

NOTES

SCANDINAVIAN JACKDAWS IN SCOTLAND.

THE Scandinavian Jackdaw (*Colæus m. monedula*) has only recently been definitely added to the British List, and the only positive examples recorded hitherto were two from Suffolk by Dr. C. B. Ticehurst (*cf. antea*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 90).

It is therefore of interest to note that in a recent paper in *The Scottish Naturalist* (1936, p. 61) on birds from Fair Isle, Mr. George Waterston states that among some Jackdaws wintering on Fair Isle Mr. G. Stout noticed two with patches of white on the sides of the neck and on one of these (a female) being procured on February 20th, 1936, it proved to be an example of the Scandinavian form. This bird by the kindness of Mr. Waterston, I had the pleasure of examining.

Another example of this race was reported from Tongue, Sutherland, on April 14th, 1934. This bird bore one of Mr. Skovgaard's rings (No. K. 11046) which was put on at Tylstrup, Jylland, on May 24th, 1933. Both forms occur in Jylland, the Scandinavian form being found in the north, and *C. m. spermologus* in the south, while between them intermediates are found (see *Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift*, 1930. Vol. XXIV., p. 95 and map). Dr. Finn Salomonsen informs us that Tylstrup being in Vendsyssel, in the far north of Jylland, the bird ringed there and obtained at Tongue, was certainly of the Scandinavian race, as indeed Mr. Jourdain had already pointed out to me.

Another Danish ringed Jackdaw (No. D. 11123) was reported from Norwich, on December 10th, 1933. This, however, was ringed at Skaerbaek in Slesvig, in the south-west of Denmark, and here Dr. Salomonsen informs us birds are most like *C. m. spermologus* though inclined to be intermediate.

H. F. WITHERBY.

NESTS AND BROODS IN 1936 IN WHIPSDADE BIRD SANCTUARY, BEDFORDSHIRE.

DURING the breeding season of 1936 a record was kept by Keeper E. A. Billett of nests in the Bird Sanctuary at Whipsnade Zoological Park (Bedfordshire). The total number was 173, belonging to 23 different species, the most numerous being Song-Thrush (*Turdus e. ericetorum*) (40), Blackbird (*Turdus m. merula*) (23), Blue Tit (*Parus c. obscurus*) (16),

Chaffinch (*Fringilla c. caelebs*) (13), Greenfinch (*Chloris ch. chloris*) (12), Great Tit (*Parus m. newtoni*) (11), and House-Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*) (10), while the most notable were single nests of the Wood-Warbler (*Phylloscopus s. sibilatrix*), Garden-Warbler (*Sylvia borin*), Tree-Creeper (*Certhia f. britannica*), Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia t. turtur*) and Marsh-Tit (*Parus p. dresseri*).

The area of the Sanctuary is about 5.9 acres, thus the density of breeding pairs is extremely high, viz., over 29 to the acre: 42 of the nests were in nesting boxes, of which more than 130 are provided, and here a record was kept of numbers of eggs laid and of young hatched and fledged. The following table shows the results for nests of the Blue Tit, Great Tit and Starling (excluding those in which no eggs were laid), together with the total for all species (with some exceptions); and also excluding Wrens which could not be examined.

It will be seen that the percentage of hatching and fledging is rather high. It is proposed to continue the work during the coming year, after which a more detailed analysis will be made.

TABLE I.—HATCHING AND FLEDGING RECORD.
NESTBOXES IN WHIPSNADE SANCTUARY.

	Nests Laid in	Eggs Laid	Young Hatched	Young Fledged	AVERAGE PER NEST.		
					Laid	Hatched	Fledged
Blue Tit. No. ...	15	130*	99	93	8.7	6.6	6.2
Percentage ...		100	76.2	71.5			
			100	93.8			
Great Tit. No. ...	10	65†	56	50	6.5	5.6	5.0
Percentage ...		100	86.1	76.9			
			100	89.4			
Starling. No. ...	9	47	38	38	5.2	4.2	4.2
Percentage ...		100	80.8	80.8			
			100	100			
All species using nesting boxes No. ...	38	265	210	196	7.0	5.5	5.2
Percentage ...		100	79.3	74.0			
			100	93.3			

*Including three nests containing 22 eggs, deserted before hatching or prolonged incubation.

†Without any deserted nests.

JULIAN S. HUXLEY.

WATER-PIBIT IN KENT.

WHILE walking along the sea wall on Stoke Saltings, Kent, on November 1st, 1936, I saw a Water-Pipit (*Anthus s. spinoletta*). The note of the bird was what first struck me, as it was slightly sharper and possibly quicker than that of the

Rock-Pipit. Though generally like a Rock-Pipit, the white marks on the two outer tail-feathers were quite noticeable, as well as the dark legs. I may mention that I became acquainted with the bird in the Pyrenees. H. W. MADOC.

CONTINENTAL GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN IN LANARKSHIRE.

A MALE Golden-crested Wren obtained near Carmunnock, Lanarkshire, on February 17th, 1935, during a rush of migrants, would seem to be referable to the Continental race *Regulus r. regulus*, owing to the grey tint of the hind-neck and mantle.

The specimen was unfortunately too badly damaged to be preserved, but I was able to make a good comparison with several of the British form obtained at the same time.

This, therefore, constitutes the first record for Lanarkshire.

PHILIP A. CLANCEY.

THE BOOTED WARBLER ON FAIR ISLE. A NEW BRITISH BIRD.

ON September 3rd, 1936, George Stout obtained on Fair Isle, a Warbler which afterwards proved to be the Booted-Warbler (*Hippolais caligata*) a species which hitherto has never been recorded in the British Islands. This bird was obtained on a day of moderate S.E. wind, the weather on the preceding day being light east wind. It was the forerunner of a small rush of such species as Blue-headed Wagtails, a Northern Bullfinch, Bluethroats, Barred Warblers and Pied Flycatchers, which all appeared on September 4th.

This specimen which was a female, has a wing measurement of 57 mm. and a wing formula as follows:— 1st primary minute, 4.5 mm. longer than longest primary coverts; 2nd primary between 6th and 7th primaries; 3rd primary longest, being 1 mm. longer than 4th; 3rd, 4th and 5th emarginate. The bird has a white chin and throat with the breast slightly darker. Upper-parts, uniform dark fawn; the tail and cheeks are of a slightly lighter shade. Light buff edges to primaries; small patch of white just noticeable above eye. Bill and legs, very dark horn colour.

The range of this species is given by Hartert, (*Vögel pal. Fauna*, Vol. I, p. 576) as follows: Breeds in eastern Russia, at least from Olonetz and Moscow to the Khirghiz Steppes, in west Siberia (Yenesei) to the Altai, Turkestan, Bokhara, Transcaspia, also in Kashmir. Winters in north and central India.

We are greatly indebted to Messrs. N. B. Kinnear, H. F. Witherby and C. B. Ticehurst for independently establishing the identity of this specimen.

GEORGE STOUT.

GEORGE WATERSTON.

BLUETHROATS IN KENT AND SUSSEX.

ON September 18th, 1936, Mr. J. Tart of Dungeness, reported to me that he had seen a bird, quite close to, facing him, with a white throat, and a black mark on each side of it; otherwise it reminded him of a Robin. Dr. N. F. Ticehurst was able to name this for him as a young Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*). The night before there had been a rush of passage-migrants. I had spent the night at the lighthouse, and had ringed as many as ten young Pied Flycatchers (*Muscicapa h. hypoleuca*) out of a total of sixteen birds ringed. On the night of September 21st-22nd there was another rush, and in the morning there were many migrants in the gardens near the lighthouse. They were behaving in quite a different way to the majority of the migrants I had seen before. Instead of being found as rather wild birds among the bushes, they were very tame, feeding among the cabbages, etc. Among them was a Bluethroat in adult, full summer plumage, with a conspicuous white spot in the middle of the breast, and there was also a young bird.

From October 3rd-6th there was an adult Bluethroat in winter plumage, which had a drooping wing. These were all easily observed by waiting quietly for them to come out.

NORMAN H. JOY.

ON September 19th, 1936, my son, R. N. Ticehurst, and I were examining a line of gorse, broom and sloe bushes at the Midrips for migrants. We had seen a Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) in a small garden and the beach was covered with scattered Meadow-Pipits (*Anthus pratensis*), that were waiting for a thick fog to lift, for when the sun came through at 10 a.m. they at once began to move off in parties to the east, *i.e.*, coastwise towards Dungeness. In less than an hour they had practically all gone. The bushes yielded nothing except a few resident Blackbirds, until we reached the last small patch of stunted sloe and rough herbage. This held four birds, which at length revealed themselves as three Chiffchaffs and a larger and darker bird. After some time the latter perched in the lower twigs of a sloe bush and gave us a clear view of its back at ten yards distance. It was in size and shape a Robin, but of a uniform dark, grey-brown colour. When it turned its head it showed a light yellowish white throat with a well-defined dark stripe down each side. It was clearly identical with an

unknown bird that Mr. Tart had described to me at Dungeness the day before. A few moment's thought established its identity as a juvenile Bluethroat. A minute or so later, as it flew away, it revealed the tawny-red basal half of its tail, which confirmed the diagnosis. Thirty years ago this bird was very familiar to me in Norway, but this was the first I had seen in England.

In the afternoon we went to the Hoppen Pits on Dungeness and examined the sallow bushes surrounding them. Nearly every bush held one or more Chiffchaffs and there was a sprinkling of Sedge-Warblers (*A. schænobænus*) and Common Whitethroats (*S. communis*). Amongst them was a second Bluethroat. This bird at first showed us the same back view, as the first had done, in the lower part of a bush, but soon obligingly flew out on to the shingle and gave us a splendid view of it at twenty-five yards range. It was clearly an adult female.

It will be interesting to learn whether Bluethroats have been more than usually numerous this year on the Norfolk coast, for they have *apparently* always been of very infrequent occurrence on the coasts of Kent and Sussex. The last one I have heard of before these was one that got up from the roadside at Brenzett in front of my son, H. F. Ticehurst, who was bicycling across Romney Marsh, on September 19th, 1934. As it dashed into the roadside hedge it gave him a clear view of its characteristic tail.

N. F. TICEHURST.

ON September 22nd, 1936, I saw a Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) at Eastbourne. This is the fourth that I have noted in over thirty years and, strange as it may seem, they have all been within a hundred yards of the same spot, which has nothing unusual about it. Houses are now rapidly approaching this spot and it will be interesting to see whether the Bluethroats will appear in future on adjacent ground or whether Eastbourne will become an abandoned route.

E. C. ARNOLD.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE IN NORFOLK.

ON October 27th, 1936, I was walking in Gunton Park with Mr. F. R. Hoare and as we approached the Great Water we saw a large bird, which flew across the water and was immediately mobbed by masses of Rooks and Jackdaws. Ducks and Gulls were flying all round. We saw that the bird was much too large for a Buzzard. It then came right over us and we saw clearly its very powerful pale yellow bill. It only needed to see its legs to be able to identify it as a White-tailed

Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*). We watched it for over 20 minutes and it often came so close as to be within easy shot. At last it made for a dead tree at the side of the lake, dropped its legs to perch, and we saw plainly that the tarsi were unfeathered. Its plumage was dull and rather ragged, the mantle being pale brown and mottled and the tail brownish and mottled with white, not barred. Its flight was slow and heavy, with primaries very splayed out and turned up. It was the largest Eagle I have ever seen; I know the Golden very well. I saw the bird again the following morning but it has not been seen since.

M. BARCLAY.

HERON AND CATTLE.

WHILE in a marshy field near the River Wey between Pyrford and Ripley (Surrey) on October 4th, 1936, I saw a Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) alight among some cows about two hundred yards away. The cows were feeding and walking round the field. The Heron, as soon as the last cow had passed, started to run after it until it was amongst the herd again. Then it would stand for some minutes and perhaps stalk a few paces nearer one of the cows. At last I saw it strike into the grass and when it raised its bill could distinguish the yellow legs of a frog. A second later and it was off to a stream (or dyke) on the far side of the field. I could not see what happened there but the bird was only absent about a minute when it re-appeared and settled down again amongst the cows. This happened no less than four times in about an hour, and on two more occasions I saw it strike when it did not carry off a victim, but either was mistaken or the object was small enough to be eaten on the spot. D. G. PUMFRET.

PUFFINUS KUHLII OFF THE SUSSEX COAST.

WHILST travelling on the day boat from Dieppe to Newhaven on September 21st, 1936, I watched a large Shearwater about half an hour before reaching Newhaven. Being familiar with *Puffinus kuhlii* in the East Mediterranean I recognized it at once as some form of Great Shearwater. The large size, long tapering wings and contrasting brown upper- and white under-surfaces were diagnostic. Careful observation failed to show any white area over the tail and the head did not contrast markedly with the back—the distinctive characters of *Puffinus gravis*, the Great Shearwater usually stated to be numerous off the British coasts. In fact, I could not distinguish this individual from birds seen in the Mediterranean.

I have since consulted a paper by Wynne-Edwards ("Distr. Bds. in N. Atlantic"—*Proc. Boston Soc. N.H.* 1935, XL., iv., pp. 233-346) in which it is stated that *P. gravis* keeps to the West of Ireland and Scotland and that Great Shearwaters seen commonly in September between Brittany and Devon or Cornwall are most probably referable to *P. kuhlii*, presumably to the North Atlantic *P.k. borealis*. In view of this it is quite evident that the bird which I observed was an example of *Puffinus kuhlii*.

It is to be hoped that anyone crossing the Channel will look for Great Shearwaters with a view to obtaining additional evidence upon the point. The figures in the paper cited above will be found of the greatest value in distinguishing *P. gravis* and *P. kuhlii*.

CHARLES M. N. WHITE.

UNUSUAL NUMBERS OF LITTLE STINTS.

IN addition to the notes published under this heading in our last issue (p. 195) we have received those printed below. Further notes are not required unless they refer to unusual numbers or localities.

ORKNEY.—Three at Skail Bay on September 13th, four at the same place on the 20th, two about same date at Tankerness and one at Orphir. (A. Wood).

EAST LoTHIAN.—Two at Aberlady Bay on September 4th and 5th, and two on October 2nd. (D. I. Molteno.)

YORKSHIRE.—About six at White Holm Reservoir, Blackstone Edge (1,250 ft.) on September 13, dwindling in number subsequently until only one, with damaged wing, was left. The Little Stints were in company with eight to ten Curlew-Sandpipers and during August and September, a Ruff and several Sanderlings and Turnstones were among the waders seen at the same place. (Walter Greaves).

LINCOLNSHIRE.—One near Tetney Haven on September 1st and then almost daily in varying numbers up to sixteen, until October 1st when last seen. (Bernard A. Pye).

DEVONSHIRE.—Ten to fifteen viewed at very close quarters at Axmouth, near Seaton on October 18th. (Arthur Adams).

GLAMORGAN.—One at Aberthaw on October 22nd. (John G. Williams).

GLAUCOUS GULL IN DENBIGHSHIRE.

ON October 20th, 1936, after a strong northerly gale there was an immature Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) at Llandulas, Denbighshire. When I first saw the bird it was resting on the shingle in a group of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls. The notes I made at the time were: Size corresponding with that of Great Black-back, colour a uniform light buff with entire absence of black on tail and primaries and the almost owl-like appearance lent by the rounded wings as the bird rose.

M. MITCHELL.

RARE BIRDS IN FAIR ISLE.—Mr. G. Waterston gives details (*Scot. Nat.*, 1936, pp. 61-64) of a number of interesting birds, which have occurred in Fair Isle and have not hitherto been recorded. Amongst these we may mention the following :—

TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus c. campestris*).—One is recorded as having been obtained in the spring of 1933 and another (a first winter bird) got on October 8th, 1935, is now in the Royal Scottish Museum. The bird had not previously been recorded for Scotland.

AQUATIC WARBLER (*Acrocephalus paludicola*).—One was obtained on October 4th, 1935.

REDWING (*Turdus musicus ?coburni*).—In the summer of 1935 a pair reared two young on the island and Mr. G. Stout is convinced that these were of the Iceland form but none were examined in the hand. Mr. Stout is familiar with the typical bird and has correctly identified an example of the Iceland race taken in the winter of 1935-6.

BLACK-BELLIED DIPPER (*Cinclus c. cinclus*).—A female was got on March 30th, 1934.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*).—A pair in spring, 1935.

KING-EIDER (*Somateria spectabilis*).—An adult male shot on December 11th, 1935.

SURF-SCOTER (*Oidemia perspicillata*).—One washed up in the winter of 1934 was identified as of this species by Mr. George Stout, who also states that he has seen "numbers" of these birds in Sumburgh Voe. One was also seen at the North Haven on February 8th, 1936.

PRATINCOLE (*Glareola pratincola*).—One is recorded for May, 1934, on Mr. G. Stout's authority and another for May, 1935, but without details.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*).—One identified by Mr. G. Stout in June, 1934.

SCANDINAVIAN LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus f. fuscus*).—Stated by Mr. G. Stout to occur on autumn passage.

IVORY-GULL (*Pagophila eburnea*).—One identified by Mr. G. Stout on December 28th, 1933.

It is also mentioned that a Goldfinch was seen on September 9th, 1929, a Skylark, which appears to be a rather aberrant example of *Alauda a. intermedia* was obtained on November 3rd, 1935, and an adult White-tailed Eagle passed over the island on September 18th, 1935.

GREAT GREY SHRIKES IN SURREY AND DERBYSHIRE.—Mr. Howard Bentham informs us that he saw a Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*) on Walton Heath on October 24th, 1936. Another has been reported to us by Miss D. Steinthal, who, with Miss V. Maynard, watched the bird for about half an hour near Little Pond, Frensham, on November 1st. Mr. L. S. V. Venables also writes us that he saw a Great Grey Shrike, perhaps the same bird as the last mentioned, to the south of Frensham Common on November 8th.

Mr. R. E. Knowles informs us that one was seen in January, 1936, by Mr. B. R. S. Pemberton at Alstonfield, Derbyshire.

BLACK REDSTART IN SURREY.—Mr. L. S. V. Venables informs us that he saw a Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus o. gibraltariensis*) on November 10th, 1936, on the outskirts of Frensham Common.

BARN-OWL IN INNER LONDON.—Col. H. W. Madoc states that while watching the Starlings assembling round Trafalgar Square on October 30th, 1936, at about 5 p.m., he saw a Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*) flying across the Strand, plainly illuminated by the street lamps.