ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES FROM NORFOLK
FOR 1917.

24TH ANNUAL REPORT.

BY
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WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The Effect of Frost.—The great snow in Ireland on January 28th was soon followed by similar weather in England. On February 2nd we in Norfolk had ten degrees of frost, and birds of all kinds began to disappear rapidly, either by death or by migration. On February 7th the cold was intense, the thermometer only one degree above zero; it then became evident that a vast number of birds would die. It is not easy to say what species perished in greatest numbers during this fatal week, but on my side of Norwich there was a consensus of opinion that Blackbirds were the hardest hit. In one parish of about seven hundred and thirty-five acres, the dead Blackbirds were estimated at one hundred, several of them lying in ditches, but a few had crept into rabbit-holes, or had been dragged in by rats. The white-headed male Blackbird† which was the subject of a note last year (British Birds, X, p. 234) held out bravely until February 10th, when it was picked up before any vermin had time to spoil it. The life of another white cock,‡ which would also have perished, was saved by a trap, and subsequent good feeding. Very quickly Wood-Pigeons were discoverable attacking the green leaves of the kale, grown in Norfolk in rows, for lambs. This their somewhat feeble beaks could manage, but they have not the strength to dig into Swede turnips which have been "moulded up," nor to perforate the hard rind of the bulb, unless decay has set in. At this time of the year the provident farmer is always most anxious to preserve what roots are left, and very glad was he, when in a few days, the Pigeons almost to a bird, had migrated south. Meanwhile the sensitive Lapwings, which we are accustomed to see overhead in great flocks, disappeared as if by magic. With them went the Rooks, for when these latter could no longer burrow in the stacks, their last hope was gone, but a small number lingered for no other reason than that they were now too
emaciated to travel. Hooded Crows, carnivorous at any time and now compelled by hunger, laid aside their usual shyness. Quartering estuaries in their search for injured birds, they soon came under Mr. Arthur Patterson's notice at Breydon, where, he writes, they pounced on a Canada Goose which had fallen wounded on the ice, beyond the reach of the gunners. Nor did the Coots escape the vigilance of the Crows, which seem by instinct to find out any bird that is in difficulties, for Mr. Nudd states that on his Broad many Coots died of starvation, and the Crows had a fine time of it. The unfortunate Coots have to put up with a good deal at any time. I am told that they have been known to be frozen to the ice by their tails, when being startled suddenly, they had to leave these appendages behind them!

The Rev. M. C. Bird received word in February of one being eaten by a 14-lb. pike, whose jaws revealed the black feathers, when he was pulled in on the Broad. This I can easily believe, knowing that a shot Pheasant falling where there are pike stands a very poor chance in the water.

When our inland Broads are frozen over, the Coots have to seek the tidal flats of Breydon, where they hope to find the cord-like stems of Zostera marina. During the second week of February Mr. Patterson and Mr. B. Dye estimated that there were about two thousand on Breydon, where they quickly became a target for all the gunners. Fourteen were killed by a single shot (Dye), nor would they be wasted, for some of our men prefer a Coot, well cleaned of its thick down, to a Wild Duck.

Great numbers of starving Black-headed Gulls, which had followed the Yare up to Norwich, frequented, not only the suburbs, where many people fed them, but the very streets. Thirty or forty at a time were to be seen on the roofs of houses, when charity of this sort was dispensed. Other persons less kind-hearted, snared them on manure heaps, and among those taken were two which bore Rossitten rings (Nos. 25459 and 11426) and one a Heligoland ring (23181).† The Norwich police, thinking it possible that they were German spy-gulls, promptly reported to the War Office!

In the course of a long stroll on the shore near Happisburgh, Mr. Robert Gurney came across nearly a hundred Gulls, some dead, some dying, but all in an advanced stage of starvation. They were mostly Black-headed and Common Gulls, but with them were two Black-backs, a Razorbill, a Puffin, a Heron and a Brent Goose. An idea of the many birds which were to be found on the shore at this time can
be gathered by some extracts from the journal of Mr. C. G. Doughty of Gorleston, who patrols the sands with a view to such discoveries.

Mr. Doughty's Journal:

January 21st. Four Blackbirds, one Woodcock, one Kittiwake, one Black-headed Gull, one Razorbill.

24th. One Coot, one Guillemot, two Herring-Gulls, six Kittiwakes.

25th. One Redwing, one Water-Rail, two Wild Ducks.

27th. One Coot.

29th. One Scoter, one Guillemot, one Common Gull.

February 3rd. Two Black-headed Gulls.

10th. An Eared Grebe, this was alive, but allowed itself to be captured.

12th. One Common Gull.

14th. One Red-throated Diver.

16th. One Velvet Scoter, one Grey Plover, one Sanderling.

March 6th. Two Conger Eels, (one weighed 28 lbs).

My local list of dead birds sacrificed during this terrible frost runs up, with Mr. Doughty's assistance, to forty-two species. In that catalogue are included little birds like the Tree-Creeper, Goldcrest and Robin, as well as the Blue, Marsh, and Coal-Titmouse, which Mr. Wallis thinks did not suffer in Cornwall (British Birds, X, p. 268). As was to be expected, this great mortality among bird-life (caused by starvation, and not, as a portion of the public believed, by the cold), was in due course followed by its natural sequel— a marked diminution of our favourites and fewer nests in the ensuing summer. Mr. B. B. Riviere, who has had a great deal of experience, particularly noticed the absence of nests of Long-tailed Tits and Golden-crested Wrens. That such very small species requiring, no doubt, hourly feeding, should be decimated, when there was a total absence of minute insect forms (Diptera, Hymenoptera, etc.) for them, is only natural.

As already stated, not many inland species received a harder blow than the Blackbird, one result of which was that when summer came round again, gardeners were saved the trouble of netting their strawberries. Later on, the quantity of unpicked fruit upon thorns and other berry-bearing trees such as Viburnum opulus, was very marked also, testifying to the sad lack of the birds which should have eaten them.
The only species of bird which did not greatly suffer, was the one which could have been best spared, viz., the Common Sparrow.

On February 10th a welcome thaw set in, on the 16th a Robin was carrying building materials for its nest, and a few Wood-Pigeons were beginning to return.

In connection with this tremendous frost, there is one matter which should not be passed over, namely the plague of omnivorous caterpillars, which wrought much harm during the summer in Norfolk, infesting trees of all sorts during June and July. It is hard to say whether this havoc should be correlated with the destruction of bird-life, but if there was no connection, the coincidence is singular.

Prevalence of Westerly Wind.—On January 9th there were two wrecks at Cromer, one a Greek ship, the other Spanish, but fortunately without loss of life. While the searchlights were playing on them after dark, their powerful rays revealed to Mr. Henry Cole, who was watching, quantities of Gulls passing, together with some smaller birds. This was two days before the snow began, but the birds may have had some foreboding of it.

During the remainder of the year gales were not so frequent as sometimes, but in the autumn Norfolk had its usual prevalence of westerly winds. The direction of the wind seems to govern the course of flight with birds on our rounded line of coast at Cromer. If closely observed, it will be seen, even when the wind is quite a light wind—force 2 or 3 (Beaufort scale)—that three-fourths of them are going against it. This is especially to be remarked in Gulls, Lapwings, Starlings, Rooks, Chaffinches, Linnets, etc., and is perhaps more noticeable in October than in any other month. During October 1917 there was only one day on which the wind was not west or some point of west. On October 19th there was a pretty steady stream of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with many Herring-Gulls and a few fine adult Greater Blackbacks passing Cromer both by land and sea. They came in constant batches during most of the afternoon, all going against the wind, which was light north-north-west (force 2). Not one passed the other way.

The year has again come to an end without a Sea Eagle (although Mr. Caton-Haigh reports one from Lincolnshire), thanks to the head-money paid for their destruction in Norway. How different from the days when every bird of prey was not proscribed, and a Norfolk naturalist would count five Eagles on the wing at once. Nor has it been a good year for Woodcocks, which considering the comparative immunity they
must have enjoyed in Europe, is rather surprising. Of wild Pheasants and Partridges there was abundance, but not of the Red-legged Partridges which, not being native birds, were less able to stand the frost. The rarities for 1917 are but few—four Ruddy Sheld-Ducks in January (probably escapes) three Ortolan Buntings and a Stork in September, the Buff-backed Heron in October, and nine or ten Glaucous Gulls in the rough weather with which 1917 came to a close, are all. Notice was taken of a red-spangled Partridge in May, and the only other variety calling for remark was a cream-coloured Cuckoo obtained by Colonel Batt at Gresham (antea, p. 141).

A dagger (†) as before, indicates examination by the recorder. The rainfall for the year was 27.06 in. (E. Knight).

**Classified Notes.**

**Linnet (Cardu lis c. cannabina).**

On October 14th Mr. Cole remarked a steady migration of Linnets in the neighbourhood of Cromer, passing along the coast in successive batches, and all going north-north-west, against the wind, which was light. This agrees with former observations by Dr. Riviere and others (cf. Zoologist, 1913, p. 178 and 1914, p. 179.)

**Tree-Sparrow (Passer m. montanus).**

In June and July Tree-Sparrows were observed by the gardener to be on the Cabbage plants, where they were gathering the superabundant green caterpillars (Mamestra brassicae) which, though small, are exceedingly destructive, but some large yellow ones (not named) were untouched. Although in this instance they were doing good, it is impossible to acquit the Tree-Sparrow of taking some share of the farmer’s grain.

**Ortolan Bunting (Emberiza hortulana).**

On September 6th, after a moderate south-easterly wind (force 4), three of these Buntings were identified by Mr. F. J. Richards at Blakeney, where they may now fairly be considered annual September visitants.

**Bearded Tit (Panurus b. biarmicus).**

Mr. R. Gurney finds that the Bearded Tits, which are such a feature of our Broads—and which were admitted to be unusually plentiful in 1916 (British Birds, X, p. 276)—became equally scarce in 1917, and the same evidence of diminution is supplied by Dr. Long (Bull. B.O.C., XXVIII., p. 34). Mr. James Vincent only met with one brood on Hickling during a short visit at the beginning of August, and
in the first week of December 1917 failed to see or hear a single bird in the Horsey and Hickling district. This great decrease is without doubt attributable to the frosts of February, which starved so many birds. One sent to Mr. Saunders was probably a waif which had succumbed, but in most cases a starved bird would sink into the reeds and not be found.

**GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER (Locustella n. nanvia)**

One seen by Mr. Nudd on May 1st, and two heard "reeling" by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain on May 11th: this Warbler is at no time a common bird in Norfolk.

**REDWING (Turdus musicae).**

To no species was the frost along the coast more fatal than the Redwing. In hard weather large numbers move from inland quarters towards the sea, taught by instinct that there the ground is usually softer and less icebound, but on this occasion it was of little avail. On January 21st Mr. Henry Cole saw Redwings coming off the sea at Cromer, and again on the 22nd and 23rd, when they were passing all day. Soon the poor things began to crowd into and through the town, seeking shelter in yards abutting on the streets, or anywhere. The Redwing seems to be a delicate bird at all times, and it is not surprising that Mr. Patterson also gives a lamentable account of their condition at Yarmouth, where, in a few particular places, resorted to for shelter, they lay on the ground almost one to the square yard. Similar reports, but not quite so bad, came in from Mr. Smith of Sheringham. The result was that when autumn came round, instead of the November flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares trooping overhead, hardly one was to be seen. Thrushes also had yielded to adverse circumstances and died, but in smaller numbers, the bulk of them having gone south before the frost came.

**SWALLOW (Hirundo r. rustica).**

The great movement of Swallows recorded by Dr. B. B. Riviere on April 29th (antea, p. 66), observed from daybreak, but which may have begun long before sunrise, is very noteworthy, because the same thing has been witnessed at Blakeney and Cley, which are some twenty-five miles farther west, in the spring (April and May). Further observations will probably prove it to be an annual passage, and often on a very large scale. But what is even more remarkable is the vast autumnal passage of House Martins
and Swallows in September, flying as a rule against the wind, north-west or north-north-west.

**Hoopoe (Upupa e. epops).**

A Hoopoe at Thornham on September 3rd (S. H. Long). Nearly every Norfolk occurrence of the Hoopoe in the last thirty-five years has been on the coast; September being the favourite month. An inland record in 1910 (Zoologist, 1911, p. 166) originated in a mistake.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (Dryobates m. comminutus).**

On the hardest day of the frost in February (the 7th) the jarring of this species could be heard among the beech trees faintly vibrating. This may have been an expiring effort in the vain search for such wood-boring beetles (*Hylesinus* and *Rhagium*) as had outlived the extreme cold, if indeed any had done so. That both Woodpecker and beetles were soon dead can not be doubted. However, some must have survived, for a nest was examined on May 25th (Walter) or rather the hol?,*† which was in a fir stump and only measured 1.5 by 1.4. in.

Whether any Green Woodpeckers collapsed I do not know, or whether any resorted to the thatched roofs of cottages, where warmth from the chimneys gives insects a chance, of which the Woodpecker knows how to take advantage.

**Little Owl (Athene n. noctua).**

None appeared at Swainsthorpe, where they nested last year, but from statistics collected by Dr. Deacon and Dr. Long it seems that Little Owls were seen in Braconash hard by, as well as at Easton, Great Melton, and other places. At Melton an identified egg *†* was taken from an oak tree (Bainbridge). On December 8th one appeared at Hempstead for the first time: orders were at once issued for its protection. Another was trapped at Swanington (S. H. Long).

During one of the raid nights Owls were flying round the town of Cromer (H. Cole), species not identified.

**Barn-Owl (Tyto a. alba).**

The Benefits It Confers on Man.—On April 5th a Barn-Owl, brought into Norwich to be stuffed, proved to contain six shrew-mice, so recently swallowed that the last one *†* was still quite perfect. Last year on May 10th both our Owls were asleep in the Owl-tub on a very odoriferous congeries of mice— and rat—remains, together with five eggs, one of which was only about half the normal size. In an adjacent fork of the beech-tree were the bleached bones of
one mole, and a good many small rats and mice. Who can deny the beneficial nature of this species, which is of such service to man? Yet I once counted the skins of forty-six Barn-Owls in a bird-stuffer’s shop in Norfolk, but am thankful to think that the efforts of the Norwich Naturalists’ Society have done much to check such senseless persecution. One of my Owls apparently carried off a small mouse-trap, no doubt having seen and seized the mouse which was in it.

**White Stork** (*Ciconia c. ciconia*).

About September 9th a White Stork was viewed by several persons at Lowestoft. It took up its quarters on one of the parapets of the Catholic Church, to which roosting-place it returned every evening, and finally took its departure unharmed.

**Spoonbill** (*Platalea l. leucorodia*).

The first Spoonbills to visit their time-honoured resort, Breydon Broad, were a pair which dropped in on May 20th, as usual during the night. The wind the day before had been high (S.E. 4), but according to the Weather Report there was none at all at the time of their coming. Liking their quarters, and being well guarded by Mr. Jary, they stayed until June 5th. After an interval another appeared on July 21st (N.N.E., fine) and stayed until the 29th, and that was all for 1917. Judging from Spoonbills in confinement, there can be few such silent birds in existence, a great contrast to most of the noisy frequenters of Breydon.

**Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*).

On April 6th Dr. Riviere found four occupied nests at Earlham, which hatched out on April 11th; this small Heronry, which has successively flourished in woods at Keswick, Taverham and Costessey, ceased at Earlham in 1904. Mr. Carr had two pairs which nested at Ditchingham. The Heron is a species which does not increase, although nearly every Heronry in East Anglia is well protected.

**Buff-backed Heron** (*Ardeola i. ibis*).

A male of this species was shot on some marshes near Yarmouth (being as usual in attendance on cattle) on October 23rd, as recorded by Mr. Smailey (*antea*, p. 146). The wind that day at Cromer was north-west, and I had noted Rooks on passage moving against the direction of the upper clouds, *i.e.* towards N.W. On the evening of the 22nd it had been registered at Yarmouth as W.S.W., force 4, which would
probably mark the time of this rare Heron's arrival in England. It is curious that a hundred and twelve years should have elapsed since the last occurrence of a species which is common so near to England as Spain. Its stomach contained newts, probably a usual food, although not mentioned by Saunders. I once dissected one in Egypt, which had in it eleven small frogs. The Yarmouth bird also had a River Bull-head.

**Bittern (Botaurus stellaris).**

Sharp weather in January or February always brings to Norfolk some Bitterns, which have been frozen out from marshes on the Continent, probably those in Holland, where it is more abundant, and the effect of a fish famine soon shows itself on these birds. On January 29th Sir T. Troubridge rose one at Runcton, where two days afterwards the gardener caught another. A third was flushed at Catfield, a fourth on February 2nd at Fleggburgh (Saunders), a fifth near Cley (Pashley), and a sixth on February 5th near Yarmouth (Dye). This is not more than a hard season usually affords to the gunners, who also secured two or three more at the end of the following December.

With regard to the breeding of the Bittern, I am happy to be able to state that very favourable reports are to hand. Without entering into particulars, it is enough to say that Dr Riviere is of opinion that several pairs may have nested. Booming was also heard in the spring in districts far removed from the Broads whence the previous breeding records were derived.

Anyhow, there is no doubt that as early as April there were several Bitterns about. One observer tells how on March 29th he listened in the evening to more than one booming in the reeds, and at the same time there were one or more on the wing also calling, but in a different key. During May they were heard by Dr. Long and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain in at least three places in the Broads district. The only naturalist, however, who was fortunate enough to see a nest, was Miss E. L. Turner, who examined one recently vacated. It had held two young Bitterns on June 6th (the older pair of young ones having probably left the nest), and some egg-shells, proof sufficient of its identity. The booms of a Bittern have been said to be always an odd number, generally three or five, which Ray doubted (The Ornithology, p. 282), but my limited observation rather confirms it, though he is right enough in saying that "It begins to bellow" about the beginning of February.
The soaring aloft in circles, of which Continental writers speak, has not yet been noticed.

[Flamingo (Phoenicopterus ruber).

Between July 4th and 25th a Flamingo was seen at Salt-house by various persons; it then changed its quarters to Breydon Broad, where I tried unsuccessfully to get a view of it. It was possibly the South American Flamingo, of the escape of which Mr. Witherby was informed earlier in the year.]

[Ruddy Sheld-Duck (Calarca ferruginea).

In the beginning of January four Ruddy Sheld-Ducks, which from their tameness were thought to have escaped, were approached on Breydon, near the town, by Mr. Jary. It will be remembered that four were seen at Hickling in October 1916, and either two or four in November 1915, and two by the sea in January 1914; besides one in May 1913, and two in October 1912. Where they all come from is a mystery.]

Shoveler (Spatula clypeata).

May 11th: Two nests examined by Mr. Jourdain on the Broads. What is peculiar about this species is that it is a bird of two seasons; the following winter dates are to hand:—January 26th, adult male (B. Dye); February 5th, female (M. C. Bird); 8th, two at Kilverstone and one on the river at Colney; 10th, a male at Yarmouth (Dye).

SMEW (Mergus albellus).

During February several fine Smews occurred, Mr. E. C. Saunders having as many as five on different dates, and Mr. E. T. Roberts one. This latter, a fine male shot near Barton, contained a number of small Notopecta †.

Manx Shearwater (Puffinus p. puffinus).

September 26th.—A dead Manx Shearwater † picked up in a turnip-field at Northrepps, quite dried up as if it had been starved, and lain there a long time. (Mr. W. R. Lysaght has a Levantine Shearwater (Puffinus p. yelkouan) shot on Blakeney bar, September 22nd, 1891).

Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps c. cristatus).

Both the Great Crested Grebe and the Red-necked Grebe were hard put to it during the frost. On February 2nd Mr. Dye reported five Great Crested Grebes in the Brydon
channel, and on the 4th they were still there (Patterson), battling against a heavy snow-storm, with Coots clambering over the bank to take refuge from the drift-ice. March always sees them returning to our inland waters, unless the weather be something very exceptional; Dr. Long counted twenty Grebes on South Walsham Broad on April 8th, nearly all in pairs.

**WOOD-PIGEON (Columba p. palumbus).**

A great flock of Wood-Pigeons in four battalions was seen by Mr. Doughty on January 5th flying in from the sea at Gorleston; wind, W.N.W. 2. rain and snow. October 9th.—The first band of autumn arrivals observed near Beccles by Mr. Smalley.

**STOCK-DOVE (Columba oenas).**

On February 16th eight half-starved Stock-doves ventured on to the ice of a small pond, in quest of maize thrown to the Ducks, a bold proceeding, the more so as the pond was in a frequented garden; but it was in a neighbourhood where this little Pigeon has always been common. In this part of Norfolk it is not unusual to come across a dead Stock-dove, always in good feather, unruffled, and without any sign of disease in the throat or elsewhere. Has this been remarked by others? It cannot be the result of fighting or the plumage would be ruffled.

At Blakeney they use the rabbit-holes on the sandhills for breeding-places, but nearer Norwich any large hole, such as a deserted pigeon-cote, or the roof of a summer-house is acceptable. Tubs put up for Owls are continually pre-occupied by Stock-doves, which is somewhat annoying to Owl protectors.

**STONE-CURLEW (Burhinus o. oedicnemus).**

May 25th.—A nest containing the customary two eggs (if the slight depression in the bracken lined with rabbit's droppings can be called a nest) within four miles of Norwich, and within twenty yards of where the same pair hatched last year (J. H Walter) I understand the young came off on June 9th and 10th; last year Mr. Walter registered their hatching on June 17th.

**GREEN SANDPIPER (Tringa ochropus).**

The probability of the Green Sandpiper having nested in Norfolk was emphasised in last year's "Notes" (British
Birds, p. 242) and there are now fresh facts to advance. First, in Hanworth Park, near Cromer, where there is a stream which broadens into a small lake, two Green Sandpipers were observed by Colonel Barclay and his friends during the summer of 1917; they were seen either singly or together on different occasions during May, June, and July. Although they were considered to be breeding, no search was made for the nest. About the 4th August Colonel Barclay again saw the pair of old Sandpipers, and at once detected what he surmised to be four or five young ones with them. He is not certain of the number, but believes there were five, which would be in excess of a normal brood. These youngsters were smaller than the old birds, and lighter in colour. By approaching slowly he was enabled to get so near, on at least one occasion, as to see distinctly tufts of down about their plumage, but he refrained from shooting one, even in the cause of science, although aware of the desirability of securing absolute proof. Secondly, from a recent interview with Sir Hugh Beevor, it appears almost certain that the Green Sandpiper has bred on his property, at Wilby. The eggs were not discovered, but the young ones were found when "no bigger than Wheatears." A reward offered to the keeper if he could show the nest and eggs in situ another year, has at present produced no result. Thirdly, the supposed instance near King's Lynn in 1888, recorded by the late Colonel Butler (Zoologist, 1888, p. 306) must not be overlooked, as there is good reason to believe it authentic.

Fourthly, there is the case cited by Lubbock of a pair of old Sandpipers with four others, believed to be young ones on July 23rd, 1840 (Trans. Norwich Naturalists' Soc. vol. ii. p. 426). Nevertheless, in all these cases the possibility of the birds having been Wood-Sandpipers must be admitted, the breeding of which has been indubitably proved in Norfolk (Zoologist, 1846, p. 1324), by the shooting of a young one incapable of flying a hundred yards.

Redshank (Tringa totanus).

Throughout the spring and summer the Redshank, which seems increasing, was abundant at Breydon (Jary). It has few enemies to contend with, except the prowling gunner, but on July 28th a Peregrine Falcon was observed to seize one. The Redshank rose with others from the mud, and like a bolt the Tiercel came down from the clouds and carried it off. The time of year was decidedly unusual for this bird of prey to be in Norfolk.
On July 28th I saw many Whimbrel on Breydon Flats, and was informed that they had been continually in evidence during the spring, yet none ever breed.

**Black-Headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*).

On July 1st Dr. Long and Mr. R. Gurney visited the Gullery at Wells—which is no longer confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Mow-Creek—where they estimated the number of breeding birds at about one hundred. In the middle of this settlement, on the open marsh, was found a Common Tern's nest, containing eggs.

Besides the three ringed Gulls already mentioned, a fourth labelled "Helgoland, 22763," was received by Mr. Cole from Salthouse. This was killed, but two of the others (Nos. 2381 and 25459) escaped, and have probably found their way back again to Rossitten.

**Glaucous Gull** (*Larus glaucus*).

The constant storms of sleet and snow, which prevailed at the end of December, and during the subsequent month, were probably responsible for the presence of several Glaucous Gulls. The first was received on December 24th by Mr. Pashley, who afterwards had another, while Dr. Riviere had one † of a pair which fell to a right and left shot at Blakeney. A fifth was watched by Sir Digby Pigott at Sheringham, and Mr. Patterson further records that one or two were seen at sea off Yarmouth. One was seen at Cromer by Mr. H. Cole on December 25th, and on January 10th, 1918, three were seen together, one adult and two immature birds. On the first occasion Mr. Cole says he was near enough to have taken a photo, but no cameras are allowed on the beach. It is some years since there has been a flock of these Gulls on the coast.