

1906.

May 4th, n^o Warley.

Redshank.

1906.

{ Stuart Jones
C.S.M.

Redshank: Two nests found by D.M.M. on 1st May were revisited without success. Some young, already hatched, were seen in the fields.

May 5th & 6th; Epping Forest.

Hawfinch.

{ W. Southcomb,
C.S.M.

Hawfinch: Seventeen nests were found, but none contained complete clutches. They contained the following; - 3 eggs, sitting; 3 eggs, fresh, which were replaced by robin's eggs, but subsequently disappeared; three nests contained a single egg each, & the others were empty.

Revisited on May 9th; when one of the nests, that had contained one egg, had 3; one nest had deserted with 3 eggs, and two more nests found contained 2 and 1 eggs only.

May 6th. Loch Leven, Kinross.

Pintail,

Shoveller,

Mallard,

Teal,

Tufted Duck

Ringed Plover,

Redshank

Curlew

Oyster catcher,

Black-headed Gull.

{ A. Gibrog
W. Reuaut.
D.M.M.

Leaving Kings Cross at 2.20 on Saturday afternoon, 5th May, we reached Dunfermline, Fifeshire, about midnight, where we stopped at a hotel, and started at 6.45 in the

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May 5th Loch Leven; cont'd

morning, in pouring rain, to cycle to Scotland Well at the eastern extremity of Loch Leven. At 7.30 we arrived for breakfast at the keeper's cottage, Mr. John Rankin, of Loch Leven Cottage, Scotland Well, By Reslie.

The large island that we visited is situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from the eastern shore of the loch, and is bare and flat, covered with short grass and stunted rushes, and is visible from all parts of the loch.

Pintail: Seven pairs of this rare duck were nesting on the island, & in the course of the day we found all the nests, one containing 9 eggs, and the others 8 each. A few clutches were fairly fresh, but most of them very hard sat. The nests were built on the bare grass, in slight depressions, and sheltered by tufts of grass or rushes. The ducks sat very closely, invariably splashing the nest and eggs with excrement upon leaving. When flushed they fluttered along the ground or flew low for a few hundred yards, then settled and watched us, repeatedly dipping their heads. We saw no pintail drakes. Most of the clutches were light greenish-brown to greenish-white ground colour, but one clutch was distinctly blue in colour (H.G.).

Shoveller: abundant on the island. We found two nests, both hard sat; probably the majority had by this time hatched off.

Mallard: abundant; there were still a few nests - we found three - with very hard sat clutches, but most of the eggs would be hatched by this time.

Teal: two nests with incomplete clutches were found, containing 6 and 4 eggs, but laying is not yet general. There are not many pairs of teal on the island.

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May 5th Loch Leven, Island

Tufted Duck. We saw a large number of pairs, swimming about together round the island and the shores of the loch. Lilroy found two nests with 1 and 2 eggs, but generally speaking laying had not commenced. On June 7th and 22nd two clutches of 10 eggs each were taken from the island for me, both were slightly incubated, and the latter was doubtless a second clutch.

Sheldrake: a pair of birds observed flying together towards the shore.

Ringed Plover: common both on the island and around the shores of the loch.

Redshank, abundant, particularly on the island.

Curlew: we found six nests, mostly nearly fresh, and the birds were fairly plentiful, both on the island and round the shores of the lake and the adjacent meadows.

Oyster-catcher: We found one nest, containing 3 eggs, on the shingle of the island close to the water's edge. Several more pairs were observed, frequenting not only the island, but also the shores of the lake.

Black-headed Gull; an immense colony exists on the island, numbering many thousands of pairs. We saw hundreds of nests, but very few handsome clutches of eggs.

Hooded-Crow: a clump of fir trees on the north shore of the loch, on a slight promontory, was pointed out to us by the keeper, as containing a nest of this species, with very hard set eggs. We had not time to visit it.

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May 12th at Warley.

Coal-tit

Magpie

Sparrow Hawk.

Coal tit: nest, 10 eggs, incubated, taken from a nesting-box about 20ft. up an oak tree in Thorndon Park. The bird left as soon as I tapped the tree, and with its mate remained close to, uttering its note of alarm.

Magpie: nest, 5 eggs, sitting, in an oak tree in a wood beyond Herougate.

Sparrow Hawk: nest, 2 eggs, in an oak tree in a wood to S.E. of Herougate, afterwards taken by Gibroy on 25th May with 5 eggs.

May 12th, Epping Forest.

Hawfinch.

Hawfinch: several nests revisited, and others found, but none contained more than 3 eggs, though the birds were sitting in most instances.

May 13th, 14th; Bunting; Brecknock.

Wood-lark,

Meadow Pipit,

Curlew.

Woodlark: several pairs of birds seen on the hillside above Clanelwold Church, and a party of three young birds-of-the-year, but no nest discovered there, though I saw a bird evidently feeding young.

Found a nest, 5 eggs, along the Gault Road (12.4.06), upon which the bird was sitting. She fluttered off along the ground, as if with a broken wing, & joined the cock.

Curlew: nest, 2 eggs, on the hills above Clanelwold.

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D.H.M.

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May 14th; Builth, Cont^d

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D.H.M.

Buzzard: I saw a bird leave her nest, situated in the top of a stunted oak tree, about 15 ft. from the ground, on a well wooded hillside to the north of Moelfre. On approaching closer I became entangled in a wire, which ran a gong about 200 yds. away, down the hillside, and men, who were guarding the nest, — which may perhaps have contained kite's eggs — ran out & pursued me with dogs, so I hurriedly left the vicinity, without further investigation.

May 15th; Llanrhaiadr, Denbigh.

D.H.M.

Peregrine Falcon.

Peregrine Falcon: (c.f. 14.4.06, & 10.3.06.) I revisited the range of rocks above Pistyll Rhaiadr waterfall, & found that the Falcon had laid again, in the same nest as before. With the assistance of D. Davies (Syn-y-fedw, Llanrhaiadr, Oswestry) and his brother, who managed the ropes, I descended to the eyrie, — an old raven's nest — and secured clutch of four remarkably large eggs, & well coloured. The falcon did not leave until I was half-way down, & then flew away without demonstration. I did not see the tiered at all. We had considerable difficulty and a long delay in taking this nest, owing to the rocks being watched by keepers. The eggs were almost fresh.

Raven: The young had flown from this year's nest, and I saw no sign of either the old birds or their brood.

Ring Ouzel. I saw one bird on the rocks, but had not time or opportunity for searching for the nest.

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May 16th to 27th, Clive, Salop.

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D.H.W.

Magpie,
 Bullfinch,
 Goldfinch,
 Skylark,
 Pied Wagtail,
 Tree-pipit,
 Coal-tit,
 Great-tit,
 Chiffchaff,
 Willow Wren,
 Garden Warbler,
 Whinchat,
 Barn-owl
 Kestrel
 Little-grebe.

Magpie, nest, 6 large young, a fortnight old, 25th May.

Goldfinch, very common round Myddle; I found 7 nests, and on 24 May took cl. 6. 5 sitting, and later saw nests with 5 & 3 eggs & several building, chiefly between Middle and Baschurch.

Skylark, cl. 5 eggs, 27 May '06, Middle.

Tree-pipit, nest, 2 eggs, 24 May '06.

Coal-tit, nest, 8 eggs, very hard set, Birchen Coppice, 18 May.

Chiffchaff, nest & young in ferns, Clive Hall, 24 May.

Willow-wren, 5 clutches of 7 taken 24th to 26th May.

Garden Warbler, nest, 4 eggs in the garden 18th May.

Reed Warblers had not commenced to build, 22 May.

Whinchat, cl. 6, & nest 2 eggs, Lilley, 26th May '06.

Barn-owl, nest, one egg, Clive, 21st May '06.

Kestrel, nest 5 eggs deserted, but incubated, 26 May.

Little-grebe, nests at Hawkstone & Battlefield, 19th & 23 May.

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22nd May 1906, Brosemore, Salop.

D.H.U.

Tufted Duck; a pair observed swimming together on the lake, which evidently intended nesting, but they had not yet commenced incubation. (20.5.04.)^{see}

Great Crested Grebe; three pairs observed on the lake, but I failed to find the nests.

19th & 27th May, Dorington, Salop.

D.H.U.

Saudpiper.

Saudpiper; nests with 4 fresh eggs & one egg found first day, & about 5 or 6 pairs of birds located; and cl. 4 fresh, & cl. 4 highly incubated, also nest with 2 eggs, & two nests ready for eggs found on 27th.

2nd June, Warley, Essex.

D.H.U.

Wood-wren,

Great Spotted-woodpecker,

Lesser Spotted-woodpecker,

Kestrel.

Wood-wren; cl. 6 taken for Libby, by Herndon Park, fresh.

Great Spotted Woodpecker; nest in a rotten birch stump, 5 ft. from ground, contained 5 eggs, well incubated.

The bird refused for a long time to leave the hole.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; nest with young in the same tree as last year; both birds flew round, excitedly uttering their note of alarm. (see 24.5.05.)

Kestrel, nest, 5 eggs, incubated near Childerditch, also nest, 4 June, with 5 eggs clipping, beyond Herongate.

3rd June, Epping Forest.

Wood-wren,

(young.)

Tree-pipit

(5 eggs fresh.)

Cliff-chaff,

(cl. 6 hard sat, & 5 incub.)

Garden Warbler.

(cl. 5, sat.)

{ P. Smythe.
D.H.U.

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May 10th ; Drigg and Haverglass.

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Sandwich Tern

Oyster Catcher

Ringed Plover

Redshank

Black-headed Gull

Meadow Pipit

{ R. G.
C. M.

Sandwich Tern - Tyson-Brown, the keeper, of "Wrayhead, Drigg, Cumberland" took us to the three colonies which had commenced laying - in all, there were 160 eggs of this species, though many clutches were incomplete, and many pairs had not commenced to lay. All were on the sand-dunes behind Haverglass, the birds in each colony breeding only about 3 ft. apart - when left alone, the birds very soon settled on their eggs again, the black beak being very conspicuous. The colonies were in the midst of the Black-headed gulls. The nests were made of dried grass, and similar material.

Oyster Catcher - two nests found, cl. 3 fresh, & cl. 3 well incubated - laying not general, but birds numerous.

Black-headed Gull - a terrific colony, thousands of nests on the sand-dunes behind Haverglass, and some very fine specimens of eggs.

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May 11th ; Perth to Kinbrace (by rail) { N. G.
Hooded Crow } C. H.

Oyster Catcher
Common Gull

The above were observed from the train, the nests of the former, especially around Invershin; the latter, sitting, - along the streams.

May 11th ; L. Leamhain { N. G.
Grey Lag Goose } C. H.

Cycled from Kinbrace to the Lock, thence cycled to Altnaharra.

Grey Lag Goose - on the small island in the lock, which lies quite close to the shore, to which we both swam, there were 6 nests, cl. 7, very hard sat; cl. 7, hard sat cl. 5 hard sat; cl. 5, nearly fresh cl. 4, cl. 2; on approaching the lock, four geese were swimming near the island, and not until the water was entered, did the sitting birds rise from their nests - all the geese then rose, and flew trumpeting off, over the flat plain which surrounds it, towards L. an Buathain. The nests were large structures, and contained a fair quantity of "down".

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May 11th - 19th ; Altnaharra, Sutherland.May 11th - 18th ; L. Naver{ N. g.
C. M.Wigeon
Wild Duck
Black Grouse
Red Grouse
CurlewSnipe
Common Gull
Sparrow Hawk

Wigeon; birds fairly plentiful, but sitting apparently not general; 2 nests found by C. M., viz. cl. 9, nearly fresh, in heather on the top of a sharp slope, some 20 ft. high, rising from L. Naver, on south shore, near the old fort; the bird sat closely; found May 14th; and cl. 8, incub., in heather on the edge of the loch, only a few feet above the water on a bank, on north shore some 2 miles from Altnaharra bridge; found on 18th, the bird sitting closely. Both nests contained a fair quantity of "down".

The principle feeding ground was near the bridge at Altnaharra.

Wild Duck; two nests, 11 and 10 eggs respectively, in the long heather around the boathouse, Altnaharra, both very hard sat, found on 16th and 13th respectively.

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May 11th - 18th ; L. Haver, cont^d.

Black Grouse ; abundant, round about 40 birds, chiefly cocks, feeding below the hotel every evening ; birds plentiful in the birch woods bordering L. Haver, especially on the south side.

2 nests found, both in heather on south side, viz. 1 egg on 14th, found by h. g., which had 3 eggs when revisited on 18th ; and 1 egg found on 18th by C. H. Laying had scarcely become general.

Red Grouse ; 3 nests found by C. H., containing 10, 10, and 4 eggs respectively.

Curlew ; abundant ; nest, 4 eggs, very hard sat, found by C. H. on 13th near Altnaharra boathouse, of a very green type, with poor markings ; and nest, 1 egg, by h. g., on 14th, on moors south of L. Haver.

Snipe ; nest, 4 eggs, fresh, in short heather n^e Altnaharra boathouse, of a green type, found by C. H.

Common Gull ; a small colony on two islands at extreme East end of L. Haver ; on 11th there was only one complete clutch ; during next few days, incessant rains raised the water in L. Haver about 3 ft., and practically swamped the islands ; on 18th one nest, nearly submerged, contained 3 eggs.

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May 11th - 18th ; L. Haver, cont[?].

Sparrow Hawk ; nest^s, 2 eggs, in birch wood on south side of L. Haver.

Black Throated Diver ; a pair were resident on L. Haver at the extreme East end ; the floods probably washed away their eggs, which were not found.

Red Throated Diver ; pair seen feeding in the Lock n^o Altnaharra.

Ring Ouzel ; N.G. found 2 nests, containing 5 eggs and 4 eggs respectively, in gullies about 1 mile south of L. Haver, and some 2 or 3 miles from Altnaharra, at the base of Ben Cleith Bric.

Woodcock ; several birds seen in birch woods on south side of L. Haver, a typical place for them. Well fledged young and an old bird flushed on 18th, about half way along south side of Lock.

In a small wood above L. Coire, (lying about 3 miles south of East end of L. Haver) I flushed a pair of birds ; and on 14th found an empty nest under a fallen birch, which was still empty on 18th.

Greenshank ; on 11th a bird rose from extreme East end of L. Haver, and pitched near the road beyond end of the Lock, but no nest was found.

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May 11th - 18th ; L. Haver cont^d.

Redshank; abundant and breeding
by the boathouse, Altnaharra.

Whinchat; not uncommon, along S. of L. Haver

Coal Tit; do. do.

Cuckoo; heard daily.

Golden Eagle; on May 19th, driving
to Lairg, a fine specimen flew
over at close quarters, thence
glided up the side of Ben
Cleith Bric, where it settled.

Goosander; there seem to be good
grounds for believing that the
goosander nests in the crevices
of the large rocks, which rise
from L. Haver about the middle
of the Loch, both on the north
and south sides.



The Vagastie Burn, Altnaharra.

Site for Goosander & Ring Ouzel.

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May 13th ; Loch na Meadla.

C.A.H.

Long-eared Owl

Woodcock.

The Loch contains 7 islands, some wooded, with various types of undergrowth, e.g. heather, bracken, & reed tufts; and stony shores, unsuitable for the Divers; beyond the furthest island, near the narrow neck of the Loch, there is however a very small grassy island, only a yard or two across, which might some year be tenanted by a Diver.

Long-eared Owl; nest, 1 young and 3 eggs, in long heather on the largest of the islands.

Woodcock; on the largest of the islands, nest with one addled egg, found on the top of a bracken covered tummock; one old bird, and a well fledged young one, just capable of flying, seen on same island; also another empty nest, apparently new, on same island.

Greenshank; Macombe Chance showed me a nest containing 3 eggs, - and it never laid any more - built on a small tussock of grass and heather, covered partly on one side, surrounded by somewhat damp ground, containing some stones - about 600 yds south of the road, opposite the end of L. Meadla.

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May 13th ; Loch na Meadle , cont^d.

Greenshank , cont^d; After working the islands on the Loch, I spent about 1½ hrs. on the moors round L. a Bhuic, where a pair of Greenshanks were feeding, the ground round about being splendid - evidently the pair which Chance had been seeking for much nearer L. Meadle - N.G. and Chance revisited the beat on 18th, and found the nest, 4 eggs.

Golden Plover ; birds seen on moors towards L. a Bhuic; several nests found between L. Meadle and Altnaharra by N.G. and Chance.

Osprey ; very ancient nest seen on one of the islands - one of St. John's nests.

Wigeon ; birds seen, and generally nests are found on some of the islands, but none on this occasion.

Black-Throated Diver ; a pair inhabit the Loch, but nest not found.



Loch na Meadle (Meadie), Altnaharra.

1906.

May 12th - 16th; Syre District.

Black Throated Diver

Red Throated Diver

Common Gull

Curlew

Golden Plover

Wild Duck

Red Grouse

1906.

{N. G.
{C. M.

Black Throated Diver; nest, 2 eggs, quite fresh on a low grassy platform on the smallest of the four islands on L. Eileanach, to which we both swam out. N. J. took the eggs ^{on 12th}. The nest was a large and well built structure, with a fairly deep hollow. Both the birds were swimming together, lying low in the water, and watching operations intently.

Red Throated Diver; birds seen on several tarns near L. Bad na Gallraig, and from this vicinity, cl. 2, slightly incubated, was forwarded to me, found July 11th, by "Gabriel Mackay, of Inch Kin Loch, Lairg", being evidently a second nest. For this transaction, thanks are due to Percy Smythe.

Common Gull; small colony on L. Bad na Gallraig of about 12 pairs; 2 nests on islands on L. Eileanach; about 8 pairs on L. Buidhe (about 2 miles from Altnaharra n^e Torque road.) Laying was general on 15th, not so on 12th.