

Zoological Record for Derbyshire, 1914.

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IN presenting the following somewhat imperfect record for 1914 for the county, I must request the indulgence of the readers of this *Journal* on the ground that it has been drawn up under difficulties, owing to the fact that since last June I have been resident at Appleton Rectory, near Abingdon, Berkshire, and, in consequence, have not had the usual opportunities for personal observation. It is with considerable regret that I am bringing this series to a close, as far as my own share is concerned, but I trust that the work may be taken up by others, and that at any rate the more important occurrences in vertebrate zoology may be recorded systematically in the *Journal*, as has been done for the past ten years. The insects, fortunately, can be left with confidence in the hands of Mr. H. C. Hayward.

BIRDS.

The number of observers who furnished notes on the arrival of migrants in the spring of 1914 was rather larger than usual, but by far the greater number hailed from the Dove

Valley, and it would add much to the interest of the records if only we could trace the routes by which these new arrivals distribute themselves over the county. The Ring Ouzel was first noted about five miles north of Derby on March 21st (L. F. Coxon), and one bird was noted at Engine Flat, near Dane Flat, Buxton, on April 11th (W. Shipton). Wheatears appeared at Longcliffe Hill, near Ballidon, on March 23rd (E. Grindey), and a pair were seen near Whitehall, Buxton, on April 4th (W. S.). Probably the male had arrived a few days earlier. The only note of the arrival of the Whinchat is from Thorpe, where three were noted on April 28th (E. G.), and the Redstart was noted in Dovedale by the same observer on the same day. The Common Whitethroat is recorded from the Derby district on April 13th (L. F. C.), and near Bretby on the 20th (Rev. W. M. Tomlinson), while it had reached Wyaston on the 24th (E. G.). A Grasshopper Warbler was heard "reeling" near Clifton, where it has not been noted for some eleven years, on May 14th (Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain). The Lesser Whitethroat was in song at Thorpe on May 1st (E. G.), at Burton on May 3rd (E. H. Tomlinson), and at Clifton on May 8th (F. C. R. J.), but a nest was found at Thorpe with young on May 21st, an early date for the district. Blackcaps had reached Thorpe on April 30th (E. G.), but the first seen near Clifton was on May 11th (F. J.). On the other hand, the Garden Warbler was heard at Clifton on April 15th (Capt. M. Henderson), the earliest date for the county of which I have any record, and was also noted at Wyaston on April 24th (E. G.). The Chiff Chaff was first heard near Clifton on March 31st, and again on April 2nd, but the next records from Derby (L. F. C.) and Ilam (E. G.) are ten days later. Willow Warblers appeared almost simultaneously near Clifton on April 10th (F. J.); Derby, April 11th (L. F. C.); Thorpe, April 12th (E. G.); and had reached Buxton on the 16th (W. Shipton). The only record of the arrival of the Wood Warbler comes from Milldale and Okeover, where they were heard on April 17th (E. G.). This date is

also remarkably early for the species. The Sedge Warbler was noted at Mapleton on April 30th (E. G.). Yellow Wagtails are first recorded from Clifton, where one was seen on April 12th (F. J.), and another on the 15th (M. H.), while on the 17th they had reached Okeover (E. G.), and on the 30th a dozen at least were seen on Fairfield Common, near Buxton (W. S.). This is somewhat remarkable, as the Yellow Wagtail is by no means numerous near Buxton. Tree Pipits reached the Dove Valley near Clifton first on April 9th, when one was seen, and on the next day the song was heard (F. J.). They had arrived at Thorpe on the 15th (E. G.), and were fairly general near Derby on the 22nd (L. F. C.). The first Spotted Flycatcher was seen at Clifton on May 13th (F. J.), at Burton on the 15th (E. H. Tomlinson), and at Thorpe on the 17th (E. G.). The first Swallow was seen on the River Dove at Hanging Bridge on April 6th (H. T. Godber), one at Parwich on the 7th (W. T. Mynors), and on the 10th others were noted at Mapleton (J. Atkinson) and Derby (L. F. C.), while on the next day others were seen at Mayfield (C. Bradbury) and Clifton (F. J.), on the 12th at Burton (E. H. T.) and Littleover (Mr. Chambers), and at Thorpe on the 13th (E. G.). Several were also reported on March 25th in the Darley meadows by Mr. Eaton, but they must have been stragglers in advance of the main body.

House Martins were first noted at Mayfield on April 11th, when one was seen (C. B.), and on the 13th others were recorded from Mapleton (J. A.) and near Derby (L. F. C.), and at Thorpe on the 14th (E. G.). The first flight of Sand Martins was seen at Norbury on April 2nd (F. J.), and others were seen at Mayfield on April 4th (C. B.), and Clifton (F. J.) and Mapleton on the 10th (J. A.). A single Swift was reported over the River Dove near Okeover on April 29th (M. H.), and Swifts were also seen at Burton on the same day (E. H. T.) and at Derby (Mr. Alldred), while two were seen at Ashburne on the 30th (M. H.), and others on May 1st at Thorpe (E. G.), May 2nd at Chapel-

en-le-Frith (W. B. Bunting), Mapleton (J. A.), and Ashburne (C. B.), but were not noted at Buxton till May 16th (W. S.). The Cuckoo was heard near Derby on April 9th (L. F. C.), at Church Broughton on the 14th, and Bradley on the 16th (Rev. W. M. Tomlinson), at Clifton on the 19th (M. H.), Thorpe and Burton on the 20th (E. G., E. H. T.), Mapleton on the 21st, while the note was heard near Buxton on the 23rd and the bird seen on the 25th (W. S.). Corncrakes were reported from near Derby on April 22nd (L. F. C.) and 29th at Mayfield (C. B.), and at Mapleton on May 18th (J. A.) and Thorpe on the 2nd (E. G.). The first Sandpiper was seen on the River Dove near Mapleton on April 10th, and two on the next day (J. A.); on the 14th they had reached Dovedale (E. G.), and on the 25th one was seen near the Cat and Fiddle, Buxton (W. S.).

The Turtle Dove was reported from Burton on May 10th (E. H. T.), and at Thorpe on the 16th (E. G.).

Several of the above records are extraordinarily early for the county, among which may be specially mentioned those of the Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, and Wood Warbler, and, in a lesser degree, Tree Pipit, Cuckoo, and Corncrake.

The notes with regard to the departure of our migratory and partially migrating species are lacking this year. A very large flock of Plovers was seen to leave Ashwood Dale, flying s.s.w., on August 27th (W. S.), and a Fieldfare was seen at Axe Edge on October 16th, and Redwing near Longnor on the 27th (W. S.).

Mr. W. Shipton reports that the weather at Buxton during the first half of May was very inclement, rainy, with strong winds, and cold. On the night of May 25th there was a very severe frost, which was general over a great part of England, and in the Dove Valley from 10 to 12 degrees were registered. Beeches, ashes, ivy, and ferns were cut back and blackened almost everywhere, and on the following night there was another frost, though less severe. In February, on the other hand,

the weather was extraordinarily mild, and rhododendrons were a wonderful sight at Snelston early in the month, being covered with blossom.

CLASSIFIED NOTES.

AVES.

Greenfinch, *Chloris c. chloris* (L.).—A clutch containing the somewhat unusual number of seven eggs was found by Mr. E. Grinley at Thorpe on May 25th.

Goldfinch, *Cardueis c. britannicus* (Hart).—A pair or two bred in the Clifton district in 1914.

Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla alba lugubris* Temm.—Though not strictly within our county limits, it seems worth while to record here that on January 6th a Wagtail's nest was found in a haystack at Calwich containing four eggs. The nest had been deserted, and the eggs had probably been laid in December, 1913 (or possibly November), but were still in fairly good condition, though incubation was well advanced. Curiously enough, a Blackbird, *Turdus m. merula*, was also nesting in the same district in December, 1913, but the nest, with two eggs, was destroyed in cutting the hedge. A Robin's nest, with eggs, was also found at Calwich on January 13th. It is certainly remarkable that all three instances of early breeding in different species should have taken place within a mile of one another.

Waxwing, *Ampelis garrulus* (L.).—Mr. W. M. Marsden writes to *British Birds*, vii., p. 293, that four of these birds were seen in the garden at Ridge Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith, on December 20th, 1913. Two, one of which was much exhausted, were seen on January 12th about two miles from the same place. A male was also sent to Mr. J. Drury from Burton-on-Trent on December 8th, 1913 (*Midland Railway Natural History Society's Report*, 1913-14, p. 18).

Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus t. trochilus* (L.).—While working the hillside at Thorpe Rough on May 21st in company with Mr. E. Grindey, we found a Willow Warbler sitting on eight eggs, an unusual number in this district, where the clutch is generally six or seven in number.

Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelus clarkei* Hart.—Was sitting on four eggs on March 3rd at Clifton.

Whinchat, *Saxicola r. rubetra* (L.).—This species rarely lays more than six eggs in Derbyshire, but a clutch of seven incubated eggs was found in the Ashburne district on June 4th.

Redbreast, *Dandalus rubecula melophilus* (Hart).—A nest with three pure white eggs was found at Snelston on May 28th, but, unfortunately, they attracted the attention of a Rook by their conspicuous lack of colour, and were destroyed.

Hedge Sparrow, *Prunella modularis occidentalis* (Hart).—Mr. G. Griffin writes from Clay Cross that on December 17th, 1913, his son caught a white Hedge Sparrow, the only variation in colour being a small patch of brown on the left shoulder. It had been seen for some months past near the Midland Station at Stretton. Mr. J. H. Shaw records a nest with young just hatched at Idridgehay on August 30th, 1914, a late date for this species.

Cuckoo, *Cuculus c. canorus* L.—A Cuckoo's egg was found in a Robin's nest with one egg near Clifton on May 24th. It was of an unusual type, having a decided greenish blue ground, and bears an extraordinary resemblance to an egg also found in a Robin's nest within a few hundred yards of the same place on May 19th, 1912, and was evidently laid by the same bird.

Little Owl, *Athene n. noctua* (Scop.).—Mr. C. G. Harrold writes to the *Field* (February 14th, 1914) that one was shot on February 6th on a pollard willow by the Derwent at Wilne, and that he picked up many pellets near the tree on the following day. In the same paper for February 21st is a further note on the same subject from Mr. W. Storrs-Fox, who states that this species has been established for at least

three years past within a ten-mile radius of the Wilne district, and that it is not regarded by the keepers as very rare there. Mr. J. Drury reports that about a dozen specimens were sent in from various parts of the county (*Midland Railway Natural History Society's Report*, 1913-14, p. 18).

Long-eared Owl, *Asio o. otus* (L.).—Evidently this species is much commoner than was supposed to be the case in the plantations of North Derbyshire. Mr. A. H. Doughty reports that a pair bred in 1913 in a wood near Castleton, and Mr. Shipton saw one while shooting near Buxton on October 26th.

Tawny Owl, *Strix a. aluco* L.—On May 14th, 1914, Mr. W. Storrs-Fox records a nest with two eggs of this species in a rabbit-hole in Manners Wood, near Bakewell.

Merlin, *Falco columbarius regulus* Pall.—One seen in the Goyt Valley on October 28th, 1914, chasing a Lark, at which it made half-a-dozen ineffectual stoops (W. Shipton). Although it still attempts to breed on the Kinderscout and Derwent moors, it is rarely seen near Buxton.

Sheldrake, *Tadorna tadorna* (L.).—One shot in Kedleston Park in October, 1913 (J. Drury).

Ruddy Sheldrake, *Casarca ferruginea* (Pall.).—One killed at Weston-on-Trent, April 18th, 1913 (J. Drury). This species is new to the county list.

Pochard, *Nyroca f. ferina* (L.).—Three seen on Chapel Reservoir on August 30th, 1914 (W. Shipton).

Golden Plover, *Charadrius apricarius* L.—A flock of about a hundred seen with Green Plovers at Allenton on March 1st, 1913 (T. Hey).

[Dunlin, *Erolia a. alpina* (L.).—Mr. C. H. Wells informs me that at the Station Hotel, Oughtibridge, Yorkshire, there are two Dunlins in a case, together with four young in down, which were obtained on the Midhope Moors, not many miles from the Derbyshire border.]

Curlew, *Numenius arquata* (L.).—One seen by Mr. R. Watkin flying over Burton Road, Derby, on November 3rd, 1914.

Great Crested Grebe, *Colymbus c. cristatus* L.—Mr. W. Shipton reports one as seen by him on Chapel Reservoir on August 30th, and again on September 6th. Although these fine birds have now established themselves on many of the ponds and lakes of middle and southern Derbyshire, they are still by no means common visitors to the extreme north of the county.

The Derby Museum has acquired a male Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia* (Gunner), which was shot on the Trent not far from Derby in 1905, and brought to Mr. A. S. Hutchinson.

Among those who have contributed to this record may be mentioned Messrs. J. Atkinson, C. Bradbury, L. F. Coxon, J. Drury, G. H. Dutton, E. Grindey, G. Griffin, J. Green, C. G. Harrold, Captain M. Henderson, Messrs. W. Shipton, W. Storrs-Fox, E. H. Tomlinson, the Rev. W. M. Tomlinson, Messrs. C. H. Wells, R. Watkin, and other members of the Midland Railway Natural History Society.

NOTES ON COLLECTING LEPIDOPTERA AT REPTON, 1914.

By H. C. HAYWARD.

THREE circumstances have tended to produce greater entomological energy with me this year: firstly, the presence of a colleague interested in the same pursuits;