

A Revised List of the Birds of Somerset.

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WHEN Mr. Cecil Smith published his *Birds of Somerset*, in 1869, he was able to record but 217 species, to which he subsequently added ten others in a list contributed by him to Vol. xvi of the Transactions of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society (for 1870), thus bringing the total number of birds for Somerset to 227. But even this number appears inadequate to represent the Ornis of so large a county as Somerset, when it is compared with the lists which have been made out for the adjoining counties. Thus for Wiltshire, a county which comes far behind Somerset in geographical importance, as it possesses no coast line, the Rev. A. C. Smith was able to enumerate 235 species ; in Dorsetshire, Col. Mansel-Pleydell, as was to be expected, had a fuller list, numbering 254 species, to which we are able to add three others, thus bringing the Dorsetshire county birds to a total of 257 ; while for Devonshire, which has a sea frontage both on the north and south, as many as 300 species can be claimed. With the wild tract of Exmoor Forest and its beautiful fringe of woods ; with the Quantocks, the Blagdon Hills, the Mendip and other hills ; with the curious peat-moor district, occupying the centre of

the county ; with its extensive fens and level pastures ; and with an indented coast-line towards the Bristol Channel of some seventy miles, Somerset is so diversified in its features that it might well be expected to be rich in a corresponding variety of birds. It is true that the county is without any important river affording a flight-line to migrating species ; yet its sluggish streams, with their banks of ooze, prove very attractive to the large and important family of waders, and numerous rare birds belonging to this class have been detected both on the Bridgwater river as well as in the neighbourhood of the Axe. The muddy shores of Steart Island, off Burnham, the deep ooze of the bay at Weston-super-Mare, and the sands between Minehead and Watchet, are often visited by flocks of shore-birds. Although the opaque waters of the Bristol Channel, to the east of Minehead, afford no fishing to terns and divers, yet the warm shallows bordering the coast attract numerous diving ducks in the winter, and a great quantity of gulls, that come in pursuit of the schools of sprats, and rare *laridæ* are occasionally obtained. A noteworthy feature in the county list of birds is the number of species of which only a single occurrence is known, serving to prove that all these instances must be regarded as purely accidental, the reason being that many migratory birds, on their journey up and down the Bristol Channel, do not stop either in Somerset or in the opposite counties of South Wales.

There are some collections of stuffed birds in the county (we will not enumerate them), that are very tantalizing to the compiler of a county list. They contain some rarities that are not yet included in it, such as *Purple Heron*, *Avocet*, etc., which may possibly have been obtained within its limits ; but we dare not add them, as there is no evidence that they were, nor can we obtain any information respecting them. An unlabelled collection is utterly valueless for scientific purposes. It is easy enough, when a bird is acquired, to paste a small

label on its case or stand giving the all-important particulars as to locality and date of occurrence; and it is especially desirable that this should be done on all *foreign specimens* of rare English birds, by way of safe-guard; as, when collections are dispersed, such specimens might come into the hands of people who might rashly assume that they had been secured within the county, and chronicling them as such might be the means of propagating serious error.

Some few of our Somerset birds are classical. Such is the *Egyptian Vulture*, one of two seen at Kilve in October, 1825, being the first recorded example obtained in the British Isles. Such also is the young *Black Stork*, wounded on West Sedgemoor on May 14, 1814, and sent alive to Col. Montagu, at Kingsbridge, by his friend Mr. Anstice, of Bridgwater: this was also the first reported instance of the occurrence of the bird within the kingdom. The Colonel kept it alive for nearly a year, and carefully described its moults, habits, etc., in some interesting letters to Mr. Anstice, which were subsequently contributed by Mr. Baker, of Bridgwater, the first secretary of our Society, to the *Zoologist*. This specimen may be still seen in the collection of British birds in the South Kensington Natural History Museum.

Our chief object in drawing up a Revised List of the Birds of the County is not so much to bring the information up to date as to show how much more is wanted to be done, and this it may be competent to a younger race of naturalists to accomplish. Observation might readily add several more species to the County Ornis. It was a great loss to Mr. Cecil Smith that he was without correspondents in the most interesting districts of his county who could have informed him what birds frequented them. We can still only sigh for knowledge respecting the birds of the peat-moor country, for almost absolutely nothing is known about its summer visitors; and the ornithologist can but picture to himself the rare aquatic warblers, the small rails, etc., which may visit it all undetected.

Here is one important field to be investigated. Much remains to be done upon the coast. We do not know what *Gulls* may yet nest upon the Steep Holm, or upon the cliffs to the west of Porlock. We do not know whether the *Chough*, or the *Common Guillemot*, nest within the bounds of the county. Mr. Cecil Smith knew of no recent examples of such a common bird as the *Cormorant*, and of no Somerset *Shag*. We have seen the latter bird often enough off Ilfracombe flying up channel, and consider that it must occasionally occur at least as high up as Minehead, where the water would be clear enough for it to fish. Then the birds of Exmoor Forest, at the present date, are but imperfectly known. Is the *Pied Flycatcher* a regular summer visitor there? Does the *Merlin* nest there annually? What *Harriers* are still left there after the long persecution of the shepherds, who stamp upon every nest they may discover? Does the *Dunlin* nest there? We have written enough to show that Somerset ornithologists have plenty before them, and only submit the present still incomplete list as a framework for others to build on.

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF SOMERSET.

Those with an **ASTERISK** are not mentioned by Mr. Cecil Smith in his "Birds of Somerset."

Those with **B** have bred within the county.

Those enclosed between **BRACKETS** are of doubtful authority for their occurrence.

Mistle Thrush, *Turdus viscivorus*. B.

Common resident.

Song Thrush, *Turdus musicus*. B.

Common resident, receiving accessions to its numbers from migrating birds in the autumn.

Redwing, *Turdus iliacus*.

Usually an abundant winter visitor, but none were seen in our district of East Somerset in the autumn and winter of

1892. Has been reported by Mr. Jesse to have nested in the county: probably a mistake.

Fieldfare, *Turdus pilaris*.

A winter visitor, rare in some seasons.

We have seen the Fieldfare in East Somerset as early as 5th September (1891).

*White's Ground Thrush, *Turdus varius*.

Two examples of this rare Asian Ground Thrush have been secured in the county; one at Hestercombe, near Taunton, at the beginning of January, 1870: the other, also in the month of January, in 1871, at Langford, on the northern slope of the Mendip.

Blackbird, *Turdus merula*. B.

Since the almost complete extermination of its enemy, the Sparrow-Hawk, the Blackbird has so greatly increased in numbers as to be quite a pest in gardens throughout the fruit season.

Ring Ouzel, *Turdus torquatus*. B (on Exmoor).

Seen in various parts of the county at the time of migration, and to be found in small numbers on Exmoor throughout the summer.

Wheatear, *Saxicola ænanthe*. B.

A common summer visitor to all districts suited to its habits.

Whinchat, *Pratincola rubetra*. B.

A summer visitor, but local and in very limited numbers.

Stonechat, *Pratincola rubicola*. B.

Resident, but very local; there are districts where we have never seen it; most frequently found in the west of the county.

Redstart, *Ruticilla phænicurus*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Black Redstart, *Ruticilla titys*. B?

An irregular winter visitor.

Some years ago we were informed that a nest and eggs of this species, in general only a rare winter visitor to

this country, had been found on Worle Hill, Weston-super-Mare.

We saw a fine male on the 5th April, 1892, close to Claverton, when driving to Bath.

[Redspotted Bluethroat, *Cyanecula suecica*.

A specimen in the Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter is stated to have been obtained in Somerset, in 1856.]

Redbreast, *Erithacus rubecula*. B.

Common resident.

Nightingale, *Daulias luscinia*. B.

A rather local summer visitor ; numerous in some favourite places.

Whitethroat, *Sylvia cinerea*. B.

An abundant summer visitor.

Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curruca*. B.

A summer visitor ; scarce.

In the east of the county ; rarely seen in the west.

Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*. B.

A summer visitor, generally abundant.

Garden Warbler, *Sylvia hortensis*. B.

A summer visitor. Rare and local in Somerset.

Goldcrest, *Regulus cristatus*. B.

A common resident ; also a winter migrant in considerable numbers.

Chiff-chaff, *Phylloscopus rufus*. B.

A summer visitor ; perhaps the most numerous of all the small migrants.

Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*. B.

A summer visitor, common, but rather local ; avoids high ground.

Wood Warbler, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. B.

A summer visitor ; very local, almost confined to the larger woods.

Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus streperus*. B.

A summer visitor, scarce, and very local.

This species is more numerous in the county than Mr. C. Smith supposed it to be. When we were on the watch for the Marsh Warbler we detected nests of the Reed Warbler to be not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Taunton. It has also been noticed at Brislington, and at Shepton Mallet.

*Marsh Warbler, *Acrocephalus palustris*. B.

A summer visitor.

At least a dozen nests of this Warbler have been found in various years around Taunton, and a nest has also been taken near Bath. It is probably a regular summer visitor to the county.

Sedge Warbler, *Acrocephalus phragmitis*. B.

A summer visitor, abundant.

Grasshopper Warbler, *Locustella naevia*. B.

A summer visitor.

Very local ; we have never met with it ourselves.

Hedge-sparrow, *Accentor modularis*. B.

Common resident.

Alpine Accentor, *Accentor collaris*.

Accidental. Only one example many years ago at Wells.

Dipper, *Cinclus aquaticus*. B.

Resident, but local.

This species extends throughout the county, and nests annually in the neighbourhood of Frome.

*Bearded Tit, *Panurus biarmicus*.

Accidental. Stated, in Mr. Baker's notes, to have occurred near Bridgwater.

Long-tailed Tit, *Acredula rosea*. B.

Common resident.

The white-headed continental form has occurred near Bridgwater.

Great Tit, *Parus major*. B.

Common resident.

Coal Tit, *Parus britannicus*. B.

Common resident.

Marsh Tit, *Parus palustris*. B.

Common resident, local.

Blue Tit, *Parus cæruleus*. B.

Common resident.

Nuthatch, *Sitta cæsia*. B.

Common resident.

Wren, *Troglodytes parvulus*. B.

Common resident.

*White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*. B.

A summer visitor.

The Rev. M. S. C. Rickards has seen the White Wagtail, apparently nesting, in Leigh Woods, near Bristol. There can be little doubt that this species is far from uncommon, and nests regularly along the coast.

Pied Wagtail, *Motacilla lugubris*. B.

Common resident.

Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla melanope*. B.

Common resident.

Occurs throughout the county as a nesting species, breeding commonly around Frome : numbers arrive from the north in the autumn.

Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla flava*. B?

An occasional summer visitor.

Mr. Cecil Smith had reason to believe that this Wagtail had nested near Wiveliscombe.

Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla raii*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Meadow Pipit, *Anthus pratensis*. B.

Common resident.

Tree Pipit, *Anthus trivialis*. B.

A common summer visitor.

*[Richards' Pipit, *Anthus Richardi*.

A rare accidental visitor ; usually in winter.

Mr. Howard Saunders has informed us that he saw "a family party" of this species by the side of the road between Porlock and Lynton, in the early autumn.

The Rev. M. S. C. Rickards, vicar of Twigworth, Gloucester, recorded in the *Zoologist* for 1893 that on 30th May that year he saw a pair of Richards' Pipits near Lady's Bay, Clevedon. "They were in a large field, interspersed with patches of fern, which slopes down to the Bristol Channel, and first attracted my attention from the strut and high carriage of the head, which is characteristic of the male. They allowed of a near approach and close observation. It struck me as probable they might have a nest near, but I failed to find one; nor, though I returned to the spot soon afterwards, and for several subsequent days in succession, did I see anything more of them."

Richards' Pipit, an Asiatic species, has been noted as an occasional *winter* visitor to England, and has frequently occurred in Devonshire.

As no example of Richards' Pipit appears to have been actually secured in Somerset, we are compelled to include it within brackets.]

Rock Pipit, *Anthus obscurus*. B.

Common resident, on the coast only.

Golden Oriole, *Oriolus galbula*.

A rare occasional summer visitor.

The Golden Oriole has been seen in Orchardleigh park, near Frome.

Great Grey Shrike, *Lanius excubitor*.

A rare winter visitor.

An additional example of this Shrike has occurred at Abbot's Leigh, near Bristol.

Red-backed Shrike, *Lanius collurio*. B.

A common summer visitor.

*Woodchat, *Lanius pomeranus*.

An accidental summer visitor.

The Rev. A. C. Smith possesses an example of this Shrike, that was killed in the county of Somerset, "within a short distance of Bristol." (*Birds of Wilts*, p. 123).

In the *Zoologist* for 1852, Mr. C. Prideaux, of Kingsbridge, states that he possessed an adult Woodchat Shrike "from Somersetshire."

Waxwing, *Ampelis garrulus*.

A rare occasional winter visitor.

Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa grisola*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Pied Flycatcher, *Muscicapa atricapilla*. B?

A rare summer visitor.

Is stated to have nested at Glastonbury, an unlikely place for it; and we suspect a *Wheatear* may have done duty for it. However, it probably nests on Exmoor, where we have encountered it in the summer time when fishing.

Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*. B.

A summer visitor; abundant.

Martin, *Chelidon urbica*. B.

A summer visitor; abundant.

Sand Martin, *Cotile riparia*. B.

A summer visitor; abundant, but local.

Tree Creeper, *Certhia familiaris*. B.

Common resident.

Goldfinch, *Carduelis elegans*. B.

Common resident.

Siskin, *Chrysomitris spinus*.

A winter visitor: local, rarely seen in some districts.

Serin, *Serinus hortulanus*.

Accidental visitor.

Only one example of the Serin has occurred, and this in Taunton, in January or February, 1866.

Greenfinch, *Ligurinus chloris*. B.

Common resident.

Hawfinch, *Coccothraustes vulgaris*. B.

Resident ; also an occasional winter visitor to some districts.

The Hawfinch appears to be increasing as a resident in the county. In the summer of 1892 we knew of five nests in the close neighbourhood of Bath, and of others near Frome.

House-sparrow, *Passer domesticus*. B.

An abundant visitor.

Tree-sparrow, *Passer montanus*. B.

Resident, but very local in the county.

Chaffinch, *Fringilla cælebs*. B.

An abundant resident.

Brambling, *Fringilla montifringilla*.

A common winter visitor, but local ; fond of beech trees.

Linnet, *Linota cannabina*. B.

An abundant resident ; great flocks in winter of visitors from the north.

Lesser Redpoll, *Linota rufescens*. B.

A resident in limited numbers ; also a not uncommon winter visitor.

We have seen this small species in the summer time near Frome, and once had a brood of young birds in our garden at Buckland Dinham.

*Twite, *Linota flavirostris*.

An occasional winter visitor.

The Twite is not included by Mr. Cecil Smith, but we have seen it in flocks in the winter time on sandhills near Weston-super-Mare.

Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula europæa*. B.

Common resident.

Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*. B ?

An irregular visitor.

The larger form, the Parrot Crossbill (*Loxia pityopsittacus*),

has occurred at Clevedon. The common Crossbill is reported to have nested near Bristol.

*[White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*.

Mr. Charles Prideaux, writing to the *Zoologist* from Kingsbridge in 1852, mentions a "White-winged Crossbill" as being in his collection "from Taunton." It was probably mounted from a foreign skin.]

Corn Bunting, *Emberiza miliaria*. B.

Resident, local; common in places, in others rarely seen.

Yellow Hammer, *Emberiza citrinella*. B.

An abundant resident.

Cirl Bunting, *Emberiza cirlus*. B.

A resident; very local.

Common in the west of the county, hardly ever seen in the east.

Reed Bunting, *Emberiza schæniclus*. B.

A resident; local and nowhere numerous.

Snow Bunting, *Plectrophanes nivalis*.

An occasional winter visitor.

Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*. B.

An abundant resident, numerous additions in the autumn from other parts.

*Rose-coloured Pastor, *Pastor roseus*.

A rare occasional visitor.

This beautiful bird has occurred at Taunton, Axbridge, Clevedon, and at Laverton, near Frome. The Clevedon bird is an extremely handsome specimen.

Chough, *Pyrrhocorax graculus*. B?

Very doubtful as a resident.

A pair or two of Choughs still nest on the cliffs to the west of Porlock, but whether there are any doing so within the county boundary we are unable to state. In the immediate neighbourhood of Lynton we are glad to hear that the birds are increasing, owing to careful protection.

Nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes*.

Accidental.

The late Captain Tomlin, of Rumwell House, near Taunton, possessed a Nutcracker that had been shot near Bath. We ourselves saw one in the summer of 1873, in Cothelstone Park, about the same time that Mr. T. Cosmo Melville, writing from Maunsell House, near Bridgwater, to the *Field*, stated that he and his friends had seen one near North Petherton. Col. Montagu records one seen by his friend, Mr. Anstice, near Bridgwater, in the autumn of 1805.

Jay, *Garrulus glaudarius*. B.

A resident, but in some districts has been quite exterminated by keepers.

Magpie, *Pica rustica*. B.

The same remark applies to this species, which used to be very abundant on the level pastures in Mid-Somerset.

Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula*. B.

An abundant resident.

Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*. B.

Resident.

The Carrion Crow is now an extremely rare bird in most parts of the county, having been nearly exterminated by game-keepers.

Hooded Crow, *Corvus cornix*.

A very rare winter visitor.

Rook, *Corvus frugilegus*. B.

An abundant resident.

Raven, *Corvus corax*. B.

Resident ; only in the west of the county, on Exmoor, etc.

Skylark, *Alauda arvensis*. B.

An abundant resident ; great accessions in winter.

Wood Lark, *Alauda arborea*. B.

Resident, but scarce and very local.

In many districts in the county this beautiful songster has been exterminated by bird-catchers.

*Shore Lark, *Otocorys alpestris*.

A common winter visitor to the East of England, but very rarely reaching the western counties.

A single example of the Shore Lark was caught by a bird-catcher, together with some Sky-Larks, at Wraxall, near Bristol, about 1874.

Swift, *Cypselus apus*. B.

An abundant summer visitor.

Alpine Swift, *Cypselus melba*.

Accidental. Only one specimen in the county, near Axbridge.

Nightjar, *Caprimulgus europæus*. B.

A summer visitor.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopus major*. B.

Resident, very rare and local; we have only twice seen it during 40 years.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopus minor*. B.

Resident; local, but numerous in many districts.

Green Woodpecker, *Gecinus viridis*. B.

Common resident.

Wryneck, *Ijnx torquilla*. B.

A summer visitor. Not common anywhere in the county.

Kingfisher, *Alcedo ispida*. B.

Resident; not numerous, and local.

Has been much persecuted for its beautiful feathers.

Roller, *Coracias garrula*.

Accidental. One many years ago at Orchard Portman.

*Bee Eater, *Merops apiaster*.

Accidental. One, obtained near Bridgwater, was in the collection of Mr. Stradling. At the beginning of May, 1869, a small flock appeared at Stapleton, near Bristol, by the banks of the Frome, and three were shot.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*.

A rare visitor; three or four only are known to us.

Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*. B.

A common summer visitor.

Barn Owl, *Strix flammea*. B.

Resident ; much persecuted, and becoming scarce.

Long-eared Owl, *Asio otus*. B.

Nowhere common as a resident ; probably reinforced in autumn by migrants.

Short-eared Owl, *Asio brachyotus*,

A common winter visitor to the peat-moor country.

Tawny Owl, *Syrnium aluco*. B.

Resident, but, like the Barn Owl, senselessly persecuted by keepers.

*Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*.

Accidental. One was trapped on Exmoor at the end of March, 1876. The bird had killed several hares, and was secured in a trap baited with one of its victims.

American Hawk Owl, *Surnia funerea*.

Accidental. One at the end of August, 1847, near Yatton.

*Tengmalm's Owl, *Nyctala tengmalmi*.

Accidental. One, in the collection of the late Mr. C. Edwards, of the Grove, Wrington, was shot at Winscombe in the year 1859, not very far from the spot where the Hawk Owl was secured.

*Little Owl, *Athene noctua*.

Accidental ; perhaps an escape, as many are imported from the continent.

One was obtained at Clevedon in March, 1878. It was being mobbed by a lot of Sparrows when it was shot, and came into the collection of the Rev. G. W. Braikenridge.

Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*.

Accidental. One (two seen) at Kilve, in the Quantock country, in October, 1825.

Marsh Harrier, *Circus æruginosus*.

Extinct as a resident ; now only a rare visitor.

Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*. B.

Perhaps still resident on Exmoor.

Montagu's Harrier, *Circus cineraceus*, B.

An occasional summer visitor.

Buzzard, *Buteo vulgaris*. B.

Still maintains itself in the Exmoor country, but yearly becomes scarcer.

Rough-legged Buzzard, *Archibuteo lagopus*.

An irregular winter visitor.

White-tailed Eagle, *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

An occasional winter visitor.

This Eagle has been frequently obtained, in all stages of plumage, in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, and in the Quantock country. We remember some years ago going to see two very fine specimens (alas! fast being devoured by moths) in a farm-house close to the church at Cannington. A very beautiful adult, secured near Bridgwater, was purchased for £10 by an American gentleman then residing in the Crescent, at Taunton. He kept it in a handsome case at the foot of his bed, saying it was "his National bird," while the star-spangled banner waved from the wall above his head! White-tailed Eagles are occasionally seen on Exmoor. In 1890, two frequented the Quantocks, at the beginning of the year, and frightened the farmers by carrying off their lambs.

Sparrow Hawk, *Accipiter nisus*. B.

Resident, but now very scarce from persecution by keepers.

Kite, *Milvus iclinus*.

Once resident, now only a rare accidental visitor.

The most recent occurrence of the Kite in Somerset, of which we have knowledge, is one that was shot in West Coker Wood, near Yeovil, in the spring of 1875, which is now in the Taunton Castle Museum. It is, probably, extinct as a resident.

*Honey Buzzard, *Pernis apivorus*. B?

A rare summer visitor; also in autumn.

Several on the Quantock Hills, at Bagborough and Cothel-

stone. Others in the near neighbourhood of Taunton. A young male was shot at Cothelstone *in the middle of June*, 1874, and as we ourselves saw the female fly out of a beech tree on the top of Lydeard Hill a few evenings after, it is more than probable this unfortunate pair of birds had a nest close at hand.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*. B.

Resident; one or two eyries, perhaps, left upon the coast.

Hobby, *Falco subbuteo*. B.

A summer visitor.

This beautiful little falcon may visit the county and nest in it more often than is supposed. From the lateness in the season in which it breeds, and its selecting an old pigeon's or crow's nest, it may escape detection. The Rev. W. Willimott, while rector of Laverton, near Frome, informed us that he had often seen a Hobby flying over his fields in the summer time, and had little doubt about its having a nest close at hand.

Merlin, *Falco æsalon*. B? (on Exmoor).

A not uncommon winter visitor in the west of the county.

*Red-footed Falcon, *Tinnunculus vespertinus*.

Accidental. An example of this rare visitor to the British Isles was obtained at Cheddar in 1860, as we are informed by a writer in the *Daily News*.

Kestrel, *Tinnunculus alaudarius*. B.

A common resident.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaëtus*. B?

A very rare occasional visitor; none of late years.

A pair of Ospreys are said to have attempted to nest at Monksilver in 1847, but were slain by the keeper (*fide* W. D. Crotch, *Ibis*, 1865, p. 9).

Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Only one occurrence on record.

Gannet, *Sula bassana*.

Only accidental.

A young Gannet was washed ashore at Stolford in 1880.

Heron, *Ardea cinerea*. B.

A common resident, but local.

The Somerset heronries are at Pixton Park, Dulverton, Lord Carnarvon.

There were about ten pairs building in fir trees about 1872.

The trees have been recently wholly, or in part, cut down, and we do not know whether the Herons have selected others.

Knole, near Minehead.

Here there is a cone-shaped wooded hill, on which almost every tree used to bear one or more nests. When the birds were sitting, or in close attendance on their young, this heronry was visible from a considerable distance, the whole hill shining silver-grey in the sunlight to any one who looked down upon it from a superior elevation. Of late years the property has changed hands several times to the great hurt of the Herons. In 1892 we were informed there were only four pairs of the birds left.

Halswell, near Bridgwater, C. Kemeys-Tynte, Esq.

Mr. Cecil Smith ascertained that there were about fifty nests in the park in 1883.

Brockley, near Bristol, Cecil Smyth-Pigott, Esq.

Mells Park, near Frome, J. Fortescue Horner, Esq.

A few pairs nest in some trees in one of the plantations.

*[Little Egret, *Ardea garzetta*.

Accidental. In a list of rare Somerset birds given by Mr. Edward Jesse in his *Country Life* (John Murray, 1844) mention is made of a Little Egret that was shot on Glastonbury Moor.]

Squacco, *Ardea ralloides*.

An accidental visitor.

Mr. Jesse is our informant that an example of the Squacco was purchased in Bath Market.

Mr. Yarrell, in his *British Birds*, stated that one had been obtained near Bridgwater.

Little Bittern, *Ardetta minuta*.

A rare occasional visitor. Three or four only.

*Night Heron, *Nycticorax griseus*.

A rare occasional visitor.

There was an example of the Night Heron in the collection of Mr. Stradling, that had been obtained near Bridgwater. But this species has doubtless often occurred without record.

Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris*.

Still far from rare as a winter visitor during severe frosts.

*[White Stork, *Ciconia alba*.

Accidental.

An example of the White Stork is said to have been secured near Bridgwater, *fide* a list of rare birds obtained near that town, communicated by Mr. Baker to the Proceedings of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society for 1850.]

Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*.

Accidental. Only one example; shot on West Sedge Moor, 13th May, 1814.

Spoonbill, *Platalea leucorodia*.

A rare occasional visitor.

Only two occurrences; one on West Sedge Moor, the other on Curry Moor, many years ago.

Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*.

A rare occasional visitor.

Only one Somerset specimen; shot on the Turf Moor, in the autumn of 1859 or 1860.

Egyptian Goose, *Chenalopex ægyptiacus*. B.

Introduced.

Grey-lag Goose, *Anser cinereus*.

A very rare visitor in the winter.

Bean Goose, *Anser segetum*.

Not uncommon in severe winters.

[Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

There is no instance of this goose having occurred in the county in a wild state, but a small flock of them was kept for some years by Mr. Cecil Smith at Lydeard House, and the birds nested each year.]

White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons*.

Only seen now in severe winters.

Brent Goose, *Bernicla brenta*.

A winter visitor to the coast. Never very numerous.

Barnacle Goose, *Bernicla leucopsis*.

A rare winter visitor. Only one on record.

*Canada Goose, *Bernicla canadensis*. B.

Introduced.

This handsome goose is kept on various ornamental waters, and, occasionally wandering off, has been shot in a seemingly wild state, as at Glastonbury, &c.

Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor*. B.

Introduced.

Whooper, *Cygnus musicus*.

Very rare in Somerset as a winter visitor.

Bewick's Swan, *Cygnus bewicki*.

A winter visitor, at intervals.

This small species is the commonest of the wild swans visiting the West of England. In the winter of 1878 a large flock appeared upon the Somerset moors. About sixty frequented North Curry Moor for upwards of a month. A smaller flock of about sixteen occurred near Glastonbury. Others visited the lake in Cothelstone Park.

*Black Swan, *Cygnus atratus*.

Introduced.

In the spring of 1858 *five* of these birds were shot in North Moor, near Bridgwater.

Common Sheldrake, *Tadorna cornuta*. B.

Resident, in limited and decreasing numbers.

Wigeon, *Mareca penelope*.

A not uncommon winter visitor.

Pintail, *Dafila actua*.

A rare winter visitor.

Wild Duck, *Anas boscas*. B.

Nowhere common, either as a resident (a few in the Exmoor country) or as a winter visitor.

Gadwall, *Chaulelasmus streperus*.

A rare occasional visitor in the winter.

According to Mr. Jesse the Gadwall has been obtained on the river Avon. It has also occurred twice in the neighbourhood of Langport.

Garganey, *Querquedula circia*.

Not very rare as a summer visitor to the peat moors.

Teal, *Querquedula crecca*. B?

A winter visitor in small numbers: perhaps also a resident.

Shoveller, *Spatula clypeata*. B

Not rare as a winter visitor in the peat moor country, where it has once or twice been known to nest.

Tufted Duck, *Fuligula cristata*. B?

A common winter visitor.

These birds appear on ornamental waters in the spring.

We have seen them at the end of April on the lake in Orchardleigh Park, where no fowl are kept, and very probably a few remain occasionally to nest.

Scaup, *Fuligula marila*.

Very abundant in the winter on the bay at Weston-super-Mare.

Pochard, *Fuligula ferina*.

A winter visitor; rare.

Golden-eye, *Clangula glaucion*.

A winter visitor; also rare.

*Long-tailed Duck, *Harelda glacialis*.

A rare occasional visitor in the winter.

An immature bird of this species was shot at Weston super-Mare, December 16, 1890.

*Eider Duck, *Somateria mollissima*.

A rare occasional visitor in the winter.

A female was shot on the reservoir of the waterworks at Barrow, near Bristol, in November, 1888.

Common Scoter, *Ædemia nigra*.

Not uncommon on the bay at Weston-super-Mare, in the winter.

*Velvet Scoter, *Ædemia fusca*.

A very rare occasional visitor.

There is a female Velvet Scoter in the museum at Salisbury, labelled "Somerset."

Goosander, *Mergus merganser*.

Not very rare in severe winters at Weston-super-Mare, etc.

Red-breasted Merganser, *Mergus serrator*.

A rare winter visitor.

Smew, *Mergus albellus*.

Seen almost every winter ; in severe seasons many obtained.

Ring Dove, *Columba palumbus*. B.

An abundant resident ; great accessions from winter migrants.

Stock Dove, *Columba ænas*. B.

Resident ; not numerous anywhere in the county.

[Rock Dove, *Columba livia*. B.

It is extremely doubtful if the pigeons which have been observed from time to time nesting on Brean Down, and on the coast between Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon, at Sand Point, etc., are anything more than escaped farmyard pigeons. We do not believe that genuine Rock Doves are found on any coast where there are not the rocky caverns that form their favourite breeding stations, and such are absent from the North Somerset shores.]

Turtle Dove, *Turtur communis*. B.

Not numerous ; a few appear in the summer throughout the county.

*Pallas's Sandgrouse, *Syrnhaptes paradoxus*.

Accidental.

In the visitation of this singular bird to the British Isles in 1863, none of the flocks appear to have visited Somerset; at least there was no record published of any having been seen. At the still larger irruption in 1888, a flock of eleven appeared on May 25th, on Steart Island, in Bridgwater Bay, and one was shot. On the afternoon of the same day two were seen at Charlinch, near Bridgwater, by the Rev. W. A. Bell, the rector. A small flock passed close to Mr. W. Ayshford Sanford, in his grounds at Nynhead, one Sunday, the date of which is unknown to us. One is reported to have occurred at Burnham, and we have heard of some having been seen near Weston-super-Mare; one was exhibited at a meeting of a Naturalists' Club in Bristol, which had been shot somewhere near the city, in Somerset. One day, towards the end of June, when driving to Bath, we passed close to a flock of about twenty; they were in a turnip field where the young turnips were just showing above the ground, and were about a long gunshot in from the hedge. Only a few days before we had watched and studied a Sandgrouse in the Western Aviary of the Zoological Gardens in London, and at once recognised the same waddling gait in the few birds which were moving. The greater number were squatting on the ground apparently asleep; one or two were preening their feathers, and occasionally stretching themselves with precisely the same gestures as the bird we had seen in London. We looked for them again as we repassed the spot in the afternoon—it was in the parish of Norton St. Philip—but they had disappeared.

Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus* and *Phasianus torquatus*. B.

Introduced. Abundant in preserves.

*Red-legged Partridge, *Caccabis rufa*.

Introduced. The Red-legged Partridge has occurred at

Kingston, near Taunton; also on the manor of Compton Bishop, in East Somerset, where Mr. C. Edwards, of the Grove, Wrington, shot a brace in September, 1879, and the keepers informed him that others fed in the coverts with the Pheasants.

Partridge, *Perdix cinerea*. B.

A common resident; its numbers vary greatly with the season.

Quail, *Coturnix communis*. B.

A summer visitor. Numerous in some seasons; many nests have been found near Bridgwater.

*Red Grouse, *Lagopus scoticus*.

Accidental.

A solitary Red Grouse was shot by Mr. C. Edwards on the Mendips, near Wrington, in September, 1885. Although it is most unusual for Red Grouse to take long flights, this bird may have crossed over from Breconshire.

Black Grouse, *Tetrao tetrix*. B.

Resident in suitable places throughout the county: is seemingly becoming scarce upon the Quantocks: numerous on the skirts of Exmoor.

Water Rail, *Rallus aquaticus*. B.

A not uncommon resident; receiving additions from winter migrants.

Spotted Crane, *Porzana maruetta*. B.

A migrant in spring and autumn.

Numerous on the peat moors, where it is probably resident throughout the year.

Baillon's Crane, *Porzana bailloni*.

A rare occasional visitor.

Mr. Cecil Smith obtained two young birds that were shot by the side of the Tone, close to Taunton, one in the first week of October, 1870, the other on 29th September, 1875. We had the opportunity of examining both in the flesh. Another was shot near Stogursey, in 1887.

*Little Crake, *Porzana parva*.

A very rare occasional visitor.

There was a specimen of the Little Crake that had been obtained near Bridgwater, in Mr. Stradling's collection.

Corncrake, *Crex pratensis*. B.

A summer visitor, occasionally seen in the winter months.

*[Purple Gallinule, *Porphyrio cæruleus*.

Accidental.

On 25th August, 1875, a very perfect example of this beautiful bird was caught by an old sheep dog, a very clever retriever, in one of the characteristic ditches of the Somerset level, *i.e.* a broad ditch screened on either bank by a thick growth of black thorn, at Tarnock, in the parish of Badgworth. Mr. James Burrows, the owner of the dog, and occupier of the ground where the bird was caught, had it preserved, and kindly showed it to us one day when we called to see it. We found it in very perfect plumage. This bird may (or may not) have been an escape from some ornamental water; but there is certainly no lake or pond anywhere in East Somerset where such fowl are kept, and we are ourselves inclined to believe that the bird may have reached this country through an assisted passage, on board some steamer coming rapidly from the south.]

Moor-hen, *Gallinula chloropus*. B.

Common resident.

Coot, *Fulica atra*. B.

Common resident on suitable lakes and ponds.

Crane, *Grus communis*.

A rare occasional visitor in spring and autumn.

Since the Crane shot by Mr. C. Haddon, in October, 1865, near Stolford, and recorded by Mr. Cecil Smith, two others, both adults in full plumage, have been secured in the county. The first of these was shot one evening in May, 1875, at Wick Farm, in the parish of South Brent,

by Mr. William Harris ; the second fell in the neighbourhood which produced Mr. Haddon's bird, at Country Sea Wall, one mile to the east of Stolford, and is now in the possession of Sir A. Acland Hood, Bart., at St. Audries. This last example was shot by Mr. Richard Chilcott, of Bridgwater, on 5th December, 1889.

*Great Bustard, *Otis tarda*.

A very rare occasional visitor.

Mr. Cecil Smith knew of no Somerset Great Bustard, but at the time there were Bustards on the Wiltshire Downs some of these fine birds must have occasionally visited the Mendip country, only a short flight to the west. On September 22nd, 1870, Mr. J. E. Harting had the good luck to see a live Great Bustard, on Shapwick peat-moor, as he was travelling on the Somerset and Dorset Railway between Highbridge and Wells. The bird was close to the line, and Mr. Harting had a clear view of it. (*Field*, Jan. 14th, 1871).

Stone Curlew, *Ædicnemus scolopax*. B?

A summer visitor.

As we occasionally see this bird in the summer time on the Radstock plateau, we believe that it must sometimes nest within the confines of the county.

*Collared Pratincole, *Glareola pratincola*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

There was a Pratincole in the collection of Mr. Stradling, of Chilton Polden, near Bridgwater, which was shot some years ago, on the northern slope of the Mendip, not far from Weston-super-Mare. Mr. Stradling's collection was purchased by Mr. Henry Mathias, of Haverfordwest, in whose house we have had the pleasure of seeing this rare bird.

*[Cream-coloured Courser, *Cursorius gallicus*.

Accidental. Mr. Brooking-Rowe, in a list of the birds of Devon, mentions a Somerset Courser, but gives no particulars.]

Golden Plover, *Charadrius pluvialis*.

A winter visitor ; we have no evidence that it has nested on Exmoor.

Grey Plover, *Squatarola helvetica*.

A winter visitor ; rarely seen as it passes north in the spring.

*Kentish Plover, *Ægialitis cantiana*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

Some years ago Mr. Filleul, of Biddisham, shot a small Plover on the coast near Burnham, which he at once saw to be distinct from the Ringed Plover, and, on examining some Sussex specimens which we were able to show him, at once identified his bird as a young Kentish Plover, the only instance that we know of the occurrence of this species within the county.

Ringed Plover, *Ægialitis hiaticula*.

Resident ; great accessions in the autumn.

We have found the nest near Weston-super-Mare.

Dotterel, *Eudromias morinellus*.

An irregular passing migrant in spring and autumn.

About the middle of May, 1869, a small trip of Dotterel alighted on the cricket field at Weston-super-Mare, and were so tame that they continued there all day, taking no heed of the players. A few days later we saw a single Dotterel on the sands near Sand Point, a few miles to the east of the town. On the 1st of May, that same year, seven Dotterels were shot on the Mendip, near Wells. On 21st August, 1870, two more were obtained near the same spot. The Dotterel, belonging to the Alpine type of birds, we believe that old reports as to its nesting on the Mendip were all mistakes, the Stone Curlew having probably done duty for it.

Lapwing, *Vanellus vulgaris*. B.

Very numerous ; its numbers are yearly increasing as a resident species.

Turnstone, *Streptilas interpres*.

Seen sometimes in the spring in its handsome nesting plumage on the coast ; more frequently in the autumn.

Oyster Catcher, *Hæmatopus ostralegus*. B.

A winter visitor, scarce, perhaps still a resident.

A pair or two used to nest on Steart Island.

*Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus candidus*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

One, shot near Bridgwater many years ago, was in the collection of Mr. Stradling, of Chilton Polden, and is now at Haverfordwest, the property of Mr. H. Mathias, of that town.

Grey Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*.

An irregular autumn visitor ; sometimes numerous after severe gales.

Woodcock, *Scolopax rusticula*. B.

Resident ; great accessions in the autumn.

Not numerous in the woods in the east of the county ; sometimes abundant in those bordering the Exmoor and Quantock countries.

Great Snipe, *Gallinago major*.

A rare irregular autumn visitor.

The Great Snipe has occurred on Glastonbury Moor (Jesse) ; to ourselves near Weston-super-Mare ; on commons adjoining Exmoor, etc.

Common Snipe, *Gallinago cælestis*. B.

Resident on Exmoor, etc. ; also a winter visitor ; in decreasing numbers.

Jack Snipe, *Limnocryptes gallinula*.

A winter visitor.

Dunlin, *Tringa alpina*. B ? on Exmoor ?

A common spring and autumn visitor ; perhaps a resident in limited numbers.

In his Manual of British Birds, Mr. Howard Saunders states that he has seen young Dunlins on Exmoor scarcely able to fly.

* Little Stint, *Tringa minuta*.

An occasional autumn visitor.

The Little Stint has occurred at Weston-super-Mare.

Temminck's Stint, *Tringa temmincki*.

A very rare winter visitor.

A specimen of this minute sandpiper was shot on North Curry Moor on November 14th, 1875, and recorded by Mr. Cecil Smith, the only example from the county since those sent to Colonel Montagu from Bridgwater, at the beginning of the century, by Mr. Anstice, his friend and correspondent in that town.

Curlew Sandpiper, *Tringa subarquata*.

A rare autumn visitor.

We possess one in the winter plumage, shot on a moor near Bridgwater.

Purple Sandpiper, *Tringa striata*.

Occasionally seen on the coast in the autumn.

The Purple Sandpiper has occurred at Weston-super-Mare, an addition to the localities given by Mr. Cecil Smith.

Knot, *Tringa canutus*.

Seen in the autumn on the coast.

Ruff, *Machetes pugnax*.

The Ruff used to be a bird of double passage in the county, and specimens in the curious breeding dress have been secured near Taunton. It is now only rarely seen in the autumn.

* Sanderling, *Calidris arenaria*.

An autumn visitor.

Although not included by Mr. Cecil Smith, the Sanderling is not uncommon on the coast, having been seen by ourselves at Weston-super-Mare, and by our friend, the Rev. M. S. C. Rickards, at Burnham. It has also been obtained at Minehead.

* Bartram's Sandpiper, *Actiturus longicauda*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

We identified an example of this American Sandpiper in the

collection of Dr. Woodforde. It had been shot many years ago on the Bridgwater river, at Combitch. It is now, with the rest of Dr. Woodforde's birds, in the Museum, at Taunton Castle.

Common Sandpiper, *Tringoides hypoleucus*. B.

A summer visitor. Nests commonly by the Exmoor streams.

Green Sandpiper, *Helodromas ochropus*. B ?

A passing migrant in spring and autumn.

We have seen young Green Sandpipers in the summer time, near Weston-super-Mare, in so immature a state as to preclude the idea that they could have migrated from a distance, and they probably had come from a nest in the immediate district.

*Wood Sandpiper, *Totanus glareola*. B ?

A rare passing migrant in spring and autumn.

Subsequent to the issue of his book, Mr. Cecil Smith obtained two examples of this Sandpiper from the immediate neighbourhood of Taunton. One of them, an adult, shot at Cheddon on 9th May, 1870, might have had a nest at the time ; the other, a young bird, was shot in the autumn. Both are now in our collection.

Redshank, *Totanus calidris*. B ?

A common passing migrant in spring and autumn.

We have seen the Redshank in the spring by the banks of the Axe, and have one in full summer plumage from Steart Island, and have little doubt that the bird occasionally nests on the marshes.

Spotted Redshank, *Totanus fuscus*.

A rare irregular autumn visitor.

Two examples of this bird were examined by us while we resided at Weston-super-Mare, that had been shot by the side of ballast pits adjoining the Great Western Railway.

Both were young birds, and were procured in the autumn.

Greenshank, *Totanus canescens*.

A rare autumn visitor to the coast.

Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa laponica*.

Seen occasionally in the spring and autumn on the coast.

Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa ægocephala*.

Very rare ; only a single specimen on record.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phæopus*.

Very common on the coast as it passes north in the spring.

We have never met with it in the autumn.

Curlew, *Numenius arquata*. B.

Resident ; accessions as winter visitors.

Nests on Exmoor and on adjoining commons ; probably also on the Mendip, as we have seen it near Frome in the summer months.

Arctic Tern, *Sterna macrura*.

Rarely seen—at the time of its migration—in spring and autumn.

Common Tern, *Sterna fluvialis*.

Very rare, in spring and autumn.

Little Tern, *Sterna minuta*.

Adults are sometimes seen on the peat moors in the spring.

*Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuliginosa*.

Accidental.

Mr. Foot, the bird-stuffer at Bath, has shown us a very beautiful example of this Tern that was caught alive near Bath, after stormy weather, in October, 1885.

Black Tern, *Hydrochelidon nigra*.

Not uncommon, both in spring and autumn.

Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*.

A very rare accidental visitor.

A beautiful adult specimen of the Ivory Gull was caught some years ago in a trap baited with a sprat at Weston-super-Mare, and was kept alive for some time by Mr. Augustus Stone, bird-stuffer, until one day it managed to get into a heap of fresh mortar, where it was found lying dead and bedraggled.

Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*.

A very numerous winter visitor, following the sprats into the shallows.

Glaucous Gull, *Larus glaucus*.

An irregular winter visitor.

This fine arctic Gull is not very rare in the winter time at Weston-super-Mare, coming into the bay after the sprats. Mr. Augustus Stone, the local bird-stuffer, possessed a very beautiful example, in which the mantle was a silvery white, indicative (so we were informed by Professor Newton) of great age.

*Iceland Gull, *Larus leucopterus*.

A rare winter visitor.

In Somerset, the Iceland Gull has been procured occasionally in the winter at Weston-super-Mare, whence Mr. Cecil Smith received a very fine example in immature plumage, which we examined in the flesh; this bird was obtained on December 28th, 1870. He has also recorded in the *Zoologist* an Iceland Gull which occurred many miles inland, at Somerton, on December 12th, 1881, which was made into a fire-screen!

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*. B?

Perhaps a resident. Information required as to its nesting anywhere in the county.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*. B?

The same remark applies also to this species; seldom seen far up the channel.

Common Gull, *Larus canus*.

A common winter visitor.

Greater Black-backed Gull, *Larus marinus*. B?

One or two to be seen on the coast.

This splendid Gull is reported formerly to have nested on the Steep Holm.

Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*.

An abundant winter visitor.

We know of no breeding place of these pretty Gulls within

the county; but in May, 1891, our parish of Buckland Dinham, near Frome, was visited by a little party, which remained for some time in our vicarage meadow, and we subsequently saw a pair or two on the high ground above Radstock, and concluded that all these birds were questing about for a nesting station. The Black-headed Gull during the last few years has increased so enormously on the Gulleries in Dorsetshire, that overflow birds may well be expected to be on the look out for suitable marshes to occupy in the adjoining counties of Somerset and Devon.

Little Gull, *Larus minutus*.

An irregular winter visitor.

A Little Gull occurred at Clevedon, at the end of October, 1889. Others at Weston-super-Mare.

Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabinii*.

A rare winter visitor.

Three occurrences of young birds in the autumn, at Weston-super-Mare, where we ourselves once saw a flock of five.

*Great Skua, *Stercorarius catarrhactes*.

Accidental. We only know of a single instance of the Great Skua as a Somerset bird—it is not very likely to occur in the Bristol channel—and for this we are indebted to the Report of the British Association Migration Committee.

*Pomatorhine Skua, *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*.

Accidental. This species has been obtained at Minehead, on Steart Island, also at Combitch, on the Bridgwater river, where it was called a "Mullin Hawk," and one, in immature plumage, was shot at North Curry, and others have occurred at Weston-super-Mare. All these were the produce of the month of October, 1879, when a large number of Pomatorhine Skuas appeared off the south-western counties.

Richardson's Skua, *Stercorarius crepidatus*.

Accidental. A fine adult was shot at Clevedon in Decem-

ber, 1873, and three (one adult and two young) at Stolford, in the autumn of 1892.

Buffon's Skua, *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

Accidental. An immature example of this rare visitor was shot at Stolford by Mr. C. Haddon, in September, 1873. In the autumn of 1891, great numbers of these Skuas were driven by gales into the British and Bristol Channels, and some were seen as high up as Clevedon, where one was shot, and described in a local paper as a "Buffoon's Skaw" (*sic*).

Storm Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*.

Accidental. Occasionally picked up, sometimes far inland (as at Bath) after gales.

Leach's Petrel, *Procellaria leucorrhoa*.

Accidental. Also driven inland by gales.

*Manx Shearwater, *Puffinus anglorum*.

Accidental. Occasionally blown up the Bristol Channel, and also far inland, by heavy gales. It has been picked up at Watchet, has been blown into the rigging of a ship at the mouth of the Bridgwater river, and has been found as far inland as Milverton.

Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Accidental. One, in immature plumage, was shot at Stolford, October 26, 1870.

Great Northern Diver, *Colymbus glacialis*.

Accidental. One, in immature plumage, on the Barrow waterworks, near Bristol, January 20, 1881. This Diver is extremely rare, only occurring on ponds and inland streams by accident.

*Black-throated Diver, *Colymbus arcticus*.

Accidental. One was shot on some flooded land on Lady Egremont's property near Williton, December, 1875.

Red-throated Diver, *Colymbus septentrionalis*.

Accidental. One picked up dead at Bishop's Hull.

Great-crested Grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*.

A rare accidental visitor ; only four on record.

*Red-necked Grebe, *Podiceps griseigena*.

Accidental. One at Taunton in February, 1870; another in the same month in the following year on the moors at North Curry.

Sclavonian Grebe, *Podiceps auritus*.

Accidental. Only two specimens.

Little Grebe, *Tachybaptus fluviatilis*. B.

A common resident.

Razor-bill, *Alca torda*.

We have seen little flocks high up in the channel in the winter.

Common Guillemot, *Lomvia troile*. B?

Information wanted as to its nesting on cliffs within the bounds of the county.

We have seen Common Guillemots and Razor-bills as high up the Bristol Channel as the Severn Tunnel.

Black Guillemot, *Uria grylle*.

Accidental. Only one, near Quantoxhead.

Little Auk, *Mergulus alle*.

Accidental. Other specimens have been picked up besides the three mentioned by Mr. Cecil Smith; one, as far inland as Ilminster, in December, 1884.

Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*.

A rare straggler, sometimes coming up the channel.

SUMMARY.

The Somerset birds in our catalogue may be classified as

(i.)—Residents (<i>of which six are doubtful</i>)	...	78
(ii.)—Summer visitors	... ..	34
(iii.)—Winter visitors	... ..	31
(iv.)—Passers in spring and autumn	... ..	10
(v.)—Occasional or irregular visitors	... ..	55
(vi.)—Accidental visitors, mere waifs and strays...	...	43
(vii.)—Introduced species	... ..	6
		257

Adding six species for which the authority is doubtful 6

Grand total 263

(i.) The Residents are seventy-eight in number.

Mistle Thrush	Corn Bunting	Heron
Song Thrush	Yellow Hammer	Common Sheldrake
Blackbird	Cirl Bunting	Wild Duck
Stonechat	Reed Bunting	Ring Dove
Redbreast	Starling	Stock Dove
Goldcrest	Chough ?	Rock Dove ?
Hedge sparrow	Jay	Partridge
Dipper	Magpie	Black Grouse
Longtailed Tit	Jackdaw	Water Rail
Great Tit	Carrion Crow	Spotted Crake
Coal Tit	Rook	Moorhen
Marsh Tit	Raven	Coot
Blue Tit	Skylark	Ringed Plover
Nuthatch	Woodlark	Lapwing
Wren	Great Spotted Wood- pecker	Oyster Catcher
Pied Wagtail	Lesser Spotted Wood- pecker	Woodcock
Grey Wagtail	Green Woodpecker	Snipe
Meadow Pipit	Kingfisher	Dunlin
Rock Pipit	Barn Owl	Curlew
Tree Creeper	Long-eared Owl	Herring Gull ?
Goldfinch	Tawny Owl	Lesser Black-backed Gull ?
Greenfinch	Hen Harrier	Greater Black-backed Gull ?
Hawfinch	Buzzard	Little Grebe
House-sparrow	Sparrow-hawk	Common Guillemot ?
Tree-sparrow	Peregrine Falcon	
Chaffinch	Kestrel	
Linnet		
Bullfinch		

(ii.) Summer visitors. These are thirty-four.

Ring Ouzel	Reed Warbler	Sand Martin
Wheatear	Marsh Warbler	Swift
Whinchat	Sedge Warbler	Nightjar
Redstart	Grasshopper Warbler	Wryneck
Nightingale	White Wagtail	Cuckoo
Whitethroat	Yellow Wagtail	Hobby
Lesser Whitethroat	Tree Pipit	Turtle Dove
Blackcap	Red-backed Shrike	Quail
Garden Warbler	Spotted Flycatcher	Corncrake
Chiff-Chaff	Pied Flycatcher B. ?	Common Sandpiper
Willow Warbler	Swallow	
Wood Warbler	Martin	

(iii.) Winter visitors comprise the following thirty-one.

Redwing	Brent Goose	Red-breasted Mergan- ser
Fieldfare	Wigeon	Smew
Black Redstart B. ?	Pintail	Golden Plover
Siskin	Teal B. ?	Grey Plover
Lesser Redpoll B.	Shoveller B.	Jack Snipe
Brambling	Tufted Duck B. ?	Sanderling
Snow Bunting	Scaup	Common Gull
Short-eared Owl	Pochard	Black-headed Gull
Merlin B ? on Exmoor ?	Golden Eye	Kittiwake
Bittern	Common Scoter	
White-fronted Goose	Goosander	

(iv.) Passing visitors in spring and autumn are only ten.

Turnstone	Green Sandpiper B. ?	Common Tern
Whimbrel	Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Tern
Redshank B. ?	Arctic Tern	Black Tern
Knot		

(v.) The occasional or irregular visitors are numerous, and are the following fifty-five.

Blue-headed Yellow	Cormorant	Little Crake
Wagtail B. ?	Little Bittern	Dotterel
[Richards's Pipit]	Night Heron	Little Stint
Golden Oriole	[White Stork]	Temminck's Stint
Great Grey Shrike	Spoonbill	Wood Sandpiper B. ?
Waxwing	Glossy Ibis	Spotted Redshank
Twite	Grey-lag Goose	Ruff
✓ Crossbill	Bean Goose	Black-tailed Godwit
✓ Parrot Crossbill	Barnacle Goose	Grey Phalarope
Rose-coloured Pastor	Whooper	Great Snipe
Hooded Crow	Bewick's Swan	Curlew Sandpiper
Shore Lark	Gadwall	Purple Sandpiper
Hoopoe	Garganey	Greenshank
Marsh Harrier	Long-tailed Duck	Glaucous Gull
Montagu's Harrier B.	Eider Duck	Iceland Gull
Rough-legged Buzzard	Velvet Scoter	Little Gull
White-tailed Eagle	Crane	Sabine's Gull
Honey Buzzard B. ?	Great Bustard	Razor-bill
Kite	Stone Curlew B. ?	Puffin
Osprey B. ?	Baillon's Crake	

(vi.) The Accidental Visitors are also numerous, and are forty-three as under :—

White's Ground	Tengmalm's Owl	Ivory Gull
Thrush	Little Owl	Common Skua
[Red-spotted Blue-throat]	Egyptian Vulture	Pomatorhine Skua
Alpine Accentor	Red-footed Falcon	Richardson's Skua
Bearded Tit	Gannet	Buffon's Skua
Woodchat	[Little Egret]	Storm Petrel
Serin	Squacco	Leach's Petrel
[White-winged Crossbill]	Black Stork	Manx Shearwater
Nutcracker	Pallas's Sandgrouse	Fulmar
Alpine Swift	Red Grouse	Great Northern Diver
Roller	Purple Gallinule	Black-throated Diver
Bee Eater	Collared Pratincole	Red-throated Diver
Snowy Owl	[Cream-coloured Courser]	Great-crested Grebe
American Hawk	Kentish Plover	Red-necked Grebe
Owl	Black-winged Stilt	Sclavonian Grebe
	Bartram's Sandpiper	Black Guillemot
	Sooty Tern	Little Auk

The wanderers from America in this list are only two, the Hawk Owl and Bartram's Sandpiper. The greater number of American species that have been obtained in Devon and Cornwall is indicative that the route by which these birds approach the South of England must be *via* the north-east of Europe, crossing Scotland, and coming down St. George's Channel.

(vii.) The Introduced species are six :—

Egyptian Goose	B.	Mute Swan	B.	Pheasant	B.
Canada Goose	B.	Black Swan		Red-legged Partridge	

The Nesting Birds are made up of

Residents	...	...	...	...	...	72
Summer visitors	...	...	...	...	...	33
Introduced Species	...	...	...	...	...	4
						<hr/>
						109

Besides these there are six doubtful residents, one doubtful summer visitor, six winter visitors, two passing visitors, and six occasional visitors that have either been known to breed, or may very probably have done so, thus bringing the grand total of breeders and probable breeders up to 130.

In the above classification the divisions necessarily overlap, and the same species might very properly be entered in more than one class. Thus, the *Grey Wagtail* might be numbered both among the residents and also among the winter visitors; so might the *Snipe*, etc. Again, the characteristic features of the county have to be borne in mind, compelling the birds, which in the adjoining county of Devon take rank among the ordinary winter visitors, to be regarded as mere waifs and strays in Somerset. The Red-necked Diver, one of the commonest of the diving birds in the bays and estuaries of Devon in the winter months, would be so out of its element in the muddy Bristol Channel that it would be useless to expect it there, and it is only known as a Somerset bird through one having been picked up dead inland. For this reason we have placed all the Divers and Grebes, with the exception of the Little Grebe, which is a common resident, among the accidental visitors, as only single instances, for the most part, are on record of their occurrence, and that far away from the channel.