

HARRY FORBES WITHERBY: A Biographical Sketch

BY

B. W. TUCKER.

It seems but a little time ago that British ornithologists and the editors and readers of this magazine in particular had to deplore the loss of F. C. R. Jourdain, who was so closely associated with *British Birds* from almost its earliest days. Now, less than four years after, we mourn the death of Harry Witherby, our founder and editor throughout the thirty-six and a half years of our existence as a journal, and so grievous a loss, following so close on the other, seems well-nigh overwhelming.

Yet, looking back on all that Witherby accomplished we can, while deploring his loss, "be thankful", as I wrote in the brief preliminary announcement of his death, "for a life so fruitful in the advancement of our science and for the fact that he lived to see the culmination of his work in *The Handbook* and the enthusiasm with which it was received by ornithologists everywhere." But it would be idle to pretend that anyone at the present time can adequately fill his place. His grip of both the systematic and field aspects of our subject was remarkable and the range of his contacts with other ornithologists, both specialists and amateurs, was hardly less so. Himself primarily a systematist and an authority on plumages and racial differentiation, he was also keenly interested in distribution and migration and was an able field observer, while even in dealing with aspects of ornithology in which he was not himself a specialist his critical judgment and sound good-sense were seldom at fault. His editorship of this journal brought him into relation with ornithologists up and down the country in a peculiarly effective way, and his high reputation and sympathetic responsiveness to every genuine student made him the natural recipient alike of information on all observations of importance on British birds and of requests for assistance or advice which he himself was so well qualified to impart. In consequence, to quote again from my earlier notice, "he had come to represent and almost, as it were, to personify British Ornithology in a unique way", and the loss entailed by his death would be impossible to exaggerate.

He had been in poor health for some time, but it was only in September that he became seriously ill. For some time it was hoped that with care and rest and relief from work he might recover or at least that his life might be prolonged, but after a period of apparent improvement followed by a grave set-back it became evident that there was no real hope of his recovery, and he died on December 11th, 1943, at the age of seventy.

Harry Forbes Witherby was born on October 7th, 1873. He was the second surviving son of Henry Forbes Witherby, R.B.A., of Burley, Hants, and his early experiences in the New Forest are reflected in his first published writings on birds, in the scientific magazine *Knowledge*. These were published in an amended form in a little book called *Forest Birds: their haunts and habits* (1894) when he was twenty-one.

After leaving school he joined the family business of Witherby & Co., of which he became senior partner at his father's death. For a number of years now under the title of H. F. & G. Witherby the publishing firm has made a speciality of ornithological, sporting and travel books, and it has undoubtedly been to the advantage of ornithology in this country that the editor of standard works like *The Handbook*, as well as of this magazine, could also be their publisher.

In 1904 he married Lilian, daughter of the late Rev. S. Gillson, of Itchen Abbas, Hants. No account of Witherby would be complete without some reference to his happy family life, and it is perhaps permissible to recall his graceful tribute in the *Ibis* to Mrs. Witherby, "who even learned to skin birds on our first trip together . . . and has endured hard places and discomforts for the sake of my pursuit." They had two sons and three daughters.

In the last war, as a Lieutenant in the R.N.V.R., Witherby served in 1917-18 as intelligence officer to his friend Hubert Lynes at Dunkirk. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the M.B.E.

In 1936 he retired from full participation in the work of the firm and settled at Chobham, near Woking, where he had acquired the pleasantly named property of Gracious Pond Farm. The fifteenth century building was adapted and extended in a remarkably successful and harmonious way and he settled down with almost bovish enthusiasm to planning the garden. Gardening was one of his greatest interests after ornithology, and the garden at Gracious Pond Farm was a constant joy to him. In addition, a derelict pond in the adjacent wood was cleared and converted into a little sanctuary for duck and other birds, and with Wood-Larks breeding on the premises and such birds as Curlew and Dartford-Warblers on the neighbouring common the conditions seemed ideal for the retirement of an ornithologist. Many other ornithologists have enjoyed his and Mrs. Witherby's hospitality in these charming surroundings.

But the war interrupted his retirement. In time it became necessary for him to resume work in connexion with the firm which he had previously given up and to pay regular visits to London. Already not in very robust health, he shouldered the task with characteristic good humour, but he certainly felt the strain and there can be very little doubt that it helped to lower his vitality. Like that of so many others not in the prime of

life, who, to relieve younger men, willingly took up labours which overtaxed their strength, his death would probably be rightly regarded as an indirect consequence of the war.

Though he was always deeply interested in living birds, Witherby's earlier ornithological activities were primarily devoted to the collection and study of skins. He early became interested in the subject of plumage changes and moults on which he was to become a leading authority, and his splendid collection of British and Western Palæartic birds, which ultimately numbered over nine thousand skins, was formed primarily with the object of studying these phenomena. In 1898 he visited the delta of the Guadalquivir and subsequently, prior to his marriage, carried out several more ambitious collecting expeditions, the results of which are recorded in the *Ibis*. The first was a crossing of the Kola Peninsula from Kandalax to Kola and Ekaterina, which he carried out in July, 1899, in company with his friend A. E. Hamerton, such an expedition being then much more of an undertaking than trips to various parts of Lapland in recent years.

His next expedition (1900) was up the White Nile from Khartoum to El Kawa, which in addition to the *Ibis* account, he described at greater length and in a more popular style in *Knowledge* and, with slight alterations, in book form under the title *Bird Hunting on the White Nile*. The next, and most important, was a journey of some 800 miles through the region of Fars in South-west Persia, made in 1902 and graphically described in the *Ibis* (1903). It resulted in a collection of considerable interest, containing, as he himself described it, "many 'intermediate' and more or less local forms." The conclusion of the Persian journey marked the end of the period of Witherby's more remote explorations. In 1904 he and Mrs. Witherby spent from March to May in Algeria, successfully combining a honeymoon with collecting, in which his wife assisted. The visits to Spain, on which Mrs. Witherby regularly accompanied him, belong to the period after the war of 1914-18 and will be referred to later.

Between 1897 and 1903 Witherby conducted a column of ornithological notes in *Knowledge*, which was published by his firm; but the need for a magazine devoted entirely to birds was becoming more and more apparent, and in 1907, assisted by the late W. P. Pycraft, he launched *British Birds*, outlining in the first number the aims which under his wise guidance it in fact so successfully achieved. Howard Saunders contributed an important article to that number on "Additions to the List of British Birds since 1899". Hartert, Rothschild, Pycraft, F. C. Selous and others contributed to the first volume, and Witherby himself, with N. F. Ticehurst, began a valuable series "On the more important additions to our knowledge of British Birds since 1899". the year when the second edition of Saunders's

Manual was published. *British Birds* thus started auspiciously and its success was soon assured. In 1909 Jourdain and N. F. Ticehurst joined the editorial staff and, Pycraft having withdrawn soon afterwards, the triumvirate was thus established which was to collaborate so productively for many years.

To review the history of *British Birds* under Witherby's editorship would be beyond the scope of a memoir such as this and would in any case take far more space than present conditions allow, but reference must be made to one special development in connexion with the magazine because of its outstanding importance. This was the *British Birds* Marking Scheme. Witherby had always been much interested in migration and its problems. As early as 1896 he visited Spurn with Eagle Clarke and others. Subsequently he visited Holy Island and other East Coast localities to observe migration and—to refer to a much later period—in 1938 he even realized a long-held wish by visiting Fair Isle. In 1909, impressed by the pioneer results of Mortensen in Denmark and the Rossitten station in Germany, he inaugurated the *British Birds* scheme. It is almost superfluous to stress the great importance of the results which this achieved and the outstanding value of the contribution it has made to our knowledge of the movements of Western Palearctic migrants. Its initiation and organization must be reckoned one of Witherby's major contributions to ornithology. For years he worked up the results and prepared the reports himself, while the routine work and the storage of the records was done at his firm's office, though from 1930 onwards much of the work was taken over by Miss E. P. Leach, whose invaluable assistance he always enthusiastically acknowledged. It was only finally in 1937, with the continued increase in volume of the work and the pressure of other claims, such as that of *The Handbook*, on his time, that arrangements were made for the transference of the scheme to the British Trust for Ornithology and the provision of headquarters for it at the British Museum (Natural History). This arrangement he rightly regarded as a highly satisfactory one for ensuring the continuance of the work under the best conditions.

Witherby's systematic work soon brought him into contact with Ernst Hartert, of the Tring Museum, who in the earlier years of the present century was vigorously engaged in championing the use of trinomials in nomenclature against the scornful but somewhat uneasy opposition of most of the ornithologists of the older school. Witherby was amongst the very first to recognize what may now seem the obvious justice of Hartert's contention that the facts of racial differentiation within the species required the use of a trinomial system and that the naming of what were clearly racial forms of sub-specific value as though they were full species was misleading and wrong. He applied Hartert's principles in his own writings and

advocated them in an eminently sound and logical letter to the *Ibis* in 1905. Hartert also insisted, again against much opposition, on rigid priority in nomenclature as the only means of ultimately securing stability and on the adoption, because they were international, of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature of 1891, which took as their starting point the 10th (1758) edition of Linnaeus's *Systema Naturæ*, instead of the 12th (1766), which British ornithologists had generally followed. Witherby was at first opposed to Hartert's views on strict priority, which admittedly involved changing a number of well-known names, but after a time he accepted them, and matters were brought to a head in 1912 by the appearance of *The Hand-List of British Birds* by Hartert, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Witherby, in which the classification and nomenclature were Hartert's. The rest of the information in this work was distributional and was conveniently sectionalized under the headings of British Distribution, Distribution Abroad and Migration, the first of these being mainly by Witherby. So far as nomenclature was concerned *The Hand-List* was naturally not well received by the die-hards, but they were fighting a losing battle and, to quote Witherby's own words, "the opposition gradually died down, so that by the time *The Practical Handbook of British Birds* appeared (1919-24) . . . the system had become generally adopted."

The Practical Handbook was the natural successor to *The Hand-List*, and it is no secret that the general idea of the work was Witherby's. It carried the principle of sectionalized treatment much further and was the work of the same four authors, with the addition of Annie C. Jackson (afterwards Mrs. Meinertzhagen) and Charles Oldham, with Witherby as general editor. The great feature of this work was the masterly treatment by Witherby of the successive plumages of British birds (except the ducks and waders, which were done by Miss Jackson), which were described in great detail and with characteristic care and accuracy. It would be difficult to over-emphasize the immense and devoted labour which the preparation of these descriptions must have involved. They were more complete than any previously published in a book on British birds, entailing the minute examination of a very large series of skins collected at all times of the year. As Witherby himself testified, the task would have been impossible but for the facilities given by Lord Rothschild, or the Hon. Walter Rothschild, as he then was, for the free use of his magnificent collection at Tring, but the British Museum material was also extensively consulted and his own private collection played an important part, because it contained, again to quote his own words, "many moulting and young birds which are unfortunately still considered by most collectors to be hardly worth preserving."

The Practical Handbook also contained, as is well known, brief but excellent Field-Characters by Oldham, important sections on Breeding and Food by Jourdain, and Distribution and Migration sections on much the same lines as *The Hand-List*. It at once took its place as the standard authority on British birds and remained so for well over a decade after its completion. But in 1934 it went out of print and requests were received from all quarters for a new edition. It was obvious that with the extensive changes and additions that seemed called for this would be a formidable task to prepare, and the surviving authors were no longer young. Nevertheless they rose to the occasion magnificently. I shall always vividly recall the occasion on which Witherby and Jourdain first outlined to me their ideas, saying that although they were both well on in years they felt it an obligation to do all in their power to meet the demand and need which clearly existed and generously proposed my collaboration on the field side. So *The Handbook* began to take shape and a voluminous correspondence was exchanged between Witherby and myself on the treatment of field data and on many details, interspersed with memorable visits to Gracious Pond Farm to discuss the work as it progressed. Witherby was a most helpful and stimulating and extraordinarily efficient editor and colleague, and I might add a very considerate and patient one as well. The care and pains which he devoted to every detail were remarkable, though only in keeping with all the rest of his work. Never sparing himself, he had in his quiet way the gift of getting the best out of others and when necessary extracting from them, in spite of other competing demands, just that little extra which he believed would make the work still more useful.

The general style and plan of *The Handbook* and the nature and extent of the new field and other material which it contains are so well known and so much a matter of current history that it is superfluous to recapitulate them here, but a word about the plates may not be out of place. Again in his own words, the provision of such a complete series of illustrations had long been to him "a cherished, if somewhat faint hope", owing to the prohibitive cost of having so large a series drawn. It was only after substantial progress had been made with the new work and work had even begun on two or three new plates of the *Practical Handbook* type that he conceived the idea of arranging with the proprietors of E. D. van Oordt's *Ornithologia Neerlandica* to illustrate it with reproductions of the careful and very complete plates made by the distinguished Dutch artist M. A. Koekoek for that work. Thanks to the helpful collaboration of the proprietors and of the Leiden Museum this idea was successfully realized, the requisite new plates of birds not on the Dutch list being prepared partly by Koekoek himself and partly by various British artists, Witherby as usual taking

immense pains over the selection of specimens and every other detail. This arrangement brought the provision of such a completely illustrated work within the realm of financial practicability and there can be no doubt that it was abundantly justified. For although the reproductions have sometimes been criticized as too small they are in the main remarkably successful and useful and have contributed much to the success of the work.

The completion of *The Handbook* in spite of the war and in spite of the lamented death of Jourdain while work on it was in progress was a major and richly deserved triumph for Witherby. It was a fitting culmination to his life's work for ornithology and will remain the best possible memorial to him.

Witherby's original researches, as has already been briefly noted, were concerned first and foremost with the study of plumages and moults, and the series on the "Sequence of Plumages of British Birds" which he wrote in conjunction with the late C. B. Ticehurst in Vols. III and IV of *British Birds*, and the later one on the moults of British Passeres, foreshadowed the immense task which he so successfully accomplished in the preparation of the *Practical Handbook* descriptions. An important special problem in this connexion which he cleared up was that of the bare face of the Rook, which he showed in 1913 was due to a moult and not to abrasion. His interest in the differentiation of geographical races has also been alluded to and he gave much attention to this subject. He also became the leading authority on the birds of Spain and more especially of the central region, which he visited with Mrs. Witherby in 1922, 1925 and 1927. They also visited South-east and East Spain in 1923 and 1929 respectively. The principal account of these explorations and their results is the admirable paper in the *Ibis* for 1928 "On the Birds of Central Spain". One of the most interesting and unexpected of his discoveries was that of White-spotted Bluethroats breeding in the Sierra de Gredos.

The outstanding characteristic of all Witherby's work was its great care and accuracy and his insistence on full authentication for every statement. Without any formal scientific training he had pre-eminently the scientific mind. No second-hand statement was good enough for him. In the preparation of *The Handbook* even the authority of eminent names was not sufficient; nothing was to be accepted at secondhand on which it was at all possible to secure original data, and everything had to be checked and verified if it was at all practicable. And if there were occasions when this extreme caution seemed almost excessive, it was the best possible safeguard against that all too common phenomenon, the perpetuation of mistakes through the prestige of names or too easy acceptance of the printed word.

Equally impressive was the trouble he would take to investigate records of rarities submitted to *British Birds*. His famous book-plate with the legend "What's hit's history and what's missed's mystery" perhaps expressed the scepticism of the collector more uncompromisingly than he would have done later in life, for he was, at least in his mature years, an extremely good judge of the possibilities, as well as the limitations, of field identification. From a combination of natural aptitude and long experience, probably no one was more expert in sifting sight records and in fastening on critical points in identification or extracting them from observers without asking leading questions. Here again there have been occasions when his caution has been thought by some—chiefly the disappointed would-be recorders themselves—to be almost excessive, but it will be generally conceded that it is infinitely preferable that a few possibly correct observations should be rejected as not fully proved than that dubious records should gain currency. Moreover it will bear stressing that his natural caution was reinforced rather than otherwise by his experience over many years of the actual vagaries of perfectly honest observers in matters of identification, and it has had the salutary result that extraordinarily few records which were in fact erroneous have found their way into *British Birds*.

All his ornithological correspondence was characterized by an equal thoroughness, and various correspondents have testified—as indeed probably few could do better than the writer—to the astonishingly full and painstaking way in which, in the midst of a busy life, he contrived to answer enquiries or to discuss matters of mutual interest in his letters. The personal interest in each writer's experiences and problems which he managed so effectively to convey in his frequently long and almost invariably hand-written letters, and his obvious sincerity and integrity, undoubtedly contributed to his editorial success and gained him the confidence and confidences of ornithologists of all varieties of outlook.

Like Jourdain, though with a completely different temperament and manner of approach, he was particularly successful and sympathetic with the younger generation. While others occasionally fancied him—quite wrongly—a trifle austere until they got to know him, young people nearly always made friends with him at once and were quick to appreciate his kindly encouragement and advice; they soon felt at home with him, for he was never patronizing.

In his quiet way he was an excellent companion amongst people of kindred interests, and his kindly, frank and upright personality endeared him to a wide circle of friends, including a number who knew him only through correspondence. He had a naturally serene manner, except when something which he thought unjust or vexatious irritated him; I have known him

“flare up” for a moment at the mere recollection of an annoying experience abroad, in a way which was really laughable to anyone knowing him well. Naturally unassuming, with a dislike for speaking in public, he avoided doing so more than he could help, but many will remember the dinner of the Ornithological Congress in Oxford, when, though it is said to have cost him sleepless nights beforehand, he astonished many of his friends by the most admirably witty and appropriate little speech, exactly right for the occasion, which has fortunately been preserved in the Congress Proceedings.

He joined the British Ornithologists' Union in 1897 and the British Ornithologists' Club at the same time. He was Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Club from 1904 to 1914 and Chairman from 1924 to 1927, and President of the Union from 1933 to 1938. On his retirement from the latter office he was presented with the Salvin-Godman Gold Medal, the highest award the Union can bestow. He also served for a time on the B.O.C. Migration Committee and from 1922 to the time of his death he was a member of the B.O.U. List Committee. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1928.

He was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the British Trust for Ornithology for the promotion of field studies on birds. For some years he was a member of the Council and took the greatest interest in its work. The transference of the Ringing Scheme to the Trust has already been mentioned. In 1933 he arranged with the Trustees of the British Museum for the purchase of his collection of skins for the sum of £1,500, and, with the exception of £100, which he retained for the development of his bird reserve at Gracious Pond, presented the whole proceeds to the Trust as a capital endowment. Recently, he explained, he had not been able to make that full use of the collection which he would consider justified him in retaining it and “as I have long regarded the collection as belonging to ornithology and not as personal property I sought some means to benefit our science in some way by it.” This munificent and self-sacrificing act was in keeping with his life-long devotion to the cause of ornithology.

Writing in 1932 of the retirement of Hartert and the sale of the Tring collection Witherby observed that with these events an epoch might be said to have closed. He himself might be said with equal justice to have bridged two epochs, that to which reference has just been made and the other near whose beginning we now stand, in which, to quote *The Handbook*, “the main emphasis is and will continue to be on the living bird and its problems.” To both he made outstanding contributions and in both he was a respected and well-loved figure. It will generally be agreed that he contributed more than any other single man in modern times to the advancement of the study

of British birds, and no more appropriate conclusion to this memoir could be given than his own concluding words in returning thanks for the award of the Salvin-Godman medal:

“And finally I come to the birds. . . . What should we do without them. How can one help studying such wonderful and fascinating creatures. After months of toil in the museum or in the study you may sometimes wonder if it is really worth while. But you have only to go outside your door or, indeed, to any part of the world, and watch the birds themselves, and you are quickly reassured that any labour to find out more about them is well worth while. And there will always be more to learn, not only for us, but for those to come—for the half has not been told.

“The best way I can thank you, Mr. President and Members, for this great honour you have done me—far better than any feeble words of mine—is to go on working at our beloved birds to the end.”

And this, in fact, is what he did.

A SELECTED LIST OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL WRITINGS OF H. F. WITHERBY.

I am indebted to Mr. N. B. Kinnear for the loan of a copy of the list of Witherby's published work prepared for the *Ibis* at the British Museum (Natural History) and to Mr. W. B. Alexander for assisting in the selection and for checking the references.

1894. *Forest Birds : their Haunts and Habits.*
1896. A Fortnight with The Birds of Connemara. *Irish Nat.*, V, pp. 1-5.
1899. Two Months on The Guadalquivir. *Knowledge* (in five parts).
1900. The Birds observed in The Kola Peninsula, Russian Lapland. *Ibis*, pp. 475-492.
1901. An Ornithological Expedition to The White Nile. *Ibis*, pp. 237-278.
1902. *Bird Hunting on The White Nile.*
1903. An Ornithological Journey in Fars, S.W. Persia. *Ibis*, pp. 501-571.
1905. Letter on Utility of Trinomials. *Ibis*, pp. 140-141.
Notes on a small Collection of Birds from Algeria. *Ibis*, pp. 179-199.
A Collection of Birds from Somaliland. *Ibis*, pp. 509-524.
1906. *Cinclus cinclus persicus*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XVI, pp. 71-72.
1907-1909. The More Important Additions to our Knowledge of British Birds since 1899. (With N. F. Ticehurst.) *Brit. Birds*, I and II (20 parts).
1907. A Collection of Birds from Western Persia and Armenia. *Ibis*, pp. 74-111.
1908. *Pyrhula pyrrhula caspica*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XXIII, p. 48.
The Spread of The Little Owl from The Chief Centres of its Introduction. (With N. F. Ticehurst.) *Brit. Birds*, I, pp. 335-342.
“Hen-HARRIER” nesting in Surrey. (Shown to be Montagu's Harrier). *Brit. Birds*, I, pp. 351-354.
The Birds of Fair Isle. *Brit. Birds*, I, pp. 381-384.
Incubation-Periods in Sea-birds. *Brit. Birds*, II, pp. 64-66.
The Levantine Shearwater in British Waters. *Brit. Birds*, II, pp. 206-208.

- 1909-1937. Reports on the Progress of the "British Birds" Marking Scheme. *Brit. Birds*, III-XXX.
- 1909-1910. Sequence of Plumages in British Birds. (With C. B. Ticehurst.) *Brit. Birds*, III and IV (six parts).
- 1909-1910. The Irruption of Crossbills. *Brit. Birds*, III and IV (several parts).
1910. A Collection of Birds from the South Coast of the Caspian Sea and the Elburz Mts. *Ibis*, pp. 491-517.
- 1910-1937. Reports on the Recovery of Marked Birds. *Brit. Birds*, III-XXX.
1910. Recent Records from Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcester. (With F. C. R. Jourdain.) *Brit. Birds*, IV, pp. 104-112.
1911. The Irish Jay: *Garrulus glandarius hibernicus*, subsp. nov. (With E. Hartert.) *Brit. Birds*, IV, pp. 234-235.
- The 1909 Irruption of the Crossbill as observed in the British Isles. (With C. J. Alexander.) *Brit. Birds*, IV, pp. 326-331.
1912. *Luscinola pryeri sinensis*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XXXI, pp. 11-12.
- The 1912 "Wreck" of the Little Auk. *Brit. Birds*, V (three parts).
- Migration Notes from Holy Island, Northumberland, Autumn, 1912. *Brit. Birds*, VI, pp. 202-210.
- A Hand-List of British Birds, with an Account of the Distribution of each Species in the British Isles and Abroad.* (With E. Hartert, F. C. R. Jourdain and N. F. Ticehurst.)
- Systematic Notes on a Collection of Birds from the Mediterranean made by Commander H. Lynes, R.N. *Ibis*, pp. 121-187.
1913. The British Black Grouse, *Lyrurus tetrix britannicus*, subsp. nov. (With E. Lönnberg.) *Brit. Birds*, VI, pp. 270-271.
- Barrow's Goldeneye and The common Goldeneye. *Brit. Birds*, VI, pp. 272-276.
- The Sequence of Plumages of the Rook: with Special Reference to the Molt of the "Face." *Brit. Birds*, VII, pp. 126-139.
- Migration Notes from Holy Island, Northumberland: Autumn, 1913. *Brit. Birds*, VII, pp. 167-169.
- Emberiza yessoënsis continentalis*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XXXI, pp. 74-75.
1914. Incursion of Waxwings. *Brit. Birds*, VII and VIII (several parts).
- The Dusky Warbler in Orkney: A New British Bird. *Brit. Birds*, VII, pp. 220-223.
- Ringling Birds in Hungary: A New and Valuable Method. *Brit. Birds*, VIII, pp. 63-66.
- 1915-1917. The Moults of the British Passeres, with Notes on the Sequence of their Plumages. *Brit. Birds*, IX-XI (eight parts).
1916. Some Birds New to the British List. (With H. W. Ford-Lindsay, T. Parkin and J. B. Nichols.) *Brit. Birds*, IX, pp. 197-208.
1917. Some Results of Ringling Song-Thrushes, Blackbirds, Lapwings and Woodcock. *Brit. Birds*, X, pp. 215-224.
- Anthus trivialis haringtoni*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.* XXXVII, p. 43.
1918. The Effect of the Winter of 1916-17 on our Resident Birds. *Brit. Birds*, XI (two parts).
- 1919-1924. *A Practical Handbook of British Birds.* (With E. Hartert, A. C. Jackson, F. C. R. Jourdain, C. Oldham and N. F. Ticehurst).
1919. Notes on Birds observed near Dunkerque, Nord, France. *Brit. Birds*, XII, pp. 194-205.
1920. Some Results of Ringling Certain Species of Birds. *Brit. Birds*, XIII (three parts).
- Notes on the Nestling-Downs of the British Hawks. *Brit. Birds*, XIV, pp. 154-155.

- Acrocephalus agricola haringtoni*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XLI, p. 26.
1921. Notes on British Records of the Spotted Eagle and Steppe Buzzard and on the British Tawny Owl. *Brit. Birds*, XIV, pp. 180-183.
The British taken Examples of the "Levantine" Shearwater. *Brit. Birds*, XV, pp. 151-153.
1922. The White-billed Northern Diver as a British Bird. *Brit. Birds*, XVI, pp. 9-12.
Notes on Birds from Northern Spain and Description of *Dryobates medius lilianæ*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XLII, pp. 47-49.
Nesting Plumages of Owls. *Ibis*, pp. 219-220.
Results of a Collecting Trip in the Cantabrian Mountains, northern Spain. *Ibis*, pp. 323-345.
1923. Notes on the Common Guillemot: a new British Form. *Brit. Birds*, XVI, pp. 323-324.
An Ornithological Trip to Central Spain and Description of *Cyanopica cyanus gili*, subsp. nov. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XLIII, pp. 73-74.
1924. Distinctions of American Snipe and its Occurrence in Britain. *Brit. Birds*, XVII, pp. 283-288.
The Breeding of the Common Snipe in the Iberian Peninsula. *Bull. B.O.C.*, XLV, pp. 25-26.
1925. The Nestlings of Some Rarer British Birds. *Brit. Birds*, XIX, pp. 68-70.
- 1926, '31, '34. Aves Anilladas capturadas en España. *Bol. Soc. Españ. Hist. Nat.*, XXVI, XXXI & XXXIV.
1926. The Distribution of the Southern and Northern Guillemots in Great Britain. *Brit. Birds*, XIX, p. 274.
Some New British Birds. *Brit. Birds*, XX, pp. 11-16.
1927. The Nestlings of Some Further Rare British Birds. *Brit. Birds*, XXI, pp. 50-51.
- 1927-28. The 1927 Irruption of the Crossbill. *Brit. Birds*, XXI (seven parts).
1928. A Transatlantic Passage of Lapwings. *Brit. Birds*, XXII, pp. 6-13. and 43.
Some New British Birds and Other Alterations to the British List. *Brit. Birds*, XXII, pp. 98-102.
The Birds of Central Spain, with Some Notes on Those of South-East Spain. *Ibis*, pp. 385-436 and 587-663.
1929. The Moults of the European Passeres. *Journ. f. Orn., Festschr. Hartert*, pp. 236-248.
Report on the Effect of Severe Weather in 1929 on Bird-Life. (With F. C. R. Jourdain). *Brit. Birds*, XXIII, pp. 154-158.
1930. An Ornithological Expedition in Eastern Spain in May and June, 1929. *Bull. B.O.C.*, L, pp. 74-79.
New British Birds and Alterations to the British List. *Brit. Birds*, XXIV, pp. 22-25.
Birds ringed in Iceland and recovered in the British Islands. *Brit. Birds*, XXIV, pp. 70-72.
Immigration of Crossbills in 1930. *Brit. Birds*, XXIV, pp. 155-156.
1931. Distribution of the Southern Guillemot. *Brit. Birds*, XXIV, pp. 300-301.
Some Remarks on *Certhia brachydactyla*. *Ibis*, pp. 357-359.
- 1931-1939. Movements of Ringed Birds from Abroad to the British Islands and vice versa. (With E. P. Leach). *Brit. Birds*, XXV-XXXIII (ten parts).
1932. New British Birds and Alterations to the British List. *Brit. Birds*, XXVI, pp. 8-16.
1934. The Willow-Tit's Method of boring its Nesting-hole. *Brit. Birds*, XXVII, pp. 320-324.

1936. Numbers of Montagu's Harriers breeding in Britain in 1935. *Brit. Birds*, XXIX, p. 247.
1937. The Distribution and Status of the British Willow-Tit. (With E. M. Nicholson). *Brit. Birds*, XXX, pp. 358-364 and XXXI, pp. 104-105.
- The January-February Influx of Grebes and Divers. *Brit. Birds*, XXX, pp. 370-374.
- 1937, 1940. Additions and Alterations to the British List. *Brit. Birds*, XXXI, pp. 7-13, and XXXIII, pp. 2-3.
- 1938-1941. *The Handbook of British Birds*. (With F. C. R. Jourdain, N. F. Ticehurst and B. W. Tucker), 5 vols.
1938. Western Little Bustard in Yorkshire: a New British Bird. *Brit. Birds*, XXXI, p. 334.
1939. The Influx of Bewick's and Whooper Swans, Winter 1938-39. *Brit. Birds*, XXXII, pp. 378-381.
1940. The Continental Redshank as a British Bird. (With N. F. Ticehurst). *Brit. Birds*, XXXIII, pp. 225-227.
- The Species of Great Shearwaters in the English Channel. *Brit. Birds*, XXXIII, pp. 248-249.
1941. *A Check-List of British Birds: with a Short Account of the Status of each*. (Compiled from "The Handbook of British Birds").
1942. Black Redstarts in England in the Summer of 1942. (With R. S. R. Fitter). *Brit. Birds*, XXXVI, pp. 132-139.



HARRY FORBES WITHERBY.
Corsica, June 1937.
(*Photographed* by John Armitage)