



# REVIEWS

*Report on the Immigrations of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1907: also Notes on the Migratory Movements during the Autumn of 1906.* By the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club. (Forming Vol. XXII., Bull. B.O.C. Edited by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant). 31 Maps. Witherby & Co. 6s.

THIS, the third Annual Report of the B.O.C. Migration Committee, although drawn up in the same form as previous reports, is rather more ambitious in that it includes some notes on autumn movements. These are too incomplete, however, to have much value, but we welcome the promise of a more elaborate record of autumn movements in the next report. In our notice (*antea*, Vol. I., p. 30) of the second "Report," we questioned the accuracy of the table which shows the areas of the arrival of the various species, and curiously enough in the present "Report" this table (p. 11) is not free from blemish, the White Wagtail being entered as arriving *solely* in the western half of the south coast, whereas in the detailed summary on page 107, as well as in the map, it is shown to have been reported first in Kent, and similarly the table does not tally with the summaries and maps in the cases of the House-Martin and Common Sandpiper. It would be as well, perhaps, to omit this table in future, or it may become permanently misleading, since even when it is corrected it is obvious by a comparison of the three "Reports" that the points of *non*-arrival seem due in a great measure to want of observation. Each successive "Report," indeed, makes one realise more and more how little even the best observer is able accurately to record of the movements of migrants, and only an average of the results taken over a long period, as the Committee have from the first insisted, can lead to any reliable conclusions.

Some interesting points recorded in this volume may here be summarized. March, 1907, was brilliantly fine, but the whole of April was wintry; the effect being that stragglers arrived at early dates, but the main body of birds was delayed, with the result that the "waves" of immigrants were less marked, and the period of migration was extended. The *Blackcap* was noted by many observers to be less numerous than usual in 1907. *Chiffchaffs* were seen at Penzance throughout the winter. The *Cuckoo* was reported on March 26th (Gloucester), 29th (Hereford), 30th-31st

(Wilts.), 31st (Dorset, Hants., Gloucester). The *Land-Rail* was neither heard nor seen in 1907 by observers in Hants., Sussex, Middlesex, Essex, Bucks., Herts., or Suffolk, and only once in Kent, twice in Berks. and Lincoln, and thrice in Norfolk. It seemed practically confined during the year under notice to the western counties. A specimen of the Continental Robin (*Erithacus rubecula rubecula*), which is common on migration on the east coast, was taken on April 7th at St. Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight. On page 180 the curious statement is made that the *Dartford Warbler* is rarely seen in winter in Hampshire!

In conclusion, we can unreservedly recommend the present and the two previous "Reports" to every student of migration, and we may add that the B.O.C. Committee and its many helpers all over the country by no means labour in vain.

H.F.W.

*A List of Irish Birds.* By R. J. Ussher, M.R.I.A., M.B.O.U.  
Dublin: A. Thom & Co. 4d.

THIS is a very useful up-to-date "abbreviated text book" on Irish birds. Mr. Ussher has placed within square brackets those American *land* birds which have been recorded from Ireland, and, on the whole, this is perhaps wise, although in a case such as the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which has now occurred so many times in England, although seldom in Ireland, the rule might, perhaps, have been relaxed. Amongst other birds placed within square brackets we may mention the *Noddy Tern*, which has long been accorded a regular place upon the British list on the basis of two examples recorded by Thompson as having been obtained between the Tuskar Lighthouse and the Bay of Dublin about 1830. The birds were brought into port *skinned*, and we think that Mr. Ussher is perfectly right in not admitting them, more especially as the taxidermist who was responsible for the record was proved to have been unreliable in the case of two Belted Kingfishers supposed to have been shot a few years later. Of positive information additional to that given in the author's well-known "Birds of Ireland," there is very little, but we note the following, which do not appear to have been recorded elsewhere:—Five occurrences (against three in Saunders' *Manual*) of the *Red-breasted Flycatcher* are noted, but no dates are given; an example of the *Scrin Finch*, the second for Ireland, was taken on January 31st, 1907; a third specimen of the *Lapland Bunting* was taken alive at Kilbarrack on December 12th, 1907; the *Jay* is extending its range, and has spread into Kildare and Meath; a pair of *Pochards*, with their young, were identified by Mr. R. Patterson in June, 1907, in Monaghan.

H.F.W.