

1912.

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May 25th - 28th ; Clive, cont^d.

Great Tit ; nests, with about 12 and nine young respectively, in nesting boxes made from oyster barrels in Clive Hall Gardens.

Coal Tit ; nest, with fully fledged young, in a hollow ^{pine} ~~fir~~ root in the Blaze Bank, Quinstill.

Lesser Redpoll ; nest, 3 eggs, fresh, in a quick hedge at Tryddle ; also nest building at Tryddle. A pair of birds seen carrying material in Clive Hall gardens.

Sand Martin ; cl. 7, incub. just commenced, in a small sand pit at the end of the Blaze Bank - this was the only pair of birds in the pit.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker ; nest, with extremely vociferous young, in an old dead holly at the end of the Blaze Bank, within a few hundred yards of the nest found in 1901.

Barn Owl ; cl. 6, incub. about 5 days, in an old oak in the "Triedpools".

June 1-2 ; Lyminster.

C.T.H.

Fightingale.

Fightingale - nest with 2 young.

Civil Bunting - spent both days to N.E. of the railway around Boldre ; only saw one male by a sand pit by the junction of the Lyminster to Beaulieu and Pilley to Baddesley roads, which sang persistently.

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June 7th - 9th; Epping Forest.

Lesser Whitethroat

Garden Warbler

Tree Pipit

Shrike

Lesser Whitethroat; cl. 5, fresh, in a wild rose on a common by Buckhurst Hill; also nest with young, Comical Corner.

Garden Warbler; nests containing 1, 2, & 3 eggs respectively, one of which deserted, the others laying 4.

Tree Pipit; cl. 5, black blotched variety, fresh, under a tussock of grass on a common by the "Kings Oak";

(ii) nest, 3 young, in grass on same common

(iii) nest, 3 eggs, sitting, in bracken do.

(iv) nest, 3 eggs, sitting, in bracken by "Wake Arms"

(v) cl. 5, black blotched variety, fresh, in rushes at High Buck.

Red-backed-Shrike; nest, 2 eggs, which contained cl. 5 on 12th, red variety, on High Buck Common;

(ii) nest, 3 eggs, sitting, on a common between the "Kings Oak" & "Wake Arms"; brown zoned variety.

(iii) nest, 2 eggs, which was subsequently robbed, on a common by Buckhurst Hill, greenish variety.

June 15th; Abridge & Warley.

C.H.M.

Shrike; nest with young about a week old at Travestock. Saw no Shrikes at East Horndon.

Frantini; nests with 4, 2, & 1 eggs, & several buildings, some not lined, on a farm near Abridge.

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{ D.H.M.
C.H.M.

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June 16th; Epping Forest.

Cuckoo

Wood Wren

Cuckoo; young bird in Tree Pipit's nest about a week old - on common by "Kings Oak"; also Tree Pipit's nest on same common containing one young Tree Pipit about 10 days old, 3 addled eggs, and a Cuckoo's egg just outside the nest, which was fresh, but somewhat stained by exposure.

Wood Wren; nest, 3 eggs, on a small bank in a birch wood by the "Wake Arms" by the "Kings Oak" road - subsequently pucked.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker; young birds just out of the nest, scarcely able to fly, near the "Kings Oak".

June 21st; Colly Weston, Northants.

C.H.H.

Hobby

Greater Spotted W'ker.

Left Kings Cross at 10.35 a.m. for Stamford, and biked thence to Colly Weston, returning from Stamford at 8 p.m.

Hobby; ♂, taken by Mr. Smith, keeper, on 17th, fresh, from a Carrion Crow's nest of the year, from which the Crows had been shot before breeding, placed in the topmost fork of an oak about 40 ft. high, situated well inside "Colly Weston" wood, which comprised some 250 acres, with many other large woods in the vicinity. The site of the nest commanded a

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{ D.H.H.
C.H.H.

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June 21st; Colly Weston, cont^d.

Hobby, con^t; good view over the wood, although the undergrowth at this point was fairly thick, and a small ride was near by. The site was towards the southern angle of the wood, where they have bred regularly for some 6 years. The nest contained a little "dawn", mingled with the lining of the Crow. The birds had unfortunately departed, due to the eggs having been taken 4 days previously, and four hours in the wood failed to locate them. (see July 10th)

Greater Spotted Woodpecker; nest with fully fledged young in an old hole in a beech in Colly Weston wood.

Grasshopper Warbler; several pairs singing in a very young plantation at the bottom of Colly Weston wood.

June 23rd; Wytham, Berks.

C.H.

Hobby

Hobby; cl. 3, incubated about 1 week, from a very old Heron's nest - the eggs laid on the bare sticks, with no attempt nor any remains of any sort of lining - at the top of a medium sized oak about 30 ft. high, in the middle of "Wytham" wood, in the portion known as "Great Plain". This wood is some 900 acres, bounded on three sides by the Thames, on the

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June 23rd; Wytham, cont^d.

Hobby, cont.; slopes of a small hill, with many other large woods in the vicinity. This Heron's nest, with two others, is the remnant of the old Herony, the remainder of which was lower down the hill, and had been cut down. The Heron's, about 60 pairs, have moved a little further along. In these old nests the Hobbies have bred for some years, generally rearing their young, so the keeper informed me. Just above is a small copse of larch. The oaks are fairly open, and the woods by no means thick - a drive passed quite close to the nest, and the whole wood stands in a commanding position. The keeper, Mr. J. Dalby, accompanied me out at 12 o'clock noon; he and the underkeeper had seen the birds about a good deal from about mid-day, but during the previous week or two they had not been seen around the outskirts of the wood, & only once or twice in the wood; no attempt had been made to find the nest. We went accordingly to their previous site, the old Heron's nests, but a vigorous tapping of the trees and a good search all around produced no result; we accordingly watched the

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June 23rd; Wytham, cont^d.

Hobby, cont.; vicinity for about an hour, but neither saw nor heard a sight or sound of them. Concluded therefore that they had moved elsewhere, so had a vigorous search further round the wood, in the new Heronry, but with no result. Suspected that she must have been off to feed, so re-commenced at the old Heron's nests - a vigorous tapping produced no result, so we decided to climb them before proceeding further in case she had fresh eggs. Had climbed about 10 ft., when with one short high scream she darted off, down the hill over the tree tops, and had disappeared in three seconds - her breast showed up plainly as she left. This was 2.20 pm. At once descended, and retired where we could watch the birds - waited for 40 minutes, but no sight or sound. Accordingly climbed up to make sure there was something there, and took a lovely 3, large, and fairly uniform yellowish brown, and sat down to await their return. Another half hour passed - 1 hr. 10 min. in all - when a "kek-kek-kek" rang out - she flew rapidly round in a half circle, darted down over the wood, and then back, and sailed across,

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June 23^d; Wytham, cont^d.

Hobby, cont.; her curved wings being very conspicuous, and settled on a dead branch of an oak about 80 yards away - had a splendid view of her through the glass - where she rested some five minutes. Beyond the scream when she left the nest, and her cry when she first re-appeared, she never uttered a sound. Suddenly the male dashed on to the scene, the pair flew up together with remarkably rapid evolutions & turns, and disappeared down the wood again. We waited about another 20 minutes, but saw & heard nothing more of them. The day was sunny & warm, with a slight breeze.

June 29th - 30th; Sandford, nr Oxford. { Wm. Foster
C.H.

Lesser Whitethroat

Lesser Whitethroat; nest, 4 eggs, Sandford Brake.

Hobby; had a thorough search through "Sandford Brake" - an excellent oak wood containing several old Crow's nests - on advice from Mr Woodrow, of Funcham Park, that a brood of young Hobbies were seen in Sept. 1911 in the fields adjacent, one having been shot. Mr Butler, the keeper, had seen the birds in the wood in the present month. We also examined "Busty Copse", a small oak spinney near by; all, however, to no effect. (vide June 21-22, 1913).

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June 23rd; Epping Forest.

Tree Pipit.

Nests containing 6 young, 5 young, & 4 eggs respectively on a common by the "Kings Oak" - "Duke Arms" road.

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D.H.L.

July 10th; Colley Weston, Fonthants.

Hobby

J. Sargent
C.H.

Hobby; cl. 3, taken from the nest by Mr. Smith, keeper, fresh, on 4th; 3 pheasant's eggs were substituted, on which she continued to sit; this is the 2nd clutch of the birds referred to under June 21st, taken on June 17th, the completion of the second laying thus having taken just 18 days. During this interval Mr. Smith reported having seen them on June 23rd, and again on June 30th when they ^{were} somewhat noisy and were around the selected nest, viz:- a three year old Carrion Crow, placed in the fork of an oak about 35 ft. high, the tree being some 50 ft. The structure of the nest was still quite substantial, the old lining being well worn & weather beaten, and containing a few small feathers from the Hobby's breast. The eggs were nearly identical to the first clutch, a trifle redder & slightly less marked, if anything. The site was again well inside, but towards the southern corner of, "Colley Weston" wood, and

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July 10th ; Colley Weston, cont^d.

Hobby, cont^d - just 360 yards from the first nest, being incidentally the nearest available nest suitable; a very small & overgrown side path near-by; the undergrowth around was thick & tall; but the nest commanded quite a good view. We approached the nest at 3 p.m. - the day was warm & sunny - and her tail & the tips of her wings were visible over the edge of the nest. Apparently the tips of the wings just about reached the end of her tail, as seen through glasses from about 30 yds. The keeper made a detour to frighten her off in our direction, & hearing his approach she sprang to the side of the nest & sat bolt upright, thus remaining alert for danger & almost motionless for nearly a minute - the view afforded was grand - when she dashed off - first dropping, then with a few flaps rising over the tree tops - passing right over us & out of view, without uttering a single sound. We sat down to await her return - & not until 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. had passed at 4.15 did we see her sail by, settle, and again vanish. Another $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. passed, & we saw no more of her, & decided to climb up & inspect the nest; on ^{our} rising, she sailed away

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July 10th; Colley Weston, cont^d.

Hobby - cont; from some tree near by, where presumably she had been perched to watch wents - this was 5 p.m. & we, after climbing the nest & throwing out the substituted pheasants, left shortly after for our return. Fewer a sound had the female uttered, and the male never appeared at all.

July 13th; Wytham, Berks.

C.H.M.

Hobby; revisited this wood, & saw Tr^{ce} Wally, who had seen the Hobbies about since June 23rd (see ante), but particularly wished them to hatch off their second nest; took a stroll through the wood, but saw neither the birds nor nest - it poured all day.

also revisited Sandford, n^e Oxford (see June 29-30), but acquired no further evidence of the presence of Hobbies.

July 21st; Seaford.

C.H.M.

Red-legged Partridge

Red-legged Partridge; nest, 10 eggs, Seaford Head.

Corn Bunting; a fair number of birds hovering mainly over a field of wheat on Seaford Head, presumably with young.

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Aug. 5th; Clive.

Brown Owl.

Brown Owl; two young birds in an old oak in the "Fredpools" about 1 week and 2 weeks old respectively; the former died on 6th, apparently deserted by the old birds, and the latter was taken to Clive Hall & reared. On Sept. 12th it still had a considerable amount of white fluffy "down" over its yellow plumage & was still unable to fly - at the age of say 6 weeks.

Hobby; Fr^{ic} Smith, keeper at Colley Weston, reported in September that he had seen nothing of the Hobbies since the taking of the 2nd nest on July 10th.



Hobby c/3 in an old Crow's nest.

Typical eggs & typical site.

Note the diagnostic breast feather.

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Summary:-

Whinchat
 Frightingale
 Lesser Whitethroat
 Blackcap
 Garden Warbler
 Goldcrest
 Chiffchaff
 Wood Wren
 Coal Tit
 Marsh Tit
 Futhatch
 Tree Pipit
 Red-backed Shrike
 Martin
 Sand Martin
 Hawfinch
 Tree Sparrow
 Lesser Redpoll
 Green Woodpecker
 Greater Spotted W'ker
 Lesser Spotted W'ker
 Cuckoo
 Barn Owl
 Tawny Owl
 Golden Eagle
 Hobby
 Kestrel
 Red-legged Partridge

also Notes on:-

Cirl Bunting
 Black-throated Diver.

1913.

March 8th ; Thetford.Crossbill.

Crossbill ; spent the day in the district around "Two Trile Bottom" & Croxton, (vide 1911); The day was equally & very cold; Mr Eggleton's son accompanied me, & two other keepers for part of the time. One of these latter had taken cl.h on 1st March from a Scotch fir in a row by the roadside about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond Croxton village, & had preserved the nest & eggs - they proved to be unblowable, with well formed feathered young. The nest was placed in the higher lateral branches - about 35 ft. high. (vide March 16th 1913)

Found nest, 2 young, about 9 days old, on a small branch of a Scotch fir, about 20 ft. high, in an open belt between the railway & the road - at Two Trile Bottom; both birds were round the nest, the male in fine red plumage.

Also nest building, both birds being very active around the nest, and the female carrying feathers, at the top of a Scotch fir, ^{about 30 ft. high} in a row of pines between Croxton village and the Punch Bowl - there was a nest within a few trees of the spot in 1911 - the male was in fine red plumage. (vide Mar. 16th)

Saw another pair of birds around this same row, but no more elsewhere.

1913.

C.F.H.

1913.

March 15th - 16th; Thetford.

Crossbill

1913.

}	J. C. Ford (16 th)
	C. H.

Crossbill; - on 15th walked from Brandon to Thetford, following the course of the railway on the northern side of the R. Ouse. Nearly adjacent to Brandon station saw a small drove of 6 or 8 birds in a belt of Scotch fir, which did not appear to be nesting. Just eastward of the 88th mile post on the railway in a small copse of Scotch fir lying between the railway & the river saw another small drove, and one bird which appeared to be just commencing to build - she revisited the same spot several times on a lateral branch some 35 ft. high, but I could detect no formed nest. Following the fir belts, saw no more Crossbills, except the nest with young (vide 8th) at Two Mile Bottom.

On 16th Ford joined me, and we went to Croxton to visit nest found building on 8th; the tree was very slippery, & I failed to climb it, though Ford managed the ascent easily with irons, & took for me cl. 4, fresh. The bird sat extremely close, & never moved until Ford waved his hand a few inches from her; she then flew to a neighbouring larch, and kept up a constant chattering;

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1913.

March 15th - 16th; Thetford, cont^d.

The male did not appear. The nest consisted of a fair layer of pine twigs, thence grass, and lined with feathers and matted hair. The eggs were nearly identical with those taken on March 1st (vide pth) some 300 yards away, and there is little doubt that this was the 2nd nest.

In the belt leading from the road to the Punch Bowl again saw a bird, but could find no nest. And saw one bird in some very large ditch on a Warren about 1 mile towards Wretton from Croston. Wheatear; had arrived.

Woodcock; saw several by the railway near Barton bridge.

Peregrine; a fine pair were wheeling round the Warrens beyond Croston.

Both days were cold, with a boisterous squally wind, and some showers.

March 21st - 25th; Clive.

Crossbill.

{ D.H.M.
C.H.M.

Crossbill; on 21st saw one bird in the Brickin Copse. On 22nd saw two pairs in the Blaze Bank, one of which seemed wild, as though they had as yet fixed

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March 21st - 25th; Clive. cont^d.

Crossbill, cont. no breeding site, while the second pair centred round the same area. On 24th D.H. hears found this pair just commencing to build in the lateral branch of a Scotch fir about 35 ft. high some 10 ft. from the trunk - probably the first authentic record of this species breeding in Shropshire (vide 18th Ap. 1898), and incidentally within 100 yds. of the site of the first authentic nest of the Siskin in Shropshire, also found by D.H. Fr. (vide 22nd April 1896). The female was carrying twigs, which she broke off from the dead branches of the Scotch firs, the barest outlines of a nest being visible in the morning. She seemed to build spasmodically, feeding between times, but the nest had progressed quite considerably by the afternoon. On 25th she was carrying large beakfuls of material from the ground, seemingly of a fibrous or mossy character. The male kept near at hand, and once visited the nest; from time to time he sang lustily near by, and chattered occasionally. He was not in very red plumage. Their favourite feeding tree was only distant some 50 yds. On 24th the other pair was also seen again in the same vicinity