

Item 25.6

Blackmore, E.H. (1894)

**Oological notes from Ludlow.**

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they are often called, arrived on April 24th, and almost immediately commenced their nests.

The cuckoo seems unusually common in the neighbourhood this year. On the afternoon of May 13th I noted a rather peculiar occurrence. A cuckoo by some means had offended a sparrow which very courageously attacked him as he was flying and not till the sparrow had been repulsed five times, the last very severely, did he desist from the attack.

Before I close I should like to mention a singular nest in my possession found last year at Lakenheath. A wren had built its nest in a thorn hedge when a lazy linnnet thought some trouble might be spared by using the dome of the wren's nest for the foundation of its own, which he did forthwith, and both were sitting on their eggs at the same time. The wren's feelings may be imagined but not described.

THE WANDERER.

OÖLOGICAL NOTES FROM LUDLOW.

On March 25th I found a long-tailed titmouse's nest with five eggs; it was placed in a blackthorn bush in a hedge and about four feet from the ground. Is not it unusually early for this bird and is not the situation rather low? as W. Gorden in "Our Country's Birds," says that it is generally built about ten feet from the ground in tall hedges or trees. I have also taken two water-ouzels' nests, the first on March 28th with five eggs and the other on March 31st, with two. I took my first nest this season on March 9th, a blackbird's with three eggs, quickly followed by thrushes' and hedgesparrows'. Yesterday (April 13th) we went to a magpie's nest in a very large oak tree and threw several stones at it, two of which hit the nest itself, to see if the bird was sitting, but as it did not fly off we concluded that they were both away. When my friend climbed to the nest, however, we were both greatly surprised to see the hen bird fly out. There were six eggs in the nest, all alike but one, which had the small end thickly blotched. I should like to know why the bird remained on after its nest was hit hard twice? Was it so occupied in incubation as not to notice it or did it feel secure in its nest, built as it was on the top of an old oak tree.

Ludlow.

E. H. BLACKMORE.

[The date on which the long-tailed tit's nest was found is not exceptional; I have known instances as early, although April is the usual time. The height of this nest is not out of the common; I have seen five nests this season in Ashted Woods, none of which were more than five feet from the ground, while one was less than four feet. On the other hand nests which I have found in Highgate Woods, where they would be frequently molested, have been placed at some height in small lichen-covered oak trees. It would be hard to say what caused the

magpie to sit so resolutely, it chiefly depends upon the state of incubation, but most members of the Corvidæ are unusually wary.—H.K.S.]

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NOTES AND NEWS.

DURING the past few months the necessity of enlarging this Magazine has become very apparent to us, and many are the communications and suggestions we have received upon the subject from our readers. The majority of these letters contained practically the same suggestion, viz., that we should enlarge and improve the magazine *at once*, even if we had to raise the price. This latter, however, we were loth to do, and yet the present low price allows no margin whatever for enlargement just now. We have therefore, after due consideration, come to the conclusion that it will be best to raise the price, and so enable ourselves to enlarge and improve the magazine in a way which we no doubt will straightway find it a place in the hearts of all our readers—and a good many more besides.

We have, therefore, to announce that, commencing with the September number, the NATURALISTS' JOURNAL will in future consist of 20 pages, and a coloured wrapper, the price being 2d. only. An abundance of interesting articles and other matter will be given, while there will also be good illustrations. We do not think any reader will object to paying the extra 1d. per month, as the great improvement in the magazine will prove an ample compensation. As it is at present we have been compelled to keep many contributions several months before being able to insert them, but with the greatly increased space contributors may in future be able to see their contributions appearing in the issue they were intended for.

The annual subscription will in future be 2/6 including postage, and all subscribers who have paid at the old rate will continue to receive copies at the rate of 2/6 until the amount unexpired is settled, although perhaps some may care to send us the difference of 1d. per month to carry their subscriptions on to the end of the volume.

All subscribers are eligible as members of the P.N.S., and can have their names registered by sending six stamps to the Secretary, viz., Albert H. Waters, B.A., M.C.S., &c., Cambridge. Old members need only intimate their desire to have their names re-entered in the Society's books.

REFERRING to Mr. Lyschinska's letter in last month's Correspondence column, Mr. S. L. Mosley, F.E.S., of the Beaumont Park Museum, Huddersfield, sends us his catalogue