

LETTERS.

ROOK ROOSTS IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—I do not wish to enter into a controversy with Mr. W. Raymond Philipson on the theoretical side of the above subject, which, it is agreed, needs much more observation in the field. If Mr. Philipson intends to continue the work and would find my notes of any use, I shall be very pleased to send a copy on receipt of his address.

J. M. DEWAR.

ROOK POPULATION.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—In reply to Mr. Burkitt's letter in the August issue of *British Birds* (*antea*, p. 80), the wholesale slaughter referred to is by shooting. The gradual fall in numbers is brought about by various factors each requiring fuller analysis. Accidents when learning to fly account for some, some lose their balance and are fatally injured during defæcation over the edge of the nest, some are killed by other birds, including Rooks, some appear to die of either starvation or parasites, &c. In very many rookeries there is an earlier loss in the nest caused by egg breaking, egg stealing, young birds killed by other birds, &c. The ultimate result, a fixed population, is more easily measured than are the various factors which produce that result.

A. ROEBUCK.

October 12th, 1933.

WILLOW-WARBLER IN WINTER IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—The record of a Willow-Warbler, said to have been seen in Newcastle by me, on January 27th, 1912 (*Cat. Birds of Northumberland*—by George Bolam—Nat. Hist. Soc., Newcastle, Transactions, Vol. VIII., page 40), was an invention of a professional writer of nature notes—which was published in the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle*, without my knowledge, and evidently copied by Mr. Bolam.

The writer carried the joke a little further—as he stated that I heard the bird trill its familiar notes.

ISAAC CLARK.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.