

1911.

1911.

June 4th - 5th; Oxford district. { C. A. Foster
C. H.

Hobby; explored Bagley Wood; and woods along the Chiltern Hills from Sanderton Sta. to Aston Rowant Sta., but with no success.

June 10th; Warley. C. H.

Whinchat

Lesser Whitethroat.

Whinchat; young, along L.T. & S. Ry.

Lesser Whitethroat; nest, fully fledged young, on outskirts of Thorndon Park.

June 11th; Burnham-on-Crouch. { J. B. Smith
C. H.

Reed Warbler

Martin

Yellow Hammer

Swallow

Turtle Dove

Partridge

Reed Warbler; found some 20 nests, incl. one nest with young about 10 days old; two cl. 5; one cl. 4; the rest only laying or building. Due to the long drought the "fleets" were nearly dried up, and the reeds very backward.

Martin; opened some 15 nests, & took cl. 5, 4, 4, 4; the remainder contained 3 eggs or less, some not having begun to lay.

Swallow; cl. 5, nearly fresh, from since.

Turtle Dove; cl. 2, incub. advanced.

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June 11th ; Epping Forest.

Shrike.

Shrike; nest 4 eggs, taken with 5 on 13th,
a fine red-zoned variety, on High
Buck common.

Lesser Whitethroat; nest building.

1911.

D.H.H.

June 14th ; Gloucester.

C.H.H.

Marsh Warbler

Sedge Warbler

Marsh Warbler; arrived Gloucester 4 a.m.,

and straightway visited the witley
bed by the G. W. Ry. bridge on the
western bank ^{of the eastern arm} of the Swern, where
I located two, if not three, pairs.
A heavy dew rendered the rank
herbage soaking wet, and a heavy
mist hung over the river. Thence
had breakfast, & met Mr Durrett
by appointment at 8, who had found
two nests in advance. The first of
these, a very boldly marked cl. 5, one
day incubated, was in the above fit
built in a sapling elm about 2 ft.
high, some 5 yds. only from a path &
about 100 yds. from the river, well
surrounded by dense herbage. The
nest was sparsely lined with hair,
and the male sang some 30 yds. away
generally. After a long and careful
search, I discovered another nest, cl. 5,
eggs quite fresh, and the bird sitting,

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June 14th ; Gloucester, cont.

suspended from three sapling willows, some 2 ft. high, also surrounded by dense herbage - the eggs were well covered with subdued green markings. This nest also was within a few yards of the edge of the pit, and some 130 yards from the river in close proximity to the nest previously mentioned. It should be also noted that the first of these nests was in nearly the identical spot of 1910 and the latter within some 30 yards of that of 1910 (see 1910 notes). After breakfast the day was warm & sunny, & the undergrowth dried up and made searching easy. Thence to the third pit up-stream on the western bank, where Mr. Durrell's second nest contained cl. 5, two days incubated, a very fine zoned clutch, built on a nettle, a dead dock stem, and a willow-herb, in the very corner of the pit near the tow-path, and within 25 yds. of a house - the bird was sitting. The nest contained some ^{coloured} wool, various pieces of scrap linen etc., & was lined with fine fibre (wood or coconut), there being no hair. We never heard the male. On the eastern bank heard a pair of birds in the 1st pit, none in the remaining pits, in many of which the undergrowth had been cut down for the benefit of the willows.

Sedge Warbler ; nest 2 eggs.

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June 17th; Abridge.

Martin.

}	D.M.H.
	C.H.

Martin; visited some 15 nests on a farm building between Abridge & Passingford Bridge; took cl. 5 about 4 days incubated; other nests contained well grown & newly hatched young, had set & fresh eggs from 4 downwards in number.

June 18th; Burnham-on-Crouch. C.H.

Reed Warbler

Sedge Warbler.

Reed Warbler; revisited a good number of nests; a very high wind was blowing which had upset several, I saw no clutches above 4.

Sedge Warbler; nest, 5 eggs, fresh.

June 22nd - 23rd; Haslemere - Frensham. C.H.

Dartford Warbler

Little Grebe

Dartford Warbler; on Hindhead saw several birds, probably representing two pairs. At Devils Jumps, Chert, (see notes 26/6/10) failed to locate any birds. Near ^{head of} eastern arm of Little Frensham Pond saw pair feeding fledged young; one other pair, and another male. The weather was very wet & windy, which probably accounted for apparent lack of birds elsewhere.

Little Grebe; nest, 4 eggs, incub., on pond nr. bridge of the Valley Inn, Chert. The bird on three occasions covered the eggs with material pulled over from the side of the nest, & not from the bottom.

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NOTES: - Hobby; cl. 3, fresh, taken by J. W. Godall on June 22nd, from scotch fir being the tallest of a row of three standing in the open in the Haslemere - Frensham district; the bird had been shot from the nest; the eggs were typical.

Civil Bunting; nest, 5 young just hatched & eggs, found by J. B. Smith on June 22nd in Boldre, Hants., in practically the identical spot as the nest found by D. W. H., see Notes June 7th & 8th, 1908.

July 9th; Seaford.

Corvi Bunting

Stonechat

Linnet

{ D. W. H.
C. B. H.

Corvi Bunting; between Seaford & the Cuckmere found nests - 3 young; cl. 5, cl. 4 both nearly hatching; cl. 4 fresh; & nest 1 egg.

Stonechat; nest 3 young just hatched & 2 eggs; both eggs were unspotted.

Linnet; cl. 6, fresh.

July 22nd - 23rd; Lymington, Hants.

Yellow Hammer

{ J. B. Smith
C. B. H.

Yellow Hammer; found 3 nests, 3 eggs in each.

Civil Bunting; heard & saw 4 male birds -

(i) in lane along the Boldre road just after branching off the Brockhurst road; here I saw the old nest found by J. B. S. above noted, placed in holly about 2 ft. high, a more loosely woven structure than the nest of the Yellow Hammer.

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July 22nd - 23rd; Lymington, cont^d.

Civil Bunting; (ii) along a bye-road leading from the Bournemouth road to the marshes by Key Haven; (iii) near Eventon village on the outskirts of a large park; (iv) on the edge of the marshes to the south of Lymington about 1½ miles (just beyond an Inn bearing a sign like a chess-board). We were unable to disturb any female, despite making a considerable search in all four places.



Creag Rainich, overlooking Loch an Nid, Dundonnell.

Golden Eagle taken here by Cecil Meares on April 8th 1912.

This photograph taken 55 years later, in same weather conditions on April 3rd 1967 by T.A. Waddell. (See page 40).

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Summary :-

- Whinchat
- Stonechat
- Lesser Whitethroat
- Garden Warbler
- Dartford Warbler
- Reed Warbler
- Marsh Warbler
- Sedge Warbler
- Marsh Tit
- Tutthatch
- Tree Pipit
- Shrike
- Martin
- Sand-Martin
- Goldfinch
- Lesser Redpoll
- Crossbill
- Corn Bunting
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
- Kingfisher
- Barn Owl
- (Peregrine)
- Kestrel
- Turtle Dove
- Common Sandpiper
- Little Grebe

also Notes on :-

- Civil Bunting
- Hobby
- Black-Throated Diver.

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March 24th; Epping Forest.

1912.

C.H.

Tawny Owl

Nest, 1 egg, in a cavity of a pollard oak, about 10 ft. high beyond the Wake Arms; the bird was on the nest. Revisited with D.H.M. on 29th, when she was sitting on 2 eggs.

This is the same bird as noted in 1906 and 1907.

March 26th; Warley.

C.H.

Tawny Owl

Nest, 2 eggs, sitting, in oak about 15 ft. high in a hole, beyond the barracks. Revisited on 28th. This is the same bird as noted in 1905 and 1907.

March 31st; Epping Forest.

Tawny Owl

Nest, 3 eggs, incubation ^{about 8 days} ~~complete~~, in a hole in an oak by

Queen Elizabeth's Oak, behind Connaught Waters, about 8 ft. high. The bird sat extremely tight, allowing every egg to be taken from under her without resistance, and then still remaining until lifted out of the hole.

Roper informs me (from his personal knowledge) that this bird laid 3 eggs in 1911, and 2 eggs in 1910.

We further searched for the "Loughton Camp" bird behind the "Robin Hood", but without success.

Chiffchaff had arrived.

}	Roper
	Smythe
	D.H.M.
	C.H.

1912.

1912.

April 6th - 9th; Dundonnell, Ross-shire. C.S.M.Golden Eagle

By permission of Mr A. R. G. Aitken, factor of the Dundonnell Estate, obtained through Mr J. Sargent, I left London on the night of 4th, and arrived Ullapool at 1 a.m. on 6th; at 9 a.m. caught the ferry and drove to Dundonnell, arriving about 12 o'clock noon. Mr John Finlayson, head stalker, had located an Eagle's nest on Creag Rannich, about 10 miles due south of Dundonnell; due to the rough weather prevailing on 6th, we decided to make the attempt on Monday 8th. On 8th, with Mr Finlayson, 3 keepers, 2 ponies, and two lengths of rope 150 ft. each I set out, but on reaching the head of Loch an Fhid so violent was the wind & hail that any progress was impossible, & we were compelled to return. A violent storm raged all night, but calmed in the morning, when on 9th we all set out again at 9 a.m. Several inches of snow lay over the whole country, and all the rocks were covered with ice. We arrived by Creag Rannich about 1.30, and examined the nest from below. One Eagle, which had left the nest, passed over about 30 ft. above us, affording a splendid view; we also saw them wheeling over the mountain tops, but while taking the nest they entirely disappeared. We

1912.

1912.

April 6th - 9th; Dundonnell, cont^d.Golden Eagle, cont^d.

climbed the hill, and I descended at 2.15, snow falling steadily. The nest, a large structure some 3 ft. high and about the same in diameter, was composed of sticks, with a little heather, and lined with ^{"star grass"} ~~red flaps~~, placed behind a dwarfed mountain ash on a ledge about 25 ft. down on a broken ice-covered face of rock some 60 ft. high, facing North, on the extreme South-Western slopes of Creag Rainick, overlooking Loch an Tuid. The rock was some 500 ft. above the level of the loch, and some 1500 ft. above sea level. The nest was barely overhung by a sloping face of rock, and contained 2 eggs, about 1 week incubated; the one richly marked with red, the other having a few slight red markings, and both very large. The nest was perfectly clear, and contained no remains of prey. We arrived back at Dundonnell about 7^{1/2} after a heavy tramp through the snow & over the hills.

Also saw old nesting sites of the Eagle

- (i) on a rock just behind Dundonnell Hotel
 (ii) on ^{*}Trac na Trathair
 (iii) on Carn a Bhriabadair
 (iv) above L. Coire Chaorachain
 (v) above L. Toll an Lochain, near the foot of An Teallach.

* Watches this site for hrs. on 7th, but saw no sign of Eagles - but one Eagle was hatched on this rock, & found later on by Mr. Finlayson.

Saw Buzzard & Raven by Dundonnell Hotel.

Black Throated Diver; saw a pair on L. Droma when driving to Garve.

Left Dundonnell at 6.15 a.m. on 10th for London.

1912

1912

April 6th; Warley.
Rook.

{ Jim Sargent
D.H.M. (D.H.M.)

Climbed to 2 nests with young, and nests containing 5.4.4.4.4. 3.3 respectively.

April 13th; Epping Forest.
Tawny Owl

{ W. Southcomb
D.H.M.
C.H.M.

Nest, 2 eggs, about 1 week incubated, from a hollow in an oak about 15 ft. high near the Deer Shed, by Wake Arms Common. The bird was flushed by D.H.M. on 7th.

Cuckoo heard.

April 20th, 27th, 28th; Epping Forest.
Hawfinch
Jay
Long-tailed Tit

{ J. B. Smith
D.H.M.
C.H.M.

Hawfinch; 2 nests with 6 eggs each, fresh, in thorn bushes by the Robin Hood on 27th; on 27th-28th found 5 or 6 nests building at Theydon, Wake Arms, & High Beech.

Jay; 2. 6 fresh by Conical Crown; & 4 eggs by the Robin Hood, both on 28th

Long-tailed Tit; nests with young, & 10 eggs fresh, both on 28th near the Robin Hood.

Marsh Tit; one boring commenced, & one boring with nest commenced, on 20th along the brook below Epping in willow stumps.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker; boring commenced 14th in crab by Robin Hood, & was cut out on 28th by somebody unknown with shaft just upon completion & about 15-18 in. deep - she reared young in this same tree in 1911.

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April 21st; Wanley.

Carion Crow; the Harold Wood bird was in the same inaccessible branch as 1911, sitting.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; boring in an old stump by a small pond near the Thorndon Park rookery, found just commencing by D.H. on 6th, had considerably progressed, & the bird was busily throwing out chips, but had not apparently sunk the shaft very far - I did not climb up - this is the same stump as No. (iii) mentioned & cut out on May 13th, 1911, with no eggs - on May 11th she had deserted, the hole warped & enlarged by a Green Woodpecker.

May 3rd - 10th; Epping Forest.

C.H.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Tutkatch

Hawfinch

Marsh Tit

Kestrel

Greater Spotted Woodpecker; on 4th cut out nest, cl. 7, fresh, from an old hole in a crab below the road from the "Kings ^{Oak} ~~Head~~" to the "Wake Arms"; there were no chips by the nest; a little "down" was at the entrance of the hole.

Also nest in a crab in a new boring, with large quantities of chips, between the "Robin Hood" & Trunks Wood; on 5th the nest contained 3 eggs, and was cut out on 10th with cl. 5.

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May 3rd - 10th; Epfing Forest. cont^d.

Trushatch; nest, cl. 7, fresh, on 5th in an oak at High Buck; she had only just commenced to mud on April 20th; revisited on 7th when she was still sitting on 7.

On 9th D^r Rendall took cl. 8 from a hornbeam overhanging the road at High Buck, hard sat; this bird commenced to mud considerably earlier than the above.

Hawfinch; nest with 6 eggs, fresh, on 4th in a thorn near the "Traffier Arms", Woodford; the bird spilt one egg out of the nest when leaving. None of the 5 or 6 nests mentioned on Ap. 27th - 28th came to anything.

Marsh Tit; nest with 5 eggs on 3rd in willow stump along Brook below Epfing (vide Ap. 20th), taken on 8th with cl. 8; this was the boring just commenced on Ap. 20th. The nest building on that date came to nothing, due to a Tree Sparrow taking possession.

Kestrel; nest in a large inaccessable oak behind the "Wake Arms"; the bird was sitting on 4th.

Bullfinch; cl. 5, incub. commenced, on 10th.

May 11th; Warley.

C. G. H.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Nest at the extreme top of a tall & very rotten tree at Childer ditch, near the school.

1912.

May 11th - 18th; Epping Forest.

Marsh Tit

Fightingale

Lesser Whitethroat

Blackcap

1912.

}	S.H.
	C.H.

Marsh Tit; on 11th nest in a natural hole in hornbeam, with bird sitting, at High Beech.

Fightingale; nest placed in a thick bramble, about 2 ft. high, by High Beech church, found on 12th with 1 egg, and revisited on 17th with c. 5.

Also nest in a thicket, by a very frequented path, about 1 ft. high, by Connaught Waters, found on 14th with 1 egg, & revisited on 18th sitting on 2 eggs.

Lesser Whitethroat; nest building on 12th in a bramble on a corner at High Beech; revisited on 18th with c. 5.

Also nest, building on 12th, in a thorn by Connaught Waters, revisited on 14th with 1 egg, & subsequently forsok.

Also nest, building on 12th, in a thorn by Connaught Waters, found by the bird singing immediately over the nest, revisited on 18th with 2 eggs, & on 21st when she was sitting on c. 4.

Blackcap; on 11th nest with 2 red eggs in holly above Queen Elizabeth's Oak; on 12th the eggs had been sucked.

Also nest in holly below Queen Elizabeth's Oak, with 4 eggs on 12th, revisited on 18th with young.

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1912.

May 18th ; Warley.

C.H.

- Whinchat
- Tree Pipit
- Tree Sparrow.

Whinchat; nest, cl. 7, ^{fresh,} in a disused hedge row in a field, adjoining the L.T. & S. Rly. near East Horndon Station.

Tree Pipit; nest, cl. 5, ^{fresh} in heather on Warley Scrubbs Common.

Tree Sparrow; nest, cl. 5, ^{fresh,} from an old stump near the rookery in Thorndon Park.

Reed Bunting; nest, 3 eggs, in a ditch near East Horndon.

Green Woodpecker; boring, usurped from Lesser Spotted Woodpecker & the boring of the latter enlarged (vide note under April 21st), had advanced considerably, the entrance being neatly finished & the shaft considerably deepened since May 11th.

May 19th ; Epping Forest.

- Tree Pipit
- Cuckoo (with Tree Pipit)
- Lesser Whitethroat
- Garden Warbler
- Tutkatch

{ Kennant
 Ford
 S^r Rendall
 S.H.M.
 C.H.

Tree Pipit; on the commons between the "Kings Oak" & "Wake Arms" found

- (i) cl. 6, black blotched var., about 10 days incub, in grass
- (ii) nest 3 eggs, red var., about 10 days incub, in bracken
- (iii) cl. 4, fine red var, with Cuckoo, ^{fresh,} in bracken; the Cuckoo's egg was just outside the nest.

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1912.

May 19th; Epping Forest, cont^d.Tree Pipit (cont^d)

(iv) cl. 5, black blotched var, incub., in grass.

(v) cl. 5, black blotched var, fresh, in grass

(vi) nest, 3 eggs, red var., in grass - laid 4 & forsaken.

(vii) nest, 3 eggs, red var, in heather - forsaken.

Lesser Whitethroat; nest, 3 eggs, behind Wake Lams.Garden Warbler; cl. 5, fresh, in a wild rose by the Robin Hood.Truthtatch; at High Buck both the birds taken on 7th & 9th respectively had again laid 1 egg & 2 eggs respectively, the former using the same hole.May 25th - 28th; Clive.

Wood Wren

Chiffchaff

Garden Warbler

Goldcrest

Great Tit

Coal Tit

Lesser Redpoll

Sand Martin

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Barn Owl

}	Gerald Courtney
	D.H.M.
	C.H.M.

Wood Wren; cl. 6 & cl. 5 in the Birchen Coppice, incubation just commenced. There were nine or ten pairs of birds.Chiffchaff; nest with young in the Quarry.Garden Warbler; cl. 5, fresh, in the Quarry.Goldcrest; nest suspended from a cedar in the Clive Hall gardens.