

LETTERS.

LAPWING CARRYING ITS YOUNG.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—Referring to a letter by Mr. M. Portal (*antea*, p. 256), is it worth while pointing out that—so long ago as 1905—that most reliable field-ornithologist, the late Robert Service, described how he had himself seen a Lapwing carrying its young? His description will be found in *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Glasg.*, 1905, Vol. VIII., pp. 48–9, and is quoted in *The Birds of Dumfries-shire*, 1910, p. 373.

HUGH S. GLADSTONE.

SWIMMING POWERS OF YOUNG LAPWINGS.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—In answer to Major M. Portal's enquiry (*antea*, p. 256), I have known young Lapwings swim a stretch of water about thirty yards in extent, formed through the flooding of low-lying land, and have seen them swim the marsh creeks when the tide was flowing in and they had from ten to fifteen feet of water to cross. The adults usually fly to the far side of the creek or stream and call to the youngsters, who enter the water without the least hesitation and swim as well as young Ducks or Moorhens. One day I disturbed a brood of young, about three days old, and one immediately made for a creek and swam the five or six feet stretch of water.

Young Oystercatchers can swim well; whilst on two occasions I have seen them swim under the water, like young Sheld-Ducks. So far I have not seen an adult Lapwing swimming, but on several occasions have noticed adult Oystercatchers swim a medium-sized river, and on reaching the far side fly away.

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