

DERBYSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD, 1950.

Compiled by W. K. MARSHALL.

The following have been added this year to previous Records of recent years:—

- 329. Ferruginous Duck.
- 368. Fulmar Petrel.
- 400. Grey Phalarope.
- 438. Little Ringed Plover.
- 505. Spotted Crake.

with Bittern and Curlew-Sandpiper in square brackets.

With reference to E. M. Nicholson's survey of ornithological changes due mainly to man's activity in recent years on pp. 4 and 5 of Bulletin No. 39 (November, 1950) of The British Trust for Ornithology, it is perhaps of some interest to note the remarks of Mr. W. J. Milne, of Swanwick, in connection with opencast coal working:—

"It has certainly reduced the variety of duck and Waders to be seen in the dirty little reservoir on my doorstep": and again, "only magpies, crows, and rooks appear to enjoy the opencast heaps."

A most interesting talk was given in the autumn by the Trust's Secretary, Dr. Bruce Campbell, on the work of the Trust and on the Pied Flycatcher with excellent slides.

This Record is exchanged with those of the following counties which may be obtained through the Mobile library: Bristol, Cornwall, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, London, Montgomeryshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle - on - Tyne, Nottinghamshire, Sussex.

The following have contributed: R. S. Andrews, J. Armitage, R. W. Atherly, H. L. Barnfather, Mrs. C. M.

Betterton, Capt. H. C. B. Bowles, C. E. Brown, W. M. M. Chapman, H. Clayton, L. B. Cooper, A. P. Eaton, D. M. Ellis, N. H. FitzHerbert, T. C. Frost, C. Greaves, H. Hall, N. Harwood, Miss K. M. Hollick, D. C. Hulme, A. Leavesley, F. G. Lee, F. Marsden, W. K. Marshall, H. T. Meek, Hugo Meynell, Mrs. M. H. Mills, W. J. Milne, Miss J. M. Murrey, S. T. Nash, Ruth and B. H. Palmer, S. D. Player, A. R. S. Proctor, G. Ronald Pryor, Repton School Field Club, G. Rowbottom, H. J. Wain, D. R. Wilson, W. V. Wright.

SYSTEMATIC LIST.

The number preceding the name of each species refers to *The Handbook* where the full scientific name may be found. All dates are in 1950 unless otherwise stated.

2. The Hooded Crow. March 25th, two, Bretby (H.J.W.). January 13th, Curbar (N.H.).

11. Jay. Numbers reduced, Matlock and Tansley (M.H.M.).

14. Starling. Arrived at the roost at Hoon at the beginning of December, 1949; left the second week in February for The Spath, returned to Hoon on March 6th and all left by April 4th (C.M.B.).

25. Lesser Redpoll. "None seen during the winter 1949/50, which is most unusual, until April 7th when I saw a small flock at Mapleton" (K.M.H.).

42. Brambling. April 11th and 16th, large flock, Matlock Moor (M.H.M.).

62. Tree sparrow. Numerous in spring and autumn, Butterley (W.J.M.); numbers reduced, Findern (D.C.H.).

75. Tree-Pipit. None breeding, Quarndon (C.G.).

89. Grey Wagtail. Increased in Darley Dale area. Nested 18 feet down a well and five to six feet above average water level. Of six young, three reached the top, two were drowned, and one was rescued off the water. This well is in the Darley Dale railway sidings and

pumping is almost continuous (F.M.). Increase, Belper area (H.H.). Three breeding pairs, Lumsdale (M.H.M.).

91. White Wagtail. September 12th, one, Barbrook: very light grey back, no black on head, with immature Pied Wagtail (D.M.E.).

96. Nuthatch. October 2nd, four, Netherseale (H.J.W.).

98. Great Tit. Seen plucking nesting material from a tennis ball (M.H.M.). December 24th, 1949, singing, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

108. Willow-Tit. Decrease, Findern (D.C.H.).

114. Great Grey Shrike. November, Eyam (G.R.P.). January 29th, a female, Long Eaton (A.L.).

120. Waxwing. January 1st, ten, Chesterfield. February 12th, four, Wingerworth (N.H.).

121. Spotted Flycatcher. A pair reared three out of four young after the nest in a spout had been washed out and removed to a box in a garage (W.V.W.). Abundant, Belper area (H.H.). Very scarce, Normanton and Littleover (D.C.H.). August 11th, large number, Longford (G.R.). Numbers reduced, Butterley (W.J.M.).

123. Pied Flycatcher. June 15th, two males; July 7th, adult pair, Grindleford (D.R.W.). Occupied site of previous years (G.R.P.). 1949, nested in Chatsworth Park (D.M.E.). May 14th, a pair, Chatsworth Park (J.M.M.).

127. Goldcrest. January 2nd, C.45 Chatsworth (D.R.W.). Breeding numbers have not yet recovered from hard winters (F.M.; W.K.M.).

145. Grasshopper-Warbler. Present for the past four years in various places between Bakewell and Winster (F.M.). Regularly found in 1949 and 1950 near Sheepbridge (R.S.A.).

149. Reed - Warbler. Bred in coppiced willows (R.S.F.C.). Threefold increase in the Sawley Area: of fourteen nests seven were victimised by Cuckoo (A.L.). This increase may be due to its disappearance after sixty or more years at Radburne (W.K.M.).

173. Fieldfare. January 5th, at least one thousand, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).
175. Song-Thrush. Reduced numbers still reported in many areas but G.R.P. reports a definite increase at Calver. A few in spring only, Quarndon (C.G.).
182. Ring - Ouzel. Three or four pairs, Abney (H.C.B.B.).
198. Stonechat. Tansley (W.J.M.). Froggatt area (G.R.P.). January 12th to 25th, a female, Ramsley (N.H.).
203. Nightingale. May 20th, two in full song, Ticknall (H.J.W.).
227. Nightjar. June, a pair, Repton (H.J.W.). Increased in Darley Dale area in the last seven or eight years (F.M.). One pair on Matlock Moor, one pair at Tansley (M.H.M.).
234. Kingfisher. September 24th, one, catching trout in a pond in Farley Road, Derby, was mobbed by a Blackbird (R.W.A.).
235. Green Woodpecker. Increased, Belper area (H.H.); Meynell Langley (H.M.).
237. Great Spotted Woodpecker. Increase, Belper area (H.H.). Drumming on metal top of electricity pole (M.H.M.). Decrease, Meynell Langley (H.M.).
240. Cuckoo. Generally reported as not so numerous this year.
251. Short-eared Owl. December 27th, 1949, two, Big Moor (D.R.W.). Wintered 1949/50 on Leash Fen (G.R.P.).
254. Barn-Owl. March 3rd at 7 a.m., one was being chased by two Carrion Crows, Radbourne (W.K.M.).
259. Peregrine Falcon. January 1st, one (K.M.H.). October, Buxton (W.M.M.C.).
262. Merlin. July 30th, female and three young, Jagers Clough (B.H.P.). None seen, Abney or Baslow (H.C.B.B.). [January 22nd, one probably male Merlin, Mapleton (K.M.H.).] Probably bred in mid-Derbyshire (A.L.). October, Buxton (W.M.M.C.).

269. Common Buzzard. September 26th, one, Newton Solney (H.J.W.). May 19th, two, flying north over Derby (H.L.B.). March 26th, one, South Wood (G.R.). January 4th, Shardlow (H.C.).

273. Hen - Harrier. November, 1949, to Spring 1950, one seen several times, North Derbyshire. Pale grey back, pure white below white rump (R.P.; B.H.P.). December 28th, 1949, a female, "almost certainly this species" Lady Bower. April 5th, adult male, Burbage (D.R.W.). January 7th to March 25th, seen on ten occasions, North Derbyshire (N.H.).

289. Heron. May 20th, thirty-four nests, Calke Abbey (H.J.W.).

[297. Bittern. January 20th, two patches of feathers, identified by the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, as coming from a Bittern's flanks on the ground at Mapleton. (K.M.H.).]

314. Canada Goose. General difficulty in finding sufficient suitable nesting sites.

315. Sheld-Duck. September 28th, October 6th, one, Barbrook Reservoir (D.R.W.). September 5th to 16th, one, occasionally two, immature, Barbrook (D.M.E.). September 10th, 20th, October 3rd, one, Barbrook (R.S.A.).

319. Teal. Bred at Chatsworth (R.P.).

[406. Curlew-Sandpiper. March 25th, two, Ramsley (N.H.).]

322. Garganey. November 1st, 1949, two drakes, Belper (H.L.B.). March 25th, a pair, Hardwick (N.H.).

329. Ferruginous Duck. From the middle of December until the third week of March; a pair, Butterley Reservoir, always by themselves, did not mix with other ducks, constantly diving and remaining under water longer than Pochard; White eye, white wingbar (W.J.M.).

331. Scaup-Duck. March 12th, one male, Sawley (A.L.).

342. Goosander. February 16th, twenty-seven, Repton (R.S.F.C.).
346. Cormorant. September 18th, two, Repton (H.J.W.). May 18th, June 8th, 9th, one, Chatsworth (R.P.). October 2nd and 15th, one, Osmaston (K.M.H.). Seen once at Ednaston (S.D.P.).
368. Fulmar Petrel. December 18th, 1949, Lathkill Dale (A.P.E.).
370. Great Crested Grebe. Bred at Foremark (R.S.F.C.). None at Osmaston (K.M.H.); or Sawley (A.L.).
375. Little Grebe. Increased in Darley Dale area (F.M.).
383. Turtle-Dove. Scarce in most areas (D.C.H.; W.K.M.).
393. Woodcock. February 16th, first seen roding, Baslow (R.P.). Bred Darley Dale (F.M.).
400. Grey Phalarope. September 17th, one, Bradwell (H.P.M.).
404. Dunlin. March 12th, one, Sawley (A.L.). Several pairs breed regularly in the north-west of the county where cottonsedge grows (J.A.). See separate report on Barbrook Reservoir.
432. Greenshank. October 6th, one (first winter plumage), Barbrook Reservoir (D.R.W.).
438. Little Ringed Plover. Bred successfully on the River Trent. This appears to be the first record of this bird in the county. See separate report (R.S.F.C.).
449. Lapwing. "Nesting pairs holding their own," Belper area (H.H.). Very many fewer nesting, Abney and Baslow (H.C.B.B.). Much decreased in most areas.
452. Oyster-catcher. August 21st, two, Baslow (D.M.E.).
462. Black Tern. May 21st and 22nd, one, Yeldersley (K.M.H.).
- 469, 470. Common Tern (or Arctic). September 20th, three, Barbrook (R.S.A.).

485. Lesser Black-backed Gull. October 22nd, Repton (R.S.F.C.). February 25th, Findern; July 27th, Ingleby (D.C.H.). April 2nd, two, Clifton; May 27th, three, Ashbourne (K.M.H.). January 29th, with Herring-Gulls, Sawley (A.L.). October 15th, Willington and Radburne (W.K.M.).

486. Great Black-backed Gull. September 28th, one flying south, Chatsworth (D.R.W.).

[493.] Skua (probably Arctic). May 19th, two, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

504. Corn-Crake. May 10th, one, Leicestershire boundary (H.J.W.).

[505.] Spotted Crake. March 21st, one, Ashgate (N.H.).]

510. Moorhen. Brood of six young, in early January, Chesterfield Sewage Works (N.H.).

513. Black Grouse. January 7th, a male; 12th, eight, Ramsley (N.H.).

DEPARTURE OF WINTER MIGRANTS, 1950.

Fieldfare. April 11th, Dore (D.R.W.); May 4th, Radburne (W.K.M.).

Redwing. April 7th, Radburne (W.K.M.).

ARRIVAL OF WINTER MIGRANTS, 1950.

Fieldfare. October 21st, Lumsdale (M.H.M.); November 2nd Radburne (W.K.M.); 6th, Eyam (R.P.).

Redwing. October 19th, Matlock Moor (M.H.M.); 25th, Osmaston (K.M.H.); November 6th, Eyam (R.P.).

ARRIVAL OF SPRING MIGRANTS, 1950.

Tree-Pipit. April 20th, Baslow (R.P.); 22nd, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 23rd, Butterley (W.J.M.); 24th, Sudbury (W.K.M.); May 2nd, Findern (D.C.H.).

Yellow-Wagtail. April 21st, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 23rd, Ashford (W.V.W.); 24th, Butterley (W.J.M.);

27th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 29th, Allestree (H.C.);
May 7th, Egginton (R.S.F.C.).

Spotted Flycatcher. May 5th, Butterley (W.J.M.);
10th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 11th, Radburne (W.K.M.);
13th, Repton (R.S.F.C.); 15th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 17th,
Derby (H.C.); 18th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 21st, Long-
stone (W.V.W.).

Chiff - chaff. March 23rd, Biggin - by - Hulland
(K.M.H.); 26th, Bradwell (G.R.P.); 30th, Markeaton
(H.C.); 31st, Radburne (W.K.M.); April 3rd, Sudbury
(W.K.M.); 6th, Meynell Langley (H.M.); 7th, Bretby
(H.J.W.); 22nd, Blackbrook (D.C.H.).

Willow-Warbler. April 4th, Quarndon (C.G.); 7th,
Bretby (H.J.W.), Radburne (W.K.M.), Littleover
(C.E.B.); 8th, Meynell Langley (H.M.); 9th, Duffield
(A.R.S.P.); 12th, Sudbury (K.M.H.), Baslow (R.P.),
Butterley (W.J.M.); 14th, Lumsdale (M.H.M.); 16th,
Findern (D.C.H.); 17th, Belper (H.H.); 22nd Buxton
(W.V.W.).

Wood-Warbler. April 28th, Bretby (H.I.W.); May
12th, Bradley (K.M.H.).

Sedge-Warbler. May 10th, Radburne (W.K.M.).

Garden-Warbler. April 28th, Bretby (H.J.W.);
May 3rd, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 7th, Radburne (W.K.M.);
10th, Allestree (H.C.), Mapleton (K.M.H.); 23rd, Ash-
ford (W.V.W.).

Blackcap. April 11th, Sudbury (W.K.M.); 29th,
Bretby (H.J.W.); 30th, Quarndon (C.G.); May 1st,
Shirley (K.M.H.).

Whitethroat. April 8th, Bretby, one only (H.J.W.);
26th Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 30th, Bretby, main body
(H.J.W.), Quarndon (C.G.); May 2nd, Littleover
(D.C.H.), Butterley (W.J.M.), Ashbourne (K.M.H.);
3rd, Hognaston (W.K.M.); 5th, Radburne (W.K.M.).

Lesser Whitethroat. May 5th, Mackworth (W.K.M.);
10th, Mapleton (K.M.H.).

Wheatear. April 7th, Baslow (R.P.), Bretby (H.J.W.); May 4th, Taddington (W.V.W.).

Whinchat. April 27th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); May 2nd, Taddington (W.V.W.).

Redstart. April 15th, Matlock Moor (M.H.M.); 16th, Longstone (W.V.W.); 20th, Baslow (R.P.); May 3rd, Fenny Bentley (K.M.H.), Hognaston (W.K.M.); 4th, Radburne (W.K.M.); 10th, Butterley (W.J.M.).

Swallow. April 7th, Darley Dale (F.M.); 8th, Bretby (H.J.W.), Dalbury (W.K.M.); 12th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.), Butterley (W.J.M.), Sudbury (K.M.H.); 13th, Markeaton (H.C.), Littleover (C.E.B.); 14th, Meynell Langley (H.M.); 15th, Baslow (R.P.), Calver (G.R.P.); 16th, Findern (D.C.H.); 17th, Belper (H.H.); 21st, Lea (M.H.M.); 22nd, Ashford (W.V.W.).

House-Martin. March 29th, Repton (three) (R.S.F.C.); April 10th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 11th, Markeaton (H.C.); 13th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.), Littleover (C.E.B.); 16th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 17th, Belper (H.H.), Sudbury (W.K.M.); 18th, Butterley (W.J.M.).

Sand-Martin. April 7th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.), Chatsworth (D.C.H.); 8th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 11th, Mapleton (K.M.H.), Sudbury (W.K.M.); 13th, Butterley (W.J.M.); 17th, Belper (H.H.).

Swift. April 30th, Bretby (H.J.W.), Curbar (R.P.), Calver (G.R.P.); May 1st, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 4th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.), Radburne (W.K.M.); 5th, Butterley (W.J.M.), Littleover (C.E.B.); 6th, Derby (H.C.); 7th, Normanton (D.C.H.); 12th, Longstone (W.V.W.).

Cuckoo. April 19th, Mackworth (W.K.M.); 20th, Calke (H.J.W.); 27th, Duffield (F.N.F.), Markeaton (H.C.); 28th, Thorpe (K.M.H.), Meynell Langley (H.M.), Quarndon (C.G.); 29th, Bretby (H.J.W.), Matlock Moor (M.H.M.); 30th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); May 2nd, Ashford (W.V.W.).

Turtle Dove. April 30th, Bretby (H.J.W.); May

6th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 17th, Foston (W.K.M.); 21st, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Common Sandpiper. April 17th, Belper (H.H.); May 14th, Allestree (H.C.).

Corn-crake. April 27th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

DEPARTURE OF SPRING MIGRANTS, 1950.

Tree-Pipit. September 5th, Quarndon (C.G.).

Yellow-Wagtail. September 6th, Allestree (H.C.); 10th, Littleover (D.C.H.); 16th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Spotted Flycatcher. September 5th, young bird, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 9th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 10th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 16th, Derby (H.C.).

Chiff-chaff. September 12th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 15th, Radburne (W.K.M.); October 2nd, Somersal Herbert (N.F.H.).

Willow-Warbler. September 9th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 23rd, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 27th, Markeaton (H.C.).

Whitethroat. September 3rd, Bretby (H.J.W.).

Wheatear. August 12th, Bretby (H.J.W.); September 15th, Barbrook (D.M.E.).

Whinchat. September 24th, Littleover (D.C.H.).

Swallow. September 25th, Derby (H.C.); 26th, Tansley (M.H.M.); October 4th, Butterley (C.G.), (W.J.M.); 5th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.); 8th, Bretby (H.J.W.), Radburne (W.K.M.); 10th, Bakewell (R.P.); 13th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 15th, Littleover (D.C.H.); 28th, Repton (R.S.F.C.).

House-Martin. September 27th, Butterley (W.J.M.); October 6th, Derby (H.C.); 10th, Bretby (H.J.W.); 11th, Radburne (W.K.M.); 14th, Littleover (C.E.B.); 18th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.); 29th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.), Repton (R.S.F.C.).

Sand-Martin. September 7th, Ashbourne (K.M.H.).

Swift. August 10th, Derby (H.C.); 17th, Bretby (H.J.W.), Radburne (W.K.M.); 26th, Duffield

(A.R.S.P.), Baslow (R.P.); 30th, Littleover (D.C.H.).

Cuckoo. August 1st, Derby (H.C.); 14th, Duffield (A.R.S.P.).

Turtle Dove. September 21st, Duffield (A.R.S.P.).

DAWN SONG.

All times are British Summer Time:—

	Repton Shrubs, June 3rd. (R.S.F.C.).	Bretby Woods, May 28th. (H.J.W.).
Grasshopper-Warbler	3.08 a.m.	—
Cockerel	3.22 a.m.	3.30 a.m.
Cuckoo	3.27 a.m.	4.25 a.m.
Wood-Pigeon	3.33 a.m.	4.35 a.m.
Robin	3.35 a.m.	4.10 a.m.
Blackbird	3.38 a.m.	4.03 a.m.
Willow-Warbler	3.40 a.m.	4.23 a.m.
Pheasant	3.40 a.m.	4.40 a.m.
Yellow Bunting	3.42 a.m.	—
Sky-Lark	—	3.45 a.m.
Song-Thrush	4.37 a.m.	3.59 a.m.
Carrion-Crow	4.04 a.m.	4.02 a.m.
Wren	4.06 a.m.	4.20 a.m.
Mistle-Thrush	—	4.09 a.m.
Rook	4.15 a.m.	4.12 a.m.
Garden-Warbler	—	4.15 a.m.
Hedge-Sparrow	—	4.19 a.m.
Whitethroat	4.47 a.m.	4.21 a.m.
Magpie	—	4.22 a.m.
Blue Tit	4.30 a.m.	—
Chaffinch	4.54 a.m.	4.32 a.m.
Chiff-chaff	—	4.33 a.m.
Woodpecker	4.34 a.m.	—
Turtle-Dove	4.38 a.m.	4.54 a.m.
Great Tit	4.46 a.m.	—
House-Sparrow	—	4.50 a.m.
Sunrise	4.44 a.m.	4.49 a.m.

WADERS AT BARBROOK RESERVOIR.

Mr. J. N. Hobbs, who compiles the Hertfordshire Report, has noticed a similarity of dates between records in 1949 for the Tring reservoirs and those of Mr. N. Harwood in 1949 for Barbrook reservoir.

Mr. Harwood has left the district but Messrs. D. M. Ellis, R. S. Andrew and D. R. Wilson have sent in records for 1950 independently of each other. It is hoped that the following summary of their records will permit a further comparison and it may perhaps be suggested that further records in August and September, 1951, will be most interesting, particularly if, in addition to those Waders recorded this year, Turnstone, Ruff, Sanderling, and Knot are looked for.

At Barbrook in 1949 Dunlin were recorded from August 2nd to 18th; they were absent from August 19th to September 9th and present in reduced numbers from September 11th to 13th. Ringed Plover, Redshank, Green Sandpiper and Turnstone were also present in the first wave only; Sanderling and Knot in the second wave only. It will be noticed that in 1950 the first wave of Dunlin was late and almost merged into the second wave.

Date.	Dunlin	Ringed Plover	Redshank	Greenshank	Common Sandpiper	Remarks.
August 1st		1			6	
" 2nd			3		6	
" 3rd					Several	No visits between 3rd and 21st.
" 21st	5	1			2	
" 22nd					2	
" 23rd				2	2	
" 24th					2/3	
" 27th	11					
" 28th	14	2				
" 29th	14	4				
" 30th	19	6				
" 31st	19	6			2	
Sept. 1st	9	6			2	
" 2nd	9	6				
" 5th	5	2				
" 6th		1/2				
" 7th	3	1				
" 8th	2	1				
" 9th	3	1				
" 10th	5					
" 11th	2					
" 12th	1					
" 13th						
" 14th	1					
" 15th						
" 16th				1		
Oct. 6th						Only one visit, and that on Sept. 28th, between Sept. 16th and Oct. 6th.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.

This is a summary of notes made by the Repton School Field Club, the identity of the birds having been verified. The birds were first seen on May 30th and the nest subsequently found with two eggs. The third egg was laid on June 3rd and the fourth on June 5th; average size of eggs 32.3 x 23.4 mms. The nest, on a shingle bank of the River Trent, was lined with hawthorn stalks, one

or two matches, fibrous roots, small shells, and a small piece of newspaper. Both sexes shared incubation; stone-throwing both by the relieving bird and sometimes by the sitting bird on leaving the nest, was observed. The male was a bad sitter.

Two eggs hatched on June 28th and one on 29th; the other egg did not hatch.

The birds appeared to have left by July 20th.

(It is, perhaps, interesting to note that Whitlock who does not mention Little Ringed Plover, under "Ringed Plover" states: "It is just possible that on a single occasion a pair bred on one of the large shingle banks of the Trent. In July, 1889, I came upon a brood of four young birds in the parish of Long Eaton. Though well able to fly they had not long obtained their first plumage; I think it therefore possible they may have been hatched in the neighbourhood.")

The Handbook does not give Derbyshire as one of the breeding places of the Ringed Plover, so one wonders if Whitlock's four young were Little Ringed Plover).