

## DERBYSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD, 1948.

Compiled by W. K. MARSHALL.

It is regretted that financial reasons necessitate a further reduction, so only the earliest and latest dates of migrants are given and these are included in the Systematic List. For the same reason photographs are excluded.

Those contributors who have not already done so might like to read A. W. Boyd's criticism of the 1946 Record in *British Birds*, Vol. XLI, No. 3 (March, 1948).

## ADDITIONS.

Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*.

Dotterel, *Eudromias morinellus* (1946).

Arctic Skua, *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

[Golden Eagle, *Aquila c. chrysaetus*].

The following have contributed: G. N. Adams, Dr. Mary Andrews, H. L. Barnfather, J. M. Begg, Mrs. C. M. Betterton, T. Bunting, A. J. P. Booth, H. C. B. Bowles, C. E. Brown, L. Carr, C. B. Chambers, Ralph Chislett, H. Clayton, Arthur Court, W. E. Dodds, A. Emmet, T. C. Frost, C. Greaves, W. E. Godfrey, Dr. C. A. Humphrey, D. J. Hancock, Miss K. M. Hollick, Derek C. Hulme, N. Harwood, P. F. Hill, A. Leavesley, F. G. Lee, W. K. Marshall, Rev. G. Moule, P. E. Merrin, Hugo Meynell, S. T. Nash, G. F. Nix, Mrs. Ruth Palmer, E. H. Peat, S. D. Player, G. Ronald Pryor, F. Price, A. R. S. Proctor, Hudson Read, Repton School Field Club, P. A. E. Rudge, G. Rowbottom, A. Roebuck, Miss Hester Severn, J. Sheldon, K. N. Sivell, W. Shipton, E. C. Walthall, W. V. Wright, H. J. Wain, A. W. Ward, G. A. Weston, S. Whitaker, S. J. Weston, C. H. Wells.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST.

Carrion-Crow, *Corvus c. corone*. September 25th, one carrying twig (W.K.M.).

Rook, *Corvus f. frugilegus*. April 16th, the notes of one in flight sounded like a woodpecker's drumming (N.H.).

Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula spermologus*. September 22nd, Ashgate, several destroying the cork cylinders on overhead wires for the protection of birds (N.H.).

Starling, *Sturnus v. vulgaris*. March 18th to April 8th, starlings in Hilton Gorse mobbed three sparrow hawks every evening (C.M.B.).

Greenfinch, *Chloris c. chloris*. April, a pair, near Bamford; not previously seen in this area (M.A.).

Chaffinch, *Fringilla cœlebs gengleri*. A nest of rotten wood chippings (C.G.).

Corn-Bunting, *Emberiza calandra*. June 8th, a few, Egginton (R.S.F.C.) Nested, Ashover (A.L.).

Yellow Bunting, *Emberiza c. citrinella*. February 15th, one singing, Repton (R.S.F.C.).

Snow-Bunting, *Plectrophenax n. nivalis*. November 13th, one, Chapel-en-le-Frith (T.B.).

House-Sparrow, *Passer d. domesticus*. Females and/or juveniles flying like Spotted Flycatchers to capture insects (N.H.).

Tree-Pipit, *Anthus t. trivialis*. April 16th, Bretby (H.J.W.).

Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava flavissima*. Decrease in nesting pairs (H.J.W.). April 10th, Sinfin (D.C.H.). September 25th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla c. cinerea*. Nested in Repton Park (H.J.W.). Not so numerous in Millers Dale as last year (H.R.).

White Wagtail, *Motacilla a. alba*. April 30th and May 6th one, May 4th two, Holmewood Sewage bed. "It is some years since I saw one at the same spot" (C.B.C.). June 3rd, one, Alport (A.L.).

Tree-Creeper, *Certhia familiaris britannica*. Recovered in numbers in Baslow area after 1946/7 winter (R.P.). Still very much scarcer than before the 1946/7 winter in Grindleford area (G.R.P.).

Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea affinis*. September 3rd, one, Chatsworth (R.P.). Still appears to be extending its range (K.M.H.).

Long-tailed Tit, *Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus*. Has recovered its numbers (R.S.F.C.).

Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa s. striata*. Again nested in a Swallow's old nest (H.J.W.). Increased in Grindleford area (G.R.P.). April 30th, Great Longstone (W.V.W.). September 26th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Pied Flycatcher, *Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*. June 27th, female and two young (R.P.). One male, Foremark, April 18th (D.C.H.). Pair feeding young in nest, North Derbyshire, June 12th (N.H.). Four broods successfully reared (G.R.P.).

Goldcrest, *Regulus r. anglorum*. Very scarce (R.P.; W.K.M.; G.R.P.; R.S.F.C.). December 1st, one, Birchinlea, not previously recorded here (E.H.P.).

Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus c. collybita*. March 14th, Stubbing (N.H.); Duffield (J.M.B.). September 26th, Great Longstone (W.V.W.).

Willow-Warbler, *Phylloscopus t. trochilus*. March 26th, Ticknall (H.J.W.). September 13th, Radbourne (W.K.M.).

Wood-Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Several pairs, Chatsworth, April 25th (R.P.). August 26th, Spondon (P.E.M.).

Grasshopper-Warbler, *Locustella n. noevia*. April 18th, Bretby (H.J.W.).

Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus*. May 9th, Sudbury (P.E.M.).

Sedge-Warbler, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Decrease (R.S.F.C.). April 29th, Radbourne (S.W.). August 1st, Draycott (D.C.H.).

Garden-Warbler, *Sylvia borin*. April 25th, Radbourne (S.W.).

Blackcap, *Sylvia a. atricapilla*. March 23rd, Duffield (J.M.B.). September 13th, Baslow (R.P.); Duffield (K.N.S.).

Whitethroat, *Sylvia c. communis*. April 14th, Bretby (H.J.W.). September 5th, Findern (D.C.H.).

Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia c. curruca*. April 19th, Bretby (H.J.W.); Radbourne (W.K.M.).

Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*. May 1st, Radbourne (W.K.M.). October 3rd, Great Longstone (W.V.W.).

Song-Thrush, *Turdus e. ericetarum*. Nest without mud lining (G.F.N.).

Redwing, *Turdus m. musicus*. November 23rd, flock singing in chorus, Ashgate (N.H.). March 24th, Findern (D.C.H.). October 15th, Radbourne (W.K.M.).

Ring-Ouzel, *Turdus t. torquatus*. Three pairs in spring; one brood of five young seen, Abney (H.C.B.B.). A good nesting season (E.H.P.).

Blackbird, *Turdus m. merula*. February 8th, one, singing, Repton (R.S.F.C.). September 12th, three immature found dead and full of Mulberry juice; I have never known this before during the twenty-nine years I have known this tree (W.K.M.).

Wheatear, *Ænanthe o. ænanthe*. March 14th, Willington (S.W.). September 5th, Baslow (R.P.).

Whinchat, *Saxicola rubetra*. Almost disappeared from Bretby owing to cultivation. April 20th, Bretby (H.J.W.). September 18th, Crowdecote (G.A.W.).

Redstart, *Phoenicurus p. phoenicurus*. Increased (G.R.P.; R.P.). Fairly numerous in the Via Gellia (A.L.). Increased, they fed on red currants in my garden. I watched them day after day at a distance of 12 ft., there was no doubt they ate the currant and there was no sign of grubs in any of them (E.H.P.). April 15th, Radbourne (W.K.M.). September 3rd, Chatsworth (R.P.).

Black Redstart, *Phoenicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis*. March 18th to 23rd, near Rocester (C.A.H.).

Nightingale, *Luscinia m. megarhyncha*. April 22nd to June 10th, one singing near Duffield but no other evidence of breeding (J.M.B.).

Wren, *Troglodytes t. troglodytes*. Recovered from 1946/7 winter (G.R.P.).

Dipper, *Cinclus c. gularis*. Rough weather blew down a nest with the bird sitting on eggs and the bird was drowned (G.R.P.).

Swallow, *Hirundo r. rustica*. Late breeding (T.C.F.). Third successful brood of one pair left nest September 25th (W.K.M.). April 10th, Bretby (H.J.W.); Bradley (K.M.H.); Crowdecote (G.A.W.). October 17th, Sinfin (D.C.H.).

House-Martin, *Delichon u. urbica*. April 12th, Bretby (H.J.W.). October 20th, fifteen, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Sand-Martin, *Riparia r. riparia*. April 6th, Willington (S.W.). August 15th, Littleover (D.C.H.).

Swift, *Apus a. apus*. May 1st, Stenson. September 4th, Littleover (D.C.H.).

Nightjar, *Caprimulgus e. europaeus*. Three pairs nested in Repton Shrubs (H.J.W.). More birds than for the past ten years but not as many as before that (G.R.P.). Again nested in my garden (E.H.P.). May 22nd, Baslow (R.P.).

Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis pluvius*. Recovering in numbers from 1946/7 winter (H.J.W.).

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dryobates major anglicus*. March 28th and 29th, three or four displaying, one of which drummed on a high tension wire and on the metal top of an electricity pole (G.R.P.).

Cuckoo, *Cuculus c. canorus*. Decrease, South-east Derbyshire (G.R.). Increase, parts of North Derbyshire (A.L.). April 11th, Chaddesden (K.N.S.).

Short-eared Owl, *Asio f. flammeus*. Very few (E.H.P.).

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco p. peregrinus*. October 17th,

a Tiercel, Freebirch (N.H.). June 3rd, a pair, mid-Derbyshire (A.L.). May 9th and November 8th, North Derbyshire.

Merlin, *Falco columbarius aesalon*. Frequently seen on one moor (G.R.P.). None seen at Abney (H.C.B.B.). April 19th, Beeley (C.B.C.). May 15th, one, Abney (A.L.). May 25th, one, Alsop-en-le-Dale (S.W.).

[Golden Eagle, *Aquila c. chrysaetus*]. December 1st, Birchinlea. "I saw an eagle settling on a tree above my house, it had difficulty in finding a bough to bear its weight. I had a very good view against the sky and should say it was a golden eagle but could not be sure. I watched it for 20 minutes. I had no doubt it was an eagle and not a buzzard, I had such a good chance to watch it for so long. It was very dark underneath on breast." (E.H.P.).

Common Buzzard, *Buteo b. buteo*. July 18th, one, Derby (F.P.).

Montagu's Harrier, *Circus pygargus*. November 6th, North Derbyshire (E.H.P.).

Hen-Harrier, *Circus c. cyaneus*. A male near Chesterfield, April 6th (C.B.C.). April 15th, a male, Froggatt (A.E.).

Heron, *Ardea c. cinerea*. A nest was found at the Spondon Sub-station on the top level of the lattice steel structure, at a height of 50 feet. From the ground it appeared as one large nest about three feet by two feet, but on closer inspection it was found to be constructed on two sides of an anti-climbing guard and was really two nests. They were composed of dry sticks, some of which were 53 inches long and some were over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick. One edge of the nest was only about five feet from insulations carrying conductors at 132,000 volts. The nests had not been lined and were constructed between Friday afternoon, when the sub-station attendant noticed a few sticks on the ground, and Monday morn-

ing. Unfortunately, the nests were a danger to the sub-station and had to be removed.

Subsequently a heron was the cause of a blackout by colliding with a 33,000-volt wire and falling two feet on to the wire below thus completing the circuit through its body. Thirty-five nests at Calke, twelve at Catton (H.J.W.).

Whooper Swan, *Cygnus cygnus*. February 24th, two, Belper (H.L.B.).

Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus b. bewickii*. January 1st, seventeen, Rivelin (C.H.W.).

White-fronted Goose, *Anser a. albifrons*. January 27th, about thirty-five flying North, Repton (R.S.F.C. and G.M.).

Sheld-Duck, *Tadorna tadorna*. February 8th, five, Ashopton (C.H.W.). April 11th, two, Radbourne (S.W.). March, Lady Bower (E.H.P.).

Mallard, *Anas p. platyrhyncha*. December 21st, 1947, 100; January 4th, 6; February 1st, 60; February 15th, 70, Locko (P.E.M.).

Gadwall, *Anas strepera*. April 30th, one, probably two, drakes, Bradley; one immature shot at Calwich in the autumn (K.M.H.). March 9th, one pair, Ednaston (S.D.P.).

Teal, *Anas c. crecca*. The largest number at Locko was 30 on February 15th (P.E.M.). Fewer than usual nested (E.H.P.).

Garganey, *Anas querquedula*. One shot at Calwich in the autumn (K.M.H.).

Wigeon, *Anas penelope*. About 200 on the River Trent at Repton, March 6th (P.E.M.).

Pintail, *Anas a. acuta*. March 7th to 14th, a pair, Stubbing (N.H.). 8th, two pairs, Sudbury (W.K.M.).

Shoveler, *Spatula clypeata*. April 26th, one drake, Hardwick. May 25th, a pair, Ramsley. October 27th, five, Barbrook (N.H.). April 15th, a pair, Locko (P.E.M.). February 27th, one, Repton (R.S.F.C.). May 3rd, three drakes, Bakewell (A.L.).

Goldeneye, *Bucephala c. clangula*. February 29th,

one, Melbourne (R.S.F.C.). November 21st, three, Barbrook (N.H.).

Common Scoter, *Melanitta n. nigra*. April 17th, a pair, Mapperley (G.N.A.).

Goosander, *Mergus m. merganser*. February 22nd, six, Newton Solney (R.S.F.C.). November 18th, a pair, Lady Bower, also immatures (R.P.).

Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*. January 20th, three males, Barbrook (N.H.).

Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax c. carbo*. One immature Shardlow, September 14th, stayed ten days (K.N.S.; P.E.M.). At Howden in April and Lady Bower in September (E.H.P.).

Turtle-Dove, *Streptopelia t. turtur*. Very scarce (D.C.H.; W.K.M.). May 4th, Alton Manor (E.C.W.).

Curlew, *Numenius a. arquata*. Increase in breeding pairs in South Derbyshire.

Southern Dunlin, *Calidris alpina schinzii*. August 4th, three, 5th and 6th, one, Williamsthorpe (C.B.C.). August 2nd, three; 20th, one, Barbrook (N.H.). November 14th, four, Barbrook (R.P.). August 3rd, five, Shardlow (P.E.M.). February 22nd, one, Newton Solney; September 23rd and 28th, two, Egginton (R.S.F.C.).

Sanderling, *Crocethia alba*. September 14th, one, Shardlow (K.N.S.). August 26th, one, Barbrook (N.H.).

Ruff, *Philomachus Pugnax*. August 14th, one, Barbrook (N.H.). September 23rd and 24th, two; 28th, one, Egginton (R.S.F.C.).

Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*. May 3rd, Allestree (F.P.). September 13th, Allestree (K.N.S.).

Wood-Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*. May 20th, one, Mercaston, watched feeding in a farm pond at a distance of four/five yards from a car; checkered not spotted back, brown not black-brown primaries, light brown not green legs; when put up the note was not a green sandpiper's; could not see the underside of the wings but



the white rump was not so conspicuous as that of a green sandpiper (W.K.M.).

Green Sandpiper, *Tringa ochropus*. August 4th, one, Williamsthorpe (C.B.C.). April 25th, Ladybower (D.C.H.). August 3rd, one, Shardlow (P.E.M.). April 18th, one, Hungry Bentley (K.M.H.). September 23rd and 24th, one, Egginton; October 14th, one, Milton (R.S.F.C.).

Spotted Redshank, *Tringa erythropus*. September 12th, a pair, Shardlow (P.E.M.). February 22nd, one, Repton (R.S.F.C. and G.M.).

Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*. August 14th, six, Etwall Sewage Farm (H.J.W.). September 16th, one, Shardlow (K.N.S.). August 14th to 19th, and 26th to September 3rd, one, Ramsley (N.H.). September 5th, one, Shardlow (P.E.M.).

Ringed Plover, *Charadrius h. hiaticula*. August 5th and 7th, one; 6th, two, Williamsthorpe (C.B.C.). August 14th, one, Barbrook; September 3rd to 11th, two juveniles, Ramsley (N.H.). August 3rd, two, Shardlow (P.E.M.).

Southern Golden Plover, *Pluvialis a. apricaria*. Several deserted nests possibly due to a big moorland fire on adjacent ground (G.R.P.).

Northern Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons*. March 25th, two or three with about 200 southern, Egginton (R.S.F.C.). April 7th to 21st, seventy, Gladwin's Park (N.H.).

Grey Plover, *Squatarola squatarola*. February 15th, one, Egginton (W.K.M.).

Dotterel, *Eudromias morinellus* (From *British Birds*, Vol. XLI, p. 157). April 18th, 1946; two, Alport Stone (P.E.M.).

Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*. January 31st, about 2,000, Shardlow (P.E.M.).

Common Tern, *Sterna h. hirundo*. May 16th, two, Sudbury Lake, feeding on Demoiselle dragon-flies (S.W.).

Little Tern, *Sterna a. albifrons*. April 9th, one, Calwich (K.M.H.).

Black-headed Gull, *Larus r. ridibundus*. Eggs laid on Etwall Sewage Farm but no record of hatching (H.J.W.). No nests in what used to be a big gullery near Baslow (H.C.B.B.).

Common Gull, *Larus c. canus*. October 3rd, one, immature, Ramsley (N.H.). February 5th, one; April 28th, two; October 4th, three, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus graellsii*. Seen several times throughout the year, Baslow area (R.P.). One or two, Shardlow, throughout the autumn (K.N.S.). Spring and autumn, Findern, Swarkeston and Milton (D.C.H.). April 18th, one, Birchover; September 5th, five, 12th and 19th, two, Shardlow (P.E.M.). April 5th, one, Sudbury (W.K.M.). 25th, one, Radbourne (S.W.).

Arctic Skua, *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Nine, Ashover, on March 25th; two, Hardwick, May 25th; and probably one, Chesterfield, June 19th (C.B.C.).

Corn-crake, *Crex crex*. May 28th, Ambergate (H.L.B.). June 23rd, Norton (C.H.W.).

Coot, *Fulica a. atra*. None nested on Markeaton Lake; previous years six to ten nests (H.C.).

Black Grouse, *Lyrurus tetrix britannicus*. None seen on Abney (H.C.B.B.).

Common Partridge, *Perdix p. perdix*. Some late nesting; in the middle of July there were nests with eggs; probably bred in Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby (W.K.M.).

Red-legged Partridge, *Alectoris r. rufa*. April 20th, Stainsby Common: "first time for many years" (C.B.C.).

Quail, *Coturnix c. coturnix*. Estimated three breeding pairs in Ticknall-Milton Area (H.J.W.). A good year; five heard, Repton, between June 23rd and July 15th (R.S.F.C.).