

## ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD FOR DERBYSHIRE, 1944.

By W. K. MARSHALL.

The following is the review of the 1943 Report in "British Birds," Vol. XXXVIII, No. 9. "This report contains numerous records chiefly of local interest. Six Buzzards seen together at Bretby on June 6th are noteworthy, and Crossbills were present in spring in North Derbyshire, but breeding was not proved. The Systematic order adopted is peculiar, with pigeon between shrikes and flycatchers and other species clearly out of place." Consequently, the systematic list is given in the correct order as set out in "The Handbook," by H. F. Witherby, the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, Norman F. Ticehurst and Bernard W. Tucker, the total number of birds in the British list being 520, of which 158 have been recorded in recent years in Derbyshire.

In order to make it more concise, records have been included in the systematic list, but, owing to lack of space, it is only possible to include the earliest and latest dates recorded for migrants, song notes are discontinued, as are the initials of each recorder. The following have contributed:—

Mrs. Maud Betterton, A. J. P. Booth, H. C. B. Bowles, T. Bunting, C. B. Chambers, Ralph Chislett, H. Clayton, C. L. Collenette, H. H. Davis, W. E. Dodds, R. Eglinton, A. W. Ferguson, Charles Hanson, Miss K. M. Hollick, E. H. Peat, R. J. Raines, Repton School Field Club, P. A. E. Rudge, J. Sheldon, Dr. W. Shipton, Christopher M. Swaine, H. J. Wain, A. W. Ward, L. M. Waud, C. H. Wells, G. A. Weston, S. J. Weston, Arthur Whitaker, S. Whitaker.

Further records are urgently required from the Shipley area, this being on the flight of many birds, especially duck: see No. 109, Pintail.

1. Raven, *Corvus c. corax*.
2. Hooded Crow, *Corvus c. cornix*. October 29th, one Glossop.
3. Carrion-Crow, *Corvus c. corone*. Increase. Six pairs nested on Abney Moor. January 14th, flying a mile and a half from roost at 7-45 a.m. in brilliant moonlight. Blackout ended 8-35. Usual numbers roosed at Radbourne Rough in winter.
4. Rook, *Corvus f. frugilegus*. A census of nests in West Derbyshire in 1944 gives a 19 per cent. increase over 1943 in 84 Rookeries compared with 67. Tree felling dispersed the large Rookery at Alkmonton Bottoms into three entirely new ones in the locality. Unusual in the Glossop area.
5. Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula spermologus*. Tinsel dropped by aircraft found in nest. Numbers constant Glossop area.
6. Magpie, *Pica p. pica*. Increased in West Derbyshire. Very numerous in early January, Ford Hall. Considerable increase in Spondon area. Feeding with Jays in March and June. Twenty-seven nests seen in Baslow Parish. Great increase in nesting pairs but smaller clutches, C/5, C/4, C/3, N.E. Derbyshire. Very common, Shipley. Increase in the lower Pennines.
7. Jay, *Garrulus glandarius rufitergum*. Decrease in West Derbyshire. Increase in Spondon area. Continued increase, Allestree.
8. Starling, *Sturnus v. vulgaris*. Male seen to pick a Pyrethrum leaf and take it to the nest where incubation was well advanced.
9. Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes*. Derby in April. Nests regularly at Bretby. Seen in the Ashbourne district in January, February, April and September.

Increasing and fairly common; one pair for the third year in succession had the first egg on April 30th in the same tree, Dore. Several pairs breed on Nutbrook Canal. Usually absent in winter; returned on February 26th; about six at end of December, Radbourne. November 30th, December 18th, one, Bradley. May 12th and 26th, one, Glossop.

10. Greenfinch, *Chloris c. chloris*. More numerous in Repton than Spondon.

11. Goldfinch, *Carduelis c. britannica*. Increasing Bretby area. Not seen at Spondon. Possibly nested at Repton; plentiful in early May. May 13th, feeding on dandelions, Hoon. In Ashbourne throughout the summer. March 11th, two, Bamford. Nested at Bamford and Eckington. November 30th, one, Allestree. Young at end of August, Chellaston. At Foston throughout the summer. September 6th, Kirk Langley. In December, about twelve, Allestree. February 13th, one, Glossop.

12. Siskin, *Carduelis spinus*. Small flocks with Redpolls in January at Bretby.

13. Mealy Redpoll, *Carduelis f. flammea*.

14. Lesser Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea cabaret*. Small flocks with Siskins January at Bretby. Fairly common; increasing both in numbers and distribution of colonies, N.E. Derbyshire. A few pairs breed on Nutbrook Canal. One or two pairs in Glossop area.

15. Twite, *Carduelis fl. pipilans*. Two or three pairs in valley below Buxton-Leek road; no evidence of nesting, June 3rd and 4th.

16. Linnet, *Carduelis c. cannabina*. Numbers increase in winter at Repton; more nests than usual. Colony at Spondon maintained its numbers. Fed young five days old at intervals of 45 to 60 minutes. Both birds ate excreta.

17. Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula P. resa*. Less numerous than other finches. Decreased at Spondon. Still increasing;

at least thirteen nests at Dore; one pair reared three broods in addition to losing one nest; on July 16th one brood ready to fly, July 28th commencing incubating five eggs in a nest four yards from the previous one. Continued increase, Allestree. Uncommon in Glossop area.

18. Crossbill, *Loxia c. curvirostra*.

19. Chaffinch, *Fringilla cælebs gengleri*. Flocks of about eighty, Spondon, in December. Many nest destroyed by Jays.

20. Brambling, *Fringilla montifringilla*. About twelve near Buxton, 15th March. May 5th, one, Repton, January 1st, one, Thorpe. March 11th, about twelve, Bamford. March 31st, N.E. Derbyshire.

21. Corn-Bunting, *Emberiza calandra*.

22. Yellow Bunting, *Emberiza c. citrinella*. Flock of forty, Hartshorne, January 29th. Increasing at Spondon. Very common, nineteen nests, Dore.

23. Cirl Bunting, *Emberiza, c. cirrus*.

24. Reed-Bunting, *Emberiza s. schæniclus*. Notably on the increase. Many nests successfully reared. Numbers maintained, Spondon. Absent in winter, Glossop area.

25. Snow-Bunting, *Plectrophenax n. nigalis*.

26. House Sparrow, *Passer d. domesticus*.

27. Tree-Sparrow, *Passer m. montanus*. Slight increase. Three nests in ash trees, Spondon. Seen in January, May, October and November in Glossop area.

28. Sky-Lark, *Alauda a. arvensis*. Numbers maintained Spondon. Common except between November and February, Glossop area.

29. Tree-Pipit, *Anthus t. trivialis*. April 11th and August 26th, abundant, N.E. Derbyshire. Slight increase South Derbyshire.

30. Meadow-Pipit, *Anthus pratensis*. Nesting abundantly, Axe Edge. Less numerous in the Goyt Valley, June 3rd.

31. Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava flavissima*. April

- 9th Bretby, Holmewood. September 15th, Ashbourne. Common and well distributed, N.E. Derbyshire. Several pairs, Edale Valley.
32. Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla c. cinera*. Decreasing. Nearly all nesting sites, occupied regularly a few seasons ago, have been deserted the last few seasons, N.E. Derbyshire. May 15th, pair feeding young, Bradbourne. September 27th, one, Shelton Lock. Two pairs bred in Glossop area.
33. Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla alba yarrellii*. Scarce; two pairs only seen, Spondon.
34. White Wagtail, *Motacilla a. alba*. September 29th seven, Ilkeston.
35. Tree-Creeper, *Certhia familiaris britannica*. Decreased, Spondon. Fairly common, six nests seen, N.E. Derbyshire.
36. Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea affinis*. Increasing in numbers, Bretby, Calke, Foremark and Rosliston. Markeaton, January. Elvaston, April, increase S.W. Derbyshire. Two pairs again at Allestree. May 7th, Darley Abbey. December, one, Ashbourne, where not previously recorded.
37. Great Tit, *Parus major newtoni*. Decrease, Spondon.
38. Blue Tit, *Parus coeruleus obscurus*. Numbers maintained, Spondon.
39. Coal Tit, *Parus arer britannicus*.
40. Marsh-Tit, *Parus palustris dresseri*. Fairly common, Spondon.
41. Willow-Tit, *Parus a. kleinschmidti*. February 22nd, two, March 17th, one, October 9th, two, Atlow Rough. September 25th, one, Ashbourne. Normal numbers, N.E. Derbyshire.
42. Long-tailed Tit, *Ægithalos caudatus rosaceus*. Elvaston in October. Three nests at Calke. Flocks dispersed in middle of March, Spondon. Fairly common, five nests seen, N.E. Derbyshire. Continued increase,

- Allestree. Nest in young Spruce. This is only the second nest seen in five years, Baslow. Nest at Chellaston.
43. Great Grey Shrike, *Lanius e. excubitor*. October 25th, Brailsford.
44. Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius c. collurio*. Has not nested at Matlock for two years. None at Spondon, regular in past years.
45. Waxwing, *Bombycilla a. garrulus*. January 20th, six to ten, Newton Solney.
46. Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa s. striata*. April 8th, Darley Abbey. September 19th, Duffield. Increased at Bretby. Unusually common at Parwich, five pairs nesting in the valley. May 24th, display to House-Sparrow. Increase in Glossop area, eight nests in ten acres.
47. Pied Flycatcher, *Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*.
48. Goldcrest, *Regulus r. anglorum*. Elvaston in January. Breeds regularly at Newton Solney. A small flock wintered in Spondon Wood. No evidence of breeding. One nest seen N.E. Derbyshire. Bred at Sudbury. Regular in small numbers, Glossop area.
49. Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus c. collybita*. March 25th, Ticknall. December 7th, observed on a rose-bush from ten feet, Ashbourne.
50. Willow-Warbler, *Phylloscopus t. trochilus*, April 2nd, Bretby. September 23rd, Allestree. Nest three feet above ground in rose-bush.
51. Wood-Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. April 18th, Chellaston. September 10th, Allestree. Three or four singing, Goyt Valley, June 5th.
52. Grasshopper-Warbler, *Locustella n. noevia*. April 20th, in a new locality at Eckington, but did not stay.
53. Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus s. scitpaceus*. May 21st, Radbourne. Locally distributed, Nutbrook Canal.
54. Sedge-Warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. April 29th, Marston-on-Dove. September 2nd, N.E. Derbyshire. Very common, Nutbrook Canal.

55. Garden-Warbler, *Sylvia borin*. April 8th, Hoon.
56. Blackcap, *Sylvia a. atricapilla*. April 15th, Shirley; September 10th, Allestree. Again above normal numbers; June 18th, two nests C/4 each within fifty yards, Dore.
57. Whitethroat, *Sylvia c. communis*. Not so numerous as usual, Bretby area. More common than last few seasons. Twenty-five nests found, N.E. Derbyshire. April 21st, Ashbourne. Female seen to "chew"  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch long green caterpillars before feeding to two days old chicks. September 17th, Radbourne.
58. Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia c. curruca*. April 30th, Fenny Bentley, Allestree and Drakelowé, August 26th, N.E. Derbyshire. Male singing on nest which held first egg seven days later.
59. Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*. April 15th, N.E. Derbyshire; October 1st, Allestree. Not as many as usual, Glossop area.
60. Mistle-Thrush, *Turdus v. viscivorus*.
61. Song-Thrush, *Turdus e. ericetarum*. Decrease at Spondon.
62. Redwing, *Turdus m. musicus*. March 19th, October 8th, N.E. Derbyshire; March 19th, Allestree. Much scarcer than usual in January to March, Glossop area.
63. Ring-Ouzel, *Turdus t. torquatus*. Four or five pairs, one or two fledged young and one nest with eggs, Axe Edge, June 3rd. Two or three pairs and nest with eggs, Goyt Valley, June 4th. April 9th same place as in 1943. Increased Ford Hall. Nest with young, Hathersage. One pair seen in June, four birds in August, on Abney Moor. None seen on Froggatt Edge. Roston, September 20th. Only saw three pairs, Birchinlea. A few pairs bred in the Glossop area.
64. Blackbird, *Turdus m. merula*. Increasing and far outnumbers Song-Thrush. Fourteen seen at one time on a lawn at Hartshorne. Very common throughout the year.

65. Wheatear, *Ænanthe o. ænanthe*. March 12th, Allestree; August 30th, Ashbourne. Breeding commonly Axe Edge and Goyt Valley.
66. Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*. April 16th, Matlock Moor. September 15th, Holmwood. Males seen or heard in three places, Axe Edge, and one pair Goyt Valley, June 3rd and 4th. Nested at Allestree.
67. Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata hibernans*. December 8th, a male, December 9th, a pair, Glossop area.
68. Redstart, *Phoenicurus p. phoenicurus*. Two or three pairs, Goyt Valley, June 4th. In the past ten years in Ecclesall Wood I have frequently found nests down tunnels under dead bracken. (See The Handbook, Vol. 5, p. 269 "Additions and Corrections," W.K.M.). September 6th, Ashbourne. Numerous on Froggatt Edge. April 8th, Roston. Three to four pairs as usual east of Glossop.
69. Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus o. gibraltariensis*.
70. Nightingale, *Luscinia m. megarhyncha*. April 22nd Allestree.
71. Robin, *Erithacus r. melophitus*.
72. Hedge-Sparrow, *Prunella modularis occidentalis*. A pair of Greenfinches took possession of a completed nest and reared young in it.
73. Wren, *Troglodytes t. troglodytes*.
74. Dipper, *Cinclus c. gularis*. When collecting moss or dead leaves has been seen to hold the material under water till thoroughly soaked, then shake off superfluous drops before flying to the nest with the material, N.E. Derbyshire. April 30th, pair feeding young, Bradbourne. Usual numbers nested, Birchinlea. Twenty to thirty pairs bred in the Glossop area.
75. Swallow, *Hirundo r. rustica*. March 31st, Four, Hoon. October 22nd, Allestree.
76. House-Martin, *Delichon u. urbica*. April 9th, Froggatt. October 22nd, Allestree.



77. Sand-Martin, *Riparia r. riparia*. April 5th, Ashbourne. September 13th, Allestree. Decrease, Spondon. New colony of about twenty pairs, Ashopton.
78. Swift, *Apus a. apus*. April 5th, September 4th, Derby, Holmewood, left unusually early.
79. Nightjar, *Caprimulgus e. europaeus*. May 30th, Repton. June 25th, nest and two eggs, Hathersage. July 4th, Cromford. Again nested within one hundred yards of my house, Birchinlea a second pair seen. Only one pair known to have bred in the Glossop area, but several others almost certainly did.
80. Hoopoe, *Upupa e. epops*. April 14th, one, Ashbourne, seen on a lawn by several people. The crest and long curved bill were observed.
81. Kingfisher, *Alcedo a. ispida*.
82. Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis pluvius*. Not common, Spondon.
83. Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dryobates major anglicus*. Most numerous of the three Woodpeckers. Increased, Spondon. Apparent increase; young reared in five nests, Allestree and Radbourne. March 15th, one, Froggatt. Apparently did not breed this year in the Glossop area.
84. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Dryobates minor comminutus*. Uncommon. Decreased, Spondon.
85. Cuckoo, *Cuculus c. canorus*. April 10th, Littleover, Holmewood. Decrease, Repton area, May 13th. "A plague of Cuckoos," Hoon. June 10th, egg in Linnet's nest in gorse bush, Melbourne; all eggs taken by Jay.
86. Little Owl, *Athene noctus vidalii*.
87. Long-eared Owl, *Asio o. otus*. Nest with three eggs robbed near Repton. Slightly less common; two nests seen, N.E. Derbyshire.
88. Short-eared Owl, *Asio f. flammens*.
89. Tawny Owl, *Strix aluco sylvatica*. Common, Spondon and Repton. November, two roosting on house, and one in October, 1944. Increased, Spondon. Fairly

common, four nests seen, N.E. Derbyshire. Plentiful: except for two years there has been a nest in the same oak for the past twenty-five years.

90. Barn-Owl, *tyto a. alba*. Two picked up dead. More than last year but still rare, Repton. One pair only seen Spondon. Re-appeared after absence, South Derbyshire.

91. Peregrine Falcon, *Falco p. peregrinus*. Reported in two places.

92. Merlin, *Falco columbarius aesalon*. April 8th, Ford Hall. One pair on Abney Moor all the spring; one pair and three young in August; one bird seen at Baslow in August. Nested as usual, Birchinlea. Decrease, Glossop area.

93. Kestrel, *Falco t. tinnunculus*. Increasing. Nests at Willington, Egginton, Twyford. Several early broods: ten young ringed. Numerous, Froggatt.

94. Common Buzzard, *Buteo b. buteo*. Seen four times near Derby between March and August. March 22nd, two, and 23rd, one Hoon. September 15th, two at about 1,500 feet over Derby. September 22nd, one, apparently a bird of the year, Strines. September 28th, one, Birchinlea, June 22nd, Foolow.

95. Hen-Harrier, *Circus c. cyaneus*. December 8th, a female or juvenile, Glossop, identified as a Harrier by shape, size and flight: as a Hen-Harrier by brown plumage, striped underparts, white above the tail, and date.

96. Sparrow-Hawk, *Accipiter n. nisus*. Not decreasing: twenty-two young ringed, Repton, December, 1943, one roosting on house.

97. Heron, *Ardea c. cinerea*. February 2nd, returned to Calke heronry: forty-one nests. Nine roosting in willows in August.

98. Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus*. November 12th-13th, Twenty-six, Allestree.

99. Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus b. bewickii*.

100. Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*.

101. Goose. December 9th, one hundred to one hundred and thirty either Pink-footed (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*) or White-fronted (*Anser a. albifrons*) but not Grey Lag (*Anser a. anser*) flying S.E. in an arc to N.E. Glossop.

102. Canada Goose, *Branta c. canadensis*. Increasing: twenty-two on 18th October, twenty-nine 20th October, Locko Park Lake. Young attacked by Mute Swan dived on three occasions and came up behind swan. September to February up to sixty: two pairs reared four and one, Allestree. Nearly always on Shipley and Mapperley Reservoirs; in winter over one hundred. February 26th flew in from the north one day before heavy snow, Radbourne.

103. Sheld-Duck, *Tadorna tadorna*.

104. Mallard, *Anas p. platyrhyncha*.

105. Gadwall, *Anas strepera*. December 18th, one male, Bradley: December 30th, one male, Osmaston.

106. Teal, *Anas c. crecca*. Young seen on Bretby Park ponds. In January, February, March and October, November, December, at Osmaston, Bradley and Calwich; the largest number seen at one time was thirty. In December, 1943, four, March, two, Locko Park. August 27th, Barbrook Reservoir. May 13th, one male, Allestree. December 31st, 1943, over one hundred, Shipley. Many nested, Lady Bower.

107. Garganey, *Anas querquedula*. A pair came to Repton on April 19th: display at beginning of May, "Swimming round each other like a slow waltz." June 4th, four ducklings seen but not completely certain they were Garganey. June 15th, duck but no young seen. No nest found.

108. Wigeon, *Anas penelope*. Occasionally on River Trent at Repton and Locko Park Lake. February 14th, seven pairs, Allestree. September 29th, one drake, Shipley. November 29th, December 14th, two pairs, Osmaston.

109. Pintail, *Anas a. acuta*. December 31st, 1943, five, Shipley. "I had followed these birds through the Notts. reservoirs; they were recognised as the same birds by the proportion of sexes and character of one. The route was Rufford-Salterford-Moorgreen-Shipley."
110. Shoveller, *Spatula clypeata*. February 3rd, Elvaston. Frequently on Locko Park Lake in winter. August 27th, Barbrook Reservoir. September 29th, one, Shipley.
111. Pochard, *Aythya ferina*. January 14th, two drakes, one duck, Elvaston. On Locko Park Lake in winter. At Osmaston from January to April, the drakes being always much more numerous than the ducks. August 27th, Barbrook Reservoir. In February, up to seven males and four females, Allestree. December 31st, 1943, twenty-two, Shipley. October to December, up to five, Osmaston
112. Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula*. On Locko Park Lake, October to April. Common. August 27th and September 17th, Barbrook Reservoir. February 15th, thirty, Allestree. Present again throughout the year but did not breed, Allestree. Breeds at Shipley; December 31st, 1943, one hundred and twenty-six. September 29th, 1944, eight. A few seen but did not nest, Derwent Dams.
113. Golden-eye, *Bucephala c. clangula*.
114. Long-tailed Duck, *Clangula hyemalis*. December 31st, 1943, immature female, Shipley.
115. Goosander, *Mergus m. merganser*.
116. Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax c. carbo*. August, three, Combs; one of them was a young bird. September 5th, one. Derwent Dam.
117. Gannet, *Sula bassana*.
118. Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus p. puffinus*. September 25th, Ambaston. One was picked up in a Sheffield street on September 7th—another between Ilkeston and Shipley on September 16th.
119. Great Crested Grebe, *Podiceps c. cristatus*. January 14th, one pair returned to Melbourne Pool. March 10th,

male, Locko Park Lake, did not breed and left at the beginning of October. March 12th, Allestree. February 3rd, two in spring plumage; rather earlier than usual, Allestree, May 9th, two young about a week old Osmaston. At Allestree, pair arrived together and display observed the same morning. Nest building commenced five days later and first egg laid after nineteen days. Nest deserted for the second year after 35-40 days incubation. Female last seen on August 22nd and male September 23rd. There was a second male from March 19th to the end of May. Three pairs, Mapperley and Shipley, September 29th, at least three birds of the year, Mapperley. February 15th, male arrived, Sudbury. October 15th, two, November 19th and 29th, one, Osmaston. November 27th, one adult, Allestree.

120. Black-necked Grebe, *Podiceps n. nigricollis*.

121. Little Grebe, *Podiceps r. ruficollis*. Decreased on River Trent. Fairly common at Repton. One pair Locko Park Lake.

122. Wood-Pigeon, *Columba p. palumbus*. Latest nest noted October 1st, with young. In the upward display flight it was noticed that the tail was open to form a fork; when turning, it was closed.

123. Stock-Dove, *Columba oenas*.

124. Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia t. turtur*. May 7th, Bretby. August 21st, Allestree. Common and increasing; eight nests seen, N.E. Derbyshire.

125. Curlew, *Numenius a. arquata*. May 29th, Swarkstone. Nested in the Trent Valley from Catton to Swarkstone. Several nests Repton. Still increasing in Trent Valley. February 22nd, a pair passing through; March 7th, a pair to breeding ground, Ford Hall. Usual number nested on Abney Moor. Extended nesting range at lower elevations, N.E. Derbyshire. A good number nested but did not appear to rear many young, Birchinlea. April 8th, a pair, Marston Montgomery.

126. Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticola*. May 7th, three nests with eggs, all within a hundred yards of each other, one being in a clump of daffodils. Increasing, Baslow. One pair, perhaps more, breed at Shipley. A good number nested; saw several broods of young, Birchinlea.
127. Common Snipe, *Capella g. gallinago*. One pair with C/4 on April 23rd, which were reared; had a second nest with C/4 on July 23rd, Ringinglow.
128. Jack Snipe, *Lymnocytes minimus*. None seen in autumn and winter which is unusual, S. Derbyshire.
129. Turnstone, *Arenaria i. interpres*.
130. Dunlin, *Caldidris s. schinzii*. August 27th, one, Barbrook Reservoir. September 29th, one, Shipley. One pair during the summer, Derwent. At least one pair bred in Glossop area.
131. Sanderling, *Crocethia alba*.
132. Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*. Fairly common in early August on River Trent and Repton Brook. April 9th, Cromford. Decrease, Burton-on-Trent area, August 27th, Barbrook Reservoir.
133. Wood-Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*. September 29th, one, Shipley.
134. Green Sandpiper. *Tringa ochropus*. September 24th, one, Repton. Fairly Common in early August on River Trent and Repton Brook. January 3rd, Allestree. One from December 26th to February 27th, Allestree. January 17th, one, Radbourne. July 31st, Sudbury.
135. Redshank, *Tringa totanus britannica*. October 28th, one, Sheldon. March 22nd, arrive at nesting site, Hoon. Bred at Sturston. Decrease, S. Derbyshire, April 1st, one, Radbourne.
136. Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*. August 27th, one, Barbrook Reservoir.
137. Ringed Plover, *Charadrius h. hiaticula*. August 27th, one, Barbrook Reservoir.
138. Southern Golden Plover, *Pluvialis a. apricaria*.

Several pairs, Axe Edge, June 5th. Flocks at Sinfin in winter. February 24th, in meadow at Hoon, and on March 26th, about one hundred. January 27th, four, Ashbourne. January 13th, one, March 12th, a pair, Ford Hall. About twelve pairs nested on Abney Moor. Extended nesting range at lower elevation, N.E. Derbyshire. Very few nested; decreasing, Birchinlea. October 21st, Hilton, Allestree. December 28th, ten, Mapleton. Plentiful east of Glossop.

139. Northern Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria altilfrons*. May 5th and 6th, Two males, with Southern for comparison, almost certainly of this species, Glossop area.

140. Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*. Very large flocks frequently seen on open land near Ashbourne. May 5th, nest with five eggs, Bretby. February 2nd, three, March 7th, a pair, Ford Hall. March 10th, arrived at nesting site, Spondon. In April, twenty-five birds on site. At 12-30 p.m. on May 3rd four eggs slightly chipped and almost upright on the pointed end. The first chick emerged at 7 a.m. on May 4th, the next two at 12-30 p.m. on the same day. The fourth egg had not hatched at 12-15 p.m. on May 5th, but chick was alive and there was a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch hole in the egg.

141. Oyster-catcher, *Hæmatopus ostralegus occidentalis*. Two, at the end of July, Derwent Dam.

142. Little Tern, *Sterna a. albifrons*. April 11th, Combs. September 29th, one, Mapperley.

143. Black-headed Gull, *Larus v. ridibundus*. May 21st, one, Minninglow. March 14th, arrived on nesting site, Spondon. Number of nests much reduced owing to land reclamation: a few nested on a new site. May 15th, two hundred pairs nesting near Hathersage. A census of about half the area gave:—ten nests with three eggs, twenty-eight with two and sixty with one. Seven pairs at Baslow in May and three nests found with eggs. Military operations caused all to leave. Increase in

numbers on North Derbyshire Moors; eggs taken for food. Does not breed but is seen in the Glossop area.

144. Common Gull, *Larus c. canus*. January 4th, one, Ashbourne. January and May, several in Glossop area.

145. Herring-Gull, *Larus a. argentatus*. May 22nd, one, Repton. March and October to December, a few in the Glossop area.

146. Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus f. fuscus*. September 29th, one with fifteen Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

147. Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*. September 29th, fifteen on migration. January 8th, one, Dinting. May 6th, one, N.E. of Glossop.

148. Great Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*.

149. Corn-crake, *Crex crex*. One, Bradley, August 25th. One, Ingleby, when cutting corn. Not heard during breeding season. May 7th, Brassington; did not stay. None heard, N.E. Derbyshire. July, one young bird, Littleover. Three at Baslow when a cornfield was being cut. June 24th, Staffs. border.

150. Water-Rail, *Rallus a aquaticus*. February 6th, one, Bradley. One, on several occasions in March, Allestree. October 23rd, one, Allestree.

151. Moorhen, *Gallinula c. chloropus*. May 19th, eight eggs in Magpie's nest in tall thorn bush, Bretby.

152. Coot, *Fulica a. atra*. Usually six pairs. Numbers vary: December 2nd, 1943, twenty; March 10th, six, Locko Park Lake. About five pairs nest at Allestree.

153. Black Grouse, *Lyrurus Tetrix britannicus*. Grey Hen and three young in August, Abney Moor.

154. Red Grouse, *Lagopus s. scoticus*. September 21st, nest and seven eggs, Combs. Nesting up to average, C/6, C/7, C/9, N.E. Derbyshire.

155. Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*. Fair numbers left, Bretby.

156. Partridge, *Perdix p. perdix*. Wet cold weather and



an increase of vermin contributed to a high mortality amongst young birds, Ashbourne. Reduced numbers due to increased vermin, Bretby. Increased Repton area. A good nesting season but terrible mortality probably due to thunderstorms, N.E. Derbyshire.

157. Red-legged Partridge, *Alectoris r. rufa*. Increased; two nests, Bretby.

158. Quail, *Coturnix c. coturnix*.

NOTES ON THE SINGING OF A NIGHTINGALE, *Luscinia Mogarhyncha*, ALLESTREE, NR. DERBY, APRIL 22ND TO MAY 22ND, 1944.

By S. Whitaker.

The times are D.B.S.T.

First heard singing on April 22nd eight days later than the first one heard in Norfolk. Only a few notes were heard on this date at 5 p.m. During the next seven days I did not go near the locality, which was in a two acre copse containing some mixed age trees and good undergrowth, in order to let the bird get established. During these seven days the singing was spasmodic and broken, the bird was obviously getting into full song. However, on the night of April 29th/30th, I went into the copse to within twenty yards of the singing bird, which began to sing at 12 p.m. and was still singing strongly at 3 a.m. with only two ten minute lulls during these three hours.

On April 30th, at 10 a.m. the bird was seen singing from the lower branches of a silver birch tree. It only sang for ten minutes and then commenced to feed. At 9-30 p.m. the same evening it piped a few notes from the centre of a yew tree and then commenced to preen. It was silent again until 12 p.m. when it opened out into full song and was singing strongly when I left the copse at 1-30 a.m.

May 1st/2nd. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. in a silver birch tree about twenty yards from the yew tree it had been singing in the previous night.

11-37 p.m. bird was singing well from yew tree until I left at 12-45 a.m.

May 2nd/3rd. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. about twenty yards from yew tree in young hawthorn tree.

11-40 p.m. again in yew tree and singing without break when I left at 12-30 a.m.

May 3rd/4th. No song heard at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. Singing commenced at 11-45 p.m. and bird in full song when I left at 12-45 a.m.

May 4th/5th. Singing well at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. in yew tree. Singing commenced at 11-40 p.m. Evening was wet and very dark but song quality did not appear affected. Left bird singing strongly at 12-15 a.m.

May 5th/6th. No song heard at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. Singing, 11-42 p.m., broke off at 11-50 to 12-5 when song was continuous up to leaving at 12-30 a.m.. Wet.

May 6th/7th. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-45 p.m. and still singing at 1 a.m.

May 7th/8th. 2-30 a.m., 4-30 a.m., 10 a.m. to 12 noon but pauses for feeding during this time of an average of ten minutes were noted.

No sign of female's presence.

May 8th/9th. Short evening song commenced at 10 p.m. as general dusk chorus died down. This only lasted fifteen minutes when bird commenced to preen. Song started up again at 11-30 p.m. and was singing continuously until 12-30 a.m. At 1-30 a.m. and 2-30 a.m. bird still in continuous song.

May 9th/10th. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-45 p.m. and 1-30 a.m., 2-30 a.m., 4-30 a.m. and 5-30 a.m.

May 10/11th. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. from different part of copse, 70 yards from any previous position. 11-45 p.m. from old position in yew tree. Still singing at 1 a.m. and 1-45 a.m.

May 11th/12th. No song at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-42 p.m. from yew tree. Quality appeared to be not so strong as previously. Cello was played 20 yards from bird and singing was definitely noticed to improve in quality. 1-30 a.m. and 2-15 a.m.

May 12th/13th. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. from new position first used on May 10th.

From same position at 11-30 p.m. Singing well at 12-45 a.m. when I left.

May 13th/14th. No song at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-29 p.m. in same position as previous night, a hawthorn bush 5 yards from main road. Song intermittent due probably to windy night.

Singing at 12-30 a.m. when I left.

May 14th/15th. No song at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-30 p.m. in hawthorn bush and continued up to leaving at 12-45 a.m.

May 15th/16th. No song at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

Evening song commenced at 11-15 p.m. and was still strong at 12-30 a.m. Singing from thorn bush.

May 16th/17th. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m. with Blackcap and Willow Warbler singing from adjoining bushes.

11-20 p.m. and still singing at midnight.

May 17th/18th. 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-45 p.m. and still singing at midnight.

May 18th/19th. No song heard at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-10 p.m. and singing continuously up to leaving at 12-30 a.m.

May 19th/20th. No song at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-15 p.m. and singing at 12 midnight. No song heard at 1-30 a.m.

May 20th/21st. Few notes heard at 7-30 a.m. to 7-45 a.m.

11-15 p.m. and bird singing at midnight.

May 21st/22nd. Human disturbance. Did not start until 11-55 p.m. back in yew tree, this being the first time

the bird had used this position since May 11th/12th. Song was very broken up to 12-20 a.m. and obviously due to earlier disturbance. From 12-20 a.m. to 12-40 a.m. song was continuous and then ceased. Disturbance ceased and bird started again at 12-50 a.m. and was in good song when I left at 1-30 a.m.

May 22nd/23rd. No morning song.

Human disturbance. No song from 11-15 p.m. to 12-15 a.m. Gramophone record of nightingale failed to set the bird singing.

May 23rd/24th. Bird had left the district owing to human disturbance.

It was apparent that the first night the general public appeared the bird was obviously frightened and I feel no doubt, although it did sing that night, it must have moved on next day.

No female was present. It is therefore of interest that the male remained so long without attracting a female.

The quality of this male's song was probably amongst the finest one could wish to hear and the song could be heard at 300 yards distance.

The song periods noted do not cover the full period the bird may have been singing.

#### GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

Summary of notes made by C. W. Newberry, S. Whitaker, A. W. Ward and W. K. Marshall.

March 6th first drumming in nesting area; on the following days the female drummed at first light on the Ash in which the nesting hole was subsequently made and the male on a Wych Elm some sixty yards away. This drumming never lasted more than five minutes and then feeding commenced. In May, after the young were hatched a hide was erected, being completed by the 28th. On this day and the 29th both birds fed the young but the female was never seen again and the male reared the brood

of three the last of which left the nest on June 11th. On June 16th the remains of a Woodpecker were found at a Sparrow Hawk's plucking post. Feeds were twelve to fifteen to the hour and consisted of green and also grey caterpillars, some insects and what appeared to be blight. The caterpillars were carried across the bill, the ends protruding. One young only was fed at each visit. The young commenced feeding at the tip of the bill, working up to the base, parent and young jerking to and fro. When blight was brought the young licked them off the outside of its own bill with the tongue. The drumming of the male immediately after feeding indicated prolonged absence from the nest. Occasionally the parent drummed on the wood frame of the hide and the vibration was considerable. Excreta was carried away but not on each visit. The first flight of one of the young was to an Oak sixty yards away. Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been in the immediate area throughout the year for twenty-five years.

NOTES ON A STARLING ROOST AT THE BURROWS,  
BRAILSFORD, 1943-1944.

By Miss K. M. Hollick.

These notes are concerned more with the daily flights than with the roost itself, which was visited twice only before the birds had arrived for the night. It was situated in a young covert of privet, hawthorn, pine, etc., about a mile south-east of Brailsford.

Formerly, large numbers of birds roosted at The Ashe, near Etwall, and in Hilton Gorse. These two roosts were used interchangeably until October, 1942, after which they were unoccupied. In November, 1942 Starlings began to roost extensively in The Burrows covert, and continued through the winter, big flocks being observed gathering near Brailsford during the spring of 1943. There were said to be many more birds there during 1942-3

than in 1943-4. A number of observers contributed to the data on the accompanying map. Some areas, especially to the north and east of the roost, were not covered, and in other district birds were looked for but not seen.

Each arrow on the map represents at least one party or flock of Starlings in flight, but in some cases a regular traffic of several flocks seen whenever the observer was suitably placed for recording. Every flock marked was observed during the months November, 1943 to February, 1944, when the roost was in full occupation. Evening flights are represented by solid arrows, early morning return flights (less frequently seen owing to inconvenient hour) by broken ones. Flocks in flight moved high, direct, and fast, but with a strong head wind would descend almost to ground level to lessen resistance.

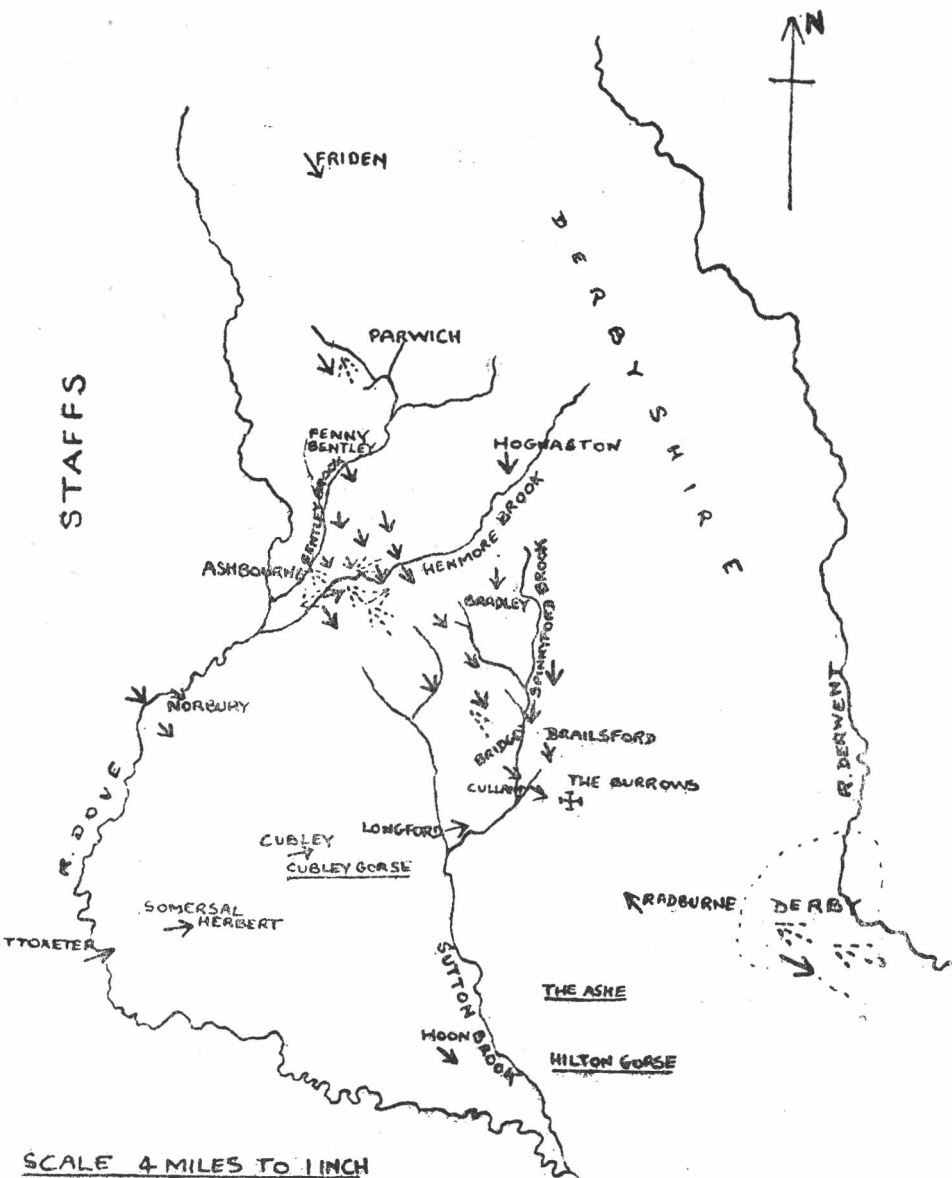
It cannot be proved, but is highly probable, that with two exceptions every flock marked on the map roosted at The Burrows. The evening flight over Hoon was regularly south-east throughout the winter, and the flocks seen over the southern part of Derby probably used one or more of the many small roosts about the town. With these exceptions, every evening flock observed was travelling towards The Burrows. None was seen flying in another direction, if one allows for a preference sometimes shown for following a watercourse. An example of this occurred near Ashbourne, where a flock flew east up the Henmore valley, turned sharply south at a point north-east of Bradley, and, following the route of other flocks, continued along the Bradley and Spinnyford brooks to Brailsford. This habit was also noticed in the morning, when large flocks coming from the south-east would divide on the outskirts of Ashbourne; some flying up the Henmore some down, and others continuing north-west.

Usually the Starlings timed the flight to arrive at the roost about sunset, and flew in silence, but on November 27th 5-35 p.m. when it was nearly dark and very foggy,

about 200 passed south-east over Ashbourne, seven miles from the roost. Just visible at tree-top height, they kept up a continuous conversation, which may have helped them to keep together in the fog and darkness.

After mid-winter, starlings appeared to be less numerous both in the daytime and in evening flights. During November flocks of 500 to 800 were not uncommon, while in January and February 250 was considered large though about 500 birds were seen together on February 7th. This however was at mid-day, and they were not on a roost flight. Before the evening journey, small parties of birds would collect in tree tops, and after waiting and chattering with one accord spring into the air and set off in a direct line, presumably joining forces with others as they travelled, as the flocks seen near the roost were usually large.

Their mutual attraction was obvious. One evening a flock settled to feed on a newly harrowed field near the roost. Flock after flock, passing from the same direction, dropped to join it, and there was soon a compact crawling mass of quite 2,000 birds all feeding together. Those behind continually rose and settled in advance of those in front, giving the effect of a huge dark cylinder rolling across the field. The roost was not visited when the birds were present, and it is therefore difficult to estimate the numbers involved. On November 12th many flocks amounting roundly to 10,000 birds were observed from Brailsford Bridge arriving from the north alone. Information from the south and east is scanty, and the Hoon Starlings apparently went elsewhere. There are also the small roosts in and about Derby. The known western radius (Uttoxeter) is twelve miles, the northern (Friden) fourteen and a half. In the latter case the limit was probably reached as only a party of twenty was seen, and though observation was regular at Parwich, the evening and morning flocks were seldom large. The country



MAP ILLUSTRATING THE DAYTIME AREA COVERED BY STARLINGS ROOSTING AT THE BURROWS, BRAILSFORD.

- Evening Flights
- ⋯ Morning Flights
- ⊕ Roost

Former roosts are underlined.



north-west of Ashbourne, and north of Parwich and Hognaston, is high and bare. The Starlings apparently did not much frequent this type of land, and birds were looked for on several occasions, but unsuccessfully. All this considered, a figure of 25,000-30,000 birds might be set down as a crude estimate of the number assembling at the roost.

On February 1st hounds running through the roost started a fresh fox. The covert had been blank all winter owing to its foul condition. When visited on December 4th, the ground and shrubs were filthy, and the smell strong, but on March 9th the place was clean except for a few yards of hedge, and this not entirely attributable to Starlings, showing that the roost was practically abandoned.

The last evening flight observed was on February 24th-but during March many flocks of up to 300 birds flew south and south-east over Ashbourne between 5-30 and 5-50 p.m. A flock passed over Radbourne 5-30 p.m. on March 12th going east. This was the first evening flight seen here for some time. And on March 22nd about 400 birds were seen flying south-east over Parwich, 5-25 p.m. These March flocks passed so much earlier in relation to sunset than those seen in the winter that it seems uncertain if they were roost-flights at all.

On March 21st a great horde of Starlings appeared over Ashbourne, 7-5 a.m. coming from a point rather east of south. This flock, which must have been of several thousands of birds, was quite half a mile in breadth, and the depth, which was variable, never exceeded a quarter of a mile. A similar huge flock, perhaps the same one, was observed over Radbourne Rough on March 18th, 7-15 p.m. flying to the west of south. These were the only occasions on which such numbers were seen together, and it seems likely that they were strangers which did not stop long in the neighbourhood.

The Burrows was not used to any extent, if at all, after the middle of March, and The Ashe, Foremark, and Hilton Gorse were also unoccupied. Other former roosting places were not investigated, but it seems unlikely that the local birds were gathering anywhere in large numbers, as the Starlings observed in the daytime were in much smaller parties, and evening and morning flights were no longer seen.