

NOTES FROM RESERVOIRS AND SEWAGE FARMS.**ALTRINCHAM SEWAGE FARM.**

FOR some years the late Mr. T. A. Coward supplied notes on the birds observed on the Altrincham U.D.C. Sewage Farm, Cheshire, and he gave an adequate description of the area in *British Birds*, XXVI., p. 246.

It has been decided to try and continue his systematic observations there, and a regular series of visits has been made by several observers throughout the last eleven months: Mr. Roy Storey, in particular, has visited the farm frequently, and Messrs. A. G. Haworth, I. Whittaker and G. H. Clegg on a good number of occasions. They have all very kindly given me their notes which I have incorporated with my own. Many of the birds recorded have been seen by each of us in turn, so that it is impracticable to indicate the exact observer for more than one or two isolated records, but none are included that were not thoroughly authenticated.

Waders, as usual, have provided the majority of these records and twenty-one species have been observed.

As we have noticed in Cheshire in other years the May migration is a well-marked one and brought such species as Turnstone, Sanderling, Knot, Curlew-Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit. The return migration set in about mid-July with a remarkable invasion of Common Snipe and reached its height at the end of August and in September; it continued throughout October and more birds than usual were seen during that month. The presence of Spotted Redshanks for more than two months has been the most unexpected and noteworthy record of the year.

At all times of the year there were frequent changes in the bird-population of the farm.

HOODED CROW (*Corvus c. cornix*).—One seen on November 4th (R.S.); an uncommon visitor to Cheshire.

GREENFINCH (*Chloris ch. chloris*).—A big flock occupied the weed-covered parts of the farm in October, feeding on the seed-heads of some species of persicaria which covered acres of ground. There were hundreds together on October 7th, and on October 22nd and 27th the flock numbered thousands, rising and falling like a cloud of smoke; the flock dispersed and smaller lots were seen in November and many again on December 2nd.

The Linnet (*Carduelis c. cannabina*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla c. cœlebs*), Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), House-Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*), Tree-Sparrow (*Passer m. montanus*), Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza s. schœniclus*), Sky-Lark (*Alauda a. arvensis*) and Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava rayi*) all occurred in flocks of varying numbers during the autumn or early winter.

CORN-BUNTING (*Emberiza c. calandrya*).—On March 4th there were two or three in a thorn hedge, one of which sang. It is a bird of remarkably local distribution in this district.

MEADOW-PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*).—A few in February and on the spring and autumn migrations; most plentiful in the second week of September. Locally known only as a spring and autumn bird of passage, except for a small number that winters.

WHEATEAR (*Enanthe æ. ænanthe*).—One passing on September 22nd.

SAND-MARTIN (*Riparia v. riparia*).—Occurred in the greatest profusion over the farm from mid-August to September 13th, when there were still large numbers—long after all but odd birds had disappeared from their usual haunts over the local meres.

Duck visit the farm to feed at night, mainly Mallard (*Anas p. platyrhyncha*) from the neighbouring meres, and other duck are occasionally seen.

SHELD-DUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*).—Four young birds on July 27th, and on August 3rd.

TEAL (*Anas c. crecca*).—A few in July and August; one October 29th.

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*).—A duck on April 27th.

SHOVELER (*Spatula clypeata*).—Regularly throughout April, May, June and July. On June 5th one was seen with seven little youngsters which had evidently been hatched there (R.S.). On July 12th there were twelve flying about.

POCHARD (*Nyroca f. ferina*).—Two drakes on September 8th.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*).—Two on March 4th; small numbers present on practically every visit from April 2nd to June 8th, the greatest number being twelve from May 20th to 25th; one on July 1st; seen on seventeen days between July 27th to September 17th in numbers fluctuating between one and twenty; one on October 26th.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius aprivarius*).—Usually only a few visit the farm, though large flocks gather in meadows within a few miles. Several times in April—a large flock on April 15th; and again from August 28th to November 28th, from two to fifty or sixty in a flock.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—An increase on June 4th. A large flock of hundreds on July 19th. In greatly varying numbers at other times. On September 30th I watched two going through an unusual performance, chasing one another continually but making no real attempt to attack and dropping into shallow water or on to the mud with widely extended wings.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria i. interpres*).—One on May 3rd, four on May 4th, and one on May 17th.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).—First seen on April 5th and a pair on April 27th. From July 19th to October 27th Ruffs were seen on thirty-one different days, usually just one or two, but occasionally three or four, and on October 4th and 5th five. They were not the same birds making a protracted visit, for they showed great variation in plumage. On December 24th a Ruff and Reeve were seen (R.S.).

SANDERLING (*Crocethia alba*).—Two on May 15th—about the average date of their appearance inland on the Cheshire meres.

DUNLIN (*Tringa alpina*).—Present throughout the year in numbers that changed from day to day. In the winter months—February, November and December—only in small numbers, but by March 4th there were over fifty and these, and all seen in March, still retained their winter plumage; on April 5th the first birds in summer plumage were seen; on April 27th among thirty-seven birds were four that were still white-bellied, but on May 3rd among fifty-four birds, all were in full plumage except a cripple and one that had not quite completed the change; numbers then fell to seventeen on May 10th; in the second half of May and in June from one to six were present; a movement began

with July—on July 1st eleven were seen and twenty-eight on July 19th—and an increase began in mid-August, which reached its peak on August 27th, when 110 were counted; from then numbers fell rapidly, though the passage lasted throughout September, from ten to twenty often being seen, and into October and November; one on December 2nd.

KNOT (*Calidris c. canutus*).—One on May 3rd and one on May 8th.

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*).—Single birds seen from October 3rd to 8th; on October 18th and from October 26th to 29th. From its appearance I judged that the one last seen was a different individual bird from the first.

CURLEW-SANDPIPER (*Calidris testacea*).—Seen in May and October, but nothing like the number in autumn a few years ago. On May 10th there were four, and of two seen closely neither was in red plumage, but one was much mottled with dark on the back; one on May 12th and 20th; one on October 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*).—First seen on April 17th and regularly in small numbers throughout the summer till August 19th. There was an increase at the beginning of July; ten or more on July 2nd and double that number at least on July 10th and 12th—on the former date there was one flock of fifteen flying together; eighteen were counted on July 16th; one on September 16th.

WOOD-SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*).—Possibly one on September 29th and 30th; one seen and heard satisfactorily on October 6th, 7th and 8th (I.W. & G.H.C.).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*).—Seen twice in March—on the 4th and 18th; one on July 12th; four on July 19th; rather more in August—ten together on August 22nd and 23rd; on six days in September—from one to five; in October on the 1st, 4th and 8th—one to two birds.

COMMON REDSHANK (*Tringa t. totanus*).—The most abundant wader; always present and often in large numbers. Fully 100 on February 18th; in greatly fluctuating numbers (usually several score) through March and April; slightly fewer, but still in flocks up to fifty in number, through May, June and July; an increase in August and most plentiful in September and October—often 100 and more; two or three score in November, and fifteen to twenty on December 2nd.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*).—More plentiful than ever before. Seen on at least thirty-two days between August 22nd and October 26th. There is some evidence that one was seen several times in the third week of June, but it is not quite conclusive. First seen by R.S. on August 22nd; two seen on August 23rd were still in their dark summer plumage; of five seen on August 30th three were pale and two darker birds, but none so dark as the two first seen; the largest number seen was seven together on September 22nd and 29th, and six on October 6th and 8th, and these were all in the pale grey plumage, as in other years.

They gave their typical "chuet" call almost invariably in flight and at times when they were on the ground. A gruff call was heard occasionally during flight in September.

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*).—Six times between August 30th and October 4th—only single birds.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa l. lapponica*).—One on May 12th (R.S.).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa l. limosa*).—The late Mr. T. A. Coward saw one on December 14th, 1932, and on several other occasions in the 1932-33 winter. One seen on August 31st and on September 3rd (G.H.C. & A.G.H.).

CURLEW (*Numenius a. arquata*).—Surprisingly seldom seen; single birds on March 4th, 15th, 26th, April 2nd and August 6th and 30th; four flying over on August 16th.

COMMON SNIPE (*Capella gallinago*).—Early in March there was an increase and several score were seen, but from mid-April to the first week of July only few were seen—up to half a dozen. On July 10th there was a sudden and marked invasion and these large numbers persisted throughout July, August and September, several hundreds often being present. I.W. computed that there were 500 on September 14th. They were still present in swarms on September 30th and October 1st and though numbers then fell off they were again abundant on October 18th. Much fewer in November and on December 2nd.

JACK SNIPE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*).—Seen only four times; single birds on September 17th, October 8th and 29th, and November 4th.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias n. niger*).—Single birds only seen; one on May 9th by Mr. E. Plant, on May 20th by Mr. S. V. Wild and others. on May 25th, on August 30th, and six times between September 11th and 21st.

COMMON OR ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna h. hirundo* vel *Sterna macrura*).—A bird of one of these species on August 23rd.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus v. ridibundus*).—At times very abundant. In spring not so plentiful, though about 100 were present May 20th-22nd. There was an increase about July 10th, and there were hundreds on July 24th; this movement reached its peak about August 1st. In much smaller numbers in November and December.

COMMON GULL (*Larus c. canus*).—Not plentiful; seen in February, March, April, September and November, but never more than about fifteen. Is often plentiful in the district.

HERRING-GULL (*Larus a. argentatus*).—Sometimes in considerable numbers. I have notes of them in February, March, June, July, October, November and December. Hundreds appeared with the next species on June 15th and some fifty on July 1st; on December 2nd there were more than 150.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*).—Single birds (of sub-species unknown) on March 18th and 27th; others on several days in April; on May 10th there were more than 100, but only fifteen on May 15th; many appeared on June 11th and 13th and hundreds (with Herring-Gulls) on June 15th, and a couple of score on July 1st. Few seen subsequently.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*).—An adult on September 22nd.

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—Twice seen—on September 21st and October 5th (R.S.). The latter flew round the farm-yard beside the sewage-farm and excited remark among the labourers.

A. W. BOYD.

STAFFORDSHIRE RESERVOIRS.

As in previous years, I give a few notes of birds seen on the large reservoirs in south Staffordshire during the twelve months ending September, 1933. The notes refer to the most westerly of these reservoirs, and a few from Gailey Pool are added. I was unable to pay so many visits as usual. Owing to the prolonged drought the water-level was very low in the autumn, but the waders seen were disappointingly

few in comparison with other years. Mr. H. G. Alexander has kindly sent me notes made on two visits.

MALLARD (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*).—At their maximum about the end of 1932; by February 19th reduced to one-third in number; a breeder in plenty, so that there was a big increase at the beginning of July.

TEAL (*Anas c. crecca*).—Always present in varying numbers, most, of course, in winter, but an increase at the end of July and a further increase in August and September.

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*).—Like the Mallard at their maximum between 600 and 800—at the end of the year; on March 29th only 30 to 35, far fewer than a year ago at this time; five on April 17th.

SHOVELER (*Spatula clypeata*).—Not so many as last year; 30 to 40 on February 19th was the largest number seen.

POCHARD (*Nyroca f. ferina*).—Always present on one or other of the reservoirs whenever I visited them, but never many more than 100. An increase at the end of July.

TUFFED DUCK (*Nyroca fuligula*).—As before a definite decrease in August and September. Very few remaining on September 17th, though plenty bred in June and July. This movement seems to be a regular one.

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala c. clangula*).—Fewer than usual; never more than a dozen.

SCOTER (*Oidemia n. nigra*).—Two, a duck and a drake, on April 17th.

GOOSANDER (*Mergus m. merganser*).—Fewer than usual; seen on both reservoirs in December and February, but not more than six on either.

SMEW (*Mergus albellus*).—Two pairs on February 19th, which were seen by Messrs. H. G. and W. B. Alexander also.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*).—Two on July 30th, one of which looked as if it were a bird of the year; one on August 20th—a bird with a dusky face. One in winter plumage on September 21st (H.G.A.).

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*).—July 30th two; August 20th seven.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—A flock of 300 on July 2nd, probably an accumulation of local broods; far fewer on August 20th.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).—One on September 21st (H.G.A.).

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*).—July 30th five; August 20th eleven; September 17th seven or more; September 25th, about twenty-five (H.G.A.).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*).—On August 20th seven; odd birds at Gailey Pool on August 20th and September 17th.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*).—One on August 20th.

REDSHANK (*Tringa t. totanus*).—Much commoner a few years ago. Single birds only on March 29th and July 2nd; and one on September 21st (H.G.A.).

CURLEW (*Numenius a. arquata*).—One on the bank on July 2nd. They seem to occur here seldom and rarely to settle.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius ph. phaeopus*).—Two calling loudly flew over Gailey Pool on August 20th, going W.S.W.

COOT (*Fulica a. atra*).—Great fluctuations in numbers. On December 24th, 1932, there was a flock of 346 on one of the Gailey Pools and many more on the next pool, which is divided from it by a narrow bank; on March 29th there were 30 on the same pool; on September 17th about 130. On the more westerly reservoir I counted about 200 on

February 19th and on March 29th not more than 80; on August 20th more than 200.

A. W. BOYD.

NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE RESERVOIRS, 1933.

FREQUENT visits have been paid to the Bittell reservoirs during 1933, principally by Miss C. James, Mr. E. St. G. Betts, and the writer. Messrs. C. W. K. Wallis, F. R. Barlow and J. D. Wood have furnished some additional information.

By contrast with 1932, when an exceptionally large number of Terns of several species were seen, this year gave only three records for that family: one on June 11th, one on August 21st and 22nd, and one on October 14th. None were identified positively, but all three were either Common or Arctic.

In spite of the large expanse of mud round both reservoirs during the autumn, waders were not recorded in large numbers. In the middle of August several species occurred, but most of September was blank. It is difficult to believe that this was only due to the numerous bathers; for where twenty Herons are content to stand without being frightened off, a few diminutive waders would surely not take alarm.

The chief excitement of the year was a visit of Bewick's Swans in the middle of February. I know of no previous record of the species from these pools. The following are the chief records that seem to deserve publication.

WATER-PIPIT (*Anthus s. spinoletta*).—For the first time since 1928 this species was noted during the autumn. Miss James observed a large, dark Pipit at the water's edge on October 17th; the following day, without knowing of this, I heard the characteristic call from a bird flying overhead. Later I saw it fly across the water, when its dull colour and large size were noticeable. The same bird (presumably) flew over me again on October 28th.

WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla a. alba*).—One, September 7th (J.D.W.).

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*).—Miss James and Miss Tangye saw a Dipper between the two reservoirs, by a small stream, on November 6th. The nearest breeding-places of the Dipper are some twenty miles away, so far as I know, and there seems to be only one previous record from Bittell.

HERON (*Ardea cinerea*).—Mr. Betts saw at least twenty at the Upper Bittell reservoir on September 9th. From late July to early September they usually congregate there in larger numbers than at any other time of year, but this seems to be an exceptional number.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus bewickii*).—Fourteen Bewick's Swans were observed on the Upper Bittell by Miss James on February 14th. They had almost certainly arrived that day. Several observers watched them on the 15th. They were remarkably tame, swimming or standing in the shallows to preen themselves, and only floating out a short way on to the water when approached. In the afternoon Mr. Barlow saw them fly round in the air, trumpeting. They were still present on the 16th, but departed a few minutes after noon, and were watched by Mr. Betts flying away to the east. They seemed so completely at home on the 15th that one had supposed they might stay for weeks.

No Garganey or Pintail have been observed this year and SHOVELER (*Spatula clypeata*) only on the spring and autumn migrations (April, May and September). POCHARD (*Nyroca ferina*) have also been unusually scarce; so far this winter not more than six have been observed at one time. GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*) were noted in small numbers from time to time in February, March, November and December. At the new Bartley reservoir, only three or four miles away, they are much more regular.

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*).—A single drake was seen on various dates from January 13th to February 24th. Three birds (female or immature) were seen on December 15th and 18th (C.J.) and one on December 30th (E. St. G.B.).

SMEW (*Mergus albellus*).—One or two (female or immature) were seen from February 10th to March 4th, on various dates; also three on December 9th and one on December 15th. No Smew had been recorded from these reservoirs since 1927.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*).—As usual, none of the Great Crested Grebes on the Upper Bittell reservoir attempted to nest, and throughout the season they were readily driven off by boats to the Lower Bittell. At the Lower Bittell three pairs at least attempted to breed. One pair were seen with a nest almost complete as early as March 10th. This nest was swamped. Two later attempts of this pair came to grief, and disaster somehow overtook the others also. One day a bird would be seen sitting on eggs. A few days later the deserted nest was being trampled down by Coots and Moorhens. About twenty Great Crested Grebes spent the summer on the two pools; not one young bird was hatched. Nor is this altogether exceptional.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—One or more on various dates between August 5th and September 6th (six on August 26th, E. St. G.B.), (one on October 11th, H.G.A.).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*C. apricarius*).—One seen on November 4th is the only record for the year. During the late autumn hundreds of Lapwings were usually on the mud by the Upper Bittell, but Golden Plovers very rarely occur amongst them in this district.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).—One, Lower Bittell, September 6th and 7th; apparently a Reeve (J.D.W.).

SANDERLING (*Crocethia alba*).—Three satisfactorily identified by the Lower Bittell reservoir, August 19th (C.W.K.W.). Several waders apparently came in that evening.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*).—Three times observed in April. From July 12th onwards single birds, or twos and threes, occurred throughout the autumn, except for a large gap in most of September and October. Three were present again on November 1st, four on the 8th, and others were noted during November, and a couple as late as December 18th (C.J.).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*).—Unusually abundant during the spring passage, and several in the autumn, but none breeding this year.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*T. ochropus*).—One or two between August 5th and 24th; then no more till the end of October. On the 21st one was observed, and at the beginning of November four were present for a few days; three were seen as late as November 23rd (C.J.).

REDSHANK (*T. totanus*).—Single birds on passage in spring between March 10th and June 10th; recorded four times in August. Two noted on November 28th (C.J.), and December 2nd (E. St. G.B.). These two birds were subsequently seen at Bartley reservoir.

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*).—One bird (perhaps the same) on various dates from August 19th to September 2nd; two on August 24th. One on September 16th.

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*).—Twice noted in April, once in August.

WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus*).—One, August 24th (C.J.).

JACK SNipe (*Limnocryptes minimus*).—One, October 28th (H.G.A.).

Apart from Black-headed Gulls, which have occurred in various months—an immature bird remained for five or six weeks by the Upper Bittell in the spring, and became quite tame, being fed by the keeper—hardly any Gulls have been recorded during the year. Mr. Betts saw a large Gull in immature plumage on July 29th. At the end of the year several COMMON GULLS (*Larus canus*) appeared in the Midlands, where they are normally only birds of passage. This invasion may be recorded in more detail next year. A single immature bird of this species was also seen on August 12th. H. G. ALEXANDER.

KING GEORGE'S RESERVOIR, LEA VALLEY, ESSEX.

ON p. 137 (*antea*) I reported certain observations at King George's Reservoir, Chingford, Essex, made during the latter part of August on several of the more common species of wader.

The water-level has since fallen steadily, revealing on each successive visit new mudflats and an increasing number of islands. Such then were the conditions when migration through this area was at its height and most of the following notes were made during a period of about six weeks.

SHELD-DUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*).—One on September 22nd.

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala c. clangula*).—A party of five on December 24th, 1933, and January 7th, 1934.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*).—One on September 16th.

OYSTER-CATCHER (*Hematopus ostralegus*).—A solitary bird on December 24th, feeding on a mud-bank in company with Black-headed Gulls.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—One on August 20th. Later, small parties of five or so until September 26th.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—Five on August 20th stayed for two days.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).—Two on September 13th (with one possible Reeve, but identification was hindered by failing light). On September 16th there were six, which usually kept together in flight and when feeding. Several later. Two last recorded September 26th.

SANDERLING (*Crocethia alba*).—Two with a party of Dunlin on September 16th. The only record.

KNOT (*C. canutus*).—A solitary bird on the evening of September 15th, which later joined three Ruffs and appeared to enjoy their company in flight and on the mud.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*).—Two on August 20th. Large flocks on September 2nd, after which date a gradual decrease. Stragglers until September 15th.

CURLEW-SANDPIPER (*C. testacea*).—On September 16th a single bird standing with four Ringed Plover.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*).—Several small parties first seen August 20th, 1933, gradually increasing in size until flocks of twenty or so were present until September 15th, after which date there was a noticeable decrease. Last recorded September 23rd.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*T. ochropus*).—On August 26th four identified. Single birds seen on later visits. Last recorded September 16th.

REDSHANK (*T. totanus*).—Surprisingly few. Two on September 9th and no other record until October 7th when a party of five was seen.

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*).—Three on September 10th. On September 14th their numbers had grown to six, while two days later ten were seen, and their distinctive call came from all sides.

GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—First seen early morning September 22nd swimming, and paddling in the liquid ooze. On the following day it was still near the same pool and I was able to approach to within some four yards without its showing signs of alarm. It was also seen by Mr. W. E. Glegg on the 23rd.

COMMON SNIPE (*Capella gallinago*).—Numerous large flocks of about twenty or thirty birds on September 9th and 12th—a very noticeable increase in the numbers composing the small parties seen on previous and later occasions.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*).—Two on August 25th.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*).—Three on September 13th.

LITTLE TERN (*S. albifrons*).—Single birds on September 12th and 23rd.

K. R. ASHBY.

CHELMSFORD SEWAGE FARM, ESSEX.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius h. hiaticula*).—Three on September 8th and 10th.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Ch. apricarius*).—Small flock on September 8th and onwards.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—A very large passage noted in early October.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).—Two Ruffs and one Reeve on September 15th, a party of seven on the 26th, and a party of ten on the 27th. From this last date a decrease was noted.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*).—Present throughout, chiefly single birds.

LITTLE STINT (*C. minuta*).—A party of three from September 26th to 30th. This is apparently the only inland record for Essex since 1839.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Tringa hypoleucos*).—Present throughout September and October in small numbers.

WOOD-SANDPIPER (*T. glareola*).—One on September 27th.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*T. ochropus*).—Present throughout, commonest in mid-September. Two or three winter here.

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*T. erythropus*).—One on September 19th.

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*).—Two young birds on September 19th. None after the end of September.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*).—A party of four from September 15th to 30th.

GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—Two visited the farm on October 23rd. One of these was in winter plumage, the other still in a transitional state showing pinkish tinges on the breast. The latter bird was gone on the 24th, the other bird staying a day longer.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*).—It is interesting to note that throughout June and July numbers of Common Terns follow the course of the Blackwater and Chelmer Rivers daily and can frequently be seen flying over the town of Chelmsford, and fishing in the river there.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*).—A party of four, feeding, on September 26th.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps n. nigricollis*).—One on September 28th.

W. K. RICHMOND.

KINGSBURY RESERVOIR, MIDDLESEX.

I HAVE a note of seeing a Little Stint (*Caladris minuta*) at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, on September 4th, 1897. This sheet of water, better known now as the Kingsbury Reservoir, was made famous by J. E. Harting, who recorded several very rare visitors as having been obtained there. When I came to live in London in September, 1932, I thought I would visit it again. There are very few records of birds having been seen there for some years, but I soon discovered that some migrants visited the south shore, and that they could be watched through some palings around a public playing field. The following birds I have seen have interest, as most of them have seldom been recorded from Middlesex. From April to June, 1933, I was unable to get there, and I have very seldom been more than once a week.

SNOW-BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—Four on November 5th, 1933. I watched them for some time by the side of the water, and when they flew away, two being adult, showed very distinctly the white on their wings.

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (*Locustella n. naevia*).—One on September 5th, 1933. It flew close by me, so that I could see quite plainly all its markings; it went to a bush near by, and in its characteristic way dived into it, showing its typically shaped tail.

SCAUP (*Nyroca m. marila*).—One on October 16th, 1932.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps c. cristatus*).—On July 22nd, 1933, I just missed seeing two young come out of their eggs, and in another part of the water I saw a pair of old birds with their young. This is the first record of their having nested on the water. I have evidence that a nest was deserted in 1932, and that in 1931 an old bird was seen carrying its young on its back.

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*).—One on September 9th, 1933.

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*).—One on September 5th and 9th, 1933.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna h. hirundo*).—Three on September 13th, 1933.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*).—One on December 16th, 1933. I have always seen this Gull at Reading sewage-farm continually dropping into the water, but this one was flying over the playing field, and there was no other Gull close to it with which to compare it in size. I fortunately, however, noticed that the tips of the wings were blunter than in any other Gull I know. On examining skins at the Natural History Museum I found that in the Little Gull the first two outer primaries are of equal length, and the third not much shorter than the second. In the Black-headed Gull (*L. v. ridibundus*) the second is shorter than the first, and the third shorter in proportion to the second. I could distinguish it from this Gull also by the fact that it did not show the characteristic broad white margin to the front edge of the primaries.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. m. marinus*).—One on September 18th, 1933. It was standing at the side of the water close to Black-headed Gulls, so that I could compare it in size with these. N. H. JOY.