



LETTERS



THRUSH IMITATING NOTE OF GREEN WOODPECKER.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—With reference to the correspondence (*antea*, pp. 88, 117) as to the Song-Thrush imitating the notes of Waders, the following may be of interest. About twenty years ago I was staying at Grosmont in Monmouthshire. The place is situated on the side of a wooded valley which literally swarms with Green Woodpeckers (*Picus viridis virescens*), so much so that I do not exaggerate when I say that there was scarcely a minute of the day in which the loud laughing note of this bird could not be heard. I saw, too, several at once on the ground at an anthill devouring the insects. On one occasion I was waiting for my friend to come out for a ramble when I noticed the Woodpecker note constantly repeated, but coming all the time from one particular spot—an apple tree in the orchard. This struck me as strange, so I went to investigate, when I discovered, to my surprise, that these "Woodpecker notes" proceeded from a Song-Thrush (*Turdus ph. clarkei*) which kept repeating them over and over again! I concluded that this Thrush had been reared in the neighbourhood, and, from hearing the Woodpeckers' laughing cry so incessantly all around, whilst it was a nestling, it had acquired that song instead of its parents' notes.

H. E. FORREST.

SONG-THRUSH IMITATING WADERS AND OTHER BIRDS.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—With reference to the notes on the Song-Thrush imitating the notes of the Redshank (*antea*, pp. 88, 117), two or three years ago, in St. James's Park, I heard a Song-Thrush frequently repeating the cry "whee, whee, whew" of the Wigeon.

A. CAMERON SHORE.

THE NORMAL CLUTCH OF SANDWICH TERN'S EGGS.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—With reference to the Rev. J. R. Hale's letter (*antea*, p. 118), it may be of interest to state that during the last season there were two clutches of three eggs of the Sandwich Tern (*Sterna s. sandvicensis*) in the Ravenglass or Drigg Colony in Cumberland.

Up to May 5th only one pair had been seen and that early in April, and the breeding site was colonized by a late migration towards the end of May, the 24th I think.

H. W. ROBINSON.