


Place and Field Names of Derbyshire which indicate the Fauna.

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[The following paper was read at a Winter Meeting of the Society, held on November 24th, 1880, and is printed at the request of the Council. It is necessary, however, to state that it forms part (chapter vi.) of a projected and partially completed book on Derbyshire Place and Field Names, which I have not touched since 1870. I think it best that it should appear just as it was then written, though riper judgment might lead me to various alterations and corrections in this and other chapters, if the work should ever be finished. The reason that it was for a time abandoned was the great difficulty and expense connected with inspecting *all* the parish maps of the county. Hitherto I have consulted only about one-third of the whole. "T. C." is an abbreviation for "Tithe Commutation Map."]

 HE names of wild animals, many of them original denizens of this country, and others introduced by the Romans and subsequent settlers, are still preserved in our place-names. Owing to her extensive forests, Derbyshire takes a foremost place among those counties which thus preserve the traces of their past and present fauna. There are very few instances to be found in names of Celtic origin; but the Teutonic nations appear to have been singularly fond of calling places after various animals, both wild and domestic.* A certain amount of caution is required in examining nomenclature of this

* See throughout this chapter Professor Heinrich Lèo, *Local Nomenclature of the Anglo-Saxons, as exhibited in the Codex Diplomaticus.*

description, as the Anglo-Saxons frequently named their chiefs from the cognizance on their shields; and, as a natural sequence, these chieftains gave their names to many of the places in which they subsequently settled, or where they achieved any special feat of arms. This caution is eminently necessary with words compounded of *wolf* or *bear*.

HORSLEY is the name of three places in the county, and it also occurs five or six times in the field names. It has been conjectured that all places having this prefix (some thirty in number) are derived from the semi-mythical chiefs, Hengist (stallion) and Horsa (mare), who are said to have landed in the year 449 on the coast of Kent, at the request of the British King Vortigern.* The colonists of the eastern counties were, however, Jutes, the kingdom of Mercia being subsequently formed by Teutonic tribes of a different origin. In all probability these names simply denote "horse pastures." Horses appear to have been natives of this country, and were known to the Celtic inhabitants.† They were by them used merely for warlike purposes; and even among the Anglo-Saxons were rarely used in connection with the tillage of the ground. In King Alfred's version of Orosius we read:—"Othare himself was among the first men of the land, though he had not more than twenty red cattle, twenty sheep, and twenty swine; *and what little he ploughed, he ploughed with horses.*" The fact of Alfred thus drawing special attention to this circumstance is a striking proof of the preference given in this country, even in the ninth century, to oxen in ploughing. A lighter breed was imported from France. When Hugh Capet solicited the hand of Edelswitha, the sister of Athelstan, he sent to that prince several "running horses,"‡ with full equipments. It is hence concluded that horse-racing was known and practised by the Anglo-Saxon nobles. Horses were largely imported by the Danes in their various piratical incursions. In the Forest Charter of Canute, granted at

* Bede *Ecc. Hist.*, c. xv. ; *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, ann. 449.

† Whittaker, *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 63.

‡ *Equos Cursores*, *Malmshury de Gest. Reg. Angl.*, lib. ii. cap. 6.

the Parliament held at Winchester, 1016, wild horses and cows were exempted from that class of animals, technically termed "beasts of the forest," whose capture was attended with such fearful penalties.* There can be no reasonable doubt that the forests of the Peak and the lowlands of Derbyshire were the resort of herds of wild horses or ponies up to the time of the Norman invasion. RADBURN is the brook which can be ridden over, from *rad*, a riding, a being on horseback,† whilst RADDOCK (T.C., Castleton) probably denotes "the oak by the bridle-road."

The ass was introduced into this country by the Romans, and there is no trace of it to be found in our local nomenclature. The mule, however, if Domesday Book be correct, is commemorated at MILFORD. In the Survey it is spelt *Muleford*, and this can scarcely have been an error of the Norman Scribes.‡ Milford was an important ford on a hitherto untraced Roman cross road leading to the lead mines of Wirksworth. In the Saxon charters, the mule gives the prefix to no less than seventeen place-names.

Wild cattle were indigenous to the island, and a variety of breeds distinguished by their colour were known at an early date. They were domesticated by the Britons, and formed the most important item of their property.§ In many of the unenclosed

* Percival Lewis, *Forests and Forest Laws*, p. 85.

† Two other derivations are possible. Firstly, from the Welsh *rhedyn*, a fern; Charnock interprets Radford and Radnor as "fern way" and "fern land." Secondly, from *red*, the colour red; but this seems improbable, as the sixteen names with this prefix, which are mentioned in Edmunds' *Names and Places*, are all upon red sandstone formation.

‡ *Codex Diplomaticus*, vol. iii. p. 37.

§ Cattle, the first wealth of mankind, were probably in most countries the first money; that is to say, commodities were valued at so many cattle, and cattle were commonly given in exchange for all other things. When metal money, therefore, was first introduced, it was looked upon merely as a substitute for cattle, and hence in some languages the terms expressive of both were nearly synonymous. Thus *pecus*, cattle, is the origin of the Latin *pecunia*, money, and of our English *pecuniary*. Mulct, a fine or pecuniary penalty, is a translation of the Latin *multa*, an ancient Roman law-term for a fine. The Roman antiquaries have themselves told us that its primary signification was a ram, or sheep. It is remarkable that the original word still survives, with its original signification, in the Celtic dialects of Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, in which it respectively takes the forms of *mollt*, *molt*, and *mult*. Hence, in fact, come the French *mouton*, and the English *multon*.

Grant, *Origin and Descent of the Gael*, p. 145.

parts of England whole herds remained unreclaimed till even the close of the seventeenth century—notably in the New Forest. The names of COWLEY, OXHAY, BULHAY, speak of cattle in enclosures, whilst COWDALE, COWLOW, and OXLOW seem to tell us of the districts over which they passed comparatively unmolested.* CALVER (Bakewell) takes its name from *cealf*, a calf.

Sheep, too, are brought to mind at SHIPLEY, SHEEPHE, and SHEEP LEY; the ram at RAMSLEY and RAMSHAW, and, in the older form of tup, at TUPTON and TUPLOW. MOULDRIDGE (near Winster), and perhaps MOUSELOW, form one of the few instances of a Celtic word, denoting an animal, being used in the formation of a place-name. The derivative is the Welsh word *mollt*, a wether sheep.†

Traces of the goat are to be found at GOTHERAGE, GOTHAM, GOAT'S CLIFF, and GOATFORD (T.C., Pilsley); also probably at TICKENHALL, from *ticcen*, a kid, its modern form being preserved in KID TOR, and KID CLOSE (T.C., Glossop). Goats were formerly very numerous throughout the island. They were domesticated and kept in flocks in the same way as sheep. Among the endowments of Beauchief Abbey, recited in a charter of Henry IV., we find a grant of pasture land for forty cows and two bulls, ten mares, eighty sheep, thirty swine, and forty goats.‡ From so large a proportion of goats, it may be presumed that they were very numerous in this part of the kingdom. Among the crags and precipices of the Peak they would find an easy sustenance, and prove invaluable to the hardy mountaineer.§

Derbyshire gives two examples of place-names derived from swine—viz., SWINEHAM and SWINELEE. The wild boar (WILD-BOAR CLOUGH, in Peak Forest) was the original progenitor of the

* To these names some would add Beeley, Beelow, and Bee Holme, as derived from *bench*, a cow, a beeve. See Bannister's *Glossary of Cornish Names*. These names, however, will be again mentioned in this chapter.

† Bannister, *Glossary of Cornish Names*, p. 97.

‡ Glover, *Hist. of Derbyshire*, vol. i. p. 132.

§ It is possible that HAVER CROFT (T.C., Killamarsh) points to the Cymric word, *gafr*, a goat. Another derivation, however, is from the Anglo-Saxon *efe*, the brink or edge.

various species of pigs which now abound. The hunting of the wild boar for several centuries after the Norman Conquest was one of the chief amusements of the nobility. It was strictly preserved in the Royal forests, and in the Charter of Canute, to which allusion has already been made, it is included among "the beasts of the forest." As late as the reign of King John, these animals were inhabitants of Derbyshire in their wild state, for at that time a grant was made to the Monastery of Lenton of tithe of the game taken in the counties of Derby and Nottingham—viz., of stags and hinds, bucks and does, and of *boars and swine*.^{*} That the Celtic inhabitants had domesticated the hog is proved from the presence on some of their coins of a sow and her litter, with an attendant or swineherd standing by her. The Anglo-Saxons placed the utmost value on their herds of swine. They were careful to preserve their vast woods, not so much for the sake of the timber, as for the acorns and beech mast. The expressions used in the "Domesday" Survey, such as—*silva infructuosa—inutilis—ad ignem tantum—nil reddens—sine pasnagio*, etc., etc., which frequently occur, prove that timber was chiefly valued when affording sustenance for the swine. The value of the tree was even estimated by the number of hogs that could lie under its shade.[†] In the ninth section of the celebrated Charter of Henry III., for the Freedom of the Forests, it is laid down that, "Every freeman may take agistments in his own wood, within our forests, at his own pleasure, and shall take his pannage, and may drive his swine freely to agist them in their own woods, and if the swine tarry one night it is no offence." [‡]

^{*} Dugdale, *Monast. Angl.*, vol. i. p. 648.

[†] In the laws of Ina we read :—"Si quis autem detruncet autem arborem sub qua triginta porci consistere queunt, et fiat convictus, solvat sexaginta solidos." See also Nichols, *Hist. Leic.*, vol. i. p. 43. Ellis, *Introduction to Domesday Book*, vol. i. p. 99.

[‡] Percival Lewis, *Forests and Forest Laws*, p. 149. Of the meaning of the words *agistment* and *pannage* and of their etymology there is some doubt. Cowel, in his *Law Dictionary*, derives *agistment* from *gist*, a bed, a harbour, and hence taking in and feeding. Minshæus says, "Agistment is the Common of herbage of any kind of land or woods, and Pannage is most properly the mast of the woods." Hence Skinner's derivation in his *Etymologicum* of *pannage*, otherwise *pasnagium*, as being derived from Lat. *pastus*, is probably correct. See also *The Modern World of Words*, 1696.

The dog or hound (*hund*) is found in HUNDOW, near Dronfield, and HOUNSFIELD (T.C., North Wingfield), but names with this prefix rarely occur, and then only in localities where forests have formerly existed. Considerable attention was paid to the breeding of dogs for the purposes of the chase by the ancient Britons. This was an absolute necessity, for venison constituted the great portion of their animal food. These dogs were largely exported to the Continent by the Romans, on account of their admirable capacities for hunting.* When Athelstan defeated the Welsh king, Constantine, after imposing upon him a considerable tribute of money and cattle, he further enjoined him to supply a certain number of hawks and *sharp-scented dogs*, fit for the hunting of wild beasts.†

These dogs were probably greyhounds, a breed which was held in such estimation that a law of Canute prohibits their being kept by any one under the rank of a noble.

The names of CATCLIFFE, CATHOLE, CATGREAVE (T.C., Hazelwood), and CATS' TOR, probably refer either to the wild cat, or the marten, which are more plainly mentioned in WILD CAT COTE and MARTINSIDE. These animals, as well as a third and distinct species, the Polecat (*Viverra Putorius*), used all to abound in the Peak district. The Marten (*Viverra Foina*) has been found wild within the last forty years. The domestic cat, which is merely a reclaimed wild cat (*Felis catus*), would be much valued by the earliest inhabitants of Derbyshire. The Celts in this island do not appear to have shared the dislike and superstition with which this animal was regarded by other Pagan nations. In the old Welsh laws a kitten, from its birth till it could see, is valued at 1d. ; from that time till it began to mouse at 2d. ; after it had killed mice at 4d., which was the same price that was then given for a calf or weaned pig. If, however, upon purchase she did not prove a mouser, or caterwauled once a month, 3d. was to be refunded !! Some writers have conjectured that the first tame cats were brought here from Cyprus by the foreign tin merchants,

* Strabo, lib. iv. Cæsar, *Bel. Gal.*, lib. vi.

† Malmsbury, *de Gest. Reg. Angl.*, lib ii. cap. 6.

and this would help to account for their great value. In old books of hunting, wild cats and martens are included in the beasts of the chase of the second class, and are said to afford "greate dysporte."* Traces of the hare are to be found in HAREHILL, and HAREFIELD. The hare was found here by the Romans, and Cæsar specially mentions that the inhabitants regarded it as a sacred animal, and used it for the purposes of divination. Notwithstanding its great abundance, it was not used as an article of food till the time of the Saxons. Their chieftains were in the habit of preserving them in warrens near their residence. In the Domesday Survey mention is made of a "wareнна leporum" in the county of Lincoln. In the statutes of Canute the hare is classed with the wild goat and the coney as beasts of the forest which were liable to be answered for.† In the parish maps in the neighbourhood of Chesterfield, Heanor, Belper, and elsewhere in the county, several of the closes or fields are distinguished by the name HARRY. This has nothing to do with the hare, but is derived from the word *harra* or *hearra*, a lord; thus pointing out the particular closes which were peculiarly the property or in the occupation of the lord of the manor.

CONEYCROFT (T.C., Norton) seems to denote the presence of the rabbit, though it may, like Coney Green, denote the property of a king. Strange as it may seem, the rabbit is not a native, but was imported by the Romans. It originally came from Spain, and only reached Italy during the reign of Augustus. It was called *Kunigl* by the Britons after the Latin *cuniculus*.‡

BADGERLANE and BADGERMEADOW (Stretton) obviously point to the presence of the badger. It appears, too, in the contracted form of BAGSHAW, BAGTHORPE, and BAG LANE, the last being a narrow street in what is now one of the most densely populated

* Glover's *Hist. Derbyshire*, vol. i. p. 136-7. Fosbroke, *Antiquities*, vol. ii. p. 719. Strutt, *Sports and Pastimes*, Book i. chap. 14.

† Ellis, *Introduction to Domesday Book*, vol. i. p. 116. Cæsar, *Bel. Gal.*, lib. v. cap. 12. Various other conjectures have been made as to the meaning of the prefix *har* or *hare*, but much the simplest way is to derive it from *hara*, the hare. See *Notes and Queries*, 26th Nov., 1870.

‡ Ellis, *Introduction to Dom. Book*, vol. ii. p. 87. Vide "Coneygreen" in chap. on Danish Names.

parts of Derby.* From *broch*, the badger, BROCKWOOD (Little Eaton), BROCK HOLES, BROCKLEY, BROCKHURST, and CHURCH BROUGHTON (if the spelling in the Domesday Survey as BROCTUNE is correct), are also derived. This animal is still occasionally met with in the woods of Derbyshire. It was reckoned by the Anglo-Saxons in the second class of "beasts of the chase."

The fox, which is common to every quarter of Europe, is not forgotten in this country's nomenclature. Besides FOXHOLES, FOXLOW, and FOXENWOOD,† there is also TADSOR, near Swadlincote, whose prefix is derived from the old English word for a fox, *Tod*. The Anglo-Saxon youth were very expert in the slaughter of this vermin, but they would have much shocked the feelings of our modern lovers of "sport," as they were in the habit of catching them in nets, instead of worrying them with dogs. That this animal was a perfect pest to the farmer is proved from the numerous entries throughout the county in the old parish accounts of the rewards given for their slaughter.

The caution expressed at the commencement of this chapter as to place-names compounded of *Wulf* not signifying of necessity a direct allusion to the animal itself, need hardly apply to the two names of this description, WOLFSCOTE and WOLFHOPE, found in Derbyshire. In the first place, had they been chieftain's titles they would not probably have been found with such suffixes as *cote* and *hope*; and, secondly, wolves did abound largely in the Peak, and it would have been strange if these traces of their existence had not been found in that district. That all the wolves in this country were destroyed in the time of Edgar is one of that numerous class of historical delusions so unhappily fostered by those wretched compilations—Juvenile Histories of England. Here are the words of William of Malmsbury:—"He, Edgar,

* Other interpretations are given of the prefix *bag*. Edmunds conjectures that it is sometimes another form of *pig* or *pic*, a Celtic word meaning the top or peak of a thing; and sometimes from *Bega*, the owner's name.

† Edmunds interprets the prefix *fox* as *folces*, belonging to the people. This seems somewhat far-fetched when fox is an original Anglo-Saxon word. See Bosworth, *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*.

imposed a tribute upon the King of Wales exacting yearly three hundred wolves. This tribute continued to be paid for three years, but ceased upon the fourth, *because it was said that he could not find any more.** This qualified statement as to their extinction clearly only relates to Wales, for the king of that country would never be allowed to hunt them out of his own territory. It was not until Edward II.'s time that they ceased to infest the Peak Forest. Their final destruction was greatly hastened by the Royal appointment of a family to certain lands near Wormhill on condition of "taking the wolves in the forest." Hence this family obtained the hereditary title of Wulfehunt. Similar tenures were not uncommon in many other counties. Although Derbyshire was fortunate enough to have the wolves extirpated in Edward II.'s time, the neighbouring county of Nottinghamshire was troubled with them as late as the eleventh year of Henry VI. In Ireland, too, they remained till the commencement of the sixteenth century.†

Another extinct animal, *bera*, the bear, still maintains its hold upon the place-names of the county. It is found at BEARWARD-COTE (Mickleover), and also perhaps at BEARLEY (Ballidon). From the old Norse diminutive *bassi*, a little bear, comes BASSETWOOD (Tissington).‡ In the time of the Anglo-Saxons bears were first kept for the purposes of diversion or baiting. The officer in charge was called the "bearward;" hence Bearwardcote points out his place of residence. Lysons, in his *History of Derbyshire*, writing in 1810, remarks, "Bulls and badgers, and sometimes bears, are baited at these wakes, and we were informed that the persons who kept the bears for that purpose are still known here by the ancient appellation of Bearward." Plutarch mentions these animals being brought over

* Malmsbury, *de Gest Reg. Angl.*, lib. ii. cap. 8.

† Whittaker, *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 97. Gough, *Camden's Britannia*, vol. ii. p. 314. Strutt, *Sports and Pastimes*, p. 19.

‡ Bannister, *Glossary of Cornish Names*. According to Ferguson's *Teutonic Name System*, Berrill is another diminutive of bear. It seems, however, more probable, when it is a place-name, to derive it from the Anglo-Saxon *byrgels*, a burial place. There is a BERRILLS BARN near Church Broughton.

to Rome from Britain. Bears were at one time numerous in Portugal, Spain, and Britain. They continued in the North of England, including the Peak District, and in some parts of Wales, as late as the eighth century, and in the South up to the Conquest. They are also mentioned in the *Penitential of Egbert*. Domesday Book says that the town of Norwich, in the time of Edward the Confessor, had to furnish to the king annually one bear for baiting.*

Of the deer, as might be expected, we find many traces; such are, HARTSHORN, HARTHILL (2), HARTSHAY (2), HINDLOW, DOEHILL, DOEWOOD, DOE LEA, and ROECARR, as well as the less obvious forms in DOWEL (Buxton), and DAWCANKS (T.C., Walton). The red deer, or hart, now only found wild on the Forest of Exmoor, was formerly common in all the vast forests of this country. After the Norman Conquest they inhabited the Peak Forest, though sometimes they wandered so low as Ashford. Most of these deer perished in the great snow at the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, but some few lingered on till a later period. The prefixes, *hart* and *hind*, are indicative of this species, whilst *doe* and *roe* refer probably to the roebuck. The roebuck, though only now met with in some parts of Scotland, used to be common throughout the range of hills extending from Derbyshire into Scotland, and also in the mountainous parts of Wales. The fallow deer of our parks is not indigenous to this country, and was first introduced in the time of James the First. The laws that were passed for the preservation of these animals are almost incredible. By the 24th section of the Forest Charter of Canute, it was enacted that "if a freeman shall by coursing or hunting force a royal beast to pant and be out of breath he shall be imprisoned for a year. if an unfreeman, for two years, or if a bondman he shall be outlawed." By the laws made immediately after the Conquest for the killing of deer within a forest, the penalty was imprisonment for a year, together with a fine at the

* Whitaker, *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 97. Pennant, *British Zoology*, vol. i. p. 90. Lysons, *Hist. of Derbyshire*, p. ccxli.

king's pleasure. By the statute of Henry VII. it was made felony in some cases—for instance: "A hart which hath been wild by nature, and made tame, and hath at his neck a little collar of leather, or any other notorious sign, and he doth go into the forest, and returneth again to the house at his pleasure, and is taken, killed by night or in any other secret manner, that is felony by the common law, and for that a man shall lose life and member." *

Remains of the bones of the elk (*cervus megaceros*) have been found in the Derbyshire barrows. Its horns, also, have been dug up, of a huge size, in the neighbouring bogs of Lancashire. Leigh mentions an instance in which the distance between the tips was eleven feet. ELK, or ELLOCK LOW, near Hartington, points out the place where the hunter-chief was interred, together with the trophies of his prowess. *Elch* is the Anglo-Saxon name of this animal, and both Minshæus and Skinner suppose it to be identical with the *alces* of Plato, which, from its immense vigour, they derive from the Greek *alce*, strength. There is satisfactory proof that the elk once penetrated as far south as the Pyrenees, though it is now extinct throughout Europe. Giraldus Cambrensis (*temp.* Henry II.) speaks of them being then extant in Ireland. †

The same writer in his *Itinerary through Wales* mentions beavers as existing in that country, though then only to be found in the river Teivi. He gives, with all gravity, a marvellous account of their sagacity when being hunted. They are still occasionally met with in Norway; and Owen, in his Welsh dictionary (1801), says that the beaver has been seen in Carnarvonshire within the memory of man. This latter statement, however, is very problematical. The beaver (*befer*) was at one time common in many of our rivers and swamps. Beverley in Yorkshire, Beverston in Gloucestershire, and Bevercoates and Beverlee in

* Glover, *Hist. of Derbyshire*, vol. i. p. 132. Percival Lewis, *Forests and Forest Laws*, p. 85. Crompton, *Jurisdiction des courts de la Majestie de la Roygne*, Londini, 1594, fol. 167.

† Bateman, *Ten Years' Digging in Celtic and Saxon Grave Mounds*. Leigh, *Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the Peak*, p. 62. Whitaker, *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 93.

Nottinghamshire, are some of its vestiges which are to be found in our place-names. BEVERLEE, near Eastwood, is so close upon the borders of Derbyshire, that that county may fairly be claimed as a former habitat of this animal.*

The otter, still found in both the Trent and Derwent, is commemorated in OTTERDALE, OTTERHOLES, and the ODDEBROOK at Derby. The hunting of this animal is first mentioned in the year 1158, but its position among the animals of the chase is anything but honourable, being ranked in the third class with "beasts of a stinking flight."†

Of the general wildness of Derbyshire, and of the numerous animals with which it was infested, even after the invasion of the Danes, proof is found in the name of the county town, Derby, which simply signifies "the abode among the wild animals" (*deora*).‡ The same prefix is found, in a corrupted form, in DURWOOD TOR, and DURRANT GREEN (Chesterfield).

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The BIRDS commemorated in the place-names of Derbyshire, though not quite so numerous as those connected with the quadrupeds, are equally interesting. The names of large birds,

* Giraldus Cambrensis, *Topography of Ireland*, cap. x. *Itinerary through Wales*, cap. iii. Pennant, *British Zoology*, vol i. p. 98. The place-names of Wales abound with combinations of *francon*. Thus Nant Francon means "the beaver's dale," Sarn Yr Afrange "the beaver's dam," and Llyn Yr Afrange "the beaver's foot."

† Fosbrook, *Antiquities*, vol. ii. p. 728. It is perhaps incorrect to mention Oddebrook as indicating the otter, though the Danish form is *odder*. It may simply mean "the water brook," from the Sanscrit *ud*, water; similar forms being found in the Greek *hudor*, the Slavonic *woda*, &c., &c. Besides three streams in England called respectively the Odder, Woder, and Adur, we find the Oder in Germany. The name of the animal itself is evidently derived from the element it frequents; for, as Minshæus says, "it liveth as well in the water as the land, like the Bever beast." See Ferguson, *River Names of Europe*, p. 35.

‡ The Saxon name for this town was Northworige, but on its being captured by the Danes it was renamed Deoraby, or Derby. There can be but little doubt that the derivation given in the text is the correct one, though there was formerly no little dispute upon the point, some deriving the prefix from the Celtic *dur*, water. The most amusing derivation I have come across is to be found in Bullet's *Memories sur la Langue Celtique*, the component parts being "Der, riviere, and *bi*, deux," from its situation, as he says, on the confluence of two rivers.

especially those of prey, are the most common everywhere; whilst small birds, living on the wing, occur less frequently.

EAGLESTONE FLAT (Barlow), EAGLE TOR, and HAWKSLOW speak for themselves; but there is further proof of the former presence of the eagle in EARNCROFT and EARN HILL (T.C., Glossop), *earn* being Anglo-Saxon for the king of birds. The golden eagle has been met with not unfrequently in this county even during the present century. In 1823, a full grown specimen was shot near Cromford, and a few years later two others were captured on Kinder-Scout. Any details with regard to the practise of hawking would be out of place in these pages; but it may be mentioned as a curious fact that the Romans learnt the art from the Celtic inhabitants of this island. The Thracians and the Britons were at one time the only followers of this sport. It was practised with great assiduity by the Anglo-Saxon nobility, and presents of hawks and falcons were often interchanged between the petty kings and princes. A well-trained hawk was of great value, ten pounds being mentioned as the price in the Domesday Survey, when money was worth about thirty times its present value; whilst a hawk's aery—*aira accipitris*—is returned among the most valuable articles of property. The martyrdom of St. Edmund, and its connection with his love of hawking, is romantically told in verse by John Lydgate, the monk of Bury. For a gentleman to part with his hawk, or to lose it, was considered the greatest disgrace. The killing of his only hawk by the impoverished young lover to provide a dinner for his mistress, forms one of the most exquisite tales in the *Decameron*.*

RANTOR, near Wirksworth, is a corruption of Raven Tor. There is another RAVEN TOR, near Ashover; also RAVENSLIFFE, RAVEN'S NEST (Ashover), a farm, and RAVENSTONE in other parts of the county. This bird was the ensign of the Danes. OWLCOTES and OWLER CAR obviously refer to the bird of night; the latter of these names is sometimes spelt Howler; but if this is

Pliny, lib. x. cap. 8. Whitaker, *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 100. Ellis, *Introduction to Dom. Book*, vol. i. p. 340. Boccacio, *Decameron*, Day v. novel 9.

correct it need not disconnect it with the bird in question, for both owl and howl are merely past participles of the verb *gyllan*, *ululare*, to yell.*

CROWDEN and CROWCHINE are equally significant of the crow. The heron or hern serves as a suffix to three names in the Peak district, HERNSTONE, HERNSIDE, and HERNMORE; it is also found in HERNE CLOSE (T.C., Calow). This bird is occasionally seen in the county. Another species of the same order, now extinct throughout the country, is the crane. This bird was a favourite dish of the Anglo-Saxons. It was known in Kent till the ninth century; it abounded in the mountains of Derbyshire and Wales during the tenth century, and as late as the seventeenth it was met with in the fens of Lincoln and in parts of Scotland. YELDERSLEY, YELT FARM (Uttoxeter), and YELD PLACE (Oak-erthorpe) are derived from *yeldo*, the crane.†

Swanwick, as was remarked in a previous chapter, is probably connected with Sweyn, the Danish King; but there is no reason to doubt that SWANBANKS (T.C., Stretton), the name of some fields on the verge of the Amber, and SWAN CLOSE (T.C., Kniveton), refer to the bird itself. No bird was preserved with greater strictness in the middle ages. The simple stealing of an egg was punished by imprisonment for a year and a day, in addition to a fine at the king's pleasure. In consequence of this great severity there was scarcely a brook of any reasonable dimensions that was not tenanted by swans. Ancient records speak of as many as thirty-one on a single manor.‡

On the left bank of the Derwent, just above Milford, is a mill that is still called HOPPING MILL, and several of the adjacent fields HOPPING meadows. The name Swanley, by which the fields on the opposite bank are designated, at once assists us to the right derivation. "Swan-hopping" was the old name for the annual custom of marking these birds on their bills, in order that those belonging to the king, and to the respective lords of the manor,

* Horne Tooke, *Diversions of Purley*, vol. ii. p. 263.

† Whitaker, *Hist. of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 81.

‡ Strutt, *Sports and Pastimes*, p. 36, etc.

might be distinguished. This operation was attended with a great deal of difficulty and excitement; and on many rivers the day in question was kept as one of the chief annual holidays of the neighbourhood. From the earliest times there seems to have been a weir across the Derwent at Milford, and this spot would naturally be chosen, as there would be an exit for the excited swans in only one direction. Strong crooks attached to long poles, called "swan-hooks," were used to assist in their capture. The term "swan-hopping" is a corruption of "swan-upping," that is, the taking *up* of the swans to mark them. Various other vague derivations have been suggested, but that this is the correct one is abundantly proved from a rare quarto tract printed in 1570. In the eighth "order" it says that, "It is ordained that every Owner that hath any Swans, shall pay every yeare for every Swan-Mark, foure pence to the Master of the Game for his fee, and his dinner and supper free on the *Upping* daies." By the fourteenth order, "it is ordained that no person take *up* any Cignet unmarked, but that the King's Swan-herd be present;" and in the fifteenth we read "that the Swan-herds of the Duchie of Lancaster shall *up* no Swannes, or make any sale of them, without the Master of the Swannes be present." From this it is evident that the term * "upping" came to signify the actual marking of these birds.

COCKSHEAD, COCKWELL, COCKBRIDGE, and COCKSHUT, together with HENMORE, HENSHAW (T.C., Stretton), HENCLOSE, and HENLOW, appear at first sight to refer without any doubt to domestic poultry. Certain etymologists would, however, make both these suffixes to be of Celtic origin, from *coch*, red, and from *hen*, old; but when the terminations of the names just enumerated are taken into consideration, it would hardly be warrantable to claim their Celtic descent except in the case of HENLOW. The prefix *hen* is of frequent occurrence in Cornwall, Hereford, and Monmouth; but in these cases it is

* "The Order for Swannes, both by the Statutes, & by the Anncient orders and customes used within the Realme of England." This is quoted in full by Hone in the *Every Day Book*.—*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1793.

found in connection with Cymric terminations. Other authorities suggest that *hen* is a contracted form of *hean*, high; whilst *cock* signifies little. This latter interpretation is probably true of COCKSHUT (Dronfield), which would thus mean the little shoot, or spur from a hill. When, however, it is known that the "cock" and "hen" of our farm yards are the selfsame words that were used by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, a people who were peculiarly given to the breeding of poultry, it does seem strange that so many etymologists are not contented with this simple derivation, especially as this interpretation is the one sanctioned by the learned Dr. Heinrich.* This bird was the first to be reclaimed from its native wildness in all countries where it abounds. Cæsar says that it was held sacred by the Britons, and only used for purposes of sacrifice and divination.† The religion of the Druids was truly one of abstinence, for they scrupulously avoided many of the most obvious forms of food which nature put in their way, such as the hare, poultry of several sorts, and every description of fish. The comparatively modern name of COCKPIT HILL, in Derby, tells of the days when that barbarous sport of cock-fighting was in vogue. This custom is of great antiquity, and is said to have been originated by Themistocles; certain it is that cock-fighting is portrayed on several of the Greek coins. Nor is the use of the artificial spur an invention of recent date, for cock-spurs made of brass are mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon Synod.‡

CUCKOO STONE (Matlock) must be a comparatively modern name. In Anglo-Saxon this bird was called *geac*. Cuckoo in English is clearly a mere imitation of the cry, and the same reason for giving it this name occurred to several other nations. Thus in Sanskrit we have *kokila*, in Greek *kokkyx*, in Latin *cuculus*. Words that are truly onomatopœtic are very rare.§ The cuckoo was esteemed a great delicacy by the Britons, especially before it was

* See the *Local Etymologies* of Edmunds, Isaac Taylor, and Charnock; also Bosworth, *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*.

† Cæsar, *de Bel. Gal.* lib. v. cap. 12.

‡ Fosbrook, *Antiquities*, vol. ii. p. 573.

§ Max Müller, *Science of Language*, First Series, p. 364.

fledged: they are still eaten in Italy. CUCKOLD HAVEN (Eckington) speaks of the habits of this bird. The word cuckold was one of the earliest bones of contention among our early etymologists. It is, however, now well established that the word is derived from the bird cuckoo, and that the Romans used it as a term of reproach in a similar sense is equally clear from the line in Plautus' *Asinaria*, Act v. sc. 2:—

“*Ac etiam cubat cuculus, surge, Amator, idoneum.*” *

An old mill in Derby, at the bottom of St. Mary's Gate, was formerly called CUCK-STOOL MILL. The cucking stool was used for the purpose of ducking in the water women of improper character or notorious scolds. It is a practice of considerable antiquity, being mentioned in the Domesday Survey. Minshæus says that the word is a corruption of *Ducking Stool*. Skinner imagines it to be a corrupted form of *Choaking Stool*, whilst Brand, though diffuse upon the subject, makes no further suggestion. As, however, it was originally used for those who made cuckolds of their husbands, we have not much hesitation in connecting it primarily with the cuckoo.

WRENHAY, WOODPECKER HILL, and OUZELDEN tell of the birds of smaller flight. LENTA (T.C., North Wingfield), a corruption of Lenthill, may be derived from *lin*, the flax finch or linnet.

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REPTILES.—WORMSEY and WORMHILL are from *worm*, a word which is cognate with the Norse *ormr*, a serpent. It seems to have meant almost any kind of reptile, and may in these instances have a reference to some wondrous legend of serpent or of dragon, or to the more probable, though more prosaic, common earthworm. The prefix of DRAKELOW, *draca*, a dragon, refers also in all probability to legendary fable. Synonymous with Wormhill is WIBBENHILL (T.C., Tissington), from *wibbe*, *wibban*, a worm.

* The curious reader may consult on this point the glossaries of Du Cange, Spelman, and Skinner, together with the very lengthy notes in Brand's *Popular Antiquities*. Chaucer gives a very amusing but bantering etymology in the *Remedy of Love*.

HADDON and HADFIELD show a corrupted form of *attor*, the adder. Here it may very likely have been the cognisance, and afterwards the name, of some neighbouring chieftain. FROGGATT can scarcely refer to anything but the frog, whilst in the parish maps Frog closes, crofts, and fields are not infrequent. TOADHOLE and TOADPOOL are often similarly used. In some cases toadhole may allude to the basaltic strata known as "toadstone."

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The INSECTS commemorated in place-names are naturally very few. That insect, however, which, next to the silkworm, is of the most importance to man, is not forgotten in Derbyshire. We find BEELEY, BEELow, and BEEHOLME. Wild honey is one of the chief articles of food that seems instinctively to suggest itself to the savage mind. But, previous to the advent of the Romans, the Britons had learnt the art of confining these insects in hives. One of these hives was dug up some years ago in Chat Moss. It was made of willow wood, was two yards and a half high, and contained four stories. The Anglo-Saxons took great pains with the culture of the bee, both for the sake of the honey and the wax. The *beoh-ceorl*, or beekeeper, was an important person on a Saxon farm. We not unfrequently read of hives of bees being stolen, and Du Cange mentions the apparently ridiculous custom of *pounding* a trespassing swarm! By an Act of Edward IV. the officers of justice were forbidden to distrain upon a cow with its calf, a sheep with its lamb, a mare with its foal, or upon a hive of bees with a swarm. In an injunction made by Henry VIII. to the "Regardors of the Forest of Shyrewood in the countie of Nott. against the coming of Thomas Earle of Rutland Chiefe Justice in Eyre of the said Forest" as to the various inquiries they were to institute, we find: "Also they must inquire of all honnye & waxe found in the said forest, or who of right ought to have it; that is to saye, the king or any other."*

* Du Cange, *Glossary* v. Arna. Whitaker, *Hist. of Manchester*. vol. i. p. 316. Crompton, *Jurisdiction des Courts de la Majestie de la Roygue*, Londini, 1594, fol. 152.

In the annual value of manors the produce of the bees was sometimes taken into account. Thus, according to Domesday Book, we find in Derbyshire the two manors of Darley and Parwich, which were respectively valued at forty shillings and two sextaries of honey, and at thirty-two pounds and six and a half sextaries of honey.

There seems to be only one other insect which can be traced in Derbyshire names—the weevil (*curculio granarius*) in its Anglo-Saxon form, *wifel*, is found in WYVER WOOD, near Belper.