

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, 1943.

By F. H. HAINES.

Meteorology.

Attention is drawn to the difference in the birds seen in the winter of 1941-1942 as compared with those seen in that of 1942-1943, owing to the extreme mildness of the latter and the rigorous nature of the former. (CP) also states that at Mudeford 1943 was a phenomenally windy year. During most of the mild January and February there were rough S.W. winds. March was warm and sunny, but high winds prevailed later and continued intermittently all through the summer. Stormy weather occurred in October. It was a good year on the whole for birds, but ducks and geese were disappointing in numbers (CP). Further reference to meteorological conditions will be found under the species affected and in the weather data as noted at Appleslade, 13 miles inland, heading the Insect Report.

The most noteworthy records are Mr. A. Ponchaud's Yellow-browed Warbler, Miss C. Popham's Red-breasted Snipe and Miss M. Compton's Golden Oriole.

Systematic List.

Raven (*Corvus c. corax*). None seen on the Stanpit Marshes: first barren year for many years. 27th October, Mudeford (CP); 3rd March, Hengistbury, two (RB).

Crow (*Corvus c. corone*). Linwood, an unusual number this winter; eighteen seen once; several times about twelve have been seen together (HL). Seen several times on Stanpit Marshes throughout year; generally one pair, 3rd January and other dates (CP). 3rd April, Hengistbury, two; 11th November, Hengistbury, three (RB); 6th March, Appleslade, pair, going S.E. to N.W.; 18th April, pair; 27th October seen and heard in Newlands; 19th, Appleslade, pair seen, mobbed by Mistle Thrush (FH).

Rook (*Corvus f. frugilegus*). 9th January, Linwood, about twenty-five passed over (HL). 15th January, flocks of many hundreds flying N.W. over Bransgore, all calling; several small flocks at high altitudes (CP). 10th March, Ringwood, active at nest; 12th May, Appleslade, a party flying over at evening: they used to be here much at end of May and beginning of June, but recently have largely broken the habit; 26th May, a very large flock about, going off S.E. at evening; 30th, flight still seen; 13th December, Linwood, small flock (FH). 23rd February, Ampfield, on nesting trees; three nests built in high elms. These are the first nests in Ampfield for many years, probably fifteen or twenty. Over fifty years ago they were very plentiful (HW).

Jackdaw (*Corvus m. spermologus*). 15th May, Petersfield, three on bird-table (WW). 1st October, Linwood, heard (HL). 8th January, Mudeford (CP).

Magpie (*Pica p. pica*). Much on increase in Andover district; flock of twelve seen (WP). 25th October, Petersfield, heard in oak (AH). Burghclere, many throughout summer, widely dispersed (AB). Mudeford, still numerous, but have spread much further afield owing to tree felling (CP). 16th April, Webb's Copse, nest (FH).

Jay (*Garrulus g. rufitergum*). Burghclere, many and well dispersed at all seasons; eating unripe apples in July (AB). 20th November, Petersfield, in tree surrounded by noisy crowd of Sparrows, Hedge Sparrows, Mistle Thrushes, Blackbirds and Chaffinches (WW). Only one seen in Mudeford, very few trees left (CP). 16th April, Appleslade, nest in Scotch Fir, near Thrush's (FH).

Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*). Petersfield, very numerous this year: roost in bamboos in neighbour's garden (AH). Burghclere, always in good numbers (AB). Linwood, 22nd January, pair examining last year's nesting hole; 17th April, hatched (HL). 19th July, Mudeford, (?) Starlings, enormous flock of birds seen wheeling in sky, looking like smoke, four or five miles away, too far to identify, must have been well over a thousand birds (CP). 25th January, Hengistbury (RB). 17th January, Appleslade, four; 25th January, about 50 on pastures; 29th December, Blashford, rather large flock (FH).

Golden Oriole (*Oriolus o. oriolus*). About 20th April, near Alton, attention drawn by call-note, male (Miss M. Compton).

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*). Burghclere, none seen; used to frequent lawn; one just over the County border on 10th January, 1944 (AB). Leckford, seen. Probably more common than supposed (EFC).

Greenfinch (*Chloris c. chloris*). Burghclere, very numerous: three nests in yew close to house (AB). 17th April, Ringwood, trilling (FH).

Goldfinch (*Carduelis c. britannica*). Andover, great increase everywhere (WP). 20th June, Petersfield, three or four seen (AH). Burghclere, first seen 21st April, getting quite common; nest in chestnut near garden, young frequently seen later (AB). Large flocks, between 30-50 seen on several occasions in and around Mudeford (CP). 11th March, Ringwood, flocks still together (HC). 7th April, Appleslade, one; 28th August, flock (FH). Leckford, very numerous (EFC). 25th April, numerous in Itchen Valley, near Alresford (ID). Great numbers at Bursledon in early autumn, completely disappearing in late October (GP).

Lesser Redpole (*Carduelis f. cabaret*). Nesting at Whitchurch (WP). Burghclere, small flock on birches and alders, wriggling round birches (AB).

Linnet (*Carduelis c. cannabina*). 24th April, near Medstead, a flock (on passage?) of about 50 in a field covered with charlock (ID).

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula p. nesa*). 19th February, Petersfield, one seen, fewer this year (AH). Burghclere, a few seen (AB). Very plentiful, still, in and around Mudeford (CP).

Common Crossbill (*Loxia c. curvirostra*). 11th January, Buriton, three feeding on Norway spruce cones; 12th January, five on same spruce; 13th January, a number feeding on same spruce; as my men were felling trees near, it disturbed them, and I did not see them again (SH). Burghclere, a few seen (AB). 17th April, Linwood, five seen, reminding me of rather large Chaffinches; 18th April, two seen; same place, from their colouring probably young; 26th April, four in same place, female colouring most conspicuous; pecking at fir-cones of *Pinus sylvestris* (HL).

Chaffinch (*Fringilla c. gentleri*). 17th April, Linwood, three pairs building (HL). Both sexes feed young in nest, and afterwards, until the young appear bigger than the parents; 13th July, cock feeding large young, though after leaving the nest, it seems the hen equally feeds them (FH).

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*). One only heard singing: at Sopley, 20th April (CP).

Yellow Bunting (*Emberiza c. citrinella*). Burghclere, a few, scarcer owing to heaths getting sparser; 2nd May, in garden, nest with three eggs (AB). Plentiful round Burton and Bransgore but not at Mudeford where the Cirl Bunting breeds regularly; flock of about 24 seen in lane near Burton Common, 30th December, a lovely sight, also one pair seen in farm at Mudeford, for first time, 31st December (CP).

- Cirl Bunting** (*Emberiza c. citrus*). Bred plentifully in and around Mudeford ; eight seen in one group in September (CP). 14th July, Appleslade, heard (FH).
- Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza s. schoeniclus*). One pair bred in Stanpit Marshes and others plentiful up the Avon Valley (CP). 18th April, Appleslade, female at pond ; 19th, pair at pond ; 30th July, Appleslade, some three pairs here (FH). 25th April, several in the Itchen Valley between Itchen Abbas and Ovington (ID).
- House Sparrow** (*Passer d. domesticus*). Petersfield, May 27th and onward, parent feeding young on table (AH).
- Wood Lark** (*Lullula a. arborea*). 1st February, forest heath near Appleslade, singing energetically ; 3rd February, singing from morning till late afternoon ; 10th February, 24 February, singing well ; 1st March, 4th April, still singing (FH). 3rd February, Linwood, two, one singing well and continuously (HL).
- Skylark** (*Alauda a. arvensis*). Scarce at Appleslade owing to heath fires ; 4th June, one singing on Handycross Plain, very rare, owing to burnings (FH).
- Tree Pipit** (*Anthus t. trivialis*). 25th June, scarce at Appleslade this year.
- Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*). Burghclere, nest with five eggs, late (AB). 19th February, Hengistbury, flock (RB).
- Rock Pipit** (*Anthus spinolette petrosus*). 30th September, Hengistbury (RB).
- Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. flavissima*). Not so many, as in former years, at Chilbolton and neighbourhood (WP). 8th April, Winkton, cock and hen, hen very pale, almost white throat, seem to be fewer this year than usual, and left earlier (CP).
- Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla c. cinerea*). None this year at Burghclere ; a pair seen four miles over County border (AB). Only about three pairs seen in the Mudeford area this year (CP). 20th June, Harbridge (FH). 25th April, near Ovington, one working from a rock in the Itchen (ID).
- Pied Wagtail** (*Motacilla a. yarrellii*). 14th July, Andover, display followed by coition ; male flutters round female on ground with wings spread (WP). 10th August and 2nd October, Petersfield, seen (AH). Burghclere, pair back to nest after many years' absence : driven away by Cuckoos, *Field*, 17th July, 1943 (AB). 11th August, Fritham, New Forest, seen feeding young Cuckoo (CP). 8th March, Ampfield, arrived in garden after winter absence (HW).
- Tree Creeper** (*Certhia f. britannica*). None seen at Burghclere, usually fairly common (AB). 17th April, Linwood, with eggs (HL). 20th January, Mudeford (CP). 7th April, Appleslade, verandah ; 28th November, on tree (FH).
- Nuthatch** (*Sitta e. affinis*). Burghclere, always one tapping in old walnut near house, and frequently on garden wall (AB). Mudeford, still numerous (CP). Frequented a garden at Medstead throughout spring (ID).
- Tits**. Great, Blue, Coal and Marsh all breed at Mudeford (CP). Appleslade, Marsh Tit rather less numerous than the other species (FH).
- Great Tit** (*Parus m. newtoni*). Petersfield, frequented bird-table autumn and winter (AH). Burghclere, always plentiful (AB). Petersfield, two eating fat every day on bird-table (WW). 17th April, Linwood, with eggs (HL). 15th April, Appleslade, building under verandah (FH).
- Blue Tit** (*Parus c. obscurus*). 8th June, Petersfield, four young on bird-table (AH). Burghclere, always plentiful (AB). Petersfield, several on bird-table (WW). 1st November, Hengistbury (RB).
- Coal Tit** (*Parus a. britannicus*). 5th February, Petersfield, seen on bird table (AH). Burghclere, always plentiful (AB). Petersfield, two come regularly to eat fat and crumbs on bird table (WW). 26th October, Hengistbury (RB). Leckford, very scarce, not apparently recovered since the winter of 1940 (EFC). Appleslade, common (FH).

- Marsh Tit** (*Parus p. dresseri*). Burghclere, a pair generally in garden (AB). 7th January, Appleslade; 28th August, a flock of chiefly these amongst seeding knapweed, with Willow Warblers, near *Salix* after flies; 18th December, Appleslade (FH).
- Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos c. rosaceus*). Burghclere, a number seen; two nests found in furze, first on 25th April (AB). 20th September and 27th October, Petersfield, eight in garden (WW). Large parties watched in Mudeford area during September and October (CP). 19th and 21st February, March, Appleslade, many; 26th April, nest in honeysuckle; 30th November, Appleslade, flock (FH). 5th January, Ringwood, small party (AP). None seen at Bursledon. Many Blue and Great (GP).
- Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius c. collurio*). Burghclere, not one seen, once common (AB). 1st June, Linwood, usual pair nesting at Old Cot (DH). Leckford, a few pairs (EFC). 4th August, Baughurst, feeding young still in nest (PB).
- Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa s. striata*). Burghclere, few seen (AB). 17th June, Petersfield, seen in garden (WW). Watched cock catching flies and feeding them to hen; (?) part of courtship (CP). Leckford, more plentiful (EFC). Appleslade, none nesting (FH).
- Pied Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*). 17th September, Hengistbury (RB).
- Goldcrest** (*Regulus r. anglorum*). During January, Petersfield, seen in neighbouring garden (AH). 3rd January, Burghclere, saw one and heard its pipe, first for over a year; others seen in various localities about (AB). Petersfield, two chasing each other in garden in November; one in fir tree in garden on 6th December (WW). Well represented in the neighbourhood of Mudeford (CP). Leckford, an influx during summer and early autumn (EFC). 22nd December, Appleslade (FH).
- Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*). 19th March, Avon meadows, first spring migrants (CP). Burghclere, several about (AB).
- Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*). 7th May, Burghclere, nest with eggs found, very numerous and ubiquitous (AB). 5th April, Appleslade, singing much and incessantly (FH).
- Wood Warbler** (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). 29th April, Burghclere, see *Field* of 9th October (AB). 14th May, in Webb's Copse and Amie's Wood; 25th, heard in Red Shoot (FH).
- Yellow-browed Warbler** (*Phylloscopus i. inornatus*). 24th October, Ringwood, in garden (AP).
- Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella n. naevia*). 1st July, Appleslade, heard, doubtless had been here unnoted for many weeks (FH). Leckford, did not come to the usual place (EFC). 8th June, Silchester Common, three on wing with parents (PB).
- Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus*). The bird, which for several years has nested in the reeds at the bottom of our garden, began singing again 25th July, and goes on day and night (CP).
- Marsh Warbler** (*Acrocephalus palustris*). Leckford, seen and heard during July (EFC).
- Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schaenobaenus*). May, River Test. Very few in upper reaches and what there were arrived late (WP). 25th April, numerous in marshes in the Itchen Valley near Itchen Abbas (ID).
- Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*). 3rd May, Appleslade, singing much; 14th May, very frequent at Appleslade and in Webb's Copse and district (FH).
- Blackcap** (*Sylvia a. atricapilla*). 9th April, Mudeford (CP). May, Leckford, seen and thought to be nesting (EFC).
- Whitethroat** (*Sylvia c. communis*). During May, Petersfield, singing constantly on electric cable (AH). 5th May, Blashford, singing; 15th May, Harbridge, heard; 25th, Linwood, heard (FH).

- Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia c. curruca*). 15th May, Harbridge, heard (FH).
- Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*). See Winter Migrants.
- Mistle Thrush** (*Turdus v. viscivorus*). 1st January, Mudeford (CP).
- Song Thrush** (*Turdus e. ericetorum*). 17th April, Linwood, hatched (HL).
- Redwing** (*Turdus m. musicus*). 26th February, Mudeford (CP). 2nd February, Appleslade, a single bird flew over (FH).
- Blackbird** (*Turdus m. merula*). Petersfield, eight feeding on lawn, when nearly dark, on 5th December, continuing to come every evening at same time (WW). 19th March, Linwood, building; 17th April, hatched (HL). Built up nest of Song Thrush in garden from which young had recently flown and after lining it and sitting for some time deserted (CB). Our phenomenally tame Blackbird, "Bob," who, appearing in the summer of 1933, had very constantly companioned me round the grounds since, nesting here every year, was killed on 11th August by a stray cat who was responsible also for the death of a son on 10th September. "Bob" was adult when he first appeared, so was certainly well over ten years old. "Bob" and "Rob" shared the Appleslade territory peacefully between them. It is strange that up to now (January 30th, 1944) no other cock Blackbird has been seen at Appleslade, though several old and young hens are about. Our late cats never molested these birds, feeding from the same plates. Was the bird released from captivity through the Birds' Protection Act of 1933, when many birds were freed? (FH).
- Wheatear** (*Oenanthe o. oenanthe*). 23rd March, Mudeford Car Park, four cocks (CP).
- Whinchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*). 11th September, Stanpit Marshes, birds back on autumn migration (CP).
- Stonechat** (*Saxicola t. hibernans*). Mudeford, still very few in this neighbourhood, only about three pairs seen (CP). 15th February, Hengistbury, pair; 3rd September, Hengistbury, pair (RB). 13th May, Rockford Common, male "chatting" (FH). 25th April, one in a meadow near Bighton (ID).
- Black Redstart** (*Phaenicurus o. gibraltariensis*). 31st October, Swanage, in garden, adult male in good plumage, and with well-defined white patches on the wings (GH).
- Nightingale** (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*). Burghclere, 21st April, in full song, waking people up (AB). 9th May, first heard at usual place at Highcliffe; am told it arrived about a fortnight ago; 27th May, seen, one located Mudeford, heard several times (CP). Fritham, in Forest Enclosure, several pairs, singing and nesting (H. G. Pisel).
- Robin** (*Erithacus r. melophilus*). 13th February, Linwood, paired; 17th April, with eggs (HL). 27th April, Appleslade, two sitting on rim of bird basket on opposite sides. One, obviously a male, held its head with beak pointing upwards. It swayed its head and neck and even its body slightly: all the time uttering a sub-song, a soft trilling something like the normal song, very quiet, with throat of the singer visibly vibrating. The second bird was quite passive in every way, while it watched and listened to the performance, and flew down after some three or four minutes, first on to a wire below and then on to the ground, disappearing among shrubs. The first bird now adopted a usual pose, lowering again its raised crest, neck and body feathers, and almost at once flew to the ground, making no apparent attempt at following the other bird, but flying off another way. 3rd May, Appleslade, a bird settled on the saucer in bird basket, made a very half-hearted display on the same lines as that on 27th April, head up and neck swaying, etc., against another Robin on the opposite side of the saucer who took no notice of it at all, but seized a morsel of food and flew off, when presently the first bird did the same in the opposite direction (FH).
- Hedge Sparrow** (*Fringilla m. occidentalis*). 26th April, Appleslade, nest in Douglas Fir (FH). 28th, Ringwood, near house, nest with one newly-hatched young and three eggs (AP).

Wren (*Troglodytes t. troglodytes*). Burghclere, very numerous and in evidence all through the year; flushed hen and five young out of an old tree stump (AB).

Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica*). Burghclere, not a good year (AB). 5th April, Hengistbury (RB). 25th April, Appleslade, seen flying in cold W. wind; several along Dockens Water (FH).

House Martin (*Delichon u. urbica*). A few seen on cable, 23rd May, more on 22nd July, congregating 26th July, 1st, 3rd, 7th, 10th September, most on 14th September and about 100 on 29th September, Petersfield (AH). Saw fourteen nests in two lots on a bare N.E. angle with little eave, Burghclere (AB).

Sand Martin (*Riparia r. riparia*). Burghclere, not many seen (AB). 14th April, Rockford sand quarry in numbers; 12th May, Appleslade, flying here at evening (FH).

Swift (*Apus a. apus*). 24th June, Petersfield, a few flying over heath and pond (AH). 20th July, Mudeford, gathering in numbers (CP). 4th May, Appleslade, seen; 5th, Ringwood, many; 19th, many screaming down Ringwood High Street; 30th May, Appleslade, hunting high overhead, early, in numbers (FH).

Nightjar (*Caprimulgus e. europaeus*). 31st May, Holt Down, nesting on a bare piece of ground in a gorse parch, two eggs (SH). Burghclere, saw first three together, wheeling and screaming very loudly over lawn (AB). Petersfield, two seen and heard in fir trees, on heath, just before sunset, and for several nights in June (WW). 15th May, Burton Common, male flushed (CP). 27th May, Appleslade, heard at evening; 1st July, heard (FH). Seen and heard on the road to Stockbridge; scarce at Leckford (BFC).

Hoopoe (*Upupa e. epops*). Mrs. Fanshawe, Passfield Oak Hotel, near Bordon, to whose courtesy I am much obliged, saw a pair before the war pecking under an old oak just outside the garden. Next year, she and her husband again saw a pair pecking in the dust about half a mile away when motoring slowly. The species was not seen then for two years, when a pair was noted at Alice Holt. She is quite sure that one or more pairs frequented the district in summer. Mr. W. H. Curtis tells me that the species is represented by a local example in the Alton Museum. The bird is mentioned in White's *Selborne* as having occurred there.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo a. ispida*). Mudeford, two local pairs, but no nest found this year (CP). 14th August, Hengistbury (RB). 28th May, Appleslade, young bird frequenting brook (FH). Leckford, reared good broods (EFC). 12th December, seen on the Tadburn by the Winchester to Romsey Road; one same place some years ago (HW).

Woodpeckers. All three species present in the Mudeford area. The Green species seems much on the increase (CP).

Green Woodpecker (*Picus v. pluvius*). Heard 4th February, 21st February and 27th February; seen in neighbouring garden 10th January and frequently during November and December (AH). Fairly common at Buriton, and seen almost every day throughout the year (SH). Burghclere, very numerous and ubiquitous all the year; two heard chuckling against each other on 16th April, and a Starling imitating them (AB). 31st August, Hengistbury (RB). 19th October, Appleslade, heard (FH). Leckford, a pair have established themselves. The least common species here (EFC).

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates m. anglicus*). 28th May, Hants-Wilts border, nest of young fully fledged (WP). Not so common at Buriton as Green Woodpecker; seen several times, including a pair; they certainly nested in Ditcham Forest, but spot was not found after much search (SH). 6th April, Appleslade, feeding on larvae of *Rhagium bifasciatum* in dead *Pinus insignis* (FH). More numerous, as also the Lesser, than ever remembered at Bursledon, constantly frequenting the trees round house. Has partly stripped the bark off two felled elms for the grubs below (GP).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates m. comminatus*). Seen only twice, 16th and 23rd June, both times solitary birds, sex unknown; feeding on decaying ash tree at Ditcham Forest (SH). 19th July, Burghclere, seen (AB). -Leckford, quite common (EFC). November, near Basingstoke (P. Whitlock).

Wryneck (*Jynx t. torquilla*). 18th April, Linwood, heard (HL).

Cuckoo (*Cuculus c. canorus*). 14th May, Petersfield, female heard (AH). 25th August, Mudeford, young one watched: flew to fence where it seized a large caterpillar; beautiful stencilled markings on breast very apparent (CP). "In Hampshire the egg referred to . . . was also laid at the end of April or beginning of May. Mr. Charteris has records of eggs found on 1st May in other years" (BB, VIII, 43, p. 59). 22nd April, Appleslade, calling constantly; 12th May, seen and heard, but appear in far less numbers than usual here (FH). Two young were found dead in Hedge Sparrows' nests at about ten days' old, emaciated; presumably the foster parents could not feed them sufficiently, though they worked hard; the weather at the time was wet and chilly (EFC).

Little Owl (*Athene n. vidalii*). Burghclere, in park all the year; spent an hour sitting outside a Starling's hole in an old apple tree (AB). 27th September, Petersfield, sitting on flag-staff in garden in daylight, singing (WW). Mudeford, pair still present, one seen 29th May; 22nd October, two seen: one of the Mudeford pair and one in Burton Rough, Water-ditch (CP). 15th January, Hengistbury, one (RB). 27th October, Blashford, seen (FH).

Long-eared Owl (*Asio o. otus*). A pair were noticed on two occasions in the water-meadows (EFC).

Tawny Owl (*Strix a. sylvatica*). October, Petersfield, seen in garden during daylight by neighbour who keeps fowls (AH). Burghclere, heard frequently at night, and flushed in daytime from bracken (AB). Two or three pairs still breed in Mudeford (CP). 18th January, Appleslade, hooting; 19th February, hooting towards evening; 4th June, one in Pinnick; 13th October, Appleslade, hooting at late evening; 20th December, two flew out of a pine in daylight (FH).

Barn Owl (*Tyto a. alba*). One seen hunting in broad daylight, 6-p.m., 9th April, lovely bird (CP). 23rd January, Hengistbury; 7th September, Hengistbury (RB). 8th October, Appleslade, hawking over low pasture in late dusk; 10th October, heard evening (FH). Longstock, still hunt all day as well as at night, regardless of sunny weather (EFC).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco p. peregrinus*). 18th March, Linwood, flying round; 5th April, flying over (HL). 4th June, Sopley Common, one flying low (GB). 22nd January, Appleslade, male flew out of oak; 27th, 29th, Linwood, probably same male; 14th April, over Appleslade; 14th November, flew over after hawking on the hill; 26th December, Appleslade, perched in tree (FH).

Hobby (*Falco s. subbuteo*). 27th September, Ringwood, travelling E. over town (AP).

Merlin (*Falco c. aesalon*). 26th October, small hawk seen flying over Mudeford, could only be this (CP).

Kestrel (*Falco t. tinnunculus*). Mudeford, rather on the increase in the neighbourhood; twenty-five corpses reported hanging in a gamekeeper's larder near Hinton Admiral (CP). 27th January, Hengistbury, one; 3rd August, Hengistbury, some (RB). 23rd May, Appleslade, one hovering; 24th September, one over Ibsley Common (FH).

Common Buzzard (*Buteo b. buteo*). May, Sandleheath, one seen circling high (CA). 9th October, Linwood, eight circling about (HL). 3rd April, one seen circling round St. Catherine's Hill (CP). 7th March, Appleslade, two overhead; 31st March, one over Appleslade and Linwood; 15th May, two soaring over Appleslade; 3rd July, one over Roe Wood; 2nd December, Appleslade, two circling over wood and neighbourhood (FH). 14th February, Ringwood, one flying over; 24th April, another (CB).

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). 15th March, Linwood, pair flying over; very early in year! (HL). 6th May, Appleslade, flying over hill, etc.; 9th May, Appleslade, overhead; 17th May, female seen hunting over Ibsley Common at evening; 6th June, female flying very low over marshy field and perching on short post, got near (FH).

Hen Harrier (*Circus c. cyaneus*). 30th October, near Beaulieu Road Station, seen from train, probably female of this species (CP).

Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter n. nisus*). Burghclere, 13th April, two hawks in high soaring flight disappeared into the sky, first thought to be Buzzards, subsequently concluded they were of this species (AB). Petersfield, male caught Sparrow, flying off with it on 29th October, and again on 25th November, but Sparrow escaped this time; 21st December, male bird with broken neck found lying under window (WW). 22nd September, Hengistbury (RB). 17th April, Appleslade, female; 11th May, a male flew by at evening (FH).

Osprey (*Pandion h. haliaetus*). Commander C. E. Hammond, R.N., reports (*Field*, 28, XI, 42, p. 569) that on September 13th, 1942, he watched an Osprey in Portsmouth Harbour. The bird was perched on a notice board and was eating what appeared to be a Lapwing (BB, January 1943, p. 164).

Spoonbill (*Platalea l. leucorodia*). 13th April, Christchurch Harbour, one, beautiful condition but seemed very hungry; 6th June, Stanpit Marshes, one adult; September 25th-27th, 3rd October, Stanpit Marshes, one (CP).

Common Heron (*Ardea c. cinerea*). Petersfield, one and at times two, seen in Heath Pond, occasionally for about quarter-hour during September and October, but through November and December almost daily, usually before sunrise; have never seen them so frequently except during one summer when the pond was partially drained (AH). 17th October, Burghclere, three rose from a pasture, must have been searching it for worms, etc.; usually only seen singly, no heronry near (AB). 17th December, Petersfield, one flying low over garden (WW). Always to be seen feeding and sheltering on the Stanpit Marshes, largest number seen at one time, thirty; a pair was watched in April flying over water meadows near Christchurch, flying in circles, gradually rising, they reached a considerable height (CP). 27th February, Hengistbury, five (RB). 30th June, Appleslade, one on brook (FH).

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). Petersfield, nine visitors on Heath Pond, 12th May; one to three visitors frequently fly over but are chased away by residents there (AH).

Geese spp. 12th January, Hengistbury, skein, (?) species (RB).

Grey Geese spp. 28th December at 9 a.m., Burghclere, a flock of about two hundred flew over house from W. to E. in a strong W. wind, too high to distinguish species, in a huge V, honking a little (AB). A large flock of wild geese were reported flying N., near Ringwood, about 17th October (HC).

White-fronted Goose (*Anser a. albifrons*). 12th January, Ringwood, a male shot; about 150 in neighbourhood (AP).

Dark-breasted Brent Goose (*Branta b. bernicla*). 10th January, Mudeford (CP).

Duck spp. 22nd February, enormous flocks out at sea, too far out for identification, but must have numbered many hundreds. The line of them extended for a good half-mile; during 17th-20th October, very mild, rough weather, wind S.E., veering to S.W., heavy rain squalls at times; few duck coming in to Christchurch Harbour for shelter (CP).

Sheld-Duck (*Tadorna tadorna*). Did not apparently breed this year on the marshes, though a few immature were in Christchurch Harbour during August (CP). 6th January, Hengistbury, nine; 17th February, Hengistbury, seven (RB).

Ruddy Sheld-Duck (*Casarca ferruginea*). A female in splendid condition, 6th August, Stanpit Marshes, seen by Squadron-Leader Fenn, R.A.F.; it was watched feeding for some time and seemed quite tame (BP).

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Petersfield, fewer than usual this winter (AH). Burghclere, a pair nested on pond in wood; 29th May, nine eggs; sitting 5th June; gone 25th June (AB). 4th December, several big flocks at sea, possibly Mallard (CP). Leckford, several families, each have one yellow duckling, not known what became of them; no white nor abnormally coloured fledged birds have been seen during the year (EFC).

Teal (*Anas c. crecca*). 27th June, Mudeford (CP). 5th January, Hengistbury, seventeen (RB).

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). 3rd January, Mudeford; 20th October, Christchurch Harbour, small flock (CP). 12th, Hengistbury; 18th January, Hengistbury, 300; 7th October, Hengistbury, 60. (RB).

Pintail (*Anas a. acuta*). End of November, on flooded gravel-pit near Ellingham, two seen (CA). 5th January, Christchurch Harbour, two; lovely flock of 13 seen Christchurch Harbour, 28th March; still there 4th April; six or eight seen up the Avon River 8th April; one on sea; 4th December (CP). 8th January, Hengistbury, seven (RB).

Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*). 8th January, Hengistbury, three (RB).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). 3rd March, Charlton, N. of Andover, male (WP). End November, on flooded gravel-pit at Ellingham, 17 seen; heard a whistling, and four more alighted, very tame (CA). 2nd January, Christchurch Harbour, two (CP). 2nd January, Hengistbury, three (RB).

Common Scoter (*Melanitta n. nigra*). 1st January, Mudeford, big flocks of duck on sea; 4th December, about one mile off-shore, light too bad for identification, possibly Scoter (CP).

Goosander (*Mergus m. merganser*). 18th January, River Test, Longparish, female, seen about for a week (WP). 27th December, near Ringwood, immature male, shot (AP).

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*). 17th January, first with white thigh patch seen in Christchurch Harbour; seem to be growing in number in the harbour, have more than once counted over 60 (CP).

Gannet (*Sula bassana*). 2nd November, three flying S.W. about two miles out to sea from Mudeford, all adult; 17th November, several seen fishing about two miles out to sea from Avon Beach; big catches of sprats in all local shops (CP). 18th July, Hengistbury, numbers (RB).

Fulmar Petrel (*Fulmarus g. glacialis*). "In 1942, Mr. Brian Vesey-Fitz-Gerald saw two flying along the cliff by the Needles on July 5th; on July 12th four were flying along the cliff between the Needles and St. Catherine's. All birds were soaring along the edge of the cliffs and were not seen going in to the cliff or visiting potential nest sites" (BB, December 1943, p. 140).

Great Crested Grebe (*Polideps c. cristatus*). Petersfield, two seen early in April; one on 19th September (AH). 21st January, Mudeford (CP). 1st January, Hengistbury (RB). 1st January, Boscombe Coast, calm, N.E. breeze, 50; 2nd January, 130; 4th January, 150 (BG). 25th April, one on Alresford Pond; a pair seen there with young in June, 1942 (ID).

Little Grebe (*Policeps r. ruficollis*). Burghclere, a pair nested successfully on big pond; the mother took one after another of three chicks under her wing while the male dived, paraded and squawked, to divert attention (AB). 2nd January, Mudeford (CP). 1st February, Hengistbury, six (RB).

Black-throated Diver (*Colymbus a. arcticus*). 6th February, reported in Bournemouth Bay (BP).

Red-throated Diver (*Colymbus stellatus*). 1st January, only one seen, off-shore at Mudeford, this year (CP).

Wood Pigeon (*Columba p. palumbus*). Near Bournemouth, sitting on two eggs in holly bush, in small coppice about 20th November (GB).

- Stock Dove** (*Columba oenas*). 11th February, Linwood, back at nesting site (HL). 3rd August, Appleslade, heard (FH).
- Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia t. turtur*). 25th April, Dean, first seen (WP). Burghclere, a pair nesting in garden (AB). 17th June, Appleslade, hatched (FH).
- Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa l. lapponica*). 11th April, Mudeford (CP).
- Common Curlew** (*Numenius a. arquata*). Autumn; Nursling, nine haunting fields near (OC). 16th March, heard on Linwood Bog (HL). Nearly always a few feeding on the marshes, frequently hear it at night; largest numbers seen at one time, 30 (CP). 14th January, Hengistbury, 15 (RB). 12th February, Ringwood, passed over calling (CB). 22nd March, Ogdens, heard, 6th May, several (AR). 2nd May, Appleslade, heard and seen (FH).
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius p. phaeopus*). 4th May, Stanpit Marshes, first seen (CP). 29th October, Hengistbury, flock (RB).
- Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*). 27th February, Hants-Wilts border, "roding"; several pairs breeding; 17th April, young able to fly (WP). A most favourable autumn; I have seen as many as 20 in a day while walking in Ditcham Forest; an extraordinary number in October, November and December; only one reported to me at nesting time by an employee (SH). Burghclere, 19th January, flushed one in a favourite wood, but have seen no other (AB). 6th July, Ampfield, put up from garden hedge, at 10 a.m.; 7th July, one with three three-parts grown young seen in New Forest, not far from Stony Cross (HW).
- Common Snipe** (*Capella g. gallinago*). 24th February, Dean, "drumming" (WP). Burghclere, seen two on Common, probably flighted in; not sure that any bred as usual; no "drumming" heard for first time for years (AB). 21st November, Stanpit Marshes, three brace put up; milder after very cold spell with hard frost (CP). 1st February, Hengistbury, three (RB). 28th May, Appleslade, has been "drumming" lately at evening on Linwood Bog, perhaps only a single bird (FH).
- Jack Snipe** (*Limnocryptes minimus*). 25th February, Hengistbury, one (RB).
- Red-breasted Snipe** (*Limnodromus g. griseus*). 5th September, Christchurch Harbour (CP). See General Notes.
- Grey Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). End November, on flooded gravel-pit at Ellingham, one (CA).
- Turnstone** (*Arenaria i. interpres*). 15th May, Stanpit Marshes, three in summer plumage; 23rd May, Stanpit Marshes, one 24th July, Stanpit Marshes, three (?) going S. (CP).
- Knot** (*Calidris c. canutus*). 15th May, Stanpit Marshes, three, one in summer plumage; 29th August, Stanpit Marshes, two (CP). 8th August, Hengistbury (RB).
- Dunlin** (*Calidris a. schinzii*). Large flocks in Christchurch Harbour during September and October; some present all the year round (CP).
- Purple Sandpiper** (*Calidris m. maritima*). 4th September, Mudeford; 5th September, Christchurch Harbour, six (CP).
- Sanderling** (*Crocethia alba*). 9th January, Mudeford (CP). 15th August, Hengistbury (RB).
- Common Sandpiper** (*Aetitis hypoleucos*). 12th March, Dean, first heard; River Test, Whitchurch, one pair believed to be nesting (WP). 30th July, Hengistbury (RB).
- Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*). 29th August, Stanpit Marshes, one seen; 31st August and 4th September, Christchurch Harbour, two (CP).
- Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*). 7th August, Silchester, feeding on marshy shore of Kiln Pond (PB).
- Redshank** (*Tringa t. britannica*). 28th January, Charlton, N. of Andover, flock of nine; May, Chilbolton Common, five pairs breeding (WP). 2nd January, Mudeford (CP). 20th October, Hengistbury (RB). 26th June, adult and young bird at Blashford (FH). 25th April, about 20 on the watercress beds between Alresford and Bighton (ID).

- Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*). Stanpit Marshes, August 6th-16th, seen ; several all August, and again 1st to 5th of September (CP).
- Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*). 13th September, Hengistbury (RB).
- Southern Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis a. apricaria*). 9th March, Charlton, N. of Andover, flock of 100 ; 30th December, Charlton, N. of Andover, large flock, mixed with Green Plover (WP). Burghclere, flocks of 15 to 50 or more seen continually from 26th November to about 3rd January on a plateau of fields where years ago I have seen 200 ; of late years only seen once before ; consorting mostly with Lapwings (AB). 13th April, Christchurch Harbour, three seen ; 4th May, Christchurch Harbour, four, still in winter plumage (CP).
- Grey Plover** (*Squatarola squatarola*). 13th April, Christchurch Harbour, three seen ; 4th May, four in Christchurch Harbour, still in winter plumage ; 25th November, Stanpit Marshes, one feeding with Dunlins (CP).
- Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*). Burghclere, much more numerous (AB). Large numbers feeding on Stanpit Marshes most of October ; enormous flocks seen during December on the wing, on the marshes and up the Avon valley (CP). 25th November, Blashford, small flock (FH). Mr. W. H. Curtis tells me that one, all white, occurred at Medstead last winter (1942-3), and is there again (1943-4).
- Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). "In February, 1942, I received a letter from Mr. B. Vesey-FitzGerald, saying that he had found the remains of an Avocet on his property at Otterbourne, Hampshire, on January 28th, 1942. The leg bore the ring 2.35334 of the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen . . . It was ringed as a young one on June 15th, 1941, at Nyborg, Fyen, Denmark. E. P. Leach." (BB, March, 1943, p. 164.)
- Oyster-Catcher** (*Haematopus o. occidentalis*). Same little group of five or six still about in Christchurch Harbour ; flock of 12 seen flying from E. to W. over sea, 29th March ; 23rd May, six in Christchurch Harbour ; 24th July, Stanpit Marshes, eight ; seen many times since at low tide : these may almost be called resident now ; 15th December, Stanpit Marshes, party of 22 ; very cold (CP). 14th February, Hengistbury, five ; 23rd August, Hengistbury, 15 (RB).
- Stone Curlew** (*Burhinus o. oediconemus*). 2nd March, Dean, first heard ; June, Harewood Forest, seen (WP). May, Downs near Cranborne, one seen (CA). Leckford, nested as usual (EFC).
- Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*). 5th September, Christchurch Harbour ; 2nd November, on sandspit, Mudeford, four ; seen again, fishing, same place, 3rd November (CP).
- Tern**. Great numbers fishing in Christchurch Bay and Harbour, from 10th to 20th of September, chiefly Common, a few Sandwich, one or two Black (juvenile) and a few Lesser ; all evidently feeding on enormous flow of whitebait. These I watched passing down the Run, out to sea in thousands, and the Tern were diving at them in all directions (CP).
- Common Tern** (*Sterna h. hirundo*). August 27th-29th, Christchurch Harbour ; 17th October, a few watched feeding in the sea ; 23rd October, Mudeford, about a dozen off-shore ; 1st November, off Mudeford Beach, two seen, probably Common (CP).
- Little Tern** (*Sterna a. albifrons*). In much larger numbers, Christchurch Harbour, probably nesting Avon Beach, as several seen flying with fish in beak ; August 27th to 29th, Christchurch Harbour (CP).
- Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*). 25th September, seen feeding with Tern off Mudeford Beach (CP).
- Black-headed Gull** (*Larus r. ridibundus*). Petersfield, 40 or 50 over Heath Lake on 18th October, after being away since March ; 25 appeared over garden in November ; later 50 or 60 eating scraps on grass and drinking from bird-bath, always accompanied by one Jackdaw (WW). 11th January, Mudeford, one seen with full hood (CP). 13th and 26th January, Ringwood, numbers ; 11th March, Ringwood, many (FH).

- Herring Gull** (*Larus a. argentatus*). Burghclere, 30th April, two seen (AB). 3rd June, pair over Appleslade in afternoon, driven inland, presumably, by the rough weather; 13th December, many following plough at Blashford (FH).
- Black-backed Gulls**. 20th October, large number on Stanpit Marshes, over 80 counted, of which about 30 odd were Lesser Black-backed; weather very rough and stormy (CP).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus f. graellsii*). Many on Stanpit Marshes in October (CP).
- Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*). Large numbers on Stanpit Marshes, adult and immature in October, once over 60 counted, including about 15 Lesser Black-backed (CP).
- Arctic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Two (Light-breasted) seen by six members of Bournemouth Natural Science Society on Stanpit Marshes, 24th November; both birds were beside the river, one preening itself. (CP) says that "the species has been reported before, but always out to sea. I do not know of their ever having been seen before up the river." (BP).
- Corn-Crake** (*Crex crex*). Burghclere, shot one, accidentally, when after partridges on 1st September; have not seen nor heard one here since infancy (AB).
- Water Rail** (*Rallus a. aquaticus*). None, for the first time, seen in the Mudeford area (CP). 13th November, Hengistbury (RB). 27th January, Appleslade, flying along brook (FH).
- Moorhen** (*Gallinula c. chloropus*). Burghclere, very common as usual (AB). 3rd January, Mudeford (CP). 24th September, Hengistbury (RB). 21st March, near Bournemouth, nest with six eggs (GB).
- Coot**, (*Fulica a. atra*). October, numbers growing in Christchurch Harbour; a few pairs bred up the Avon River (CP).
- Partridge** (*Perdix p. perdix*). 23rd December, saw a covey fly across road near Butser Hill (AH). Burghclere, on flushing a big covey the mother did the wing-trick, and shrieked more ferociously than I ever remember (AB). 6th October, Hengistbury, 16 (RB).
- Red-legged Partridge** (*Alectoris r. rufa*). 4th January, Mudeford (CP). 15th October, Hengistbury, nine (RB).

Arrival of Spring Migrants in Hampshire, 1943.

- Tree Pipit**. 8th April, Dean, seen (WP). 25th April, Cranbury Park (V-F). 14th, Baughurst (PB). 1st May, Ringwood (CB). 22nd June, Mudeford (CP).
- Yellow Wagtail**. 8th April, St. Cross; 14th, several, Old Barge (V-F). 8th April, Mudeford (CP). 11th April, Throop Mill, some (GB). 17th April, Chilbolton (WP). 24th, Ringwood (CB).
- Red-backed Shrike**. 20th May, a pair, Oliver's Battery (V-F). 1st June, Linwood, usual pair nesting at Old Cot (DH).
- Spotted Flycatcher**. 8th May, St. Cross; 9th, Morestead (V-F). 12th May, Hengistbury (RB). 13th May, Linwood, promptly visited last year's nesting-box (HL). 14th May, Dean, seen (WP). 14th May, Mudeford, seen (CP). 15th May, Burghclere (AB). 23rd May, Ampfield (HW).
- Chiffchaff**. 3rd March, Dean, singing (WP). 6th March, Pitt; 9th, Oliver's Battery (V-F). 18th March, Avon meadows; 26th March, Mudeford, singing: it had come several days before (CP). 22nd March, Hengistbury (RB). 26th, Ringwood (CB). 27th March, Fordingbridge (CC). 28th March, Ampfield, heard (HW). 31st March, Appleslade, singing vigorously (FH). 11th April, Linwood, heard (HL).

- Willow Warbler.** 20th March, Linwood, noted (HL). 2nd April, Hengistbury; 3rd April, numbers (RB). 2nd April, Ringwood (CB). 3rd April, Mudeford, singing (CP). 5th April, Appleslade, singing much and incessantly (FH). 6th April, Silchester, seen and heard (PB). 6th April, Oliver's Battery (V-F). 8th April, Petersfield, singing (AH). 10th April, Petersfield (WW). 11th April, Burghclere, heard (AB). 25th April, Ampfield, full song (HW).
- Wood Warbler.** 24th April, Mudeford (CP). 25th April, Ringwood (CB). 28th April, Burghclere, saw and heard (AB). 1st May, Bentley (V-F). 7th May, Dean, singing (WP). 14th May, Linwood (FH).
- Grasshopper Warbler.** 19th March, Dean, seen (WP). 17th April, Baughurst, seen and heard (PB). 20th May, heard, Pitt (V-F).
- Reed Warbler.** 20th April, Hengistbury (RB). 24th April, several, Brambridge (V-F). 4th May, Mudeford (CP).
- Sedge Warbler.** 4th April, Ringwood (CB). 11th April, Throop Mill (GB). 18th April, Mudeford (CP). 19th April, Winkton (BP). 26th April, St. Cross (V-F). 1st May, Ringwood, by Avon (FH).
- Garden Warbler.** 9th April, Linwood (HL). 17th April, Baughurst, heard (PB). 17th April, Ringwood (CB). 26th April, Hengistbury (RB). 28th April, Appleslade, heard (FH). 8th May, St. Cross (V-F). 11th June, Mudeford (CP).
- Blackcap.** 3rd March, Dean, heard (WP). Mudeford, seen 8th April, heard, 9th April (CP). 15th April, Appleslade, heard; 16th, heard in Webb's Copse and Linwood; 28th, frequently heard (FH). 17th April, Baughurst, heard (PB). 25th April, Burghclere, seen and heard, feeble song (AB). 24th April, singing, Otterbourne (V-F).
- Whitethroat.** 2nd April, Dean, seen (WP). 16th April, Hursley (V-F). 16th April, Baughurst, heard (PB). 17th April, Ringwood (CB). 17th April, Mudeford, seen (CP). 27th April, Ampfield, singing (HW). 29th April, Hengistbury (RB). 15th May, Harbridge, heard (FH).
- Lesser Whitethroat.** 9th May, Morestead (V-F). 15th May, Harbridge, heard (FH). 27th May, Mudeford (CP).
- Wheatear.** 21st March, Sopley Common, some (GB). 22nd March, Parkstone Golf Links (PB). 23rd March, Mudeford, seen (CP). 23rd March, Hengistbury; 29th, Hightown, male (AP). 30th March, St. Catharine's Hill, my latest date for it on this site: usually passing N. by 24th March (V-F). 3rd April, Hengistbury, numbers (RB).
- Whinchat.** 6th May, Mudeford (CP). 12th May, Hengistbury (RB).
- Redstart.** 26th March, Hengistbury, hen, evening; 19th April, Hengistbury, cock (RB).
- Nightingale.** 14th April, Dean, heard (WP). 15th April, Baughurst, seen and heard (PB). 15th April, 1 a.m., Burghclere (AB). 17th April, Ampfield, singing (HW). 17th April, Leckford, singing, unusually plentiful (EFC). 18th April, Petersfield, singing on heath in daylight, continuing every night and part of day for next three weeks; one night when bright moonlight, during an "Alert," the Nightingale, Owl, Cuckoo and Nightjar all heard together (WW). 9th May, Highcliffe, told it arrived about a fortnight before (CP). 20th April, Otterbourne; 29th, Otterbourne, several. In full song, a chorus, Oliver's Battery, 5th May (V-F). 9th May, Highcliffe, told it arrived about a fortnight before (CP).
- Swallow.** 31st March, Throop Hill, several watched close, flying low over river at 3 p.m., very early date (GB). 4th April, Leckford, flying over water-meadows (EFC). 5th April, Hengistbury (RB). 6th April, Sopley, two rather disgruntled looking, Court Farm; bitter N. wind though hot sun (CP). 7th April, Dean, seen (WP). 7th April, Ampfield, alone (HW). 8th April, Baughurst (PB). 9th April, Linwood, either Swallow or Martin; 11th, two (HL). 10th April, Ringwood (CB). 15th April, Burghclere, two seen (AB). 1st May, Ringwood (FH).

- House Martin.** 4th April, Leckford, flying over water-meadows (EFC). 12th April, St. Cross (V-F). 17th April, Petersfield, four flying over Heath (WW). 26th April, Ringwood (AP). 26th April, Dean, seen (WP). 1st May, Mudeford (CP). 1st May, Ringwood (FH).
- Sand Martin.** 14th March, Winchester (V-F). 23rd March, Hengistbury (RB). 3rd April, Ringwood, about 12 (AP). 4th April, Mudeford (CP). 14th, Rockford sand quarry, in numbers (FH).
- Swift.** 17th April, Winchester (V-F). 22nd April, Hengistbury (RB). 27th April, Leckford, not quite so many as last year (EFC). 30th April, Ringwood (CB). 30th April, near Ellingham (HL). 30th April, Mudeford (CP). 1st May, Ampfield, several (HW). 2nd May, Ringwood, some (GB). 3rd May, Appleslade (FH).
- Nightjar.** 9th May, Dean, seen (WP). 11th May, Ampfield (V-F). 13th May, Ampfield, on wing (HW). 15th May, Linwood, heard (HL). 15th May, Mudeford (CP). 15th May, Hengistbury (RB).
- Wryneck.** 18th April, Linwood, heard (HL). 22nd April, Twyford (V-F).
- Cuckoo.** 9th April, Mudeford, male; 24th, Mudeford, female (CP). 10th April, Petersfield (WW). 12th April, Dean, heard (WP). 13th April, Burghclere (AB). 13th April, Baughurst (PB). 14th April, Hengistbury, seen and heard (RB). 14th April, Leckford, calling (EFC). 15th April, Ringwood (CB). 15th April, Hangersley, calling; 16th, Hightown, calling (AP). 16th April, Stanmore (V-F). 16th April, Hern, seen and heard (GB). 16th April, Petersfield, heard; 14th May, female heard (AH). 16th April, Ogdens (CR); 18th April, Linwood (PT). 19th April, Linwood, very voluble (HL). 22nd April, Appleslade, calling constantly (FH).
- Montagu's Harrier.** 15th March, Linwood, pair flying over, very early (HL). 8th April, near Ringwood, female (AP).
- Turtle Dove.** (?) 29th March, Appleslade; flew over, surely too early; 23rd May, heard (FH). 8th April, Hoccombe Woods (V-F). 25th April, Dean, seen (WP). 29th April, Ampfield (HW). 6th May, Hengistbury (RB). 7th May, Linwood, some noted (HL). 8th May, Leckford, heard and seen (EFC). 16th May, Ringwood (CB). 17th, Mudeford (CP).
- Whimbrel.** 4th May, first seen, Stanpit Marshes (CP).
- Sandpiper, Common.** 11th March, Brambridge (V-F). 12th March, Dean, heard (WP). 30th April, Mudeford (CP).
- Stone-Curlew.** 2nd March, Dean, heard (WP).
- Common Tern.** 19th April, Mudeford (CP). 22nd April, Hengistbury (RB).
- Little Tern.** 27th April, Mudeford (CP). 29th April, Hengistbury (RB).

Departure of Summer Migrants and Latest Dates of Song.

- Yellow Wagtail.** 18th August, Hengistbury, some (RB). 14th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Spotted Flycatcher.** 21st September, Burghclere, seen (AB). 29th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Pied Flycatcher.** 17th September, Hengistbury (RB).
- Chiffchaff.** Mudeford, singing up to 18th September, 8th October (CP).
- Willow Warbler.** 19th September, Mudeford (CP). 31st July, Appleslade, singing every day (FH).
- Wood Warbler.** 13th September, Ringwood, in garden (AP).
- Grasshopper Warbler.** 1st July, Appleslade; 3rd August, none heard now (FH).
- Sedge Warbler.** 7th July, Ringwood (FH).
- Whitethroat.** 18th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Wheatear.** 27th August, Hengistbury, some (RB). 3rd October, Mudeford (CP).
- Whinchat.** 26th August, Hengistbury, some (RB). 11th September, Stanpit Marshes; 12th, Mudeford (CP).

- Redstart.** 10th September, Hengistbury (RB). 20th September, Ampfield, a this year's bird passed through garden (HW).
- Swallow.** 27th September, Burghclere (AB). 4th October, Rockbourne, three flying round top of Larch tree (AP). 10th October, Ampfield, flying S. (HW). 10th November, Mudeford (CP).
- House Martin.** 2nd October, Ampfield, last (HW). 3rd October, Baughurst, pair still feeding young in nest; 14th October, three (PB). 17th October, Mudeford (CP).
- Sand Martin.** 10th September, Mudeford (CP). 8th October, young seen (FH).
- Swift.** 14th July, Appleslade, many overhead; 21st, a large number still hawking actively at Ringwood; 3rd August, seen here and at Ringwood; 4th, Appleslade, seen; 14th, not seen for some days (FH). 14th August, Ampfield, last seen (HW). 4th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Nightjar.** 14th August, Burghclere (AB). 26th August, Appleslade, seen (FH). 27th August, Mudeford (CP).
- Cuckoo.** 28th June, Petersfield (WW). 25th August, Mudeford, young bird (CP).
- Hobby.** 27th September, Ringwood, travelling E. over town (AP).
- Turtle Dove.** 2nd September, Baughurst, pair (PB). 14th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Common Sandpiper.** 30th July, Hengistbury (RB). 11th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Greenshank.** 1st October, Mudeford (CP).
- Ringed Plover.** 13th September, Hengistbury (RB).
- Sandwich Tern.** 9th October, Hengistbury (RB). 3rd November, Mudeford (CP).
- Common Tern.** 1st November, Mudeford (CP).
- Little Tern.** 20th September, Mudeford (CP).

Winter Migrants and Passage Migrants.

- Brambling.** 28th November, Sleeper's Hill (V-F).
- Fieldfare.** 23rd January, Ampfield, heard first; 16th November, one seen (HW). 20th October, Oliver's Battery; my earliest date for it in Hampshire (V-F). 16th March, Linwood, two seen; 26th, flock of 16; 6th November, Linwood, six or eight in trees in garden (HL). None seen at all this year; neither at the beginning nor end (CP). 4th December, Pamber Heath, flock of 18 (PB). 7th December, Appleslade, large flock went over early (FH).
- Redwing.** 2nd February, Appleslade, a single bird flew over; 10th December, Appleslade, small flock, about 12, went over (FH). 26th February, 1943, Burton, small flock, 30 to 40, seen, first time this (1942-43) winter; rather cold easterly wind, but very warm sun; 25th November, 1943, Sopley, some seen (CP). 16th March, Ampfield, flying N., heard "chuckling" notes from the flock, rather like blackbird's note (HW). 9th December, St. Catharine's Hill (V-F).
- Geese spp.** 6th January, two flying S.W. over Mudeford, too high to identify; flight of between 80 and 90 flying S.E. over sea, mostly all strung out in long line, too far out to identify, 19th February; skein of about 20 to 30 seen flying S.E. over Mudeford, 18th December, too far off to identify (CP). 18th January, Ringwood, flock of about 150 (probably White-fronts) passed over flying very high (CB). Grey Geese, spp. (?), 29th December, a skein of 25 flying S.W. over Winchester (V-F).
- Dark-breasted Brent Goose.** 10th January, skein of 21 flying E. to W. over Christchurch Harbour, turning and going back East, possibly Brent; 3rd December, 18 seen flying over Christchurch Harbour, all Dark-breasted (CP).
- Wood Pigeon.** 27th January, Appleslade, no great immigration noted so far (FH). 5th November, flocks flying over, Linwood (HL).

- Stock Dove.** 5th November, Hengistbury, seven (RB).
- Bar-tailed Godwit.** 3rd-4th January, Christchurch Harbour, two seen; 11th April, Christchurch Harbour, four; 4th May, Stanpit Marshes, one in summer plumage; September, Stanpit Marshes, seven, staying about 10 days (CP).
- Whimbrel.** 27th October, Hengistbury, flock (RB).
- Knot.** 8th August, Hengistbury (RB).
- Purple Sandpiper.** 4th September, Mudeford; 5th, Christchurch Harbour, six (CP).
- Sanderling.** 9th January, Mudeford (CP). 15th August, Hengistbury (RB).
- Common Sandpiper.** 30th July, Hengistbury (RB).
- Plover.** 8th November, Appleslade, a large flock of hundreds seen, going S.E. to N.W., at about 8.30 a.m. (S.T.).
- Golden Plover.** 18th October, Hengistbury, heard (RB). 17th November, Bar End (V-F). 26th December, Ringwood, large flock passed over garden (CB).
- Grey Plover.** 13th April, Mudeford, three seen; 4th May, four in Christchurch Harbour, still in winter plumage (CP). 2nd October, Hengistbury (RB). 4th December, Bar End (V-F).
- Lapwing.** 15th September, Hengistbury, flock (RB).
- British Oyster-catcher.** 23rd August, Hengistbury, 15 (RB).
- Black Tern.** 20th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Little Gull.** 25th September, Mudeford (CP).
- Common Gull.** 3rd January, Mudeford (CP).
- Water-Rail.** 13th November, Hengistbury (RB).
- Coot.** 12th October, Hengistbury, 40 (RB).

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

- Greenfinch.** 17th January, Mudeford, calling (CP). 11th March, Ringwood (FH). 19th March, Sleeper's Hill (V-F).
- Bullfinch.** 14th March, Winchester (V-F).
- Chaffinch.** 2nd February, Mudeford, singing (CP). 3rd February, Petersfield, full song (WW). 5th February, Oliver's Battery (V-F). 16th February, Ampfield (HW). 3rd October, Baughurst, in feeble song and lacking emphasis on the end flourish (PB).
- Corn Bunting.** 20th April, Sopley (CP).
- Yellow Bunting.** 3rd February, Petersfield, singing and feeding with Sparrows (WW). 25th February, Petersfield, heard (AH). 11th March, Ropley (V-F). 6th May, Appleslade, singing (FH).
- Cirl Bunting.** 22nd February, Mudeford, singing (CP).
- Wood Lark.** 1st February, Forest heath near Appleslade, singing energetically; 7th October, singing (FH).
- Skylark.** 18th January, Oliver's Battery (V-F). 12th February, Ringwood, singing (CB). 20th October, Appleslade, singing (FH).
- Tree-Creeper.** 1st April, Sleeper's Hill (V-F).
- Nuthatch.** 9th January, Mudeford, calling (CP). 28th February, Sleeper's Hill (V-F).
- Great Tit.** 18th January, Petersfield, singing (AH). 1st February, Appleslade (FH). 26th December, Bentley (V-F).
- Blue Tit.** 16th January, singing (AH). 28th January, St. Cross (V-F).
- Coal Tit.** 2nd February, Sleeper's Hill (V-F). 13th February, Appleslade, singing much (FH).
- Goldcrest.** 9th March, Sleeper's Hill (V-F).
- Dartford Warbler.** 4th April, near Ringwood, singing; 25th April, two seen (CB).

- Mistle Thrush.** 23rd January, Ringwood, singing (CB). 28th February, Oliver's Battery (V-F). 4th November, Whitchurch, singing (WP). 28th November, Ampfield, singing (HW). 29th November, Petersfield, singing (WW).
- Song Thrush.** Mudeford, singing continuously since December, 1942, into 1943 (CP). 23rd October, Appleslade; 22nd November, Ringwood; 27th December, Blashford, singing (FH). 1st December, Petersfield (WW). 14th December, St. Cross (V-F). 23rd January, Ampfield, singing all day; 17th November, singing (HW).
- Blackbird.** 23rd January, Petersfield, sang half song on bird-table (AH). 23rd January, Mudeford, singing (CP). 17th February, Ringwood, singing (CB). 11th February, Ampfield, full song (HW). 4th March, Sleeper's Hill (V-F).
- Robin.** 2nd January, Mudeford, singing (CP). 9th February, Sleeper's Hill (V-F). 2nd October, Petersfield, singing (AH).
- Hedge Sparrow.** 15th January, Petersfield (WW). 20th January, Winchester (V-F).
- Wren.** 2nd October, Petersfield, singing (AH). 20th December, Oliver's Battery (V-F).
- Green Woodpecker.** 9th January, Mudeford, calling (CP). 26th February, Oliver's Battery (V-F).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** 8th April, Ampfield, "drumming" (HW). 11th March, Sleeper's Hill, "drumming" (V-F).
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** 10th March, Hocombe Woods, "drumming" (V-F). 11th March, Ringwood, "drumming" on birch trunk (HC). 8th April, Ampfield, "drumming" (HW).
- Wood Pigeon.** 21st January, Appleslade, cooing; 3rd February; 6th (FH). 17th February, Ampfield, cooing (HW).
- Stock Dove.** 9th March, Appleslade (FH).
- Woodcock.** 27th February, Hants-Wilts border, "roding" (WP).
- Common Snipe.** 24th February, Dean, "drumming" (WP).
- Lapwing.** 8th March, Ampfield, spring note (HW).

General Notes.

(AH) Petersfield, writes: "Lapwing, large flocks were seen flying throughout January and the early part of February, but from 11th February the numbers were fewer. 13th September, a flock of Lapwings, Rooks and a few Black-headed Gulls alighted on the Heath, and the Lapwings drank from the pond; 17th October, a flock of Lapwings, probably 400-500, did the same; 31st October, about 40 Lapwings, and on 19th December there was a large mixed flock of Lapwings and Gulls. They only stay about quarter-hour, usually before sunrise, but from October onwards have seen almost daily large flocks of Lapwings circling over the trees and eventually flying off in a N.W. direction; a small flock, about 40, often return and fly S. In December they were feeding in a former potato field opposite the heath. Black-headed Gulls. In addition to those seen with Lapwings from October 18th, a flock of about 40 were on the Pond. Increasing numbers, probably 300-400, in rough weather, spend much of the day swimming, resting or circling over Pond and fly away before dusk.

(AB) found it a very good year for Warblers, and unusually good for nesting and the penetration of sea-birds inland.

(RS) mentions an extraordinary case of a cock Sparrow, in poor condition and nesting, attacking by pecking a pane of glass from daylight to dusk, clutching the mullion precariously with his tail pressed on the pane below, the attacks going on for weeks. The hen would stand by and chirp and flap furiously at him, who was oblivious to observers; the rattle made was loud. Such experiments as abolishing any reflection, and so forth, produced no effect. (RS) mentions the case of a Song Thrush in the spring, decorating its nest with the

red buds of a laurel placed fairly evenly all round the cup, but nowhere else. They were fetched from about 40 yards off, evidently on account of their decorative colour.

(CP) writes of her identification of the Red-breasted Snipe: "It was feeding with the Purple Sandpiper. Its habit of feeding by thrusting in its beak the entire length was observed easily, its general shape and rather stocky build with shortish legs and obvious Snipe head, long beak and light eye-stripe making it identifiable as this Snipe. I wish I had flushed it, as it then shows a white patch in dark back which is distinctive." By a process of exclusion it would seem to be this species, for, as (CP) asks, what else could it be? There have been two Hampshire records among the over 20 recorded (see *Handbook*). (CP) heard the following birds singing during the Christmas week-end, the weather being very mild: Song Thrush, Robin, Chirl Bunting, Chaffinch, Wren, Hedge Sparrow, Great and Blue Tits, Starling, one pair mating, 24th December, Nuthatch calling, Skylark and Meadow Pipit. 124 species of birds were seen by (CP) in the Mudeford neighbourhood.

(GB) writes: "All warblers appeared far more numerous than for several years past and this especially applies to Blackcaps and Garden Warblers. Nest of Blackcap contained five eggs on 28th April. I saw few Grasshopper Warblers, and no Dartford Warblers. Nightjars very plentiful and locally House Martins far more numerous again. On heathland, round Bournemouth, Stonechats have greatly increased. Sparrow Hawks, Kestrels, Crows, Jays, Barn, Tawny and Little Owls much on the increase."

(AP) writes that the most interesting bird seen by him was a Yellow-browed Warbler seen in his garden at about three yards' range at 3.10 p.m. on 24th October. "I had a very clear view of the bird and noted the wing-bars and superciliary stripe. My wife told me that a small Warbler had visited the garden several days previously."

Most of our summer birds appear to me, here, to be in reduced numbers: Cuckoos, Swallows, Martins and Warblers. Willow Warblers were, perhaps, not so reduced from normal as Chiffchaffs and Wood Warblers (FH).

(V-F) sends me the following notes: "I saw no Swallows nor Redstarts in Winchester, but Swifts and House Martins were more plentiful than usual. A pair of Buzzards were around Alice Holt through March, April and May. There was strong presumptive evidence of breeding, but no proof. These would be some of the birds released at Witley two years ago. I flushed a Bittern from reed beds at Itchen Abbas on November 26th. I had in December an Italian ring brought to me. From the description this was apparently taken from a Crested Lark. It remains to be verified, of course, but an interesting occurrence anyhow. A pair of Hawfinches nested in Edgar Road, Winchester. The nest was built on a branch overhanging the pavement at a height of approximately 10 feet. People walking on the pavement passed directly underneath. No one seemed to notice it, however, and the birds brought off a brood successfully. A flock of Fieldfares at Pitt on January 8th, 1944, was estimated to number 400. During 1943 I had sent me for identification three Peregrines, one Hen Harrier, one Osprey, one Bittern, one Ruddy Sheld-Duck (obviously an escape) and three Quail, all from Hampshire. I also had sent for identification a Great Northern Diver, picked up dead at Cadnam. On November 6th, at Otterbourne, I shot a Red-legged Partridge, of the very rare melanistic variety. It is the first time this has been shot in Hampshire. There are very few records (I think about six) for Great Britain. A White Wagtail—a sight record only, but I feel pretty confident as it was at very short range—was on the watercress beds at Alesford on June 18th."

(BG) sends these records, Boscombe: "January 1st, mild, N.W. wind, 50 Great Crested Grebes, 100 to 200 Common Scoter, 1 Velvet Scoter, all on sea off Boscombe. January 2nd. Wind N.W. 130 Great Crested Grebes, Common Scoters again numerous, and four small Divers, presumably Red-throated. January 3rd. Cold northerly wind, but bright. One Goldcrest singing in fir in Bournemouth. January 4th. Cold N.E. wind. 150 Great Crested

Grebes off Boscombe, and small parties of Scoter. January 11th. Strong S.W. wind. No Grebes on sea and only 20 Scoter. January 12th. N.W. wind. 12 Scoter and no Grebes. January 28th. S.W. wind, mild and damp. Blackbird 'trying over' a few notes quietly, but more than a sub-song, in Boscombe."

(E. McE.) says that early in March Bullfinches stripped the buds, especially from *Pyrus floribunda*. Thrushes then were numerous, later he never saw more than a pair. Nightingales were rare in the Droxford neighbourhood, but on April 23rd one was heard on Poppy Hill: not being noted after about a week. Blackbirds, Great and Blue Tits, Cirl Buntings and Chaffinches were plentiful; no Long-tailed Tits. Peas had to be netted. When the netting was removed two dead Blackcaps were found. A Red-backed Shrike was seen at West Meon on October 12th. (E. McE.) saw a Peregrine on Poppy Hill on November 16th. A tame Blackbird is still about, and will sing awaiting food. The tameness of certain birds is now being investigated as a curious part of bird psychology. Major M. Portal writes to (E. McE.) that a pair of Buzzards had appeared at Laverstoke. When he was at Preshaw in January, three Buzzards were circling round high up, Jackdaws trying to mob them. There were usually four there every winter for some months. They did no harm and kept down rats and rabbits on the downlands. During August 4th to 9th, he flushed Quail on the water meadows at Droxford. Major Norton, at Greenhill, Upham, heard Quail calling in a field there in August. Last year, at Laverstoke, a bevy of young Quail were in a field of linseed; the hen bird came on and was shot! Another pair of Buzzards appeared at Laverstoke in October.

I am grateful to numerous contributors for valuable help. The Bournemouth Natural Science Society has assisted with notes. The following abbreviations have been used:—

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