



REVIEWS

Addenda and Corrigenda to the Birds of Dumfriesshire. By
Hugh S. Gladstone (Dumfriesshire and Galloway Nat.
Hist. Soc.).

THE substance of this pamphlet of thirty-six pages (conveniently printed in the same form as the author's book) was read as a Presidential Address to the local Natural History Society on October 20th, 1911. The most important of these *Addenda and Corrigenda*, which are detailed with the author's usual care and thoroughness, are referred to below.

In his book it will be remembered that Mr. Gladstone included the Marsh-Tit, but as no specimen from the county had been critically examined, this was a somewhat rash decision. On July 20th, 1911, a black-capped tit was obtained near Clonrae and submitted by Mr. Gladstone to the present writer, who proclaimed it to be an example of the Willow-Tit. This bird was in juvenile plumage, and there are a good many ornithologists who aver that in this stage the Marsh- and Willow-Tits are indistinguishable. The best character, viz. the glossy black "cap" of the Marsh- and the dull sooty-black "cap" of the Willow-Tit, is of no use in the juvenile plumage, where both species have dull brown "caps," and the graduation of the tail-feathers is an uncertain character. But I find that there is one character and that a good one, by which the two species can be separated: this is in the colouring of the outer webs of the secondaries, which in the Willow-Tit is buff and distinctly different from that of the inner webs, whereas in the Marsh-Tit both webs of the secondaries are of the same dark brown colour. I have referred at some length to this difference between the two species, because it is of importance, being a much more constant character than the shape of the tail, and the wing- and tail-feathers are the only ones of the juvenile plumage which are retained and not moulted when the bird attains first winter-plumage. In the "field" too, this character is useful, as the pale edging to the secondaries is distinctive even in the British Willow-Tit (*P. a. kleinschmidti*), while in the Northern Willow-Tit (*P. a. borealis*), it is very marked and at once catches the eye.

Mr. Gladstone now places the Red-backed Shrike within square brackets, which is wise; he states that the Great Spotted Woodpecker is increasing; that a Glossy Ibis was

shot from a party of four on July 26th, 1911, at Crurie; that the American Blue-winged Teal, shot at Upper Nithsdale in 1858 and now in the Royal Scottish Museum, is a female and not a male, as has been generally accepted; that a pair of Turtle-Doves were obtained in May, 1909, in the county, and a single bird in October, 1910, a Spotted Crake in August, 1910, a Ruff in September, 1911, while a pair of Green Sandpipers were seen in August, 1911. H.F.W.

Bird-Marking in the Netherlands. By Dr. E. D. van Oort. (Note XII., of *Notes from the Leyden Museum*, Vol. XXXIV.)

THE Museum of Natural History at Leyden, we are glad to learn, has started this year (1911) a "marking scheme." The smaller rings are lettered MUSEUM
LEIDEN and the larger ones MUSEUM NAT. HIST.
LEIDEN, HOLLAND and all are of course numbered. More than 2,500 rings have been issued, and some 1,165 used on thirty-one species. The reported recoveries are at present naturally few in number.

Of 160 Wild Ducks (*Anas boscas*) "ringed," six were reported from August to October, all in Holland except one, which was found near Dunkerque, north France, on October 5th, having been "ringed" in Zeeland on July 28th.

Eighty-four Herring-Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) have been "ringed" and two recovered, one in south Holland and one which was "ringed" in north Holland on July 2nd, 1911, at Margate (Kent), on October 25th. Dr. van Oort remarks that, "the Herring-Gulls bred in the Netherlands seem to visit the coast of S.E. England"; but to this statement we very strongly object, as being founded on entirely insufficient evidence. Such remarks are most misleading.

Black-headed Gulls (*L. ridibundus*), as in our own lists, provide the greatest number marked, viz., 381, and of these seven, all marked in Zeeland, have been recovered—one in south Holland, one in Belgium, three in northern France, one in the south of France, and one in north-western Spain. Of these the most striking is the one reported from Palavasles-Flots in the Gulf of Lion on August 9th, it having been "ringed" as a nestling in Zeeland on June 25th, 1911.

Reports of recovered birds bearing the Leyden ring should be sent to Dr. van Oort at the Museum, Leyden, with full particulars of the number, and date and place of recovery. We wish every success to our Dutch confrères in this undertaking.