

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, 1941.

By F. H. HAINES.

METEOROLOGY.

TRAVELLING restrictions and ban on meteorological data in 1941 made it difficult to connect bird movements with weather phenomena. The rainfall here was far below the average: 29.64ins. as against 41.59ins. in 1939, and 32.37ins. in 1940, near our annual average of about 34ins. Weather was largely normal, but January brought a number of N. and E. immigrants: White-fronted and other grey geese and numbers of ducks. Perhaps owing to the late spring some tarried until April. Though the spring was backward, birds, like insects, usually came up to date in nesting, song and arrival. There was often a certain absence of sunshine except about midsummer. The cold, dull, wet August and warm, dry September had no marked influence on bird life. The rather inhospitable November and December found Canada Geese, Duck, including Wigeon and Shoveler, Cormorants, Gannets, perhaps immigrant Wood-Pigeon, Curlew, Golden Plover, and Lapwing in the neighbourhood.

SYSTEMATIC LIST.

- Raven** (*Corvus c. corax*). One or two seen several times in January on Stanpit Marshes; one heard flying over towards marshes on 18th April; one on marshes 10th October (CP). Three young, apparently reared near Tyneham, Dorset (W. R. G. Bond). 14th October, three on Hengistbury (RB).
- Rook** (*Corvus f. frugilegus*). Old rookery near Pepperbox Hill deserted, colony gone to small pine clump, quarter-mile off, nests contained eggs on 23rd March (GB). 19th March, Ringwood, nest-building seen, with big sticks (FH).
- Jackdaw** (*Coloeus m. spermologus*). Plentiful as ever in Mudeford district (CP). 2nd Sept., Linwood, an unusual irruption (HL).
- Maggie** (*Pica p. pica*). Fewer in Mudeford district owing to tree-felling (CP). 26th Sept., Timsbury, one pair (JD). One sat in fir trees by house at evening from 1st to 19th June, at times coming to feed, Petersfield (WW). 1st Nov., Hengistbury, one (RB).
- Jay** (*Garrulus g. rufitergum*). Very few left now in Mudeford, most of the trees being felled (CP). 28th Oct., Appleslade, numerous (FH).
- Starling** (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*). A Continental bird caught in a sparrow trap, with food and water, Leckford, 7th Feb., killed and completely ate, except head, spine and legs, a robin, both were only two hours in the trap; it was fat and in high condition (EFC). Bursledon, practically none, late autumn, compared with the thousands common in recent years (GP). 22nd June, Appleslade, in quite large flocks, 200 and more (FH). Alderholt, April and May, a brood of young chaffinches were, one by one, carried off by these birds, despite a courageous defence; a second nest was also raided (*British Birds*, XI, 41, p. 126). 17th Feb., about, egg found on grass (HW).

- Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*). A pair with nest and five eggs. 8th June, Somerley Park; every year a pair or two can be seen (GB). 6th April, Linwood, numbers by Dockens (TS).
- Goldfinch** (*Carduelis c. britannica*). Petersfield, several seen during summer, both adults and young, in bird-bath (WW). Bursledon, locally none, late autumn, when there is usually a flock of at least 20 to 30 (GP). Petersfield, two on sowthistle, 30th June; three, 7th July; two, 26th July (AH). 24th Feb., Appleslade, a few; autumn numerous (FH).
- Lesser Redpole** (*Carduelis f. cabaret*). 6th Jan., Winkton, two seen in hedge, water meadows (CP). 11th April, Linwood, flock (HL).
- Linnet** (*Carduelis c. cannabina*). 23rd June, Petersfield (WW).
- Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula p. nesa*). Plentiful in Mudeford district (CP). 13th Jan., Petersfield, hen in garden; 3rd July, three or four near Harting (WW). 11th Feb., Petersfield, pair (AH). 13th April, Appleslade, one in garden; 13th and 14th July, a few; 15th, male in garden; 7th Aug., Appleslade Enclosure, bird gave unusual harsh alarm note as it flew off (FH).
- Crossbill** (*Loxia c. curvirostra*). 10th June, East Cliff, Bournemouth (PB). 26th Sept., Bournemouth (PB). A fir cone, one of many young ones found on the ground near western edge of Bournemouth, worked by Crossbills kindly sent to me; as (ET) points out, only these birds would have treated the cones in this way (ET).
- Corn Bunting** (*Emberiza calandra*). None seen in the Mudeford district in 1941 (CP). A pair at Badbury, Dorset, but always few here (GB).
- Yellow Bunting** (*Emberiza c. citrinella*). 18th May, absent from a spot between Salisbury and Stockbridge where previously numerous; many, late in season, on Badbury (GB).
- Cirl Bunting** (*Emberiza c. cirius*). Two or three pairs breeding in Mudeford (CP). March, fairly common round Andover (WP). 24th July, Rockford Common, seen and heard, not rare, Appleslade (FH).
- Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza s. schoeniclus*). None nested at Appleslade this season (FH).
- Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax n. nivalis*). 1st Nov., Stanpit Marshes, one cock seen, very fine, but very cold N.E. wind (CP).
- House Sparrow** (*Passer d. domesticus*). 18th Dec., Mudeford, seen eating laburnum seeds (CP).
- Tree Sparrow** (*Passer m. montanus*). 19th Nov., Stanpit Marshes, three (CP).
- Wood Lark** (*Lullula a. arborea*). 15th to 30th June, 1st July, singing on heath outside Appleslade, was heard here at intervals for about three weeks, often in afternoons; 3rd July, heard at gate, and 5th at house (FH).
- Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*). 16th May, Chilbolton, nest of young ready to fly (WP).
- Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. flavissima*). 6th April, as in 1940, Stanpit Marshes, three (CP). Greatbridge, last seen 1st Oct. (JD). First seen Andover, 10th April (WP).
- Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla c. cinerea*). One pair permanently at Greatbridge (JD). 25th May, Steep, one seen (AH). 2nd Aug., Linwood, fully-fledged brood seen (FH).
- British Tree-creeper** (*Certhia f. britannica*). 16th Jan., Petersfield, seen (WW). 6th May, Linwood, nesting (HL). 17th July, Appleslade, seen, song heard, often uttered from oak trunks (FH).
- Nuthatch** (*Sitta e. affinis*). Plentiful in Mudeford district; heard calling 19th Dec.; two or three calling and answering, 20th Dec. (CP). Very numerous in Romsey area, four seen together on dead acacia in Romsey, 10th Sept. (JD).
- Great Tit** (*Parus m. newtoni*). 3rd Feb., Petersfield, three on bird-table (WW). Appleslade, a few in winter, 1940-41; 12th Oct., gathering in garden. Great and Blue very common and seen in flocks; Marsh and Cole quite disappeared from near the house of late (FH).

- Blue Tit** (*Parus c. obscurus*). Appleslade, plentiful in winter ; 23rd Nov., flock of tits of various species (FH).
- Coal-Tit** (*Parus a. britannicus*). Leckford, one only in garden since winter of 1940, known as same bird because of tameness and regular coming for food when frost sets in, it disappears in summer (EFC).
- Marsh-Tit** (*Parus p. dresseri*). 21st, Appleslade, nesting under roof of out-house, note of angry alarm whenever passed (FH). 25th Dec., great numbers of Great and Blue Tits come to bird basket, but still no Coal or Marsh Tits (FH).
- Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos c. rosaceus*). 15th May, Lower Clatford, ten young sitting in a closely-packed row on a bough, looking like a black and white cylinder, heads and tails almost alternately facing each way (WP). 5th Dec., Burghclere, flock of twelve in my copse (AB). 18th June, Appleslade, seen ; 28th June, commoner again, recovering their number after the hard winter of 1939-40 ; 10th Oct., troop frequenting here ; 15th Nov., great numbers in garden (FH).
- Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius c. collurio*). Less numerous or later than usual, a spot between Salisbury and Stockbridge where a pair or two could always be seen was visited on 18th May in vain (GB). Nested in hedge on rough ground on western edge of Bournemouth, near houses, and reared four young (ET).
- Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa s. striata*). More seen in the Mudeford district than in 1940 (CP). 21st June, Petersfield, pair (WW). 5th June, Linwood, sitting on four eggs (HL).
- Pied Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*). Not seen as in previous years on migration (ET).
- Goldcrest** (*Regulus r. anglorum*). 5th Nov., Burghclere, two on county border, only ones seen in 1941 (AB). 18th Dec., Petersfield, one in garden, first seen since severe winter of 1939-40 (WW). 5th June, Linwood, young almost ready to fly, in nest about 4ft. from ground, under pine branch (HL). 16th June, Appleslade, heard ; 25th Dec., Linwood, one seen (HL).
- Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*). Appleslade, seem more numerous than usual ; July 20th and 21st, singing in garden ; 4th Sept. to 12th, heard early (FH).
- Willow-Warbler** (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*). 13th April, Mudeford, seen and heard, later than usual (CP). 20th April, Burghclere, two, courting, nearly hit me and divided, one whistling past each side (AB). 30th April, Appleslade, nest ready for eggs found ; 20th June, nest found ; 22nd July to 3rd Aug., singing well (FH).
- Wood-Warbler** (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). 12th May, New Forest, heard (CP). In profusion at Greatbridge ; last seen 30th Sept. (JD). 1st July, Webb's Copse, singing (FH).
- Grasshopper-Warbler** (*Locustella n. naevia*). Singing May, June and later at Appleslade ; nest entirely of grass, low down amongst heather, found 10th June, with five eggs of exceptional type, little speckling but with large purple blotches, chiefly at larger end, like Chiffchaff's ; while clearing heather saw a bird leave the tunnel from its nest and continue its mouse-like creep through the heather ; 12th June, pair ; 1st Aug., singing ; 5th Aug., Newlands, heard ; 7th Aug., Ridley and Berry woods, heard ; 9th Aug., near Ringwood, heard (FH).
- Reed-Warbler** (*Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus*). 19th Sept., Appleslade, seen in garden which they have frequented lately (FH).
- Garden-Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*). Appleslade, 11th and 12th June, singing well ; 13th to 21st, incessantly ; appear to be four or five nesting pairs well scattered over our ground ; 29th June, nest found by pond with five nestlings about two days old ; 1st July, Webb's Copse, singing (FH).

- Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia u. dartfordiensis*). Appeared to have left heathland on west side of Bournemouth which it frequented; a male seen after lapse of two years about 7th Sept. (ET).
- Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*). First seen this winter at Bransgore, about six, weather very mild (CP).
- Song-Thrush** (*Turdus e. ericetorum*). 11th Nov., Mudeford, some singing very strongly, weather mild after week of very cold N.E. wind (CP). Nest finished Feb., four eggs, 13th March; 11th March, nest with three eggs, Bournemouth (GB). One came regularly for food for young in July, walking into hall and all the rooms (WW). 30th July, Appleslade, new brood hatched (FH).
- Redwing** (*Turdus m. musicus*). 6th Jan., Winkton, first of winter 1940-41, water meadows; 14th March, Mudeford, a few; 29th Dec., Hinton Admiral, one only, first of winter 1941-42 (CP).
- Blackbird** (*Turdus m. merula*). 9th Jan., Petersfield, twelve, and three Thrushes on lawn together; 24th April, young hatched in garden; later, a second brood, one young bird slept in a disused nest each night (WW). Appleslade, the tame bird which has been here so many years is still with us, absenting himself a little more in breeding season; his continual presence amongst our cats shows they recognize well if birds are preserved: latterly they touched no bird at all (FH).
- Wheatear** (*Oenanthe o. oenanthe*). 15th March, as in 1942, two, Stanpit Marshes (CP). 28th Sept., and previously, Bournemouth, on migration (ET).
- Whinchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*). 22nd Aug., Stanpit Marshes (PB).
- Stonechat** (*Saxicola t. hibernans*). 19th May, Burghclere, two just over county border; never see them on commons on Hampshire side, where they were plentiful till ten years ago (AB). 6th Oct., Hengistbury, first seen for ten months: for the first time in my memory absent in the breeding season (RB).
- Redstart** (*Phoenicurus p. phoenicurus*). Sept., Bournemouth, on migration (ET). 9th Aug., Waterslade; 12th Aug., Greenford Bottom, New Forest (FH).
- Nightingale** (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*). Plenty in Dole Wood, again, for the first time since the wood was thinned out (WP). 17th May, Burghclere, in full song (AB).
- Robin** (*Erithacus r. melophilus*). 4th Jan., Petersfield, three together on lawn; 31st Oct., one which always followed us in garden, came indoors and went upstairs (WW).
- Hedge-Sparrow** (*Prunella m. occidentalis*). 3rd July, Appleslade, commoner and singing more than usual here (FH).
- Swallow** (*Hirundo r. rustica*). 17th April, near Bransgore, as in 1940, one only; 18th April, Mudeford, several (CP). A scarcity of Swallows and Martins this summer, at Appleslade; 25th July, large numbers on wires (FH).
- House-Martin** (*Delichon u. urbica*). 20th June, Andover, four fresh eggs and four adult birds in one nest together (WP).
- Sand-Martin** (*Riparia r. riparia*). 22nd March, seen up the Avon Valley; began to congregate, 1st and 2nd Aug.; many hundreds flying over Christchurch Harbour in evenings and over cornfields near Bransgore (CP). 12th Sept., Appleslade (FH).
- Swift** (*Apus a. apus*). Leckford, no attempt to breed in former nesting hole in wall since disturbed two years ago (EFC).
- Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus e. europaeus*). 8th July, Poore's Common, Bransgore, pair (CP). 25th June to 3rd Aug., frequently heard "chucking" and "churring" at Appleslade, evening and early morning; 6th Aug., Mock-beggar, seen (FH).

- Kingfisher** (*Alcedo a. ispida*). 6th Jan., Christchurch Harbour, one; seem fewer in the district this year; 12th Sept., Stanpit Marshes, one feeding, two more, same afternoon in our garden; 21st Sept., three seen in and around Stanpit Marshes, also one, same evening, flying over garden; 23rd Nov., four seen round about Christchurch Harbour (CP). Frequent at Braishfield (JD). 21st April, Burghclere, a pair flew over, close by, generally seen singly, not common here (AB). 1st Sept., Hengistbury (RB).
- Green Woodpecker** (*Picus v. pluvius*). 23rd Jan., Appleslade, calling vernally; 14th July, a brood of young birds off from hole in old oak, and very fussy (FH).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates m. anglicus*). 17th April, Appleslade (FH).
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates m. comminatus*). 12th April, Southampton Road, Ringwood (AP).
- Wryneck** (*Jynx t. torquilla*). 1st May, Mudeford, cockbird seen in our garden, feeding on ground and flying into tree (CP).
- Cuckoo** (*Cuculus c. canorus*). Sept., Bournemouth, one young bird on migration (BT).
- Little Owl** (*Athene n. vidalii*). 7th Sept., Appleslade, heard at evening; rare earlier, commoner in Sept.; headless remains of a young hen blackbird found, 5th Oct., very doubtfully killed by this species (FH). 8th July, Hengistbury, a pair with three young (RB).
- Tawny Owl** (*Strix a. sylvatica*). 12th Nov., Petersfield, perched on roof at night and took food from bird-table, ? species (WW). 6th Sept., Linwood, seen and heard, frequently to the end of the year, but much rarer than it used to be (FH).
- Barn Owl** (*Tyto a. alba*). 15th Aug., Hengistbury (RB). 3rd Feb., Mill Lane, Ringwood, hunting at 9.15 a.m.; 7th Feb., Ringwood, hunting by riverside at 8.45 a.m.; 27th March, Ashley, Ringwood, hunting at 8 a.m. (AP).
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco p. peregrinus*). 8th Aug., seen flying over Christchurch Harbour, with intervals of gliding with extended straight wings, not upwards like a harrier; this bird disappeared from sight while making a very obvious "stoop." ? Peregrine (CP). 10th Aug., Appleslade, pair circling overhead, uttering their cry; 17th Nov., flying N.E., 9 a.m., strong S.W. gale (FH).
- Kestrel** (*Falco t. tinnunculus*). Nested on the cliff face, Hengistbury, again after about twelve years (RB). On the increase in Mudeford district (CP). 29th Sept., Timsbury, female (JD). Appleslade, occasional; 26th Oct., one (FH).
- Common Buzzard** (*Buteo b. buteo*). 3rd Feb., Mudeford, one (CP). 7th Oct., seen quartering ground over Timsbury (JD). Burghclere, saw large hawk flying low and ponderously, like an eagle, by a wood, pouncing to ground, probably Buzzard; seen by others most years, not by me (AB). 15th Nov., Witchampton, Dorset, a pair were diving at two cock pheasants who stood their ground, and appeared afraid to press attack home. After I had watched them some ten minutes they flew to a tall poplar; a man working near had noted them for some weeks, and blamed them for partly eaten rabbits in snares (GB). 22nd June, between Bratley and Roe Wood, wheeling and soaring in the sunshine and blue; 24th July, near Burley, New Forest (FH).
- Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*). 8th July, New Forest, near Thorney Hill (CP). 30th Aug., Appleslade, midday, also 31st Aug. (FH).
- Hen Harrier** (*Circus c. cyaneus*). None reported.
- Sparrow Hawk** (*Accipiter n. nisus*). Oct., Petersfield, twice seen mobbed by small birds (WW).

Osprey (*Pandion h. haliaetus*). About 7th Nov., Holywell, on banks of River Meon, one found shot (Major Portal).

Spoonbill (*Platalea l. leucorodia*). None reported.

Common Heron (*Ardea c. cinerea*). Very plentiful in Christchurch Harbour, coming to feed every day (CP). 24th to 27th Sept., pair fishing at Brook (JD). 8th July, Burghclere, over pond, seldom seen nearer than county boundary (AB). 26th Feb., Criche, Dorset, busy with nests (GB). 5th and 13th April, Petersfield, watched catching fish; 13th May, seen (AH). 24th June, Appleslade, sailing very high, taking no notice of a fleet of aeroplanes that passed just beneath it; 26th Sept., one went over (FH). 5th Aug., seven in Christchurch Harbour (RB).

Bittern (*Botaurus s. stellaris*). None reported.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*). None reported.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). 25th Feb., Petersfield, nine on lake (WW).

Grey Lag Goose (*Anser a. anser*). 5th Jan., Christchurch Harbour, skein of 20 "Grey Geese" flying due east, too high to identify; 6th Jan., more "Grey Geese," up Avon river (CP).

White-fronted Goose (*Anser a. albifrons*). 25th Jan., Hengistbury, several (RB).

Dark-breasted Brent Goose (*Branta b. bernicla*). 1st April, Christchurch Harbour, 50 to 60, wind strong from S., birds very wild and apparently very hungry (CP).

Canada Goose (*Branta c. canadensis*). 30th June, reported on Stanpit Marshes (CP). Petersfield, one on lake, 13th Feb.; two, 4th March; six, 10th; three, 12th; four on 12th April; eight on 17th; two on 24th, and one later. Nine flying over on 5th May; seven on 9th; 16 on lake, 19th Dec. (WW). Petersfield, a good sprinkling seen in Feb., March, April and May on the lake, feeding or flying over; 18 to 20 on lake, 19th Dec.; we have never seen so many during eighteen years here; the resident gander always makes a great fuss and does not let the visitors rest (AH).

Shield-Duck (*Tadorna tadorna*). 26th May, Stanpit Marshes, first brood, five only; 13th July, Christchurch Harbour, pair with fifteen young; 19th Nov., Christchurch Harbour, after several days of very cold winds; 28th Dec., Christchurch Harbour, very cold and strong S.E. wind (CP).

Mallard (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*). 12th Jan., Christchurch Harbour, large flock of unidentified ducks, 150 to 200, passed over, flying due E., ? Mallard; 19th Oct., Christchurch Harbour, four; 19th Nov., Christchurch Harbour, some, after several days of very cold winds; 28th Dec., six, S.E. wind very cold and strong (CP). Six pairs living on inland water, Braishfield (JD).

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). 19th Jan., Christchurch Harbour, five (CP).

Teal (*Anas c. crecca*). 19th Nov., Christchurch Harbour, after several days of very cold wind; 28th Dec., one in Christchurch Harbour, wind very cold and strong (CP). 6th April, by Dockens; pair (TS).

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). 16th March, Christchurch Harbour, one; 19th Nov., in Christchurch Harbour, after several days of very cold winds; 28th Dec., over 50, very cold and strong S.E. wind (CP). 17th Sept., Christchurch Harbour, seven (RB).

Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*). 19th Oct., Christchurch Harbour, drake; 19th Nov., Christchurch Harbour, after several days of very cold winds; 28th Dec., Christchurch Harbour, 13, very cold and strong S.E. wind (CP).

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*). Three pairs living on water at Braishfield, first seen 28th Sept., and there still on 26th Jan., 1942 (JD).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). A pair, in eclipse, on water at Braishfield, 24th to 29th Sept., 7th Oct. and later (JD).

Common Scoter (*Melanitta n. nigra*). 16th March, Christchurch Harbour, one (CP).

- Goosander** (*Mergus m. merganser*). 4 females on Avon, N. of Hern, 10th March (KR).
- Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*). 4th Feb., Christchurch Harbour, one with white thigh patch; 26th Nov., Christchurch Harbour, flight of over 60 coming from N.E.; 13th Dec., large numbers feeding off Mudeford Beach; 14th Dec., unusually large number on sea off Highcliffe, on taking wing over 200 counted and many uncounted (CP).
- Gannet** (*Sula bassana*). Huge numbers fishing off Mudeford Beach and Highcliffe; 5th Dec., between 250 and 300; 6th Dec., comparatively few seen, wind had changed to S.W., blowing half a gale; 7th Dec., as many seen again as on first day; fishing grounds extend roughly from Hengistbury Head to Highcliffe, fine day after very rough night, colder and wind veered to N.W., sea had look of bombardment as a result of all the diving birds; 8th Dec., still about, but much further out in the Channel; 9th Dec., saw a few very far out nearer I.W., wind gone back to S.W.; 10th Dec., a few much nearer in-shore, evidently big shoal of fish about, as fishing fleet was out, accompanied by very great numbers of gulls, wind S.W. and sea rough; 11th Dec., very few still about, off Highcliffe; Dec. 12th, over 50 counted, fishing within one mile of Mudeford Beach, mostly adult; no more seen till 22nd Dec., when about 50 were counted (CP). Very numerous off Bournemouth in cold spell in late December (KR).
- Great-crested Grebe** (*Podiceps c. cristatus*). 22nd Nov., one dead seen floating out to sea, down the Run, Mudeford; 13th Dec., large number on sea off Mudeford Beach (CP). 29th March, 1st April and 18th May, Petersfield, one on lake; 29th May, pair (WW). 5th April, Petersfield, pair on heath pond (AH).
- Slavonian Grebe** (*Podiceps auritus*). 24th to 27th Sept., Timsbury, on water (JD).
- Little Grebe** (*Podiceps r. ruficollis*). Nested again on lagoon on Avon Beach; 4th May, seen with three young (CP). 15th Feb., Burghclere, one in pond, later two little ones were reared, never seen near here before (AB).
- Red-throated Diver** (*Colymbus stellatus*). 5th Jan., two off-shore at Mudeford and one in Christchurch Harbour; 6th Jan., one dead from oil at Winton; 12th Jan., four off-shore (CP).
- Wood Pigeon** (*Columba p. palumbus*). Appleslade, flocks in winter less than last year; 24th Feb., Appleslade, cooing and paired (FH).
- Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia t. turtur*). 30th May, Appleslade, nest found; 31st May, many at Appleslade (FH).
- Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa l. lapponica*). 13th Jan., Stanpit, one; 1st April, Christchurch Harbour, one; 10th May, Christchurch Harbour, 13, three of these in summer plumage; 11th, 12th, 18th and 21st Sept., Christchurch Harbour, four (CP).
- Common Curlew** (*Numenius a. arquata*). About 24th March, Ibsley (HL). Several pairs seen, apparently breeding in localities near Bournemouth in increasing numbers (GB). 26th June, Appleslade, two flew very low, just over house, early (FH).
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius p. phaeopus*). 27th April, Stanpit Marshes; 7th May, 14 (CP).
- Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*). 2nd Jan., one seen, probably bred at Burghclere, as usual, the only one seen this year (AB). 6th July, Appleslade (FCF). 4th Jan., Hengistbury (RB).
- Common Snipe** (*Capella g. gallinago*). Seen occasionally, Stanpit Marshes (CP). 6th June, Chilbolton, case of injury feigning, a bird rose slowly, flew ten yards, fell over on side, and spun round on bill, much as described in *Handbook*, Vol. IV, p. 200 (WP). 6th Jan., Burghclere; 10th July, near pond, almost disappeared 1941: 1940 and before, eight to ten often seen in meadow (AB). 5th June, Linwood, drumming (FH).

- Turnstone** (*Arenaria i. interpres*). 18th May, Stanpit Marshes, one (CP).
- Knot** (*Calidris c. canutus*). 6th Jan., Christchurch Harbour, one (CP).
- Southern Dunlin** (*Calidris a. schinzii*). 18th May, Christchurch Harbour, very large flocks all in summer plumage; large flocks in Christchurch Harbour during Sept. (CP).
- Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris m. maritima*). 29th Sept., one on Stanpit Marshes in company with Dunlin and Ringed Plover (CP).
- Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*). 25th Aug., Stanpit Marshes, three; 12th Sept., Christchurch Harbour, one; 12th Oct., Christchurch Harbour, two (CP).
- Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*). 17th April, Wherwell, on banks of River Test (WP).
- Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*). 25th Aug., Stanpit Marshes, three seen on migration; 12th Sept., Christchurch Harbour, four (CP). 23rd Aug., Burghclere, flying from end to end of pond, clearly distinguishable by white rump, only seen there once before (AB).
- Redshank** (*Tringa t. britannica*). 13th March, "song-flight" (CP). 2nd June, Lower Clatford, pair found fostering a half-grown young snipe in valley of River Anton (WP). May, Droxford, several on Meon (EMcE). 14th May, breeding Ibsley Marshes; not at Appleslade this season (FH).
- Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*). 4th and 18th Sept., Christchurch Harbour, one (CP).
- Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*). 18th May, Christchurch Harbour, a few with very large flocks of Dunlin; Sept., Christchurch Harbour, large flocks with large flocks of Dunlin; not known if it bred on Mudeford Beach, there is no access there now (CP).
- Southern Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis a. apricaria*). 12th March, N. of Andover, flock of 60; 22nd, small flock, one with black breast; 8th Dec., flock of about a thousand, coming from E., circled round, swooped down several times as if wanting to land, but cleared off to W. 19th Jan., Burghclere, 12 in formation flying steadily N.E. to S.W., used to be frequent here, now seen very seldom (AB). Between mid-Nov. and early Dec., exceptionally large flocks were seen on ploughed land between Wimborne and Cranborne, with equal number of Lapwing, former very tame (GB).
- Grey Plover** (*Squatarola squatarola*). 18th May, Stanpit marshes, four in summer plumage (CP).
- Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*). Sept., Stanpit Marshes, large flocks; watched one bathing in quite deep water, 21st; about six flights, numbering many hundreds, flying S.E. and out to sea, 16th Nov., Mudeford (CP). 4th March, Burghclere, flock; very much less common here than formerly (AB). Exceptionally numerous on heath and marsh between Ringwood and Christchurch; eggs on 30th March, in spite of very severe morning frosts then (GB). Petersfield, large flocks from 29th Oct. onwards (AH). 21st April, Black Heath, Linwood, nest with four eggs where turves had been cut (DH). Several flocks flying towards sea over Bournemouth in icy weather in Dec. (KR).
- Oyster-catcher** (*Haematopus o. occidentalis*). 4th June, Stanpit Marshes, two; 14th June, one flying in from sea; 21st June, Stanpit Marshes, one; 20th Nov., three, on sandspit, Mudeford (CP). 31st Aug., near groynes, Hengistbury Head, six (RB).
- Stone-Curlew** (*Burhinus o. oedicnemus*). Apparently breeding in localities near Bournemouth in increasing numbers (GB). Leckford, about mid-Nov., a flock of between 20 and 30 seen in a large field, not shy, and only moved from one part of the field to another when approached; late (EFC).
- Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna s. sandwicensis*). 8th May, ? Sandwich, two seen flying very high over Mudeford (CP).

- Common Tern** (*Sterna h. hirundo*). 17th April, as in 1940, Mudeford, one off-shore; 27th July, one in Christchurch Harbour; 16th Aug., several resting on mud in Christchurch Harbour; 17th Aug., about 50 seen on Stanpit Marshes (CP).
- Little Tern** (*Sterna a. albifrons*). Several seen in Christchurch Harbour, 28th April, one day later than in 1940; more hopes of their breeding on Avon Beach again this year, as the public is debarred from it; 21st June, one seen feeding in Christchurch Harbour, no sign of breeding as yet; 13th July, Christchurch Harbour, several; 4th Sept., several in Harbour (CP).
- Black-headed Gull** (*Larus r. ridibundus*). Petersfield, large flocks from 29th Oct. onward (AH). Rockford, many in winter (FH).
- Herring Gull** (*Larus a. argentatus*). Sept., Petersfield, many, ? species (WW). Rockford, many in winter (FH).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus f. graellsii*). 25th May, Stanpit Marshes, three; 17th Aug., several (CP).
- Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*). On Test in Romsey, 7th Oct., and later, apparently in residence for the winter (JD).
- Glaucous Gull** (*Larus hyperboreus*). 24th May, Lymington, a pair swimming in marshy inlet (*British Birds*, July 1941, p. 39).
- Great Skua** (*Stercorarius s. skua*). 31st Aug., Hengistbury, a large Skua, dark rusty brown all over, probably this species (RB).
- Razorbill** (*Alca t. britannica*). Seen on water in the Run, Mudeford, 19th June, probably oiled (CP).
- Water-Rail** (*Rallus a. aquaticus*). 26th May, seen with young, close to Haven Quay, Mudeford (CP).
- Moorhen** (*Gallinula c. chloropus*). The capacity of this bird to remain under water, with head showing and no foot support, was seen by me, in an iron tank in a thicket, more than once (FH).
- Coot** (*Fuliba a. atra*). Several hundreds in residence on large stretch of water at Timsbury (JD).

Among the most interesting records in the above list may be quoted those of the Crossbill, the Snow Bunting, the Osprey and the great show of Gannets from Hengistbury Head to Highcliffe.

Arrival of Spring Migrants in Hampshire, 1941.

- Yellow Wagtail**. 6th April, Mudeford (CP). 10th April, Andover (WP). 23rd April, Ringwood, in local meadows (AP).
- Red-backed Shrike**. 14th May, Linwood, pair returned to Old Cot (DH).
- Spotted Flycatcher**. 5th May, Linwood, early (HL); seen same date Berriew, Montgomeryshire (HHH). 8th May, Hengistbury (RB). 11th May, Mudeford (CP).
- Chiffchaff**. 10th March, seen, 19th, song, Mudeford (CP). 15th, Appleslade (FH). 28th, Hengistbury (RB). 2nd April, near Romsey (HW). 12th, Burghclere (AB). 14th, Petersfield (WW). 15th, Petersfield heard (AH). 20th June, Petersfield (WW). 10th and 14th, seen, singing 16th March, near Hern (KR).
- Willow Warbler**. 27th March, Appleslade, heard (FH). 6th April, Ringwood (CB). 6th, Hengistbury (RB). 13th, song, Mudeford (CP). 14th, Ringwood, garden (AP). 15th, Petersfield, heard (AH). 15th, Burghclere, song (AB). 19th, near Romsey (HW). 5th, near Hern (KR).
- Wood Warbler**. 30th April, call-note heard in Newlands and song heard in Amie's Wood and Webb's Copse, New Forest (FH). 12th May, Mudeford, song (CP).
- Grasshopper Warbler**. 5th, 23rd, 30th May and 1st June, Appleslade, heard (FH).

- Reed Warbler.** 4th May, Mudeford (CP). 10th, Hengistbury (RB).
Marsh Warbler. No record.
Sedge Warbler. 18th April, Mudeford (CP). 30th, Ringwood, singing by Avon in numbers (FH). 6th May, Ringwood (CB).
Garden Warbler. 6th May, 10th and 11th June, Appleslade, heard (FH). 9th May, Hengistbury (RB). 2nd June, Mudeford (CB).
Blackcap. 14th April, Appleslade, heard; 22nd, much in notice by sight and sound (FH). 28th, Hengistbury (RB). 4th May, Mudeford (CP).
Whitethroat. 17th April, Hengistbury (RB). 23rd, Mudeford (CP). 26th, Burghclere, seen and heard (AB). 27th, Ringwood, garden (AP). 5th May, Ringwood (CB). 14th, Petersfield, singing (WW). 21st, Petersfield (AH). 29th, Appleslade, heard (FH).
Lesser Whitethroat. 24th April, Appleslade, seen; 17th June, singing on top of dead *Pinus insignis* (FH).
Wheatear. 15th March, Mudeford (CP). 16th, Hengistbury (RB). 23rd, on heath at Godshill, pair (GB). 28th, Grange Estate, Ringwood, some (AP).
Whinchat. 29th April, Hengistbury (RB). 1st May, Mudeford (CP).
Redstart. 16th April, Hengistbury (RB). 23rd, Mudeford (CP).
Nightingale. 30th April, Burghclere (AB). 2nd May, Appleslade, a few notes heard, after this date often heard singing vehemently until after mid-June, evidently nested here (FH). 2nd, Ampfield, singing (HW). 4th, very numerous, seen and heard (GB). 11th, Mudeford (CP).
Swallow. 6th April, Ringwood, some (AP). 9th, Longham Bridge, several (GB). 11th, Hengistbury (RB). 14th, Linwood (HL). 17th, Mudeford (CP). 19th, Linwood (DB). 20th, Appleslade (FH). 22nd, Burghclere (AB). 22nd, Ampfield, flying N. (HW). 1st May, Petersfield, seen (WW).
House Martin. 23rd April, Appleslade (FH). 1st May, Mudeford (CP). 1st, Hengistbury (RB). 19th, Ampfield (HW).
Sand Martin. 22nd March, Mudeford (CP). 28th, Ringwood, some (AP). 4th April, Hengistbury (RB). 5th, near Hern, several (KR). 3rd May, Rockford (FH).
Swift. 22nd April, Ashley, Ringwood (AP). 1st May, Hengistbury (RB). 1st, Mudeford (CP). 8th, Ringwood (HL). 12th, Ellingham, three seen; 26th July, Ringwood, large numbers shrieking happily (FH). 30th April, Ampfield, solitary and low down, flying N.; 16th Aug., last seen, near Farley (HW).
Nightjar. 12th May, Hengistbury (RB). 14th, Linwood, heard (DH). 16th, 17th, 19th, 22nd, Appleslade, heard (FH). 7th July, Mudeford (CP).
Wryneck. 22nd April, Ringwood (CB). 1st May, Mudeford (CP). 6th, Linwood (DH).
Cuckoo. 31st March, Mudeford, heard (?); 22nd April (CP). 16th, Petersfield, heard; female heard 25th and 29th May (AH). 20th April, Petersfield, heard; several seen, May (WW). 21st April, Ringwood (CB). 22nd, Burghclere (AB). 22nd, Appleslade, evening; 30th, calling constantly; 23rd, Newlands (FH). 22nd, Ashley, Ringwood (AP). 1st May, Hengistbury (RB). 16th April, Ampfield; 2nd July, still calling (HW).
Turtle Dove. 1st May, Hengistbury (RB). 9th, Appleslade, heard; 11th, cooing constantly; 10th, Mudeford (CP). 15th, Petersfield (AH).
Bar-tailed Godwit. 1st April, Mudeford (CP).
Whimbrel. 27th April, Mudeford (CP).
Common Sandpiper. 10th May, Mudeford (CP).
Sandwich Tern. 8th May, Mudeford (CP).
Common Tern. 17th April, Mudeford (CP). 29th, Hengistbury (RB).
Little Tern. 28th April, Mudeford (CP). 19th May, Hengistbury (RB).

Departure of Summer Migrants and Latest Dates of Song.

- Yellow Wagtail.** 23rd Aug., Hengistbury, flock (RB). 29th Sept., Mudeford (CP). 1st Oct., Greatbridge (JD).
- Spotted Flycatcher.** 13th Sept., Mudeford (CP).
- Chiffchaff.** Song re-started after moult, 2nd Aug.; seen last, 9th Oct., Mudeford (CP). 12th and 17th Sept., Appleslade, many warblers in garden, Chiffchaff, Willow, Wood, Garden; 21st Sept., in garden (FH). 8th Oct., Petersfield (WW).
- Willow Warbler.** 10th July, 21st Sept., Appleslade, in garden (FH).
- Grasshopper Warbler.** 9th Aug., Moortown, Ringwood (FH).
- Blackcap.** 26th Sept., Mudeford (CP).
- Whitethroat.** 7th Oct., Mudeford (CP).
- Wheatear.** 5th Oct., Hengistbury, five; 17th, in numbers; 29th (RB). 23rd, Mudeford (CP).
- Whinchat.** 18th Sept., Mudeford (CP). 16th Oct., Hengistbury (RB).
- Stonechat.** 6th Oct., 25th, pair, Hengistbury (RB).
- Redstart.** 16th Sept., Hengistbury (RB).
- Swallow.** 17th Sept., Appleslade, 20 hawking over our house at evening (FH). 17th Oct., Hengistbury, in numbers (RB). 19th Nov., Mudeford (CP).
- House Martin.** 5th Sept., Appleslade, still in numbers (FH). 5th Nov., Mudeford (CP).
- Sand Martin.** 12th Sept., Mudeford (CP). 17th Oct., Hengistbury, in numbers (RB).
- Swift.** 16th Aug., Appleslade, evening; 18th, Ringwood, gone (FH). 1st Sept., Mudeford (CP).
- Nightjar.** 2nd Sept.; last 18th, Hengistbury (RB).
- Cuckoo.** 2nd Aug., Mudeford (CP). 17th, Linwood, seen (FH).
- Turtle Dove.** 28th Aug., Hengistbury (RB). 28th Sept., Mudeford (CP). 17th Oct., Appleslade, two seen going south (FH).
- Dunlin.** 25th Aug.; shore of Christchurch Harbour (RB).
- Ruff.** 12th Oct., Mudeford (CP).
- Common Sandpiper.** 28th Aug., Hengistbury (RB). 10th Oct., Mudeford (CP).
- Greenshank.** 29th Sept., Mudeford (CP).
- Common Tern.** 26th Sept., Mudeford (CP).
- Little Tern.** 12th Sept., Mudeford, one (CP).
- Great Skua.** 31st Aug., Hengistbury, a large Skua, dark rusty brown all over, probably this species (RB).

Winter Migrants.

- Jay.** 7th Nov., Appleslade, numerous, but, I think, no immigration (FH).
- Corn Bunting.** 3rd March, Hengistbury, first migrant seen (RB).
- Snow Bunting.** 1st Nov., Mudeford (CP).
- Fieldfare.** 8th March, Appleslade, flock of about 40 seen on hill here; 23rd Oct., Linwood, four seen (FH). Nov. 18th, Ampfield, first seen; 20th and 21st, large flocks flying south (HW). 5th Dec., Mudeford (CP).
- Redwing.** 3rd Nov., Hengistbury, none since (RB). 16th Dec., Appleslade, one seen on Ibsley Common, flying along Dockens Water (FH). 29th, Mudeford (CP).
- Geese sp.** 1st April, Hengistbury, hundreds on flight (RB).
- White-fronted Goose.** 22nd Jan., near Ringwood, about 1,000 one afternoon; I counted over 800, these were made up of skeins, from small parties of 20 to larger lots of 200 or more; 23rd Jan., shot a gander; 18th Dec., about 30 flying towards Somerley from Ringwood at 5 p.m.: flying very low, about 35 feet up, just above low fog and 70 yards off (AP).
- Wigeon.** 21st Oct., Hengistbury, nine (RB).

- Wood Pigeon.** 26th Oct., Appleslade, no marked immigration noted yet (FH). 9th Oct., Bratley, New Forest, a huge flock seen, flying from S.E., ? immigrants (FCF).
- Common Curlew.** 4th Nov., Hengistbury, a flock of about 40 (RB).
- Green Sandpiper.** 25th Aug., Mudeford (CP); 31st, Hengistbury, a large Sandpiper, probably this species (RB).
- Golden Plover.** 12th March, N. of Andover; 8th Dec. (WP).
- Lapwing.** 10th Dec., Blashford, large flocks (FH).
- Common Gull.** 20th July, Mudeford (CP).

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

- Greenfinch.** 18th April, Ringwood; 21st, Appleslade (FH).
- Linnnet.** 1st April, Mudeford (CP).
- Chaffinch.** 7th Feb., Mudeford (CP). 8th, Petersfield, heard; 10th, full song (WW). 10th, Appleslade (FH). 1st March, Ampfield (HW).
- Yellow Bunting.** 4th March, Mudeford (CP). Petersfield, pairs seen several times, singing 26th March and 5th Aug. (WW). 1st May, Appleslade, singing (FH).
- Cirl Bunting.** 26th Feb., Mudeford (CP).
- Wood-Lark.** 21st June, Appleslade, 5th July, still in song here (FH).
- Skylark.** 11th Jan., Mudeford (CP). 8th Feb., Petersfield (WW). 1st March, Ampfield (HW). 29th Oct., Blashford (FH).
- Pied Wagtail.** 16th Oct., Petersfield (WW).
- Nuthatch.** 15th Jan., Mudeford (CP).
- Great Tit.** 14th Jan., Mudeford (CP). 29th, Ampfield, spring call (HW). 6th Feb., Appleslade (FH).
- Goldcrest.** 17th, Appleslade; 22nd, singing much in the pines (FH).
- Mistle-Thrush.** 25th Jan., Mudeford (CP). 27th, Petersfield (WW). 29th, Ampfield; 14th Sept. (HW). 8th March, Appleslade, heard little this year, not so much as formerly (FH).
- Song-Thrush.** 23rd Jan., Mudeford (CP). 30th, Ampfield; 17th Nov. (HW). 1st Feb., Petersfield (WW). 10th, Appleslade (FH).
- Blackbird.** 28th Feb., Mudeford (CP). 26th March, Petersfield (WW). 17th April, Appleslade, one singing well at evening; several about but they sing comparatively little (FH).
- Robin.** 27th Jan., Appleslade (FH). 18th Aug., Petersfield, singing (WW).
- Wren.** 2nd March, Petersfield (WW).
- Green Woodpecker.** 23rd Feb., Petersfield; 2nd March (WW).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** 28th Jan., Ampfield, "drumming" (HW). 21st March, Appleslade, vernal rattle heard; 22nd, Newlands (FH).
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** 21st Dec., Ampfield, "drumming" (HW).
- Wood Pigeon.** 21st and 24th Feb., Petersfield, heard (WW). 24th Feb., Appleslade; 21st Sept., still cooing much (FH).
- Stock Dove.** 9th May, Appleslade (FH).
- Snipe.** 8th March, Burghclere, heard "drumming" (AB). 19th March, Ringwood; 24th March, 23rd and 30th May, Appleslade (FH). 17th April, Ampfield, "bleating" (HW).

General Notes.

(AB) writes that May was a wet month at Burghclere, the year poor for birds, and that increase of arable should make much difference in the avifauna in next few years. (GB) found that in spite of the exceptionally cold spring all species began to nest and lay almost exactly as in a normal year.

(CB) Ringwood, says: In the early spring a Blackbird hatched off a brood of four in a nest in the garden, and then hatched off a second brood of five in

the same nest. This bird was so tame that it would feed from our hands when sitting. 9th Aug., Linnet sitting on nest in apple-tree in garden, about twelve feet from the ground. This bird also hatched off from nests in other apple-trees in the garden in 1939 and 1940 : a most unusual site for Linnet. 9th Aug., a Song-Thrush hatched off her fourth brood of the season in the garden.

(E. McE.) Droxford, states : We had two Goldfinches nests as usual this summer, but during the autumn there were flocks of them in the garden after sow-thistles. The Thrush is very scarce, only one nest of an old friend. He is fairly tame, but not so tame as one who used to stand in front of me or perch on a rose bush close by and sing (1940). By the courtesy of E. McE. and Major Portal, the following details by Major Portal of the occurrence of the Osprey can be given : "The Osprey was found lying dead on the bank of R. Meon near Holywell, under a large dead alder-tree, on branches of which Herons and Hawks sit freely and survey the world, on about 7th Nov. It had been seen, for three days before, flying over R. Meon. The British Museum reported two pellets of No. 6 shot had perforated the big gut ; no others in. It was a female bird of previous year. As an Osprey had haunted the long pool at Mottisfont on R. Test and fished it well for three weeks and then left, it is fairly sure to be the same bird. *She was very fat indeed.*" In connection with this bird, so far south, E. McE. mentions that a Golden Eagle had been seen by a reliable observer between Dorchester and Hawkechurch, attacked by about twenty Rooks.

17th Sept. Many birds, Warblers and Tits, have congregated amongst our fruit trees and bushes at Appleslade lately, the reason of the gatherings not clear. 31st Dec., a great scarcity of Yellow Buntings, Stonechats and Dartford Warblers, near, nowadays, compared with what should be normal numbers (FH)!

A number of contributors have kindly assisted me, and the following abbreviations have been used :—

Capt. A. F. L. Bacon	(AB).	H. Lea, Mr. and Mrs.	(HL).
C. J. Bellamy	(CB).	E. S. McEuen	(E. McE).
G. Brasnett	(GB).	G. K. Page	(GP).
R. A. Brewer	(RB).	Col. W. A. Payn	(WP).
Miss E. F. Chawner	(EFC).	A. J. Ponchaud	(AP).
Mrs. J. Dotesio	(JD).	Miss C. Popham	(CP).
F. H. Haines, Mr. and Mrs.	(FH).	K. B. Rooke	(KR).
Mrs. A. E. Harrington	(AH).	Miss E. M. Trotter	(ET).
D. Homfray, Mr. and Mrs.	(DH).	H. T. White	(HW).
Mrs. H. M. Rait Kerr	(HK).	Miss W. P. White	(WW).

Extracts have been used from *British Birds* (Mag., BB) and from the *Proceedings of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society* (BP).

The order adopted is that of Witherby's *Handbook of British Birds*.