

Addenda to the List of the Birds of Somerset.

BY H. ST. B. GOLDSMITH.

ON reading the interesting paper by the Rev. Murray A. Mathew on the above subject, in the *Proceedings* of your Society for 1893, I see there are one or two additions to be made thereto. One, the Shag (*Phalacrocorax graculus*), is particularly important, as it adds another species to the number of birds killed or seen in this county. The others mentioned below appear to be unknown to him, though one or two were recorded by myself in the "Zoologist." With regard to his remarks on the Owls, I think much might be done by your publications in preventing the senseless destruction of these useful birds. I am glad to say, that in one or two cases, known to me, game preservers have stopped their keepers destroying them.

Lesser Redpole, *Acanthis rufescens*.

A nest of this bird, with four eggs, was found 10th May, 1894, by the Rev. G. E. Peake, at Holford. Two of the eggs were seen by me, and a part of the nest is in my possession.

I have also received reports of the nesting of this bird from other parts of the county during the present year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopus major*.

I do not consider this bird quite so rare as Mr. Mathew states it to be, though without question it is rare. On the 10th February, 1890, a pair of these birds was in the Square garden, in the centre of this town, on a crab apple tree, and I watched them for some time, when they were disturbed and flew away.

I also saw a pair in the hands of a birdstuffer (I am sorry to say), on the 13th September, 1892.

This spring, when staying at Shovell, near North Petherton, I had, for several mornings, the pleasure of watching a pair that frequented the trees in the drive, and I have, more than once, seen them at Halswell and Holford.

Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax Carbo*.

On the 28th October, 1887, I saw one in the flesh, at a birdstuffers in the town; it was killed at Stolford by a fisherman named Brewer.

Shag, *Phalacrocorax graculus*.

A bird was killed between Brean Down and the mouth of the Parret, on the 20th October 1892, and is now in the collection of Mr. Tucker of this town.

On two other occasions I have seen either a Cormorant or Shag, viz: on the 13th April, 1892, when playing golf on the Minehead links, and at Lilstock on the 14th May, 1894. The birds were too far off to enable me to say which they were, and I am not sufficiently acquainted with their flight to be able to identify them. The last mentioned, I fancy, was a Shag, as it appeared rather small for a Cormorant.

Great Northern Diver, *Colymbus glacialis*.

One killed at Steart in November, 1888, by Brewer, a fisherman. I saw it in the hands of a birdstuffer a few days after.

Red-throated Diver, *Colymbus septentrionalis*.

One shot in the Bridgwater river, near Cannington, by Mr. Tucker, 20th November, 1890.

One shot in the same river, near Dunball, on the 6th December, 1892, by a man named Wilkins.

Both birds are in the collection of Mr. Tucker, and were recorded by me in the "Zoologist."

Pallas's Sandgrouse, *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*.

Two birds were killed at Steart, out of the flock mentioned by Mr. Mathew. The second bird was wounded and found a few days after; both birds are in the possession of the Rev. C. Anderson, of Otterhampton.