

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, 1940.

By F. H. HAINES.

METEOROLOGY.

THE great cold of January and February, following that of the end of December, caused great mortality among birds, and many were killed by hunger, or frozen by the effects of the "ice-rain." This affected them gravely when settled or at roost. Great numbers of wild geese and other wild fowl were forced south, as well as Fieldfares and Redwings, Larks and Lapwings. Much migratory movement of our resident birds took place. March and April were cold and dull, and the latter so dry as to cause a scarcity of food for young broods. May, and especially June, were very genial months, but too dry to be ideal for breeding and rearing processes. The great drought of August followed by a dry September was partly offset by a fairly genial October. A deluge of rain in November was succeeded by a cold December, but migratory movements were not specially pronounced in my experience.

SYSTEMATIC LIST.

- Raven** (*Corvus c. corax*). One flying over St. Catherine's Hill, 10th Feb.; one pair, Stanpit marshes, 31st March; one flying towards marshes, 1st April; one Stanpit marshes, 27th Aug.; Ravens on Stanpit marshes, 23rd, 24th, 25th Oct. (CP). Two young were reared near Tyneham, Dorset (W. R. G. Bond).
- Hooded Crow** (*Corvus c. cornix*). Stanpit marshes, 25th Oct. (CP).
- Crow** (*Corvus c. corone*). 13th Jan., Appleslade, quite tame here, driven in by the extreme cold, 21 deg. of frost in night (FH).
- Rook** (*Corvus f. frugilegus*). Petersfield, large flocks of Rooks and Jackdaws fly over, especially in winter and summer (AH). 10th Sept., a small flock at Appleslade, most unusual at this season; 28th Sept., a number about Ringwood and Blashford (FH).
- Jackdaw** (*Coloeus m. spermologus*). Always in numbers on Stanpit marshes and neighbourhood (CP). Often scarce in New Forest for much of the year. 3rd May, Linwood (HL).
- Magpie** (*Pica p. pica*). Still in numbers in woods in Mudeford, though owing to trees being cut down some must have left (CP). 24th Jan., Petersfield, one seen, many N. of the town (AH).
- Jay** (*Garrulus g. rufitergum*). A few in woods at Mudeford (CP).
- Starling** (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*). Petersfield, numerous throughout the year (AH). Collected into quite large flocks by 10th June, Appleslade (FH).
- Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*). None at Burghclere this year (AB). 25th April, male seen at Moyles Court (AP). Common at Farnborough (HK).
- Goldfinch** (*Carduelis c. britannica*). Very numerous in the Mudeford district; a flock of 150 to 200 seen up the Avon valley near Winkton, 21st Sept. (CP). 28th Aug., Appleslade, large flock; 28th Sept., Blashford, enormous flock (FH).

- Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*). One male in woods, Mudeford, 27th Feb. (CP). On alders, 15th Oct., Ampfield (HW). 28th Sept., a small flock in wood (C. W. Burton). 4th Nov., flock of 80, near Farnborough (HK).
- Lesser Redpole** (*Carduelis l. cabaret*). A pair seen at Alderholt, near Nicklens Farm, on 30th Nov. (BR).
- Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula p. nesa*). Very plentiful in Mudeford district (CP). Petersfield, less frequent in spring than usual (AH).
- Crossbill** (*Loxia c. curvirostra*). Oct., near Farnham, small parties seen every day, passing over house and in the pines round (HK).
- Chaffinch** (*Fringilla c. coelebs*). 22nd May, Appleslade, a nest, 30 feet up, in a *Pinus insignis* (FH).
- Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*). One cock, Mudeford, 31st Jan. (CP). Flock of 30 to 50 near Ferndown, Dorset, about Christmas (GB).
- Tree Sparrow** (*Passer m. montanus*). 23rd April, Appleslade, one in garden (FH).
- Yellow Bunting** (*Emberiza c. citrinella*). A nest with four eggs, bird sitting, found 1st Aug., Bournemouth (GB). Petersfield, reduced in numbers (AH).
- Cirl Bunting** (*Emberiza cirlus*). Collecting nesting material, Mudeford, 15th March; more numerous than Yellowhammers, particularly round Mudeford (CP). Parkstone, 6th July, cock singing in garden daily, for about 10 days (L. B. Hall). 23rd Jan., Andover, male (WP).
- Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza s. schoenichus*). Several were seen in North End Lane, Harbridge, on Dec. 24th and 25th, 1940, and one or two were still there 17th Jan., 1941 (BR). Appleslade, one cock at pond, 27th April, but none later until a few were seen on marshy ground, 3rd Sept (FH).
- Wood Lark** (*Lullula a. arborea*). Five seen at Mudeford, 9th Oct. (CP).
- Sylkark** (*Alauda a. arvensis*). Several seen during cold spell 9th to 31st Jan. flying over the sea (? foreigners); further invasion of larks during and after snowstorms 16th to 18th Feb. (CP).
- Richard's Pipit** (*Anthus r. richardi*). The bird recorded (Vol. XIV, Pt. 3, p. 376) proves to have been a Skylark with abnormal foot. A leg was recovered (BB, March, 1941). Abnormally long hind claw (sides of tarsus with scutes).
- Tree Pipit** (*Anthus t. trivialis*). Some on St. Catherine's Hill (CP).
- Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. ravi*). Numerous as usual (CP).
- Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla c. cinerea*). Only a few seen this year in the district (CP).
- Tree Creeper** (*Certhia f. britannica*). Burghclere, 4th March (AB).
- Nuthatch** (*Sitta e. affinis*). Quite numerous in Mudeford district (CP). Burghclere, 4th March (AB). Very common at Farnborough (HK).
- Great Titmouse** (*Parus m. maior*). Common, Mudeford (CP).
- Blue Titmouse** (*Parus coeruleus obscurus*). Common, Mudeford (CP).
- Coal Titmouse** (*Parus a. britannicus*). Common, Mudeford (CP).
- Marsh Titmouse** (*Parus p. dresseri*). Common, Mudeford (CP).
- Long-tailed Titmouse** (*Aegithalos c. roseus*). Common, Mudeford (CP). Burghclere, 7th March (AB).
- Golden-crested Wren** (*Regulus r. angulorum*). Burghclere, 4th March, a total absence later due, probably, to the ice-rain (AB). 21st Jan., Froxfield (AH). A nest 25 feet up, in a *Cupressus macrocarpus*, at Linwood (HL).
- Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius c. collurio*). Two at Burghclere, after an absence of some years (AB). Nested at Linwood and brought off a brood successfully (DH).
- Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa s. striata*). Not as numerous as usual this year, Mudeford (CP). None seen at Ampfield until the autumn (HW).
- Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*). First seen at Mudeford, 18th March, a week earlier than in 1939; singing 2nd Sept. (CP).

- Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*): Abundant at Petersfield (AH). Arrived 4th April, but up to 8th April practically no song heard, possibly due to very cold winds. Began singing again first week in August; heard 12th August (CP).
- Wood Warbler** (*Phylloscopus s. sibilatrix*). 27th May, Ringwood, young just hatched (CB).
- Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella n. naevia*). 25th May, Ringwood, with young about three days old (CB). A pair in marshy meadows near Avon village (GB). 27th May, Appleslade, none seen or heard since April, until 1st June, at evening; much rarer this year than usual (FH).
- Marsh Warbler** (*Acrocephalus palustris*). Nesting in bushes at bottom of garden, Mudeford (CP).
- Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus shoenobaenus*). 19th June, many singing along the Sopley ditches (FH).
- Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia u. dartfordiensis*). One pair only seen: on heath-land near Boldrewood, New Forest (GB). 31st July, near Burley Street, on heath, one seen (FH).
- Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*). Six, first of the winter, Stanpit marshes, 31st Jan.; two small flocks, Hengistbury Head, 6th Feb.; few, Mudeford, 11th Feb. and subsequently; flock in tops of trees, Mudeford, 27th Feb., weather very mild; enormous flocks in Mudeford, Burton, and Bransgore, 5th to 8th March; plenty, Mudeford, 11th March; few, 16th March; several, Burton, 28th March (CP). Numbers round Bournemouth this winter (GB). Linwood, 22nd Jan., came, with Redwings, to bird-table (HL).
- Redwing** (*Turdus musicus*). Very numerous in the Avon valley during the cold spells, 25th—29th Dec., 9th—24th Jan., and 28th—31st Jan.; several picked up dead; big flocks in trees, Mudeford, 26th Feb., "chattering"; also 27th Feb.; large flocks, Mudeford, Burton, and Bransgore, 5th—8th March; plenty still, Mudeford, 11th and 16th March; few seen, Mudeford, 22nd March; few, Burton, 28th March (CP).
- Blackbird** (*Turdus m. merula*). Two pied cocks, Bransgore, 4th Feb.; pied hen at Mudeford, still going strong, now in its third year (CP). A singularly tame cock has frequented here now for five years, Appleslade (FH).
- Wheatear**. (*Oenanthe o. oenanthe*). One, Mudeford, 15th March (CP). One, Hengistbury Head, 3rd March; in numbers, 22nd March (RB). A pair brought off a brood successfully on Linwood Heath (DH).
- Whinchat** (*Saxicola r. rubetra*). Very scarce this year at Mudeford; only one seen (CP).
- Stonechat** (*Saxicola t. hibernans*). Scarce at Bournemouth, probably killed by severe winter (GB).
- Redstart** (*Phoenicurus p. phoenicurus*). First hen, Mudeford, 19th April; first cock, Queen's Park, Boscombe, 30th April (CP).
- Black Redstart** (*Phoenicurus o. gibraltariensis*). One seen on migration, Southbourne, 13th March; reported 15th Oct. from Lee-on-Solent by Mrs. J. Dotesio (CP).
- Nightingale** (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*). Usual numbers heard at Walkford, Highcliffe (CP). Exceptionally numerous; one afternoon, end of April, heard and saw at least six cocks within half a mile on Sixpenny Handley Common (GB).
- Wren** (*Troglodytes t. troglodytes*). Observations on breeding and song by G. Marples are in *British Birds*, Vol. XXXIII, p. 294.
- Martin** (*Delichon u. urbica*). 7th Oct., Ringwood, feeding nearly fully fledged young in nest (CB).
- Sand Martin** (*Riparia r. riparia*). Flock flying up Avon valley, 27th March (CP).
- Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus e. europaeus*). One pair at Mudeford (CP). Fewer than usual, only two pairs of eggs seen instead of many clutches; I note they nest in almost the same spot year after year, as on Herne Common (GB). 4th June, 2 eggs reported on Rockford Common (FH).

- Hoopoe** (*Upupa e. epops*). "Major M. Portal informs us that a Hoopoe which had been about farm buildings near Swanmore for several days was picked up dead in a cowhouse on 9th Jan. The bird was in a starved state, as the ground was frozen deep at the time." (BB.)
- Kingfisher** (*Alcedo a. ispida*). Very few seen this year in Mudeford neighbourhood; local pair only seen once (CP). 19th March, Linwood, near breeding tunnel on Dockens (HL).
- Green Woodpecker** (*Picus v. virescens*). Well distributed in Mudeford district (CP).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates m. anglicus*). Well distributed in Mudeford district (CP). Burghclere, 28th March (AB). Colden Common, several seen among the apple trees (KK).
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates m. comminatus*). Well distributed in Mudeford district (CP). Colden Common, not seen for about two years (KK).
- Wryneck** (*Jynx t. torquilla*). Nest in a Woodpeckers' hole in a pine in Merrick Park made by the only pair I have ever seen in the district (GB).
- Cuckoo** (*Cuculus c. canorus*). Apparently very numerous in the district, more females heard calling than ever before; young Cuckoo with foster parent, cock Chaffinch, seen Waterditch Common, Bransgore, 14th June (CP). Far more than usual, eggs seen in the nests of Yellow Buntings, White-throats and Reed Warblers (GB).
- Little Owl** (*Athene n. vidalii*). Several in Mudeford district (CP). 11th Aug., one seen at Burghclere; they have been scarce here lately (AB). 25th April, a female sitting on four fresh eggs, near Ringwood (AP). 27th March, Linwood, seen at dusk (FH).
- Long-eared Owl** (*Asio o. otus*). 19th April, Ampfield, seen in broad daylight; the bird was uttering a hoarse "croak," a little like that of the Carrion Crow; evidently it had young ones abroad (HW).
- Short-eared Owl** (*Asio f. flammeus*). Possibly it was this species seen quartering field on marshes, 3.15 p.m., 24th Jan. (CP).
- Tawny Owl** (*Strix a. sylvatica*). Several in Mudeford (CP).
- Barn Owl** (*Tyto a. alba*). One reported in Mudeford (CP). 26th March, Appleslade, one that is here occasionally reappeared: still about in wood, 12th April (FH).
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco p. peregrinus*). May, Holywell, one seen (Major Portal). 14th April, Appleslade, one circling overhead (FH).
- Hobby** (*Falco s. subbuteo*). 1940, a pair nested in a wood near Old Winchester Hill, and later I saw the young playing about the beech trees on Beacon Hill, about one mile W. (EMcB). 10th Aug., male and female near Ringwood (AP). 16th May, almost certainly, at Bratley (DH). 6th June, one hunting round Appleslade (FH). 1st June, Linwood, two (HL).
- Rough-legged Buzzard** (*Buteo l. lagopus*). Caught in trap, near Andover, first winter male (WP).
- Common Buzzard** (*Buteo b. buteo*). One seen in Holmsley Enclosure, 6th March; one seen soaring over from near Mudeford, 25th, 26th Sept. (CP). Feb., Droxford Down, one seen (EMcB). Feb., Holywell, one seen (Major Portal). 26th June, one over Appleslade at about 8.39 a.m., S.T.; it circled only a short distance above the house, very low indeed and quite near me (FH). 16th March, Quarley Hill (WP).
- Marsh Harrier** (*Circus ae. aeruginosus*). Early November, a pair of Harriers, reported as Marsh, occasionally flew over the water meadows (EFC).
- Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*). A grey cock was seen on 11th July and again on 29th July in the northern part of New Forest (BR). 4th June, a male was quartering the ground near Newlands at evening; a little later a female came across, flying S.E. to N.W. (FH).

Hen Harrier (*Circus c. cyaneus*). 14th Feb., male Hen Harrier near Ringwood; 16th Feb., male Hen Harrier near Christchurch; 17th Nov., female near Christchurch (AP). 11th June, Linwood, two (HL).

Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter n. nisus*). Much persecuted in New Forest. One cock here, 19th April; 13th May, Appleslade, two found dead; 17th Oct., Appleslade, one mobbed by a small bird, was chasing a middle-sized bat in afternoon. Bat flew fairly high in the open. Chase was given up on my advent (FH).

Spoonbill (*Platalea l. leucorodia*). One, Stanpit marshes, 16th Oct.; one, Stanpit marshes, 12th Nov., adult in very good condition; another (or same?) same place, 20th, 28th Nov., 2nd, 4th, 8th, 15th, 21st, 22nd Dec. (CP). Cf. *British Birds*, Vol. XXXIV, p. 198, on occurrences in Co. Mayo.

Common Heron (*Ardea c. cinerea*). Forty-two counted on Stanpit marshes, 30th July; numbers collect on the marshes every day; heard flying most nights (CP). Petersfield, seen from end of Aug. and on various days through Sept. and Oct., frequently, on Heath Pond, to 1st Nov. (AH).

Bittern (*Botaurus s. stellaris*). One wounded picked up in main road, Christchurch, 2nd March, by Mr. Joyce, of Mudeford, who set the wing; it escaped 4th March; found evening, and killed on 5th March, because an official "didn't know what it was!" (CP). 13th Jan., one seen at Avon Castle; 24th Jan., one seen N. of Ringwood (AP). Leckford, a Bittern was found, in summer, caught in an unset pike-trap, lying on the river bank; it was uninjured and was set at liberty (EFC).

Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus r. antiquorum*). Reported on Stanpit marshes at the beginning of June and again on 23rd: said to be fairly tame and easy to approach; seen by me 7th July, on the marshes, consorting with Cormorants; on being approached, it took to flight, eventually landing on the water; seemed to be in good condition, not quite full adult plumage (CP).

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*). The two have evidently wintered, again, at Beaulieu, last seen 11th April (CP).

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). Local family broke up about 14th Jan., parents mated again 16th Jan., Mudeford (CP). 23rd Aug., Petersfield, nine on Heath Pond, but visitors are chased away by resident pair (AH).

Grey Lag Goose (*Anser anser*). A few geese reported flying seawards from the Avon Valley, 11th Jan., sp.? a species of Grey Goose reported in or by River Mude, 18th Jan.; a large number of geese seen flying in from the sea up the Avon Valley, 1 p.m., 3rd Feb., ? about 20—30; huge flight seen up river 4th Feb., from Mudeford: two separate lots joining up, well over 100; flock, probably geese, seen in the Avon Valley, 10th Feb., high up and flying up the valley; Grey Geese, ? species, reported Lee-on-Solent, about 24th Jan.—7th Feb.; two lots (45—50) and (30), located up the Avon Valley, 12th Feb.: in the biggest lot **White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*), definitely identified; geese flying high, out to sea from Avon Valley direction, 18th Feb., sp. unidentified; a small group of 7—9 Grey Geese, flying over Christchurch Harbour in S.W. direction, cold N.E. wind, 20th Dec., sp. unknown (CP). Many unidentified geese about Harbridge, 7th Feb. (HL). A flock of Grey Geese, sp. unknown, at one time exceeding 100 birds, was about the Ibsley marshes for the best part of a month during the very severe weather in Jan. and Feb., 1940 (BR).

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). 30th Dec., Stanpit marshes, five. Other Grey Geese, too high to identify, seen, 20th Dec. (CP).

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). Found dead, Avon Beach, 28th Jan. (CP). Last winter, 1939-40, I saw more grey geese than I have ever seen in Hampshire, principally Pink-foot and a few Grey-Lags, Portchester (JS).

Brent Goose (*Branta b. bernicla*). 3rd Feb., a flock of Dark-breasted Brent leaving Portsmouth Harbour (GC). Six Brent Geese off Hengistbury Head, 23rd Feb. ; one Dark-breasted Brent (*Bernicla b. bernicla*), Stanpit marshes, 17th March ; seen again, Stanpit marshes, 31st March, probably same bird (CP). A few arrived early in Nov., Portchester (JS).

Canada Goose (*Branta c. canadensis*). 15th March, Petersfield, two ; 20th March, one (AH).

Sheld-Duck (*Tadorna tadorna*). In Christchurch Harbour, during cold spell, 14th Jan. ; on the River Avon, during snow, 18th Jan. ; flight of 14 seen over Harbour, 21st Jan. ; 11 Christchurch Harbour, 11th Feb. ; small flights over Pennington Marshes, 3rd Feb. ; on Stanpit marshes, 11th March ; first pair, with young, seen Christchurch Harbour, 6th June ; three or four pairs seen with families in Christchurch Harbour in July ; young, on their own, in Christchurch Harbour in first week of Aug. ; between 16 and 18 pairs, Christchurch Harbour, 22nd Dec ; many, Stanpit Marshes, 30th Dec. (CP).

Mallard (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*). In Christchurch Harbour, during cold spell, 14th Jan. ; Stanpit marshes, 17th March (CP).

CP notes that Mallard, Tufted Duck, Shovellers, Widgeon, Teal, and Pochard were all seen for sale in local shops after the cold spell.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). Seven seen on River Avon during snow, 18th Jan. (CP).

Teal (*Anas c. crecca*). On the River Avon during snow, 18th Jan. (CP).

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*). Eleven seen round about lagoon, Mudeford, 22nd March (CP).

Widgeon (*Anas penelope*). On the River Avon during snow, 18th Jan. ; four, seen flying E. over sea, 30th Jan. ; four in Christchurch Harbour, 31st Jan. ; flight of 15 out to sea, 4th Feb. ; several large flights of duck seen over Pennington Marshes, 3rd Feb., sp. ? ; on Stanpit marshes, 17th March (CP).

Pintail (*Anas a. acuta*). Portchester, Feb. and Dec. (JS).

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*). Many Avon Valley in flight, few on water, 12th Feb. (CP). Many in neighbourhood of Ringwood during severe weather of Jan. (AP). 30th Dec., Stanpit marshes, 4 (CP).

Pochard (*Nyroca f. ferina*). In Christchurch Harbour during cold spell, 14th Jan. ; on River Avon during snow, 18th Jan. (CP). On flooded gravel-pits, N. of Andover, 18th Jan. (WP). 29th Oct., male shot near Ringwood. (AP).

Tufted Duck (*Nyroca fuligula*). On the River Avon during snow, 18th Jan. ; one pair off Stanpit marshes, 20th Nov. (CP).

Goldeneye (*Bucephala c. clangula*). Portchester, winter, every year (JS).

Scoter (*Oidemia n. nigra*). Two drakes, Christchurch Harbour, 31st Jan. ; a big flock of Scoters off shore, 13th Feb. ; another large flock off Hengistbury Head, 23rd Feb. (CP).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). Portchester, winter, every year (JS).

Flights of ducks, numbering many hundreds, seen up the Avon Valley, 12th Feb. ; the few seen on the water included Shoveller, Widgeon, Mallard and Teal (CP).

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*). One with white thigh-patch, Christchurch Harbour, 17th Jan. (CP).

Gannet (*Sula bassana*). Jan., Hengistbury Head, Gannets spratting off Head (RB).

Great-crested Grebe (*Podiceps c. cristatus*). One off-shore, Mudeford, 18th Nov. ; another in Christchurch Harbour, 20th Nov. ; three, 26th Dec. (CP). This and other species of Grebe, difficult to identify in winter plumage, Portchester, in winter (JS).

Little Grebe (*Podiceps r. ruficollis*). Portchester, in winter (JS).

- Red-throated Diver** (*Colymbus stellatus*). Two dead (oiled), Avon Beach, 16th Jan. ; five, seen up the Stour by Wick Ferry, all being slightly oiled, 22nd Jan. ; three, Christchurch Harbour, 17th March ; in Christchurch Harbour, 15th Dec. (CP).
- Wood-Pigeon** (*Columba p. palumbus*). 24th Feb., Linwood, the immigrants disappearing (HL) ; 6th Jan., Appleslade, still in abnormal numbers and continued slightly so till 25th March, when residents were cooing much and paired (FH).
- Stock-Dove** (*Columba oenas*). 6th Feb., Linwood, local birds returned (HL). 1st July, cooing much, very plentiful, as usual, in Berry Wood, New Forest (FH).
- Stone Curlew** (*Burhinus o. oediconemus*). Appeared to be more numerous than usual between Wimborne and Cranborne, Dorset, through their usual haunts being under cultivation ; between Salisbury and Stockbridge, where there were always several pairs, none was seen through this cause (GB). Nest every year on Old Winchester Hill, and also Beacon Hill ; I saw a pair, 12th May, at Upper Swanmore (EMCE).
- Pratincole** (*Glareola p. pratincola*). The bird seen on 26th Jan., 1939, was thus described by Rev. H. M. Livens, of Totland Bay, I.W. : "General aspect dark, throat white with narrow black band beneath, beak very short, tail forked ; when the bird raised its wing, which was proportionately long, it displayed red feathers beneath." It was said to be about the size of a blackbird, on a branch, a foot or two from the ground, and about ten yards away. The species does not perch.]
- Oyster-Catcher** (*Haematopus o. ostralegus*). A pair in Christchurch Harbour, 15th Dec. (CP). Saw two clutches of eggs near Euston Cove, where one or two pairs have nested for several years past (GB). Generally very numerous on the mud-flats between Warsash and Brownwich (GP).
- Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius h. hirticula*). No attempts to breed on the Avon beach this year (CP).
- Golden Plover** (*Charadrius a. apricarius*). Two, 6th Feb., Tuckton ; one on lawn, Mudeford, 11th Feb. (CP). Large flocks of Golden Plover and a few Curlew on high ground between Wimborne and Cranborne, one flock was between one and two hundred, during December (GB). 10th Jan., two in fields, N. of Andover ; 28th Feb., flock of 50, N. of Andover (WP). 14th Jan., a large flock went over Appleslade at 9 a.m., travelling N.E. to S.W. (FH).
- Grey Plover** (*Squatarola s. squatarola*). One, 5th Jan., on the mud-banks of Langston Harbour (GC). Several, Stanpit marshes, 16th, 17th Oct., and later (CP). Portchester, early autumn, every year (JS).
- Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*). Huge flocks in and around Christchurch, 18th—22nd Nov. ; flocks of many hundred flying over Mudeford in S.W. direction, 29th Nov. ; later, more, flying more W. (CP). Petersfield, large flocks were flying on 21st Nov. and through Dec. (AH). A few nesting near Appleslade, 20th May (FH).
- Turnstone** (*Arenaria i. interpres*). Generally very numerous on the mud flats, at half-tide, between Warsash and Brownwich (GP). Portchester, early autumn, every year (JS).
- Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*). Ruff and Reeve, Stanpit marshes, 22nd Sept. (CP).
- Knot** (*Calidris c. canutus*). One, Christchurch Harbour, 22nd Dec. (CP). Portchester, early autumn, every year (JS).
- Dunlin** (*Calidris a. schinzii*). Large flocks up Avon Valley, during floods, 10th Feb. ; in summer plumage, Christchurch Harbour, 14th April ; numbers present in Christchurch Harbour nearly all the year round (CP).
- Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*). One, Stanpit marshes, 27th Aug. (CP).

- Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*). One, Stanpit marshes, 20th Oct. (CP). Several in various places during exceptionally hard weather in Jan. (BR).
- Common Redshank** (*Tringa t. britannica*). Song-flight and dance seen, Avon Valley, 17th March (CP). 17th to 14th Nov., in valley of River Anton, near Andover; some birds seem to stay inland during the winter, though most leave after the breeding season (WP).
- Bar-Tailed Godwit** (*Limosa l. lapponica*). Two in winter plumage, Stanpit marshes, 28th April; one flying over Stanpit marshes, 20th Oct.; one, Stanpit marshes, 22nd Dec. (CP).
- Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa l. limosa*). This autumn quite a number, flocks of 20, this is our rare Godwit; the Bar-tailed we get in plenty at times; Portchester (JS).
- Curlew** (*Numenius a. arquata*). In numbers, Stanpit marshes, during Oct.; nearly always present all the year round (CP). A clutch of eggs found on marshy heathland between Hern Station and Christchurch; there are usually one or two pairs in this locality (GB). 22nd March, Ibsley Common (HL).
- Snipe** (*Capella g. gallinago*). "Drumming," Avon Valley, 17th March (CP). "Drumming," Burghclere, 22nd March; unusually scarce during the year (AB). Very few breed at Linwood now (FH).
- Woodcock** (*Scolopax r. rusticola*). One seen in the Bure Homage Woods, Mudeford, 3rd Feb. (CP). Burghclere, one flushed 12th Aug., doubtless bred here where they are common (AB). 15th March, Appleslade, flushed at evening; 17th May, one flew over (FH).
- Little Tern** (*Sterna a. albigrons*). No evidence of breeding or even attempting it on the Avon beach this year, due probably to military activities on the beach (CP). A small colony was seen on the shingly beach running from Keyhaven to Hurst Castle; 13 clutches, mostly of three eggs, were counted on 6th June, laid end of May (GB).
- Black-headed Gull** (*Larus r. ridibundus*). Petersfield, frequent flocks in rough weather, from 6th Oct. onwards (AH).
- Herring Gull** (*Larus a. argentatus*). Numbers with Black-headed and one Kittiwake, Stanpit, 21st May (FH).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus f. affinis*). Three, Stanpit marshes, 17th March; one, Stanpit marshes, 22nd Sept. (CP).
- Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*). Quite numerous, Mudeford (CP). 21st May, one on sandspit, badly oiled, at Mudeford (FH). Two young were reared at Tynham, Dorset (W. R. G. Bond).
- Kittiwake Gull** (*Rissa t. tridactyla*). More Kittiwakes seen this year than usual, at least four being found dead from oil (CP).
- Razorbill** (*Alca torda*). One, dead from oiling, Avon beach, Mudeford, 27th Nov. (CP).
- Water Rail** (*Rallus a. aquaticus*). A few about; Mudeford (CP). 22nd Jan., one on marshy ground at Appleslade; 14th May, a male heard, "a loud piercing and explosive scream" (FH).
- Coot** (*Fulica a. atra*). Large numbers, Christchurch Harbour, 20th—22nd Dec., weather cold, hard frost, wind N.E. (CP). The large autumnal gathering with moorhens at Blashford noted again on 7th Nov.; 4th Dec., Blashford, a fierce fight between two seen (FH).

The presence of the Spoonbill in the Stanpit marshes, of the Bittern in several localities, including a date in summer, and especially of the Flamingo, also at Stanpit, were outstanding occurrences. The wintering, again, of the Whooper Swans, at Beaulieu, must be specially noticed, as also the appearance of the Black-tailed Godwit at Portchester. The record of Crossbills near Farnham is note-worthy.

Arrival of Spring Migrants in Hampshire, 1940.

(In CP's records, "early" and "late" mean as compared with the dates for 1939.)

Tree Pipit. 6th May, Havant (HB).

Yellow Wagtail. 6th April, Mudeford, early (CP); 22nd April, Chilbolton (WP).

White Wagtail. 6th April, Mudeford, early (CP).

Red-backed Shrike. 15th May, Linwood, none seen yet (DH).

Spotted Flycatcher. 10th May, Mudeford, early (CP). 22nd April, Linwood, very early (HL).

Chiffchaff. 17th March, Ringwood (AP); 18th March, Mudeford, early (CP); 18th March, Poulner and Hangersley, singing (E. Stone); 20th March, Havant (HB); 20th March, near Winchester, five seen (G. G. Pierce); 20th March, Appleslade, probably two seen (FH); 22nd March, Hengistbury Head (RB); 23rd March, Ampfield (HW); 28th March, Linwood (HL); 2nd April, two heard, Burghclere (AB); 17th, Leckford (EFC).

Willow Warbler. 2nd April, Appleslade, heard; song generally rather broken, though frequent, on 6th (FH); 3rd Havant (HB); 3rd, Linwood (HL); 4th, Hengistbury Head, early (CP).

Wood Warbler. 21st April, Ringwood (CB); 29th, Havant (HB); 3rd May, New Forest, early (CP); 17th June, wood, Appleslade, singing (FH).

Grasshopper Warbler. 29th April, Appleslade (FH).

Reed Warbler. 24th April, Havant (HB); 25th, Hengistbury Head (RB); 28th, Mudeford, early, song (CP); 30th May, Appleslade, by Dockens (FH).

Marsh Warbler. 29th May, Mudeford, early, song (CP); 8th June, Appleslade, singing for one day only, by Dockens (FH).

Sedge Warbler. 19th April, Mudeford, late, song (CP); 27th April, on Avon at Ringwood (FH).

Garden Warbler. 5th April, Linwood, very early (HL); 21st April, Ringwood (CB); 2nd May, Appleslade (FH); 4th May, New Forest, early (CP); 20th, Havant (HB).

Blackcap. 15th April, Mudeford, early (CP); 20th, Havant (HB); 26th, Highwood; 22nd May, Fordingbridge (FH).

Whitethroat. 18th April, Mudeford (CP); 19th, seen; heard, 21st, Havant (HB); 23rd, Hengistbury Head (RB); 11th June, Appleslade, seen and heard (FH).

Lesser Whitethroat. 20th April, Havant (HB); 21st, Appleslade, heard (FH).

Wheatear. 8th March, Hengistbury Head, single bird; 22nd, in numbers (RB); 15th, Mudeford, early (CP); 16th, Bournemouth, far fewer (GB); 17th, Linwood, three seen (DH); 31st, Havant (HB); 1st April, male, near Ringwood (AP).

Whinchat. 14th May, Hengistbury Head (RB).

Redstart. 12th April, Hengistbury Head (RB); 19th, Mudeford, late (CP).

Nightingale. 15th or 16th April, Colden Common, plentiful in copses round village (KK); 20th, Havant (HB); 20th, Ampfield (HW); 25th, Long-parish (WP); 26th, Highcliffe, late (CP); 10th May, Burghclere, very scarce here now (AB).

Swallow. 30th March, Hengistbury Head (RB); 5th April, Havant, 18th, in numbers (HB); 14th, Linwood (HL); 16th, Ampfield (HW); 17th, Mudeford, late (CP); 17th, Leckford, visiting their old nesting places (EFC); 21st, Rockford (FH); 25th, Totland Bay (JD); 27th, Burghclere (AB).

Martin. 5th April, Linwood, at evening, several (FH); 18th Havant (HB); 18th, Leckford (EFC); 29th, Mudeford, late (CP); 14th May, Totland Bay (JD).

- Sand Martin.** 22nd March, about 200 flying over Avon near the bridges, Ringwood (AP); 26th, 15 near Winchester (G. G. Pierce); 27th, Avon Valley, early (CP); 2nd April, Hengistbury Head (RB); 17th, Havant (HB); 21st, Ringwood (CB).
- Swift.** 29th April, Ringwood (CB); 30th April, Mudeford, early (CP); 1st May, Havant (HB); 2nd May, many over Ringwood (AP); 3rd May, Ringwood, two, and then one, seen (FH); 6th, Test Valley; 7th, Ampfield (HW); 12th, Hengistbury Head (RB); 14th, Totland Bay (JD); 20th, Petersfield, 20 or more near church tower, more numerous in 1940 than usual (AH).
- Nightjar.** 9th May, Appleslade, heard (FH); 13th May, Hengistbury Head (RB); 19th, Ampfield, churring (HW); 21st, Linwood (HL); 22nd, Burghclere, by day (AB); 23rd, heard, Havant (HB).
- Wryneck.** 19th April, Linwood (HL); 23rd, Appleslade (FH).
- Cuckoo.** 17th April, Linwood (HL); 17th, Appleslade (FH); 17th, Petersfield; the female's bubbling note very frequent during the last half of May (AH); 18th, Ampfield (HW); 18th, Havant (HB); 19th, Leckford (EFC); 20th, Ringwood, 5.30 a.m. (GB); 23rd, Hengistbury Head (RB); 25th, Mudeford, late (CP); 27th, Burghclere (AB); 27th, Totland Bay (JD).
- Garganey.** 22nd March, Mudeford (CP).
- Turtle Dove.** 27th April, Leckford, very early (EFC); 30th, Linwood (HL); 1st May, Ampfield (HW); 2nd, Appleslade, then not seen until 14th, silent till 16th, many heard 17th (FH); 5th, Havant (HB); 19th, St. Catherine's Hill (CP).
- Stone Curlew.** 16th March, Quarley Hill; 17th April, near Netherton, nest with eggs (WP); 23rd, near Winchester (G. G. Pierce); 10th June, several heard on top of downs near Burghclere (AB).
- Sandpiper.** 26th April, Mudeford, late (CP).
- Bar-tailed Godwit.** 6th April, Hengistbury Head, flock (RB); 28th, Mudeford, early (CP).
- Whimbrel.** 8th May, early, Mudeford (CP).
- Common Tern.** 17th April, Mudeford, early (CP); 26th, Hengistbury Head (RB).
- Lesser Tern.** 25th April, Hengistbury Head (RB); 27th, Mudeford, late (CP).

The Turtle Dove tended to be very early again.

Departure of Summer Migrants and Latest Dates of Song.

- Yellow Wagtail.** 24th Sept., Mudeford, later (CP).
- Spotted Flycatcher.** 11th Sept., Mudeford, earlier (CP).
- Chiffchaff.** 22nd Sept.; 8th Oct., 6.30 a.m. S.T., a short snatch of song (FH); 16th Oct., later, Mudeford (CP).
- Willow Warbler.** 8th Aug., singing freely; 27th Sept., two on Linwood Bog (FH); 12th Oct., Mudeford, earlier (CP).
- Wood Warbler.** 6th Sept., Appleslade, some seen (FH).
- Grasshopper Warbler.** Very scarce at Appleslade this season. On 9th Aug., none had been heard for long (FH).
- Blackcap.** 22nd Aug., with Garden and other Warblers seen amongst the bushes at Appleslade (FH); 7th Sept., Mudeford, earlier (CP).
- Whitethroat.** 7th Sept., Mudeford (CP); 3rd Oct., Appleslade (FH).
- Ring Ouzel.** Mid-Oct., Hengistbury Head (RB).
- Wheatear.** 7th Oct., Mudeford, earlier (CP).
- Whinchat.** 7th Sept., Mudeford, earlier (CP).
- Redstart.** 11th Sept., Mudeford, later (CP).

- Swallow.** 10th Oct., Burghclere (AB); 14th, Ampfield (HW); 3rd Nov., Havant (HB); 19th, Mudeford, later (CP); 21st, Totland Bay (JD); Swallows, with Martins, Sand Martins and Swifts seemed scarcer than usual at Appleslade (FH).
- Martin.** 13th Oct., Ampfield, last seen (HW); 12th Nov., Havant (HB); 15th, Mudeford, later (CP); 21st, Totland Bay (JD).
- Sand Martin.** 15th Sept., Mudeford, earlier (CP); 27th, Burghclere (AB).
- Swift.** 22nd July, Ibsley, many seen; 31st, Burley Street; none seen in Ringwood neighbourhood on 9th Aug. (FH); 29th July, Petersfield (AH); 31st, Havant (HB); Swifts left Leckford first week of Aug. (EFC); 13th, Ampfield (HW); 16th, Mudeford, early (CP).
- Nightjar.** 13th Aug., Appleslade (FH).
- Cuckoo.** 24th June, last heard at Ampfield (HW); 2nd July, Havant (HB); 31st, Mudeford, earlier (CP).
- Turtle Dove.** 29th July, Petersfield (AH); 5th Sept., earlier (CP).
- Stone Curlew.** 2nd Oct., Quarley Hill, flock of 50 (WP).
- Ruff.** 22nd Sept., Mudeford (CP).
- Common Sandpiper.** 25th Oct., Mudeford, later (CP).
- Common Tern.** 17th Oct., Mudeford (CP).
- Land-rail.** 29th Aug., Havant, seen (HB).

Winter Migrants.

- Hooded Crow.** 25th Oct., Stanpit marshes (CP).
- Jackdaw.** 21st Nov., Appleslade, a large flock passed over, ? immigrants (FH).
- Jay.** 25th Nov., Appleslade, an increased number here and around; abundance continued into Dec., ? immigrants (FH).
- Fieldfare.** 31st Jan., six, Stanpit marshes; six, first of the winter (CP); 7th Nov., Linwood, flock (HL); 10th, Appleslade, rather large flocks (FH); 20th Dec., Ampfield, heard (HW).
- Redwing.** 7th and 21st Nov., flocks, Linwood (HL); 10th, Appleslade, flock of about 20 passed over early on 15th (FH); 25th Dec., and later, 1939, very numerous Avon Valley. Not seen, nor Fieldfares, by 31st Dec., 1940 (CP).
- Whooper Swan.** 24th Dec. and 3rd Mar., Petersfield; heard cry when three were flying over heath and when on Heath Pond (AH).
- Wood Pigeon.** 24th Feb., Linwood, the immigrants disappearing; 7th Nov., immigrants appearing, Linwood (HL); 7th Nov., Appleslade, very many in Dec. (FH).
- Golden Plover.** 6th Feb., Tuckton, two (CP).
- Grey Plover.** 16th Oct., Stanpit marshes (CP).
- Sanderling.** 25th Oct., Mudeford district (CP).
- Green Sandpiper.** 20th Oct., Stanpit marshes (CP).
- Common Gull.** 6th Aug., Mudeford district (CP).

Earliest Dates of Spring Song and Latest Dates of Autumn Song of Residents.

- (CP states that there was a cessation of all song during the cold period, 9th Jan. to 24th Jan., at Mudeford.)
- Greenfinch.** 6th March, Mudeford (CP); 26th March, Appleslade (FH); 7th Sept., Petersfield, heard, trill (AH).
- Goldfinch.** 27th April (HB).
- Chaffinch.** 5th Feb., Mudeford (CP); 5th, Havant (HB); 9th Aug., still singing (HW).
- Corn Bunting.** 5th April, Mudeford (CP).

- Yellow Bunting.** 3rd March, Havant (HB) ; 13th March, Mudeford (CP) ; 9th Aug., still singing much at Appleslade (FH).
- Cirl Bunting.** 30th March, Mudeford (CP).
- Wood Lark.** 10th April, Havant (HB).
- Skylark.** 24th Jan., Havant (HB) ; 6th Feb., Blashford (FH) ; 3rd March, Ampfield (HW) ; 7th, and onwards, Petersfield (AH).
- Meadow Pipit.** 20th April, Ampfield ; 16th Oct., Ampfield (HW).
- Nuthatch.** 5th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Great Titmouse.** 5th Jan., Mudeford, heard again 30th, in snow (CP) ; 27th, Ampfield (HW) ; 13th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Blue Titmouse.** 27th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Coal Titmouse.** 7th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Marsh Titmouse.** 27th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Golden-crested Wren.** 5th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Mistle-Thrush.** 4th March, Ringwood (FH) ; 31st Dec., Ampfield (HW).
- Song-Thrush.** 4th Feb., Mudeford (CP) ; 4th Feb. and 4th Nov., Petersfield (AH) ; 7th Feb., Ampfield (HW).
- Blackbird.** 5th Feb., Mudeford (CP) ; 19th, Havant (HB) ; 12th March, Ampfield (HW).
- Robin.** 2nd Feb., Mudeford (CP) ; 3rd, Appleslade, singing well ; 1st Oct., singing vehemently (FH).
- Hedge Sparrow.** 3rd Feb., Mudeford (CP) ; 3rd, Appleslade (FH).
- Wren.** 3rd Feb., Mudeford (CP).
- Green Woodpecker.** 29th Feb., Appleslade (FH).
- Wood Pigeon.** 29th Feb., Appleslade (FH) ; 27th March, Mudeford (CP) ; 6th Sept., Appleslade, cooing (FH).
- Stock Dove.** 6th March, Ampfield (HW).
- Lapwing.** 3rd March, Ampfield (HW).
- Snipe.** 17th March, "drumming," Avon Valley (CP) ; 22nd, Burghclere (AB).

General Notes.

AB, Burghclere, writes : A Green Woodpecker seen frozen to death on 12th Feb., a result of the "ice-rain" which caught so many birds at roost. The fields showed many thus destroyed. Tree Creepers, Nuthatches and Goldcrests noted in February and March at Burghclere. On 27th April, Willow Wrens were in great numbers everywhere, but only a few Chiffchaffs. On 16th Oct., at 2 a.m., heard a hammering. On going out later, noise, but more like a Woodpecker's hammering, still heard. Out of an ash tree, close by, flew a Brown Owl.

EFC, Leckford, notes : Only one pair of Spotted Flycatchers in garden this year, usually more. Swallows began nesting two days after arrival. Fewer Martins than usual, only six nests occupied against thirteen last year. Swifts nested in the opposite thatched wall to that formerly chosen, but still on western side, perhaps disturbed by a Red Squirrel which ran about the wall on several occasions. Garden Warblers nested in a lilac bush, but met with accident. Survivors of brood, found on 10th June, hand-reared and freed on 27th June. Great Tits are increasing, Blue and Cole Tits decidedly fewer, probably owing to the hard winter. Cuckoos decidedly fewer, Nightingales about as usual. Goldfinches common. A neighbour tells me that, during the summer drought, Pied Wagtails raided his currants and Goldfinches his peas : the first time I have heard these birds complained of. Doubtless the long drought was the cause. Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers nested in the usual place.

Mrs. Homfray tells me that a nephew, removing a Blackbird's nest when left, found a Pied Wagtail still in it with four young in another nest inside. A ledge was nailed up, the nest replaced, and the mother reared the brood.

KK, Colden Common, says that, for the three coldest days of the winter, three Fieldfares came to a supply of apples, fat and scraps in her garden. The

first-comer became quite bold, and would rush to a feeding group, cocking his tail like a Blackbird.

GP, Bursledon, remarks that "no Long-tailed Tits were seen this summer by anyone I know. Generally several families about. Till the last few days of the frost a family of twelve came daily to our bird-table. None seen since. I fear the frost exterminated them. Only one pair of the Song-Thrush in the garden this spring, and the same scarcity for the last few years. I hear it is the same in the New Forest and Yorkshire. Whereas a few years ago they were as numerous as Blackbirds, these are now twelve to one." Writing 5th August, GP adds, "I saw a family of Long-tailed Tits in the woods about two miles from here. I wonder if the Little Owl is responsible for fewer Thrushes. I have seen one attacked and killed by it, the head being completely detached. They appear to have less fighting spirit than Blackbirds."

WP considers that the birds that suffered most in winter of 1939-40 are Long-tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Goldcrest, Tree Creeper, Song Thrush and Redwing.

A very small amount of song heard from many birds, Blackbirds, Thrushes and Mistle-Thrushes, considering their numbers at Appleslade, especially from Blackbirds in April. Later, 31st May, singing more than usual here.

Thanks are due to many correspondents. The following abbreviations have been used :—

Capt. A. F. L. Bacon	(AB).	Mrs. H. M. Rait Kerr	(HK).
H. Beeston	(HB).	H. Lea, Mr. and Mrs.	(HL).
C. J. Bellamy	(CB).	E. S. McEuen	(EMcE).
G. Brasnett	(GB).	G. K. Page	(GP).
R. A. Brewer	(RB).	Col. W. A. Payn	(WP).
G. L. Chandler	(GC).	A. J. Ponchaud	(AP).
Miss E. F. Chawner	(EFC).	Miss C. Popham	(CP).
J. Dover	(JD).	B. J. Ringrose, Mr. & Mrs.	(BR).
F. H. Haines, Mr. & Mrs.	(FH).	Capt. J. Stares	(JS).
Mrs. A. E. Harrington	(AH).	H. T. White	(HW).
D. Homfray, Mr. & Mrs.	(DH).	Miss W. P. White	(WW).
Miss K. M. R. Kenyon	(KK).		

Extracts have been used from *British Birds* (Mag. BB) and *The Times* (T).

The order adopted is that of Witherby's *Practical Handbook of British Birds*, not that of the still incomplete *Handbook*.