

1908

1908

June 28<sup>th</sup>, Rowland's Gill, Durham.

Tree-pipit,

Whitethroat,

Grasshopper-warbler.

Trained from Newcastle on Sunday morning and met Mr. Isaac Clarke Junr at Blaydon on Tyne & we went together to Blay Rowland's Gill to try to find a Grasshopper Warbler's nest. Three had been taken earlier in the year by Mr.

Montague, but we thought a very late nest might possibly be found, as the birds had been heard 'reeling' not long before.

Grasshopper Warbler. I was shown the three nests in situ from which clutches had been taken this season. Two were in rough tussocks of long, coarse grass in a damp part of an oak-wood under the trees, and the third was very similar to a nightingale's nesting-site, amongst grass and brambles growing at the foot of an oak-tree. The nests were very deep & compact, and extremely well concealed. I am told the cock sings - particularly at sunrise and sunset - usually about 100 yards from the nest, before incubation commences; afterwards he is much more silent. Often he will sing a fragment of his song immediately by the nest, after leaving the hen, & by this means the nest may sometimes be found. Eggs will seldom be found when the bird is 'reeling' much during the day. The 26<sup>th</sup> May is the best date for first clutches, and second nests are usually built very close to the first one.

I found one nest from which the young had just flown, and the shells were still in the tussock of grass. It was built in the middle of a very large tussock of marsh-grass beside a little stream on an open common.

Whitethroat. d. 6, fresh; in brambles in a wood.

Tree-pipit. d. 5, fresh, on an open common.

1908.

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July. Beuplton Cliffs. Yorkshire.

1908.

D.H.G.

Guillemot.

Razorbill,

Puffin,

Kittiwake.

On the Saturday morning, I travelled over from Hull to Bridlington about 30 miles, and walked thence about 5 miles across country to Beuplton village, which is about a mile inland from the sea. Took rooms at M<sup>r</sup> Maud's at the "White Horse Inn" & visited M<sup>r</sup> Wilkinson the famous cliff-climber. The first week in June is the best date. The 'bird-cliffs' extend from Flamborough Head along the North-East Coast for about 6 miles, and here Guillemots, Razorbills & Puffins nest in countless thousands & occupy every available inch of rock for miles, from a few feet down, right to the bottom. Kittiwakes are not so abundant, and nest in scattered colonies for the most part about two-thirds of the way down the cliffs. There are a few rock-doves & I saw one pair of Peregrines, but there are no ravens here. The Guillemots and Razorbills are very particular to nest only on the ledges that face directly on to the sea; they stop, as though a line had been drawn, where the cliff bends in to face another part of cliff. The puffins often have eggs early in May, but climbing does not begin till 25<sup>th</sup>. Nearly all the birds had big young at this date.

---

1908

1908

Summary.

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Stonechat             | Barn Owl          |
| Lesser Whitethroat    | Long-eared-Owl    |
| Blackcap              | Sparrow Hawk      |
| Garden Warbler        | Peregrine         |
| Dartford "            | <u>Kestrel</u>    |
| Wood Wren             | Shield-duck       |
| Reed Warbler          | Shoveler          |
| Grasshopper Wbler.    | Teal              |
| Coal Tit              | <u>Goosander</u>  |
| Crested Tit           | Rock Dove         |
| Fulthatch             | Capercaille       |
| Creeper               | <u>Red Grouse</u> |
| Tree Pipit            | Ringed Plover     |
| Shrike                | Golden Plover     |
| Hawfinch              | Lapwing           |
| Lesser Redpoll        | Oyster Catcher    |
| Corn Bunting          | Woodcock          |
| <u>Civil Bunting</u>  | Sandpiper         |
| Chough                | Redshank          |
| Jay                   | Greenshank        |
| Magpie                | <u>Curlew</u>     |
| Jackdaw               | Sandwich Tern     |
| Raven                 | Black-headed gull |
| Carrion Crow          | Kittiwake         |
| Hooded Crow           | Razorbill         |
| <u>Rook</u>           | Guillemot.        |
| Flightjar             | -----             |
| Green Woodpecker      |                   |
| Greater Spotted W'ker |                   |
| Lesser " "            |                   |
| Weyneck               |                   |
| Cuckoo                |                   |

1909

1909

March 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>; Llangynog.

	}	W. Pennant
Raven		C.H.M.

Heavy snow over all the district. On 6<sup>th</sup> spent whole day seeking the Pistyll Rhaiadr nest. Three Ravens were very restless over the whole valley, but no nest was discovered, nor did the birds give any indication that way. Heard later that the birds had left the valley & not been seen since this day - probably the nest had been destroyed by a fall of snow or ice shortly before our arrival.

On 7<sup>th</sup> went up to (Pistyll Pennant) site with 150 ft. of rope - she was sitting, same situation as the two previous years, and could be seen on nest from opposite side of valley above the falls. Heavy snow drifts & frozen ground rendered any approach impossible, and attempts were abandoned.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>Warley.

C.H.M.

Rook.

Visited the usual rookery to day & took a nice clutch 5. Most of the small trees are now deserted, & many nests are inaccessible. This year is a late season, & several clutches were incomplete. Last Saturday C.H.M. visited this rookery, but found laying had not commenced.

1909 April 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Bwlth Wells, Brecon. 1909

We spent four days in this district { Raven  
D.H.W.  
trying to find Woodlark, but birds seem to have deserted their usual haunts. We only saw one pair on Glacelwood Hill, which did not appear to be nesting, & saw no birds either at Cilwern or Pughorby. The season is very late here this year; we saw numerous crows still flying about in pairs, at least 8 distinct pairs of Buzzard, which did not seem to have commenced incubation yet, & two pairs of Raven, of which we found one nest, evidently a third attempt, ready for eggs in the Abergweision Valley. Grey Wagtails were just commencing to build, & we found a Kingfisher's hole bored out about 8 inches.

April 10<sup>th</sup>; Hickling, Norfolk. C.H.M.

Bearded Tit

Mallard.

Bearded Tit - d. b fresh, Swins Cotte, found by Vincent; also nest building on Heigham Sands; several other pairs had not commenced; very late season.

Mallard - nest, 10 eggs, about a week incub.

Water Rail - no eggs found; one new nest, well concealed, & domed in, found towards Horsey town along Meadow Dyke; frosts had frozen their bogs until some 10 days previously.

Garganey - 6 seen, at least 4 being ducks.

M<sup>r</sup> Vincent & his son accompanied me.

1909

1909

April 17<sup>th</sup> ; Llanrhaiadr 7th. C.H.M.

Peregrine

Nest, 4 eggs, fresh, taken from grassy ledge, where a hollow had been scratched out, on rocks adjoining Pistyll Rhaiadr. The first egg was laid on 9<sup>th</sup>, and nest contained 3 eggs on 14<sup>th</sup>; this was on same ledge and same birds as d. 3 taken by Remant in 1908.

Raven; pair of birds seen in the valley, (after absenting themselves for a time), but nest not found.

April 18 - 24<sup>th</sup> ; Warley C.H.M.

Kingfisher

Nest at Ingatestone on 18<sup>th</sup> with well splashed hole; robbed on 24<sup>th</sup> when revisited.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> the second nest, bored within 10 yards of the first, was found cut out, with 4 eggs left deserted in the hole.

April 24<sup>th</sup> Souning, near Reading. } G. Witherington  
Kingfisher. } J. Watpole Bond  
Slipe. } D. W. C.

Cut out Kingfisher with 7 x 6 both nearly fresh.

Found Slipe 4. 4. 4. 4. 3. 1 Some hard sat, others nearly fresh. Saw Goldfinches building.

1909

1909.

May ~~1<sup>st</sup>~~ - ~~2<sup>nd</sup>~~ <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> - <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup>; Liphook and Haslemere { C.A. Foster  
 Dartford Warbler { P.B. Smythe  
 On ~~2<sup>nd</sup>~~ <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup>, C.A.F. & C.S.M. spent all C.S.M.

day at Haslemere; saw no sign of a Dartford Warbler.

Found Stonechat with young, & a nest with 5 eggs, nearly hatching.

On ~~3<sup>rd</sup>~~ <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup>, C.S.M. found Dartford Warbler with 3 eggs, brown type, incubation just commenced - this nest was revisited by C.A.F. on 5<sup>th</sup>, still only 3 eggs as above; Weavers Down, Liphook. Smythe took cl. 4, 4., both of green variety, from nests found on April 25<sup>th</sup> building - on which date he had taken another cl. 4 from the same locality, also of green variety - all three nests within a few hundred yards of each other, on Weavers Down, Liphook.

None of the above nests were particularly well concealed, two being in gorse, & two in heath near gorse. Two of the nests showed a particular contrast in the lining, the one of redish hair, the other lined with black hair.

There seemed to be some 6 or 7 pairs of birds on this down - two pairs apparently not sitting at this date. (see May 15<sup>th</sup>)

160. 1909.

1909.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> x 3<sup>rd</sup> Warley, Essex.

S.W.

Long-tailed-Tit.  
Jackdaw  
Poot,  
Blue Tit  
Great. tit.

The tits were all laying, also Jackdaws.  
Poot had 7 eggs, sitting.

May 9<sup>th</sup>; Warley.

} J. B. Smith  
} C. H.

Sparrow Hawk  
Marsh Tit  
Jackdaw

Sparrow Hawk; nest, 1 egg, n<sup>o</sup> Herongate.

Marsh Tit; cl. 7, fresh, Childerditch.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; hole boring

at extremity of very rotten branch,  
some 25 ft. high, overhanging  
Childerditch pond; the ♀ only  
appeared, remaining in the hole  
about ½ hr. at a time, and  
absent about 10 minute intervals;  
also new boring cut out by boy  
in laurel stump, some 7 ft. high,  
n<sup>o</sup> Baldwin's house - the shaft  
was complete, and the nest  
cavity nearly rounded off; the  
bird had been flushed the  
previous day;  
also a male bird was seen near the  
big rookery, Thorndon Park.



1909.

1909 161.

May 8<sup>th</sup> x 9<sup>th</sup> Thetford, Norfolk.Gadwall.Woodlark

Stone-curlew,

Grasshopper Warbler.

Turtle-Dove.

Tree-pipit

Greenwoodpecker.

Wheatear.

Yellow Wagtail.

Marsh-tit

Pole-tit

Snipe etc.

}	H. G.
	Ford.
	S. H. G.

I left London for Thetford 5-12 pm. on 7<sup>th</sup> & arrived at "Bell" Hotel 7-49. After dinner I visited Mr. Playton, a keeper on whose ground Gadwall nest, & learned that H. Noble & E. P. C. took a cl. 10 week-before in heather on Linge's ground beyond. Up at 4 a.m. on Saturday & went on to Clayton & Linge's ground where I saw at least 3 pairs of Gadwall but found no nests. H. G. arrived about 11 & at once found Gadwall with 11 which I took. After breakfast I visited Baker's & Coote's ground on Dunston Road & took 2 eb. Stone Curlew. In afternoon I joined H. G. & Ford, & we found some Common Rinds. Also the Gadwalls in evening.

We were all up at 4 on Sunday, & I flushed a Gadwall from 10 eggs in Linge's wood. H. G. found Grasshopper Warbler with 3, also Sedge-Warbler 1, & Turtle-dove with 2 eggs.

After breakfast I cycled over to Ecklingham, Suffolk & with Mr. Dorling, a keeper, found Woodlark 4-1, also Tree-pipit 5, & some Larks, Stone-curlew etc.

Ford & H. G. went on to Baker's ground & found some Common Rinds including Nightingale 3, Yellow Wagtail 2 eggs, Snipe 4 x 1 etc. They saw no Gadwalls on that ground.

We left for London 7-5 pm. For details see over-leaf.

162  
1909.

1909.

Continued. May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Thetford, Norfolk

Gadwall. A. G. found first nest about 12 o'clock, by seeing the drake drop his duck in a large patch of tussocky grass close beside the stream. The duck left as he approached, & the nest, which contained 11 eggs incubated about 4 days, was beautifully concealed on the ground underneath an immense mass of dense coarse herbage, between the tall tussocks that abound in this marshy ground, & was extremely difficult to find even when we re-visited it. It was built of sedge-stalks & lined with plenty of down. The second nest of this species was built amongst rushes & sedge in a damp & boggy wood, underneath stunted willows & hornbeams. The duck left the nest, which I almost trod upon, showing the white wing "spots" very clearly as she flew away. Several pheasant's eggs were in the nest, which contained 10 Gadwall's eggs & much down, considerably darker than that from the preceding nest. Both birds flew round over the wood for some time, & quacked continually. These eggs were incubated about 10 days. We saw two other pairs of Gadwalls in this same vicinity, one of which seemed to be nesting, as we observed the drake flying alone with another pair of birds. The other pair had been taken previously by Heatley Koble & E. P. Chance, in heather about 100 yards from the river. This ducks seems partial to the immediate neighborhood of running water, & every one of the five other nesting sites of other years which I visited were within 50 yards of the river.

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1909. Thetford, Norfolk.

Grasshopper-Warbler. Nest containing 3 fresh eggs  
— a ~~remarkably early date~~ — found by flushing the  
bird from a mass of dense aquatic vegetation.  
(see 20<sup>th</sup>)  
The nest was substantially built & very well concealed  
underneath a tangled mass of dry, dead rushes  
& sedge in a boggy patch of tussocky & coarse herbage.  
We did not hear the bird singing near here (which  
bears out what Mr. Isaac Clarke tells me), though  
half a mile away another bird was "deeling"  
continually, probably not yet having eggs.

Sedge-Warbler with 1 egg found! An early date.

Turtle-Dove with 2 eggs. dits.

Marsh-tit, 10 eggs nearly hatching.

Coal-tit, nest found in wall with young.

May 10<sup>th</sup> Icklingham, nr. Mildenhall, Suffolk.

Wood-lark Found nest containing four eggs  
on barish, moory ground close to a belt of Scotch  
firs, which, in this country, divide most of the fields.  
Saw another nest in exactly similar locality  
the eggs of which had been broken in the nest; I  
am told by the keeper that pheasants & Stone-curlews  
do this. Found nest with 1 egg on very bare  
ground close to another belt of fir-trees, & within  
100 yards of the first nest from which the young  
had flown a fortnight before. They were still flying  
about with the old birds at the opposite end of  
the field, which was a rough, stony, fallow surrounded  
by 25 yards of fir-belt.

Tree-pipit, nest 5 eggs & nest nearly ready.

Redpoll, sitting on 3 eggs.

Stone-curlew, 2 eggs nearly fresh.

164. 1909.

1909.

May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Epping Forest.

{ S.M. C.M.

Nuthatch.

Chiffchaff.

Lesser Whitethroat.

Black-cap.

Tree-pipit.

Nuthatch. We cut out nest found on April 17<sup>th</sup> (then being clayed up) & took cl. 6 out of 7, one egg being broken in nest. Eggs incubated about a week.

We also inspected, by means of a rope, another nest built in a Green-woodpecker's hole on the under side of a large oak branch, but found it impossible to take.

Chiffchaff. Took a fine cl. 6, large reddish-spotted var. like certain types of Willow-Wren, incubated about 6 days.

Lesser Whitethroat. Found one nest ready for eggs, & heard two other pairs singing; [S.B. took cl. 5 on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Soud.]

Black-cap. Found nests containing 4 & 3 ~~eggs~~ fresh.

Tree-pipit. Nest ready for eggs.

N.B.

May 15<sup>th</sup> L.S.M. & Renaut went to Liphook to look for second clutches of Sartford Warbler, side 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> visit, but saw no signs of the birds on the heath, except two males, which roamed over large areas, and apparently had no mates.

Notes, re nests mentioned above.

Woodlark - seen May 10<sup>th</sup>, Thetford - nest with 1 egg; laid three, and commenced to sit, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tree Pipit - seen May 10<sup>th</sup> Thetford - nest ready; cl. 5 on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Blackcap - seen May 16, Epping - nest 3 eggs - cl. 5, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Lesser Whitethroat - seen May 16, Epping - cl. 5, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

1909

1909.

May 20<sup>th</sup> ; Hickling, Norfolk.

C.H.M.

Grasshopper Warbler  
Reed Bunting.

Grasshopper Warbler; nest, 6 eggs, (found with clutch complete, then fresh, on May 15<sup>th</sup> by h. Vincent,) under matted tuft of grass, in a rough dry grass field lying on the East bank of Commissioners Dyke; nest exceptionally well concealed, placed on the ground, found by flushing the bird; eggs light ground colour, zoned, & otherwise slightly speckled, with red.

also nest, 6 eggs, about a week sat, from nest placed among thick sedge & grass growing up through a large, though thin, bramble bush, about 8 in. from the ground, on West bank of Meadow Dyke, n<sup>e</sup> Horsey Mere.

In both cases the birds left the nest most inconspicuously & very reluctantly - never heard a Grasshopper Warbler's note during this visit, though earlier in the year birds had been heard in both above localities.

Montagu Harrier; six of these birds seen hovering & wheeling about simultaneously, viz 3 males in full adult plumage; 1 young male; & 2 females, all ~~centred~~ centred on Breydon Marsh, S.W. of Horsey Mere.

Watched same with glasses for 2 1/2 hrs.; nesting not yet commenced, & struggles in progress for possession of the females; a glorious sight.

1909

May 22-23; Epfing & Warley.

Blackcap

Lesser Whitethroat

Marsh Tit

Chiffchaff

Wren

}	D.W.H.
	C.H.H.

Blackcap; 22<sup>nd</sup>, nest 1 egg; 23<sup>rd</sup>, nest, 1 egg; also cl. 5, on point of hatching; all in Buckhurst Hill region.

Lesser Whitethroat; 22<sup>nd</sup>, cl. 5, fresh, in churchyard by Childerditch; also cl. 5, very hard sat, in Buckhurst Hill regions.

Marsh Tit; nest with young, n<sup>e</sup> High Buck.

Chiffchaff; nest, 5 eggs, v. hard sat, n<sup>e</sup> Connaught Waters, Buckhurst Hill.

Wren; cl. 7 & cl. 6, incub. about 4 days each.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Childerditch pond, (see May 9<sup>th</sup>), revisited; apparently just commenced to sit, as she sat very lightly, and left twice so soon as the tree was tapped. J.B.S. & C.H.H. (see below)

May 25<sup>th</sup>; Warley.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

}	J.B.S.
	C.H.H.

Nest at Childerditch, (see May 9<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>) cut out with 4 young, just hatched, & 2 eggs, just chipping.

Compare this bird last year, May 19<sup>th</sup> '08; also May 1901, at the Clive.

1909.

1909.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>. Llanrhaiadr Mochant.

- Peregrine Falcon D.A.M.
- Ring Ouzel.
- Grey Wagtail
- Dipper.
- Sand Piper
- Goldcrest.
- Curlew.
- Red Grouse.
- Golden Plover.

Peregrine Falcon. Eyrie on rocks above Pistyll Rhaiadr in old raven's nest, from which I took eggs in 1907, (vide March 8-10<sup>th</sup> '07). Went down to the site, about 70 ft. down at 6 a.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> & found 3 eggs cold, so made another descent at 5 a.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> & took cl. 3, which were quite fresh. The falcon left the eyrie each time, but had not apparently commenced to sit.

Ring ouzel. Nest, 4 young, a week old, behind some heather growing out of the rock, on the hillside N.W. of the waterfall.

Grey Wagtail. A brood of young flying about under the falls. Found the nest on a ledge of rock underneath the wooden bridge.

Dipper, young about week old in nest.

Curlew, young running on the moors

Red Grouse do

Golden Plover. do, on the slopes opposite the cliff.

Sand piper, Nest 4 eggs sitting; one egg spoiled by boy.

Goldcrest, Nest, 4 fresh eggs.

Wood-wren. Nest just commencing to build.

1909.

May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> Clive.

1909.

D.H.M.

Cliffchaff.

Blackcap,

Lesser Whitethroat

Whinchat,

Redpoll.

Goldfinch

Flycatcher.

Magpie

Baru-bowl.

Sparrow Hawk

Parou Crow

Goldcrest etc.

Cliffchaff. Found 10 Nests in all, one with a 7 hard set, & one with 5 eggs, the rest with young, some quite 40 days old. This would put 10<sup>th</sup> May about best date.

Blackcap. Nest 5 r. hard set eggs in garden, hatched on 30<sup>th</sup> inst.; two Nests of young in birchen-coppice, & birds fairly plentiful elsewhere.

Lesser Whitethroat, Common this year. Found 2 Nests ready for eggs & one just building.

Whinchat! on 29<sup>th</sup> took 2 ch. of 6 eggs fresh, & found one cl. 6 nearly hatching, all in grass field near the line at Lilley. Birds common this year.

Redpoll. Found one Nest with large young in pear-tree in orchard; not so many birds heard this year as usual.

Goldfinch, Nest 5 eggs, very hard set, at the extremity of an apple branch. Birds were very tame & demonstrative.

Flycatcher. Three Nests found on 30<sup>th</sup> with fresh eggs.

Baru bowl. 6 young a week old in the usual tree at Palnis Hill.

Sparrow Hawk. cl. 6 nearly hatching in fir tree in Broughlon fosse. The hen bird was very demonstrative.

Goldcrest, Nest 3 eggs on 1 June in the garden.