

1903

1903

May 15th - 17th ; Rye¹ Kentish Plover² Stone Curlew

Redshank

Wheatear

Ringed Plover

Sky Lark

Meadow Pipit

{ C.S.M.

{ Southerden
(a fisherman)

- ¹ Only saw one pair of birds, which took $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. to return to eggs after taking up our final position for watching. The 3 eggs were laid on the small shingle nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from high water, no attempt at a nest being made. The eggs were in no way covered by sand.
- ² Norfolk Plover a Stone Curlew; two pairs of these birds were about, and we spent a long time watching them, but they were very sluggish, often remaining motionless for over an hour. They run rapidly on approach of danger, often not taking wing till within gun-shot. They fly very low, and flying, look rather like a Tawny Owl. With glasses, they can frequently be detected sitting amongst the broom before being disturbed. A little too early for ^{second clutch} their eggs, found by the latter on May 23rd. Eggs were also obtained on May 9th. They lay where the 'broom' has died off, the nest ^{being} in no way sheltered. Rather too early for Terns. Weather very cold and stormy.

1903

1903

May 19th - 30th ; Clive

C.A.M.

- ¹ Wood Wren
- ² Long-eared Owl
- ³ Little Grebe
- ⁴ Goldfinch
- Lesser Redpoll
- Goldfinch
- Redstart
- ⁵ Common Suipe
- Blackcap
- Blue Tit
- Marsh Tit
- Pied Wagtail

¹ Found 2 nests; both laying at the very end of May. The nests take about 4 days to be built

² Nest found by a keeper in a Scotch Fir about 10 ft. from the trunk and about 30 ft. high. Found when building, and he thinks they built the entire nest themselves. 3 eggs on April 9th, 4 eggs taken April 15th. Nest about 4 ft. in diameter, with a slight hollow about 9 in. in diameter in which eggs were laid. Bird sat close. No pellets around or below the nest.

³ Nest a very slight structure of moss, the eggs being partially in the water, and always covered when left. Birds very retiring.

⁴ Found by Pye, in a damson tree.

⁵ Found by a keeper at Hodnet.

1903

1903

March - July ; Warley.

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

- 1 Coal Tit
- 2 Stonechat
- 3 1 Cuckoo's egg
- 4 Red Backed Shrike
- Nightingale
- Creepur
- Long-tailed Tit
- Blue Tit
- Marsh Tit
- Garden Warbler
- Redstart
- Jay
- Tree Pipit
- Kestrel
- Turtle Dove
- Spotted Flycatcher
- Pheasant
- 5 Nuthatch

- 1 Nest 9 eggs, May 1st, nearly hatching. In a hollow rotten root about 18 in. from entrance. The bird descended direct from feeding into nest.
- & May 13th, 9 eggs (1 broken), nearly fresh; in a hole in a 'Hornbeam', about 9 ft. high.
- 2 Nest, 5 eggs, fresh, April 16th; nest, 2 young, Aug 9th.
- 3 In a Greenfinch's nest, nearly fresh, June 21st.
- 4 Abundant in this district. One nest contained very abnormal eggs, 1 very large, 2 normal, and one very small, about the size of a linnet's.
 475 c.s. 230 c.s. 327 c.s.
 160 c.s.
- 5 Found several nests, but none accessible.
- Martin - birds feeding young in 6 nests, Oct. 4th.

1903

1903

Summary.

Bearded Tit
 Kentish Plover
 Stone Curlew
 Water Rail
 Shoveler
 Long-eared Owl
 Coal Tit
 1 Cuckoo's egg
 Wood Wren
 Little Grebe
 Common Sandpiper ^{marsh}
 Redshank
 Wheatear
 Ringed Plover
 Dipper
 Red-backed Shrike
 Goldfinch
 Lesser Redpoll
 Common Snipe
 Stonechat
 Nuthatch
 Nighthawk
 Wild Duck
 Creeper
 Kestrel
 Jay
 Tree Pipit
 Blackcap
 Garden Warbler
 Meadow Pipit
 Redstart
 & others.

1904

1904

Arrival of Summer Migrants.

April 1 st	Wheatear	Llanarmon
9 th	Chiffchaff	Richmond Park
16 th	do.	Warley
10 th	sandpiper	"
13 th	Willow Wren	"
"	Nightingale	"
14 th	Cuckoo	"
16 th	swallow	"
"	Whitethroat	"
"	Red-backed Thrush	Harold Wood
17 th	Tree Pipit	Warley
"	Wood Wren	"
"	Green sandpiper	Hutton
21 st	Whinchat	n ^r Romford
24 th	Blackcap	Warley
"	Sedge Warbler	"
May 5 th	Martin	"
9 th	Swift	Clive
"	Sand Martin	"
10 th	Spotted Flycatcher	"
11 th	Corncrake	Bettws-y-coed
"	Grasshopper Warbler	Capel - Curig
12 th	Pied Flycatcher	"
15 th	Nightjar	Bettws-y-coed
22 nd	Turtle Dove	Clive.

1904

March 20th ; Boreham.

Heron

1904

{ D.H.M.
C.M.

3 eggs taken from nest in "Spruce" about 30 ft. high. Nest made of large sticks, lined with dried grass, much like a large rook's, but shallower. All 3 eggs lay in a row. The herony was visited before on Feb. 13th. '04, when nesting had not begun. About 6 pairs altogether, but other nests were not completed. The herons wheeled close above while up at the nest. Keeper sighted in the next field, but he went off after a short wait.

March 31st - April 4th ; Llanarmor.

(Raven.)

{ D.H.M.
C.M.
H.E.F. (1 day)

Eyrie in rocks above falls of "Pistyll Rhaiadr"; one new nest not lined, interior visible from the top; a second nest, much larger and very dirty, half way up the cliff, inaccessible, interior not seen. Both birds flew round at close quarters, and then went off.

Also old eyrie near source of h. Cwriog seen, where they nested regularly till about 5 years ago.

The following are said to nest regularly in the district: - Merlin, Curlew, Golden Plover, King Ouzel, Red Grouse, Grey Wagtail.

1904

May 1st - 2nd; Bilton Grange.
Goldcrest.

1904

{ D.H.M.
W.S.

May 7th - 10th; 17th - 28th; Clive

- ¹ Little Grebe
- ² Goldfinch
- ³ Reed Warbler
- Sedge Warbler
- Garden Warbler
- ⁴ Long-eared Owl
- Coot
- Redstart
- Coal Tit
- Blue Tit
- Long-tailed Tit
- ⁵ Song Thrush

{ C.A.M.
D.H.M. (3 days)
C.A.M. (do.)

- ¹ 4 eggs, Hawkestone, May 19th.
- ² nests being built, Clive and Welsh-Hampton.
- ³ at Crose Mere. Full clutch, May 24th.
- ⁴ found by keeper at Hodnet in the same nest as last year. 5 eggs, April 1st.
- ⁵ 4 eggs, 3 entirely unspotted.

May 20th; Sandford.

- ¹ Tufted Duck
- ² Teal
- Wild Duck
- ³ Sedge Warbler

{ M. Gilroy
H.E. Forrest
C.A.M.

- ¹ nests, 10 eggs and 1 egg respectively; fresh.
- ² nest 11 eggs, nearly hatching
- ³ nest lined with feathers.

1904

1904

May 11th - 16th and 29th; Capel-Cwraig.

{ C.A.M.
H.E.F. (14th-16th)

¹ (Peregrine)

³ Pied Flycatcher

² Greater Spotted Woodpecker

⁴ Coal Tit

⁵ Grey Wagtail

Pied Wagtail

Wheatear

Dipper

Meadow Pipit

¹ Two eyries discovered, (a) on Moel Siabod on 12th, when mist was dense, but the shrill call 'keek-keek-keek' rang perpetually through the valley. Revisited on 16th, when birds were absent! The nesting crevice was on cliff about 70 ft. high, about 15 ft. from the top, and inaccessible. (b) near the 'Devil's Kitchen'. Revisited on 15th. Cliffs very steep, and nesting crevice not discovered. Both birds wheeled around, affording an excellent view, though not approaching very closely, uttering their cries continually.

A pair of Ravens inhabit the same cliffs as the latter.

One Peregrine seen flying over Bettws-y-coed.
Raven - Old eyrie seen on Moel Siabod overlooking Dolwyddelen. Several birds seen around Siabod, Llyn Gwynant, and Ogwen districts.

² Nest, 5 eggs, May 29th, Capel-Cwraig. In rotten stump about 12 ft. high, 15 in. deep.

1904

1904

May 11th - 16th and 29th; Capel-lurig cont.

³ Plentiful on wooded slopes. Several nests building 11th - 16th. Three complete clutches on 29th, and others building. The male keeps up a continual song, and easily betrays the nesting whereabouts. The female is more retiring; I never heard one sing; they sit closely. Nesting holes varied from 3 ft - 25 ft. in height above ground, and about 9 in. deep. Nests made of dry grass, skeletons of leaves, and a very few feathers.

⁴ Young, May 29th.

⁵ Building, May 29th.

In this district Buzzard, Merlin, and Short-eared Owl are said to occur; King Owl and Golden Plover not common; Red Grouse, Grey Wagtail, Curlew, sandpipers plentiful.

The days were spent as follows:-

May 11th Moors towards Pont-y-Pant.
 " 12th Moel Siabod.
 " 13th Capel-lurig woods; Devil's Kitchen.
 " 14th Woods to Llanwyst; ret. via L. Crafnant.
 " 15th Devil's Kitchen - Moors n^e Bettws.
 " 16th Moel Siabod and n^e Llyn Gwynant.
 " 29th Woods, Bettws-y-coed to Capel-lurig.

1904

June 12th ; Tollesbury

1 Black-headed Gull

Redshank

2 Swallow

1 Colony of about 30 pairs in a marshy reed-bed off West Mersea. Some eggs sat, majority fresh.

2 Two nests in an old stranded yacht. Sheldrake — Common. Many broods of young birds about a fortnight old seen swimming with the ducks.

Tide $1\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. before London Bridge. While examining Gullery, tide receded about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, and left our boat stranded.

July 3rd ; Brighton.

1 Corn Bunting

2 Stonechat

1 Found about 9 nests; only three full clutches of 5, 4, 4 respectively. Rather too early.

2 5 eggs, very hard sat.

1904

}	D.M.
	C.M.

}	D.M.
	C.M.

1904

March - July; Warley.

1904

}	D.H.M.
	C.M.

¹ Kingfisher² Wrenneck³ Greater-Spotted Woodpecker

Creeper

Stock Dove

Turtle Dove

Blackcap

Garden Warbler

Sedge Warbler

Wild Duck

Red-backed Thrush

Partridge

Jay

Tree Pipit

Redstart

Long-tailed Tit

Great Tit

Marsh Tit

Blue Tit

and others.

- ¹ Kingfisher, 7 eggs, April 17th; hole about 6 in. from surface, about 2½ ft. long, in sandbank by stream n^o Hutton. Only a few fish bones were in the nest, entrance dirty with droppings. Cut out from the top. Eggs fresh.
- ² Wrenneck, 6 eggs, very hard sat, June 22nd, in decayed branch about 20 ft. high, n^o Pilgrim's Hatch.
- ³ Greater-Spotted Woodpecker, 1 egg, May 15th, in a poplar. Turned out by Starlings.

1904

1904 .

Summary.

(Raven)

(Peregrine)

Hid Flycatcher

Kingfisher

Wrenneck

Greater - Spotted Woodpecker

Heron

Tufted Duck

Teal

Wild Duck

Long-eared Owl

Grey Wagtail

Hid Wagtail

Wheatear

Dipper

Coal Tit

Marsh Tit

Great Tit

Blue Tit

Long-tailed Tit

Black-headed Gull

Redshank

Corn Bunting

Stonechat

Little Grebe

Goldfinch

Goldcrest

Red-backed Shrike

Reed Warbler

Garden Warbler

Blackcap

and others.

1905

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Arrival of Summer Migrants.

April 1 st	Wheatear	Warley
"	Chiffchaff	"
9 th	Swallow	"
"	Willow Wren	"
13 th	Whinchat	Harold Wood
14 th	Whitethroat	Billericay
"	Redstart	"
15 th	Tree Pipit	Warley
"	Cuckoo	"
"	Nightingale	"
"	Grasshopper Warbler	Haslemere
22 nd	Sandpiper	Abergwesin, Wales.
23 rd	Martin	Erwood, Wales.
24 th	Pied Flycatcher	Phayader
30 th	Redstart	Klanwrtyd Wells
May 7 th	Wood Wren	Warley
"	Blackcap	"
13 th	Swift	Surbiton
14 th	Turtle Dove	Warley
20 th	Spotted Flycatcher	Clive.



Seaford Head, Sussex.

Site for Peregrine. (Page 38).

1905

April 6th ; Seaford

1 Peregrine

2 Stonechat

1905

{ N. Gibroy
C.M.

1 Nest on Seaford Head, about 10 ft. from point where cliff falls sheer. Rose 3.30 a.m., & took nest at 4.25 a.m., as soon as the light was sufficiently good. N.S. descended first, & took 4 fine eggs, after which I had my first experience of ropes, and went down to examine the ledge. Three fishermen managed the ropes.

2 Nest, 5 eggs, taken by h.g.

April 17th - 18th ; Seaford

Stonechat

Meadow Pipit

{ h.g.
C.M.

Saw a Spoonbill on Cuckmere marshes.

April 15th, 30th, May 6th, 13th ; Haslemere

1 Dartford Warbler

Linnet

{ D.M.M.
C.M.

1 Apr. 15th. Douglas found nest just commencing, & revisited it on 30th, when nest was quite ready, and we suspect that the eggs had been taken. He also located another pair. May 6th. I went down, found nest 4 eggs, greenish type, by flushing the bird. Saw at least 2 other pairs.

May 13th. I went down, saw two pairs, but made no headway. Saw several old nests, all in 'heath' by force.

Saw grasshopper Warblers in Devils Kitchen on Ap 15th.

1905

1905

April 20th - 24th ; Builth Wells, etc.¹ Buzzard² Raven³ Woodlark⁴ Carrion Crow⁵ Goldcrest

Dipper

Plover

Long-tailed-Tit

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

Arrived Builth Wells 5 pm. on 20th; W.S. arrived later. W.S. only came out on 21st & 22nd, after which he was laid up with a bad foot. W.S. left early on 24th; D.H.M. and self left by the night train.

¹ On 20th D.H.M. & self found 2 nests building on the hills about 2 miles west of Builth Wells, one in a large larch facing North, decked with green larch twigs; the other on the side of a small ravine, facing Eastwards. On 21st found another eyrie in valley above Lanfihangel, a hawbridge, 1 egg, sitting; a large nest in the fork of an oak, facing S.E. On 22nd went up Abergwessin Valley from Lanwtyd Wells, branched off up Vefon Valley, where on South Western slope we found Buzzard, 3 eggs, fresh, on a ledge of rock, a flat structure lined with dead grass and a piece of ivy. A Ravens nest hard by had 2 eggs, hard set, and forthwith the Raven attacked the Buzzard in mid-air, making vicious swoops, the Buzzard defending with claws

1905

1905

April 20th - 24th ; Builth Wells, etc. cont.

and beak, & turning upside-down in the air, the better to resist.

On a rock standing at the end of the valley, another nest, lined with dried grass, and facing S.East, had 3 eggs, nearly fresh. Thence we crossed over the moors to the head of the Abergwessin valley, where we flushed another Buzzard off 2 eggs.

On Apr. 23rd Douglas & I went over to Rhayader, passed the Buzzard n^e Llanfihangel, and found another nest, 3 eggs, in an oak, about 1/2 mile west of Rhayader station. ^{facing N.E., lined with grass & wool,} This pair of birds made a great demonstration round the nest, giving a fine display. All the nests were easily accessible.

² Haven — nest, 2 eggs, in the Yrfor Valley, about 2 miles above Abergwessin, on S.W. slope, quite near a Buzzard's eyrie, referred to above; situated on a small low ledge, and quite accessible. On the same slope was another new nest, evidently robbed, inaccessible; also 2 old eyries. On the rocks about 1 mile south of Llangammarch Wells was one very old eyrie. On 24th above the Rhayader waterworks D. & I saw several havers, & some old eyries; nests are reported to be found frequently on the rocks there.