

## MANX ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES, 1927.

BY

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THESE notes are continued from Vol. XXI., No. 1, June, 1927. First records of the Fulmar and Sandwich Tern (C. Oldham) and reports of the occurrences of Crossbills (C. Oldham and Col. Madoc) have already appeared in *British Birds*, November, 1927, p. 161, and October, 1927, p. 126. The Little Gull is also recorded (T. A. Coward, November, 1927, p. 161). There have been, during the year, a few observations of some of the smaller birds little known on the Island, as the Redstart, Garden Warbler and Yellow Wagtail. White Wagtails have again been seen on migration. The usual species have occurred at the lights in comparatively small numbers, Starlings, Fieldfares, Redwings, Blackbirds and Larks being most largely represented, the most noticeable movements being in the first days of March and the last week in November. House-Sparrows were several times killed at the Point of Ayre Light, also a few Ringed Plovers and Water-Rails. The last species, though little known to residents, must be really abundant in suitable localities.

Reports of "oiled" sea-birds of various species are frequent. The colonies of Terns are watched during the season and appear to be fairly prosperous. The Great Black-backed Gull is again reported as breeding in a number of localities; it is a dominant and increasing species.

For many of the following notes I am indebted to Col. Madoc.

RAVEN (*Corvus c. corax*).—Col. Madoc saw a nest with six eggs on February 28th, and one with seven eggs on April 7th.

TWITE (*Carduelis f. flavirostris*).—Col. Madoc reports a female feeding young, July 3rd. Though long ago recorded as a resident in Man, little has come to light regarding this bird in recent years.

SNOW-BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—The species appeared in the winter 1926-7 and 1927-8: in one case some forty birds on Snaefell.

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*).—On May 15th Col. Madoc saw a female flying about on the shore at Ballaugh.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phœnicurus o. gibraltariensis*).—Col. Madoc saw an immature bird at Peel Castle, November 17th.

SWALLOW (*Hirundo r. rustica*).—Late occurrences, November 3rd, 6th and 13th, are in evidence from various localities.

BITTERN (*Botaurus s. stellaris*).—On December 7th a mature Bittern was obtained in the Northern Curragh and presented to the Manx Museum.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus b. bewickii*).—Mr. James Bell reports the shooting of an immature specimen in the north of the Island in the autumn. Another immature bird was taken by boys in the open-air swimming bath at Ramsey in November, and given to the Manx Museum. It was a very small specimen, extremely emaciated, and weighed only five pounds.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*).—On January 4th a specimen was found dead in Lough Cranstal by Mr. F. A. Craine, apparently the second Manx record.

TUFTED DUCK (*Nyroca fuligula*).—Appears to be becoming more common as a winter visitor. Frequent reports of specimens on salt and fresh water all over the Island.

SMEW (*Mergus albellus*).—Col. Madoc and Mr. T. A. Coward saw two mature males at Derbyhaven, December 4th.

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus p. puffinus*).—In a large mass of papers recently discovered in Castle Rushen by the custodian are many relating to the "puffins" of the Calf Islet, which were traded in by the officials of the Lord of Man. In 1711 the accounts for the year show that there were sold 822 dozen and two birds, realizing £36 2s. 2d. (Rabbits at 2d. a couple fetched in the same year only £1 2s. 8d.) Perhaps the systematic and long-continued destruction of the young was responsible for the extinction of the species, rather than other reasons which have been suggested.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*).—Col. Madoc and Mr. Coward saw one partly in summer plumage at Fort Island in early December; a few days later Col. Madoc and Mr. Cornish saw two in the same vicinity. Col. Madoc also reports observations of the three other larger species of Grebe.

TURTLE-DOVE (*Streptopelia t. turtur*).—Another specimen was received by the Manx Museum from Ballarhenney, Michael, June 7th, 1926.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*) and GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius apricarius*).—Both species were present in the Island again this year in very great numbers during the hard weather of the later months.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus r. ridibundus*).—There are as usual reports of the very early assumption of the dark hood, as at Douglas on December 4th and 7th.

GREAT SKUA (*Stercorarius s. skua*).—September 2nd, Mr. C. Oldham saw one close inshore at the Point of Ayre.

LITTLE AUK (*Alle alle*).—Four seen by Mr. Cornish and Col. Madoc off Fort Island, October 28th. Col. Madoc saw two there again on November 6th, and on November 10th he and Sergt. Cregeen observed two at Onchan. On December 26th one flew past Col. Madoc and his son at Fort Island during a N.E. gale.