

Zoological Record for Derbyshire, 1915.

BY WILLIAM SHIPTON, M.B.

AVES.

WHEN I was first asked to take over Mr. Jourdain's annual ornithological report for the "Journal," I felt that I had neither the experience nor the opportunities to enable me to accept the task offered. These feelings still hold, but as time went on and no one else was able to undertake the "notes," I tentatively decided to do the best I could.

However, unexpected personal circumstances have arisen in this *Annus Mirabilis*, and I find myself writing this report in the Eastern Mediterranean, far from correspondents, books and critics, so I will without further apology or delay commence with the dates of arrival of the summer *Migrants* :—

<i>Wheatear</i> :	March 25th.	Male, Dove Holes (W. Shipton)
	March 26th.	Pair, Dovedale (W. M. Tomlinson).
	March 28th.	Pair, Thorpe (E. Grindey).
<i>Ring Ousel</i> :	April 7th.	Near Moss Hall (W.S.).
<i>Willow Warbler</i> :	April 17th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	April 23rd.	Melbourne (L. F. Coxon).
	April 24th.	Buxton (W.S.).
	April 17th.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
<i>Swallow</i> :	April 18th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	April 19th.	Buxton, a single bird, no more for several days (W.S.)
	April 21st.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Tree Pipit</i> :	April 24th.	Ambergate (L.F.C.).

<i>Sand Martin</i> :	April 22nd.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	April 24th.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
<i>House Martin</i> :	April 24th.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
	April 29th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	May 1st.	Buxton (W.S.).
<i>Landrail</i> :	April 23rd.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
	May 2nd.	Hognaston (E.G.).
	June 1st.	Buxton, fairly common this year. None heard in district in 1913, 1914 (W.S.)
<i>Sandpiper</i> :	April 24th.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
	April 26th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	May 2nd.	Buxton (W.S.).
<i>Cuckoo</i> :	April 28th.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
	April 28th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	April 29th.	Derby (L.F.C.).
	May 2nd.	Stanley Moor (W. L. Shipton).
<i>Yellow Wagtail</i> :	April 28th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	May 4th.	Fairfield (W.S.).
<i>Swift</i> :	May 1st.	Melbourne (L.F.C.).
	May 2nd.	Derby (L.F.C.).
	May 2nd.	Thorpe (E.G.).
	May 5th.	Buxton (W.S.).
<i>Greater Whitethroat</i> :	April 29th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Lesser</i> ,,	April 29th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Blackcap</i> :	May 1st.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Garden Warbler</i> :	May 1st.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Redstart</i> :	May 3rd.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Whinchat</i> :	May 4th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Spotted Flycatcher</i> :	May 6th.	Buxton (W. R. Bryden).
	May 8th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Sedge Warbler</i> :	May 5th.	Thorpe (E.G.).
<i>Turtle Dove</i> :	May 20th.	Dovedale (E.G.).

[None of the above records are remarkably early, with the exception of the date of arrival of the Spotted Flycatcher at Buxton on May 6th, and at Thorpe on May 8th. Referring to previous records I find that in 1911, one was said to have been seen by Mr. W. H. Hanbury, at Derby, on April 24th; an extraordinary date, which suggests the possibility of a mistake in identification. There is, however, nothing impossible in the record, for in that

year the first migrants were reported on April 14th in Dorset, and on the 20th in Westmorland. In 1912 the first Derbyshire record was on May 4th, at Mapleton, and in 1908 it was recorded from Buxton on May 6th. As a general rule, however, it is not seen, even in the south of the county, much before the middle of May. Unfortunately the statistics of the British Ornithologists' Committee are no longer available for comparison as their observations for a period of ten years have now come to an end.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.]

CLASSIFIED NOTES.

Hooded Crow, *Corvus c. cornix* L.—A pair nested in Dovedale and hatched out successfully. The nest was in a small fir about 16 feet from the ground (E.G.). As the Hooded Crow has never been recorded previously as breeding in the county, and only very exceptionally and sporadically in the midland and eastern counties of England, I wrote to Mr. Grindey and asked for further details. He tells me that after having previously seen the birds in the Dale, he watched one fly from a nest in a fir on May 23rd. On a second visit he repeatedly saw both birds and satisfied himself that they were both Hooded Crows. The young were also seen by him after they had left the nest. Mr. Grindey is inclined to think that this is not the first time that they have bred here. He shot one in the breeding season some years ago near the Dale. The Hooded Crow is by no means a common visitor even in winter to the west of the county, although considerable numbers pass down the Trent valley. As a breeding species it is not altogether to be welcomed, but in the wild and unpreserved county near the Dale is not likely to do much harm.—(F.C.R.J.).

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dryobates major anglicus* (Hart.)—These birds seem firmly established in one locality not far from Dovedale, where they have bred for about ten years past.—(E.G.).

Long-eared Owl, *Asio o. otus* (L.)—For the third year in succession this species has nested near Buxton in the same wood. In 1915, unfortunately, the eggs were stolen and the birds deserted. In the previous two years they hatched off successfully.—W.S.

Merlin, *Falco aesalon* Tunstall.—This unfortunate little falcon is most unjustly persecuted in Derbyshire. Because it nests on the grouse moors it is ruthlessly destroyed, although the harm it does is negligible, and its main food undoubtedly consists of Meadow Pipits and other small birds which haunt the moorlands. Is it too much to ask the owners and tenants of our grouse moors to give instructions to their keepers to spare this graceful and characteristic species? Last year two nests at least were destroyed in North Derbyshire, and the parent birds shot. Extermination must follow unless less stringent treatment is accorded to one of the most interesting and historic birds in the British List.—(W.S.).

Heron, *Ardea cinerea* L.—For the first time in living memory a pair of Herons brought off a brood in Dovedale. The nest was much smaller than usual and placed about 20 feet from the ground, on a down-sloping branch of a beech tree.—(E.G.).

Tufted Duck, *Nyroca fuligula* (L.)—Two pairs were seen in Monsal Dale on July 15th; no young.—(H. Balfour) A pair and seven young were seen at Okeover on August 10th.—(E.G.).

Great Crested Grebe, *Colymbus c. cristatus* L.—The bird reported on Chapel Reservoir last year stayed through the winter. This spring another bird appeared and it was hoped that they would breed. However, the water got very low in June and shrank to about a third of its

usual size. No nest or young birds were observed. The old birds have not been seen since August, and apparently have taken up their abode elsewhere. On August 17th, an almost mature specimen of this fine bird arrived in the Buxton gardens and remained about a fortnight, quite indifferent to the large number of persons in close proximity. When it first flew down, there was a great commotion among the ducks, which were much alarmed. However, things soon settled down, and for ten days or so the grebe could be seen daily in their company.—(W.S.).

Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* (L.)—A nest and four eggs were found in the Ashburne district on March 21st, a very early date.—(W. M. Tomlinson.).

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* (L.)—A bird of this species was met with on Middleton Moor late in March. It is an uncommon bird in the Bakewell district.—(W. Storrs-Fox.).

In conclusion I must thank the following gentlemen :—Messrs. Henry Balfour, W. R. Bryden, L. F. Coxon and the members of the Midland Railway Natural History Society, E. Grindey (for most interesting and voluminous notes without which I should have fared badly), the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain (without whose help I should never have ventured upon this task and who is supervising these notes), W. Storrs-Fox, and the Rev. W. M. Tomlinson.—(W.S.).

[The addition of a new breeding species to a county fauna is always a matter of interest, and though the characteristics of the Hooded Crow do not endear it to the game preserver, such a remarkable extension to its breeding range is sufficient to make the record for 1915 a notable one. Sporadic instances of breeding have been recorded from Norfolk and Suffolk on two or three occasions, probably in Essex, and also in Warwickshire in 1883 and 1894, while it has also bred occasionally in Lincoln. In the Isle of Man and from the border counties north-

ward it is of course a regular breeder. Herons have attempted to breed in Dovedale on several occasions, but never with success until the present year. As, however, they are still shot down by water bailiffs on the Dove, it is improbable that we shall see any great increase in their breeding stations.—F.C.R.J.]

NOTES ON COLLECTING LEPIDOPTERA
AT REPTON, 1915.

BY H. C. HAYWARD.

The mild weather experienced in February of this year was conducive to the early appearance of several of the spring Geometers. *Hybernia Marginaria* was observed as early as February 4th, *H. Leucophæaria* on February 9th, whilst *H. Rupricapraria* though not noticed before February 3rd was doubtless well out in January. It is noteworthy that the dark forms of *H. Marginaria*, appeared considerably later than the type. The first *var. Fuscata* was taken on March 10th, though a search had been made for it on most suitable evenings previously, and this experience confirms that of former years, *var. Fuscata* being often taken in fine condition when the typical forms are for the most part worn to rags. *Phigalia Pedaria*, usually common and often abundant in the woods here, was this year strangely scarce, not more than half a dozen examples being seen. Sallow bloom was abundant and proved fairly attractive, producing the usual *Taeniocampids*, and amongst them *Taeniocampa*