

Item 25.87

Woolhope Field Naturalists' Club, Herefordshire
1896:222

Note of Shropshire White-tailed Eagle, para 3

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Goodrich. Mr. Bellerby was proposed and seconded, to be balloted for at the next meeting.

A proposal by Mr. H. Southall, that an extra meeting of the Club should be held during the winter months, was referred to the Central Committee for their consideration, with recommendation for its adoption if possible.

Mr. Edy Ballard exhibited several trays containing, out of his collection of about one thousand specimens, a selection of nearly 400 flint flakes, discovered by him during the last few years in the parish of Wellington Heath, near Ledbury. The selection contained various forms of scrapers and flakes, and several cores from which they had been struck; also several flints that had apparently been used for boring holes, and two fragments of flints with ground surfaces. The flints denote an antiquity of the neolithic age. A few remarks upon this subject will be found in *Transactions* of the Woolhope Club, 1894, page 191.

Information has been sent by Mr. W. C. Ashdown, F.Z.S., of a magnificent specimen of the White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, having been swept into Shropshire by the gale, and shot in the dusk by Mr. Gordon on November 7th, at Dinchope, near Craven Arms. Mr. Ashdown says it is an immature bird, and that its plumage is simply perfection. This bird does not attain its full plumage till the fifth or sixth year.

Mr. Ashdown has left Hereford, to his own benefit it is hoped, but certainly to the regret of naturalists in Hereford, who have highly appreciated his knowledge of British birds, and his skill in setting them up in attitudes true to nature. His address now is—45, High Street, Shrewsbury

Dr. Wm. Howells writes from Church House, Talgarth :—"It is generally understood that rapacious birds mate and breed early in the year, and that their breeding period is comparatively brief. This is more or less true of the Orders Accipitres and Striges, and also applies to the family Corvidæ. As a striking and unusual exception I saw, last Tuesday evening, November 10th, at 4.45 p.m., a young Tawny Owl (*Syrnium aluco*), perched on a ruined cottage within reach of my hand. Its only cry was the usual clicking note "kee-wick": its head was covered with grey down, and elsewhere over the body bunches of it were interspersed with maturer feathers."

"On November 10th I saw a solitary Martin (*Chelidon urbica*) flying about among the rocks above Bracelet Bay, near Swansea."