

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, 1944.

By F. H. HAINES.

Meteorology.

THE mildness of the beginning of the year and the extreme severity of its close were the factors most likely to affect bird life, but neither seems to have led to any special phenomena amongst either our migrants or resident species. The severe drought of February, March and May, with much north, north-east and east wind had a deleterious effect on the breeding and rearing of nestlings. The season was a backward one. A dearth of pabulum, specially of insect and similar food, continued through much of the summer and autumn, though occasionally variation in conditions brought amelioration right to the end of the year.

The notes on a Great Grey Shrike, Waxwing, Stork, Southern Cormorant, Pratincole and Little Bustard are of special interest. Those on the Black Tern, Arctic Tern and Arctic Skua are also worthy of note.

Systematic List.

Raven (*Corvus c. corax*). October 8th, Stanpit Marshes, two (C P). October 8th, Sway, three flying E. to W., very close together and calling repeatedly; an hour later, about five p.m., one and possibly two, flew back in the reverse direction (E C). November 8th, Hengistbury, two; 20th, Hengistbury, two (R B). December 2nd, female shot near Fordingbridge (A P).

Hooded Crow (*Corvus c. cornix*). May 19th, Hengistbury (R B).

Carrion Crow (*Corvus c. corone*). January 22nd, Appleslade, a pair, early; September 16th, a pair flew over (F H). April 6th, Holywell (E Mc E). September 2nd, Hengistbury, three; October 7th, five (R B). November 30th, Linwood, about thirty flying about (H L).

Rook (*Corvus f. frugilegus*). December 17th, Mudeford, have started pairing and making nests in a new place; three pairs seen, standing in or near three new-looking nests (C P). August 13th, Hengistbury, flock (R B). April 15th, Ampfield, the new colony begun last year with three nests increased this year to six nests (H W). Petersfield, small rookery on heath forsaken, large rookery crowded (W W). In regard to this rookery, a few years ago a pair broke away from the others and built a nest in an oak a short distance off. When the young were hatched the male killed the hen, turned the young out of the nest, and then with another hen, according to the gardener, removed the nest back to the rookery (W W). June 7th, Linwood district practically destitute of rooks, but about this date a temporary invasion takes place annually; August 4th, in fields near, small flock (F H).

Jackdaw (*Corvus m. spermologus*). January 9th, Hengistbury (R B). April 21st, Petersfield, nesting in church tower (A H). January 25th, Sway, heard, very unusual here (E C). December 6th, Blashford, flock (F H).

- Magpie** (*Pica p. pica*). September 29th, Hengistbury, two (R B). March 4th, Dean Hill, white specimen seen (W P). March 6th, flock estimated at 100 on cleared ground in Alice Hotel (V-F). Major M. Portal writes to E Mc E, who kindly allows me to quote: "A flock of 34 came out of one of our woods on January 22nd, 1945, and flew in a long line N. In number this is nothing as the down land near East Meon village in March last was covered with them. I counted 136 or 142—double count—but was told later that a local had counted 240!" December 17th and 18th, two feeding with gulls in garden (W W), Burghclere, about as numerous as last year and getting tamer (A B). November 29th, Linwood, flying about in small flocks of six or seven (H L). September 7th, Baughurst, 26 in pasture and stubble, the largest number I have ever recorded together in autumn (P B). March 31st, Moyles Court, some; one pair only nesting, Appleslade, usual nests left (F H). At the end of the summer the south of England, which may, I think, be considered a game preserving area, was swarming with Magpies, and it was difficult to drive a mile in any direction without several. Now I have no doubt that all these birds were home bred, they stayed until about the middle or end of November, and then disappeared, so that now there is hardly a Magpie to be seen, which represents the normal state of affairs. The same remark applies in a lesser degree to the Jays (A A).
- Jay** (*Garrulus g. rufitergum*). Burghclere, very numerous, five at once on lawn near house on October 29th (A B). March 17th, building at Appleslade; March 25th, several pairs nesting (F H). Unusual numbers present in woods round Norman Court, near W. Tytherley, between March and July. Some appeared to be of the Continental race, specimens of which have been shot there on previous occasions (R H).
- Starling** (*Sternus v. vulgaris*). January 5th, Hengistbury, flock (R B). December 14th, Petersfield, 100 or more birds with Rooks, Jackdaws and Gulls feeding in garden (W W). On November 15th, 1943, Mr. F. M. Firth (from the sea) saw numbers flying in towards the coast at Portsmouth; parties of five to ten first seen about five miles out to sea from Spithead, flying N. into an N.W. gale. Off Culver Cliff, at 10.30 a.m., flocks were passing at short intervals, low over the waves (F M F). February 28th, Appleslade, young brood in oak (F H).
- Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*). January 30th, Burghclere, a pair seen on lawn after some years' absence; seen again February 4th and 5th and sitting on nest, hatching on June 3rd (A B). Two pairs nested successfully in Edgar Road area, Winchester, where one pair nested last year. A third nest at St. Cross was robbed and eggs brought to me for identification (V-F).
- Goldfinch** (*Carduelis c. britannica*). January 10th, Hengistbury (R B). June 16th, Leckford, a pair building in a grape vine against the house wall, do not mind being watched from a near window (E F C). Burghclere, seen in increasing numbers; October 26th, five on lawn (A B). November 5th, Ringwood, 15, the parents and two broods of young, some not fully plumaged, in our garden for weeks, busy on heads of Evening Primrose (H C). Sway, regularly present (E C). September 9th, Ewhurst, 38 feeding on thistle seeds; only five bore traces of crimson on head, two of them alone, clearly. I suspect this, therefore, of being a "charm" composed of birds of the year (P B).
- Lesser Redpole** (*Carduelis f. cabaret*). January 5th, flock of ten on R. Test at Longparish (W P).
- Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula p. nesa*). March 14th, Baughurst, two males and one female in thornbush. Males, though on same branch, showed no enmity; later, pair flew away, the other male not following (P B).
- Common Crossbill** (*Loxia c. curvirostra*). A party of five seen during July in the Forest (C B). Burghclere, never seen here (A B). One on Whale Island on 4th April (P E). April 17th, small party seen at St. Ives (A P).

- Chaffinch** (*Fringilla c. gentleri*). September 30th, Mudeford (C P). February 2nd, Hengistbury (R B), singing. May 30th, Baughurst, hen brooding young, would permit any interference except touching; would return in a minute or two without the watcher moving away (P B). October 4th, Rockford, flock, males or mixed (F H).
- Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*). March 25th, Mudeford, cock, judging by the black head, nearly in breeding plumage; November 12th, one with a big party of Chaffinches (C P).
- Yellow Bunting** (*Emberiza c. citrinella*). May 16th, heard near Appleslade, N.F.; too scarce here (F H).
- Cirl Bunting** (*Emberiza c. cirius*). October 8th and 11th, Mudeford, singing (C P).
- Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza s. schoeniclus*). March 17th, Hengistbury, six together (R B). May 16th, Appleslade, male seen by pond; 20th, another seen on marshy field (F H).
- Wood Lark** (*Lullula a. arborea*). Ringwood, a party of four seen during the summer (C B). Burghclere, only one or two seen (A B). February 9th, near Appleslade, on Forest two, one singing; 16th, one heard; 23rd, still singing; March 5th, singing; June 4th, Appleslade, heard early morning; July 12th, Rockford Common and N.F. (F H). July 10th, Ten Oaks, heard (H L).
- Skylark** (*Alauda a. arvensis*). May 30th, Ibsley, singing on posts in same place as last year.
- Tree Pipit** (*Anthus t. trivialis*). April 22nd, East Dean, first seen (W P).
- Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*). April 30th, Chilbolton, nest, eggs slightly incubated (W P).
- Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla f. flavissima*). April 8th, Avon Valley, several seen, mostly cocks, but also a few hens (C P). April 19th, Chilbolton, a pair and several cocks; May, very few pairs breeding on Chilbolton Common: most migrants have passed on (W P).
- Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla c. cinerea*). July 25th, Burghclere, seen over border, but none here (A B). Ringwood, one on lawn in late summer (H C). October 19th and 20th, on lawn; often seen on Avon Water at Flesford Bridge (B C). June 3rd, seem scarce at Ibsley and Harbridge this year (F H). Seen at different times throughout the year in and around Ringwood (A P).
- Tree Creeper** (*Certhia f. britannica*). Burghclere, a few seen (A B). July 10th, Linwood, a second brood of young left nest (H L). November 15th, Petersfield, seen (A H). May 9th, Appleslade, cry often heard (F H). A nest found at Blackmoor, only two feet from ground in a hole in the base of a tree (B.B. 1, 1, 45, p. 157).
- Nuthatch** (*Sitta e. affinis*). Burghclere, favourite pair nested in garden, as usual (A B). Sway, regularly present (B C). October 26th, Sandle Heath, picking up mast, under beech trees (C A).
- Tits**. Droxford, flocks of mixed Tits feeding here on the beech masts at the end of October; they were busy, thus, well into November (E Mc E). Major M. Portal writes to E Mc E: "In late November there was a mixed flock of Tits passing down Meon Valley, about 100 to 150, which flew quite near to the observer. The same day I saw a considerable number of Goldcrests come into a clump of old Scotch Firs and going on to a clump of Spruce in the wood. There were *great numbers*. I did not shoot one to see if they were of the Continental form. Two days later none to be seen."
- Blue Tit** (*Parus c. obscurus*). February 17th, Petersfield, eight on table, none during summer; November 1st, six (W W).

- Coal Tit** (*Parus a. britannicus*). December 12th, Appleslade, flock round food baskets (F H).
- Marsh Tit** (*Parus p. dresseri*). March, Sway, repeatedly seen (E C).
- Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos c. rosacens*). October 21st, Petersfield, ten in garden, also on November 1st with two Goldcrests (W W). Burghclere, in fair numbers (A B). July '8th, Sway, 50 or more in drive with a few other Tits, the largest flock ever remembered, feeding on oaks (E C). April 26th, Appleslade, nest by house (F H). November 15th, large party at Hightown (A P).
- Great Grey Shrike** (*Lanius e. excubitor*). Towards end of January, Colden Common, one reported to V-F.
- Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius c. colluria*). Quite deserted Burghclere (A B). Nested and reared brood at normal time at Old Cot, Linwood (D H). None seen this season (A P).
- Waxwing** (*Bombycilla g. garrulus*). March, reported from Buriton (A H). Mr. G. O. Allen, of the Haslemere Educational Museum, reports: "One in garden at Greatham Vicarage on November 9th; one seen in Hatch Lane, Liss, during the same week."
- Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa s. striata*). Few pairs nested, not common, Ringwood (A P).
- Pied Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*). A pair nested near Norman Court, W. Tytherley, in 1943 (R H). Nested Chawton Park Wood, 1944 (V-F).
- Goldcrest** (*Regulus r. anglorum*). January 14th, Hengistbury (R B). *Vide* "Tits" (Major Portal). Burghclere, saw one or more on January 6th, 7th, 12th, February 5th, and September 20th, none recently, very tame (A B). March 20th, Petersfield, pair (A H). June 13th, Appleslade, nest with eggs blown down from Douglas Fir in gale, others found, and another blown down; November 25th, several about, two caught by a cat (F H).
- Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus c. collybita*). September 30th, singing (C P). March 27th, Hengistbury (R B). Building at Bentley, April 16th; first egg 24th. (B.B. 1, I, 45, p. 156.)
- Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus t. trochilus*). Many seen, Ringwood; nest containing seven eggs seen, May 14th (A P).
- Wood Warbler** (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). Droxford, fairly plentiful, found deserted nest on May 20th (E Mc E). May 30th, Breamore Wood, many heard (F H).
- Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella n. naevia*). June 5th, Appleslade, appear far rarer than usual. July 4th, heard, Appleslade and Newlands; daily heard later (F H).
- Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schaefferii*). April 12th, Clatford, first seen; fewer than usual this year (W P). May 13th, Appleslade, heard near pond (F H).
- Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*). May 23rd, Hengistbury (R B). Petersfield, numbers (W W). May 11th, Appleslade, heard; August 12th, an unfinished nest, lately built, in laurel (F H).
- Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia c. curruca*). May 11th, Appleslade, singing constantly by pond (F H). Nest and eggs seen June 2nd, near Ringwood (A P).
- Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia u. dartfordiensis*). November 10th, Hengistbury, searching in *Erica codonodes* (R B). Ringwood, several pairs seen during 1944; this species appears to be picking up again (C B). May 1st, N. Hants, nest found lined with stems of Heath Dodder (B.B. 1, II, 44, p. 116). Had the Dodder stems persisted from last year or the plant germinated very early, as it flowers July to September? May 2nd, pair on railway embankment, near Medstead (V-F).

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). February 5th, one, the first seen on Stanpit Marshes since the winter of 1942. February 10th, Bransgore, a few seen; weather very cold with strong N.W. wind. March 9th, Burton, three seen during very cold spell (C P). December 24th, Hengistbury (R B). January 29th, Appleslade, a small flock of these or Redwings, 30, passed over high up, early, accompanied by another, perhaps larger flight; January 30th a flock of about 100 settled on oaks by house at evening; February 1st, a large flock in oaks again, late; February 11th, Appleslade, another large flock at evening (F H).

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus v. viscivorus*). September, Petersfield, 15 ate berries of Mountain Ash, clearing the tree in three days (W W). September 6th, Silchester, flock of 75 feeding on great crop of Rowan berries, largest flock I have ever recorded (P B). May 1st, Linwood, one seen; they have appeared unduly scarce here the last year or two; we seldom hear them now (F H).

Song Thrush (*Turdus e. ericetorum*). March 23rd, Droxford, a fully-fledged young bird found dead (E Mc E).

Redwing (*Turdus m. musicus*). January 3rd, Burton, few seen, weather turned finer and colder, wind N.; February 10th, weather turned very cold again, with bitter N.W. winds; a few seen Burton and Bransgore; December 28th, Burton, only one, first of the winter seen, and this in spite of very severe hard weather (C P). November 22nd, Hengistbury (R B).

Blackbird (*Turdus m. merula*). February 25th, Hengistbury (R B). Petersfield, more numerous than Thrushes this year (A H). Since August and September 10th, 1943, when our two tame cocks were killed after many years' monopoly of our ground, no other cock appeared until March 8th, 1944; their appearance is still only casual, but getting more constant. November 23rd, one male in garden, first for long time, hardly any have occurred recently; December 2nd, male in garden (F H).

Wheatear (*Oenanthe o. oenanthe*). March 27th, Hengistbury (R B). May 24th, pair on Rockford Common (F H).

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*). August 25th, Hengistbury, some (R B). May 1st, Longparish, one seen (W P).

Stonechat (*Saxicola t. hibernans*). February 24th, Hengistbury, pair (R B). Burghclere, none seen on any of our numerous commons (A B).

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus o. gibraltariensis*). November 23rd, Hengistbury, on cliff edge in gale (R B). Nested again in Southampton; pair by St. Denys Station; pair in bombed building in main street (V-F).

Nightingale (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*). Reported to be more numerous than usual: found at Highcliff, Walkford and Hinton Admiral (C P). May 30th, Breamore, heard (F H). May 8th three singing near Ringwood (A P).

Wren (*Troglodytes t. troglodytes*). March 3rd, seen carrying nesting material during very cold spell, with bitter N.E. winds (C P). January 24th, Hengistbury, I have seen as many as seven go into one hole in the eaves of my thatched roof to roost (R B).

Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica*). April 2nd, Christchurch Harbour, just seen arriving; 4th, two more (C P). March 23rd, Hengistbury (C B). April 6th, Andover, a pair seen; August 21st, beginning to assemble for departure at Andover (W P). Young, seven to nine days old at West Wellow, May 23rd (B.B. 1, I, 45, p. 156).

House Martin (*Delichon u. urbica*). April 28th, Hengistbury (R B). April 13th, E. Dean, first seen (W P). Burghclere, less than usual (A B). May 13th, Blashford, numbers (F H). Colony at Bentley Station, six nests instead of four (V-F).

- Sand Martin** (*Riparia r. riparia*). April 6th, Mudeford, one; 8th, in numbers up the Avon valley (C P). April 4th, Hengistbury (R B). Burghclere, less than usual (A B). June 12th, great numbers hawk about Appleslade at evening (F H).
- Swift** (*Apus a. apus*). May 4th, Hengistbury (R B). May 3rd, E. Dean, first seen (W P). May 17th, Burghclere, some on Common (A B). May 13th, Ringwood, several screaming. July 27th, Appleslade, more than usual (F H). Has greatly increased in Winchester area in last three years (V-F).
- Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus e. europaeus*). May 23rd, Mudeford, seen and heard, was told it had arrived two days earlier (C P). May 12th, Hengistbury (R B). May 7th, E. Dean, first seen (W P). Burghclere, not quite so numerous as usual (A B). May 22nd, Appleslade, seen, evening. June 5th, Rockford Common, two eggs; July 29th, seen near stream (F H).
- Hoopoe** (*Upupa e. epops*). March 31st, Chewton Common, Highcliff (B.P., Mrs. Woolley). One, April 24th, Southampton (B.B. 1, VII, 44, p. 58).
- Kingfisher** (*Alcedo a. ispida*). February 28th, Hengistbury (R B). March 19th, up and down Docks Water, near nesting place (H L). June 12th, Appleslade, flew over (F H).
- Green Woodpecker** (*Picus v. pluvius*). August 16th, Hengistbury (R B). April 16th, Droxford, seen busy in garden (E Mc E). June 9th, Petersfield, on lawn, eating ants (W W). Burghclere, very numerous and bolder than usual (A B). Sway, regularly present (E C). Observed on branch of oak, turned head through 180 degrees to look behind; during "laugh" forepart of body, as well as neck and head, vibrates rapidly (P B). March 23rd, Appleslade, remains found, probably killed by Sparrow Hawk or Peregrine (F H).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates m. anglicus*). November 28th, Hengistbury (R B). February 7th, E. Dean, drumming (W P). November 16th, Ampfield, returned to bird table after summer absence (H W). July 1st, Burghclere, a pair on lawn and apple tree (A B). Sway, regularly present (E C). March 6th, Baughurst, bird drumming, two quite distinct tonsil qualities produced, one a snore, the other high-pitched and woody. March 7th, Silchester, two distinct drumming notes; one woody, the other low and muffled; drummed 47 times in seven minutes (P B).
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates m. comminatus*). June 1st, Leckford, brood flying in garden (E F C). June 29th, Burghclere, two; August 12th, one (A B).
- Wryneck** *Jynx t. torquilla*. May 24th, Hengistbury (R B). April and May, a bird heard calling from early April to mid-May in a garden at Abbot's Ann, no nest found; April 15th, E. Dean, first seen (W P). Nested, Crondall (V-F).
- Cuckoo** (*Cuculus c. canorus*). May, 31st, heard male calling and he was immediately answered by a female which I saw perched in a nearby tree. This happened twice and it was the first time this year I have heard the female (C P). April 7th, Hengistbury (R B). April 11th, Andover, seen and heard (W P). Juvenile outside Hedge Sparrow's nest which it had flattened out at Romsey on June 10th; tail protruding beyond wing-tips about 1½ inches (B.B. 1, I, 45, p. 156).
- Little Owl** (*Athene n. vidalii*). January 29th, Hengistbury, two (R B). Petersfield, inhabits a large oak, often heard if disturbed by Green Woodpecker or Jay (W W). Burghclere, a pair observed from February to October, nesting in an old apple tree. From February 29th to March 23rd the hole was worked at. On April 8th one held a Pied Wagtail. Later, mobbing by Starlings drove it into its nest. On May 27th one held a dead bird and was mobbed by Finches and Starlings. On June 4th it brought a live bird to the nest in the evening, killing it away from the tree. On

June 12th three owlets appeared at mouth of hole. A dusting hole was made on the lawn, one foot long and one deep. On October 20th a Magpie and an Owl faced each other on the tree, the former giving way (A B). July 2nd, Sway, two fledglings; parents had nested in our paddock, ringed both (E C). February 29th, one or two frequent pines at Appleslade (F H).

Short-eared Owl (*Asio f. flammeus*). February 15th, Hengistbury (R B).

Tawny Owl (*Strix a. sylvatica*). April, Whitchurch, remains of male Sparrow Hawk found in nest (W P). October 29th, Burghclere, heard well (A B). November 5th, Ringwood, returned in some numbers after one or two years' absence (H C). Sway, regularly present (E C). September 18th, near Webb's Copse, calling; very scarce at Appleslade now (F H).

Barn Owl (*Tyto a. alba*). March 4th, Hengistbury (R B). January 5th, Petersfield, after sunset, flying low (W W). Pair nested in Ringwood area and I saw both parents bringing food for young, July, on many occasions between 7 and 10 p.m. B.S.T. (A P).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco p. peregrinus*). April 20th, E. Dean, two seen (W P). June 15th, Appleslade, one wheeling high overhead; August 31st, male wheeling overhead; September 5th, gliding over Appleslade, 7.30 a.m. (D.S.T.), large, probably a female (F H). An immature male, found dead, through collision with overhead wires, February 5th, Sandle Heath, Fordingbridge (C A).

Hobby (*Falco s. subbuteo*). May 19th, two seen mating, E. Dean (W P). In Pine and Larch wood, N. Hants, pair have bred every year successfully since 1941, and perhaps earlier; one clutch and three eggs added, but two birds successfully fledged (P B). September 12th, Linwood, three have frequented this neighbourhood for a few weeks, much in evidence the last week or ten days (H L).

Merlin (*Falco c. aesalon*). May 9th, E. Dean, one seen (W P). February 3rd, Ampfield, a small dark Hawk flying close to the ground, probably a cock Merlin (H W).

Kestrel (*Falco t. tinnunculus*). March 11th, Hengistbury (R B). Burghclere, scarcer (A B). February 16th, Rockford; March 1st, Appleslade (F H). Increasing in numbers in neighbourhood of Ringwood (A P).

Common Buzzard (*Buteo b. buteo*). A pair seen circling over field near New Park, Brockenhurst, on January 8th (C P). February 22nd, E. Dean, two seen (W P). October 8th, Ampfield, one seen over Ampfield Wood (H W). Several single birds seen soaring over Ringwood district (C B). March 31st, Harbridge; April 8th, Appleslade; May 29th, two wheeling overhead in afternoon; July 23rd, Appleslade, circling round, mid-day (F H). Nest in Milkham (H L). March 26th, one circling over Ibsley (A P). Nested again in Alice Holt (V-F).

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). August 1st and 4th, Mudeford (C P).

Hen Harrier (*Circus c. cyaneus*). November 13th, immature male, seen near Ringwood (A P).

Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter n. nisus*). February 15th, male ran along under hedge, after Sparrows, later chased by Blue Tit (W W). January 25th, Burghclere, one with a Blackbird (A B). May 17th, Appleslade, two seen at evening; 18th, one; 26th, male, chased by Swallow; December 25th, darting about and swooping near house (F H).

White Stork (*Ciconia c. ciconia*). Dröxford, May 20th, seen by my son flying high up over the house (E Mc E).

Spoonbill (*Platalea l. leucorodia*). October 1st, 3rd and 4th, Stanpit Marshes, two (C P).

- Common Heron** (*Ardea c. cinerea*). January 21st, Hengistbury, 21 in meadow (R B). Petersfield, often seen by lake arriving from N.E. (W W). Burghclere, two flying over lake, N. to E., July 7th; 8th, four flying W. to E., same time and place (A B). Petersfield, very frequent at Heath Pond, often one to three in early morning (A H). March 31st, Ibsley; June 27th and September 18th, Appleslade (F H).
- Bittern** (*Botaurus s. stellaris*). One flew W. over Norman Court Woods, near W. Tytherley, on an evening in April (R H). December 28th, Ringwood, one flying over Avon (A P). December 18th, one shot, Hamble (V-F).
- Whooper Swan** (*Cygnus cygnus*). Three took up winter quarters on Eyeworth Pond, near Fritham, late autumn (H P).
- Mute Swan** (*Cygnus olor*). March 9th, Hengistbury (R B). Petersfield, one to five visitors fairly frequent on Heath Pond through the year, from September, often accompanied by one or two cygnets (A H). November 15th, Ringwood, flock of eight, travelling N., low down, seen (F H).
- Dark-breasted Brent Goose** (*Branta b. bernicla*). April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, seven, probably this form (C P).
- Canada Goose** (*Branta c. canadensis*). January 4th, Petersfield, 18 on Heath Lake, arriving early in morning, leaving at sunset, flying N.E. in two flocks (W W). Petersfield, more frequent this year: January 4th, 18; March 9th, four; March 11th, five; 13th, five; 18th four; October 18th, six (A H).
- Sheld-Duck** (*Tadorna tadorna*). March 21st, Christchurch Harbour, fair number; April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, several pairs; June 4th, Christchurch Harbour, first pair seen with a brood; 14 to 18 young, but were difficult to count, owing to choppy water and constant diving (C P). February 22nd, Hengistbury, seven (R B). There are a number round the coast. A great many more, I think, than usual (A A).
- Teal** (*Anas c. crecca*). March 23rd, Christchurch Harbour, fair number; April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, few (C P). January 3rd, Hengistbury, 30 (R B).
- Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*). March 12th, Christchurch Harbour, several; March 21st, fair number; April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, several (C P). November 14th, Hengistbury (R B). March 9th, Petersfield, a flock of 17 on Heath Pond for a few hours (A H). January 31st, about 70 to 80 in a drain to the south of Pylewell House, sexes about equal (E C).
- Pintail** (*Anas a. acuta*). August 24th, Mudeford, flight of 12 seen passing down river and out to sea (C P).
- Shoveler** (*Spatula clypeata*). April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, one pair (C P). January 23rd, Hengistbury, five (R B). May 26th, a pair seen on River Test, Chilbolton (W P).
- Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*). December 8th, Hengistbury (R B). February 25th, River Test, Chilbolton, pair seen (W P). About 20 on water in gravel pit at Blashford (A P). March 1st, flock of 63 on pond at Badshot Lea. Gone next day (V-F).
- Common Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*). February 22nd, a female seen at Charlton, Andover; the male had been shot some time before (W P).
- Common Scoter** (*Melanitta n. nigra*). July 9th, Stanpit Marshes, one male and two females, probably come in for shelter; weather rough (C P). November 26th, Hengistbury (R B). December 21st, Swanage, five, visible from shore; December 24th, ten visible from shore (G H).
- Goosander** (*Mergus m. merganser*). February 26th, one seen flying over Mudeford (C P).
- Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*). October 31st, River Stour, close to Stanpit Marshes, one; December 28th, one (B P).

- Smew** (*Mergus albellus*). March 12th, Christchurch Harbour, male and female; came in from the sea and settled on the water, staying for some hours (C P).
- Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*). January 17th, Christchurch Harbour, with white thigh patch, same as last year (C P). February 5th, Hengistbury (R B). November 24th, Ringwood, a single bird flying over (H L). Often seen, Ringwood; one shot, November 22 (A P).
- Southern Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax c. sinensis*). February 7th, in sea, near Mudeford beach, one: the white neck was very visible and in marked contrast to other Cormorants in the vicinity; head also white, noticed a dark line down the nape, and only other dark mark was a narrow line dividing the white throat from the white neck (C P). (cf. B.B. 1, VII, 44, p. 39).
- Gannet** (*Sula hassana*). January 13th, in fair numbers fishing about four miles off shore, E. of Hengistbury Head; October 10th, a few seen several miles out to sea S.E. of Hengistbury Head (C P). July 7th, Hengistbury Head, some washed ashore, killed by invasion oil (R B).
- Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps c. cristatus*). August 29th, Petersfield, chased by Swan on lake (W W). March 12th and 25th and December 9th, Petersfield, on Heath Pond (A H). December 10th, and subsequent dates, Petersfield, on lake (R P).
- Little Grebe** (*Podiceps r. ruficollis*). January 8th, Hengistbury (R B). Burghclere, hatched out successfully as usual on lake (A B). March 9th, on river at Stanpit Marshes, about 28 in close association. There were 36 to 40 there on November 9th, 1943 (E C). "On September 5th, 6th and 7th, at Kiln Pond, Silchester, over 1000 dives were timed at all periods of the day. On 6th, assisted by A. V. Symonds, I carried out a watch on one bird for nearly eight hours" (P B). Diving periods are summarized in a most interesting table (Ed.). This was the longest check on any single bird, but from 450 dives of the same or one of the three other birds, diving activity was lowest in the early morning and most during the last three or four hours of daylight. It seems reasonable to suppose that the bird timed above probably exceeded 700 dives during the day, spending some three hours under water. Of about 1000 recorded dives, 70 were of 20 seconds or over, the longest being 27 seconds (P B).
- Great Northern Diver** (*Colymbus immer*). February 26th, out at sea, off Mudeford, three (C P). December 5th, Petersfield, doubtfully reported on lake (W W).
- Red-throated Diver** (*Colymbus stellatus*). December 30th, Hengistbury, oiled on beach (R B).
- Wood Pigeon** (*Columba p. palumbus*). August 28th, Hengistbury (R B).
- Stock Dove** (*Columba oenas*). February 21st, Linwood, back at nesting spot (H L). Sway, a pair nested in an old Magpie nest, without dome, at top of 60ft. Scots pine, June 16th, two young (E C).
- Rock Dove** (*Columba l. livia*). August 26th, Hengistbury (R B) (?) a pure wild bird.
- Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia t. turtur*). May 5th, Hengistbury (R B). Petersfield, common (W W). September 14th, Silchester, five (P B). May 11th, Appleslade, heard (F H). Has greatly increased in Alton area and along Surrey border (V-F).
- Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa l. lapponica*). April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, one; April 27th, Stanpit Marshes, eight, nearly all in summer plumage; August 28th and September 7th, one, Stanpit Marshes (C P).
- Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa l. limosa*). October 8th and 13th, Mudeford one (C P). August 27th, Stanpit Marshes, one (?) (Miss Jellicoe, B P).

Common Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). April 4th, Hengistbury, flock; November 1st, Hengistbury (R B). February 17th, E. Dean, heard (W P). March 28th, Linwood, heard and seen (H L). May 17th, heard on Linwood Bog (F H).

Whimbrel (*Numenius p. phaeopus*). April 6th, Hengistbury, flock (R B).

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*). February 12th, first seen roding, E. Dean; April 18th, nest found E. Dean; April 30th, brood of young seen, E. Dean; spring, nesting in considerable numbers, Hants—Wilts. border, even more than last year: several ringed (W P). Burghclere, none until mid-November (A B). March 21st, Appleslade, one dead by stream; April 4th, remains of another found (F H).

Common Snipe (*Capella g. gallinago*). January 2nd, Mudeford, four pairs on ground near Haven Inn (C P). February 15th, Hengistbury (R B). February 9th, E. Dean, bleating; April 19th, E. Dean, nest (W P). June 14th, Petersfield, flying over lake (W W). Burghclere, none until mid-November (A B). March 10th, Rockford; May 29th, Linwood, heard in early night; continuing in June and July (F H).

Jack Snipe (*Limnocryptes minimus*). February 17th, Hengistbury (R B).

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). September 4th, one watched battling against very strong S.W. gale; it came from the sea, flying up the mouth of the Avon, landing on the water, where it rode the waves for a time; it then took to wing again, landing again in a very rough patch: after a few moments it disappeared: I think drowned owing to exhaustion (C P).

Knot (*Calidris c. canutus*). April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, eight (C P). September 16th, Hengistbury (R B).

Dunlin (*Calidris a. schinzii*). April 2nd, Stanpit, one in summer plumage (C P). September 22nd, Hengistbury, some (R B).

Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*). October 8th, adult male, winter plumage (C P). May 14th, Hengistbury, six (R B).

Common Sandpiper (*Aetitis hypoleucos*). August 12th, Hengistbury (R B). July 30th, Kiln Pond, Silchester, one (P B).

Redshank (*Tringa t. britannica*). February 29th, Hengistbury (R B). December 23rd, party of five on watercress bed at Andover, almost in the town; very tame, and allowed people to pass at ten yards (W P). May 13th, Blashford; May 30th, Ibsley, many (F H).

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*). March 16th, Hengistbury (R B).

Southern Golden Plover (*Pluvialis a. apricaria*). December 23rd, Hengistbury (R B). Ringwood, a large flock, seen in November, feeding near the flood water (C B). Burghclere, a flock with Lapwings scared by planes from line of flight, January 4th (A B). November 9th, one shot, Lymington Marshes (G K). November 20th, Ringwood, many seen; December 29th, two shot (A P).

Grey Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*). April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, two, June 4th, one in summer plumage (C P).

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). November 30th, and following days, great activity over Christchurch and Avon Valley, enormous flocks flying over the valley: must have numbered well over 1000 birds; December 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, several hundred landing, and were still there (C P). January 30th, Hengistbury, flock (R B). March 27th, Ampfield, giving full call (H W). Burghclere, not very numerous (A B). Petersfield, small flocks, January 22nd to 23rd; large flocks from January 29th, through January and February, and again from end of October (A H). March 8th, a large flock, Rockford; August 17th, flock, Rockford (F H).

Oyster-Catcher (*Haematopus o. occidentalis*). January, Christchurch Harbour, party of 20 to 23 seen several times; March 21st, Stanpit Marshes, flight of over 20 seen coming in from the sea and landing (C P). March 17th, Hengistbury, 27; May 13th, 17; May 31st, nesting on headland (R B). November and December, Petersfield, at Heath Lake (W W). December 7th, Swanage, one on shore (G H). December 2nd, Petersfield, by lake (R P).

Pratincole (*Glareola p. pratincola*). Major M. Portal states: "In the week of May 15th a rabbit catcher, employed by Douglas Seligman, Esq., who farms on a very large scale, asked him what two fair-sized birds, with two long feathers in tail, like Swallows have, were. He said they never flew far and kept settling. Seligman took an illustrated book on birds and when the man saw the Pratincole illustration he at once said: 'That's the bird.' He said they had a funny sharp call-note when flying. It seems good circumstantial evidence of Pratincole, but does not give any guide as to *Glareola pratincola* or *Glareola nordmanni*. I fancy the first named as he did say, when describing, before he saw the illustration, that it had yellow colour under the beak." Witherby describes and illustrates both species as having a black beak with red base and having yellow, or buff, feathers adjoining according to species.

Stone Curlew (*Burhinus o. oediconemus*). May, on downs N. of Netherton, where they are usually so common, they are getting rarer every year since the land has been cultivated: probably right food is missing, particularly noticeable this year (W P). Two pairs nested and brought off young on Droxford Down. There was another nest in a field under the Down, but it was ploughed out and the eggs destroyed (E M C B). Major M. Portal writes to E M C B, from Swanmore: "These birds in pairs and breeding were very numerous last spring. I walked into two nests in May, in winter-sown wheat, between Bushy Copse and Long Copse near main road, Winchester—Stockbridge. On Laverstoke Estate they bred well: 18 in one lot seen one day in early October. They also bred on edge of Red Rice Estate, between Andover and Danebury Hill. About 14 seen in a flock, October 16th. They bred also on Warnford Estate, and nine seen October 7th. They also bred on Lady Peel's Estate, Leydene. Really they are quite 'common.'" June 6th, Burghclere, one seen on the downs: there are usually a few on all our downs (A B).

Little Bustard (*Otis t. orientalis*). Major M. Portal writes to E M C B: "*Otis tetrax*: one appeared in early January at Avington, on Baring's Farm, later seen Avington Park and near by. Later, one reported Bighton and Chawton Park, near Alton—whether same bird or others is unknown. Seen in root-field first on Baring's Farm. It is curious, but in almost all prior occurrences in this county, the bird has always occurred in turnip fields, and in January: one shot by Lord Palmerston at Broadlands, 1810: one shot, January 4th, 1873, at Whitchurch, in a turnip field and bird sent to British Museum: one in Isle of Wight, January 2nd, 1875, in turnips. There were five others shot in England the same winter. One shot January 9th, 1879, between Fareham and Gosport. In 1897 one was flushed in turnips near Grateley Station. The coast of Norfolk and Suffolk seems to get most."

Black Tern (*Chlidonias n. niger*). December 5th, one seen feeding on River Test at Chilbolton (W P).

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*). October 1st, Hengistbury (R B).

Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*). April 22nd, Hengistbury (R B).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura*). July 3rd, Stanpit Marshes, three, identified as such by blood-red beak, with no black tip, and shortish legs. One had pure white forehead of young bird, and one was very slightly oiled on the breast (C P).

- Little Tern** (*Sterna a. albifrons*). One, May, Hengistbury (C B).
- Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*). April 2nd, Hengistbury, one dead (R B).
- Black-headed Gull** (*Larus r. ridibundus*). January 12th, Mudeford, one with full hood seen (C P). March 19th, Hengistbury (R B). October 9th, Petersfield, several over lake, absent since March 11th; over garden, October 21st; about 20 in garden, feeding, November 1st; by December about 40 or 50 (W W). January 5th, Ringwood, a number; two, Rockford; November 8th, Blashford, a number (F H). March 8th, Ringwood, one in breeding plumage (A P).
- Common Gull** (*Larus c. canus*). October 19th, Hengistbury (R B).
- Herring Gull** (*Larus a. argentatus*). October 18th, Hengistbury (R B). From mid-February to mid-March flock of about 20 adults and immature in fields N. of Andover (W P).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus f. graellsii*). April 2nd, Stanpit Marshes, one, badly oiled on the breast (C P). October 14th, Hengistbury (R B). February 22nd, Andover, one adult; February 4th, Longparish, one adult (W P).
- Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*). October 3rd, Hengistbury (R B).
- Kittiwake** (*Rissa t. tridactyla*). April 2nd, Stanpit, one, first for three or four years (C P).
- Arctic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). June 28th, Keyhaven, adult, of dark form, flying along beach, a very strong S.W. wind and rough sea (B.B. 2, X, 44, p. 100).
- British Razorbill** (*Alca t. britannica*). November 5th, Hengistbury, oiled (R B).
- Southern Guillemot** (*Uria a. albionis*). February 12th, Hengistbury, oiled on beach (R B).
- Little Auk** (*Alle a. alle*). February 1st, Hengistbury, one dead (R B).
- Southern Puffin** (*Fratercula a. grabae*). July 7th, Mudeford, one washed ashore, so coated with tar as to be nearly unrecognizable (C P).
- Corn Crake** (*Crex crex*). September 30th, Hengistbury (R B). April 20th, E. Dean, one seen (W P). Two were cut out of grass under Dean Hill in June (R H).
- Water Rail** (*Rallus a. aquaticus*). January 20th, Mudeford, seen in same vicinity where noticed before, with young; February 24th, Stanpit Marshes, one flushed by dog. It flew straight into the sun and collided with a barbed wire fence; it seemed to somersault round it and hung quite still. As I got up to it it started to struggle; I found a barb had entered the wing where it joins the body. I got it off with difficulty. I think the wing was broken, but on putting the bird down, it ran off very quickly, with wings slightly trailing. As an odd coincidence, this is the second Water Rail I have found hanging on barbed wire: the first, found several years ago, was a very dried up corpse, and again it had been caught by the wing and wrapped itself round the wire to die, I suppose, of slow starvation (C P). November 18th, Hengistbury (R B). Said to breed plentifully in River Test, at least N. of Stockbridge, birds seen at all times of year, sometimes very tame (W P).
- Coot** (*Fulica a. atra*). February 12th, Hengistbury, flock; November 30th, Hengistbury, flock (R B).
- Partridge** (*Perdix p. perdix*). September 5th, Hengistbury, some (R B). Burghclere, very few seen in spite of great arable increase (A B).
- Quail** (*Coturnix c. coturnix*). Two coveys were reported near Nether Wallop in 1943 (R H).

Arrival of Spring Migrants in Hampshire, 1944.

Tree Pipit. April 22nd, Ringwood (C B).

Yellow Wagtail. April 8th, Mudeford (C P). April 10th, Ringwood (C B).

Red-backed Shrike. May 1st, Ringwood (C B).

Spotted Flycatcher. May 1st, Linwood, seen (H L). May 15th, Burghclere (A B). May 17th, Mudeford (C P).

Chiff-chaff. March 18th, Appleslade, heard (F H). March 23rd, Mudeford, seen; April 7th, singing (C P). March 31st, Ringwood (C B). April 6th, Petersfield, heard (W W). April 7th, Ampfield, calling (H W). Burghclere, seen, April 7th; heard first, April 8th (A B). April 19th, Linwood, heard (H L).

Willow Warbler. March 19th, Linwood, seen (H L). April 4th, Mudeford 10th, singing; re-started, July 25th (C P). April 5th, Appleslade, heard and seen, early and late, many (F H). April 7th, Petersfield, singing, many seen later in neighbourhood (W W). Heard and seen, early and late, many (F H). April 8th, Burghclere, saw and heard several (A B). April 9th, Petersfield, singing, fairly common (A H). April 12th, Ampfield (H W).

Wood Warbler. April 16th, Ringwood (C B). April 23rd, Burghclere, heard and seen in usual spot; later, saw two or three more (A B). April 23rd, heard in Forest, near Appleslade (F H). April 24th, Mudeford (C P).

Grasshopper Warbler. May 8th, Appleslade (F H).

Reed Warbler. April 20th, Appleslade, heard near brook (F H). May 12th, Mudeford (C P).

Sedge Warbler. April 26th, Ringwood, heard (F H). April 28th, Mudeford (C P).

Garden Warbler. April 16th, Ringwood (C B). April 26th, Linwood, seen (H L). May 7th, Appleslade, heard (F H). May 20th, Burghclere, nest with five eggs in bramble and rose scrub (A B).

Blackcap. April 27th, Appleslade, heard (F H). May 1st, Mudeford (C P).

Whitethroat. April 6th, Linwood, seen (H L). April 16th, Burghclere, in copse (A B). April 17th, Mudeford (C P). April 23rd, Ringwood (C B). April 25th, Ampfield, heard (H W). May 1st, Greenford Bottom, N.F. heard (F H).

Lesser Whitethroat. May 11th, Appleslade, singing constantly by pond (F H).

Wheatear. March 21st, Mudeford (C P). March 29th, Linwood, seen (H L).

Whinchat. May 20th, Mudeford (C P).

Redstart. March 27th, Hengistbury (R B).

Nightingale. April 16th, Highcliffe, in full song (B P, Miss Rhymes). April 19th, Petersfield, singing on heath (W W). April 20th, Burghclere (A B). April 24th, Droxford, more numerous this year, singing on Poppy Hill and Midlington (E Mc E). April 24th, Ampfield, heard (H W). April 30th, Petersfield, singing on oak at 11 a.m. (A H). May 20th, Mudeford (C P).

Swallow. April 2nd, Mudeford (C P). April 7th, Ringwood, two seen (A P). April 9th, Appleslade, seen (F H). April 10th, Linwood, possibly House Martin (H L). April 20th, Burghclere (A B). April 21st, Ampfield; 30th, local birds arrived (H W). May 5th, Petersfield (W W).

House Martin. April 9th, Southbourne (P B). April 20th, Petersfield, one (W W). April 23rd, Petersfield, a few seen (A H). April 29th, Mudeford (C P). May 10th, Ringwood, seen (F H).

Sand Martin. March 26th, Southbourne (P B, Miss Branson). April 3rd, hundreds flying over Avon (A P). April 6th, Mudeford (C P). April 12th, back in numbers at Rockford sand quarry (F H). April 30th, Burghclere (A B).

Swift. April 24th, Mudeford (C P). April 25th, one near Ringwood Church (A P). May 1st, Ampfield, first one seen (H W). May 2nd, Ringwood, seen (C B). May 3rd, Ringwood (F H). May 14th, Linwood, seen (H L). May 28th, Petersfield, flying round church tower (A H).

Nightjar. May 10th, Linwood, heard (H L). May 23rd, Mudeford (C P).

Cuckoo. April 3rd, Highcliffe, about 8 p.m. (B.P., Miss C. Hall). April 8th, Ringwood, seen and heard (C B). April 9th, Droxford, heard (E Mc E). April 9th, Crowe, heard (A P). April 9th, Petersfield, three heard on heath; an unusual number in neighbourhood (W W). April 10th, Ringwood, heard (A P). April 11th, Burghclere (A B); 12th, Ampfield (H W); 12th, Linwood, heard (H L); 12th, Appleslade, heard (F H); 14th, Mudeford, calling (C P); 15th, Petersfield, male; 26th, female heard (A H).

Montagu's Harrier. March 24th, Linwood, flying round; early date (H L).

Turtle Dove. April 21st, Burghclere; nested here (A B). May 8th, Ringwood, one seen (A P). May 8th, Linwood, seen (H L). May 9th, Ampfield (H W). May 9th, Appleslade, seen and heard (F H). May 24th, Mudeford (C P).

Whimbrel. April 20th, Mudeford (C P).

Common Sandpiper. May 12th, Mudeford (C P).

Sandwich Tern. April 22nd, Mudeford (C P).

Common Tern. April 22nd, Hengistbury (R B).

Arctic Tern. July 3rd, Mudeford (C P).

Little Tern. April 20th, Mudeford (C P).

Departure of Summer Migrants and Latest Dates of Song.

Yellow Wagtail. September 17th, Mudeford (C P).

Spotted Flycatcher. September 29th, Mudeford (C P).

Pied Flycatcher. October 10th, Sway, gone the next day, in winter plumage, sex undetermined (E C).

Chiffchaff. September 19th, Appleslade, singing early (F H). September 21st, Petersfield, heard (W W). September 28th, Mudeford (C P).

Willow Warbler. July 18th, Appleslade; August 1st; 15th; September 9th, in garden, quiet (F H). September 28th, Mudeford (C P).

Grasshopper Warbler. August 25th, Newlands, heard (F H).

Blackcap. November 12th, Sussex Road, in hedge, seen and heard (R P).

Whitethroat. September 28th, Mudeford (C P).

Wheatear. September 30th, Mudeford (C P).

Whinchat. October 3rd, Mudeford (C P).

Redstart. September 21st, Mudeford (C P).

Nightingale. May 19th, Droxford, last heard (E Mc E). August 26th, Appleslade, seen amongst willows on wet ground (F H).

Swallow. August 20th, Leckford, gone (E F C). September 8th, Linwood, many over Dockens (F H). September 25th, Burghclere (A B). Linwood, none after October 2nd (H L). October 7th, Ampfield, last seen round house (H W). October 27th, Mudeford (C P).

House Martin. August 20th, Leckford, very restless (B F C). September 8th, Linwood, many over Dockens ; October 4th, none, nor Swallows nor Sand Martins seen here, Ringwood, Blashford nor Rockford after this date (F H). August 12th, September 11th to 16th, Petersfield, congregating (A H). During September, Petersfield, hundreds collecting on houses near lake, all left by 20th ; October 10th, four, flying over lake (W W). October 7th, Ampfield, last seen round house (H W). October 21st, Midlington House (E Mc E). November 3rd, Mudeford (C P).

Sand Martin. August 17th, many at Appleslade and Rockford quarry ; September 10th, still here (F H). September 10th, Mudeford (C P). October 29th, Ringwood, four, flying and settling at intervals of a few minutes near top of church tower ; watched for 20 minutes (5.15—5.35 p.m.) (A P).

Swift. August 2nd, Ringwood, seen ; none on 4th (F H). August 6th, Ampfield, none seen later (H W). August 9th, Leckford, have left, not as many came as usual (B F C). September 20th, Mudeford (C P). September 27th, Swanage, one seen (G H). October 1st, Linwood, one seen at evening (H L). October 11th, Southampton (B.B.).

Nightjar. August 29th, Appleslade, flushed near stream ; September 5th, flushed in afternoon on hill (F H). September 11th, Mudeford (C P).

Cuckoo. June 20th, Petersfield, last heard (W W).

Turtle Dove. August 17th, Appleslade, seen (F H). September 1st, Mudeford (C P).

Common Sandpiper. September 10th, Mudeford (C P).

Sandwich Tern. September 28th, Mudeford (C P).

Common Tern. September 26th, Mudeford (C P).

Winter Migrants and Passage Migrants.

Major M. Portal, writing to E Mc E on January 22nd, 1945, Swanmore, says : " I have not seen any winter migrants ; no Fieldfares nor Redwings, and none seen in the R. Test valley to date by the water-keepers."

Brambling. November 12th, Mudeford (C P).

Fieldfare. January 5th, Burghclere, a flock seen ; January 14th, two (A B). January 22nd, Linwood, hundreds, with Redwings, in trees in garden ; January 29th, large flock flew over ; March 19th, flocks of winter thrushes ; October 29th, Fieldfares and Redwings seen, flock of about 100 Fieldfares seen, Linwood (H L). March 12th, Sway (E C). April 4th, Ampfield, flying E. ; December 31st, first seen (H W). November 19th, Holly Hatch, N.F. (B.P., Mrs. J. Wier). December 4th, Crowe, flock (C A). Like Redwings, exceedingly numerous, presumably on passage, March. Many counts were made in Baughurst neighbourhood, ranging from 6 at Baughurst to 71 at Hatchmore Green (P B).

Redwing. January 3rd, Appleslade, a flock of about 30 went over (F H). January 8th, Ampfield, on elm tops ; February 2nd, flocks about for several days ; March 13th, flocks about ; October 21st and 25th, seen (H W). March 12th, Sway, last date (E C). Great numbers, Silchester, March 5th to 19th. On March 9th in Pamber Forest, over 250 were chattering like Starlings. Later the flock disintegrated, 53 birds flying out of the forest N.E. Apart from this flock, many counts were made in neighbouring localities, ranging from four at Baughurst to 156 at Tadley.

Dark-breasted Brent Goose. (O C) saw between 70 and 100 on January 19th, on Eling Great Marsh, at the mouth of the Test. They were eating grass, and some came within 50 yards, not much objecting to the continuous heavy traffic. There were seven on " The Furlongs," an island N. of Red-bridge Causeway, where (O C) had seen birds several years ago. The week

before he saw them at the head of Southampton Water. On March 2nd, going by Totton, the geese were still in the same spot, "Horse Marsh," and in about the same numbers, 70 to 100, and the others reported were also still there.

Wood Pigeon. Major M. Portal writes to E Mc E: "The immigrants came very late indeed this year, and large flocks only reported to W.A.C.B. in late December—January, 1945. One such of about 1,500 to 2,000 fed for a day on a combine cut barley stubble, sown with seeds, on one estate near Caesar's Belt, Kingsclere area, but left flying E.N.E. No large numbers coming to roost in Andover area: odd flocks of 200 to 300, at times, for a short period. Few beech masts and not very many acorns in most parts.

Stock Dove. January 31st, Ampfield, cooing (H W).

Plover. November 1st, (?) species, Appleslade, large flock went over, early morning S.E. to N.W. (F H).

Common Gull. October 8th, Mudeford (C P).

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

Greenfinch. March 11th, Petersfield, "wheezing" (A H). March 30th, Petersfield, full song (W W).

Goldfinch. April 7th, Petersfield, singing, number in neighbourhood (W W).

Chaffinch. January 15th, Mudeford, sub-song, no ending; February 1st, proper song; re-started August 12th (C P). January 23rd, Petersfield (A H). February 1st, Petersfield, full song (W W).

Yellow Bunting. February 28th, Petersfield, singing in snow (W W). March 11th, Petersfield (A H). March 18th, Mudeford (C P). September 15th, Baughurst, one in good song for several minutes (P B).

Cirl Bunting. January 18th, Mudeford (C P). March 4th, Sway, singing at Gordleston Mill, one mile off (E C).

Wood Lark. September 27th, one heard on Forest near Appleslade; one on Rockford Common, near Newlands; October 25th, heard on Forest, near Appleslade (F H).

Skylark. January 27th, Mudeford (C P).

Pied Wagtail. September 25th, Petersfield, in full song (W W).

Nuthatch. January 8th, Mudeford, calling (C P).

Great Tit. January 1st, Petersfield (A H). January 5th, Mudeford (C P).

Blue Tit. January 1st, Petersfield (A H).

Goldcrest. February 22nd, Petersfield, in full song (W W).

Mistle Thrush. January 4th, Ringwood (H C). January 23rd, Ringwood, singing; December 6th, singing (C B). October 23rd, Ampfield (H W).

Song Thrush. January 1st, Mudeford, singing continuously since November (C P). January 1st, Petersfield (A H). January 3rd, Ampfield, singing lustily; November 17th, singing for several days (H W). January 5th, Ringwood; November 29th, singing (F H). November 19th, Petersfield, singing (W W).

Blackbird. January 17th to 22nd, Droxford, singing the week (E Mc E). January 28th, Mudeford (C P). January 30th, Ringwood, singing (C B). March 13th, Petersfield, full song (W W). November 25th, Leckford, heard and seen singing (E F C).

Robin. January 1st, Mudeford, singing continuously during winter (C P). August 10th, Appleslade, singing (F H). August 21st, Petersfield (A H).

Hedge-Sparrow. January 5th, Petersfield, full song, 15 deg. frost (W W). January 8th, Mudeford (C P).

- Wren.** January 2nd, Mudeford (C.P.). August 21st, Petersfield (A.H.). December 14th, Petersfield, two chasing each other, one in song (W.W.).
- Green Woodpecker.** April 8th, Appleslade, characteristic spring variation of call heard well (F.H.).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** January 8th, Ampfield, drumming (H.W.).
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** January 19th, Ringwood, heard and saw one "harping" on dead wood, not pecking: very early! I thought it was a nesting sound (H.C.).
- Wood Pigeon.** January 29th, Petersfield, cooing (W.W.). March 14th, Burghclere (A.B.).
- Stock Dove.** March 28th, Appleslade (F.H.).

General Notes.

C.P. writes: "On the morning of November 7th I picked up five dead and one dying gull on the mud at low tide at the bottom of our garden: not a mark or wound of any sort visible. All were warm and just dead. Later, on the same morning, on the Stanpit Marshes, about a quarter of a mile away, I found four more gulls dead, and one Herring Gull dying. This bird I put out of its misery. All the gulls, with this exception, were Black-headed. Next morning I found four more Black-headed in the same condition, i.e., dead, and no mark or wound. This made 15 in all. In November I watched many Black-headed Gulls diving for food in The Run, at Mudeford. Some birds went right under, like Terns. The majority only immersed the head and body. I have seen a gull dive and be totally immersed. January 22nd, 1945, the absence of Fieldfares and Redwings is remarkable. Generally in cold weather we get a number of both. I have not seen a Fieldfare this winter, and only two Redwings."

E Mc E mentions that his familiar garden birds disappeared in late autumn and winter, and food provided remained untouched, the birds remaining being quite wild. A Surrey correspondent of his noted the same thing. Presumably general food conditions have much to do with these vagaries.

H.W. writes: "I think it may be of interest to record certain changes in the bird population of Ampfield since I knew it as a boy, sixty years ago. Some birds are now missing, whereas some have greatly increased in number, and there are some new-comers. The missing ones are the Corncrake, which has disappeared all over the country, wherever the machine mower is in use, and the Golden-crested Wren. The Spotted Flycatcher and the Yellowhammer are reduced in numbers, and the Goldfinch, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Magpie, Jay, the two latter, no doubt, owing to the absence of keepers, are increased. The new-comers are the Buzzard, which occasionally soars by over Ampfield Big Wood, and the Little Owl. A new summer resident is the Woodcock, which now nests in the neighbourhood, whereas it was formerly a winter visitor. Gulls now come in from the coast soon after dawn every day, and return every evening, after feeding on newly-ploughed land. To go back further than my memory takes me, I used to see in cases in a neighbouring house, the following birds stuffed: Hawfinch, Wryneck, Crossbill, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, female Black Grouse. Our rarest visitor was a female Great Bustard, shot, unfortunately, on Ganger Common."

A.B. writes: "Three unusually interesting nests were found—Hawfinch, Tree Creeper and Little Owl (*Field*, July 22nd, p. 96). A good nesting year altogether."

With reference to remarks in *B.B.*, April, 1944, p. 219, on our annual report it should be remembered that records from the borders of neighbouring counties are most useful and in accord with natural divisions as opposed to strictly administrative divisions, like counties. As a borderer myself, I feel the difficulties of the narrow view, as birds unfortunately are unaware of men's barriers. I hope that our policy, therefore, will continue.

Our Bird Report is sometimes criticised as being too popular. The Natural History work of a Field Club should, I think, be both popular and scientific. Many members are not specialists in Natural History, but are antiquarians. Such are generally interested in homely birds near by, though they may not always know even the names of the rarer forms. Nor this alone: the recording also of familiar birds gives a fairer picture of the bird life of a county. Or it may appear that it possesses no birds save rarities. Peculiar local facts are also emphasized, *e.g.*, Rooks and Jackdaws are quite rare in parts of the Forest, but were seen by thousands, daily, near a former home. Again there is sometimes an inscrutable absence of birds, or their songs, in certain places, that may have rare interest and importance. For those who require the purely scientific and technical approach there are appropriate journals.

F.-O. Philip E. Brown, M.B.O.U., is carrying out an enquiry into the distribution and habits of tits and associated birds, and would be glad to hear of helpers. His address is, c/o "Woodside," Baughurst, Basingstoke, Hants.

Many, to whom I am much obliged, have given me important help. Mr. Ralph Whitlock, Editor of the *S.E. Bird Report*, has kindly sent me notes from members of the S.E. Union of Scientific Societies and the Bournemouth Natural Science Society has also assisted with records.

The following abbreviations have been used:—

C. W. Andrews	(C A)	G. J. W. Homer	(G H)
A. Arnold	(A A)	D. Homfray (Mr. & Mrs.)	(D H)
Capt. A. F. L. Bacon	(A B)	G. W. L. Kitcher	(G K)
C. J. Bellamy	(C B)	H. Lea (Mr. & Mrs.)	(H L)
Bournemouth Nat. Sci. Soc.	(B.P.)	E. S. McEuen, J.P., F.S.A.	(E Mc E)
G. Brasnet	(G B)	G. K. Page, J.P.	(G P)
R. A. Brewer	(R B)	Col. W. A. Payn	(W P)
Flying Officer P. Brown	(P B)	Dr. H. G. Pesel	(H P)
Miss E. F. Chawner, F.R.E.S.	(E F C)	R. Plant	(R P)
Miss H. Christy	(H C)	A. J. Ponchaud	(A P)
E. Cohen, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.	(E C)	Miss C. Popham, M.B.O.U.	(C P)
O. G. S. Crawford, B.A., F.S.A.	(O C)	B. Vesey-FitzGerald, F.L.S., F.R.E.S., F.C.S., M.B.O.U.	(V-F)
P. T. Edwards	(P E)	H. T. White, A.M.I.C.E.	(H W)
B. Gooch	(B G)	Mrs. W. P. White	(W W)
F. H. Haines (Mr. & Mrs.)	(F H)	R. Whitlock	(R W)
Mrs. A. E. Harrington	(A H)		
R. Haskell	(R H)		

Extracts have been used from *British Birds* (B.B.).

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