

## BIRDS OF INNER LONDON.

BY

A. HOLTE MACPHERSON.

(NOTE.—The above designation, "Inner London", applies to an oblong area: the centres of the upper and lower boundaries being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles due north and south of Charing Cross, and those of the two sides 4 miles due east and west of that point.)

## ADDITIONAL SPECIES.

THE following species may be added to the list published in this Magazine in 1929 (Vol. XXII., pp. 222-244) and the additions in 1930 (Vol. XXIII., p. 266).

SOUTHERN GUILLEMOT (*Uria a. albionis*).—Two birds of this species were seen on the Thames just above London Bridge on November 7th, 1930 (P. H. Trahair Hartley, *B.B.*, Vol. XXIV., p. 197).

## ADDITIONAL NOTES IN 1930.

Several JAYS (*Garrulus g. rufitergum*) again frequented the grounds of Holland House, Kensington, throughout the summer, though I am still without any evidence that they nested.

From the beginning of October an unusual number of COAL-TITS (*Parus a. britannicus*) were noticed in the parks.

Major A. H. Daukes informs me that on August 31st a young PIED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*) visited his garden in Egerton Terrace, Chelsea.

In addition to a few WHEATEARS (*Enanthe æ. ænanthe*) which passed through London as usual in April, a flock of from 25 to 30 was seen by Miss M. Rew in Regent's Park on May 6th and 7th.

A REDSTART (*Phœnicurus ph. phœnicurus*) visited the grounds of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, on April 9th (F. W. Frohawk, *Field*, April 26th, 1930), and Major A. H. Daukes noticed one on October 5th in his garden in Chelsea.

For about three months a GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus v. virescens*), a bird which has not been recorded from Inner London since 1904, frequented the grounds of Holland House. It was first noticed in the middle of January. Its laugh could often be heard, and I saw it on various occasions up to April 13th. It appeared to be a solitary bird. I am informed by Miss M. Rew that on March 6th she saw a Green Woodpecker, perhaps the same one, in Regent's Park.

A SPARROW-HAWK (*Accipiter n. nisus*) frequented the vicinity of the Zoological Gardens during the autumn (D. Seth-Smith, *Report to H.M. Office of Works Bird Sanctuary Committee*).

Miss M. Rew tells me that during a fog on November 27th she and her brother came upon a LITTLE OWL (*Athene n. vidalii*) on the branch of a small tree in Regent's Park. A bird of this species was also seen by one of the bird-keepers in the Zoological Gardens on December 3rd; it was perched on the railings of the Outer Circle road (D. Seth-Smith, *t.c.*).

A pair of MALLARDS (*Anas p. platyrhyncha*) aroused considerable interest by selecting the garden of New Square, Lincoln's Inn, as a nesting-place. In the middle of the garden there is a small ornamental pond, by which a square hamper was placed on its side. After laying two eggs on the grass, the duck made a nest in the hamper and laid five eggs. In June, three ducklings were hatched and reared.

A drake COMMON SCOTER (*Oidemia n. nigra*) was on the lake in Regent's Park on April 6th, where it was seen by Mr. D. L. Lack and his father, Dr. H. L. Lack. His brother, Mr. C. C. Lack, found it there on the following day.

Mr. P. H. Trahair Hartley tells me that on March 6th he saw a CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax c. carbo*) in the Pool of London.

In rather foggy weather during the first week of December a BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*) visited the Long Water, Kensington Gardens. I discovered it on December 3rd and it remained for several days, never moving far from the bridge across the Serpentine. It was seen by several ornithologists. So far as I am aware, only one example of this species has previously been recorded from Inner London.

Miss M. Rew, to whom I am indebted for several interesting notes from Regent's Park, where birds have until lately received but little attention, informs me that she saw five LAPWINGS (*Vanellus vanellus*) there on December 23rd, and a COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*) on one of the islands in the lake on April 27th. She also heard a flock of CURLEW (*Numenius a. arquata*) passing over the Park at 1.15 a.m. on the morning of July 31st.

A COMMON SNIPE (*Capella g. gallinago*) passed over Marlborough Place, N.W., at 10 p.m. on August 30th. It was flying south and calling (D. L. Lack).

A COMMON TERN (*Sterna h. hirundo*) was noticed by Mr. D. Gunn flying over the Long Water, Kensington Gardens,

on the afternoon of Monday, April 7th. The next morning I found it over the Round Pond. Here it was seen daily for the rest of the week. On July 23rd two Common Terns were seen over the Serpentine by Mr. Anthony W. Dell.

In Kensington Gardens on November 21st I watched several BLACK-HEADED GULLS (*Larus r. ridibundus*) hovering over some elms and pecking at the topmost twigs, in the manner described last year by Mr. R. Patterson in a note headed "Black-headed Gulls eating leaves" (*B.B.*, Vol. XXIII., p. 226). I have more than once seen this performance and supposed the birds were seeking insect food. On this occasion, at any rate, they were not eating leaves, for the trees were bare.

In my original list of Inner London birds the Common Tern was regarded as of doubtful occurrence and was placed in brackets, which can now be removed. That list, excluding doubtful occurrences, contain 126 species; with those since added it now numbers 131.