

## Ornithological Record for Derbyshire, 1930-31.

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SINCE the resumption of this annual record some notes relating to previous years have been sent in which deserve a place here, although prior to the specified period. We therefore include them below.

1928.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius c. collurio*). Mr. R. Eglington reports the breeding of this species in the Cromford district this year. This represents the northern limit of the Red-backed Shrike in the Derwent valley. In the Dove valley it does not penetrate beyond Dovedale, but in the East of the county has bred as far north as Sutton Scarsdale.

Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*). A male seen near Matlock, 29 April (R.E.).

Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). The extension of the breeding range of the Curlew, referred to in our last report, is one of the most remarkable changes in the bird life of the county during the past century. Mr. E. Grindey has now furnished some further particulars which amplify those contributed by Messrs. C. B. Chambers and W. T. Mynors. As far back as 1926 a pair was met with evidently breeding at Stanton (Staffs.) and on April 10 1928 two pairs were met with in the same locality. Other pairs have also bred for several years on the hills behind Ilam (Staffs.).

1929.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*) and Goldfinch (*Carduelis c. britannica*). Both these species bred in the village of Thorpe this year (E.G.).

Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*). A pair noticed at Chatsworth, 30 April (R.E.).

Swallow (*Hirundo r. rustica*). An uniformly white individual was noticed repeatedly for some weeks before the autumn migration near Thorpe (E.G.).

Hobby (*Falco s. subbuteo*). One seen near the heronry at Ilam on 20 June (Staffs.) and again on 27 June at Thorpe. On the second occasion it was mobbed by Swallows when disturbed (E.G.).

Heron (*Ardea c. cinerea*). Twelve nests reported this year in the Ilam heronry (E.G.).

Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). The previous records of this species in the west were all over the Staffordshire border, but this year several pairs were found established on Parwich Moor, and also near Newhaven on heathery ground adjoining the Buxton-Ashbourne high road, near Friden Brick works (E.G.).

1930.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus c. corone*). A pair bred in a thorn-bush only 12 ft. from the ground at the foot of Thorpe Cloud, close to a footpath along which thousands of trippers passed during the season, but managed to bring off the brood successfully (E.G.).

Rook (*C. f. frugilegus*). The recently established rookery on the slopes of Bunster (Staffs.) has made great strides this year. One clutch with the unusual number of 6 eggs noted (C. H. Wells).

Goldfinch (*Carduelis c. britannica*). Breeding took place again this year in Thorpe village and a large flock was seen on the side of Bunster on 14 December (E.G.).

Willow Tit (*Parus a. kleinschmidti*). A deserted nest

with 9 rotten eggs found in Dovedale on November 20. Formerly confused with the Marsh Tit, so that definite records of breeding are very desirable (E.G.).

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa s. striata*). Owing to wet and inclement weather only one pair bred in Thorpe village this year (E.G.).

Redstart (*Phoenicurus ph. phoenicurus*). Formerly common in the 'stone wall' country, but has become scarcer in the Thorpe district of late years. About three pairs in Dovedale (E.G.).

Nightingale (*Luscinia m. megarhyncha*). Several times reported as having been heard just south of Derby. On May 5 a female was picked up dead in Kedleston Road, Derby, by Mr. R. Ward who brought it to the Derby Museum, where it now is (F. Williamson).

Tawny Owl (*Strix a. sylvatica*). A nest with 3 eggs in a hole in the ground in a wood in the Sheffield district (Yorks.): (C.H.W.).

Heron (*Ardea c. cinerea*). At the Ilam heronry five nests were occupied on 16 Feb. (C.H.W.), but later on eleven were in use (E.G.).

Ring Plover (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*). Two seen on Axe Edge, Oct. 18, 1930 (J. Armitage).

Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). Owing to heather burning in the Parwich district the birds were driven off their nesting ground and the eggs destroyed (E.G.). See Mr. C. B. Chambers notes on the Doveridge-Sudbury district in our last report.

Little Auk (*Alle a. alle*). A male reported from the River Trent at Willington in November (R.E.).

1931.

The persistent rain and cold and cheerless weather during the breeding season must have proved very inimical to bird life, and also rendered observation difficult.

Rook (*C. f. frugilegus*). While the birds in a rookery near Coldwall Bridge abandoned their nests after building, a great increase was noticed in the numbers breeding in the Dovedale rookery already referred to. The number of nests was estimated at not less than 800, while the woods above Bostern Grange were also occupied (E.G.).

Goldfinch (*C. c. britannica*). The young flew from a nest in Thorpe village on July 18 (E.G.).

Willow Tit (*P. a. kleinschmidti*). The pair found in 1930 in Dovedale made at least two unsuccessful attempts to breed. The first nest was forsaken, when the birds moved to a fresh position further up the wooded hillside, but owing to continuous rain the aperture became flooded and was eventually deserted.

Wheatear (*Enanthe oe. oenanthe*). On April 23 two nests in the Thorpe district contained 6 and 4 eggs (C.H.W.).

Stonechat (*Saxicola t. hibernans*). A pair noted on a small patch of gorse in Wolfscote Dale on May 21 (E.G.).

Swift (*Apus a. apus*). A pair took possession of a House Martin's nest under the eaves of a house in Thorpe, and on July 1<sup>st</sup> there were young in the nest. The old birds were generally to be seen feeding the young in the late evening. Several occupied nests of House Martin were close at hand, and the excreta from each of these were visible on the tiling below, but below the Swift's nest there was no trace of anything of the kind (E.G.).

Night Heron (*Nycticorax n. nycticorax*). An adult bird was obtained on the Derbyshire side of the River Dove, between Calwich Abbey and Norbury on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and is now in the Derby Museum (F. Williamson). There are only two previous records of this species for the county.

Ring Plover (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*). One seen in May on bare patch of clay not 50 yards from the village of Heath (C.B.C.).

Curlew (*Numenius a. arquata*). This species is now

well established on Wolfscote Hill, on the Derbyshire side of Beresford Dale. Several pairs breed there in a rather wild and isolated position. A pair also remained for several days in the early part of the spring on the rough pasture at the foot of Thorpe Cloud, and would probably have settled down to breed there if they had not been disturbed by the parties of trippers during the weekend. It is the first time that they have been observed here (E.G.).

First Curlew noted moving south on July 18th.

Red Grouse (*Lagopus s. scoticus*). Quite inadvertently a Grouse was flushed from a nest with 10 eggs on the Sheffield moors on May 3rd. Before evening all the eggs but one had been taken, presumably by Carrion Crows (C.H.W.).

In conclusion the thanks of the compiler are due to Messrs. J. Armitage (Buxton), C. B. Chambers (Heath), R. Eglinton (Matlock), E. Grindey (Thorpe), W. T. Mynors (Thorpe), C. H. Wells (Sheffield) and F. Williamson (Derby).