

1913.

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June 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>; Dalwhinnie, cont<sup>d</sup>.

Dotterel, cont<sup>d</sup>.

a Dotterel running away with one wing drooping. I immediately sat down, and within 2 minutes she was on two eggs. The nest was situated on a slight hummock covered with lichen & some dry moss, but no bilberry was growing immediately around - yet the nest, which was well defined, contained the lining of bilberry leaves, which had evidently been placed there intentionally. The antime the bird disported itself near by feigning broken wings, uttering small squeaks, and fanning its tail. The male did not appear.

On the Forthran Spur, after seeing nothing on the western slope, I came across the pair feeding on the summit about 3 o'clock. They were very tame, and, except for the male uttering a few warning notes when I came in sight, were silent, & ran about some 20 yds. ahead when followed. I understood later that the keeper (not Mr Kennedy) had found the nest with eggs a fortnight before, so that judging from their behaviour & being together two successive days they probably had young. Mr Kennedy informs me that when they have young the

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June 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>; Dalwhinnie, cont.

Dottrel, cont.?

male & female are together much more, & that they leave the young largely to their own devices.

On Hill 6 saw a pair feeding about 6 o'clock, which had not the slightest objection to being watched at close quarters, and at the same time a male was calling on the top of Hill 5.

Plumage. The distinctive features appear to be that the male has the crown of the head & eye stripe jet black, the female crown & eye stripe greyish-brown - this difference is very apparent. The male appears to have more white on the cheeks than the female, and a broader white stripe above the black (♂) or grey (♀) eye stripe. The white bands above the eye converge inwards in ♂ & ♀ at the back of the crown, giving them the appearance of having a crest on the head. The female appears to have much more defined markings on the feathers on the back which cover the wing-coverts - streaks of lighter brown - whereas the back of the male appears homogenous in colour. Otherwise the male & female appear to be very similar, including the breast & belly.

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June 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>; Dalwhinnie, cont<sup>d</sup>.

Dotterel, cont<sup>d</sup>.

Note of Dotterel; the alarm note appears to be a simple "whit"; the call note of the male a very harsh "Werr-r-r-r-r-r."

Incubation; in the case of all the above four nests the female was sitting on each occasion. From the occurrences on Hills 5 & 7, and from their apparently feeding together, it would seem that the male remains in the not very close vicinity.

Feeding-time; this would appear to commence about 3 pm. - 3.30 pm. onwards till dusk, during part of which period presumably the ♀ leaves her eggs.

Nest; they appear to construct a proper nest, & not to lay in a mere scratching, and to import bilberry leaves as a lining - though the latter by no means cover the bottom of the nest.

Parasitism; on 14<sup>th</sup> saw a barren pair & an odd male on Hill 2 near the summit. On Hill ~~1~~<sup>7</sup> saw female with a brood of about 6 young chicks - only a few days old on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, one of which I caught - the white tips to the quills were just appearing, &

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June 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>; Dalwhinnie, cont<sup>d</sup>?

Prarmigan, cont<sup>d</sup>?

the old female ran close around with drooping wings very much perturbed. Also saw two odd males on Hill 7, all on or near the summit.

Oyster Catcher; saw a brood of young birds about a week old on the sedge by the R. <sup>Trym</sup> ~~Spey~~ near Drumochter Lodge; their beaks were black & about 1 in. long. There were quite a number of pairs along the river.

Golden Plover; only saw one pair on Hill 6.

Golden Eagle; a fine bird passed over within about 300 yds. when on Hill 5 towards the direction of Loch Ericht.

Left for London on morning of 17<sup>th</sup>.

Note:-

Marsh Warbler; at Gloucester on June 6<sup>th</sup>

Mr Dewart found nests with 1 and 2 eggs respectively. On June 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Sargent & Kennant took several cl. 5, & saw other nests with 4, & nests building.

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June 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>; Oxford district.

C. B. H.

## Hobby

Hobby; on 21<sup>st</sup> visited Wytham Park, Berks, (vide June 23<sup>rd</sup> & July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1912) but after spending from 4.30 - 9.30 pm. in the portion of the wood known as "Great Plain" failed to see or hear anything of the birds. Mr Walby, the keeper, had only seen one bird skitting the wood early in June.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> visited Waterperry, nr Wheatley, Oxfordshire, and examined a fine wood of 365 acres with the keeper, Mr Symonds, who stated most definitely that the Hobby bred there in 1911. All the old crows' nests had however been pulled down, so that there was nowhere where a Hobby could breed, and we saw nothing.

Mr Symonds informed me that he had personally seen the Hobby take a Swallow & Swift on the wing.

Thence visited Sandford, nr Littlemore, Oxon, where I arrived at 3.30 pm., & set out with Mr Butler, the keeper. (Vide June 29-30 & July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1912). He suggested first visiting two outlying Crows' nests, which we proceeded to do, and throwing up a stone at the first, off darted a hawk, which proved to contain a fine cl. 3, Hobby, fresh. The eggs were laid in a Carrion Crow's nest of the present year, placed in the

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June 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>; Oxford district, cont<sup>d</sup>.Hobby, cont<sup>d</sup>.

fork of an elm about 35 ft. high; the elm was in a hedge-row, this tree forming the apex of a triangular spinney of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre lying two fields away in an easterly direction from Sandford Brake, an excellent <sup>of about 65 acres</sup> wood, containing five old Crows' nests. The bird sat very closely, never leaving while we were discussing prospects at the foot of the tree, until a stone was thrown up, when she darted down behind the hedge, and disappeared without either of us obtaining a clear view. I accordingly climbed up, found 3 lovely eggs, ~~seemingly of the typical Hobby type~~, being more blotched & less speckled than usual, & brought one down to test in water, which sank but just turned on end, showing that incubation had progressed about <sup>four</sup> ~~one~~ days. The kuper then left, while I retired to the cover of a hedge on the opposite side of the field to watch. She had left at 4 pm., and at 4.10 she flew by a long distance away, but as she turned I observed white on the breast, the sun shining directly on to her, and she went out of sight. At 4.20 she returned, & settled on an elm in the hedge-row about 150 yds. from the nest, & some

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June 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>; Oxford district, cont<sup>d</sup>.Hobby, cont<sup>d</sup>.

200 yds. from my retreat, where with glasses I obtained a very fair view. The long wings reaching to the end of the tail were clearly visible, and the breast and the head showed up very clearly as she preened her feathers, & occasionally altered her position. At 4.50 she glided off, and again settled on her eggs. Allowing a few minutes space I approached the nest, and when nearing the tree she left, passing quite close by, the curved wings being very apparent at some angles <sup>of flight</sup>, but not at others. Up to this time she had never uttered a sound, nor had the male appeared. I climbed up again, but found no "down" in the nest, probably due to the eggs being fresh; and on coming down "Kuk-kuk-kuk" rang out just once from the adjoining elm where she had previously stationed herself - a sharper note considerably than that of the Kestrel. She flew off to Sanford Brake, and as I ~~was~~ crossed the field in that direction a Hobby glided past, flying low, the blue back showing up well in the sun - this bird I think was the male, as it appeared rather small.

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June 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>; nr Bicester, Oxon. C.B.H.

Sparrow Hawk.

Sparrow Hawk; nest with young in a larch in Shelswell Plantation.

Hobby; examined Tusmore Park, including the rookery; a plantation known as the "Hulls" by Cottisford village; and Shelswell Plantation, but without success. Fr<sup>r</sup> Walby, the keeper, informs me that birds are seen annually, and appear to work in the direction of Shelswell.

NOTE:-

Hobby; Fr<sup>r</sup> Smith, a most observant & reliable keeper, informs me that the Hobby has not appeared at Colley Weston Wood, Northamptonshire, this season. (vide 1912).

July 13<sup>th</sup>; Sandford, nr Oxford. { Wm. Foster

Hobby; re-visited Sandford Brake, { C.B.H.

and the outlying Crows' nests near by, but saw no sign of Hobby. Fr<sup>r</sup> Butler, keeper, informed me that he saw both birds for about a week - after the eggs were taken (vide June 22<sup>nd</sup>), - on the last occasion circling together - at a great height - close to the site of their nest of 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In August Fr<sup>r</sup> Butler informed me that two young were about Sandford Brake, which I visited on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> without seeing them.



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Summary :-

- Whinchat
- Grasshopper Warbler
- Bearded Tit
- Fulcrum
- Hawfinch
- Crossbill
- Greater-Spotted Woodpecker
- Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker
- Kingfisher
- Cuckoo
- Tawny Owl
- Little Owl
- Sparrow Hawk
- Hobby
- Kestrel
- Heron
- Fulmar
- Skua
- Water Rail
- Dottrel
- Snipe
- Great-crested Grebe

also Notes on :-

- Marsh Warbler
- Puffin
- Bittern
- Marsh Harrier
- Garganey
- Worm-eater
- Oyster Catcher
- Raven

1914.

March 7<sup>th</sup>; Iffley, Oxford.

Song Thrush, 3 eggs  
 Blackbird, 1 "  
 Robin, 4 "

{ Wm. Foster  
 C.H.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>; Hitchin.

Long-eared Owl  
 Lapwing.

{ J. B. Smith  
 C.H.

Long-eared Owl; nest, 1 egg, in an old  
 pigeon's nest built on a squirrel den  
 in a Scotch fir about 20 ft. high,  
 in a plantation by "High Down" adjacent  
 to the Hitchin to Barton-in-the-Clay road.

Lapwing; nest, 1 egg, on Litley Hoop.

Brambling; several ♂ & ♀ seen feeding by  
 High Down.

March 28<sup>th</sup>; Seaford.

Peregrine.

{ J. Walpole Bond  
 C.H.

Stayed with Bond at Hove  
 over the week-end, & this day walked over  
 the cliffs from Seaford to Eastbourne.

Peregrine; on Seaford Head, nest, 1 egg,  
 about 20 ft. down; on 1<sup>st</sup> visit saw  
 the pair of birds & two scrapes, one  
 within 5 ft. of the top & one about  
 25 ft. down. On Belle Tout & the next  
 headland saw a Twical on each,  
 but could see no nest from the  
 top.

Wheatear had arrived.

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March 29<sup>th</sup>; Falmer.Long-eared Owl  
Rook.J. Walpole Wood  
C.H.

Long-eared Owl; saw a pair sitting out in Hogg's Wood; a pair sitting out in the wood adjoining & running parallel to & near by the railway. In the top wood, running at right angles to the railway on the South side saw nest, 1 egg. In the Two-market plantation saw one bird sitting out, but could not find or flush the other. In Coles Dene plantation saw no birds.

Crossed thence to the North side of the railway; in Bunker's Wood took cl. 5, incubated <sup>about 8</sup> ~~7~~ days; the nest contained a large amount of down & feathers; the egg was laid in an old Crow's nest in a Scotch fir about 30 ft. high at the top of the tree. Did not visit the triangular wood, & saw no Owls in Mary Farm Wood.

Rook; climbed one nest, containing 1 egg, in Mary Farm Wood.

Civil Bunting; a bird was singing within 50 yds. of Falmer Station on the S.W. side.

NOTE:- Dartford Warbler; Sargent took cl. 4, fresh, in Farham, on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

1914.

April 18<sup>th</sup>; Epping.

Kingfisher

Long-tailed Tit.

1914.

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

Kingfisher; nest, cl. 7, - about 4 days incub., from a boring about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ft. long - an old hole in which young were hatched in 1913 (vide Ap. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1913) - on the banks of the brook flowing between Epping & Old Epping, nearly opposite a keeper's cottage about 1 mile down stream from the Old Epping - Epping road;

also nest, \*left undisturbed from which the bird was flushed, in a boring about 2 ft. long in a bank of the same stream a few hundred yards from the bridge on the Epping - Old Epping road, within 1 ft. of a very ancient Kingfisher boring.

Long-tailed Tit; nest, 4 or 5 eggs, along the above mentioned stream.

Marsh Tit; nest, well lined, in an old stump along the same stream, of which a bumble-bee had taken possession.

April 19<sup>th</sup>; Warley.

Little Owl

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

Little Owl; nest, 1 egg, at the extreme end of a hole in an old oak, about 7 ft. high, - above Childerditch near the Thorndon Park rookery; the Owl left the tree on our approach, so had presumably been sitting outside the

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April 19<sup>th</sup>; Warley, cont<sup>d</sup>.

Little Owl, cont.:-

nesting hole. Also nesting hole, well used, in an oak in the opposite corner of the same field, about 10 ft. high; the bird left the tree as in the previous case upon our approach; due to the small hole we were unable to ascertain its contents, though J.W.H. thought he could feel 2 eggs with a wire.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; watched at

Childerditch pond, where there were 2 food borings from 11.40 - 1.15; at 12.0 one bird visited the trees for about 5 minutes, & we saw no more of it. In the church-yard all the old trees (vide nest, 1913) had been cut down, & we saw nothing of the birds.

Above Childerditch towards the rookery (near the old stump) there was one food boring, but we saw no birds.

Marsh Tit; boring in old stump

behind Childerditch pond.

Red Bunting; nest building, Childerditch pond.

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

C.H.H.

Little Owl; both nests above mentioned revisited, & opened the entrance to the latter with a chisel; each contained 3 eggs, fresh, & the same number on Ap. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; one bird seen by

Childerditch pond between 5.0 & 6.0 pm., eating on an elm.

Red Bunting; nest above mentioned had 1 egg.

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April 26<sup>th</sup>; Thetford.

Gadwall

Trallard

Teal

Goldcrest.

Arrived Thetford 12.37 p.m. &amp; left at 7.4 p.m.

Gadwall; nest, cl. 9, incubated - about 5 days, among short rushes, (apparently cut the previous Spring), under some trees on an island strip between the R. Ouse and an artificial dyke a few hundred yards below the sluice gates about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below Two Mile Bottom. The nest was within some 10 yards of the river & the dyke. The duck sat closely, & shuffled off into the dyke. There was a fair quantity of "down" round the nest, but not much under the eggs. After 3 hrs. the duck had not returned to her eggs.

also nest, cl. 9, fresh, but deserted for 3 days, placed among heather on the warren on the south side of the R. Ouse at Two Mile Bottom. There was very little "down".

Trallard & Teal; a nest of each with 10 eggs, incubation advanced, among heather on the warren on the south side of the R. Ouse at Two Mile Bottom. The Teal, when flushed, perched on a rail by the river.

Goldcrest; nests young, cl. 9, 8 eggs incomplete, 4 eggs, 2 eggs, one nest ready, & several building.

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C.H.

1914.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>; Epping Forest.

Tuthatch

Blue Tit

Tragpie

Goldcrest

Tuthatch; nest, cl. 8, incub. just commenced, by the pond nearly opposite Capt Hall on the Wake Arms - Epping Road. The eggs were heavily spotted. Unfortunately 1 egg was broken due to the electric lamp falling, and the remaining 7 eggs left. Also a pair building at High Beach in an oak with a plugged hole.

Blue Tit; cl. 10, in an old Tuthatch hole at Aymsbury Banks, nearly fresh. Also nest, 9 eggs, in old Leas Nodded Woodpecker's hole along the stream below Epping.

Tragpie; nest, 4 eggs, in a wood near the rifle range behind Warlies - the bird was sitting.

Goldcrest; nest, 5 eggs, mostly addled & thin shelled, on the Warlies road by Comical Corner in a spruce.

Kingfisher; completed boring, just commenced on Ap. 18<sup>th</sup>, on the stream below Epping; no eggs were visible with a light & mirror.

Hawfinch - no birds or nest seen in the Forest.

1914.

C.H.

1914.

May 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>; Hickling, Norfolk.

1914.

C.H.

Bearded Tit  
 Lesser Redpoll  
 Pied Wagtail  
 Meadow Pipit  
 Water Rail  
 Red Bunting  
 Snipe  
 Redshank  
 Great Crested Grebe

The 9<sup>th</sup> was cold, with high squally winds & frequent showers. Watched with Robert Vincent from 8.30 a.m. - 12.30 on "Swim Coots" for Garganey, a pair of which had been seen earlier in the season; during the visit saw nothing of Garganey, & we surmised that the pair had been shot. In the afternoon looked for Rail on "Whitstable" & later for Snipe.

The 10<sup>th</sup> was calm & sunny - went on the Broad & round Higham Sound with Jim Vincent in the morning; spent the afternoon on the marshes.

Bearded Tit; cl. 7, fresh, on Higham Sound; & young, some just out of the nest, others well grown

Lesser Redpoll; nest, 3 eggs, in a willow in the hedge of Robt. Vincent's garden.

Pied Wagtail; nest, 2 eggs, in a heap of litter in Robt. Vincent's garden.

Meadow Pipit; several clutches on the marshes, incl. cl. 4 almost of the coloration of nightingales