

The Ornithological Section

President—The Rev. F. L. BLATHWAYT, M.B.O.U., Dyrham Rectory,
Chippenham, Wilts.

Vice-Presidents—The Very Rev. Prior E. HORNE, F.S.A., and Mr. BERNARD
W. TUCKER, M.B.O.U.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A., Taunton Castle.

Committee—The President, the Secretary and Treasurer, the Rev. Preb. D. J.
PRING, Messrs. E. GERALD HOLT, EDMUND PAGE, H. TETLEY and B. W.
TUCKER.

THE Annual Meeting of the Section for 1933 was held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, on 3 April, when the President occupied the chair. The attendance was well up to the average.

The Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1932, which showed a balance in hand on 31 December of £12 8s. 11d. On the other hand there was the liability of the cost of the Report for that year to be taken into consideration. There was also on deposit at the bank the sum of £23 7s. 0d.

The Officers of the Section were re-elected and thanked for their services. The Editorial Committee, consisting of the President, the Secretary and Mr. Tucker, and the Committee of seven were also re-elected to serve for the ensuing year.

The Nineteenth Report on Somerset Birds (1932) had recently been issued by the Editorial Committee.

In the afternoon, Mr. William E. Glegg, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., gave a lecture on 'An Ornithologist in the Camargue (Rhone Delta), which was excellently illustrated by lantern slides. He is the author of *The Birds of Essex*.

The autumn meeting was held in the director's room at Bristol Museum on 5 October, when the president was in the chair. It was reported that a number of stuffed birds had been presented to the Museum by Mr. E. G. Holt, Mrs. Alfred Elton and Mr. Philip C. Swayne.

In the afternoon Mr. J. Harry Savory gave a lantern lecture in the lecture theatre on 'Falconry', when he exhibited one of his Peregrine Falcons and various appliances used in the sport. This was followed by a short description of Bristol Museum, and of the ornithological collections in particular, by Mr. H. Tetley, Curator of Zoology. After viewing the bird collections, tea was partaken of at the invitation of the museum authorities. Afterwards some of the members visited the Zoological Department of the University with Professor Yonge, chiefly to see the Swayne collection of birds and the ornithological library formed by the late Dr. J. Wiglesworth, at one time president of our Ornithological Section. A few of the members were able to accept the invitation of the Bristol Naturalists' Society to attend the annual exhibition meeting held in the evening in the Botanical Department of the University.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

The chief feature of the year was the number of interesting waders which visited the reservoirs in the autumn, owing no doubt to the low level of the water, which left large areas of mud uncovered. The other chief ornithological events were the nesting of Garganey and the prolonged visit of an Iceland Gull to the Avon at Bristol. A summary of the more important records is given below. As in previous years the separate Report of the Ornithological Section should be consulted for fuller details.

STARLING, *Sturnus v. vulgaris* L.

A bird ringed in Friesland, Holland, on June 2, 1929, was recovered in Somerset in February, 1933. Another ringed in Somerset on Feb. 28, 1932, was recovered in Scania, Sweden, on July 6, 1932 (*Brit. Birds*, xxvi, 353 and 354).

CROSSBILL, *Loxia c. curvirostra* L.

Three seen by Mr. W. Wyndham's keeper at Williton on June 22, 25 and 26.

WHITE WAGTAIL, *Motacilla a. alba* L.

A number of records. Eight, Clevedon, Apr. 17 (*A.C.L.*); three, Berrow Flats, Apr. 14 (*W.B.Alexander & B.W.T.*);

eighteen at the mouth of the Brue, Apr. 21 (*E.G.H.*); six, Porlock Marsh, Apr. 18 (*F.L.B.*); six, same place, Apr. 24 (*K.B.R.*)

PIED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa h. hypoleuca* (Pall.)

The Exmoor breeding haunt is reported to have been unoccupied in 1933. A male seen in the Horner Woods, Apr. 26 (*K.B.R.*)

MARSH-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechst.)

Bred in its usual haunts in District IV (*C.J.P.*). One nest seen in Martock district (*J.H.S.*)

WRYNECK, *Jynx t. torquilla* L.

Heard at Winscombe for first time for three or four years on May 5, 6 and 7, but did not stay (*D.B.G.*). Noted at Ivythorn, Apr. 12 (*E.P.*)

PEREGRINE, *Falco p. peregrinus* Tunst.

Again bred in the Avon Gorge (*W.R.T.* and others) and near Wiveliscombe (*B.W.T.*). Also reported as usual from Brean Down and Steep Holm.

MERLIN, *Falco columbarius aesalon* Tunst.

Male seen at Brean Down, Jan. 5 (*K.D.S.*); one on Minehead Golf Links, Apr. 21 (*K.B.R.*). A pair seen on Exmoor in May were undoubtedly breeding (*C.J.P.*)

BUZZARD, *Buteo b. buteo* (L.)

One was present at Pensford during the winter and was joined by another in spring, but one was unfortunately shot (*H.L.P.*). Records of single birds seen outside West Somerset have been received from Trull, Feb. 6 (*R.L.M-K.*), Brent Knoll, Mar. 15 (*E.G.H.*), Blagdon, Apr. 13 (*D.B.G.*), Uphill, Sept. 16, and Steep Holm, Oct. 2 (*K.D.S.*). Another was accidentally trapped at Butleigh Wood, Dec. 26 (*E.P.*)

MONTAGU'S HARRIER, *Circus pygargus* (L.)

A male was seen at close range on the Blackdowns on May 1 (*C.J.P.*)

[HEN-HARRIER, *Circus c. cyaneus* (L.)

An adult male Harrier considered to be this species was seen by Mr. P. M. Meeson and J. H. S. near Winsford on May 4.]

HERON, *Ardea c. cinerea* L.

Six pairs nested in Marston Park (*J.Snelgrove*). Thirteen nests at Shapwick, Mar. 23 (*L.A.H.*), eleven occupied at Etsome Wood, May 1 (*R.W.Pretor-Pinney*), thirty-three apparently new at Fivehead, Apr. 14, but not all proved occupied (*B.W.T.*), eighty at Somerton, Apr. 15 (*B.W.T.*), and thirty-five to thirty-nine at Halswell Park (*Keeper W.Thomas*).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser albifrons* (Scop.)

One shot at Doniford on Dec. 5 (*F.H.*). Flocks not definitely identified, but most probably this species, were also reported from the Burnham-Berrow coast during December (*E.G.H.*), passing over Ivythorn on Dec. 19 and near there on Dec. 23 (*E.P.*), and near Wellington on Dec. 16 (*M.C.H.*)

GARGANEY, *Anas querquedula* L.

Nested in District IV (*F.H.*)

PINTAIL, *Anas a. acuta* L.

Reported numerous on West Sedgemoor in January (*E.G.H.*). One shot at North Curry (*F.H.*). A drake seen off Brean Down, Dec. 22 (*K.D.S.*)

SCAUP, *Nyroca m. marila* L.

An adult drake was present at the Barrow Reservoirs from January to April and it or another was back by Dec. 9 (*W.R.T.*, *K.B.R.* and others).

COMMON SCOTER, *Oidemia n. nigra* (L.)

Six off Berrow, Apr. 14 (*W.B.Alexander* & *B.W.T.*). Twelve off Minehead, July 23 (*H.H.Davis*, *J.H.Savory*, & *H.T.*)

GANNET, *Sula bassana* (L.)

One dead on shore at Sand Bay, Oct. 20, after a week of rough weather (*T.B.*)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps n. nigricollis* Brehm.

One at Barrow from January to Mar. 21 and Sept. 26 to Nov. 28. On Jan. 29 two were seen there and on Sept. 20 four (*K.B.R.*, *H.T.* and others). Two killed near Chard in September were received by the National Museum of Wales (*G.C.S.Ingram*).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER, *Colymbus i. immer* Brünn.

One seen and satisfactorily identified at Roughmoor, Taunton, by Mr. H. J. Wickenden in the early autumn.

WOOD-PIGEON, *Columba p. palumbus* L.

A nest containing two fresh eggs found near Bridgetown in the Exe valley on Sept. 10 (*T.B.*)

RUFF, *Philomachus pugnax* (L.)

Three birds seen at Blagdon Reservoir between Sept. 19 and 24. On Sept. 21 two Reeves and a Ruff were observed and on Sept. 24 two Ruffs and one Reeve (*F.L.B.*, *W.R.T.*, *H.T.* and others).

[LITTLE STINT, *Calidris minuta* (Leisl.)

'A very small wader, which must have been a Little Stint' was seen by S. Lewis at Blagdon on Sept. 8 (*Brit. Birds*, xxvii, 233).]

SPOTTED REDSHANK, *Tringa erythropus* (Pall.)

One or two at Blagdon between Sept. 16 and 24 (*F.L.B.*, *H.T.* and others). One at Barrow, Sept. 17 (*H.T.*)

GREENSHANK, *Tringa nebularia* (Gunn.)

One to six birds reported at Barrow by numerous observers between Sept. 17 and Oct. 1.

GREY PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius* (L.)

One at Blagdon, Sept. 16 (S. Lewis—*Brit. Birds*, xxvii, 233). A Phalarope, recorded in *The Field*, Nov. 4, 1933, p. 1159, as a Red-necked Phalarope, but more probably this species, was seen at Chard Reservoir by Mr. Morley H. Neale on Oct. 4 and remained for two days.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa l. limosa* (L.)

One to two birds seen at Barrow by numerous observers between Sept. 17 and 30. Two at Blagdon, Sept. 8 (S. Lewis—*Brit. Birds*, xxvii, 233) and one, Sept. 19 (*F.L.B.*). One about a mile from the mouth of the Axe, Sept. 16 (*K.D.S.*)

WHIMBREL, *Numenius ph. phaeopus* (L.)

A flock of 20–30 seen feeding in a pasture on the top of the Poldens on Sept. 12, an unusual occurrence (*J.G.*)

BLACK TERN, *Chlidonias n. niger* (L.)

One to three birds reported by a number of observers at Barrow between Sept. 17 and Oct. 1. Two to three at Blagdon, Sept. 19–24 (*W.R.T.*, *H.T.* and others). Probably also three at Chard in September.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus marinus* L.

One at Barrow Reservoirs, Dec. 22, 24 and 31 (*H.T.* & *W.R.T.*). Also several records from the Avon several miles inland near Sea Mills (*H.T.*)

ICELAND GULL, *Larus leucopterus* Vieill.

An immature bird in very white plumage frequented the Avon at Bristol throughout the year, being seen by numerous observers.

The contributors of the foregoing notes can be identified from the following list:—Rev. F. L. Balthwayt; T. Bomford; D. B. Grubb; J. Grubb; L. A. Hawkins; F. Hibberd; E. G. Holt; A. C. Leach; Dr. R. L. Meade-King; E. Page; H. L. Popham; Rev. C. J. Pring; K. B. Rooke; K. D. Smith; J. H. Symes; W. R. Taylor; H. Tetley; B. W. Tucker.

B. W. TUCKER.