

A List of the Birds of Somerset.

BY MR. CECIL SMITH.

AS no list of our Somersetshire Birds has been published in the proceedings of our Society since that of Mr. Baker, in the first volume, dated 1849-50, it seems now to be quite time for a new list, as naturally in those twenty years some additions to the avi fauna of the county have to be made. I have now been able to add eleven new species not included in Mr. Baker's list. On the other hand I have omitted several which he had included. As I did not think it right to increase the list by adding any of the rarer and more accidental visitants without being able to give a distinct authority for their having been found in the county, I have in all such cases given the place and date, and a reference to the authority on which I have relied. The list therefore, as it now stands, includes 227 species; of these 63 are our ordinary common residents, 27 common regular summer, and 25 common and regular winter, visitants; the rest may be considered only acci-

dental or rare occasional visitants, or such as are now becoming nearly extinct.

RAPTORES.

VULTURIDÆ.

Egyptian Vulture. *Neophron percnopterus*. One near
Kilve, October 1825. Yarrell

FALCONIDÆ.

White-tailed Eagle. *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Very rare.
One on the Quantocks, 1825. One on the Mendips.
Montagu

Osprey. *Pandion haliaeetus*. Occasional

Peregrine Falcon. *Falco peregrinus*. Scarce and be-
coming more so. Resident

Hobby. *F. subbuteo*. Rather rare. Summer

Merlin. *F. æsalon*. Rather rare. Generally winter

Kestrel. *F. tinnunculus*. Common. Resident

Sparrow Hawk. *Accipiter nisus*. Common. Resident

Kite. *Milvus vulgaris*. Rare and becoming extinct.
Resident

Buzzard. *Buteo vulgaris*. Becoming scarce. Resident

Rough-legged Buzzard. *B. lagopus*. Rare. Generally
Spring and Autumn

Marsh Harrier. *Circus æruginosus*. Becoming very scarce.
Resident

Hen Harrier. *C. cyaneus*. Becoming very scarce.
Resident

Montagu's Harrier. *C. cineraceus*. Rather more common.
Resident

STRIGIDÆ.

Long-eared Owl. *Otus vulgaris*. Rather rare. Local.
Resident

- Short-eared Owl. *O. brachyotos*. Common. Autumn and Winter
- White or Barn Owl. *Strix flammea*. Common. Resident
- Brown Owl. *Syrnium stridulum*. Common. Resident
- Hawk Owl. *Surnia funerea*. One near Yatton, August, 1847, "Montagu's Dictionary," by Newman
- Tengmalm's Owl. *Noctua tengmalmi*. Near Bristol (?) Mr. Edward's collection at Wrington

INSESSORES.

DENTIROSTRES.

LANIADÆ.

- Great Grey Shrike. *Lanius excubitor*. Rare. Generally Autumn or Spring
- Red-backed Shrike. *L. collurio*. Common. Summer

MUSCICAPIDÆ.

- Spotted Flycatcher. *Muscicapa grisola*. Common. Summer
- Pied Flycatcher. *M. atricapilla*. Very rare. Summer. "Birds of Somerset"

MERULIDÆ.

- Water Ouzel. *Cinclus aquaticus*. Common. Local. Resident
- Missel Thrush. *Turdus viscivorus*. Common. Resident
- White's Thrush. *T. whitei*. One at Hestercombe, January, 1870, "Zoologist," S.S. p. 2018. One at Langford, near the Mendips, January, 1871, "Zoologist," S.S. p. 2607. Both by Mr. Cecil Smith
- Fieldfare. *T. pilaris*. Common. Winter
- Song Thrush. *T. musicus*. Common. Resident
- Redwing. *T. iliacus*. Common. Winter

- Blackbird. *T. merula*. Common. Resident
 Ring Ouzel. *T. torquatus*. Rather scarce. Local. Summer
 Golden Oriole. *Oriolus galbula*. Rare. Summer

SYLVIADÆ.

- Alpine Accentor. *Accentor alpinus*. One at Wells, 1833,
 Yarrell
 Hedge Sparrow. *A. modularis*. Common. Resident
 Redbreast. *Erythaca rubecula*. Common. Resident
 Blue-throated Warbler. *Phænicura succica*. One in 1856,
 "Birds of Somerset"
 Redstart. *P. ruticilla*. Common. Summer
 Black Redstart. *P. tithys*. Rare. Generally Autumn
 and Winter
 Stonechat. *Saxicola rubicola*. Common. Rather local.
 Resident
 Whinchat. *S. rubetra*. Not so common. Local. Sum-
 mer.
 Wheatear. *S. ænanthe*. Common. Local. Summer
 Grasshopper Warbler. *Salicaria locustella*. Rather rare.
 Local. Summer
 Sedge Warbler. *S. phragmitis*. Common. Local. Sum-
 mer.
 Reed Warbler. *S. arundinacea*. Rather rare. Local.
 Summer
 Nightingale. *Philomela lusciniæ*. Common. Local.
 Summer
 Blackcap. *Curruca atricapilla*. Common. Summer
 Garden Warbler. *C. hortensis*. Rather rare. Local.
 Summer
 White-throat. *C. cinerea*. Common. Summer
 Lesser White-throat. *C. sylvicola*. Rather rare. Local.
 Summer

- Wood Warbler. *Sylvia sibilatrix*. Common. Local.
 Summer
- Willow Warbler. *S. trochilus*. Common. Summer.
- Chiff Chaff. *S. rufa*. Common. Summer
- Golden-crested Wren. *Regulus cristatus*. Common.
 Resident
- Wren. *Troglodytes europæus*. Common. Resident

PARIDÆ.

- Greater Tit. *Parus major*. Common. Resident
- Blue Tit. *P. cæruleus*. Common. Resident
- Cole Tit. *P. ater*. Common. Resident
- Marsh Tit. *P. palustris*. Common. Resident
- Long-tailed Tit. *P. caudatus*. Common. Resident
- Bearded Tit. *Calamophilus biarmicus*. Said to have
 been found near Bridgwater years ago ; Mr. Baker's
 notes, not published

AMPELIDÆ.

- Bohemian Wax-wing. *Bombycilla garrula*. Rare. Oc-
 casional. Winter

MOTACILLIDÆ.

- Pied Wagtail. *Motacilla yarrellii*. Common. Resident
- Grey Wagtail. *M. boarula*. Common. Rather local.
 Generally Winter
- Grey-headed Wagtail. *M. neglecta*. Rare. Occasional
- Ray's Wagtail. *M. flava*. Common. Summer

ANTHIDÆ.

- Tree Pipit. *Anthus arboreus* Common. Summer
- Meadow Pipit. *A. pratensis*. Common. Resident
- Rock Pipit. *A. petrosus*. Common on coast. Resident

CONIROSTRES.

ALAUDIDÆ.

- Sky Lark. *Alauda arvensis*. Common. Resident

Wood Lark. *A. arborea*. Rather rare. Local. Resident

EMBERIZIDÆ.

Snow Bunting. *Plectrophanes nivalis*. Occasional. Winter.

Lark Bunting. *Emberiza miliaria*. Common. Local.
Resident

Reed Bunting. *E. schæniclus*. Common. Resident

Yellow Bunting. *F. citrinella*. Common. Resident

Cirl Bunting. *E. circlus*. Rather rare. Local. Resident

FRINGILLIDÆ.

Chaffinch. *Fringilla cœlebs*. Common. Resident

Brambling. *F. montifringilla*. Common. Winter

Serin Finch. *F. serinus*. One, Taunton, January or
February, 1866, "Birds of Somerset"

Tree Sparrow. *Passer montanus*. Rather rare. Local.
Resident

House Sparrow. *P. domesticus*. Common. Resident

Greenfinch. *Coccothraustes chloris*. Common. Resident

Hawfinch. *C. vulgaris*. Rather rare. Winter

Goldfinch. *Carduelis elegans*. Common. Resident

Siskin. *C. spinus*. Common. Winter

Common Linnet. *Linota cannabina*. Common. Resident

Lesser Redpole. *L. linaria*. Common. Winter

Bullfinch. *Pyrrhula vulgaris*. Common. Resident

Common Crossbill. *Loxia curvirostra*. Occasional in flocks

STURNIDÆ.

Starling. *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common. Resident

Rose-coloured Pastor. *Pastor roseus*. One near Taunton,
June, 1835, not recorded. One at Laverton, July, 1869,
"Zoologist," S.S. p. 1866

CORVIDÆ.

Chough. *Fregilus graculus*. Almost extinct in Somerset.
Local. Would be resident

- Raven. *Corvus corax*. Rather rare. Local. Resident
 Carrion Crow. *C. corone*. Common. Resident
 Hooded Crow. *C. cornix*. Rare. Occasional. Winter
 Rook. *C. frugilegus*. Common. Resident
 Jackdaw. *C. monedula*. Common. Resident
 Magpie. *Pica caudata*. Common. Resident
 Jay. *Garrulus glandarius*. Common. Resident
 Nutcracker. *Nucifraga caryocatactes*. One near Bridg-
 water, 1805, Montagu

SCANSÓRES.

PICIDÆ.

- Green Woodpecker. *Picus viridis*. Common. Resident
 Great Spotted Woodpecker. *P. major*. Rather rare.
 Local. Resident
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. *P. minor*. More common
 in places. Local. Resident
 Wryneck. *Yunx torquilla*. Common. Summer

CERTHIADÆ.

- Creeper. *Certhia familiaris*. Common. Resident
 Hoopoe. *Upupa epops*. Very rare. Occasional. Summer
 Nuthatch. *Sitta europæa*. Common. Resident

CUCULIDÆ.

- Cuckoo. *Cuculus canorus*. Common. Summer

FISSIROSTRES.

NEROPIDÆ.

- Roller. *Coracias garula*. One near Orchard Portman,
 no date, "Birds of Somerset."

HALCYONIDÆ.

- Kingfisher. *Alcedo ispida*. Common. Resident

HIRUNDINIDÆ.

- Swallow. *Hirundo rustica*. Common. Summer

- Martin. *H. urbica*. Common. Summer
 Sand Martin. *H. riparia*. Common. Summer
 Swift. *Cypselus apus*. Common. Summer
 Alpine Swift. *C. alpinus*. One near Axbridge, "Proceedings" of this Society for 1851, "Birds of Somerset"

CAPRIMULGIDÆ.

- Nightjar. *Caprimulgus europæus*. Common. Summer
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RASORES.

COLUMBIDÆ.

- Wood Pigeon. *Columba palumbus*. Common. Resident
 Stock Dove. *C. ænas*. Rather rare. Resident
 Rock Dove. *C. livia*. A few at Weston. Resident.
 "Birds of Somerset"
 Turtle Dove. *C. turtur*. Common. Summer

PHASIANIDÆ.

- Pheasant. *Phasianus colchicus*. Common where preserved

TETRAONIDÆ.

- Black Grouse. *Tetrao tetrix*. Common. Local. Resident
 Partridge. *Perdix cinerea*. Common. Resident
 Quail. *Coturnix vulgaris*. Rather rare. Occasional
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GRALLATORES.

STRUTHIONIDÆ.

- Great Bustard. *Otis tarda*. One probable, Sep. 27th, 1870, near Shapwick, Mr. Harting in the "Field"

CHARADRIADÆ.

- Thick-knee. *Ædicnemus crepitais*. Rare. Occasional
 Golden Plover. *Charadrius pluvialis*. Common. Local.
 Partially resident
 Dotterel. *C. morinellus*. Rare. Local. Summer

- Ring Dotterel. *C. hiaticula*. Common on coast. Resident
- Sanderling.* *Calidris arenaria*. Occasional on coast
- Gray Plover. *Squatarola cinerea*. Common on coast.
Winter
- Peewit. *Vanellus cristatus*. Common. Local. Partially
resident
- Turnstone. *Streptilus interpres*. Common on coast.
Generally Winter
- Oystercatcher. *Hæmatopus ostralegus*. Common on coast.
Resident

GRUIDÆ.

- Common Crane. *Grus cinerea*. One Oct. 1865, Stolford,
"Birds of Somerset"

ARDEIDÆ.

- Heron. *Ardea cinerea*. Common. Resident
- Squacco Heron. *A. comata*. Very rare. Yarrell. "Birds
of Somerset"
- Little Bittern. *Botaurus minutus*. Rare. Occasional.
Generally Autumn
- Bittern. *B. stellaris*. Becoming rare. Generally Autumn
to Spring
- Night Heron. *Nycticorax gardeni*. Said to have been
killed near Bridgwater, Mr. Baker's notes, not pub-
lished
- Black Stork. *Ciconia nigra*. One, Sedge Moor, May,
1814, Montagu†
- White Spoonbill. *Platalea leucorodia*. One, Sedge Moor,

* I have never found this bird on our coast myself, but Mr. Gurney informs me his father found it at Minehead, and Mr. Matthews pointed me out one at Weston in a small collection which was said to have been shot there. It is included also in Mr. Baker's list.

† Montagu's Dictionary by Newman, p. 327.

Nov. 1813. One, Curry Moor, Skull and Beak in the Museum of the Society.

Glossy Ibis. *Ibis falcinellus*. One Autumn of 1859 or 1860, "Birds of Somerset"

SCOLOPACIDÆ.

Curlew. *Numenius arquata*. Common on coast in Winter.

Partially resident

Whimbrel. *N. phæopus*. Common on coast. Spring and Autumn

Spotted Redshank. *Totanus fuscus*. Rare. Occasional. Generally Autumn

Common Redshank. *T. calidris*. Common. Mostly on coast. Autumn and Spring

Green Sandpiper. *T. ochropus*. Common. Local. Mostly Summer

Wood Sandpiper. *T. glareola*. One, Cheddon, May, 1870, "Zoologist" for 1871, S.S. p. 2441. Cecil Smith

Common Sandpiper *T. Hypoleucos*. Common. Local. Summer

Greenshank. *T. glottis*. Occasional. Spring and Summer

Black-tailed Godwit. *Limosa melanura*. Rare. Occasional

Bar-tailed Godwit. *L. rufa*. Common. Mostly on coast. Autumn and Winter

Ruff. *Machetes pugnax*. Becoming rare. Local. Mostly Autumn and Winter

Woodcock. *Scolopax rusticola*. Common. Local. Winter. A few occasionally remaining to breed

Great Snipe. *S. major*. Rare. Local. Autumn.

Common Snipe. *S. gallinago*. Common. Winter. A few remaining to breed

Jack Snipe. *S. gallinula*. Common. Winter

- Curlew Sandpiper. *Tringa subarquata*. Occasional on coast. Winter
- Knot. *T. canutus*. Common on coast. Winter
- Little Stint. *T. minuta*. Rare. Occasional*
- Temminck's Stint. *T. temminckii*. A small flock at the mouth of the Brue, Sept. 1805. Montagu
- Purre or Dunlin. *T. variabilis*. Very common on coast.
- Purple Sandpiper. *T. maritima*. Rather rare. On coast. Winter
- Grey Phalarope. *Phalaropus lobatus*. Occasional in considerable numbers. Mostly Autumn.

RALLIDÆ.

- Landrail. *Crex pratensis*. Common. Summer
- Spotted Crake. *C. porzana*. Common. Local. Probably resident
- Baillon's Crake. *C. baillonii*. Priory Fields, Taunton, October, 1870
- Water Rail. *Rallus aquaticus*. Common. Resident
- Moorhen. *Gallinula chloropus*. Common. Resident.

LOBIPEDIDÆ.

- Coot. *Fulica atra*. Common. Local. Resident

NATATORES.

ANATIDÆ.

- Bean Goose. *Anser segetum*. Occasional. Winter
- White-fronted Goose. *A. albifrons*. Occasional. Winter
- Bernicle Goose. *A. leucopsis*. One near Bridgwater, Feb. 1809, Montagu
- Brent Goose. *A. brenta*. Common. Mostly coast. Winter
- Egyptian Goose. *A. ægyptiacus*. Rather rare. Occasional
- Hooper or Wild Swan. *Cygnus fesus*. Occasional. Winter

* Mr. Baker in his unpublished notes says it has been met with and recorded.

- Bewick's Swan. *C. bewickii*. Occasional. Winter
 Mute Swan. *C. olor*. Resident. Tame
 Sheldrake or Burrow Duck. *Anas tadorna*. Common
 on coast. Resident
 Shoveller. *A. clypeata*. Occasional. Generally Spring—
 may remain to breed
 Gadwall. *A. strepera*. Rare. Occasional
 Pintail. *A. acuta*. Common. Winter
 Wild Duck. *A. boschas*. Common in Winter. Partially
 resident
 Garganey. *A. querquedula*. Rather rare. Occasional
 Teal. *A. crecca*. Common. Winter
 Wigeon. *A. penelope*. Common. Winter
 Common Scoter. *Oidemia nigra*. Occasional on coast.
 Winter
 Pochard. *Fuligula ferina*. Common. Winter.
 Scaup Duck. *F. marila*. Common on coast. Winter
 Tufted Duck. *F. cristata*. Common. Winter
 Golden Eye. *F. clangula*. Rather rare, especially in adult
 plumage. Winter
 Smew. *Mergus albellus*. Rare, especially in adult
 plumage. Winter
 Red-breasted Merganser. *M. serrator*. Rare. Occasional.
 Generally immature. Winter
 Goosander. *M. merganser*. Occasional. Winter

COLYMBIDÆ.

- Great Crested Grebe. *Podiceps cristatus*. Rare. Occasional
 Red-necked Grebe. *P. rubricollis*. One, North Curry,
 Feb. 16th, 1871, "Zoologist" for 1871, S.S. p. 2563.
 Cecil Smith
 Slavonian Grebe. *P. cornutus*. Rare. Occasional.
 Mostly Winter

- Dabchick. *P. minor*. Common. Resident
 Great Northern Diver. *Colymbus glacialis*. Rare.
 Occasional
 Red-throated Diver.* *C. septentrionalis*. Rare. Occasional

ALCADÆ.

- Guillemot. *Uria troile*. Occasional stragglers on coast
 Black Guillemot. *U. grylle*. One near St. Audries.
 "Birds of Somerset"
 Little Auk. *Mergulus melanoleucos*. Rare. Occasional.
 Mostly November
 Puffin. *Fratercula arctica*. Occasional stragglers on coast
 Razor Bill. *Alca torda*. Occasional stragglers on coast.

PELECANIDÆ.

- Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Rare. One Bridgwater,
 1808. Montagu.
 Gannet. *Sula alba*. Occasional on coast. Generally
 immature

LARIDÆ.

- Common Tern. *Sterna hirundo*. Occasional. Generally
 Spring or Autumn
 Arctic Tern. *S. arctica*. Occasional. Generally Spring
 or Autumn
 Lesser Tern. *S. minuta*. Occasional. Generally Spring
 or Autumn
 Black Tern. *S. fissipes*. Occasional. Generally Spring
 or Autumn
 Sabine's Gull. *Larus sabini*. Rare. Occasional on
 coast. Always in immature plumage
 Little Gull. *L. minutus*. Occasional. on coast. Mostly
 in immature plumage, and in Autumn

* One of these birds was picked up dead near Bishops Hull in
 March 1868.

- Black-headed Gull. *L. ridibundus*. Occasionally numerous.
Mostly in immature or Winter plumage.
- Kittiwake. *L. tridactylus*. Common on coast.
- Ivory Gull. *L. eberneus*. Very rare. Occasional. One
at Weston-super-mare. "Zoologist" for 1865, Rev.
M. A. Matthew
- Common Gull. *L. lanus*. Common on coast. Mostly
Autumn to Spring
- Lesser Black-backed Gull. *L. fuscus*. Not very common.
Coast
- Herring Gull. *L. argentatus*. Common on coast
- Great Black-backed Gull. *L. marinus*. On coast, but
rather scarce
- Glaucous Gull. *L. glaucus*. Rare. Occasional on coast.
mostly Autumn or Winter, and immature
- Pomarine Skua.* *Lestris pomarinus*. Rare. Occasional
- Richardson's Skua. *L. richardsonii*. Rare. Occasional
- Buffon's Skua. *L. buffonii*. One near Ninehead, October
1862. "Zoologist" for 1863, p. 8448, the Rev. M. A.
Matthew
- Fulmar Petrel. *Procellaria glacialis*. Rare. Occasional.
Mostly Autumn or Winter. On coast
- Fork-tailed Petrel. *Thalassidroma leachii*. Rare. Occa-
sional. Generally Autumn
- Storm Petrel. *T. pelagica*. Rare. Occasional. Generally
Autumn

* I have a young bird of the year in my collection said to have been
one of a pair killed at Minehead.
