

BIRDS IN HAMPSHIRE, 1935

By F. H. HAINES

A SUGGESTION that species should be dealt with systematically for convenience of reference has been acted upon. The order adopted is that of Witherby's "Practical Handbook," 1924. Notes have been made use of from (F) Mr. Philip Farrer, Weyhill, (H) F. H. Haines, Ringwood, (L.W.H.) Mr. W. L. Hinxman, Ringwood, (J) Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Southbourne, (K) Mr. C. M. Kelsall, Basingstoke, (H.L.) Mr. H. Lea, Linwood, (L) Mr. Ley, Chilbolton, (M) Mr. G. Marples, Sway, (N) Miss K. Newdigate, Old Bursledon, (P) Col. W. A. Payn, Andover, (C.P.) Miss C. Popham, Mudeford, (R) Mr. B. J. Ringrose, Harbridge, (S) Mr. K. D. Smith, Bournemouth, (W) Mr. R. Whitlock, Salisbury, (P.B.) Proc. Bournemouth Nat. Sci. Soc., (B.B.) "British Birds" (mag.). All records apply to 1935 unless otherwise dated: doubtful records are in square brackets.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus c. corone*). A pair prospected at Appleslade in mid-March, but failed to nest. Three young birds were about in April. It maintains its moderate numbers, despite persecution. (H)

Hooded Crow (*C. c. cornix*). One at Hern, December 1st, which is said to have been about for some weeks by the keeper. (S)

Rook (*C. f. frugilegus*). Back at nesting trees at Hyde in early February. At Linwood at the end of May and beginning of June, every year, a great invasion of rooks, largely young birds, occurs. Normally there are no rooks at Linwood. This sudden extension of feeding ground to a new area must indicate some special food supply here, at this time of year. They work equally heath, bog and field. There are usually many young voles and tipulid larvae then, but this pabulum is not proved. (H)

Jackdaw (*Colocys m. spermologus*). Flock of 25 seen at Linwood on October 26th. (H.L.)

Magpie (*Pica p. pica*). "When first I came to Tidworth in May, 1900, there were seven Magpies' nests within 40 yards in a small fir plantation on the Wilts border, and two years later I saw a flock of 30." (F). Two chased a Jay from their nest, at Appleslade, on March 27th. (H)

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*). "On October 3rd, 1935, at 9.30 a.m., a flock of 37 Jays (*Garrulus glandarius*) passed over going S.S.W., flying high, down the Meon Valley (Hants). Three miles south of this a keeper counted 45 going over about 11 a.m., and a forester counted 53 or 55 at midday passing over high." M. Portal. (B.B.) Similar smaller or larger flocks were reported at the end of September and beginning of October from other Hampshire localities. H.F.W. points out that the limits, centred round Southampton and Portsmouth, seem to be approximately Petersfield, Alton, Andover, Salisbury, South Wiltshire and Ringwood. The direction taken was usually more or less S.W., but this did not indicate the migratory line, which was N. or N.W., but only local movement. An immigration from north France is suggested. (B.B.) A flock of 250-300 birds on the Itchen just outside Southampton was seen on October 5th by J. Berry and C. Stonor (see Bull. B.O.C. LVI, p. 24). These, J. thinks, had just crossed the Channel, and he points out in the "Oologists"

Record" (XII, 35) that the invasion consisted of birds of the rather paler, and greyer, Dutch and Belgian form, and may have come from north France, noting similar invasions in the past. They were not of the still greyer Scandinavian form, which arrive on our eastern sea-board.

Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*). On 29th May Starlings seemed to be already flocking. (H) August 21st, small parties travelling S. over Amport in evening. They roost somewhere in this direction. (W) B. J. Marples, "The Winter Starling Roosts of Great Britain, 1932-35," gives 10 roosts in Hants: Bisterne, nr. Liss, Romsey, Compton Manor, Fullerton Hall, mouth of Hamble River, nr. Aldershot, Facombe, and in Isle of Wight, Niton and Northwood. A roost near Blashford has been lately reported to me, but is not investigated. (H) There is also another unrecorded roost in a reed-bed at Keyhaven first noted on July 24th. (S)

[Golden Oriole (*Oriolus o. oriolus*). In Isle of Wight, August: reported to M. without details.]

Goldfinch (*Carduelis c. britannica*). A large flock frequenting Appleslade on 18th January. (H)

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula p. nesa*). About 27th January flocks at Appleslade amongst the birch. (H)

Common Crossbill (*Loxia c. curvirostra*). Heard at Southbourne, Bournemouth, 5th July, and about 30 in small parties (two to five) kept passing, evening July 6th, and some seen almost daily to end of August (J); 20 to 30, New Milton, 28th July, in Scotch pines (R. E. Coles); 10 to 20 at Shedfield, early August, feeding on new cones of Scotch pines. (Miss G. K. Medlicott in *The Times*.) Heard flying over Stratfieldsaye Common, where many worked cones, 28th July. W.B.A. (B.B.) Rev. Purefoy FitzGerald reported numbers feeding amongst the pines at Chandler's Ford in autumn, not later than November. Also in N.W. of New Forest, October 6th. (P.B.) Five or six, Hurn, 1st December. (S) R. H. Sears, of New Milton, records a flock of about 20 feeding on the cones of *Pinus insignis* in his garden for about four days before Christmas; a few males in fine red plumage among them. He noticed that they cut the cones off the trees by the stems and took them to a bough to extract the seeds. (*The Times*.) Crossbills usually use the cones of *Pinus sylvestris*, half the length, avoiding the large *P. insignis* cones. "The great interest of the Crossbill invasion after an absence of about three years is that the birds apparently came across the Channel, flying N.W., instead of reaching us from Scandinavia, flying S.W. The data quoted show this. The birds I saw on 6th July were flying in from the sea." (J. in litt.)

Chaffinch (*Fringilla c. coelebs*). Twenty to thirty seen in a flock at Rockford, 3rd April. (H)

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). A large flock seen near Boldrewood Farm, 11th January. A few in the same place, 16th January. (R) Since 1917 Bramblings have been regular winter visitants. I always see a few on the Andover-Amesbury road near Cowdown in the parish of Thruxton every winter. Occasionally elsewhere. (F)

Girl Bunting (*Emberiza cirrus*). Nests found at Chilbolton. (L) Several birds at Keyhaven on 9th October. (R) Several pairs breeding on Quarley Hill seemed to be away from there by late summer. A number on 24th October amongst large flocks of various Finches and Buntings. But the Girls always seemed to keep to themselves and did not associate with the Yellowhammers. (P) Well distributed along the Hampshire coast. (S)

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza s. schoeniclus*). Passing on 28th February. Resident birds back on 2nd March. (H)

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Two clearly identified on the beach at Mudeford, 30th November, 1934. (P.B.)

Tree Pipit (*Anthus t. trivialis*). Heard at Appleslade on 29th April and many subsequent dates. (H)

[Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava rayi*). Seen regularly during winter 1934-35, near Weyhill. The only case in my personal knowledge of a Yellow Wagtail wintering here. (F).] J. knows of no case later than the end of November.)

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla c. cinerea*). There is usually a Grey Wagtail at Weyhill, but last year the little stream was dry and it did not appear. (F) Bred at Christchurch, and at Sopley. (P.B.)

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*). These have become much scarcer the last few years at Weyhill. (F)

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*). Seen at Ibsley Bridge on October 30th, a mature cock with a matured Pied, so that identification was easy. (R) Six males, Keyhaven, April 28th. (P.B.)

British Tree-Creeper (*Certhia f. britannica*). Heard at Ellingham, April 8th. (H)

British Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea affinis*). Uttering its vernal call in Roe Wood, April 30th. (H)

British Coal-Titmouse (*Parus a. britannicus*). Building at Linwood on March 18th. (H.L.) Sitting on eight eggs at Hungerford on May 10th, hatched on 18th, about ready to fly on 29th. (H)

British Long-tailed Titmouse (*Aegithalos c. roseus*). A number still in the neighbourhood, March 23rd.

[Bearded Titmouse (*Panurus b. biarmicus*). A pair accurately described and reported from Hengistbury first week August. (P.B.)]

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius c. collurio*). Two seen on a bog at Burley on July 10th—a parent bird feeding a young bird as big as itself. A pair have nested successfully at Linwood. (H)

Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). Two seen on March 15th at Swanmore and one on April 28th at Romsey. (B.B.)

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa s. striata*). First seen and heard on May 18th at West Tytherley. (W) Has been much scarcer at Weyhill the last few years. (F)

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*). Heard at Hungerford, March 24th; at Appleslade, 27th. Singing continuously all the morning, 28th. A small flight pecking about in willow, poplar and conifers, even uttering their song in a subdued way on October 6th, here. (H)

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*). Heard at Appleslade on April 11th. Singing here on July 29th. Last seen here September 23rd. (H)

Wood-Warbler (*Phylloscopus s. sibilatrix*). Heard in Newlands, near Rockford, April 8th. Many singing in the Forest on May 6th. (H) First seen and heard at W. Tytherley, May 18th. (W)

Grasshopper-Warbler (*Locustella n. naevia*). Was singing at Appleslade on April 18th. Several were singing on May 26th, and continued much more intermittently until July 24th, after which their songs were noticed rather more till August 15th, singing rather late—about 8.30 p.m. (S.T.); but they sang

much at night. They chiefly frequent the clumps of *Aira caespitosa* and other rank growth on the fenny land along Dockens Water : far less frequently a hill covered with heather and gorse. (H) Nineteen different birds of this species were heard singing in the New Forest between the 22nd April and 13th September, and five more on the Somerley Estate between 19th April and June 30th. (R) R. says that the sites in which the birds were heard varied greatly. The birds in the seven woodland sites were all heard on or after the 30th July, and were, he thinks, probably on migration. These sites were not suitable for, and not likely to have been used for nesting. (B.B.)

Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus*). Seen at Appleslade, May 27th. Saw bird leave nest by West Moors River, Hern, June 28th. One singing brokenly at Appleslade, July 3rd. (H)

Marsh-Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris*). Male in full song, Keyhaven, May 19th, an early date. S. (B.S.) This species is of very rare occurrence in Hampshire, but was satisfactorily identified.

Sedge-Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*). Heard at Ringwood, April 15th. Heard here May 7th. Singing imperfectly July 3rd. (H)

F. saw two strange warblers in his garden at Mullins Pond, Amport, that he was unable to identify : one on August 4th and one on August 11th. They were neither of a familiar British species.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*). Heard at Linwood about April 20th. (H.L.) Heard at Appleslade April 24th. (H)

Blackcap (*Sylvia a. atricapilla*). Heard at Appleslade April 21st. Singing at Hern, July 8th. (H) None of the warblers as abundant as usual, especially Blackcaps, fewer. (L.W.H.)

Whitethroat (*Sylvia c. communis*). Singing at Appleslade, April 28th. (H)

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia c. curruca*). Heard at Appleslade, 23rd April. (H)

Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia u. Dartfordiensis*). Absent from large burnt-out areas on the Dorset border where it formerly bred, but holding its own well in the Forest. (J) Seen at Chilbolton. (L)

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). Flock of about 40 at Appleslade, 7th February. (H) Heard at roost in fir-trees near Dockens Water, 28th February. (H.L.) Flock of about 60 or 70 disturbed from oak tree here at about 8 p.m. (S.T.), 14th April. (H) P.F. says he found Fieldfares scarce last winter (1934-35). He saw none and heard none till after Christmas, and then astonishingly few. (E) First noted on coast 24th November. (S) Not noted in S. Hampshire in large flocks : 10 seen flying from the mainland at Keyhaven to the Isle of Wight, 22nd December. (R. and S.) Flock of 16 or more in Avon Valley at Hern, 24th March. (S)

Mistle-Thrush (*Turdus v. viscivorus*). Building at Linwood, 18th March. (H)

British Song-Thrush (*Turdus p. clarkei*). Five Thrush's and three Black-bird's eggs found in the same nest at Linwood, 30th April. (H.L.) Thrushes singing at Ringwood and Rockford, 18th November. (H). Singing in most places in N.W. of New Forest, 10th January. (W)

Redwing (*Turdus musicus*). None at all in winter of 1934-35 at Weyhill. (F)

Ring-Ouzel (*Turdus t. torquatus*). One in garden at Harbridge, 29th March. (R)

Blackbird (*Turdus m. merula*). Singing at Hungerford, 24th January. Two nests at Linwood very close together although large nesting-space round. (cf. Song-Thrush.) This species sings very little at Appleslade. Although there is an average of five pairs near, they are seldom heard. (H)

Greenland Wheatear (*Oenanthe oe. leucorrhoa*). Numbers on Hampshire coast, late September. (S. and R.) (P.B.)

Whinchat (*Saxicola r. rubetra*). A pair here for a short time, seen on 12th May, but did not nest. (H) Two at Keyhaven, 12th May. (S) One near Middle Wallop, 14th September. One by coastal road near Marchwood, 17th October. (W) On autumn passage in very small numbers near coast. (S. and R.)

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis*). Near Wigg's cottage, Somerley, 10th November. (R) One at Mudeford, November 8th—11th, two on 15th. (C.P.)

Nightingale (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*). Heard in the garden at Appleslade, 20th April. Full-grown young one seen in garden, 4th September. (H)

British Robin (*Erithaeus r. melophilus*). Building at Linwood, 28th Feb. (H) Nest in discarded geometrical model of cone in grounds of West Tytherley School, 18th May. (W)

British Hedge-Sparrow (*Prunella m. occidentalis*). Nest and four eggs in garden at Andover, 26th March. (P) Singing in many places in N.W. of Forest, especially around Nomansland, 10th January. (W)

Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica*). About 12 seen over Appleslade, going north, on 11th April. While watched, one left the others and went S.W. Several about, 14th April. Resident Swallows at Appleslade very scarce. (H) Two in each of following places on 17th October: West Tytherley, Nursling, Totton. (W) One, Beaulieu, 27th October. (S)

Martin (*Delichon u. urbica*). Seen at Linwood, 7th April. (H.L.) About 10 seen at Appleslade, probably just arrived, travelling from S.W. to N.E., 3rd May. They were extremely scarce this season here. (H) Last seen 22nd October. (L.W.H.)

Sand Martin (*Riparia r. riparia*). A number hawking at Appleslade in the mild weather, 28th September. Still at Rockford, 11th October. Gone by 16th. (H)

Swift (*Apus a. apus*). One at Ringwood, April 21st. (S) Heard shrieking, 4th May. Several seen and heard at Linwood on 6th. Our resident birds here on 26th. Several seen west of Winchester on 7th August, and several at Appleslade at about 9 a.m. (S.T.) on 17th. Two or three hawking high up here on 23rd, the weather being damp and warm. (H) Not as abundant as usual at Ringwood. (L.W.H.) One seen at Fullerton on 14th September late date. (W) One at Keyhaven, September 15th. (S)

Nightjar (*Caprimulgus e. europaeus*). Heard at Hungerford, 10th May. (H) Heard at Linwood, 11th. (H.L.) Mr. W. R. G. Bond writes *re* the "smiting" of Nightjars that the bird is very difficult to observe, but he has a suspicion that Nightjars, like Peewits, sometimes "smite" on the turn with one wing but it is generally too dark to see.

[Hoopoe (*Upupa e. epops*). In garden at Andover, reported to (M) without details.]

Kingfisher (*Alcedo a. ispida*). Back at their nesting-places on Dockens Water on 28th February. (H.L.) One seen on Dockens Water, at Appleslade, 23rd March. Three pairs reported, on 31st July, as having nested very close together in the bank of Dockens Water. The young were very noisy. (H)

Green Woodpecker (*Picus v. virescens*). Calling at Hungerford 15th Jan. Vernal cry heard at Appleslade on 7th March. (H)

British Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates major anglicus*). Frequenting Appleslade 11th to 15th March. (H) Seen on 11th August at Weyhill. One was running about in an apple-tree for some time. They nest occasionally in Ashdown Copse. (F)

British Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor comminutus*). This bird is not uncommon at Weyhill, though he is so shy that he appears much scarcer than is really the case. (F) Female near Hern, March 24th. (S) One near Avon Castle, 21st April. (R. and S.)

Wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*). One Boscombe, 9th April (R) : one Southbourne, 21st July, and at intervals to 7th September (J).

Cuckoo (*Cuculus c. canorus*). Heard at Appleslade 14th April at about 7 p.m. (S.T.) They were much more numerous than last year, quite in their former numbers. (H)

Little Owl (*Athene noctua vidalii*). Heard at Linwood, 28th February. (H.L.)

Short-eared Owl (*Asio f. flammeus*). One wintered on Hengistbury Head : last seen 9th February. Also one same place, 11th November. (J)

White-breasted Barn-Owl (*Tyto a. alba*). Seen at Appleslade 26th May and on 7th December. (H)

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco p. peregrinus*). One flew from the wood here on 2nd February, Wood Pigeons being in great numbers. (H) Seen at Linwood on 30th June. (H.L.)

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*). A pair successfully reared a brood in the New Forest. (R)

Common Buzzard (*Buteo b. buteo*). One rose near me in Berry Wood on 29th June. One seen in and over Ocknell Wood, where it rose from a damp spot. (H) The number in the New Forest has been well maintained. Six were seen together over Hampton Ridge on 3rd April, and seven together near Franchise Wood on 10th June. (R)

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). Seen at Linwood on 19th March. (H.L.) Seen over Appleslade, 29th March. Watched for long, soaring over Appleslade, until lost in the clouds, 29th April : a very fine afternoon. Again seen here on 4th May, circling overhead. Seen again, hovering and circling, on 12th July. (H) "Perhaps the most interesting occurrence of the season was the successful nesting of two pairs of Montagu's Harriers (*Circus pygargus*) in this part of the county. No. 1 pair, a blue cock and a very dark hen, had four eggs when the nest was found on 24th May. On 21st June it was found that all the eggs had hatched. Shortly after this, the cock disappeared and was never seen again. A few days later it was found that only two young remained. These were successfully brought up by the hen alone. On 17th July they were both about the nest, and on 27th July both had left the immediate neighbourhood of the nest and one was seen flying about with the hen. No. 2 pair, also a blue cock with a lighter brown hen, had their nest about half-a-mile from pair No. 1. This nest was not found until 11th July, when it contained four young birds. They were all successfully reared. On 17th July they were all in or near the nest. On 23rd one left the nest as it was approached, and another was put up out of the heather and flew right away. The other two were not searched for, but there is no reason to think that they did not get away." (R)

A Harrier (sp. ?) was seen at Avon Tyrrel by keeper 5th April. (B.S.)

Hen-Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). One near Bramshaw Telegraph 18th November (R). One near Hern 1st December (S). Two near Milkham 2nd December. One near corner of Ringwood—Cadnam Road and Fritham Road, 25th December (R).

Honey-Buzzard (*Peris a. apivorus*). Seen in the Forest 20th August. It soared spirally with the clock to a very great height, silently, and seldom giving a flap. Body and tail transversely barred; head light, throat darker; light-grey belly and vent; primaries not widely separated, if at all. (M)

Common Heron (*Ardea c. cinerea*). Often seen at Appleslade and its call heard on its evening flight (H). Nineteen nests in Sowley Pond Heronry, 28th April (S).

[Bittern (*Botaurus s. stellaris*). One reported to M. without any details as calling near Hythe, August. (M)]

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). 217 adults in Christchurch Harbour on 21st June: 245 same place a few days later (J). Nine at mouth of Test, 17th October (W).

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Two Keyhaven, 15th December. (R. and S.)

Light-breasted Brent Goose (*Branta b. hrota*). Two in Christchurch Harbour on 14th November. (C.P.)

Mallard (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*). Pair nested by small pond at West Tytherley. (W)

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Four in Christchurch Harbour 3rd November, all subsequently shot. (C.P.)

Teal (*Anas c. crecca*). Fourteen to twenty near Newtown, Isle of Wight, 22nd September. (S)

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). Several hundred wintering on a freshwater pool of about two acres near the coast at Beaulieu (R. and S.). First autumn birds at mouth of Beaulieu River, 15th September (S. and K.R.).

Pintail (*Anas a. acuta*). One, Beaulieu River, 5th October S. and R. (B.S.)

Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*). Fairly common this spring, and seen at Hern, Ringwood, Ibsley, Keyhaven, Wareham, and Littlesea. Probably nests Ringwood; seven or eight pairs Beaulieu River 20th October (S). (B.S.) Thirty on 27th October, about 34 on 15th December, at least 70 on 22nd December at mouth of Beaulieu River. (R. and S.)

Pochard (*Nyroca f. ferina*). One adult male, mouth of Beaulieu River, 22nd December. (R. and S.)

Tufted Duck (*Nyroca fuligula*). One female 27th October, three birds 24th November, ten birds 22nd December at mouth of Beaulieu River. (R. and S.)

Scoter (*Oidemia n. nigra*). Seventeen in the Solent, 2nd June. (S)

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*). Twelve at mouth of Test, 17th October, also others at Totton and Marshwood. (W)

Gannet (*Sula bassana*). Immature bird cast up, Bournemouth, 5th October (J). Adult, Mudeford, 15th October (C.P.). (B.S.)

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps c. cristatus*). Two pairs on Sowley Pond 28th April (S. and R.). One, coast off Beaulieu, 22nd December (R. and S.).

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps griseigena*). One at mouth of Christchurch Harbour, 15th November. (C.P.)

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*). One near Beaulieu River, 15th December. (K.R. and S.)

Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus i. immer*). Usually a few in Bournemouth Bay, March. (S)

Black-throated Diver (*Colymbus a. articus*). One was caught on a trimmer baited with a dace, set for pike in the River Enborne, just S. of Newbury. Two birds had previously been seen in the neighbourhood. This bird is now in my possession: it is just beginning to change from winter to summer plumage, 7th March. (P)

Red-throated Diver (*Colymbus stellatus*). Noted off Branksome, 5th January (K.R.) and 4th April (S). Beaulieu River, 11th April, and other days (R). (B.S.)

Wood-Pigeon (*Columba p. palumbus*). Great flocks still about the neighbourhood 1st February. By the 22nd the flocks had grown perceptibly less, but the numbers were still somewhat above normal. On 26th they were cooing vernally in wood. Numbers still rather above the average. Cooing freely until 10th November. On 28th a flock was seen, and there was apparently some immigration (H). Still feeding under oaks and beeches in places, but not in great numbers, 10th January (W).

Stock-Dove (*Columba oenas*). Cooing at Appleslade 20th May, in Berry Wood, 29th June. (H)

Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia t. turtur*). Seen at Appleslade 7th May, at Linwood on 10th, first heard on 20th. On 6th July they were cooing everywhere; perhaps commoner here than usual. (H) Not so abundant as usual in Ringwood neighbourhood. (L.W.H.)

Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oed. oedicnemus*). Usual congregation on Quarley Hill. None seen in flocks till early September. Large numbers on 13th October. Very easy to observe in the stubble-fields. Must have seen quite a hundred that day. Nearly all gone on 24th October. Only saw three. (P) Company of 40 or 50 put up on Downs near Buckholt on 5th October. (W)

Oyster-Catcher (*Haematopus o. ostralegus*). Occasional at Christchurch, 13th May, 1st June C.P. (B.S.)

Golden Plover (*Charadrius apricarius*). About 45, Keyhaven, 22nd December. (R. and S.)

Grey Plover (*Squatarola s. squatarola*). Two at Keyhaven on 28th April and during May. A late bird seen on 22nd June (R. and S.). (B.S.) Small numbers on the Solent shores in late October, November and December. Not more than ten seen in one day. (R. and S.)

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). A flock of seven, appearing on the move, went over Appleslade on 6th April. (H) None in N.W. part of the Forest, 10th January. (W)

Turnstone (*Arenaria i. interpres*). Christchurch, 28th April, 23rd May, 2nd June, and later. (R.S.J.P.) Common, Beaulieu River, in autumn: maximum number seen 50 to 70 on 1st September. S. (B.S.) A few wintering on Beaulieu coast. (S)

Ruff (*Philomarchus pugnax*). Six at Keyhaven on 1st September, and two on 7th and 15th: Beaulieu River, 7th, 21st and 28th September. S. (B.S.)

Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). First seen at mouth of Beaulieu River, 1st September. (S)

Knot (*Calidris c. canutus*). About seven at Keyhaven, 25th May. (S) Numerous in autumn, maximum about 300 at mouth of Beaulieu River. (S)

Southern Dunlin (*Calidris a. schinzii*). Ten to fifteen near Avon Castle, 1st December. (S)

Curlew-Sandpiper (*Calidris testacea*). One at mouth of Beaulieu River, 1st September. (S)

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). Two at Keyhaven on 9th October. (R) One Beaulieu River, 27th July, and 20th October. S. (B.S.)

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*). Four at Keyhaven, 12th May, and one on 25th. S. (B.S.)

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*). One at Keyhaven, September 22nd. (S)

Common Redshank (*Totanus t. totanus*). A pair seen near Oberwater, 26th June, evidently with young, very noisy. (H) Many on coastal marshes near Totton and Marshwood on 17th October. (W) Thirty to forty on flooded land near Avon Castle, 1st December. (S)

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*). One at Keyhaven, 22nd April. (R. and S.) Two at Beaulieu River, 13th to 31st July, a very late date ; also one, 15th September. S. (B.S.) The one at Keyhaven was flushed from the side of a disused salt-pan. From the colour of its under parts, it would appear to have been changing into summer plumage. Our attention was first drawn to it by the distinctive tchu-i note ; in flight, the absence of white on the wing was also noticeable. The only records of the Spotted Redshank in Hampshire, of which we know, refer to three or four seen or obtained at intervals during the past 25 years in the Avon valley, at Ringwood and Christchurch. Also one in same place, 15th September. K.B.R., K.D.S. (B.B.)

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). One at Keyhaven on 13th May. Also large numbers of smaller waders. (R) Generally two at Keyhaven in May ; also single birds on Hampshire coast, 13th July to mid-October, both Keyhaven and mouth of Beaulieu River. (S) One on the coast near Beaulieu, 15th and 22nd December. (R. and S.)

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). One at Keyhaven, 21st September ; two on 22nd (one dead) R. and S. ; two or three, 4th October L. (B.S.) Reported to M. without further details : one seen near Keyhaven, 5th October, and one seen for several days on pond at Hiltingbury Farm, near Chandler's Ford, about 6th October. (M)

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). On 13th May a very unusual number of waders were present at Keyhaven. Quite 20 Bar-tailed Godwits. (R) 200 or more, Christchurch Harbour, 8th May : large flock, Keyhaven, 12th May : small numbers along coast after 6th September : four or five, Newtown, Isle of Wight, 22nd. (S) Last noted at Beaulieu River, 27th October. (R. and S.) No winter records. (S)

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*). Two at Keyhaven on 13th May. (R) One on 12th May, 25th May and 2nd June. (S) In numbers at mouth of Beaulieu River up to 10 from 13th July to 18th August, and one on 15th September at Keyhaven. (S)

Common Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). Heard at Linwood, 11th March. Rarer here this year than formerly. (H) Two or three seen feeding on mud-flats at mouth of Test, Totton, on 17th October. Also one flying upstream at Marchwood. (W)

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Fifteen to twenty at Keyhaven on 13th May. (R) First spring migrants at Keyhaven, 22nd April: first autumn arrivals, 24th July. (K.R. and S.)

Common Snipe (*Capella g. gallinago*). Heard "drumming" at Appleslade 6th March, constantly on 20th March. They were breeding much more numerous again, and continued to do so late. (H.)

Woodcock (*Scolopax r. rusticolor*). One flushed from ditch, here, 12th March. A nest with two young found in Milkham; four nests with eggs in Slufers. Young of Woodcock reported as seen a few days ago in Broomy, 23rd April. (Capt. Bate, teste H.L.) Two seen flying together at dusk at Appleslade, 2nd May. (H) About two pairs nested near Frenchmoor as usual. (W) One seen at Hern, 14th December. (R. and S.)

Black Tern (*Chlidonias n. niger*). Bird in breeding plumage on River Test at Chilbolton, 21st May, beating up and down a reach of about 200 yards. (P) One Keyhaven, 28th April. R. and S. (B.S.) One at Ringwood, 3rd May, seen by Capt. N. Gladstone, who also saw one there 6th May, 1929. (B.B.)

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*). A few on autumn passage, Newtown, Isle of Wight, September 22nd. (S)

Lesser Tern (*Sterna a. albifrons*). The breeding-place on the spit at the entrance of Christchurch Harbour was washed away by the sea in February, but the birds attempted to breed on the beach, and some succeeded in hatching off. (J)

Black-headed Gull (*Larus r. ridibundus*). Fairly frequent up Avon valley as far as Breamore, 11th July. Only one beyond. (W)

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). One on marshy flats at mouth of Test, 17th October. (W) Flock of 15, Mudeford, 16th March. S. (B.S.) One adult on the Avon above Hern, 1st December. (S)

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). A dark-breasted bird chasing Lesser Tern and Herring-Gull, Mudeford, 2nd May. C.P. (B.S.)

Eastern Little Bustard (*Otis tetrax orientalis*). One shot on the Manor Farm, Stockbridge, 14th December, during a Partridge drive. (K.J.A.D.) (Mr. N. B. Kinnear informs us that the bird weighed 8lb. 12½ oz., the expanse of wings was 34½ ins. and the stomach contained fragments of a beetle and turnip-tops.—Eds.) (B.B.)

Land-Rail (*Crex crex*). One seen 5th February; stayed about a week near Purewell. J. (B.S.) Wintering in Hampshire is quite abnormal. The bird was, apparently, quite uninjured and able to fly and run well. (J. in litt.)

Water-Rail (*Rallus a. aquaticus*). One in garden at Sway, 21st December. (M) Noted at Stanpit Marsh (P) and near Wick Ferry. S.B. (B.S.)

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris r. rufa*). A pair put up on swampy ground, near brook, at Appleslade, 3rd May. Again seen on 10th, evidently nesting. (H)

The following phenological observations, made mainly in his garden at Sway, are from Mr. George Marples.

DATES OF ARRIVALS.

Willow Warbler	..	April 12th.	Swift	..	May 11th.
House Martin	..	" 16th.	Spotted Flycatcher	..	July 12th.
Common Whitethroat	..	" 28th.			
Mistle Thrush		returned after its summer absence	..	Sept. 8th.	
Very large flocks of Wood-Pigeons		flew over	..	Nov. 17th, 18th, 19th.	
Fieldfares and Redwings		arrived in neighbouring field	..	Nov. 23rd.	

DATES OF DEPARTURES.

Turtle Dove	..	..	..	..	Sept. 12th.
Swift	..	..	..	..	" 12th.
Martins and Swallows		passing all day to S.W.	..	..	" 12th.
Spotted Flycatcher	..	..	..	..	" 13th.
Large flock of House Martins		passed over	..	..	" 23rd.
Large mixed flock of House Martins and Swallows		passed over,			
mostly House Martins	..	..	..	..	" 26th.
Willow Warbler	..	..	..	..	Oct. 5th.
Last House Martin	..	..	..	..	" 6th.
Large flock of Swallows		flying high at dusk to N.E. by N.	..	..	" 1st.
Flock of 20-30 Swallows		passed	..	..	" 13th.
Stream of Swallows		in groups of 2-30 passed to N.W.	..	..	" 16th.
Last Swallow	..	..	..	..	" 17th.

DATES ON WHICH SINGING WAS HEARD FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Great Tit	..	Jan. 5th.	Greenfinch	..	Mar. 16th.
Song Thrush	..	" 6th.	Willow Warbler	..	April 12th.
Wood-Pigeon	..	" 10th.	Yellow-Hammer	..	" 14th.
Mistle Thrush	..	Feb. 1st.	Cuckoo	..	" 15th.
Chaffinch	..	" 3rd.	Goldfinch	..	" 24th.
Hedge Sparrow	..	" 4th.	Nightingale	..	" 27th.
Blackbird	..	" 24th.	Common		
Common Wren	..	" 26th.	Whitethroat	..	" 28th.
Great Tit resumed singing	..	..	Turtle Dove	..	May 5th.
Tawny and Little Owls		called on many nights and days during year.	..	Dec. 28th.	

NESTING.

Blackbird began building	..	..	..	..	February 20th.
Mistle Thrush began building in same spot as in 1933 and					
1934	..	..	..	..	" 27th.
First Blackbird egg	..	..	..	..	March 10th.
Starling began building	..	..	..	..	" 21st.
First Mistle Thrush egg	..	..	..	..	" 23rd.
First Starling egg	..	..	..	..	April 17th.
First Robin egg	..	..	..	..	" 21st.
First Song Thrush egg	..	..	..	..	" 22nd.
First Blue Tit egg	..	..	..	..	" 22nd.
First Willow Warbler egg	..	..	..	..	May 3rd.
Coal Tit began building	..	..	..	..	" 3rd.
Great Tit began building	..	..	..	..	" 5th.

Mr. Marples states that he trapped 30 Robins in 1934. All had a specimen of the dipterous parasite, *Ornithomyia avicularia*, amongst the feathers: one bird had two. Besides these, he only

found one specimen, on a Great Tit. I believe it is not usually so eclectic, and is apt to infest many passerine birds. It is common in Dorset and Hampshire and may at times be found indoors.

In "B.B." he also gives a table of the heaviest and lightest weights of living birds of the same species. They varied considerably, as did the weight of the same bird at different times. A Great Tit varied from 19.45 to 20.10 grammes; a Blue Tit from 9.50 to 11.15, and a Blackbird from 91.80 to 120.80. He considers the variation depended on whether food had been lately ingested or not. Great fluctuations in the numbers of the species were disclosed by trapping and ringing, probably indicating group movements of a local or wider character. The catching of the same two Marsh Tits at widely separated intervals seemed to indicate a permanent partnership. Trapping showed that on one occasion 62 tits were present in a small area (two acres) in three hours. Yet never more than 12 were seen in the garden at one time, pointing to much daily movement among these birds. It was noted that any bird placed on its back on the left hand untrammelled in any way, care being taken to avoid making a noise or moving abruptly, would remain quietly where placed, with legs in air, and eyes alertly open, for an indefinite period, seemingly unafraid.

In "British Birds" (XXIX, No. 2), M. shows that some birds always finish feeding early and others uniformly late. It was found that a relationship existed between the times the Blue Tits and the Great Tits ceased to feed. As a rule the species which continued feeding later than others were also the first to begin, as though some birds needed more food than others. Blue Tits always, except very exceptionally in cold weather in March, began feeding earlier than the Great Tits: perhaps to secure a period of unmolested feeding. Birds took advantage of the lengthening days for feeding longer, but not to the full. If the Blue Tit left off specially early, the Great Tit did the same, both influenced by variation in temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, intensity of light or other undetermined cause. The Hedge-Sparrow and Robin came to feed before dawn, when the light was so bad that it was difficult to know them. The Robin would feed on after all others had gone, and sometimes into the dark. Certain species seldom or never began feeding before sunrise, and some always finished before sunset. Of the former, Jay, Coal Tit, Goldfinch and Spotted Flycatcher are examples, and of the latter Coal Tit, House Sparrow and Chaffinch. Mr. Marples gives the time and order in which several species began and ceased to feed in relation to sunrise and sunset. For example, the Song Thrush began to feed 42 minutes before sunrise, ceasing 29 minutes after

sunset, the House Sparrow 10 minutes before sunrise, ceasing 7 minutes before sunset, the Coal Tit 10 minutes before sunrise, ceasing 15 minutes before sunset.

M., "B.B." (XXIX, No. 4), noted a Song-Thrush in his garden pull off and devour a petal of a lily, 110 mm. long and 25-30 mm. wide, on 9th August. Cases of abnormal diet at about this time were probably caused by the drought. At Appleslade the rainfall was only .09 in August to this date, and only .72 ins. for the whole of July.

After the gale in mid-November many acorns strewed the ground in the Forest area. M. says, "B.B." (XXIX, No. 7), that the procedure of the Jays in feeding on them was to swallow one acorn, another, then, with a third in its beak, each bird flew off to regurgitate and break them up in a more private place, quickly, and then return for more.

Mr. John Dover, Totland Bay (*The Times*) writes: "We used to have a good number of Sand Martins here in the upper portions of the cliff at the south-west end of the Green Walk. One year they did not come. I therefore expected a landslip of the cliff during the following winter. No such landslip occurred. The birds, however, were not far wrong, for a landslip exposing their homes of more than a yard long occurred during the next winter. These Sand Martins have not returned." He gives a date-table of the latest Swallow there for the past ten years, ranging from 18th October in 1928 to 24th November in 1926. He quotes a Shanklin record for 1935 of several Swallows (one a white one) seen on 13th November, and states that three Martins were seen at the east end of the Isle of Wight on 3rd December.

It appears at times, at least in the case of birds frequenting homesteads, which can be checked individually, if not by normal characters, by other distinctive marks such as a white feather or some injury, that the hen may occupy the territory of a pair first, or in the absence of the cock, who may not return. This would probably apply to other birds, even to our migrants.

The rather abnormal number of occurrences of the Great Bustard in its old Wiltshire haunts since the extinction there of our native birds, which Miss Gullick emphasizes in a letter, suggests that the birds may be returning to the home of their ancestors, owing to an old inherited instinct. Our British birds may have been migratory, and when their haunts became unsuitable here, those that were not killed ceased, themselves, to return to their old home; but the homing instinct has persisted in their descendants.