

1906

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May 26th - 28th; Holm of E-day, cont.

Gulls; the Lesser Black-backed gull is the bird of the island, an enormous colony - decreasing I am told - extending over the best part of the Holm, but avoiding the close vicinity of the cliffs; taking all nests found, quite a small proportion contained 3 eggs, partly due perhaps to collection for eating purposes. The nests were comparatively small, much the same as those of the Herring gull.

The Greater Black Backed gull was by no means numerous, some 30 pairs breeding on the highest ground in the centre of the island, surrounded by Lesser Black-backed gulls. The nests were large structures, three times as large as the Lesser Black-backed, and in nearly every case having some quill feathers around the outside of the nest.

The Herring gull confined itself chiefly to the slopes down the sea cliffs, or on, or at the edge of the cliffs, 2 and 3 eggs being commonest.

Kittiwakes, all inaccessible, were abundant on the ledges of the cliffs.

1906

1906

May 26th - 28th ; Holm of E-day, cont.

Cormorant ; nests plentiful, but not abundant, chiefly on the northern cliffs, and mostly inaccessible without ropes. None seen on the south and East sides. The Cormorants and Shags apparently try to keep separate colonies for nesting. The majority of nests, into which I could see, contained 4 eggs.

Shag ; very common, and much more numerous than the former species ; the majority of the nests were inaccessible, though some 30 nests on ledges near the top, or under stones on the slopes above the sheer cliffs were within easy reach. Their abodes are dire, and smell terribly. The birds are most tenacious sitters, opening their bills wide and prunting in queer strains before being driven off. The clapping of hands, and hurling stones at them seems to seldom perturb them. Only 5 nests, out of nearly 100, had 4 eggs ; all the rest 3 or under.

Oyster Catcher ; 3 nests found, containing 2, 2, and 1 eggs respectively.

1906

1906

May 26th - 28th; Holm of Eday, cont.

Snipe; nest, 1 egg.

Guillemot; numerous on the ledges of the cliffs, though laying not general - 2 eggs taken with a fishing rod.

Razorbill; numerous; inaccessible.

Puffin; do. do.

Black Guillemot; not uncommon on East side of the island; one bird put out from a crevice in a cave, but the entrance was too narrow and crevice too dark to ascertain the contents.

Rock Pipit; several pairs seen on the South shore, facing Eday.

Hooded Crow; several seen.

Terns in abundance were seen from the boat on the small islands in Wide Firth, to the north of Kirkwall Bay.

Fulmar; bird seen flying under Dunnet Head on June 4th; a small colony, suspiciously like Fulmars, on a small grassy slope half way down the cliff near Dunnet Head lighthouse.

1906

June 6th - 8th ; Clive

1906

C.H.M.

Goldfinch
 Spotted Flycatcher
 Reed Warbler
 Hedge Sparrow
 Magpie
 Kestrel
 Sparrow Hawk

Goldfinch ; nest, 5 eggs, Myddle.Reed Warbler ; laying just commenced at
CrosemereHedge Sparrow ; clutch 6, Clive.Magpie ; young, Hodnet.Kestrel ; 3 eggs, incubated, Tilley; and
deserted nest, eggs broken, Hodnet.Sparrow Hawk ; nest, 5 eggs, deserted, Hodnet.July 1st and 7th ; Brighton

Corn Bunting

Stonechat

Linnnet

{ P. Amythe
 D.H.M.
 C.H.M.

Corn Bunting ; nest 4 eggs, incubated;
and nest 3 eggs, on 1st ;nest 4 eggs, highly incubated; nest
with young; nest 3 eggs, on 7th.Stonechat ; nest 5 eggs, highly incub., on 1st.Quail ; 3 different birds calling loudly
on 1st in a rough grass field
below a big gorse beyond the
reformatory - on 7th nothing was
heard of them.

1906

1906

Summary.

Grey Wagtail	Ringed Plover
Rock Pipit	Golden Plover
Hawfinch	Oyster Catcher
Goldfinch	Woodcock
Twite	Snipe
Woodlark	Dunlin
Greater Spotted Wker	Sandpiper
Lesser Spotted Wker	Redshank
Barn Owl	Greenshank
Long-eared Owl	Curlew
Short-eared Owl	Sandwich Tern
Tawny Owl	Black-headed gull
Buzzard	Common gull
Parrow Hawk	Herring gull
Peregrine	Gt. Black-backed gull
Merlin	Lesser Black-backed gull
Kestrel	Guillemot
Cormorant	Black Guillemot
Shag	Black Throated Diver
Heron	Gt. Crested Grebe
Grey Lag Goose	Little Grebe
Sheldrake	
Mallard	<u>Notes on :-</u>
Shoveler	Raven
Pintail	Hooded Crow
Teal	Hen Harrier
Wigeon	Goosander
Tufted Duck	Widgeon
Eider Duck	Quail
Rock Dove	Red Throated Diver
Black Pouter	Fulmar
Red Pouter	

1907.

1907.

March 8th to 10th Llanrhaidr Mochnant, Deesbigh.

Rareus.

D.H.M.

On Thursday night, 7th, I left Ewston at 10.15 pm., and arrived at Oswestry 3.30 a.m., and at once proceeded to cycle to Llanarmon D.C., where I arrived about 7.30; & visited the rocks at the source of the Ceiriog where Rareus had young in May 1905. They were not there this year, but, as I approached a fine pair of Buzzards left the rock & wheeled around while I remained in the vicinity. After breakfast at M^r Jones's, Haul Inn, Llanarmon I cycled to Pistyll Rhaiadr to M^r Humphrey Evans' house, where I stayed for two days. In the afternoon I found the site of the Rareus' nest, on a steep face of rock just west of the burn that divides the range of rocks in the water fall valley, situated about 70 ft. from the top and about 40 ft. from the foot of the precipice. The cock bird first left the vicinity as I approached cautiously along the foot of the rock, and after twice clapping my hands the hen left the nest. On Saturday 9th I went down at daybreak; the bird left when the guide rope was thrown over, and they both flew off without demonstration. The nest was firmly wedged into a triangular crevice in the rocks, and contained 6 pale blue eggs, lightly streaked with light brown, and incubated about five days. On the same rocks, close to last year's eyrie, Peregrine Falcons were wheeling about in a rather excited fashion, and once or twice visited their old nesting site. The same afternoon when I again visited the rocks, the Rareus had disappeared, and the falcons were taking possession of the robbed nest with evident satisfaction. I saw no rareus in the direction of Cader Berwyn.

1907.

1907.

March 10th (Cont.^d). Llanrhaiadr & Llangynog.

On Saturday afternoon I passed a fine rock about 3 miles from Llanrhaiadr waterfall, and a mile S.E. of Llangynog where I heard Ravens calling in the mist. Later I put the birds off a certain part of the rock twice in the course of an hour & felt certain that I had located another nest, though I could not see it. In the light of more recent events (see 31 Mar. '07.) it is evident that the birds I saw were the pair I had robbed the previous day, selecting a place for their second nest in their alternate site.

Much snow still remains on the hills, and the weather was windy, boisterous & cold, with snow, rain and mist.

On Sunday 10th my men would not bring out the ropes, so I was forced to leave the last place in a state of uncertainty.

I cycled back to Oswestry, 19 miles, on Sunday evening, & caught the 9-40 train to Crewe.

March 19th Wanstead Park, Essex.

Heron.

Jack Smith
D.H.U.

About 8.30 pm. we visited the herony, wading across the intervening water, & climbed six trees, finding several clutches of eggs, and taking a 5 and a 4. Two nests from which we flushed the birds were empty, but most birds were undoubtedly incubating. The eggs we took were incubated about 10 days. Weather was mild & very windy, with just enough moon to see.

1907.

24th March, Epping Forest.Tawny Owl.

1907.

P. Smythe
D.M.

We thoroughly searched the forest all day but only found one nest, in a large hole beyond the wake arena, about 8ft. from the ground. The bird refused to leave, and was sitting on two eggs. She did not lay any more, and Boorman took them on 29th March. I cut out another likely hole with a brace and bit, but, though the owl flew out, there were no eggs.

N.B. This week-end Gibby took a Tawny Owl with four & a clutch of Woodcock near Birmingham, & Jack Smith & Renant found two strees of Long-eared Owl, sitting, in our Falmer locality.

29th March to 1st April. Easter holidays.

March 29th Billite Wells.

W. Renant.

Woodlark.

D.M.

We reached our destination at 7-15 a.m. on Good-Friday, and after breakfast went out towards Cilmerly & found a woodlark with 3 eggs, which laid a fourth on 30th, in the same field as the eggs of May 13th '06 were found. Located two more pairs on Clauelwood Hill, but we do not think they have laid yet.
Wheatear and Willow-wren had arrived.

March 30th Cynghordy.

Woodlark. We located two more pairs of birds, but found no nest, on the hills to the S.W. of

1907.

1907.

March 30th Cant. Cynghorby.

the railway station, and one to two miles distant. Saw two pairs of Buzzards, and noted the arrival of Seewhartin & Ring ouzel. Apparently this date is too early for the majority of Woodlarks in this district, and April 10th would be better.

March 31st and April 1st Llanrhaiadr Mochant and Llangynog, Denbigh & Montgomery.

Raven

W. Remant.

Rook.

D.S.M.

We left Builth at 6.40 and reached Bewsey at 9.40 pm. on 30th, stopping the night at the Rail 7. Hotel, Bewsey. Cycled to Llangynog early on Sunday morning, and at once went to the rocks where I kept the ravens on 10th March.

Raven.

Found the nest at once, about 6ft. from the top of a steep precipice, & flushed the bird. Remant made a bold and clever descent without ropes & found 6 eggs, identical with those taken at Pistyll Rhaiadr on 9th March. They were ~~quite fresh~~ ^{incubated about 5 days.} & the birds were very demonstrative.

We noted the arrival of Cliffchaffs in the valley, and Wheatears & Ring ouzel were abundant.

Rook. We climbed two scotch firs near Llangynog and found several fairs & fives but no sixes. They had commenced to incubate; we also saw several Grey Wagtails & a pair of Cirl Buntings.

On Monday, April 1st, we visited a small waterfall and a fine piece of rock at the head of the stream that rises on Stryva Road, and soon became aware of the presence of a pair of Ravens, which were flying overhead in great excitement uttering a variety of angry call notes, but

1907.

1907.

April 1st, Langyuoq, ~~Denbigh~~ Montgomery.
Plover. (Pant^o.)

principally their well-known alarm croc-croc-croc-croc. As we mounted up from the valley & approached the top of the rock the birds became more and more excited & we soon found the nest on a ledge of rock facing N.W., about 20 ft. from the bottom of the small but quite inaccessible rock upon which it was placed and 10 ft. or so from the sloping ground above. From an abutting pinnacle we could see the well-feathered young, apparently about a fortnight old, squatting motionless in the nest, which was very large and well bleached & doubtless the accumulation of years. This bird must evidently have had eggs in February.

Peregrine Falcon. We saw a pair wheeling about high over the valley, but they did not call, nor did they approach the rocks whilst we watched them, tho' it is likely that they have a nesting ledge somewhere in the immediate vicinity.

Ring Ouzel is common in the district

April 6th; Warley.

Tawny Owl
 Hoot.

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

Tawny Owl; nest, 2 eggs, sitting in an oak in the woods near the Barracks, in the same hole from which the cl. 3 was taken on April 1st. 1905

Hoots; no fine clutches; some of the nests contained young.

1907

1907

April 13th ; Harold Wood. C.H.M.

Carriion Crow.

5 nests found, containing 5, 5, 4, 4 & one unclimeable, all sitting.

One of the 5s was exceptionally well coloured, and very large eggs - the same bird was taken Ap. 20th 1906

April 13th ; Hendon. { J. B. Smith

Carriion Crow. { D.H.M.

10 nests climbed to, only two however containing cl 5 - in seven nests the clutches were incomplete.

April 14th ; Billericay. { D.H.M.

Carriion Crow { C.H.M.

A fine cl. 6 taken from a small wood near Billericay, well marked, and large. Around Warley, only one nest cl. 4 was found.

April 19th ; Hendon. D.H.M.

Carriion Crow

Revisited; two nests, cl. 5, were taken.

April 21st ; Ingatestone. D.H.M.

Kingfisher

Cl. 7, fresh, taken from a hole on the bank of a stream n^r the bridge below Buttsbury Church, about 2 ft. tunnel.

1907

1907

April 20th - 21st; Norfolk Broads.

Water Rail C.H.M.

Bearded Tit

Wild Duck

Moorhen

Water Rail; on the afternoon of 20th spent most of the time with "R. Vincent, keeper, Hickling, Norfolk" ^(note: - he refuses to nest on Sunday) on the marshes N.E. of Heigham Sound, and after diligent search amid very wet and marshy stretches of rushes found a nest containing 9 eggs, nearly fresh. The nest was in a very thick clump, well concealed, the birds uttering notes of alarm whilst examining the eggs.

On 21st spent three hours with "C. Bensley, keeper, Potter Heigham, Norfolk" in search of rail, finally finding cl. 7, nearly fresh, in very wet marshy ground. The nest, not so well concealed as the former, was among tallish rushes, of considerable extent - situated however only some 5 yds. from a small pool among the rushes on the

1907

1907

April 20th-21st; Norfolk Broads, con⁵
Water Rail, cont²

one side, and only about 10 yds. from a clearing of one year's growth only on the other side. In this case also the birds made some demonstration whilst at the nest.

The "runs" made by the birds among the rushes indicate their presence to some extent, and they apparently prefer the near proximity to some suitably cleared feeding ground.

Bearded Tit; birds fairly plentiful on Heigham Sound, but only one empty nest, unlined, found there. To the N.E. on Vincent's ground saw one nest from which the young had flown. On Bensley's ground found nest with 3 young, about a week old.

Wild Duck; nest, 11 eggs, nearly hatching, under brambles on a dyke on N.E. of Heigham Sound.

Moorhen; cl. 8, well incubated.
Shoveler; fairly plentiful on the marshes N. of Heigham Sound; mostly drakes^{seen}; no nest found.

1907

April 28th ; Warley district.

Carriion Crow

Redshank

Lapwing

Pheasant

1907

{ D.H.M.

{ C.H.M.

Carriion Crow ; second nest of the Harold Wood bird (see Ap. 13th)

Taken with 5 fine large eggs ; a new nest had been built one field away from site of first nest.

Second nest of Harold Wood birds taken, containing 5 eggs, from the same nest (see Ap. 13th) in a tree close to the railway.Second nest of the pair in a spinney n^r Billericay (see Ap. 14th) taken, containing 6 eggs - a new nest had been constructed, and the 6 eggs laid in 14 days.Redshank ; five nests found in a swampy field n^r East Hordon (see May 1st & 4th, 1906), containing 4, 4, 4, 4, 2 respectively, incubation just commenced.Kestrels ; laying had not commenced in the 5 sites visited (compare 1906)April 27th & 29th ; Epping Forrest.

Starling

{ D.H.M.

{ C.H.M.

Hawfinch ; no eggs found as yet, despite a thorough search ; birds plentiful.

1907

1907

Notes.

April 15th, Builth - Rennant took
2nd nest, 4 eggs, of Woodlark, in
same situation as Mar. 29th.

April 20th; Settle - Rennant took
cl. 3 Peregrine, five eggs, from
"Pennyghent, Horton-in-Ribblesdale,
Settle, Yorkshire"; the nest
was on a rock, some 30 ft.
down, on the side of the
mountain remote from the
railway - obtained through
Mr Foster, of Horton, whose
keeper's name is Wildman.

April 19th; Pistyll Rhaiadr - Boorman,
aided by Rennant, took
clutch 4 Peregrine, 1st nest.

May 5th; Epping Forrest. C.M.

Coal Tit

Coal Tit; cut out from the base
of a large beech on 7th,
aided by Percy Smythe;
8 eggs, nearly hatching.

Hawfinch; apparently not laying
to date.

1907

May 8th ; Tollesbury

Pochard

Shoveler

Redshank

1907

C.H.M.

Arrived Tollesbury 8.20 p.m., and went straight out to the marshes opposite W. Mersea with "Fred. Clarke, of Wick Marshes, Tollesbury", with whom I stayed the night. The keeper met us, as arranged by Clarke, ~~at~~ ~~us~~, and took us to the nests in the dark, the tide being wrong for going by boat in the early morning.

Pochard; a well built nest of dead grass, in a similar position to that of a Coot, about 4 ft. from the shore, in one of the larger channels of the marsh - the bird left the nest with a harsh cry - 11 eggs, a few days incubated.

Shoveler; nest in a patch of fresh green grass, sunk in the middle of a tuft, and completely covered by a dome of green grass - a small hole at the side marked the Shoveler's entrance; 10 eggs, fresh.

Redshank; 4 eggs.

Wild Duck; young abundant.