Mrs. Perrott," and he adds that "a list of the birds of the Malvern District, by Edwin Lees, appeared in the *Trans. Malv. Nat. Field Club* 1870, but the record is not very satisfactory."

The annotations, made in my copy, by Edwin Lees contain nothing of any ornithological importance except a note concerning Mrs. C. E. L. Perrott of the Chantry, Fladbury, who died on August 21st, 1836, and about whose "elephant folio"—*A Selection of British Birds frequenting Worcestershire and the adjoining counties*—there seems considerable doubt (Mullens and Kirke Swann's *Bibliography of British Birds*, pp. 469-470). Lees's note is as follows: "This lady, Mrs. George Perrott, afterwards came to reside in Worcester, where she died about 1836. She was an ardent, intelligent woman and had drawn a great number of British Birds in water-colours. These she intended to have engraved and published, but only one number in folio ever came out." The last words of this note are interesting as stating definitely that only one part of this lady's book was ever published.

CAPENOCH, *Jan.*, 1920.

HUGH S. GLADSTONE.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS,

which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND

**FOR SALE** ABOUT 300 ARCTIC STUFFED BIRD-SKINS  
*Fifty different species (many rare) in summer or eclipse plumage, and young.* Price £75

G. DINESEN, Bird-Collector,  
DANEBROGSGADE 8, COPENHAGEN, B, DENMARK.

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts.  
ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

# JOHN WHELDON & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

To be completed in 4 Parts, Part III. now ready. Issue limited to 200 copies, of which 100 are for sale. 8vo, wrappers.  
Price 4s. net each part

## A SYNOPTICAL LIST OF THE **ACCIPITRES** OR DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

PART III. (Herpetotheres to Pernis)

BY

H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.

Comprising a list of species and subspecies described up to 1910, with a full key to the distinguishing characters of the genera, species and subspecies and the distribution of each form.

Now Ready.

Price 1s. net.

## HINTS ON PRESERVING & MOUNTING BIRDS

By J. R. CHARNLEY.

A most useful book for the Naturalist or Sportsman, including Hints for the Field, Outfit, Skinning, Stuffing and Mounting, Casing.

**ILLUSTRATIONS TO THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA**, a series of original and authoritative plates by H. GRÖNVOLD, illustrating typical species, intended to accompany "a List of the Birds of South America," by the late Lord Brabourne and Charles Chubb (1913), now complete in 6 parts: containing 38 hand-coloured plates, price £5 net. Price of Vol. I. (List), 21s. net, together £6 net.

**ROTHSCHILD** (Lord) Avifauna of Laysan and the neighbouring Islands, with a complete history of the Birds of the Hawaiian possessions, numerous col. pl., complete in 3 pts., folio, as issued, £12 12s. 1893-1900

— Do., bound in 1 vol., new art linen, £13 5s.

### WORKS BY THE LATE H. E. DRESSER.

**History of the Birds of Europe**, including all the species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region, with 633 beautifully executed hand-coloured plates by Joseph Wolf, J. G. Keulemans and E. Neale, also the SUPPLEMENT, with 89 additional coloured plates, together 9 vols., roy. 4to, new half green morocco gilt, red cloth gilt, 278. 1871-96

— Do., complete in original parts, with SUPPLEMENT, £60.

— Do., SUPPLEMENT only, with 89 additional coloured plates, in 9 pts., roy. 4to (only a few copies for sale), £9 9s. net. 1895-96

**Eggs of the Birds of Europe (and the British Isles)** including all the species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Area, 2 vols., complete in 24 original parts, 4to, with 106 coloured plates of nearly 2,000 figs., £9 9s. net (pub. £12 12s. net).

— Do., the 24 parts bound in 2 vols., 4to, new red cloth gilt, gilt tops, £10 10s.

**Monograph of the Meropidæ, or Family of Bee-eaters**, with 34 finely hand-coloured plates, imp. 4to, in parts (pub. £5 5s. net) £4 10s. 1884-6

**Monograph of the Coraciidæ, or Family of the Rollers**, with 27 finely hand-coloured plates, imp. 4to, cloth (pub. £5 net) £4 10s. 1893

**Manual of Palearctic Birds**, in 2 parts, roy. 8vo, special thin paper edition adapted for travellers and field naturalists, 30s. net. 1902-3

— Do., ordinary thick paper edition, 2 parts, roy. 8vo, 25s. net.

London: JOHN WHELDON & CO., 38, Great Queen Street, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.



birds

# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

MARCH 1.  
1920.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 10.



British Institute  
March 17 1920  
The British Museum

MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

**Bound copies Vol. I. (Passeres) ready April.**

# A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS.

Edited by H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

Contributors:—E. HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S. ANNIE C. JACKSON,  
H.M.B.O.U. Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U. C. OLDHAM,  
F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

Specially arranged for quick reference. Distinguishing characters simplifying identification, full description of all plumages. Breeding habits (nest, eggs, season, incubation, etc.). Food. Distribution and Migration.

WITH COLOURED AND  
MONOCHROME PLATES  
AND  
NUMEROUS TEXT FIGURES.



PARTS 1 TO 6 NOW READY.

PRACTICAL. ORIGINAL.

UP-TO-DATE.

Demy 8vo. **4s.** net per part. (Special Edition Printed on India Paper. Price 5s. net per part.)

## The Bird-lover's Home-life Series.

Each Volume contains 32 beautiful plates, artistically mounted, from PHOTOGRAPHS DIRECT FROM NATURE, with 40-60 pages of letterpress. **Crown 4to. Cloth 7s. 6d. net each.** Special Edition, bound half-leather, 10s. 6d. net each.

No. 1. The Home-life of a Golden Eagle.

No. 2. The Home-life of the Spoonbill, the Stork and some Herons.

No. 3. The Home-life of the Osprey.

No. 4. The Home-life of the Terns or Sea-Swallows.

---

### A HANDBOOK TO THE VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF NORTH WALES By H. E. FORREST.

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district. Just the information required by the Naturalist resident in or visiting North Wales is thus provided in a concise form.

Demy 8vo.

Cloth.

**6s.** net.

WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn, W.C.1.

A detailed black and white illustration of a tree trunk. A rectangular birdhouse is mounted on the trunk, featuring a circular entrance hole and a small square window at the top. A bird is perched on the right side of the birdhouse. The tree trunk is textured with fine lines, and a branch with leaves extends from the top right.

New and Revised Edition.

HOW TO  
**ATTRACT**  
AND  
**PROTECT**  
**WILD BIRDS**

A FULL DESCRIPTION OF  
SUCCESSFUL METHODS.  
WITH MANY ILLUSTRATIONS.

STIFF BOARDS, 1s. 6d. NET.  
(Postage, 3d. extra.)

H.

[See over

LONDON · WITHERBY & CO

TO ALL LOVERS OF WILD BIRDS  
THIS BOOK WILL APPEAL.

---



# HOW TO ATTRACT AND PROTECT WILD BIRDS.

By MARTIN HIESEMANN.

With an Introduction by

Her Grace the DUCHESS of BEDFORD

---

New and Revised Edition.

Many Illustrations. Stiff Boards, 1s. 6d. net.

(By Post 1s. 9d.)

---

NESTING-BOXES  
FOR  
WILD BIRDS.

It is a practical guide for all who wish to attract the birds to their doors and induce them to nest in their gardens, whether large or small,

The methods described are simple but efficient. They are the outcome of a lifetime of study and experiment by one of the greatest of bird-lovers—the Baron von Berlepsch.

It shows that these birds are most useful in keeping down the insect pests which are so harmful to trees and shrubs.

In this connection also the attention of Municipal and Urban Councils may be drawn to the advantages which would accrue to trees and plants from the use of nesting boxes for birds in Public Parks and Open Spaces.

---

London: WITHERBY & CO., 326, High Holborn,

AND OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 10, VOL. XIII. MARCH 1, 1920.

	PAGE
Ornithological Notes from Norfolk for 1919. Twenty-sixth Annual Report. By J. H. Gurney ... ..	250
On Some Results of Ringing Certain Species of Birds. By H. F. Witherby ... ..	269
Notes :—	
Notes from Cornwall (P. D. Williams) ... ..	272
Tawny Pipit and Black-winged Stilt in Kent (W. H. Mullens)	272
Long-tailed Titmouse nesting in Anglesey (G. R. Humphreys)	272
Strange Nesting-place of Coal-Tit (J. H. Crow) ... ..	273
Blackbird laying Seven Eggs (N. F. Ticehurst) ... ..	274
Black Redstarts in Cornwall and Isle of Wight (H. G. Alexander) ... ..	274
Little Owls in Cardiganshire, Cornwall and Montgomeryshire (W. Miall Jones, T. V. Hodgson) ... ..	274
Dark-breasted Barn-Owl in Kent (N. F. Ticehurst) ... ..	275
Goosander in co. Galway (G. R. Humphreys) ... ..	275
Habits of Little Auk inland (H. G. Alexander) ... ..	275
Short Notes :—	
Large Numbers of Bramblings in Worcestershire. Siskins numerous in Somerset. Little Bustard in Cornwall, ... ..	276
Letter :—	
Status of Goldfinch in Yorkshire ... ..	276

## ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM NORFOLK FOR 1919.

26TH ANNUAL REPORT.

BY

J. H. GURNEY. F.Z.S.

IN presenting the report for the county of Norfolk for 1919, I have again to thank all those friends who have so kindly assisted with notes, and especially Mr. G. H. Caton-Haigh for observations made in north Lincolnshire—always very instructive for comparison.

*The Spring Migration.*—On May 6th and 7th there seems to have been a movement of importance. Mr. R. Pinchen remarked many Whimbrels and Knots, and on the 7th, a very cold day with high wind from E.S.E. (force 5), he also noticed many Warblers in the bushes along the shore, which he had no means of identifying. There was nothing else particular, except the usual vernal exodus of Rooks and Crows. This emigration has for a number of years attracted attention, and many have been the speculations as to where these departing Rooks are bound for.\* Heinrich Gätke, the Heligoland naturalist, writing a few years before his death, remarks (*in litt.*) that many Rooks and Crows must go due east from Norfolk, because they arrive in Heligoland from due west in the spring, and pass on due east. So far we have Gätke's evidence, but this would not account for the goal to which all are bound. Some of the Rooks are journeying to Denmark, but where they ultimately make land must depend, I think, very much on the influence of the wind, which I believe to be a principal factor in determining both their speed and their direction.

*The Autumn Migration.*—The principal autumnal influx calling for remark was that of the Curlew-Sandpipers in September, as recorded by the Duchess of Bedford and others, but the presence of so many Black Terns and Sandwich Terns on the coast also decidedly demands notice. Strange to say, in north Lincolnshire Mr. Caton-Haigh found both Terns and Curlew-Sandpipers to be exceptionally scarce. The causes which make these and other shore-birds common one year and scarce the next, are very obscure; some one species is generally in the ascendant, but for what reason is unknown

\* It is interesting to learn that a similar movement of *Corvidæ* takes place in March on the coast of China (*Ibis*, 1914, pp. 566, 567).

to us. From an observer who is situated some way to the south of Happisburgh, I learn that October 8th-12th were days of migration, especially with the Lapwings, which coincides with a very large inrush of this species registered by Mr. Caton-Haigh in north Lincolnshire. On October 8th Dr. B. B. Riviere also remarked Lapwings coasting westwards, and again on the 18th he was witness to a huge passage of this species, in which Starlings and Sky-Larks also participated.

Allusion has been made to the spring emigration of Rooks, and there was the customary return immigration in October. At that season it is a common event to find a drowned Rook or two lying dead on the shore, but in 1919 they underwent a disaster of unusual magnitude, of which more presently. It certainly is curious that Rooks and Crows, and smaller birds too, should leave the other side of the North Sea, where they know that they are safe, with the prospect of rough weather, but the migratory instinct which impels them to go forward, is supreme, and at all risks the journey has to be continued. The theory that they start when the weather is fine is not tenable, for foul weather does not spring up at an hour's notice, and on the present occasion it had been going on for some days, therefore the Rooks must have been well aware of the conditions under which they were going to cross the North Sea. If they waited for a favourable day they could easily do the hundred miles or so which lie between Norfolk and Holland in three or four hours, but with bad weather it would naturally take longer, and be far more dangerous. During September Skipper Albert Dawson had some experience with migrants at sea, which although not unusual, may be worth relating. According to my journal there was not much wind, but he reports the weather at sea as having been at the time very hazy. His steam-trawler was about 200 miles E.N.E. of the Inner Dowsing light-vessel on September 23rd, 24th, and 25th; on which days about a hundred birds settled on the vessel, seeming to Dawson to come from the west. The birds were Linnets, Starlings, Tomtits, Blackcaps (or possibly Great Tits) Pigeons, and others which he did not know. I wish he had brought a few wings back with him.

*The Effect of Wind on Migration.*—The more the advent of autumnal flights of migratory birds is studied on the east coast, the more convinced one becomes that wind is a prime agent. There are several factors in birds' movements which are not always taken into consideration, and one is this: there is not infrequently an upper and a lower stratum of

wind going on at the same time, a circumstance often observable on the coast, but less usual inland. These two currents are seldom opposed to one another, but the careful watcher of the clouds can frequently perceive a difference amounting to several points of the compass between them. It follows that migrants which have come over the sea with the upper current, and on approaching land lowered their altitude, will somewhat alter their direction of flight to suit the lower current, in which they now find themselves.

Again it has to be borne in mind that it is not so much the state of the wind when a rare migrant happens to be shot, that is important, but its direction on the night preceding that event, when the bird, in all probability, made land, for nineteen-twentieths of our autumn migrants arrive before dawn. If a thick fog comes on, those which are caught in it make little effort to proceed and generally descend upon the first object in the least degree suitable to their requirements, which accounts for the unlikely places in which they are occasionally found.

*Sea-birds destroyed by "Tar."*—Mr. R. J. Pinchen writes, under date of November 7th: "I have seen a lot of Divers washed ashore, most of them covered with what looks like tar. This tar is all along the high-water mark. I have picked up Red-throated Divers and Black-throated Divers, and have seen lots of Razorbills, Guillemots, one Puffin, one Little Auk, and a speckled Gannet, which was partly covered with tar but still alive. Some Gulls were flying about with tar on them. . . . It was 29th October when I saw most of the Divers, and the Gannet." Now that the war is over one had hoped that this horrible compound would have disappeared. This Little Auk is the only one of that species reported.

*Effect of the War on Birds.*—More than one author has expressed an opinion that during the four years of war, birds of passage did not take their customary routes,\* but this theory is not borne out by any observations made in Norfolk or Suffolk. There is no doubt that birds of prey benefited by the war, inasmuch as they escaped persecution, as is shown in a marked manner by the hovering Kestrel, the surprising increase of which was doubtless ascribable to the absence of gamekeepers. There ought to be a corresponding diminution of fieldmice, and certainly I have never seen fewer mice in the stacks when threshing, but moles are more abundant than ever. Rats moderately numerous. Whether

\* See *Birds and the War*, by H. S. Gladstone, Ch. IV.



the superfluity of Jays is due to the same cause I must leave open, but there is no doubt about their having been very abundant during 1918 and 1919, not only as autumn and winter migrants, but as breeders, in all parts of the county.

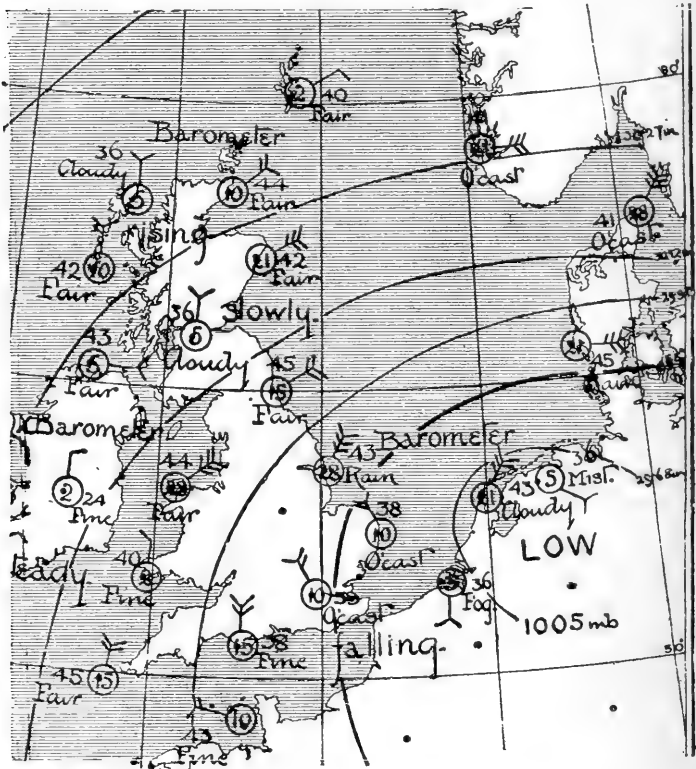
## CLASSIFIED NOTES.

ROOK (*Corvus f. frugilegus*).

*Disaster to Rooks on Migration.*—As usual, the annual influx of Rooks set in at the end of October. On October 23rd scattered parties flew over or past Mr. H. Halls, who happened to be fishing off Cromer, but no flock exceeded eighty birds, and probably at that date they all crossed in safety. On the same day Rooks and Starlings were observed at Blakeney by Dr. Riviere passing west for several hours, while others kept coming off the sea. On the 24th the passage continued at Wells, and on the 30th at Cromer, where Mr. Henry Cole counted 120 traverse a given spot in fifteen minutes. Meanwhile the wind had been very high, and any birds crossing the sea could not but be hard put to it. On October 28th it blew strong from the north with hail showers, while on the 29th it was from east-north-east, and had scarcely moderated at all, being still at force 5. On the 30th the depression was at its maximum, the barometer went down, a gale blowing from east-south-east, which at Gorleston and Great Yarmouth mounted up to force 8 (Beaufort), but it was not so much as that inland. Such weather coming at a critical time of migration was pretty sure to prove fatal to a good many thousands of migrants, but it was the Rooks which apparently suffered more than any other species on this occasion. On November 1st and following days lengthy reaches of the shore, both on the Norfolk and north Suffolk coast, were seen to be dotted at intervals with drowned Rooks, in some places only a few, in others a good many. It would be more correct to say the remains of Rooks, for Grey Crows, Gulls and other marauders found them out before many hours were passed, and quickly reduced them to a skeleton and a pair of glossy wings.

Mr. W. G. Clarke, who happened to be at Sheringham on November 2nd, reckoned that there must have been some hundred Rooks lying at or near that place, and not a single entire bird among them; a lady who was with him counted some of them, making an average of about twenty-four between each pair of groynes, inclusive of a few mutilated Grey Crows. At Cromer Mr. Cole found twenty Rooks and two or three Grey Crows in little over a mile. At Blakeney

Mr. Pinchen noticed several, but did not count. At Mundesley Miss Woods reports a considerable number, and at Eccles Mr. Robert Gurney totalled up twenty-four. At Lowestoft Mr. F. C. Cook discovered several on the sand, and at



WEATHER CHART FOR MORNING OF OCTOBER 29TH, 1919.

The arrows show the direction of the wind, whose force is indicated by the number of "feathers" on the arrow. The figures in small circles show the mean velocity of the wind in miles per hour.

Yarmouth Mr. Arthur Patterson and Mr. Dye saw fifteen on the south beach, and there were still more on the north beach. Moreover, Mr. Patterson was informed of a considerable number at Southwold in Suffolk, but whether the mortality extended farther south than that, we do not know.



that the dead Rooks and Crows which are washed up on occasions such as this are not a tithe of what fall into the sea, while it is hopeless to conjecture how many hundreds of thousands of Finches, Redwings, Goldcrests and Larks may perish without anyone being the wiser.\*

MAGPIE (*Pica p. pica*).

A Magpie seen by Mr. W. G. Clarke at Tilney All Saints, on July 2nd, must have been a breeder, but others reported at Hackford and Reepham during the autumn were migrants, as also a couple at Great Melton in December. Before the war they were almost extinct in Norfolk, where seventy years ago they were common, yet as recently as 1875 I can remember counting seven on a hedge near the sea, and on another occasion in June a family party of six.

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*).

The Duchess of Bedford reports a great many on Wiveton marshes on September 1st, flocks of from five to twenty rising out of every clump of thistles, which is unusual for Norfolk.

LESSER REDPOLL (*Carduelis l. cabaret*).

This little finch seems to hold its own, particularly in the vicinity of the Broads, where it is found to be very partial to the bushes of sweet-gale, which grow luxuriantly. It is sometimes paired by the middle of January, but does not go to nest before April. At Horsey Redpolls use for lining what I have heard the marshmen call the fane of the gladden, but perhaps it is in some cases cotton-grass. A nest in a sallow examined on June 14th was beautifully lined with white down, no doubt stripped from the catkins which were growing hard by.

ORTOLAN BUNTING (*Emberiza hortulana*).

October 19th, W., I. Three seen on Lowestoft denes by Mr. F. C. Cook and two the following day by another observer at a locality farther north, were sufficient to mark a migration of this Bunting, no longer regarded as very rare on the east coast. The Ortolan has always visited Heligoland in large numbers, so why so much doubt should formerly have been thrown on British occurrences is not very plain.

TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus campestris*).

Mr. Cook believes that he identified an example of this

\* Birds of prey are sometimes victims; on September 24th, 1881, Mr. Patterson came across three Honey-Buzzards, several Sparrow-Hawks, and a Harrier. No dead Hawks were reported in 1919.

occasional visitant—always much rarer than Richard's Pipit—on the denes at Lowestoft on October 19th. There had been a gentle breeze from the west, but nothing unusual to account for its presence. There have been only three previous occurrences of the Tawny Pipit, viz., on September 2nd, 1889, October 9th, 1897, and September 15th, 1910.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla f. rayi*).

This Wagtail which was on Salthouse marshes in large numbers in the first week of September, had left by the 14th (Duchess of Bedford). We had, as usual, one nest at Keswick, which held six eggs on May 18th.

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla a. lugubris*).

On May 11th a Pied Wagtail's nest, with five eggs, was located on the same ivy wall where this species has been so often victimized by Cuckoos before. On the 14th a Cuckoo was seen near the ivy, and on the 22nd three of the Wagtail's eggs had gone, while some Cuckoo's feathers at the foot of the wall were an indication of a struggle having taken place. The next day the nest was forsaken, but the Wagtails soon consoled themselves with a fresh one, in which the Cuckoo deposited her egg on June 4th. On June 8th Dr. Riviere heard a Cuckoo calling in a garden in the middle of Norwich.

One of the few varieties announced this year was a white example of the Pied Wagtail reported by Mr. Arthur Patterson to be on Thrigby Charity Farm on March 7th.

GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN (*Regulus r. anglorum*).

The Goldcrest is on the way to recover its numbers, and once again its hemi-spherical nest is to be seen in our gardens. The fabric must needs be strong, for it has to hold the young ones until they have grown altogether too big for comfort. The top nestlings complacently sit on those underneath, which must be wellnigh smothered, and if the wind happens to get up, the whole party sway to and fro, but none ever fall out. Tightly fitted, every portion of the structure must at the same time possess great elasticity. To this end lichen is employed, and plenty of small feathers for the lining.

BEARDED TITMOUSE (*Panurus b. biarmicus*).

The first nest was found on April 8th, I am told, for I did not see it. On May 2nd Dr. Long observed a female with insects in her bill, and on the 14th young ones were clinging to the reeds, but were not yet catering for themselves.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius e. excubitor*).

On October 23rd Mr. H. Wormald saw a Grey Shrike at Dereham, which had just killed a Bullfinch, and on November 17th Mr. Dye reports another taken in a clap-net by a bird-catcher.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*Lanius collurio*).

In August Dr. Long found two pairs, both with young, at Palling, but adds that with the exception of another pair at Loddon, these were the only ones which came under his notice. The favourite food of Shrikes seems to be bumble-bees, and generally females, which I am informed are slower on the wing, and easier of capture than the males; but this is not specially mentioned in Mr. Owen's article (*British Birds*, X., p. 175). On July 20th a Shrike was seen flying away with a young Sparrow (G. Winter).

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa p. parva*).

As already announced (*British Birds*, p. 218) a young male occurred to Dr. Riviere on October 8th after a moderate gale the night before from E.N.E., registered as force 4. Previous captures have generally been with easterly winds also.

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (*Locustella n. naevia*).

Had arrived at the Broads on April 18th, and was still reeling on June 14th. The distribution of this secretive little songster is peculiar. Last year Mr. N. Tracy met with a pair at Brundall, and another pair near Surlingham Ferry. While this summer, on April 19th, he again heard as many as five or six at the same place, probably fresh arrivals in full song. He has noticed that they are fond of singing in the early morning up to 6 a.m. and again in the evening before dusk. In the autumn a few sometimes pass along the coast, where one was identified by the Duchess of Bedford on September 13th.

RING-OUZEL (*Turdus t. torquatus*).

Some reported to Mr. R. Gurney near Ingham in November, and one seen by Dr. Riviere at Dunston on December 14th, a date unprecedented for Norfolk. Nelson and Clarke, however, state that it has been several times obtained in mid-winter in Yorkshire. On October 24th Ring-Ouzels were passing at Cley.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phœnicurus o. gibraltariensis*).

The Black Redstart was first heard of on September 13th (F. J. Richards) and a couple of Bluethroats on the same day,

two more were seen on October 17th and six by Dr. Riviere on the 22nd—after fog—and 23rd, and another on November 8th.

CONTINENTAL HEDGE-SPARROW (*Prunella m. modularis*).

Obtained by Dr. Riviere at Blakeney Point on October 17th as recorded (*British Birds*, p. 218), wind north, 5.

BLACK-BELLIED DIPPER (*Cinclus c. cinclus*).

On November 5th a Dipper, no doubt of this race, was watched on the little River Tud at Costessey, and on the 12th the same, or another, was shot at Runham (E. C. Saunders), while on the 24th a third was seen by General Upcher on the little stream which runs from Fritton Lake.

HOOPOE (*Upupa e. epops*).

Mr. Pashley informs me that a Hoopoe was killed by a lad in a garden on October 28th—whether shot, or knocked over with a stick he does not say.

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*).

The Little Owl, which up to 1914 was confined to a few districts in the west of the county is quickly spreading throughout the whole of Norfolk. It was beginning to get very common in 1917 and 1918, but the records received from correspondents are now altogether too numerous to enumerate. There seems to be a prevailing prejudice against it, but the harm it does has been greatly exaggerated, in spite of what numerous letters to sporting papers may say to the contrary; at any rate, in the south of France it is not looked upon with disfavour, and the test of dissection is rather in its favour than otherwise.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio o. otus*).

On April 25th a Long-eared Owl sat unmoved on her eggs in a plantation at Calthorpe, while four members of the B.O.U. stood near and watched her, but the remarkable part of the proceeding was that the nest had been built in a perfectly leafless oak, and was therefore extremely conspicuous. On another tree near by was an old Wood-Pigeon's nest, and this had been used by the Owls as a convenient platform for food—a recently eaten Jay lay on it. On the same day we were shown a Long-eared Owl's nest on the ground with three eggs, but they were quite cold, and neither of the old birds was visible. Nidification of this species on the ground seems not to be unusual in marshy districts,

even though as in this case, the spot chosen for the eggs was a wood.

BARN-OWL (*Tyto a. alba*).

June 17th.—Young Barn-Owls hissing. I again found a mole eaten by them, and at another nest a large frog, in both cases there was not much left besides the skin and the head. The under-parts in an adult male Barn-Owl are pure white, while in the female they are invariably a little spotted, a distinction long ago pointed out by Mr. Gunn, but not generally recognized.

MERLIN (*Falco c. æsalon*).

With regard to other birds of prey, the increase of the Kestrel has been alluded to. Several Merlins were met with on the coast by the Duchess of Bedford and Dr. Riviere during the autumn. Various other Hawks were also viewed on passage, including a few Peregrines, Harriers, and five or six Rough-legged Buzzards in different places, but no Honey-Buzzards. Dr. Long watched an Osprey fishing. (See *British Birds*, XIII., p. 58.)

MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus æruginosus*).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER (*Circus pygargus*).

August 19th.—Met Miss Turner, who informed me that she had recently seen a black variety of Montagu's Harrier on one of the Broads. Many years ago a similar melanism was killed at Yarmouth, and is in the Museum. Mr. M. Birkbeck tells me that when on the Broads in June he was shown nests of Montagu's Harrier, and one Marsh-Harrier's, which contained eggs, fortunately under protection.

On May 14th Mr. Meade-Waldo and I saw an adult Marsh-Harrier quartering the marshes in somewhat dangerous proximity to a Bittern's nest, and as Miss Turner assures me that these Harriers will "mob" and fight with Bitterns, and possibly take the young ones, they must be regarded as enemies. Marsh-Harriers are also quite ready to "mob" a Heron, either in play, or perhaps to rob him of some fish.

SPOONBILL (*Platalea l. leucorodia*).

This year Breydon had only one visit from a Spoonbill, which came in on May 12th (B. Dye), the wind the preceding evening having been south (force 5). Another appeared on the Broads on May 23rd with a south-east wind, as reported by Miss Turner, and during the autumn there were one or two Spoonbills in the latter part of August on the flooded marshes at Salthouse (C. Borrer).



BITTERN (*Botaurus s. stellaris*).

*Habits in the Breeding-Season.*—As early as March 15th six Bitterns were reported to be booming, and that in a limited area, all males presumably, whose mates were engaged in choosing nesting-sites. Not long after Sir E. Gurney and Mr. Cator simultaneously announced three or four more on the smaller Broads connected with the Bure and the River Ant, while another made itself heard at Catfield, where Dr. Long subsequently ascertained that there were a pair.

Besides this, Bitterns were detected by their booming, if not actually seen, in at least two other places, so Norfolk had a liberal supply. None was shot, on the contrary, there was a general desire to protect them, nor to the best of my belief were any eggs or young ones taken, but in one nest the brood unfortunately died.

At Hoveton a pair were to be heard at frequent intervals up to the end of May, their booming being sometimes so loud and resonant as to be very unacceptable to light sleepers in the village hard by. By the 26th it was ceasing, though when on the Broad I could catch a faint "wumph," even at midday.

As regards breeding-habits, not much more remains to be said, after the long and accurate narratives which have been given by Miss Turner in *The Norwich Naturalists' Transactions* (Vol. X., p. 319) and *British Birds* (*antea*, pp. 5 and 34). But I should like to ask one question, and that is if anyone has discovered why the claw of the Bittern's middle toe is pectinated like a little saw? Herons have it also but in a less degree, and their claws are not so large. That it is given for a purpose seems pretty obvious, yet it is difficult to divine what that purpose can be. In one specimen there were twenty-four serrations, and in another Mr. Chasen counted twenty-nine; they can hardly be for grasping slippery fish, because the Bittern never holds fish in its feet, but they may facilitate the clutching of reeds, which Bitterns love to bend and perch on, and for the same reason the hind claw is enormously developed. Five eggs would seem to be the Bittern's normal clutch, although Dr. Long and Mr. R. Gurney were fortunate enough to see a nest with six at Somerton; but five is the complement, and that was the number of young ones in a nest which was inspected on April 26th. The nest is at first about sixteen inches by fourteen in diameter, but after the young ones have made a platform of it, it naturally becomes a little wider. Its composition

of the broken pieces of *Stirpus lacustris* has already been described, and good photographs published.

These youngsters as usual, varied in size, the largest being probably eight days and the smallest not more than two days old; indeed, the halves of the shell from which it had emerged were still lying on the nest. They were very much "alive," and when they heard footsteps approaching, became quite vociferous, but quieted down on perceiving that no food was forthcoming. To an onlooker their mouths seemed quite prodigious when opened to the fullest extent, so no wonder Bitterns are capable of bolting a fish three inches long when little more than a week old. This singular distension of the mandibles is shown in a photograph by Miss Turner—it gets less as they get older. Fear lest the old birds should desert prevented very close examination of the nest, but we did not fail to remark the young one's big feet and legs, which seem very much out of proportion to their meagre, attenuated bodies; we took note also of the tint of the skin, which was yellowish-pink. The eyes, which protrude rather unduly, may be called greyish-hazel, varying in some lights to yellow, but nothing is more difficult than to describe irides in living birds. In an adult Bittern they are normally yellow, but I have seen one in which they were red. I can testify to the eagerness of the larger nestlings which prevents the youngest of the family from always getting his share of the food, and consequently Miss Turner is of opinion that it rather often comes to grief. This, however, is a fate which befalls many birds that one could name.

The down with which these young Bitterns were clothed was long, soft, and tan-coloured; the chin and fore-neck were almost bare, and there were patches of uncovered skin. The legs, feet and cere I should call pale bluish, but the hue intensifies apparently, or varies as the Bittern gets older. As long as we remained near the nest the old bird kept about, but Bitterns are wary. The food given to the young is varied, sometimes it is a frog, sometimes an eel, but in the case of the nestlings here described, we afterwards ascertained that a part of it had consisted of water-beetles and marsh-gnats. If the gape be abnormally large so is the gullet, the one corresponds to the other. A full-grown Bittern would be able to swallow a water-rat, I should say, and the process of digestion is speedy.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*).

Dr. Long tells me that he saw some Garganeys on one of the Broads on April 7th, but none came my way. [A Norwich

fishmonger had one to sell on August 30th, locality uncertain or withheld.

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*).

On June 15th Mr. G. C. Davies saw a duck and drake Wigeon swimming with five or six young ones on a small Broad known as "Burnt Fen." The drake was still in good plumage, and the ducklings old enough to fly about fifteen yards at a time. On the 19th Dr. Long was only able to see the female, and four of the young ones, which by this time had become too wild to be approached very near. If there was no mistake in identification, this must be accepted as evidence of breeding, although Norfolk is out of the Wigeon's usual range.

SHOVELER (*Spatula clypeata*).

Seems to be steadily spreading. Several were seen at the Hempstead ponds in August and September, and others at Salthouse. A nest examined on April 19th contained eleven eggs, and another on the 26th had twelve. On April 22nd and again on May 13th, several were met with on Scoulton Mere, a locality where they have bred for nearly a hundred years. Eleven pairs seen at Hoveton on April 24th. Others reported from Breydon by Mr. Dye.

VELVET-SCOTER (*Oidemia f. fusca*).

On February 3rd Mr. Dye had an adult male Velvet-Scoter, shot on Breydon Water, and on the 10th he informs me of there being several hundred Common Scoters off Caister, diving near inshore. Mr. Patterson thinks they are in search of the horse mussel and radiated trough-shellfish, on which they no doubt feed. Mr. Doughty found two dead ones.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps c. cristatus*).

The first arrivals were reported on February 24th and 28th, and by March 5th there were seven, I am told, on one piece of water. Mr. Buxton knew of six nests on Fritton Lake, always a favourite haunt of this species, but believes the young ones were mostly taken by pike, which are great enemies to Grebes.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*).

On April 18th a friend sent word that there were two male and one female Black-necked Grebes on one of the Broads, but no visit could be paid before the 26th, by which time one of the trio had left. After some search the two remaining on the water were found near the reeds, but unfortunately

they had grown shy, and we afterwards heard that before the end of the month they took their departure, so no chance of a nest this year.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Colymbus immer*).

A fine specimen in winter plumage shot on Rockland Broad on December 10th contained in addition to small fish-bones, three pieces of dead reed and some small stones. The nails of the toes in this example, which has been added to Dr. Riviere's collection, were observed to be much worn down, as if from contact with some hard substance. *Colymbus immer* is much rarer in Norfolk than the Black-throated and Red-throated Divers, in fact, with one doubtful exception, none have been recorded in these Notes since 1901. The plumage of Divers' skins seems always to fade after a year or two, to a brown colour, however much they may be kept from the light.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Colymbus arcticus*).

On January 8th a Red-throated Diver appeared on the river at Reedham, and on the 22nd a Black-throated Diver (immature), on Barton Broad. Divers of both species were also picked up at Cley by Mr. Pinchen in October, which had met a horrible death from tar.

STONE-CURLEW (*Burhinus æ. œdicnemus*).

May 8th.—Two eggs at Drayton, where under the protection of the owner, a pair of Stone-Curlews have bred with remarkable constancy for quite a succession of years. When within about fifty yards of the nest the old bird slipped off without our perceiving it, but I could see her running like a hare through the bracken. Both she and her mate were much too cautious to betray themselves either by calling or by rising, and we soon lost sight of them. Several Stone-Curlews were seen by Mr. Halls at Santon Downham on April 18th.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*).

Was seen near Thetford as early as February 21st by Mr. W. G. Clarke. The first eggs were found on the coast by Mr. Pinchen on April 18th, and on May 14th there were young.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius apricarius*).

On July 25th a pair in breeding plumage were identified near the River Bure at Upton (Long). Although unusual, there are a few previous summer records, viz., July 26th, 1853, July 14th, 1896, July 25th, 1899, and July 23rd, 1900.

It is curious how close the dates run to one another. So far breeding has never been suspected.

GREY PLOVER (*Squatarola squatarola*).

During February Mr. Clifford Borrer saw a flock of thirty on the coast, an unusual gathering for these parts. There were fewer of them in the autumn, but the Duchess of Bedford noted a good number on October 13th, including one which was still in summer plumage.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).

May 14th.—Three Reeves on one of the Broads, not together, but about a mile apart, which seemed to be settling down. On the same day I observed a small flock of six Whimbrel about three miles from the sea.

CURLEW-SANDPIPER (*Erolia ferruginea*).

There seems to have been a very large migration of Curlew-Sandpipers to our coast in the first fortnight of September, at which time the Duchess of Bedford and Mr. Borrer repeatedly saw scores of them, not only near the sea, but on Salthouse marshes, where they quite outnumbered the Dunlins. The last recorded migration of this species in quantity was in 1887; it seems to be somewhat erratic in its movements.

LITTLE STINT (*Erolia m. minuta*).

The Duchess of Bedford saw two on September 14th, and on the 21st a flock of five, as well as another party of about eighteen, which were feeding with Dunlins.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*).

Reported at Salthouse the first week in August, which is early, one also identified near that place by the Duchess of Bedford on September 9th. Another by Dr. Riviere on Breydon Broad on October 2nd.

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*).

A nest was found at Hargham at the end of May by Sir Hugh Beever's keeper, a fairly substantial structure of larch needles, dried grass, and bents, intermingled as usual with oak-leaves. Unfortunately, a stoat sucked the eggs, but the nest and its broken contents were perfect enough to be given a place in the Museum. An interesting instance of a Woodcock's perching has been already recorded (*British Birds*, XIII., p. 142). The autumn and winter of 1919-20 has been exceptionally good for Woodcocks, whereas that of 1918-19 was very poor. One would think that the war must have been

a godsend to the Woodcocks, because it has kept such large numbers of shooters busy elsewhere.

BLACK TERN (*Hydrochelidon nigra*).

A principal feature of the coast migration during the first fortnight in September was the great number of Black Terns which frequented the vicinity of a small harbour, where they seem to have been quite exceptionally numerous. Mr. E. C. Arnold is of opinion that they arrived with a southerly wind; he saw them repeatedly, and might have counted fifty at least. They were also watched by others, and were noticed by the Duchess of Bedford about September 10th. From the observations of Mr. Richards, it seems that most of them took their departure with a north-east wind on the 13th.

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*).

COMMON TERN (*S. hirundo*).

On May 28th Mr. Pinchen considers that he identified three Roseate Terns and the same, or others, were subsequently seen by Mr. Ramm; indeed, it is quite possible that among the many eggs a clutch or two were theirs; there seems to be little doubt that we have a pair or two on the Norfolk coast nearly every year. How long Common Terns have nested at Blakeney Point, and whether *Sterna hirundo* has always been the species to be in the ascendancy as now, there is no means of ascertaining, but the settlement was known to my father in 1831, and is mentioned in Wood's *Naturalist* in 1838 (Vol. IV., p. 334).

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*).

A young one was sent up to Norwich on September 20th, perhaps the same reported to the Duchess of Bedford at Blakeney on the 12th. Mr. Pashley had another to stuff on November 1st. A year seldom passes without two or three turning up, but it has never been plentiful since 1870.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*).

*Scoulton Gullery*.—A special interest has always attached to Scoulton Gullery, as being the oldest nursery of its kind in the British Isles. It has had its vicissitudes, but there is no record of its having ever, even in the driest seasons, been forsaken for a single summer. In 1919 the Gulls showed up in considerably better strength than in some previous years, at all events they did so on May 13th, when Mr. W. H. St. Quintin and Mr. Meade-Waldo paid the island a visit. It was like Joseph Wolf's beautiful picture of a white cloud of birds rising on the wing when the "Pewits" were disturbed.

According to figures supplied to Mr. Robert Gurney by the agent of the estate, the number of eggs taken during the spring of 1919 had been 6,640, as against 6,888 in 1918, which is up to the average of recent years, but not above it. In 1860 it would appear from a memorandum of my father's, made after a visit to this Gullery, that the total picked up was in round numbers 16,000.

While we may accept all this, the figures offered by Richard Lubbock, when writing in 1844 or 1845, are much less easy to credit. The then keeper of the mere told him that at that time an average season at Scoulton would produce more than 30,000 eggs, and that in 1839 or thereabouts no less than 44,000 had been taken.\* These are statements which have been copied, without challenge, and the question is, are they credible?

It is true that Lubbock, when he says "the Gulls are indeed in myriads," uses an expression which would not be applicable now, and which implies that they were once much more numerous. If they were so, it can only be explained by supposing the unplanted part of the island, which is their breeding area, to have been much larger in 1839 than it is at the present time. The Rev. William Whitear, who was at Scoulton on May 17th, 1819, describes the island as principally covered with reeds,† but it is a tangle of alder bushes now.‡

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*).

HERRING-GULL (*L. argentatus*).

On July 15th a flock of about fifty Common Gulls passed over Northrepps, flying directly against the wind, which was N.N.W. This species is fairly abundant, but less numerous than *L. argentatus*. The small number of both which can be detected off Cromer in the spring and summer is as nothing compared to what are to be seen in autumn. When October comes round, there is a steady passage of Gulls—sometimes running into thousands—for the most part Herring-Gulls and Lesser Black-backs, and always in a direction against the wind. This does not appear to be a migration, but simply a movement of convenience, it being easier for the Gulls to go against the wind than with it, and as they cannot sit on the water all day, they must be on

\* Lubbock's *Fauna of Norfolk* (Southwell's edition, p. 172.)

† *Norwich Naturalists' Trans.*, III., 249.

‡ There is a complete list of all the British Gulleries of this species in the new number of *The Norwich Naturalists' Transactions*.

the wing and moving somewhere. After a good brisk gale from the west, they sometimes pass Cromer and Runton at the rate of three flocks in two minutes.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*).

October 14th.—One seen by the Duchess of Bedford, and six more reported to Mr. Borrer at the end of the month, all in the vicinity of the East Bar and adjoining harbour. On November 12th Mr. Pinchen saw three, perhaps the same.

POMATORHINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).

Two in immature plumage were received by Mr. Pashley on October 27th, and on the 29th a very fine adult was rather needlessly killed whilst standing on one leg on Wells salt-marsh, where I am informed by Mr. Goldie, it was trying ineffectually to gulp down a gar-fish, eleven inches long. The tail of the fish was still protruding when a man came on the scene and shot the Skua, which proved to be in a tarred and dirty condition, and as usual the two central tail-feathers were broken. The gar-fish was sent to the Museum, and its measurement confirmed.

COOT (*Fulica atra*).

February 24th.—Four hundred and thirty-two shot at a Coot-battue on the Broads, where, after being skinned, they are in request for eating. The Coot being much less active under water than the Grebe, is far more of a vegetarian than a fish-eater. It likes the succulent reeds, and again and again may be seen swimming about with pieces in its beak, which have been pulled up from far below the surface. Some of the reeds are eaten, others played with for a time and dropped, and remain floating. It is not the nature of the Coot to swallow the pieces under water; it prefers bringing them to the surface to be masticated, and consumed at leisure. In Switzerland Mr. Richard has observed that they are partial to *Elodea canadensis*, *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, *P. crispus* and *Najas major*. The stems of these species, he remarks, which have been torn up by the Coots, float adrift according to the wind, and sometimes accumulate in large parcels on the margin of a lake.\* Although the Coot is hardly quick enough to catch a fish, it no doubt eats spawn, but is said to be less destructive than the Wild Duck, and far less than the Mute Swan.

\* Nos Oiseaux, 1919, p. 246.



## ON SOME RESULTS OF RINGING CERTAIN SPECIES OF BIRDS.\*

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

THE following summaries of some of the results achieved by the British Birds Marking Scheme concern *chiefly* those species of birds of which comparatively few individuals have been recovered. Although it would be a great mistake to draw any very definite conclusions from such records, nevertheless it will be agreed that they are of great interest. Many of these summaries show that we cannot as a rule expect quick results from ringing birds, but they also show that an accumulation of such records would have immense value. For this reason I am certain that the scheme is well worth pursuing even with those species which have hitherto been least productive of results and I feel sure that all those interested in ringing will agree with this and will continue to ring as many birds as they possibly can.

In compiling these summaries I have to acknowledge great assistance from my former secretary Mrs. G. Birt, who has always taken the greatest trouble to keep the records carefully and has extracted and tabulated the recoveries upon which these summaries are based. Recoveries made a very short time after the birds were ringed and those which have no significance have been ignored in giving these results.

### GREENFINCH (*Chloris ch. chloris*).

#### RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Six ringed in Stirlingshire, one in Lancashire and one in Hampshire were recovered at or near the same place :—four in the following winter (Dec. to Feb.), one in January three and a half years after ringing, one in March two years after, one in May of the following year, one in May two years after, and one in August two years after ringing.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Staffordshire was recovered in the following April at Le Catelet, Aisne, France. One ringed in Stirlingshire was found near Aberdeen in December of the same year and one ringed in Lancashire was reported from Gloucestershire in October of the same year.

\* For previous summaries see Vol. VIII, pp. 209-218 (Black-headed Gull); Vol. X., pp. 215-220 (Song-Thrush, Blackbird, Lapwing, Woodcock).

## RINGED AS ADULTS.

*Recovered at home.*—Four ringed as adults in winter in Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Stirlingshire were recovered in the same place in the following winter. One ringed in Staffordshire in May was found at the same place in June of the following year and one ringed in Northumberland in April was found near the same place in the following February.

*Recovered away.*—None.

Three of the records point to breeding in the same locality as that in which the birds were hatched. Although there is a considerable majority of the records showing no movement it is evident that individuals do migrate and the bird recovered in Gloucestershire in October certainly shows true migration and not a movement influenced by severe weather.

LINNET (*Carduelis c. cannabina*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—One ringed in Lancashire was recovered at the same place in January of the following year, two others in October of the same year and others were reported two or three months after ringing.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed at Cheadle (Staffs.) was reported in the following September a little to the south-west at Wellington (Salop.) while another ringed at Limpsfield (Surrey) was found on the coast at Eastbourne in the following October. Three ringed in Warwickshire, Berkshire and Kent have been reported in the following October and November from south-west France, viz. Gironde, Landes and Basses Pyrénées.

## RINGED AS ADULTS.—None recovered.

These records show a more definite and perhaps more regular migration than in the case of the Greenfinch.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla c. cælebs*).

*Recovered at home.*—Five nestlings and twenty-two adults ringed from Devon to Stirlingshire have all been recovered where they were ringed. The nestlings were recovered between January and April in the following or second year. The adults ringed both in winter and summer were reported in all months from three months to three years after ringing.

*Recovered away.*—None.

SKY-LARK (*Alauda a. arvensis*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Although many Sky-Larks have been ringed, very few unfortunately have been reported as recovered.

All those reported were ringed as nestlings in Lancashire and were recovered in or near the place where ringed as follows: three in the following summer, two in summer two years afterwards, one in the following winter and three in the second winter.

*Recovered away.*—None.

MEADOW-PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*).

RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Three ringed in Lancashire and Yorkshire were reported in the following summer and two ringed in Lancashire and Wigtownshire were reported in summer two years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Yorkshire was recovered in Landes in October of the same year and another at Bordeaux in September of the same year, one ringed in Lancashire was found at Bayonne in October of the same year and another near Lisbon in February seven months after ringing.

It is to be noted that so far none has been reported in winter in the place where it was ringed and that all those recovered were ringed in northern counties. Those recovered away were all found on the south-west side of France and in Portugal.

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla a. lugubris*).

RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—One ringed in Berkshire and another in Hampshire were recovered in the place where ringed in the following February and two ringed in Lancashire were reported in or near the place where ringed in April and August of the following year.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Sussex was reported in the following October in Gironde and another in December in north-west Portugal, two ringed in Surrey were reported from Bordeaux the following October and Gironde in March, one ringed in Nottinghamshire was reported in Landes in the following November, one ringed in Staffordshire was recovered in north-west Portugal in the following January and one ringed in Perthshire was found in Asturias, north Spain, in January eighteen months after being ringed.

Those recovered away were thus all found in south-west France, north-west Spain and north-west Portugal.

(*To be continued.*)

# NOTES

## NOTES FROM CORNWALL.

THIS winter (1919-1920) has been remarkable for the large number of Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), evenly distributed through the county and about 30 per cent. above the average.

The very small arrival of Snipe (*Gallinago g. gallinago*) was probably accounted for by the very unusually low rainfall between May and November.

Starlings (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*) have been extremely scarce this winter. Twenty years ago, flocks were to be seen in every field and there were huge roosting places in many localities in Cornwall. To-day, one is not sure of seeing twenty Starlings on a motor trip of twenty miles in Cornwall! On the other hand, twenty years ago Starlings' nests were very unusual, while in the last few years there have been nests in most homesteads.

Long-tailed Tits (*Ægithalos c. roseus*) and Goldcrests (*Regulus r. anglorum*) are quite re-established.

P. D. WILLIAMS.

## TAWNY PIPIT AND BLACK-WINGED STILT IN KENT.

THE following were observed by Mr. M. J. Nicoll and myself: on May 16th, 1919, near Brookland, an adult Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), which we had under observation for over an hour; on May 28th, 1919, near Lydd, a Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*).

W. H. MULLENS.

## LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE NESTING IN ANGLESEY.

IN view of the absence of any breeding record for Anglesey of the Long-tailed Titmouse (*Ægithalos c. roseus*) (cf. *Fauna of North Wales* and *Handbook to Fauna of North Wales*) the following extract from my notes may be of interest:—On April 18th, 1903, I found a nest of this species containing four eggs, at Llanfair P.G. By April 24th the number of eggs had been increased to six, and incubation had commenced. The birds could hardly have chosen a more beautiful site for their lichen-covered nest, having selected a blackthorn which was in full blossom at the time of my second visit.

GEO. R. HUMPHREYS.

## STRANGE NESTING-PLACE OF COAL-TIT.

THE spiked iron object in the accompanying photograph was a disused gas-heating boiler or circulator used for greenhouses. The size can be judged by the length of the hammer. It was dumped on a gravel pathway close to the wooden greenhouse in a garden at Newbury, Berks. It will be seen that it had two pipes of small circumference



indicated by the points A and B. In the spring of 1919 a pair of Coal-Tits (*Parus a. britannicus*) used this boiler as a nesting-place and the young hatched out. The old birds were very tame and I watched them constantly taking in food. They went in and returned through the pipe A, the B pipe having been plugged to keep out vermin. I think one of the parent birds was killed, as the young were abandoned. We afterwards broke up the boiler and found the remains of six young.

J. H. CROW.

## BLACKBIRD LAYING SEVEN EGGS.

As there appear to be only two recorded instances of a Black-bird (*Turdus m. merula*) laying seven eggs, it seems worth recording that I found a nest containing this number of eggs at Ewhurst, Sussex, on May 24th, 1903.

N. F. TICEHURST.

## BLACK REDSTARTS IN CORNWALL AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

MR. BOYD'S notes from Cornwall (p. 217), suggest that it may be worth while recording some observations made by me on Black Redstarts (*Phœnicurus o. gibraltariensis*) in December 1913, and January 1914, on the Lizard peninsula. On most of the cliffs from Gunwalloe round to Ruan Minor I found Black Redstarts fairly abundant, and those I had under close observation seemed to keep strictly to their own patch of territory, just like other Chats and Warblers in the breeding-season. Some of the birds were in pairs. I wonder if it would be possible for any Cornish ornithologist to ascertain whether the same birds return to the same bit of cliff annually.

Perhaps I may also record a Black Redstart that I saw on April 8th, 1912, near St. Catherine's Lighthouse in the Isle of Wight.

H. G. ALEXANDER.

## LITTLE OWLS IN CARDIGANSHIRE, CORNWALL AND MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

A FRIEND of mine who was out ferreting at Llanon, Cardiganshire, about twelve miles to the south of Aberystwyth, on February 7th, 1920, was very surprised to see the ferret running out of a rabbit hole in alarm, with an Owl chasing it. When the Owl was flying away my friend shot it. I now send the bird, which is evidently a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*).

I noticed in *British Birds* (*antea*, p. 196) that a Little Owl was shot at Llanllugan, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, which is about forty miles to the N.E. of Llanon.

W. MIALL JONES.

With reference to the apparently recent extension of *Athene noctua* to Cornwall, Mr. T. V. Hodgson writes us that during December 1919 one was sent to the Plymouth Museum from St. Germans and another from Menheniot, near Liskeard, while a pair was also sent from Plympton (Devon).

Mr. W. H. F. Adams writes to the *Field* (January 10th, 1920, p. 34) from Carno that a Little Owl was shot there recently. Although the bird now breeds in the adjacent counties of

Radnorshire and Shropshire, we believe that it has not previously been recorded from Montgomeryshire.

#### DARK-BREASTED BARN-OWL IN KENT.

ON December 12th, 1919, Mr. E. Catt, of Iden, received a bird of this form (*Tyto a. guttata*) that had been found dead in a barn at Wittersham. Suspecting its identity he kindly sent it to me after he had stuffed it. I was able to compare it with an unusually dark bird of the white-breasted race. It was conspicuously darker, especially on the flanks and round the outer side of the orbital rings, also both in the ground-colour and grey mottlings of the upper-parts, while the grey bars on the tail and the spots on the inner webs of the primaries were replaced with black. N. F. TICEHURST.

#### GOOSANDER IN CO. GALWAY.

ON December 29th, 1919, I obtained a good view of an adult female Goosander (*Mergus m. merganser*), which was swimming about on Kylemore Middle Lake, co. Galway. The chestnut-coloured head and upper-neck, and slate-grey upper-parts caught my eye at once. As I watched the bird through the glasses I was impressed by the rapid way in which it moved along the surface of the water.

This would appear to be the first occurrence of the Goosander in Connemara. The late R. J. Ussher more than once remarked on the scarcity of the species in western Connaught, etc. (cf. *Birds of Ireland* and *Proc. R. Irish Acad.*, Vol. XXXI., part 20). GEO. R. HUMPHREYS.

#### HABITS OF LITTLE AUK INLAND.

IN view of Mr. Cocks's note on this subject, the following may be worth recording. On November 21st, 1910, by the River Cam, just below the boat-houses at Cambridge, I noticed several people apparently looking at something strange on the water. I could not see what they were looking at, until suddenly a bird—plainly one of the *Alcæ*—rose from the water and came rapidly past me, flying, I think, rather south of west, in the direction of Cambridge. It was so unexpected that I did not get a very good view of it. I thought it had a stout beak, and concluded it must have been a Razorbill, though it struck me as rather small. It was only when I discovered a few weeks later that there had been a "wreck" of the Little Auk (*Alle alle*) that I realized it must almost certainly have been of that species; but, as I had not recognized it at the time of seeing it, I did not record it.

H. G. ALEXANDER.

LARGE NUMBERS OF BRAMBLINGS IN WORCESTERSHIRE.—With reference to the notes already published (*antea*, pp. 194, 221), Mr. T. J. Beeston writes from near Kidderminster that Bramblings are more numerous than for the last twenty-five years.

SISKINS NUMEROUS IN SOMERSET.—Mr. N. G. Hadden writes that a flock of about sixty Siskins (*Carduelis spinus*) frequented the woods at Porlock from October 1919 to January 1920. The Rev. F. L. Blathwayt informs us that Siskins appear to have been unusually numerous in Somerset and Dorset this winter.

LITTLE BUSTARD IN CORNWALL.—Mr. R. J. Percy-Thomas records (*Field*, January 17th, 1920, p. 67) that on January 1st, 1920, he received for identification a female *Otis tetrax*, which had been shot in a field of roots on the Trelawne estate, near Looe, Cornwall.

## LETTER.

### STATUS OF GOLDFINCH IN YORKSHIRE.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—In Nelson's *Birds of Yorkshire* the Goldfinch (*Carduelis c. britannica*) is stated to be "becoming extremely rare, its decrease in highly farmed neighbourhoods being attributable to the destruction of those plants on whose seeds it usually feeds. . . ." This was written in 1907. So far as the district immediately around Scarborough is concerned there has, of recent years, been a very marked increase of this bird both as a breeding species and winter visitor, and during last summer (1919) I was particularly struck by the numbers I saw, both of old and young birds. So far I have no very definite evidence beyond my own observations of any noticeable increase outside the limited area of the Scarborough neighbourhood. It would, perhaps, be of value to the county ornithology if observers in other districts would communicate notes as to the status of the Goldfinch in various parts of the county. I shall be pleased to receive and collate any notes which may be sent to me and to communicate them to *British Birds* as soon as sufficient material has come to hand. May I ask for the co-operation of Yorkshire ornithologists in an effort to establish the present status of this charming little finch?

E. ARNOLD WALLIS.

FAIRFIELD, NEWBY, Jan., 1920.



# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS, which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts. ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

**NORWAY** A GENTLEMAN, visiting Norway this summer for Trout fishing and shooting, is desirous to hear of another Gentleman willing to accompany him, or would join a party. One interested in Bird life and who has already been there preferred. Address Z, Office of "British Birds."

# JOHN WHELDON & CO.'S PUBLICATIONS.

To be completed in 4 Parts, Part III. now ready. Issue limited to 200 copies, of which 100 are for sale. 8vo, wrappers. Price 4s. net each part.

## A SYNOPTICAL LIST OF THE **ACCIPITRES**

OR DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY

PART III. (Herpetotheres to Pernis)

BY  
H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.

Comprising a list of species and subspecies described up to 1910, with a full key to the distinguishing characters of the genera, species and subspecies and the distribution of each form.

Now Ready.

Price 1s. net.

## HINTS ON PRESERVING & MOUNTING BIRDS

By J. R. CHARNLEY.

A most useful book for the Naturalist or Sportsman, including Hints for the Field, Outfit, Skinning, Stuffing and Mounting, Casing.

**ILLUSTRATIONS TO THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AMERICA**, a series of original and authoritative plates by H. GRÖNVOLD, illustrating typical species, intended to accompany "a List of the Birds of South America," by the late Lord Brabourne and Charles Chubb (1913), now complete in 6 parts: containing 38 hand-coloured plates, price £5 net. Price of Vol. I. (List), 21s. net, together £6 net.

**ROTHSCHILD** (Lord) Avifauna of Laysan and the neighbouring Islands, with a complete history of the Birds of the Hawaiian possessions, *numerous col. pl.*, complete in 3 pts., folio, as issued, £12 12s. 1893-1900  
— Do., bound in 1 vol., *new art linen*, £13 5s.

### WORKS BY THE LATE H. E. DRESSER.

**History of the Birds of Europe**, including all the species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region, with 633 *beautifully executed hand-coloured plates* by Joseph Wolf, J. G. Keulemans and E. Neale, also the SUPPLEMENT, with 89 *additional coloured plates*, together 9 vols., roy. 4to, *new half green morocco gilt, red cloth gilt*, £78. 1871-96

— Do., complete in original parts, with SUPPLEMENT, £60.

— Do., SUPPLEMENT only, with 89 *additional coloured plates*, in 9 pts., roy. 4to (only a few copies for sale), £9 9s. net. 1895-96

**Eggs of the Birds of Europe (and the British Isles)** including all the species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Area, 2 vols., complete in 24 original parts, 4to, with 106 *coloured plates of nearly 2,000 figs.*, £9 9s. net (pub. £12 12s. net).

— Do., the 24 parts bound in 2 vols., 4to, *new red cloth gilt, gilt tops*, £10 10s.

**Monograph of the Meropidae, or Family of Bee-eaters**, with 34 *finely hand-coloured plates*, imp. 4to, in parts (pub. £5 5s. net) £4 10s. 1884-6

**Monograph of the Coraciidae, or Family of the Rollers**, with 27 *finely hand-coloured plates*, imp. 4to, *cloth* (pub. £5 net) £4 10s. 1893

**Manual of Palearctic Birds**, in 2 parts, roy. 8vo, special thin paper edition adapted for travellers and field naturalists, 30s. net. 1902-3

— Do., ordinary thick paper edition, 2 parts, roy. 8vo, 25s. net.

London: JOHN WHELDON & CO., 38, Great Queen Street, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.

# BRITISH BIRDS

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

APRIL 1.  
1920.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 11.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

 Completion of Volume I. (Passeres).

# A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS.

Edited by H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

*Contributors*:—E. HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S. ANNIE C. JACKSON,  
H.M.B.O.U. Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U. C. OLDHAM,  
F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

Specially arranged for quick reference. Distinguishing characters simplifying identification, full description of all plumages. Breeding habits (nest, eggs, season, incubation, etc.). Food. Distribution and Migration.

WITH COLOURED  
MONOCHROME PLATES.



NUMEROUS TEXT FIGURES.  
PRACTICAL. ORIGINAL.  
UP-TO-DATE.

VOL. I. (ready during April). BOUND IN BUCKRAM, GILT TOP,  
Price 40s.

Thin Paper Edition (bound in rexine) Price 48s. 6d.

VOL. II. (completing the work) now in progress.

Parts 4s. 6d. (5s. 6d. Thin Edition) each.

---

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

*By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.*

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts,  
ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply : MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.

TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.



CONTENTS OF NUMBER II, VOL. XIII. APRIL 1, 1920.

	PAGE
Breeding of the Knot in Grinnell Land. Communicated by Col. H. W. Feilden, C.B. .. .. .	278
The Dutch and British Little Owls. By H. F. Witherby. ..	283
Migration Notes from Bardsey Island, October 1919. By the late F. W. Headley, with a Prefatory Note by Edward T. Browne .. .. .	284
On Some Results of Ringing Certain Species of Birds. By H. F. Witherby .. .. .	292
Notes :—	
Marsh-Warbler in Sussex (M. J. Nicoll) .. .. .	297
Blackbird Laying Eight Eggs (W. Walmesley White) ..	297
Curious Site for Blackbird's Nest (F. D. Welch) .. ..	297
Little Owl in Pembrokeshire (H. W. Evans) and Flintshire ..	297
Periods of Dives made by Long-tailed Ducks (J. A. Anderson)	298
Carolina Crake off Irish Coast (C. D. Borrer) .. .. .	298
Short Notes :—	
Northern Bullfinch in Shetland. Hawfinch Breeding in Dumfriesshire. Hawfinch in Dumbartonshire. Pied Flycatcher in Aberdeenshire. Early Appearance of Chiffchaff in Essex. Reed-Warbler and Sedge-Warbler in Shetland. Great Spotted Woodpecker in Argyllshire. Whooper in Inverness-shire in June. American Wigeon in Fifeshire .. .. .	298
Letters :—	
Disaster to Rooks on Migration (D. W. Horner) .. ..	300
Status of Goldfinch in Yorkshire (R. Fortune) .. ..	300

## BREEDING OF THE KNOT IN GRINNELL LAND.

COMMUNICATED BY

COLONEL H. W. FEILDEN, C.B.

THE death of Rear-Admiral Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, which took place at Washington, D.C., on the 19th February, 1920, removes from amongst us one of the greatest of the world's explorers.

As every serious naturalist and ornithologist must be more or less of a geographer, we search the writings of the men who describe unknown or little known portions of the earth's surface for enlightenment in regard to its natural products.

Peary was not a trained naturalist, but throughout his travels over the Arctic world we find the discoverer of the North Pole a careful and accurate observer of animate and inanimate life. It is truly commendable that a man occupied as Peary was in geographical discoveries of surpassing excellence should have found occasions to make ornithological observations and bring back notes and photographs of considerable interest. For this reason I think the readers of *British Birds* will value the notes made by the late Admiral Peary on the nesting of the Knot (*Erolia canutus*) in Grinnell Land and a reproduction of some of the beautiful photographs which he most kindly sent me some ten years ago.

The nests and eggs of the Knot were obtained by Peary in the vicinity of Floeberg Beach where the "Nares" expedition of 1875-76 wintered on the exposed coast of Grinnell Land north of the 82° N. lat., and where Peary, on the "Roosevelt," wintered in 1908 and 1909 at Cape Sheridan some three or four miles farther north, and which was the base for his ever-memorable adventure to the North Pole.

The Knot is found sparingly as a breeding species on the shores of Grinnell Land, extending its range along the eighty-third parallel, facing the Polar Ocean, to the extreme limit of that land. As it breeds on the islands to the north of Siberia, on the opposite side of the globe to Grinnell Land, we may infer that it is circumpolar in its most northern breeding distribution. The area in which Peary obtained the nest and eggs of the Knot is the same which we searched unsuccessfully for nests and eggs in 1876, though we obtained the young in down.

Probably the reason why we failed in 1876 to obtain the eggs was due to our ignorance of the localities selected by the birds for nesting. We saw the birds circling over and



KNOT ON NEST, CAPE SHERIDAN, GRINNELL LAND.  
(*Photographed by the late Rear-Admiral R. E. Peary.*)



BREEDING GROUND OF KNOT, CAPE SHERIDAN, MOUNT PULLEN IN DISTANCE.

*(Photographed by the late Rear-Admiral R. E. Peary.)*



feeding around the small pools of water left by the melted snow, which here and there were surrounded by sparse tufts of vegetation, and we gave too much of our scanty time to the searching of the marshy spots. Peary's photographs show that in Grinnell Land the Knot has its nests on the more elevated slopes and surfaces covered by frost-riven rocks and shales. The finding of a Knot's nest in



NEST AND EGGS OF KNOT, CAPE SHERIDAN.

*(Photographed by the late Rear-Admiral R. E. Peary.)*

Grinnell Land is not an easy task, and it is highly commendable that Peary on his return from the North Pole to Cape Sheridan, and in the midst of his engrossing and more important duties found occasions to take the unique photographs here reproduced.

The following letter from the great explorer explains how the photographs came into my keeping, and likewise the notes he made on each of them :

“ Washington, D.C.

May 11, 1911.

“ My dear Colonel Feilden,

“ Replying to your letter about the finding of the Knot's eggs, it gives me much pleasure to send you a set of photographs of these finds.

“ These photographs I will ask you to accept with my compliments, and with only one reservation, namely, that they are for your personal information and satisfaction, and that you do not permit them to be used for publication until I have published an account of the finds.

“ The first nest found on June 26th (1909, H.W.F.) was located not far north of Mount Pullen, in the stretch of marshy country crossed just before reaching the mountain, over the route from Floberg Beach to Cape Sheridan.

“ The second nest, found on the 27th of June, was found in the first ravine, which cuts down to the shore approximately parallel with the bed of the Sheridan River, and west of it and the small ponds, which lie near the shore, west of it.

“ From the photographs I am sure you will recognize the localities without difficulty.

“ Later on, after I have catalogued and arranged my numerous negatives of the various expeditions, I want to send you some photographs of that northern coast which, I am sure, will interest you. I am,

“ Very sincerely,

PEARY.”

I trust that after a lapse of nine years from the date of this letter and the recent death of the distinguished writer, I may be relieved from the reservation contained therein. Anyhow, my object is to bring to the notice of readers of *British Birds* the debt we owe to the ornithological researches of the late Admiral Robert E. Peary.

## THE DUTCH AND BRITISH LITTLE OWLS.

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

IN working out the plumages of the Little Owl for the *Practical Handbook*, I was very surprised to find that examples from England, of which I have examined over fifty, were much darker on the upper-parts than those from middle Europe.

As our Little Owls are descendants of birds introduced from Holland by Lord Lilford in Northamptonshire and Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo in Kent, it was necessary to examine Dutch specimens. Unfortunately there are none in Lord Rothschild's collection at Tring and only one in the British Museum, but Mr. P. Hens has very kindly lent me a series of eight from Nord-Holland, Utrecht and Limburg. These and British examples, as well as one which I obtained in Flanders, and also one from near Hamburg, in the Tring Museum, are easily separable from a series of the considerably paler brown birds from Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Italy, while one from Paris and another from Lyons are like the latter. As the typical locality of Scopoli's *Strix noctua* is Carniola, I propose to separate as a local race the Little Owl from Holland, Flanders (apparently Hanover and probably Belgium and parts of Rhineland, from which countries I have not seen specimens) and the introduced British bird as follows:—

## ATHENE NOCTUA MIRA subsp. nov.

Upper-parts dark umber considerably darker and less rufous-brown than in *A. n. noctua* and even darker as a rule than in *A. n. vidalii* (Spain), white streaks on crown usually as white as in *A. n. vidalii* but not so narrow and more drop-shaped. Brown streaks on under-parts darker but ground-colour inclined to be whiter than in *A. n. noctua*. ♂ wing 152-165 (20 measured) ♀ wing 156-165 (20 measured).

Type ♀ ad. Houthem, Limburg, Holland, November 20th, 1919, in my own collection. Collected by Mr. P. Hens.

NOTE.—There appears to be no difference in measurements between *A. n. mira* and *A. n. noctua*.

MIGRATION NOTES FROM BARDSEY ISLAND,  
OCTOBER 1919.

BY THE LATE

F. W. HEADLEY, M.A., M.B.O.U.

PREFATORY NOTE.—Mr. Headley visited Bardsey Island for the purpose of watching the autumn migration and of observing the effect of the lighthouse light as an attraction to birds at night. He had already planned a voyage across the Southern Hemisphere to investigate the flight of the Albatross, and to observe birds in regions which he had never been able to reach owing to the ties of his scholastic duties. The trip to Bardsey was an interlude to fill up the time until a passage could be secured. When Mr. Headley left for Bardsey he was by no means well, and the cause of his illness had not then been accurately diagnosed. It was thought that a month on the island would do good, but unfortunately he was slowly getting worse instead of better, and on his return he had almost immediately to undergo a severe operation, from the effects of which he never recovered.

Mr. Headley always kept a notebook going, a miscellaneous one, into which went notes on birds that he had seen on any special occasion. It was certain that a special set of notes would be kept for the Bardsey observations, though without any definite intention of publishing them. Mr. Charles Oldham suggested to me that these notes might contain important additions to our knowledge on the migration of birds across the island, and that an effort should be made to obtain them for examination. I wrote to Mr. Headley's brother concerning the notebook, and he very kindly sent it and gave me permission to make the best use that I could of it.

The notes on the birds had been entered at the end of an exercise book, originally devoted to lectures on Evolution. They were in his usual style, very difficult to decipher in places, and written down in no definite order at any odd moment during the day. Fortunately I was familiar with Mr. Headley's handwriting and his system of recording notes, so that with a little patience the difficult passages could be straightened out. After making a fair copy, I came to the conclusion that to follow his system of note-taking and his text, as closely as possible, was the best course for publication. This would give a mass of facts which anyone could make use of. So I have retained the diary form, and have simply rearranged the notes for each day in a more systematic

manner for easier reading. The whole of the notes are practically as Mr. Headley wrote them.

The following passages are from a letter written by Mr. Headley to me, and dated November 5th :

“ I have got back from Bardsey having seen much of interest. On dark nights fiery shapes circled round the light, and occasionally a little thud announced that some poor bird had smashed in its skull. The wings were clearly outlined and you could tell what make of bird it was. Big flights did not begin till October 18th. The small birds never flew at night, except the Larks ; most of the Larks flew by day, but a few by night, for an occasional one got killed. The great flocks of small birds continued from the 18th to the 22nd inclusive. I believe Blackbirds, Thrushes, etc., passed over all these nights, but were too high up to see. But when the night was dark a good many high-flyers got killed at the light.

I wanted to ask you whether there was a spell of cold weather to the north and east from the 18th to the 25th, causing these birds to migrate. From the 28th to the 30th there was less migration and not many birds killed.”

The weather conditions for the periods mentioned were looked up in the Daily Weather Reports, and communicated to him. A few days previous to the dates mentioned cold weather had set in over Scotland, the north of England, and in north Wales. Snowstorms occurred over wide areas, and the mountains were covered.—EDWARD T. BROWNE.

#### BARDSEY ISLAND.

27th September.—Atmosphere very clear ; Wicklow Mountains (about seventy-five miles off) visible.

Birds seen : Blackbird, Stonechat, Robin, Great Tit, Wren, Grey Wagtail (two young ones), Meadow-Pipit, Rock-Pipit, Starling, Chough (two and young family), Jackdaw, Carrion-Crow, Kestrel, Cormorant, Heron, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Curlew.

28th September.—Atmosphere clear ; Snowdon (about thirty-seven miles off) visible.

A Wheatear, a Swallow, and a Heron.

29th September.—Wind S. Occasional showers.

No migrants seen.

30th September.—Wind S., not so strong as yesterday. Weather finer.

A Stonechat, a Sky-Lark, a Carrion-Crow, three Lapwings and twelve young Turnstones.

1st October.—Wind S.

Three Lapwings.

2nd October.—Wind S.

A few Pied or White Wagtails ; all that were examined were Pied Wagtails, two Swallows, and an Oystercatcher.

3rd October.—Wagtails still here, one White Wagtail seen ; two Wheatears, six Sky-Larks, and two or three Black-backed Gulls.

4th October.—Wind S.

One Song-Thrush killed against the lantern. Wagtails have gone. Birds seen : About twenty Sky-Larks, a Linnet, a Wheatear, two Lapwings, and a Common Snipe.

5th October.—Wind S., fresher. Weather cloudy.

A Chiffchaff killed against the lantern. Lapwings heard at night and three seen going south. At 8 a.m. a migration of birds was in full swing. About 200 Starlings arrived. About a dozen Song-Thrushes and eight Blackbirds, a few Linnets, a Wagtail, a Common Snipe, a Common Wren in garden and a probable Willow-Wren on a tamarisk bush. At 10 a.m. some of the Thrushes and most of the Blackbirds gone. Later, all the migrants gone, only two or three Thrushes left.

6th October.—Wind N.N.E. Fog threatening.

A Dunlin killed against the lantern. Yesterday's migrants all gone, except one Song-Thrush. A Snow-Bunting seen at the northern end of the island ; many Meadow-Pipits flying over ; a few small flocks of Sky-Larks ; eight Swallows.

7th October.—Wind E.S.E.

After a dark cloudy night with fog threatening, only a few migrants have come. A Blackbird ; one or two Wagtails, a Sky-Lark ; a Chiffchaff ; three Turnstones ; five Carrion-Crows together near the lighthouse. About 11 a.m. in the lighthouse garden, a Redstart, a Robin and a Wren (? a resident). Later, two Chaffinches, a Great Tit, about six Pied Wagtails, one Lapwing near lighthouse, and four more near the north end of the island.

Found little heaps of shreds of oat grains disgorged by Gulls, and a great pellet of bones and feathers.

8th October.—Wind N.E. Weather sunny.

Birds seen : two or three Blackbirds and Chaffinches, a Stonechat near lighthouse, a Tree-Pipit, a Brambling, a few Sky-Larks and four Lapwings.

9th October.—Wind N., strong. Weather very bright and clear.

One Swallow near lighthouse.

10th October.—Wind N., moderate. Some black clouds passed over without rain.

9 a.m. —Three Herons (very noisy) came from the south, they turned east, then north-west, and finally appeared to fly in a northerly direction towards the mainland. In the lighthouse garden, a Robin, a Wren, and a Chaffinch. 12 noon.—A few Sky-Larks, Linnets (?), and Pipits flying high; some in a northerly direction as if going to the mainland, others in a southerly direction. Some Linnets are flying low and are very wild. Afternoon.—A dozen Pied Wagtails feeding; six Turnstones.

11th October.—Rain in the night. Wind very light. Muggy and threatening to rain in the morning. At noon, wind N.W., slight breeze. Sunny.

In the lighthouse garden, two Hedge-Sparrows and a Robin; one Lesser Black-backed Gull clearly seen; a few Pied Wagtails about; a Barnacle Goose was shot early in the morning by a farmer in the bay near the lighthouse. The bird was thin (after a long flight?). No food in its crop.

12th October.—Rain in the night. Wind W.N.W. Drizzling.

A Blackbird killed against the lantern, it fell against the wind, so that the direction of the wind must have changed in the night. A few Starlings, Pipits and Linnets going over; a Robin, two or three Wagtails; about thirty Oystercatchers near the northern end of the island; three Blackbirds in lighthouse garden.

13th October.—Wind N.W. Rough night and morning.

A Robin in lighthouse garden; a very few Starlings, a Kestrel, a Gannet, a Heron, and a Lapwing. About thirty Turnstones. These great flyers do a very little flying, going straight to another quiet place when put up, and flying low. No excitement as with Redshanks.

Black-headed Gulls in a little bay playing among the breaking waves. They avoided the actual breaking wave by raising their wings and giving a stroke that lifted them almost out of the water.

14th October.—Wind N.W., not so strong as yesterday. Fine.

A Wren in lighthouse garden; a Chaffinch; a small flock of Linnets flying over; a Kestrel, the rest seem to have gone for the want of birds; not many Starlings about; a few Turnstones.

15th October.—Wind N.W., strong.

A Dunlin killed at the lantern. At 11 a.m. three Lapwings and two or three young Turnstones.

16th October.—Wind N.N.W., strong. Squalls of rain. Barometer high and rising.

Early, small flocks of Linnets in a wild undecided flight, N. to S., or S. to N.; a few Wagtails, one or two Sky-Larks and a Chaffinch. At 3 p.m. three Lapwings.

17th October.—Cloudy but calm. Skerries visible at noon.

Six Mistle-Thrushes; a Chaffinch in lighthouse garden; small flocks of Linnets during morning and afternoon; one or two Sky-Larks in the morning, but a fair number in the afternoon; one Kestrel.

18th October.—Wind S.S.W. Light breeze. Cloudy; warmish.

7 a.m.—Many flocks of Linnets (six to a hundred in each, and probably a miscellaneous crowd), mostly flying south; one or two Wrens; Wagtails; two or three Chaffinches; three Lapwings, perhaps the same birds as on 16th October.

11 a.m. to 12 noon.—One or two Mistle-Thrushes; Blackbirds, probably migrant birds at the northern end of the island, though more near the lighthouse; a Wheatear near lighthouse; twelve Greenfinches; three or four Tree-Sparrows; a small flock of Chaffinches in mid-island; a few Linnets; probably an increase in Starlings; a Kestrel; a Heron, making a long stay.

19th October.—Wind S.S.W., strong. Warmish.

A Sky-Lark killed against the lantern. 7 to 10 a.m.—Great flocks of small birds; flocks of Linnets, and small flocks of Larks; a flock of Rooks and Jackdaws flying to the southern end of the island and back again, and round; small flocks of Chaffinches; a few Wagtails; some Greenfinches; two Goldfinches near lighthouse, but many probably pass over; considerable flocks of Starlings.

Many of the flocks of small birds flew low, so that their plumage could be seen. Often on previous days many had flown high, so that twittering could be heard from high aloft, but it was difficult to see the birds.

About 10 a.m. a flock of Chaffinches, mixed with a fair number of Bramblings and some Greenfinches feeding in mid-island. A Wheatear seen towards evening. One Raven. Why no Blackbirds, Thrushes, etc.? Have they passed over?

20th October.—Wind S.S.W., strong breeze. Weather dull, a low mist out at sea.

A Sky-Lark killed against the lantern. A good many flocks of small birds flying low. Their plumage could not be made out, but Chaffinches and Linnets heard. Small flocks of



Starlings flying low. Some of the Starlings returned from the southern end of the island. Were they discouraged by the mist? Large flocks of Rooks and Jackdaws flying wildly about. The caw of the Rook was not heard, but they were conspicuously larger. An islander up at daylight reported that thousands of small birds went over. Again no Blackbirds or Thrushes. 11 a.m.—Flock of Chaffinches, some Greenfinches and a few Goldfinches. Some flocks of Rooks and Jackdaws resting on the island. Heard Rooks cawing. Grey Wagtail in fine plumage at the northern end of the island. 3 p.m.—A few Sky-Larks about.

9.30 p.m.—About a dozen birds flying round and round the light. When they got in the long beam of light they shone out like birds of fire. Occasionally a thud told of a death. Some collided slanting-wise with the lantern and were not hurt. Some scrambled about the framework of the lantern. Most were of the Thrush and Starling build, but there were a few small birds.

The lantern makes one complete revolution in 15 seconds. Five great arms of light are shot out, all from the same semicircle. Both the dark semicircle and the arms revolve.

21st October.—Wind S.S.W., light. Weather bright.

Killed against the lighthouse lantern. (1) Fallen within the balcony: three Blackbirds, five Song-Thrushes, twelve Redwings, and eight Starlings. (2) Fallen in the lighthouse precinct (only one outside the wall): two Blackbirds, a Song-Thrush, seven Redwings, a Starling, a Jack Snipe, and a Water-Rail. Most fell into the balcony owing to the lightness of the breeze.

6 a.m.—No birds about, except a very few small birds. Twelve Sky-Larks in the largest flock.

8 a.m.—A great movement of small birds and Starlings began, and going south. The Starlings fly very low, but the small birds, Chaffinches, Linnets, Sky-Larks, etc., fly rather higher; their plumage visible. A few Blackbirds, Song-Thrushes, and one Redwing resting on the island; a Linnet singing; two young Goldcrests in the lighthouse garden. Noon.—An immature Swallow, and a Goldcrest in fine plumage.

Apparently the small birds (Chaffinches, Linnets, etc.), start at dawn or thereabouts. Why did they arrive later (at 8 a.m.) to-day, than on the two previous days (at 7 a.m.)? Some Sky-Larks migrate by night. The moon is now a sickle. [Full moon on 9th October, last quarter on 16th, new moon on 23rd.] When it was full some days ago, the islanders

said that there was no chance of birds. To-night it is bright starlight, no birds expected at the light. The lighthouse keeper (Mr. Sunnaway) says that migrants steer by the stars. They never come to the light if there is one star visible.

22nd October.—Wind S.S.W., strong. Weather fine.

Three Blackbirds, an abnormal Redwing with a grey back, and a Starling killed against the lantern. All blown a good way from the lighthouse precinct. Apparently it must have clouded over during a part of the night. 7 a.m.—Flocks of Starlings coming over, skimming the ground, perhaps on account of the strong wind. Soon come considerable flocks of small birds: Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Sky-Larks, etc. 11 a.m.—A flock of Chaffinches and a good many Greenfinches feeding. The loud call-note often heard as the Chaffinches fly over. A few Chaffinches starting from the northern end of the island flying south; a Goldcrest in lighthouse garden; a young Black Redstart by lighthouse yesterday and to-day, dusky all over, wing-patch hardly visible, red tail unmistakable; a Kestrel; two Lapwings (temporary residents).

23rd October.—Wind S.S.W. Slightly foggy at night, stars shining through mist. Afternoon rain and mist.

Two Blackbirds, three Song-Thrushes, fourteen Redwings, three Starlings and a Water-Rail killed against the lantern. Total killed, twenty-three. There were two or three winged Thrushes about which could not be caught.

The lighthouse keeper says early in the morning it got darker, stars disappearing altogether. Hence the number of birds killed at the light.

24th October.—Wind changed from S.S.W. to N.E. during the night.

Two Blackbirds, six Redwings, four Water-Rails, two Snipe and a Coot killed against the lantern. The birds killed fell nearly all to the north of the light. Birds seen: Blackbird, Song-Thrushes, a Redwing, Chaffinches, a few Sky-Larks near lighthouse, Lapwing.

25th October.—Wind N.E., not quite so strong.

A Redwing and six Water-Rails killed against the lantern. Seen: two Mistle-Thrushes, three Fieldfares, a Siskin (five yards off, it soon flew wildly away in Linnet style), two Wagtails and two Kestrels.

26th October.—Wind N.E., strong. Night too light for birds to be killed. Morning cloudy.

Birds near the lighthouse, two Starlings and a Redwing. 7 a.m.—One or two Chaffinches, a few Starlings, and a Lapwing. 11 a.m.—A few small birds, mostly Chaffinches, apparently moving from the southern end northwards.

27th October.—Wind N.E., gale. Night fairly bright.

No birds killed. A few small birds and Starlings about.

28th October.—Wind N.E. Occasional showers of rain. Bright intervals.

Three Redwings killed against the lantern. A few Sky-Larks and Starlings about. One Pied Wagtail.

29th October.—Wind N.E. or N.N.E., strong. Night was light, with one or more showers of rain.

No birds seen, except one Sky-Lark and a few Starlings. Midday.—about twenty Blackbirds in mid-island, a flock of Chaffinches (unmixed) and a Heron.

30th October.—A few Turnstones seen on the east coast of the island as the boat rowed past.

How very few species have suffered from the lighthouse—only nine out of about fifty! Fifty-eight species observed here and perhaps nine are non-migrants here. Wind does not seem to matter unless it is a gale. Small birds, Chaffinches, etc., most of them have flown by day and so escaped. The night-flyers have suffered only on dark nights, and then the numbers killed have been small compared with those that have probably passed over.

## ON SOME RESULTS OF RINGING CERTAIN SPECIES OF BIRDS.

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

(Continued from p. 271.)

### WILLOW-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*). RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—One ringed in Yorkshire was caught in the following year near the same place sitting on a nest with six eggs, and thus afforded a very definite record of a bird breeding where it was hatched. Another, also ringed in Yorkshire, was reported from the same place the following summer.

### MISTLE-THRUSH (*Turdus v. viscivorus*). RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Nestlings ringed in Hampshire, Worcestershire, Lancashire and Yorkshire have been reported a few months later in the same year at the same place, but not later than September 16th. One was found in June of the following summer.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Sussex and another ringed in Dumfriesshire were found in the following December and November in Manche, Normandy, while another ringed in Dumfriesshire was reported from co. Tipperary in January two and a half years after ringing.

### REDBREAST (*Erithacus r. melophilus*). RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—As many as twenty-eight nestlings ringed in many counties from Devonshire to Stirlingshire have been recovered in the same place: sixteen in the following October to February and one in January two and a half years afterwards, two in the following September, two in the following March and one in March nearly two years afterwards, while five have been found from April to August a year afterwards and one in June three years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—Only two Robins, whether ringed as nestlings or adults, were recovered away. These were both ringed as nestlings, one in Berkshire and one in Staffordshire, the former being reported from the Island of Voorne, Zuid Holland, in November two and a half years afterwards and the latter in Gers in the centre of south-west France in the October following its ringing.

## RINGED AS ADULTS.

*Recovered at home.*—All those ringed as adults and recovered were found at or near the place they were ringed. These birds were ringed in various counties from Kent to Stirlingshire. Twenty-nine ringed between October and February were recovered as follows: eighteen from October to February, three in March, two in April, one in May, one in June, two in July, one in August and one in September of the following year or the second year. Six ringed in March were recovered as follows: three between November and January, one in May and two in June of the same, following, or second year. Of ten others ringed between April and August three were recovered between May and August and seven between November and February. Four ringed in September were all recovered in winter.

The above summaries relate to the recovery of as many as 76 birds and the results are certainly remarkable in view of the fact that migration records show a well-marked southward movement of British Robins in autumn down both the west and east coasts. With the exception of the one found in Holland and the other in France, these ringed birds show no movement—they have been ringed in all months of the year and have been recovered in all months of the year and in some cases the same bird has been recovered several times, while many of them were ringed in northern counties, such as Stirlingshire, Ayrshire, Northumberland, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Lancashire. Five of the records referring to those ringed as nestlings certainly point to breeding in the place where they were hatched.

Dr. N. F. Ticehurst has suggested to me that this want of movement may be partly due to a large proportion of the Robins ringed being inhabitants of gardens where food is abundant and that an unduly high proportion of these individuals are in consequence sedentary. I regret that I have not sufficient evidence either to prove or disprove the correctness of this suggestion, and I should be very glad to have the opinion upon this point of those who have ringed Robins.

HEDGE-SPARROW (*Prunella m. occidentalis*).

*Recovered at home.*—Seven ringed as nestlings in south Scotland, England and Wales and twenty-three ringed as adults in various counties from Ross-shire to Kent, both in summer and winter, have all been recovered at the same place, some in the following winter or in the second winter and some in summer one year or two years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—None.

SWALLOW (*Hirundo r. rustica*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Twelve ringed in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Surrey have been recovered at the same place in the summer of the following year and one ringed in Lancashire two years afterwards. One ringed near Lancaster on August 1st was found at Windermere on September 4th in the same year.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Hampshire was found in June of the following year in Middlesex, while another also ringed in Hampshire was recovered in the following May in Sussex, another ringed in Stirlingshire was reported in the following May from Yorkshire and another ringed in co. Kildare was found the following June in co. Armagh. One ringed in Lancashire was found as near the middle of France as Indre et-Loire in September of the same year, while another ringed in Staffordshire was reported from the south-west of France (Charente-Inférieure) in the following October. One ringed in Staffordshire was reported found dead in Brittany in the following December, but how long the bird had been dead was uncertain. One ringed in Lancashire was found in Cape Province in February of the following year, another ringed in Ayrshire was reported from the Orange Free State in March of the following year, while another ringed in Yorkshire was recovered in East Griqualand in the following February. One ringed in Staffordshire was found dead after a snowstorm near Bilbao, north Spain, in March, nearly two years after ringing.

## RINGED AS ADULTS.

*Recovered at home.*—Three ringed in Staffordshire and Lancashire have been recovered at the same place in the following summer and two ringed in Dumfriesshire and Peeblesshire in summer two years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Staffordshire and recovered in Natal in December eighteen months afterwards is the only adult so far reported away from where it was ringed.

MARTIN (*Delichon u. urbica*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Two ringed in Lancashire and Hampshire have been recovered in summer of the following year and another ringed in Lancashire and one in Dumfriesshire in summer two years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in Lancashire was reported from Surrey in October of the same year and another ringed in Roxburghshire was found in Cher in the centre of France in October of the same year.

## RINGED AS ADULTS.

*Recovered at home.*—Two ringed in Hampshire have been recovered at the same place in the next summer and one ringed in Lancashire was found nesting at the same place three years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—None.

SPARROW-HAWK (*Accipiter n. nisus*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Ten ringed in various counties were recovered at or near the same place in winter of the same year, in summer of the following year and in winter of the second year. Of four all of the same brood ringed in Worcestershire two were found in May of the following summer and one of these was certainly nesting, two others of this brood were reported in the winter following ringing.

*Recovered away.*—None.

HERON (*Ardea cinerea*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—One ringed in Northumberland was shot exactly five years later while breeding in the same heronry in which it was hatched. Another ringed in the same heronry was reported in the same place in the following November.

*Recovered away.*—Thirteen ringed in Staffordshire have been reported in the same year in July from Northants., Yorks., Lincs.; in September in Derbyshire; in November and in the following January in Cheshire; in February in Lincs. and Lancs.; in May in Cheshire a year after ringing; in December in Gloucestershire a year and a half after ringing; in March in Radnorshire three years after ringing, early in the fourth year in Cheshire and in October in Cheshire five and a half years after ringing. These records show only more or less local movement. The recoveries in May and March may indicate breeding, but there is no certain evidence of this. Two others ringed in Sutherland were recovered in Inverness and Caithness in December of the same and following years.

MALLARD (*Anas p. platyrhyncha*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Fifty-three ringed in Ross-shire, Perthshire, Dumfriesshire, north Lancashire and Norfolk were recovered in the same place mostly in the following August to January, but some in the second winter and two in the third winter.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed in north Lancs. was shot in Norfolk in January two and a half years afterwards.

Another ringed in Essex was reported from Danzig (Prussia) in August of the following year. These are the only two ringed as nestlings which have been reported away, with the exception of one ringed in Norfolk and reported in August of the next year in Nord, France. This last, however, was one of a batch artificially reared from picked up eggs; twenty-six others of this lot were shot at home in the following and second winter, but have not been included in the above records. It is, however, curious that the proportions are exactly the same, viz. : in the wild birds, fifty-two at home, two away, and in the hand-reared birds, twenty-six at home and one away.

#### RINGED AS ADULTS.

*Recovered at home.*—Fifty-two : Wigtownshire (43), Staffordshire (5) and Warwickshire (4) were recovered at home. Most of them were ringed in February, but some in other months between September and March. They were recovered between August and February and one in April, mostly a year or less afterwards, but a few in the second year and two in the third year. One ringed in June was found breeding in June of the next year and was reported again in the same place in the following October; another ringed in June was shot in the following October.

*Recovered away.*—Eight ringed in Wigtownshire were reported away as follows:—One ringed March from co. Antrim in the following January; five ringed on February 28th, 1914, from Kaskö (Finland) August 1914, Laen (Sweden) August 1914, Scania (Sweden) November 14th, 1914, Friesland (Holland) November 26th, 1914, and Lake Mälaren (Sweden) October 1917; one ringed on February 28th, 1913, from Swedish Lapland in the following November and one ringed on February 27th, 1915, was reported from Armaal (Sweden) in August 1915. These birds were evidently immigrants to Wigtownshire, but it is noteworthy that those ringed in the same place on the same day were found in the following autumn in different parts, indicating that these were proceeding leisurely south-westwards.

(To be continued.)





# NOTES

## MARSH-WARBLER IN SUSSEX.

ON June 14th, 1919, my wife and I heard and saw a Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*), in a garden at St. Leonards-on-Sea. It was in full song, but in spite of careful search on the next and following days it was not to be found again.

M. J. NICOLL.

## BLACKBIRD LAYING EIGHT EGGS.

MR. TICEHURST'S note on a Blackbird laying seven eggs (*antea*, p. 274), induces me to record that on May 11th, 1915, I found a Blackbird's nest containing eight eggs. This nest was well concealed in a gorse thicket adjoining a little frequented path near the river Otter (Devon), and bore no signs of having been tampered with or disturbed in any way, and the eggs were all of very similar character. I much regret that I had no opportunity of visiting the nest again, so I am in ignorance of the fate of so large a clutch. Seebohm (*Col. Figs. of the Eggs of British Birds*) mentions that eight eggs have been occasionally found in one nest, but it is, I suppose, conceivable that such a large number might be the product of two hens, or else that some mischievous person had inserted a few eggs. In this case, however, I do not think the nest had been previously discovered and the eggs seemed to be the product of one hen.

W. WALMESLEY WHITE.

## CURIOUS SITE FOR BLACKBIRD'S NEST.

DURING the summer of 1917 a pair of Blackbirds (*Turdus m. merula*) nested in one of the nest-boxes of an unused pigeon-house standing on the ground in the garden of Mr. C. Allchin, at Longfield, Kent. When seen by me the hen bird was sitting on what I was informed was a second brood in the same nest. It seemed quite tame, not moving when the lamp light was turned on it.

FREDERICK D. WELCH.

## LITTLE OWL IN PEMBROKESHIRE AND FLINTSHIRE.

ON March 12th, 1920, a Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) was caught in a rabbit-trap near Solva (on the sea coast four miles from St. Davids, Pembrokeshire). I have very carefully

compared it with the description given in Saunders's *Manual of British Birds*, and it answers correctly in every respect.

HENRY W. EVANS.

[This is so far as we know the first recorded occurrence of the Little Owl in Pembrokeshire.

In the *Field* (February 14th, 1920, p. 231) a Little Owl is recorded by Mr. F. Mortimer as having been seen several times in January and February 1920 near Llanasa, Holywell, Flintshire, where it has not previously been recorded since the introduction.—EDS.]

#### PERIODS OF DIVES MADE BY LONG-TAILED DUCKS.

I HAVE read with much interest Mr. Gordon's note on the periods of dives made by the Long-tailed Duck (*antea*, p. 244). A female of the above species remained on Bardowie Loch the first week in November 1919. I timed this bird's dives fairly often during the period it was here and found that it usually remained under water about 65 seconds, but never less. The longest dive that I noted was 70 seconds. This bird rested for about a couple of minutes between each dive. The depth of water where the duck usually dived was about 35 feet.

J. ALASTAIR ANDERSON.

#### CAROLINA CRAKE OFF IRISH COAST.

I RECENTLY received from Mr. Pashley, of Norfolk, a small Rail for identification. It was a Carolina Crake (*Porzana carolina*), and Mr. Witherby, who has seen the bird, tells me it is in immature plumage. The sex was not ascertained. It was captured on board H.M.S. "Dragon" when about 100 miles off the west coast of Ireland, and though not strictly a "British specimen," is of great interest as confirming previous records of the occurrence of this species.

CLIFFORD D. BORRER.

NORTHERN BULLFINCH IN SHETLAND.—Mr. J. S. Tulloch records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1920, p. 28) the following occurrences of *Pyrrhula p. pyrrhula* at Lerwick in 1919: Oct. 15th, female; Nov. 14th, male, 26th, two males; Dec. 1st, male, 3rd, male, and several on the Island of Whalsay after the middle of November.

HAWFINCH BREEDING IN DUMFRIESHIRE.—Mr. H. S. Gladstone states (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 171) that he identified a young *Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes* just out of the nest near Dumfries on July 4th, 1919. The Hawfinch has very rarely been recorded as breeding in the county.

HAWFINCH IN DUMBARTONSHIRE.—A male *Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes* was caught in a fruit-net at Camiseskan on August 3rd, 1919. Mr. C. Kirk, who records this occurrence (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 194), believes that the species has not hitherto been recorded for the Clyde area.

PIED FLYCATCHER IN ABERDEENSHIRE.—Mr. A. Landsborough Thomson records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 195) that a male (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*) was obtained in the Newburgh district on May 8th, 1919. The bird has rarely been recorded in this part of Scotland.

EARLY APPEARANCE OF CHIFFCHAFF IN ESSEX.—Mr. J. H. Owen informs us that Mr. M. E. Hughes-Hughes saw and heard a Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) on February 19th, 1920, near Felsted, Essex.

REED-WARBLER AND SEDGE-WARBLER IN SHETLAND.—Mr. J. S. Tulloch records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1920, p. 28) that a Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) visited his garden at Lerwick on May 16th, 1919, and Mr. T. G. Kay states (*loc. cit.*) that one appeared in his garden also at Lerwick on May 26th. There are only five previous records of the occurrence of the Reed-Warbler in Scotland—all in the northern isles. Mr. Tulloch also records the presence of a Sedge-Warbler (*Acrocephalus schænobæmus*) in his garden on the same day as the Reed-Warbler. This species has only once previously been recorded in Shetland, though it visits Fair Isle regularly in spring.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER IN ARGYLLSHIRE.—Mr. C. Kirk records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 185) that a female Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates major*) was accidentally trapped on July 15th, 1919, at Minard (Loch Fyne). The keeper, McRae, stated that it may have nested, but he had not seen the bird before. It would be interesting to know if the bird is of the British form (*D. m. anglicus*). The Great Spotted Woodpecker was suspected to be nesting in the Loch Awe district in 1906 and 1907 (see *Ann. Scot. Nat. Hist.*, 1907, p. 182).

WHOOPEE IN INVERNESS-SHIRE IN JUNE.—In connection with Mr. Macdonald's note of having seen a Whooper in Ross-shire in June 1919 (*antea*, p. 141) it is interesting that Dr. W. Eagle Clarke saw two adults of this species on Loch Triage, western Inverness-shire, in June and early July 1919. They were strong on the wing (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 196).

AMERICAN WIGEON IN FIFESHIRE.—It will be remembered that Mr. J. A. Anderson recorded seeing an adult male *Anas*

*americana* on Bardowie Loch, Stirlingshire, on December 14th, 1919 (*antea*, p. 244). Miss L. J. Rintoul and Miss E. V. Baxter record (*Scot. Nat.*, 1920, p. 13) that they clearly identified an adult male of this species amongst a flock of Wigeon, which they were able to approach closely, on November 24th, 1919, at the mouth of the River Eden, Fifeshire. These authors remark that the occurrence of these two American Wigeon may have been due to the high north-westerly and westerly winds in the Atlantic earlier in November, but this does not seem to us a very satisfactory explanation in the case of a bird which is not only of strong flight but can also descend safely to the water.

## LETTERS.

### DISASTER TO ROOKS ON MIGRATION.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—The explanation of birds starting to migrate across a stretch of sea when weather conditions are apparently unfavourable seems to be that they take their migratory flights at great altitudes, where the strength and direction of wind may be quite different from that of the surface current.

This is what seems to have occurred on the Norfolk coast (*vide antea*, p. 253), where it is pretty evident from the weather charts given that the strong easterly winds were, as is frequently the case with such winds, only surface currents, the upper regions of the atmosphere being probably relatively calm. The argument, therefore, is that the Rooks, having crossed the North Sea in this calm, descended unexpectedly into a gale and so met with disaster.

DONALD W. HORNER.

### STATUS OF GOLDFINCH IN YORKSHIRE.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—With reference to Mr. E. Arnold Wallis's communication to you on the above, will you permit me to say that for some time, practically ever since the publication of Nelson's *Birds of Yorkshire*, with the preparation of which I had a good deal to do, I have in conjunction with other members of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, been preparing an addition to the work; to correct some errors which unfortunately crept in, and to add a great deal of additional information which has come to hand.

As the *Birds of Yorkshire* formed a part of the *Transactions of the Y.N.U.*, this additional matter will be published either as a separate part of the *Transactions* or in the pages of *The Naturalist*, the organ of the Y.N.U.: the former method will be probably adopted.

The welcome increase of the Goldfinch in the Scarborough neighbourhood and other parts of the county is well known to us; but we shall be glad of any information, no matter how little, upon this or any other matters connected with the avifauna of the county.

R. FORTUNE.

22, RIPON ROAD, HARROGATE, March 1920.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS, which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

*All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.*

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND

## FOR SALE—Stuffed Birds

From the Collection of the late REV. MURRAY A. MATHEW, M.B.O.U.

Include very fine Black Var. of Rough-legged Buzzard, Squacco Heron, Baillon's Crake, etc. Particulars from Paymaster-in-Chief G. F. Mathew, R.N., Lee House, Dovercourt, Essex.

## BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOGUE OF BIRDS.

Wanted, a complete set.

Full details, price and binding to F., c/o. "British Birds."

"BRITISH BIRDS" PHOTOGRAPHIC SERIES

# THE BUZZARD AT HOME

BY  
ARTHUR BROOK

WITH 12 PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE NET

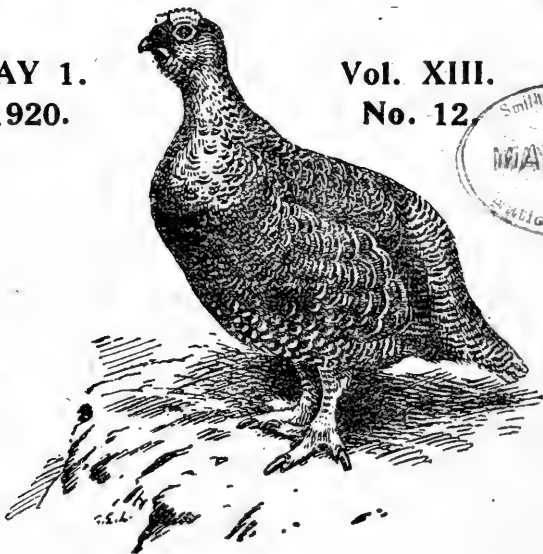
LONDON: WITHERBY & CO.

# BRITISH BIRDS


AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE  
DEVOTED CHIEFLY TO THE BIRDS  
ON THE BRITISH LIST

MAY 1.  
1920.

Vol. XIII.  
No. 12.



MONTHLY EIGHTEEN PENCE  
326 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON  
WITHERBY & CO

 Completion of Volume I. (Passeres).

# A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS.

Edited by H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

*Contributors*:—E. HARTERT, PH.D., M.B.O.U., F.Z.S. ANNIE C. JACKSON,  
H.M.B.O.U. Rev. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U. C. OLDHAM,  
F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. N. F. TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

Specially arranged for quick reference. Distinguishing characters simplifying identification, full description of all plumages. Breeding habits (nest, eggs, season, incubation, etc.). Food. Distribution and Migration.

WITH COLOURED

MONOCHROME PLATES.



NUMEROUS TEXT FIGURES.

PRACTICAL ORIGINAL.

UP-TO-DATE.

VOL. I. (Now Ready). BOUND IN BUCKRAM, GILT TOP, Price 40s.

Thin Paper Edition (bound in rexine) Price 48s. 6d.

VOL. II. (completing the work) now in progress.

Parts 4s. 6d. (5s. 6d. Thin Edition) each.

---

WITHERBY & CO., 326, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON.

---

## VALUABLE EGG COLLECTION FOR SALE

About 2,500 eggs, mostly British, but some from Holland. Spoonbill, Purple Heron, Reeve, and many others, all with data and carefully collected by Owner himself, in six well-made cases. Also beautiful cases of Owls, Choughs, Bustards, Peregrines, Hobbies, Bitterns, &c. Full Particulars from Publisher, "British Birds."



# BRITISH BIRDS

WITH WHICH WAS INCORPORATED IN JANUARY, 1917, "THE ZOOLOGIST."

EDITED BY H. F. WITHERBY, M.B.E., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ASSISTED BY

REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U., AND NORMAN F.  
TICEHURST, M.A., F.R.C.S., M.B.O.U.

CONTENTS OF NUMBER 12, VOL. XIII. MAY 1, 1920.

	PAGE
The Common Gull Breeding on Dungeness Beach. By N. F. Ticehurst, M.B., F.R.C.S.Eng. .. .. .	302.
On Some Results of Ringing Certain Species of Birds. By H. F. Witherby .. .. .	307
Notes :—	
Siskins in Devonshire (T. P. Backhouse) .. .. .	313
Lapland Buntings in Northumberland (S. Gordon and Mrs. C. Hodgkin) .. .. .	313
Breeding of Dipper in Wiltshire (D. W. Musselwhite) ..	314
Hobby, not Red-footed Falcon in Norfolk (J. H. Gurney) ..	314
Hen-Harrier in Berkshire (Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain) .. ..	314
Rough-legged Buzzard in Devon (W. W. White) .. ..	314
Periods of Dives in relation to Depth of Water (J. M. Dewar)	315
Short Note :—Black-tailed Godwit in Forfarshire .. ..	316
Letter :—American Wigeon in Stirlingshire and Fifeshire (M. Portal) .. .. .	316

## THE COMMON GULL BREEDING ON DUNGENESS BEACH.

BY

N. F. TICEHURST, M.B., F.R.C.S.ENG.

IN *A History of the Birds of Kent* (pp. 516, 518) I recorded the nesting of single pairs of the Herring- and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*L. a. argentatus* and *L. f. affinis*) on Dungeness beach in 1908. Since then one or more pairs of the former have made some attempt at nesting in most years, but never, so far as I can ascertain, with any success, probably owing to the fact that they have always tried to do so within the area occupied by the Black-headed Gulls (*L. ridibundus*).

It had never occurred to me, however, considering the distribution of the species and its affinity for inland fresh-water localities as a breeding-place, that it could be possible for the Common Gull (*L. c. canus*) to essay a like venture. It was with considerable surprise therefore, that, during a visit to that area in company with Mr. W. H. Mullens and Mr. M. J. Nicoll, on May 28th, 1919, we found a pair of Common Gulls circling high overhead in the middle of a large colony of Common Terns (*S. hirundo*). Like the Herring-Gulls, when first we made their acquaintance they circled round persistently over one spot, and so we retired to a distance to watch them. Identification owing to the brilliance of the sun and the height at which they were flying was difficult and uncertain at first, but they quickly now began to sink lower and eventually settled on a shingle ridge, where we had an excellent view of them and satisfied ourselves of their identity. Within a few minutes of settling one of them walked a few yards and sat down on the nest. On reaching it, we found that it was a very scanty affair of dead grass built in a horse's hoof-print where a cart track crossed the summit of a ridge. Unfortunately it contained two Black-headed Gull's eggs and one of a Common Tern. We subsequently learned that the nest had already been found some time before by one of the watchers and that in the interval someone else had robbed it and made the substitution. Had any further evidence of identity been necessary it was now furnished by the voices of the birds as they sailed in close circles over us, angrily squealing their protests at our intrusion.

During a second visit to the area on May 31st with Mr. Nicoll, we found three more pairs of Common Gulls, which we

satisfactorily identified and considered to be undoubtedly nesting. After considerable difficulty owing to its situation at the bottom of a hollow between high ridges, we found the nest of a second pair, similar in structure to the first, and containing two eggs that were certainly those of a Common Gull. Time did not then permit of us hunting for those of the other two pairs.

The four pairs were widely separated from one another, and only one was anywhere near the area occupied by the



NEST OF COMMON GULL, DUNGENESS, KENT, JUNE 9, 1919.

*(Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst.)*

Black-headed Gulls. When not sitting, both birds circled high over head for lengthy periods at a greater altitude than the Black-headed Gulls and seldom settled for any length of time on the shingle. They also showed a marked liking for an elevated perch, more so than the Black-headed Gulls, as I had already remarked in the north. Not much is available in this way at Dungeness, but there happened to be a post not far from the second nest and this was in constant use by one of the birds as a look-out for prolonged periods. Like the first nest, this one was also in a colony of Common Terns. The clutch of three was afterwards completed, and on

June 5th the bird was sitting; four days later, however, when I revisited it to take a photograph I found it empty. I therefore went on to where we had marked the third pair. These behaved in exactly the same way as the others, soaring at a good height for prolonged periods and quite silently, except for an occasional low moaning noise. They were more wary, however, and even more difficult to watch to the nest than the others, owing to the fact that for lack of cover this



COMMON GULL, DUNGENESS, KENT, JUNE 11, 1919.

"She . . . shuffled down and sat."

(*Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst.*)

had to be done from a considerable distance. This nest, similar to the others and containing three typical eggs, was situated on a tiny patch of sparse grass and short sorrel on a large flat expanse of perfectly bare shingle. The photograph of the nest was taken on this day.

On the 10th I spent three and a half hours in a fruitless endeavour to photograph the first pair of birds at the nest. On this occasion they were more wary than on our first visit. The sitting bird left the nest while I was still a good distance away and I had to take cover and watch her back before I could find it. As soon as I entered my hide, however,

their demeanour entirely altered: they knew I was inside and would not forget it. They became at once bold, noisy and aggressive, circling round close overhead with loud shrieks and constantly swooping down at the tent. The day was excessively hot, and the Terns unusually restless and noisy; they sat on their eggs for only a few minutes at a time and there were constant aerial combats between them and the Gulls. The latter only settled on the beach



COMMON GULL ON THE NEST, DUNGENESS, KENT, JUNE 11, 1919.

"Panting with the heat."

(*Photographed by N. F. Ticehurst.*)

for brief periods of rest and never nearer than twenty yards from the nest.

Profiting by this experience I returned on the next day to the third nest accompanied by my wife, who, after tying me up in my tent, walked away a considerable distance and sat down under cover. The ruse proved successful, the birds remained circling high overhead and quite silent. After twenty minutes one of them went off and settled at a distance. At the end of three-quarters of an hour the other settled twice for a few minutes fifty yards away. Fifteen minutes later she settled once more, this time within twenty yards, and

very slowly walked on to the nest, shuffled down and sat, panting with the heat, her bill widely separated. A beautiful object she looked, at a distance of less than two yards, the pale olive-green of her bill contrasting with the deep orange and yellow of her gape and the brilliant sun shining on her pure white and pale grey plumage. She proved easily frightened and left the nest while I was setting the shutter, and a further ten minutes elapsed before her return. Each time an exposure was made, the noise of the shutter put her off, but she gradually got used to it and finally was only off for two or three minutes, flying straight on to the nest on her return. Her mate once settled within fifteen yards of the nest, and he too was panting with the heat. Had time permitted, an opportunity might have occurred of taking both birds together.

On this day I also saw the fourth pair of birds in the same place as on May 31st, so that it is almost certain that they had a nest also, but there was not time to look for it.

There is a certain amount of evidence that one pair at least nested and successfully reared their young in 1917 and 1918. One of the watchers apparently recognized the present birds as identical with those he saw in those years, but it was evident that he was not quite clear as to the differences between the Common and Herring-Gulls. They must, however, have been one or the other. They were a solitary pair and nested on the crown of a shingle ridge a long way away from the Black-headed Gull area, which has always been affected by the Herring-Gulls; and he saw their nest with eggs, and later the young ones with their parents.

It would be too sanguine to hope that there is any likelihood of the Common Gull establishing itself as a breeding species at so great a distance beyond its normal range, for the single pairs that bred on the Farne Islands in 1910 and 1912, and also subsequently, and on the Cumberland side of the Solway in 1914 are, with the exception of another older and apparently doubtful record from the Farnes, the only instances known on which this species has done so south of the Border. At present the facts related above can only be looked upon as an instance of sporadic nesting similar to that of the Lesser Black-backed Gull, and a very interesting and remarkable occurrence.

## ON SOME RESULTS OF RINGING CERTAIN SPECIES OF BIRDS.

BY

H. F. WITHERBY.

(Continued from p. 296.)

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*).

RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at or near home.*—The birds recorded have been ringed in the Farne Isles, Northumberland, the Scilly Isles, Wexford, Mochrum, Kirkcudbrightshire and the Summer Isles, north-west Ross-shire.

From the Farne Isles those reported in the immediate neighbourhood were six between September and December of the same year and two in the following January, one in November of the second year, one in April and one in May nearly three years afterwards and one in May nearly four years afterwards. Of others ringed in the Farnes and found not very far away we have :—four in Fifeshire in October and December of the same year, one in Haddingtonshire in November two years afterwards, one in Durham in August two years afterwards, in Yorkshire one in November of the same year, one in the January following, and one in May a year after ringing.

From the Scilly Isles we have one at the same place, three in Cornwall, one in Devon, and one in Somerset between July and December of the same year and one in Cornwall in February nearly two years afterwards.

From Wexford three were reported from the same place in July, August and October of the same year, nine off various counties on the east side of Ireland from Waterford in the south to Londonderry in the north, from August to Dec. in the same year, one in Waterford in June and one in Louth in July a year after ringing and one in Londonderry in January two and a half years after ringing. Five were reported from inland counties, viz. :—Westmeath, Longford, Cavan and Lough Neagh, Antrim, all from August to October in the same year, while one was found in Galway in July a year after ringing.

From the Summer Isles five have been reported not far away (the farthest being from southern Argyllshire) from November to January following ringing.

From Mochrum one was reported in the Solway Firth in the following September.

The total of the above records is fifty-five.

*Recovered away.*—It is difficult to classify some of the records under this heading.

From the Farne Isles two were reported in Lancashire in October of the same year and one in September in the second year, one in Carmarthen and one in Glamorgan in November of the same year, five in Devon from October to December of the same year, and one in Cornwall in October of the same year.

In the south-east and south we have one in Kent and one in the Isle of Wight in December of the same year, while one is reported from Dorset in February three and a half years after ringing and one in Leicestershire in May nearly a year after ringing. Whether those reported from the west coast proceeded overland westwards and then worked south down the coast or whether they travelled all round the coast is impossible to say. From the Farnes we have two reported from abroad, viz., Brittany and Ferrol (Spain) in October of the same year.

From the Scilly Isles we have the following five records :—Côtes du Nord on July 19th following ringing (April 20th) ; Brittany (Finistère) in October and December of the same year, and in September of the second year, Galicia (Spain) in October of the same year.

From Wexford one was recorded in Argyllshire in November of the same year, one in Ayrshire in August of the second year, one in Anglesey in August three years after ringing, one in Devon and one in Cornwall in August of the same year, and one in Devon in January following ringing. From Wexford we also have the following seven records from abroad :—Côtes du Nord in September of the same year, Brittany (Finistère and Morbihan) two in August, two in November of the same year and one in the following February, one in Portugal on September 13th in the same year as ringing (June 1st).

From Mochrum we have a record from Lough Neagh in December of the same year.

The total of the above records is thirty-six.

#### REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*).

##### RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Three ringed in Ross-shire, one in Dumfriesshire and one in Lancashire were recovered where ringed : four in the following winter and one in September fifteen months afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—Single birds ringed in Ross-shire, Ayrshire,



Cumberland and Lancashire were recovered later in the same summer or in the winter in adjacent counties, viz., Inverness-shire, Buteshire, Dumfriesshire and Cheshire. One ringed in Northumberland was reported from Lincolnshire in winter three and a half years afterwards and another ringed in Warwickshire was found in Norfolk in the following September. Three travelled greater distances, viz., Ross-shire to Mayo (November following), Warwickshire to Cornwall (January following), Stirlingshire to Down (September next year).

CURLEW (*Numenius a. arquata*).

RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Two were found at the same place nearly a year afterwards, one in Cheshire in April and the other in Dumfriesshire in May.

*Recovered away.*—Of eight recovered away five were from Ireland, viz. : ringed in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Dumfriesshire recovered in Limerick, Sligo and Donegal in October and December of the same year and in Kerry in the following March (28th) and in November two and a half years afterwards. Of two ringed in Ross-shire one was reported from Kirkcudbrightshire in the following December and another was found dead in the Outer Hebrides. One ringed in Sutherland was recovered in the Isle of Skye in December eighteen months afterwards.

SNIPE (*Gallinago g. gallinago*).

RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at home.*—Five were recovered in Orkney, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Berkshire from August to November of the same year, one in Cheshire in August two years afterwards, one in Staffordshire in November three years afterwards and one in Shropshire in October six years afterwards.

*Recovered away.*—Several were reported from adjacent counties or not far away, viz., Cheshire to Staffordshire and Yorkshire in August and November of the same year and in August two years afterwards, Bedfordshire to Norfolk in November eighteen months afterwards, Berkshire to Hampshire in the following February, Surrey to Sussex in January eighteen months afterwards. Three others were found at a distance, viz. : Cheshire to Cork in December eighteen months afterwards, Lancashire to Galway in December eighteen months afterwards, Lancashire to Cornwall, but unfortunately without date.

## RINGED AS ADULT.

*Recovered at home.*—One ringed in Lancashire in May was recovered at the same place in October of the following year.

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered away.*—One ringed at the Farnes, Northumberland, was found (probably breeding) at Ravenglass, Cumberland, in July exactly five years afterwards. Others ringed at the Farnes were found in Elgin six weeks afterwards, in Ross-shire in August two years afterwards, in Morbihan, France, and in Portugal in the following September, and on the Ivory Coast, West Africa, in the following February. One ringed in Cumberland was reported from Gironde, France, in March four years afterwards.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered away.*—A large number ringed in Cumberland and a few in Norfolk were found in August and September a month or two after ringing some few miles to the south. Others ringed in Cumberland were found: two in Yorkshire and one in Berwickshire in September of the same year, while one ringed in Norfolk was found at the mouth of the Tees in September of the same year. Others ringed in Cumberland were reported in the same year from Devon on October 9th and north-west Spain and Oporto in September; three others ringed in Northumberland, Renfrew and Ross-shire were found in Portugal in September and October of same year, while another ringed in Kent was recovered in France in September of the same year. Two ringed in Cumberland were reported from Brittany on August 25th two years afterwards and south Spain on October 28th three years afterwards.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at or near home.*—Of six recovered in Argyllshire where they were ringed or in adjacent counties two have been in August and September of the same year, two in the following February, one in September of the following year and one on April 27th three years after ringing.

*Recovered away.*—Four ringed in Argyllshire were reported from Ireland: Derry, Carlow, Louth and Clare, two in November of the same year, one in November of the following year and one in February seven years after ringing. One was found in Northumberland in September of the same year.

HERRING-GULL (*Larus a argentatus*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered at or near home.*—One ringed in Ross-shire was found in December of the same year at the same place. Others are reported not very far from the place of ringing from August to December of the same year, viz.: ringed Ross-shire, reported Aberdeen August and September, Argyllshire October, Lanarkshire October; ringed Caithness, reported Ross-shire and Banffshire August; ringed Anglesey, found Lancashire December; ringed Carnarvonshire, reported Glamorganshire December. One ringed in Ross-shire was also reported from Inverness-shire in January eighteen months after ringing.

*Recovered away.*—Others found farther from home were: ringed Ross-shire, reported Yorkshire in September of the following year; ringed in Caithness, found near Calais in September of the same year, and in Waterford in July of the next year; ringed in Carnarvonshire, reported in Dublin in the January following.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus f. affinis*).

## RINGED AS NESTLINGS.

*Recovered in British Isles.*—With only two exceptions all the Lesser Black-backed Gulls recovered were ringed either at Foulshaw, Westmorland, or in the Farne Isles off the coast of Northumberland. Of those ringed in Westmorland sixteen have been reported in Great Britain mostly a month or two after ringing and mostly on the west side, but one from Yorkshire and another from Durham. October 1st is the latest date, excluding one ringed in 1919 which was recovered on December 2nd, but Mr. H. W. Robinson, who ringed these birds tells me that unfortunately two or three pairs of Herring-Gulls are now nesting at Foulshaw and he is afraid this bird must have been a Herring-Gull. Two were found in Lancashire in March and May four years after ringing.

Of those ringed at the Farnes twenty-four have been reported from the British Isles. Most of these also were found a month or two after ringing quite near the Farnes and in Durham, Yorkshire and Norfolk, but one in Lancashire and another in Mayo. Three were reported in the second year, viz., Durham October 1st, Sunderland September 12th and Cheshire July 5th. The latest date in the autumn for one of these Farne Isle birds to be found in the British Isles was November 14th, another was reported on November 2nd and several in the latter half of October, all these being in Northumberland or Durham.

There is no proof therefore from these records that this Gull remains in the British Isles during the winter.

*Recovered abroad.*—Seventy-one have been reported from abroad. Of these forty-six were ringed at the Farnes, twenty-four at Foulshaw and one in the Scilly Isles.

Eight have been recovered on the west coast of France, six of these being from August to October in the year of ringing, the earliest on August 23rd (ringed Foulshaw July 8th); one was reported in July of the next year and one on April 26th three years afterwards.

One was reported from Vigo, north Spain, in February following ringing.

Forty-eight have been reported from Portugal, and for this excellent result we are chiefly indebted to Mr. W. C. Tait, of Oporto, who has made the scheme known in Portugal and has advised us in most cases of details of recoveries. Forty of these birds have been recovered in the autumn or winter following ringing, the earliest being on September 22nd. One was reported in November in the second winter, one in October in the third winter, one in November in the fourth winter and one in January in the fifth winter. In spring and summer we have the following records: three in March, one year, two years and three years after ringing, and one in July a year after ringing.

Three have been recorded from south-west Spain, one in December of the same year, one on March 19th of the following year and one on March 20th three years after ringing. One has also been reported from the Straits of Gibraltar in January following ringing.

Judging by the records, some birds enter the Mediterranean, while others pass down the west coast of Africa. Of those entering the Mediterranean we have six records as follows: One Murcia and two Valencia in east Spain in January and April of the following year and in November of the second winter; two from the Algerian coast, both near Oran in December of the first and second winters; and finally one in Sardinia on November 5th of the same year as ringing.

Of those travelling down the west coast of Africa we have four records, viz.: Casablanca and Cape Juby in Morocco in the following winter, the Cape Juby bird having reached that place nearly two thousand miles away on November 13th three and a half months after it was ringed. Another is recorded from Lanzarote, one of the eastern Canaries Islands, in January of the following winter. The farthest south is recorded from St. Louis, Senegal, where the bird was found on April 18th in the year following ringing.

# NOTES

## SISKINS IN DEVONSHIRE.

As the Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) is of such uncertain appearance in Devonshire it may be of interest to give its known occurrences since 1892, the date of publication of *The Birds of Devon*. One was shot by chance out of a flock of small birds in Dodbrooke Parish, near Kingsbridge, about Christmas 1903, but although Mr. E. A. S. Elliot, a well-known ornithologist there, kept a sharp look-out he saw no flock.

A flock of about twenty on December 20th, 1905, feeding in the alders by the River Yeo near Ivybridge.

A flock of Siskins with a few Lesser Redpolls November 26th, 1905, feeding in the alders at Venn Quarry, near Barnstaple (B. F. Cummings, *Zoologist*, 1906, p. 237).

Some were also seen daily at Exwick in March 1908 by Mr. A. H. Rousham.

Mr. W. S. M. D'Urban himself has not seen any in Devonshire since 1866, though he has been on the look-out for them.

On January 15th, 1920, I saw four Siskins feeding among the debris left by a flood by the side of the Exe at Countess Wear village, just south of Exeter. They were very tame.

T. P. BACKHOUSE.

## LAPLAND BUNTINGS IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

On the afternoon of April 1st, 1920, during a strong easterly wind, I had an excellent view at close quarters at Bamburgh, Northumberland, of a male Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius l. lapponicus*) in full breeding plumage. The bird was feeding by the roadside, a few hundred yards from the sea, and showed a complete absence of fear, so that I was able to observe its plumage in detail.

SETON GORDON.

On April 3rd, 1920, at 6 p.m. Mr. Hodgkin and I saw a flock of Buntings whose identity puzzled us. They answered the description of the Lapland Bunting. They were feeding on the links above Budle Bay, one mile north of Bamburgh. The day had been wild and stormy with east wind and ceaseless rain. The birds were busy feeding, and very tame: little groups kept flying on, as we walked them up. The light was very bad in the mist, but we got close to the birds. There were at least thirty of them, possibly more, in the flock.

CATHARINE HODGKIN.

## BREEDING OF DIPPER IN WILTSHIRE.

A NEST of the Dipper (*Cinclus c. britannicus*), containing four slightly incubated eggs, was found by me on April 5th, 1920, in the Nadder Valley, near Salisbury. The birds commenced to build the nest on March 20th. As far as can be ascertained, these birds have been established at this spot for the past ten years. In 1914 I found a pair on April 11th feeding a brood of young, and another brood in June of that year. On reference to the *Birds of Wiltshire* (Smith), I find no mention of the species having nested in the county. Are there any records for Wiltshire?

D. W. MUSSELWHITE.

[The Dipper has been recorded as breeding in the north-west of Wiltshire (see *Brit. B.*, Vol. VII., p. 230), but not so far as we know anywhere in the neighbourhood of Salisbury.—EDS.]

## HOBBY, NOT RED-FOOTED FALCON IN NORFOLK.

As it is always a good thing to put mistakes right, an apology will hardly be needed for correcting my error in recording a Red-footed Falcon as seen by Mr. Meade-Waldo at Sutton on May 21st, 1912 (*Zoologist*, XVII. (1913), p. 171); the bird was merely a Hobby, a species certainly more associated with woodlands than with the Broad district.

J. H. GURNEY.

## HEN-HARRIER IN BERKSHIRE.

ON November 25th or 26th, 1919, a Hen-Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) was shot by one of the keepers of Mr. A. Morris of Aston Tirrold, Berks., on the Downs near Aston Tirrold. It had killed a Partridge and was apparently a hen bird, but the taxidermist was unable to confirm the sex by dissection. In all probability it was one of a pair, for another Harrier, evidently a male, in the characteristic grey plumage, has been seen several times during the winter on the downs and was noticed by Mr. Morris towards the end of March 1920. There are five previous records, mostly indefinite, of this species being killed in Berkshire, as well as about the same number reported as seen.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

## ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD IN DEVON.

ON March 29th, 1920, at Budleigh Salterton, I had a clear view of a Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo l. lagopus*), which, I think, is a very rare visitor to the south-western corner of England.

I first noticed the bird when it was at a considerable distance and took it for a Common Buzzard, but very soon observed

the long wings, and as it approached nearer and turned slightly over, I saw the white upper tail-coverts and the whitish head.

W. WALMESLEY WHITE.

#### PERIODS OF DIVES IN RELATION TO DEPTH OF WATER.

MR. J. ALASTAIR ANDERSON'S note on the diving of the Long-tailed Duck (*antea*, p. 298) supports what I believe is a general rule for the periods of dives made by diving birds. The rule is a simple one, namely, twenty seconds for the first fathom and ten seconds for every fathom thereafter. The conditions are that the birds are actually going to the bottom, that they are not disturbed or alarmed in any way, and that the times of not less than three consecutive dives are used in reaching an average. The depth recorded by Mr. Anderson is 35 feet, or  $5\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms, and the times 65 to 70 seconds, which agrees very closely with the rule. I have discovered an important exception to the rule. When a bird is travelling along the bottom and crosses a reef at right angles to its course, the period of the dive does not correspond to the general depth of the bottom, but to the general depth *plus* the height of the reef. Thus, a bird is diving in three fathoms of water and crosses a reef one fathom in height. The probable time of the dive will not be 40 seconds (according to the rule), but 40 seconds *plus* 10 seconds = 50 seconds, the reef having an effect on the period of the dive, as if it increased the depth to an extent equivalent to its height above the bottom.

Great practical difficulties attend the recording at the same time of the periods of the dives and the depth of the water. Since I began to collect records, I have been forced to the conclusion that the only practicable way of obtaining the depth, without disturbing the birds, is the indirect one of determining the position of the bird on the water in relation to fixed points. The method is not free from liability to error, and on sea-water the chances of making mistakes are increased by the rise and fall of the tide. Hence, it would appear that the problem is one for as many observers as possible, working independently and maintaining a critical attitude towards their results. Since 1910 I have collected the times of over three thousand dives made by nineteen species of Auks, Grebes, Divers, Cormorants, and diving Ducks. Such is the regularity of these birds when they are working in a given depth of water, that I am convinced there is always a constant and narrow relation between the period of the dive and the

depth to which the bird descends ; though, that this relation is correctly expressed by the rule I have given above, I am not yet prepared to affirm, in view of the liability to error in the method of observation.

J. M. DEWAR.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT IN FORFARSHIRE.—Mr. D. G. Hunter records (*Scot. Nat.*, 1919, p. 198) that he watched for some time and very closely an example of *Limosa limosa* at Elliot on September 3rd, 1919.

## LETTER.

### AMERICAN WIGEON IN STIRLINGSHIRE AND FIFESHIRE.

*To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.*

SIRS,—With reference to the notes on the American Wigeon having been seen in Stirlingshire and Fifeshire (*antea*, pp. 244 and 299), is it not highly probable that these were birds bred from captive parents and, owing to the War, were not pinioned ? I know personally of some which were hatched and not pinioned in Northumberland in 1914-15. It may be thought improbable that these birds would escape for so long a period, but a male Common Wigeon which I have had since 1910 is still about, though not fed since 1914-15, and also a male Pintail, hatched 1914, comes back at intervals and I saw him on March 20th, and he still remembered the whistle and came up within fifteen yards, which astonished me, as I had been away over four and a half years.

M. PORTAL.

HIGH SANDHOE, HEXHAM.

[Although both birds appeared to be wild ones, of course there is always the possibility of their having been bred from captive birds, and unfortunately this is so with many rare "Waterfowl."—Eds.]



## INDEX.

NOTE.—The nomenclature followed in this volume is in accordance with *A Hand-List of British Birds* (1912), and the Additions and Corrections thereto in *British Birds*, Vol. IX., pp. 1-10, and Vol. XI., pp. 2-5.

- Accipitres*, *A Synoptical List of the*, Pts. I. and II., Reviewed, 200.  
*acuta*, *Anas*, see Duck, Pintail.  
*ærginosus*, *Circus*, see Harrier, Marsh.  
*æsalon*, *Falco columbarius*, see Merlin.  
*affinis*, *Larus fuscus*, see Gull, Black-backed, Lesser, British.  
*alba*, *Crocethia*, see Sanderling.  
 —, *Motacilla*, see Wagtail, White.  
 —, *Tyto a.*, see Owl, Barn.  
*albellus*, *Mergus*, see Smew.  
*albicilla*, *Haliaëtus*, see Eagle, White-tailed.  
*albifrons*, *Sterna a.*, see Tern, Lesser.  
 ALEXANDER, H. G., Winter immigration of Goldcrests and Firecrests in Kent, 56; Black Redstarts in Cornwall and Isle of Wight, 274; Habits of Little Auk inland, 275.  
*alle*, *Alle*, see Auk, Little.  
*alpina*, *Erolia a.*, see Dunlin.  
*americana*, *Anas*, see Wigeon, American.  
 ANDERSON, J. A., American Wigeon in Stirlingshire, 244; Periods of Dives made by Long-tailed Ducks, 298.  
 ANDREWS, W. H. M., Rough-legged Buzzards in Norfolk, 31.  
*anglorum*, *Regulus r.*, see Goldcrest.  
*apricarius*, *Charadrius*, see Plover, Golden.  
*apus*, *Apus*, see Swift.  
*arboorea*, *Lullula*, see Lark, Wood.  
*arcticus*, *Colymbus*, see Diver, Black-throated.  
*argentatus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Herring.  
 ARNOLD, ARTHUR, Green Woodpecker in the Isle of Wight, 109.  
*arquata*, *Numenius*, see Curlew.  
*aquaticus*, *Rallus a.*, see Rail, Water.  
*arvensis*, *Alauda a.*, see Lark, Sky.  
 ASTLEY, A., Status of the Yellow Wagtail in Westmorland, 135; Crossbill in Westmorland, 194.  
 ATKINS, HOWARD, Young Garden Warbler fed on Moths, 108.  
*atra*, *Fulica*, see Coot.  
*atricapilla*, *Sylvia a.*, see Blackcap.  
*atricapillus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, see Goshawk, American.  
 Auk, Little, in Derbyshire in May, 87; in Buckinghamshire, 246; Habits of, inland, 275.  
 BACKHOUSE, T. P., Siskins in Devonshire, 313.  
 BAILLIE, R. H., Grey Wagtail nesting in Warwickshire, 27; Notes on the Birds of Guernsey, 243.  
 BANKS, R. C., Pomatorhine Skua in Monmouthshire, 197.  
 Bardsey Island, The Birds of, 42, 66, 101, 129, 182, 214; Migration Notes from, 284.  
 BARROW, W. H., Status of the Little Owl in Leicestershire, 30; Red-throated Diver in Leicestershire, 60; Notes from Leicestershire, 217.  
*bassana*, *Sula*, see Gannet.  
 BAWTREE, L. J., Birds feeding upon winged ants, 160.  
 BEDFORD, THE DUCHESS OF, Hobby in Bedfordshire, 58.  
 BENTHAM, HOWARD, Large Flocks of Hawfinches in Surrey and Kent, 26; Little Stint in Surrey, 220.  
 BEST, MARY G. S., Smews off Aberdeenshire, 32.

- biarmicus*, *Panurus b.*, see Titmouse, Bearded.
- Birds covering their Eggs at Night during Laying Period, 23.
- Birds and the War*, Reviewed, 112.
- Birds feeding upon winged ants, 160.
- Birds, Migration of, over the Mediterranean Sea, 173.
- Bittern in Suffolk, 172; in the Norfolk Broads, 5, 34, 261.
- Blackbird, on Bardsey Island, 104; multiple nests of, 108; in Shetland, 159; laying seven eggs, 274; curious site for Nest, 297; laying eight eggs 297.
- Blackcap, on Bardsey Island, 102.
- borin*, *Sylvia*, see Warbler, Garden-.
- BORRER, C. D., Carolina Crake off Irish Coast, 298.
- BOYD, A. W., Notes from Cornwall, 217; Long-tailed Ducks inland in Cheshire, 245.
- Brambling in Worcestershire, 194, 221, 276; in Cornwall, 217.
- britannica*, *Carduelis c.*, see Goldfinch, British.
- britannicus*, *Cinclus c.*, see Dipper.
- , *Parus a.*, see Titmouse, Coal-.
- British Birds*, *Handlist of*, Additions and Corrections to (Third List), 2.
- "British Birds" Marking Scheme, 90, 237.
- British Ornithology*, *A Geographical Bibliography of*, Reviewed, 222.
- Bullfinch, Northern, in Shetland, 298.
- Bunting, Cirl, in Surrey, 226.
- , Corn-, on Bardsey Island, 66.
- , Lapland, in Northumberland, 313.
- , Ortolan, on Bardsey Island, 67; in Norfolk, 256.
- , Reed-, on Bardsey Island, 67.
- , Snow-, on Bardsey Island, 67.
- , Yellow, on Bardsey Island, 66.
- BUNYARD, P. F., Weights of Cuckoos' eggs, 144; Observations on the Cuckoo, 166; Surrey Field Notes, 226.
- Bustard, Little, in Cornwall, 276.
- buteo*, *Buteo b.*, see Buzzard.
- Buzzard, taking Shower-bath, 140.
- , Rough-legged, in Norfolk, 31; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 180; in Devon, 314.
- cabaret*, *Carduelis l.*, see Redpoll, Lesser.
- calandra*, *Emberiza c.*, see Bunting, Corn-.
- campestris*, *Anthus*, see Pipit, Tawny.
- candicans*, *Falco r.*, see Falcon, Greenland, 172.
- cannabina*, *Carduelis c.*, see Linnet.
- canorus*, *Cuculus c.*, see Cuckoo.
- canus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Common.
- carbo*, *Phalacrocorax*, see Cormorant.
- carduelis*, *Carduelis*, see Goldfinch.
- carolina*, *Porzana*, see Crake, Carolina.
- CARTER, B. A., Greenshank in Warwickshire, 61.
- CASTENS, H. E., Black-necked Grebe on Kent and Sussex Border, 60.
- Chaffinch, on Bardsey Island, 51; Abnormal Clutches of Eggs, 80; Results of Ringing, 270.
- CHANCE, EDGAR, Observations on the Cuckoo, 90.
- Chiffchaff, Unusual Site of Nest, 27; on Bardsey Island, 74; in Essex, 299.
- chloris*, *Chloris ch.*, see Greenfinch.
- chloropus*, *Gallinula ch.*, see Moor-Hen.
- Chough, on Bardsey Island, 48; in Guernsey, 243.
- cinerea*, *Ardea*, see Heron.
- , *Motacilla c.*, see Wagtail, Grey.
- cirlus*, *Emberiza*, see Bunting Cirl.
- citrinella*, *Emberiza c.*, see Bunting, Yellow.
- clangula*, *Bucephala c.*, see Golden-eye.
- clarkei*, *Turdus philomelus*, see Thrush, Song-, British.
- clypeata*, *Spatula*, see Shoveler.
- coccothraustes*, *Coccothraustes c.*, see Hawfinch.
- COCKS, A. H., Little Auk in Buckinghamshire, 246.
- cælebs*, *Fringilla c.*, see Chaffinch.
- colchicus*, *Phasianus*, see Pheasant.
- collurio*, *Lanius*, see Shrike, Red-backed.
- collybita*, *Phylloscopus*, see Chiffchaff.
- comminutus*, *Dryobates m.*, see Woodpecker, Spotted, Lesser.
- communis*, *Sylvia c.*, see White-throat.

- Coot, on Bardsey Island, 216 ;  
in Norfolk, 268.
- corax*, *Corvus c.*, see Raven.
- CORBET, A. S., Late Nesting of  
Linnets, 218.
- Cormorant, Migration of, over  
Mediterranean, 180 ; on Bard-  
sey Island, 182 ; results of  
ringing, 307.
- cornix*, *Corvus c.*, see Crow, Hooded.
- corone*, *Corvus*, see Crow, Carrion-.
- coturnix*, *Coturnix c.*, see Quail.
- COWARD, T. A., Night-Heron in  
Anglesey, 58 ; One pair of  
Meadow-Pipits feeding two  
young Cuckoos, 139.
- Crake, Carolina, off Irish Coast, 298.
- , Spotted, in Ross-shire, 197.
- crecca*, *Anas c.*, see Teal.
- Creep, Tree-, in Guernsey, 243.
- crex*, *Crex*, see Rail, Land-.
- cristatus*, *Podiceps c.*, see Grebe,  
Crested, Great.
- Crossbill, in Suffolk, 170 ; in  
Westmorland, 194 ; in Surrey,  
226.
- Crow, J. H., Strange nesting-place  
of Coal-Tit, 273.
- Crow, Carrion-, pursuing Kestrel,  
23 ; on Bardsey Island, 47 ;  
Adopting Young, 246.
- , Hooded, in Shetland, 159.
- Cuckoo, Killing Nestling Birds,  
57 ; Observations on 90, 166 ;  
Eggs and Nestlings in 1919,  
109 ; on Bardsey Island, 133 ;  
Reared by Greenfinches (?),  
137 ; attacked by Meadow-  
Pipit, 139, 162 ; fed by  
Meadow-Pipit, 139, 163 ;  
weight of Eggs, 144, 199.
- CUMMINGS, S. G., unusual Site  
for Chiffchaffs' Nest, 27 ;  
Breeding habits of the Night-  
jar, 27.
- Curlew, on Bardsey Island, 190 ;  
in Surrey, 230 ; results of  
ringing, 309.
- , Stone-, in Norfolk, 264.
- curvirostra*, *Loxia*, see Crossbill.
- cyaneus*, *Circus*, see Harrier.
- cygnus*, *Cygnus*, see Whooper.
- DALLAS, C. C., Woodcocks perching  
on trees, 142.
- dartfordiensis*, *Sylvia u.*, see Warbler,  
Dartford.
- DAVIES, W., Pied Flycatcher in  
Staffordshire, 107.
- DEAR, L. S., Long-eared Owl  
laying twice in same nest, 30.
- DEWAR, J. M., The Oystercatcher's  
Progress towards Maturity,  
207 ; Periods of Dives in  
relation to depth of water, 315.
- Dipper, breeding in Wiltshire, 314.
- discors*, *Anas*, see Teal, Blue-winged  
American.
- Diver, Black-throated, in Surrey,  
243 ; in Norfolk, 264.
- , Great Northern, colouring  
of soft parts, 63 ; in Guernsey,  
243 ; in Norfolk, 264.
- , Red-throated, in Derbyshire  
and Leicestershire, 60 ; in  
Shetland, 160.
- Dives, Periods of, in relation to  
depth of water, 315.
- Diving Birds*, *Life Histories of*  
*North American*, Reviewed, 200.
- domesticus*, *Passer d.*, see Sparrow,  
House-.
- Dotterel, in co. Dublin, 61.
- dougallii*, *Sterna*, see Tern, Roseate.
- Dove, Rock-, absent from Cheddar  
Cliffs, 111.
- , Stock-, on Cheddar Cliffs,  
111 ; on Bardsey Island, 185 ;  
in Guernsey, 243.
- , Turtle-, in North Lancashire,  
86 ; migration of, over Medi-  
terranean, 181 ; on Bardsey  
Island, 185.
- Down Tracts in Nestling Birds, 78.
- Duck, Eider, in Shetland, 159.
- , Long-tailed, feeding on  
Grain, 85 ; diving of, 244, 298 ;  
in Cheshire, 245.
- , Pintail, migration from  
Denmark to Finland, 197.
- , Sheld-, Common, in Suffolk,  
172 ; recovery of marked, 244.
- Dunlin, on Bardsey Island, 189.
- Eagle, White-tailed, in Somerset,  
219.
- EDWARDS, L. A. C., Continental  
Jays in Oxfordshire and  
Sussex, 107.
- ELLIOTT, J. STEELE, Grey Wagtails  
resting at a distance from  
water, 81 ; Hobby in Shrop-  
shire and Worcestershire, 84 ;  
large numbers of Bramblings  
in Worcestershire, 194.
- epops*, *Upupa e.*, see Hoopoe.
- europæus*, *Caprimulgus e.*, see  
Nightjar.

- EVANS, H. W., Little Owl in Pembrokeshire, 297.  
*eversmanni*, *Phylloscopus trochilus*, see Warbler, Willow-, Northern.  
*excubitor*, *Lanius e.*, see Shrike, Grey, Great.
- Falcon, Greenland, in Suffolk, 172.  
 —, Peregrine, attacking a boy, 31; on Bardsey Island, 133.
- FARWIG, H. H., Late Nesting of Linnets in Surrey, 194; Grey Wagtails Breeding in Kent and Sussex, 195; Greenshanks in Surrey, 197.
- FEILDEN, COL. H. W., Breeding of the Knot in Grinnell Land, 278.
- ferruginea*, *Erolia*, see Sandpiper, Curlew.
- Fieldfare, on Bardsey Island, 103; Migration of, from Finland to south of France, 161; Early Arrival in co. Antrim, 221.
- Firecrest, Winter Immigration of, 56.
- flammeus*, *Asio f.*, see Owl, Short-eared.
- flava*, *Motacilla*, see Wagtail, Blue-headed.
- Flycatcher, Pied, in South Wales, 27; on Bardsey Island, 74; in Suffolk in Spring, 81; in Staffordshire, 107; in London, 160; Breeding in Ross-shire, 246; Aberdeenshire, 299.  
 —, Red-breasted, in Norfolk, 218, 258.  
 —, Spotted, on Bardsey Island, 74.
- Food of Wild Birds, Some Further Investigations on the*, Reviewed, 200.
- FORREST, H. E., Little Owl Breeding in Shropshire and Radnorshire, 30; Hoopoe in Shropshire, 57; Shifting of Breeding-grounds by Terns, 61; Bar-tailed Godwits in Shropshire, 165; Little Owl in Montgomeryshire, 196.
- FORTUNE, RILEY, Letter on Status of Goldfinch in Yorkshire, 300.
- frugilegus*, *Corvus*, see Rook.  
*fulvicarius*, *Phalaropus*, see Phalarope, Grey.
- fusca*, *Oidemia f.*, see Scoter, Velvet.
- gallinago*, *Gallinago g.*, see Snipe, Common.
- gallinula*, *Limnocyptes*, see Snipe, Jack.
- Gannet, in Derbyshire, 59; in Shetland, 159; on Bardsey Island, 182.
- Garganey, in Suffolk, 172, 262.
- GARNETT, MARJORY, Coloration of the soft parts of some birds, 62.
- garrulus*, *Coracias g.*, see Roller.
- GATEHOUSE, L. R. A., American Blue-winged Teal in Anglesey, 85.
- gentilis*, *Accipiter*, see Goshawk.  
*gibraltariensis*, *Phœnicurus o.*, see Redstart, Black.
- GILL, E. L., Crows, Rooks and Starlings *versus* Kestrels and Peregrine Falcons, 23.
- glacialis*, *Fulmarus g.*, see Petrel, Fulmar.
- GLADSTONE HUGH S., Kite in Kent in 1822, 84; Letter on the Authorship of [Sir] Charles Hastings' "Illustrations of the Natural History of Worcestershire" . . . London . . . 1834, 247.
- glandarius*, *Garrulus g.*, see Jay, Continental.
- Godman Memorial, 111.
- Godwit, Bar-tailed, in Shropshire, 165.  
 —, Black-tailed, in co. Mayo, 221; in Norfolk, 265; in Forfarshire, 316.
- Goldcrest, Winter Immigration of in Kent, 56; on Bardsey Island, 73; in Cornwall, 272.
- Goldeneye, colouring of soft parts, 62.
- Goldfinch, British, on Bardsey Island, 50; in Norfolk, 256; Status of, in Yorkshire, 276, 300.
- Goosander, in co. Galway, 275.
- GORDON, AUDREY, On the Nesting of the Storm-Petrel, 232.
- GORDON, SETON, Willow-Tit on high ground in Aberdeenshire, 195; Periods of Dives made by Long-tailed Ducks, 244; Lapland Buntings in Northumberland, 313.

- Goshawk, in Lincolnshire, 164.  
 —, American, in Ireland, 31.  
*grabæ*, *Frateycula a.*, see Puffin.  
*graculus*, *Phalacrocorax g.*, see Shag.  
*gravis*, *Puffinus*, see Shearwater,  
 Great.
- GREATOREX, C., Some Ornithological Notes from Shetland, 159.
- Grebe, Black-necked, on Kent and Sussex Border, 60; colouring of soft parts, 63; Notes on, 146; in Cornwall, 217; in Norfolk, 263.
- , Crested, Great, Nesting in Kent, 59; as a Breeding Bird in Scotland, 63; in Norfolk, 263.
- , Little, Large Clutch of Eggs of, 142; Sexual Habits of, with a Note on the Occurrence of Vocal Duets in Birds, 155.
- Greenfinch, on Bardsey Island, 50; Results of Ringing, 269.
- Greenshank, in Warwickshire, 61; in Surrey, 197; in Cornwall, 217.
- GRINDEY, ERNEST, Gannets in Derbyshire, 59.
- Grouse, Red, Introduction into Somerset, 86; on Bardsey Island, 216.
- Guillemot, Common, on Bardsey Island, 214.
- Gull, Black-backed, Great, on Bardsey Island, 214.
- , —, Lesser, British, on Bardsey Island, 193; Differences with Scandinavian Species, 221; Results of Ringing, 311.
- , Black-headed, on Bardsey Island, 192; in Norfolk, 266.
- , Common, in Norfolk, 267; breeding on Dungeness Beach, 302; Results of Ringing, 310.
- , Glaucous, in Norfolk, 268.
- , Herring-, on Bardsey Island, 193; in Norfolk, 267.
- , Iceland, in the Orkneys, 62.
- , Little, in Norfolk, 266.
- Gulls*, *Hybrid*, Reviewed, 168.
- GURNEY, J. H., Ornithological Notes from Norfolk for 1919, 250; Hobby, not Red-footed Falcon, in Norfolk, 314.
- guttata*, *Tyto a.*, see Owl, Barn-, Dark-breasted.
- haliaëtus*, *Pandion h.*, see Osprey.
- HARDING, J. RUDGE, Willow-Tit in Ross-shire, 195; Spotted Crake in Ross-shire, 197.
- Harrier, Hen-, in Surrey, 229; in Berkshire, 314.
- , Marsh-, in Norfolk, 260.
- , Montagu's, breeding in Sussex, 141; in Norfolk, 260.
- HARRISON, J. M., Iceland Gulls in the Orkneys, 62; Long-tailed Duck feeding on Grain, 85.
- HARTERT, E., Serins in Sussex, 26.
- Hawfinch, Large flocks of, in Surrey and Kent, 26; on Bardsey Island, 50; in Dumfriesshire, 298; in Dumbartonshire, 299.
- Hawk, Sparrow-, Migration of, over Mediterranean, 180; in London, 242; Results of ringing, 295.
- HEADLEY, F. W., Great Tit laying in an open nest, 56; Adult Cuckoo killing nestling birds, 57; Obituary Notice, 235; Migration Notes from Bardsey Island, October 1919, 284.
- HENDY, E. W., Field-notes on Nesting Kingfishers, 28.
- Heron, on Bardsey Island, 134; results of ringing, 295.
- , Night-, in Anglesey, 58.
- hiaticula*, *Charadrius h.*, see Plover, Ringed.
- hibernans*, *Saxicola torquata*, see Stonechat, British.
- himantopus*, *Himantopus*, see Stilt, Black-winged.
- hirundo*, *Sterna*, see Tern, Common.
- Hobby, in Bedfordshire, 58; in Shropshire and Worcestershire, 84; in Leicestershire, 217; in Norfolk, 314.
- HODGKIN, CATHARINE, Lapland Buntings in Northumberland, 313.
- HODGSON, S. B., Late nesting of Linnets, 217.
- Hoopoe in Norfolk, 259.
- HORNER, D. W., Letter on Disaster to Rooks on Migration, 300.
- HORSFALL, M. A., Osprey in Yorkshire, 196.
- hortulana*, *Emberiza*, see Bunting, Oortolan.
- HUMPHREYS, G. R., Dotterel in co. Dublin, 61; Red-breasted

- Mergansers off Anglesey in April, and Puffin breeding on Skerries, 245; Long-tailed Titmouse nesting in Anglesey, 272; Goosander in co. Galway, 275.
- HUXLEY, J. S., Note on the Drumming of Woodpeckers, 40; Some points in the Sexual Habits of the Little Grebe, with a note on the Occurrence of Vocal Duets in Birds, 155.
- hyemalis*, *Clangula*, see Duck, Long-tailed.
- hyperboreus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Glaucous.
- hypoleuca*, *Muscicapa h.*, see Flycatcher, Pied.
- , *Tringa*, see Sandpiper, Common.
- ignicapillus*, *Regulus i.*, see Firecrest
- immer*, *Colymbus*, see Diver, Northern, Great.
- INGRAM, COLLINGWOOD, Letter on Incubation during the Laying Period, 64; Down Tracts in Nestling Birds, 78.
- INGRAM, G. C. S., On the Breeding of the Lesser Redpoll in Glamorganshire, 136; The Nesting Habits of the Merlin in South Glamorganshire, 202.
- interpres*, *Arenaria i.*, see Turnstone, 188.
- Jackdaw, on Bardsey Island, 48; Spring Immigration on Hampshire Coast, 80.
- Jay, Continental, in Norfolk, 25; in Oxfordshire and Sussex, 107.
- JONES, R. W., Velvet Scoters in Summer off Carnarvonshire, 111.
- JONES, W. M., Little Owls in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire, 274.
- JOURDAIN, REV. F. C. R., Red-throated Diver in Derbyshire, 60; Abnormal Clutch of Chaffinch's Eggs, 81; Large Clutch of Eggs of Little Grebe, 142; Weights of Cuckoos' Eggs, 144; Hen-Harrier in Berkshire, 314.
- JOY, N. H., Fierce Attack on a Cuckoo by a Meadow-Pipit, 138.
- Kestrel, being pursued by Crows, Rooks and Starlings, 23; procuring Food for Female, 29; Unusual Nesting-site of, 84; on Bardsey Island, 134; migration of, over Mediterranean, 180.
- Kingfisher, Field-notes on Nesting of, 28.
- Kite, in Kent in 1822, 84.
- Kittiwake, on Bardsey Island, 214.
- kleinschmidti*, *Parus a.*, see Titmouse, Willow-, British.
- Knot, on Bardsey Island, 188; breeding in Grinnell Land, 278.
- lagopus*, *Buteo l.*, see Buzzard, Rough-legged.
- lapponica*, *Limosa l.*, see Godwit, Bar-tailed.
- lapponicus*, *Calcarius l.*, see Bunting
- Lapwing, on Bardsey Island, 187; in Surrey, 231.
- Lark, Sky-, on Bardsey Island, 67; results of ringing, 270.
- , Wood-, in north Lincolnshire, 26; in Surrey, 226.
- leucoptera*, *Hydrochelidon*, see Tern, Black, White-winged.
- leucopterus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Iceland.
- leucorhoa*, *Oceanodroma*, see Petrel, Fork-tailed, Leach's.
- leucorodia*, *Platalea l.*, see Spoonbill
- leucorrhoea*, *Ænanthe æ.*, see Wheat-ear.
- LEWIS, STANLEY, Introduction of Red Grouse into Somerset, 86; Rock-Dove absent from Cheddar Cliff, 111; White-tailed Eagles in Somerset, 219.
- LEWIS, T., Young Buzzard takes a Shower Bath, 140.
- limosa*, *Limosa*, see Godwit, Black-tailed.
- Linnet, on Bardsey Island, 51; late nesting of, in Surrey, 194; late nesting of, 217; results of ringing, 270.
- livia*, *Columba l.*, see Dove, Rock-
- lobatus*, *Phalaropus*, see Phalarope, Red-necked.
- LONG, S. H., Osprey on the Norfolk Broads, 58.
- longicaudus*, *Stercorarius*, see Skua, Long-tailed.
- LOYD, L. R. W., Little Owl in South Devon, 164.

- lugubris*, *Motacilla a.*, see Wagtail, Pied.
- MACDONALD, D., Whooper in Ross-shire in June, 141.
- MACPHERSON, A. H., Letter on Wild Hybrid between House-Sparrow and Tree-Sparrow, 199.
- McWILLIAM, REV. J. M., The Yellow Wagtail in the Seine Inférieure, 76.
- Magpie, in Norfolk, 256.
- major*, *Dryobates*, see Woodpecker, Spotted, Great.
- Mallard, Results of Ringing, 295.
- marinus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Black-backed, Great.
- maritima*, *Erolia m.*, see Sandpiper, Purple.
- Marked Birds, Recovery of, 125, 241.
- MARRIAGE, A. W., Multiple Nests of Blackbird, 108.
- Martin, Results of Ringing, 294.
- , House-, on Bardsey Island, 132; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 180; Numbers in broods in Warwickshire, 218.
- , Sand-, on Bardsey Island, 132.
- MASSEY, HERBERT, Late Third Brood of Swallows, 161; Letter on Weights of Cuckoos' Eggs, 199.
- MAYALL, A., Abnormal Clutch of Chaffinch's Eggs, 80.
- MEARES, D. H., Great Crested Grebe nesting in Kent, 59.
- media*, *Gallinago*, see Snipe, Great.
- MEDLICOTT, W. S., Wood-Lark in North Lincolnshire, 26; Goshawk in Lincolnshire, 164.
- megarhyncha*, *Luscinia m.*, see Nightingale.
- melophilus*, *Erithacus v.*, see Red-breast.
- merganser*, *Mergus m.*, see Goosander.
- Merganser, Red-breasted, off Anglesey 245.
- Merlin, on Bardsey Island, 134; in Shetland, 159; The Nesting-Habits of, in South Glamorgan-shire, 202; in Norfolk, 260.
- merula*, *Turdus m.*, see Blackbird.
- milvus*, *Milvus*, see Kite.
- minor*, *Dryobates*, see Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted.
- minuta*, *Erolia m.*, see Stint, Little.
- minutus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Little.
- mira*, *Athene n.*, see Owl, Little Dutch.
- modularis*, *Prunella m.*, see Sparrow, Hedge-, Continental.
- mollissima*, *Somateria m.*, see Duck, Eider.
- montanus*, *Passer*, see Sparrow, Tree-.
- montifringilla*, *Fringilla*, see Brambling.
- MOON, H. J., Turtle-Dove breeding in North Lancashire, 86.
- Moor-Hen, Colouring of Soft Parts, 62; on Bardsey Island, 216.
- morinellus*, *Charadrius*, see Dotterel.
- MULLENS, W. H., The Ruff—an Early Record, 13; Tawny Pipit and Black-winged Stilt in Kent, 272.
- musicus*, *Turdus*, see Redwing.
- MUSSELWHITE, D. W., Breeding of Dipper in Wiltshire, 314.
- nævia*, *Locustella n.*, see Warbler, Grasshopper-.
- Naturalist's Sketch Book, A*, Reviewed, 222.
- nebularia*, *Tringa*, see Greenshank.
- Nederland, De Vogels van*, Reviewed, 223.
- Nests and Nesting-Sites, Unusual, 27, 84, 273, 297.
- newtoni*, *Parus m.*, see Tit, Great.
- NICHOLS, J. B., Wild Hybrid between House-Sparrow and Tree-Sparrow, 136.
- NICOLL, M. J., Marsh-Warbler in Sussex, 297.
- Nightingale in Suffolk, 170.
- Nightjar, Breeding habits of, 27; on Bardsey Island, 133; in Suffolk, 171; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 180.
- nigra*, *Hydrochelidon n.*, see Tern, Black.
- , *Oidemia n.*, see Scoter, Common.
- nigricollis*, *Podiceps*, see Grebe, Black-necked.
- nisus*, *Accipiter*, see Hawk, Sparrow-.
- nivalis*, *Plectrophenax*, see Bunting, Snow-.
- noctua*, *Athene n.*, see Owl, Little.
- NORGATE, FRANK, Obituary Notices, 21, 64.

North Wales, *A Handbook to the Vertebrate Fauna of*, Reviewed, 223.

*nycticorax*, *Nycticorax n.*, see Heron, Night-.

Obituary Notices :—

Frank Norgate, 21, 64.

Dr. J. Wiglesworth, 22, 52.

Frederick Webb Headley, 235.

*occidentalis*, *Prunella m.*, see Sparrow, Hedge-.

*ochropus*, *Tringa*, see Sandpiper, Green.

*ædicnemus*, *Burhinus æ*, see Curlew, Stone-.

*ænanthe*, *Ænanthe*, see Wheatear.

*ænas*, *Columba*, see Dove, Stock-OLDHAM, CHAS., Diving powers of Shoveler, 110.

Osprey, in the Norfolk Broads, 58 ; in Yorkshire, 196.

*ostralegus*, *Hæmatopus o.*, see Oystercatcher.

*otus*, *Asio o.*, see Owl, Long-eared.

Ouzel, Ring-, on Bardsey Island, 104 ; in Norfolk, 258.

OWEN, J. H., Birds covering their Eggs at night during the laying period, 23 ; On the procuring of food by the Male for the Female among Birds of Prey, 29 ; Large clutch of Wren's Eggs, 82 ; Cuckoo's Eggs and Nestlings in 1919, 109 ; some Habits of the Sparrow-Hawk, 114.

Owl, Barn-, in Norfolk, 260.

—, Dark-breasted, in Kent, 275.

—, Little, procuring Food for Female, 29 ; breeding in Shropshire and Radnorshire, 30 ; status of, in Leicestershire, 30 ; Breeding in Shropshire, 163 ; in South Devon, 164 ; in Montgomeryshire, 196 ; Distribution and Food of, 198 ; in Cornwall, 219 ; in Norfolk, 259 ; in Cardiganshire, Cornwall and Montgomeryshire, 274 ; in Pembrokeshire, and Flintshire, 297.

—, Dutch, distinction with British Little Owl, 283.

—, Long-eared, laying twice in same nest, 30 ; in Norfolk, 259.

—, Short-eared in Suffolk, 171 ; in Leicestershire, 217.

Oystercatcher, on Bardsey Island, 186 ; Progress towards Maturity, 207.

*paläarktischen Fauna*, *Die Vögel der*. Part 3, Reviewed, 223.

*palumbus*, *Columba p.*, see Pigeon, Wood-.

*palustris*, *Acrocephalus*, see Warbler, Marsh-.

*paradisæa*, *Sterna*, see Tern, Arctic.

*parasiticus*, *Stercorarius*, see Skua, Richardson's.

Partridge, Abnormal late Hatching of, 166 ; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 181 ; Shelled Egg in, 220.

*parva*, *Muscicapa p.*, see Flycatcher, Red-breasted.

*pelagicus*, *Hydrobates*, see Petrel, Storm-.

*penelope*, *Anas*, see Wigeon.

*perdix*, *Perdix*, see Partridge, Common.

*peregrinus*, *Falco p.*, see Falcon, Peregrine.

Petrel, Fork-tailed, Leach's, on Bardsey Island, 183.

—, Fulmar, in Yorkshire in Summer, 59 ; in Shetland, 159 ; Breeding on North Uist, 247.

—, Storm-, on Bardsey Island, 182 ; Nesting of, 232.

*petrosus*, *Anthus spinoletta*, see Pipit, Rock-.

Phalarope, Grey, in Cornwall, 217.

—, Red-necked in Shetland, 160.

Pheasant, Breeding in Sparrow-Hawk's Nest, 87.

*phæopus*, *Numenius ph.*, see Whimbrel.

*phanicurus*, *Phænicurus ph.*, see Redstart.

*pica*, *Pica p.*, see Magpie.

Pigeon, Wood-, on Bardsey Island, 185 ; ruse of, 220.

PIKE, O. G., Probable Long-tailed Skua in Hertfordshire, 143.

—, The Black-necked Grebe, 146.

*pilaris*, *Turdus*, see Fieldfare.

Pipit, migration of, over Mediterranean, 178.

—, Meadow-, on Bardsey Island, 68 ; Attacking Cuckoo, 139, 162 ; Feeding Cuckoo, 139, 163 ; Results of Ringing, 271.

—, Tawny, in Norfolk, 256 ; in Kent, 272.

—, Tree, on Bardsey Island, 68.



- PITT, FRANCES, Little Owl breeding in Shropshire, 163.
- platyrhyncha*, *Anas p.*, see Mallard.
- Plover, Golden, on Bardsey Island, 187; in Norfolk, 264.
- , Grey in Norfolk, 265.
- , Ringed, on Bardsey Island, 186; in Norfolk, 264.
- pluvius*, *Picus viridis*, see Woodpecker, Green.
- pomarinus*, *Stercorarius*, see Skua, Pomatorhine.
- PORTAL, M., Abnormal late hatching of Partridges, 166; Letter on American Wigeon in Stirlingshire and Fifeshire, 316.
- porzana*, *Porzana*, see Crake, Spotted.
- pratensis*, *Anthus*, see Pipit, Meadow.
- Puffin, on Bardsey Island, 215; Breeding on Skerries, 245.
- puffinus*, *Puffinus p.*, see Shearwater, Manx.
- pugnax*, *Machetes*, see Ruff.
- , *Philomachus*, see Ruff.
- pygargus*, *Circus*, see Harrier, Montagu's.
- pyrrhacorax*, *Pyrrhacorax*, see Chough.
- pyrrhula*, *Pyrrhula p.*, see Bullfinch, Northern.
- Quail, migration of, over Mediterranean, 181; in Cheshire, 198.
- querquedula*, *Anas*, see Garganey.
- Rail, Water-, on Bardsey Island, 216.
- Raven, on Bardsey Island, 47; in Guernsey, 243.
- ravi*, *Motacilla flava*, see Wagtail, Yellow.
- Razorbill, on Bardsey Island, 214.
- Redbreast, Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179.
- , British, on Bardsey Island, 129; Results of Ringing, 292.
- Redpoll, Lesser, Breeding in Glamorganshire, 136; in Norfolk, 256.
- Redshank, Common, on Bardsey Island, 189; in Surrey, 197, 230; Breeding in Outer Hebrides, 247; Results of Ringing, 308.
- Redstart, on Bardsey Island, 129; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179.
- Redstart, Black, in Somerset, 198; in Cornwall, 217; in Norfolk, 258; in Cornwall, and Isle of Wight, 274.
- Redwing, on Bardsey Island, 104; early arrival in co. Down, 221.
- regulus*, *Regulus*, see Wren, Golden-crested.
- Reviews:—
- Birds and the War, 112.
- The Selection of *Helix nemoralis* by the Song-Thrush, 168.
- Hybrid Gulls, 168.
- Report on Scottish Ornithology in 1918, including Migration, 168.
- A Synoptical List of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey), Pts. I. and II., 200.
- Some Further Investigations on the Food of Wild Birds, 200.
- Life Histories of North American Diving Birds, 200.
- A Naturalist's Sketch Book, 222.
- A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times to the end of 1918, 222.
- A Handbook to the Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales, 223.
- Die Vögel der Paläarktischen Fauna, Vol. II., Pt. 3, 223.
- De Vogels van Nederland, Parts III.-IV., 223.
- ridibundus*, *Larus*, see Gull, Black-headed.
- riparia*, *Riparia r.*, see Martin, Sand-
- RIVIERE, B. B., Continental Jays in Norfolk, 25; Continental Hedge-Sparrow in Norfolk, 218; Red-breasted Flycatcher in Norfolk, 218.
- ROBINSON, H. W., Migration of Starling from Finland to the Mediterranean, 80; Sandwich Tern bred on Farne Islands recovered in Cumberland, 111; Migration of Fieldfare from Finland to South of France, 161; numbers in Swallow Broods in 1919, 161; Black-headed Gulls returning to their parent Gullery, 165; Migration of Pintail from Denmark to Finland, 197;

- Roller, migration of, over Mediterranean, 180.
- Rook, pursuing Kestrel, 23; in Guernsey, 243; in Norfolk, 253; Disaster to, on migration, 300.
- roseus*, *Ægithalos c.*, see Tit, Long-tailed.
- rubecula*, *Erythacus*, see Redbreast.
- rubetra*, *Saxicola r.*, see Whinchat.
- Ruff, an early record, 13; in Norfolk, 265.
- ruficollis*, *Podiceps r.*, see Grebe, Little.
- rustica*, *Hirundo*, see Swallow.
- rusticola*, *Scolopax*, see Woodcock.
- Sanderling, on Bardsey Island, 188.
- Sandpiper, Common, on Bardsey Island, 189.
- , Curlew-, in Norfolk, 265.
- , Green, in Leicestershire, 217.
- , Purple, on Bardsey Island, 189.
- sandvicensis*, *Sterna s.*, see Tern, Sandwich.
- SAVAGE, E. U., Grey Wagtails Nesting at a distance from Water, 56.
- schæniclus*, *Emberiza s.*, see Bunting, Reed-.
- schænobænus*, *Acrocephalus*, see Warbler, Sedge-.
- scirpaceus*, *Acrocephalus*, see Warbler, Reed-.
- Scoter, Common, breeding in Ireland, 87.
- , Velvet-, in summer off Carnarvonshire, 111; in Norfolk, 263.
- scoticus*, *Lagopus*, see Grouse, Red.
- Scottish Ornithology, Report on, in 1918, including Migration, Reviewed*, 168.
- senator*, *Lanius*, see Shrike, Woodchat.
- Serin, in Sussex, 26; migration of, over Mediterranean, 178.
- serrator*, *Mergus*, see Merganser, Red-breasted.
- Shag, on Bardsey Island, 182.
- Shearwater, Great, on Bardsey Island, 183.
- , Manx, on Bardsey Island, 183.
- Shoveler, Diving Powers of, 110; in Norfolk, 263.
- Shrike, Grey, Great, in Essex, 247; in Norfolk, 258.
- , Red-backed in Surrey, 228; in Norfolk, 258.
- Shrike, Woodchat, Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179.
- sibilatrix*, *Phylloscopus s.*, see Warbler, Wood-.
- SILVER, ALLEN, Shelled Egg in Partridge of the year, 220.
- Siskin, in Somerset, 276; in Devonshire, 313.
- Skua, Long-tailed, in Hertfordshire, 143.
- , Pomatorhine, in Monmouthshire, 197; in Norfolk, 268.
- , Richardson's, in Shetland, 159.
- Smew, off Aberdeenshire, 32.
- Snipe, Common, on Bardsey Island, 191; in Cornwall, 272; Results of Ringing, 309.
- , Great, in Caithness and Lanarkshire, 198.
- , Jack, on Bardsey Island, 191.
- Sparrow, Hedge-, British, on Bardsey Island, 129; Fighting House-Sparrow, 161; Continental, in Norfolk, 218, 259; Results of Ringing, 293.
- , House-, on Bardsey Island, 66; Hybrid with Tree-Sparrow, 136, 199; Fighting Hedge-Sparrow, 161; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 178; in Surrey, 226.
- spermologus*, *Coleus monedula*, see Jackdaw.
- spinus*, *Carduelis*, see Siskin.
- Spoonbill in Hants, 85, 165; in Norfolk, 260.
- squatarola*, *Squatarola*, see Plover, Grey.
- STANFORD, J. K., Pied Flycatcher, in Suffolk in Spring, 81; Some Notes on the Wryneck, 82; Pied Flycatchers on Migration in London, 160; Ornithological Notes from Suffolk, 170.
- Starling pursuing Kestrels, 24; on Bardsey Island, 49; migration of, from Finland to the Mediterranean, 80; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 178; in Guernsey, 243; in Cornwall, 272.
- stellaris*, *Botaurus s.*, see Bittern, Common.
- stellatus*, *Colymbus*, see Diver, Red-throated.
- Stilt, Black-winged, in Kent, 272.
- Stint, Little, on Bardsey Island, 189; in Surrey, 220; in Norfolk, 265.

- Stonechat, in Surrey, 229; on Bardsey Island, 106.
- STONEHAM, H. F., Meadow-Pipits fiercely attacking Cuckoo, 162.
- striata*, *Muscicapa s.*, see Fly-catcher, Spotted.
- subbuteo*, *Falco*, see Hobby.
- SUFFERN, C., Notes on the Migration of birds over the Mediterranean Sea, 173.
- Swallow, on Bardsey Island, 130; Numbers in Broods in, 1919, 161; Late Third Brood of, 161; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179; recovery of Marked, 196; Numbers in Broods in Warwickshire, 218; Results of Ringing, 294.
- SWANN, H. KIRKE, Peregrine Falcon attacking a Boy, 31; Probable Montagu's Harrier breeding in Sussex, 141.
- Swift, on Bardsey Island, 132; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 180.
- SYMES, J. H., Number of Eggs Laid by Marsh-Warbler, 160.
- tadorna*, *Tadorna*, see Duck, Sheld-teal, on Bardsey Island, 134.
- , Blue-winged, American, in Anglesey, 85.
- TEMPERLEY, G. W., Fulmar Petrels in Yorkshire in Summer, 59.
- Tern, Arctic, on Bardsey Island, 191.
- , Black, in Leicestershire, 217; in Norfolk, 266.
- , White-winged, migration of, over Mediterranean, 181.
- , Common, shifting of breeding ground, 61; on Bardsey Island, 191; in Norfolk, 266; Results of Ringing, 310.
- , Lesser, shifting of breeding ground, 61.
- , Roseate, in Norfolk, 266.
- , Sandwich, bred on Farne Islands recovered in Cumberland, 111; Results of Ringing, 310.
- tetrax*, *Otis*, see Bustard, Little.
- THOMAS, ALFRED, Number of eggs laid by Marsh-Warbler, 137.
- THOMAS, J. F., Unusual nesting-site of a Kestrel, 84.
- THOMSON, A. L., Sheld-Duck ringed in Hampshire, recovered in Germany, 244.
- Thrush, Mistle-, on Bardsey Island, 103; in Surrey, 229; results of ringing, 292.
- , Song-, on Bardsey Island, 104; in Shetland, 159.
- Thrush, Song-. *The Selection of Helix nemoralis by the*, Reviewed, 168.
- TICEHURST, N. F., The Birds of Bardsey Island, 42, 66, 101, 129, 182, 214; Some Notes on the Wryneck, 83; Are Cuckoos ever reared by Greenfinches? 137; Blackbird laying seven eggs, 274; Dark-breasted Barn-Owl in Kent, 275; The Common Gull breeding on Dungeness Beach, 302.
- TIDSWELL, H. B., Sparrow-Hawk in London, 243.
- tinnunculus*, *Falco*, see Kestrel.
- Tit, Bearded, in Norfolk, 257.
- , Coal, in Surrey, 228; Strange nesting-place of, 273.
- , Great, laying in an open nest, 56.
- , Long-tailed, in Anglesey, 272; in Cornwall, 272.
- , Willow-, in Ross-shire, 195; in Aberdeenshire, 195.
- torda*, *Alca*, see Razorbill.
- torquatus*, *Turdus t.*, see Ouzel, Ring-.
- torquilla*, *Jynx*, see Wryneck.
- totanus*, *Tringa*, see Redshank, Common.
- TRACY, N., Letter on Drumming of Woodpeckers, 88.
- tridactyla*, *Rissa t.*, see Kittiwake.
- trivialis*, *Anthus t.*, see Pipit, Tree-.
- trochilus*, *Phylloscopus*, see Warbler, Willow-.
- troglydytes*, *Troglydytes t.*, see Wren.
- trouille*, *Uria t.*, see Guillemot, Common.
- TROUBRIDGE, T. H. C., Spoonbill in Hants, 85, 165.
- TUCK, J. G., Letter on the Late Frank Norgate, 64.
- TURNER, EMMA L., The Bittern in the Norfolk Broads, 5; Further Notes on the Bittern in the Norfolk Broads, 34.
- Turnstone, on Bardsey Island, 188.
- turtur*, *Streptopelia t.*, see Dove, Turtle-.

*urbica*, *Delichon*, see Martin, House-.

VAN DE WEYER, B., Pheasant Breeding in Sparrow-Hawk's Nest, 87.

*vanellus*, *Vanellus*, see Lapwing.

VAUGHAN, H. J., Pied Flycatcher in South Wales, 27; Numbers in Swallow and Martin Broods in 1919 in Warwickshire, 218; A Wood-Pigeon's Ruse, 219.

*viscivorus*, *Turdus v.*, see Thrush, Mistle-.

*vulgaris*, *Sturnus*, see Starling.

Wagtail, Blue-headed, Migration of, over Mediterranean, 178.

—, Grey, Nesting in Warwickshire, 27; Nesting at a distance from Water, 56, 81; on Bardsey Island, 71; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 178; Breeding in Kent and Sussex, 195; in Surrey, 228.

—, Pied, and White Wagtail, distinction between, 37; on Bardsey Island, 72; in Norfolk, 257; Results of Ringing, 271.

—, White, and Pied Wagtail, distinction between, 37; on Bardsey Island, 72; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 178.

—, Yellow, on Bardsey Island, 71; in the Seine-Inférieure, 76; Status of, in Westmorland, 135; in Norfolk, 257.

WALLIS, E. A., One Meadow-Pipit feeding two young Cuckoos, 163; Letter on Status of Goldfinch in Yorkshire, 276.

Warbler, Dartford, in Surrey, 228.

—, Garden-, Early Arrival of, 63; on Bardsey Island, 102; Fed on Moths, 108; Breeding in Ross-shire, 246.

—, Grasshopper-, on Bardsey Island, 101; in Surrey, 228; in Norfolk, 258.

—, Marsh-, Number of Eggs laid by, 137, 160; in Sussex, 297.

—, Reed-, in Shetland, 299.

—, Sedge-, on Bardsey Island, 101; in Shetland, 299.

—, Willow-, on Bardsey Island, 75; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179; Results of Ringing, 292.

—, —, Northern, on Bardsey

—, Wood-, on Bardsey Island, 101.

WELCH, F. D., Combat between Hedge-Sparrow and House-Sparrow, 161; Curious Site for Blackbird's Nest, 297.

Wheatear, on Bardsey Island, 105; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179.

Whimbrel, on Bardsey Island, 191.

Whinchat, on Bardsey Island, 106; Migration of, over Mediterranean, 179.

WHITE, W. W., Blackbird laying Eight Eggs, 297; Rough-legged Buzzard in Devon, 314.

Whitethroat, on Bardsey Island, 102.

Whooper, in Ross-shire in June, 141; in Inverness-shire in June, 299.

Wigeon, American, in Stirlingshire, 244, 316; in Fifeshire, 299, 316.

WIGLESWORTH, DR. J., Obituary Notices, 22, 52.

WILLIAMS, P. D., Little Owls in Cornwall, 219; Notes from Cornwall, 272.

WILLIAMS, W. J., American Goshawk in Ireland, 31.

WITHERBY, H. F., The Pied and White Wagtails, 37; "British Birds" Marking Scheme, 96, 237; Swallow ringed in Yorkshire found in South Africa, 196; on some Results of Ringing Certain Species of Birds, 269, 292, 307; The Dutch and British Little Owls, 283.

Woodcock, perching on Trees, 142; on Bardsey Island, 191; in Norfolk, 265; in Cornwall, 272.

Woodpecker, Green, in the Isle of Wight, 109.

—, Spotted, Great, Note on Drumming of, 40; in Argyllshire, 299.

—, —, Lesser, Notes on Drumming of, 40, 88.

Wren, Large Clutch of Eggs, 82; on Bardsey Island, 130.

—, Golden-crested, Migration of, over Mediterranean, 178; in Norfolk, 257.

Wryneck, Early arrival of, 63; Some Notes on, 82; on Bardsey Island, 133.

# STEVENS' AUCTION ROOMS.

ESTD. 1760.

38, King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2.

## Periodical Sales

are held at the above Rooms, of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS, including BIRDS and BIRDS' EGGS, CABINETS, etc. Also BOOKS relating to Natural History.

Catalogues of sales posted on application.

## JOHN WHELDON & Co.

have in stock nearly all the books and journals required by ornithologists. The collection of old and rare works is one of the largest in the country. New books and journals supplied to order. Books not in stock sought for. Catalogues 2d. each, post free.

Bookbinding in all its branches undertaken. Libraries and parcels of books purchased.

LONDON:—38 Gt. Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Telephone:—Gerrard 1412.

## WATKINS & DONCASTER, NATURALISTS.

CABINETS and APPARATUS of every kind for Collectors of Birds' Eggs, Insects, &c.

A LARGE STOCK OF BIRDS' EGGS (also in Clutches) and BRITISH and EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES, &c.

NESTING BOXES OF VARIOUS PATTERNS, which should be fixed up in Gardens or Shrubberies by Lovers of Birds before the Breeding Season.

All Books and Publications (new and second-hand) on Natural History supplied.

36, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2., ENGLAND

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF BRITISH WILD BIRDS.

By Oliver G. Pike, F.Z.S., F.R.P.S.

8 x 6 in. 10/6. 12 x 10 in. £1-1. Mounted on large Art Mounts.

ARTISTIC AND PERMANENT.

Apply: MARSWORTH, TRING, HERTS.

FOR SALE. Transactions of NORFOLK and NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

Vols. 3 to 9 (1879-1914) and two odd yearly vols. (1870-1872.) Cloth bound. Scarce.—Offers to T., Office of "British Birds."

BOOKS PUBLISHED by WITHERBY & CO.

---

Parts 1—4 Now Ready.

A  
**GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
OF  
**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY**

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO END OF 1918.

By W. H. MULLENS, M.A., LL.M., F.L.S., H. KIRKE SWANN, F.Z.S.  
REV. F. C. R. JOURDAIN, M.A., M.B.O.U.

A record, arranged under County headings, of printed books, published articles, notes and records relating to local Avifauna.

Demy 8vo. In 6 parts. Each 6s. net.

---

A HANDBOOK  
TO THE VERTEBRATE  
**FAUNA OF NORTH WALES**

By H. E. FORREST.

This book not only brings up to date the information contained in the Author's "Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales," but also gives under each species a brief summary showing its status in the district.

Demy 8vo. Cloth. 6s. net.

---

**METEOROLOGY FOR ALL.**

BEING SOME WEATHER PROBLEMS EXPLAINED

By DONALD W. HORNER, F.R.MET.SOC., etc.

Author of "Observing and Forecasting the Weather."  
"Weather Instruments and How to Use Them."

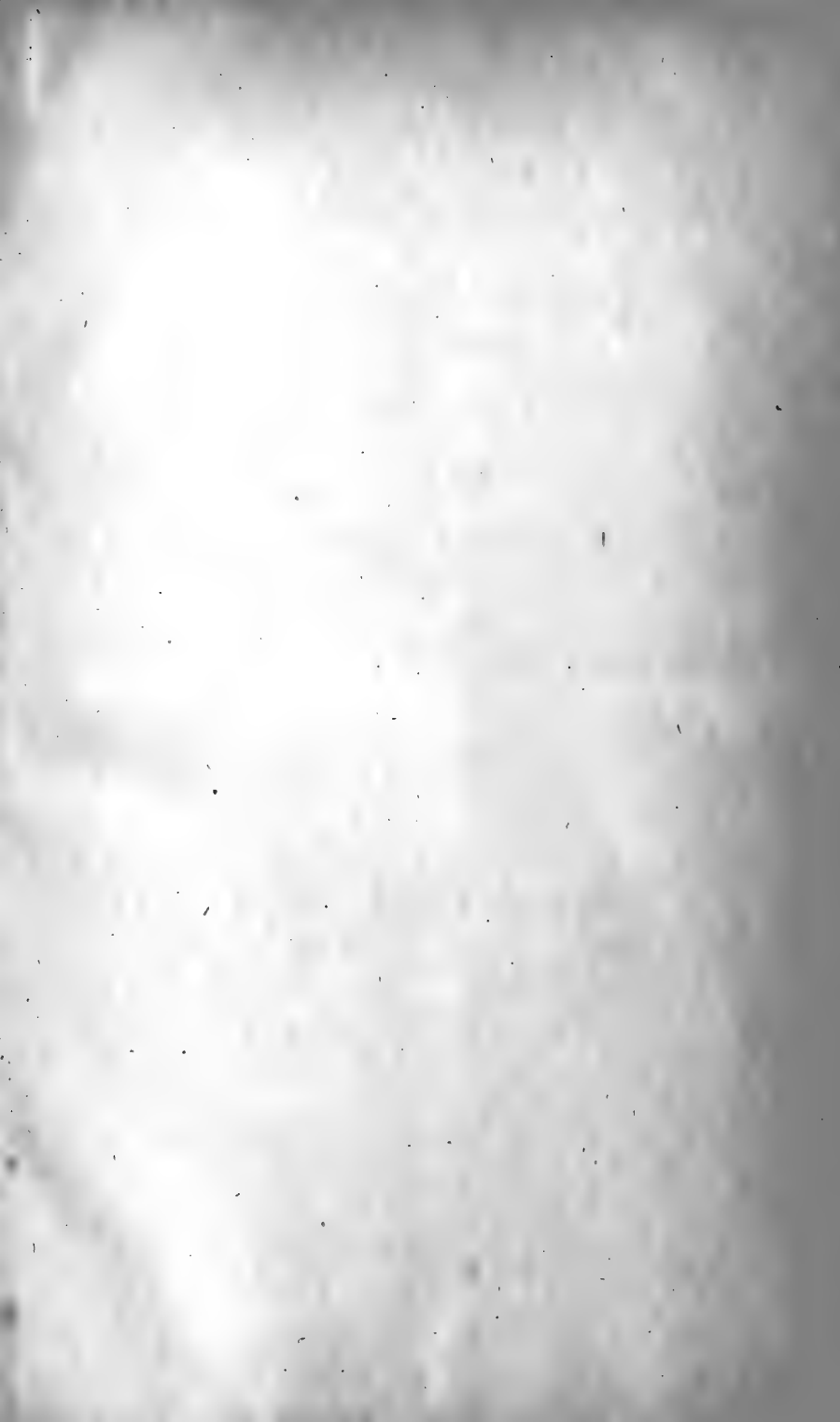
With Text and Half-Tone Illustrations.

A compendium of information about the Weather as it daily affects the lives of everyone. The "dry" terseness of the text-book has been avoided, but the information given is comprehensive and reliable, and of a practical nature.

Crown 8vo. Cloth. Illustrated. 6s. net.

---

326, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1.

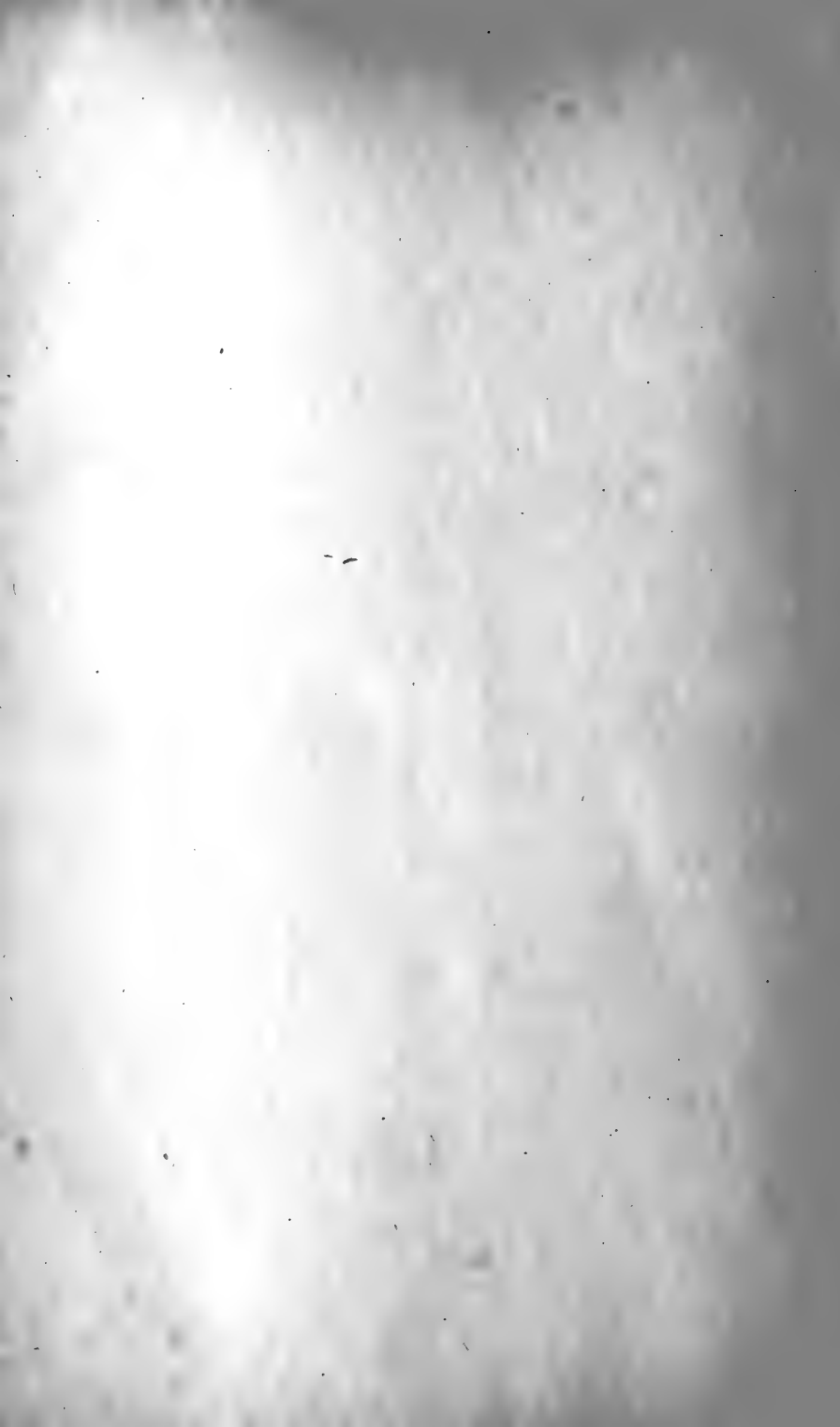














Indispensable to Readers of "British Birds."

# "BRITISH BIRDS" GENERAL INDEX

1907-1919 (Vols. I.-XII.)

120 Pages.

Cloth Bound.

15/- net.

---

IN its pages each species of bird is indexed under its English name in black type. The names used are those adopted in the "Handlist of British Birds" and in the "Practical Handbook of British Birds." Authors are printed in small capitals, general titles in ordinary type, reviews of books will be found under "Reviews," and obituary notices under that heading, as well as under the name of the subject of each notice.

It is hoped that the Index will thus be found sufficient for the various purposes of those who desire to consult the pages of "British Birds."

---

## ORDER FORM.

Please send me.....cop.....of "BRITISH BIRDS" GENERAL INDEX, for which I enclose.....

Name.....

Address.....

---

H. F. & G. WITHERBY, 326, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

