



Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered charity no 1098296

**An Account of the
Birds of the Huddersfield District
(S. L. Mosley, 1915)**



Huddersfield man Seth Lister Mosley's book is one of the most important in the history of local and British ornithological literature, but is little known outside specialist circles. Now Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club brings it to life again in digital form.

An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District is a re-publication of an original work by S. L. Mosley, first issued in 1915. It is now produced as a digital 'e-book' by Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club to make this pioneering work available to a wider present day public as part of its charitable objective to promote education about wild birds, their natural history and literature. The book is available to download free of charge from our web site:

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk



Cover Illustration: **portrait of Seth Lister Mosley aged 76 by Bradley Shaw, 1923.**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The owner of the original book for generously allowing us to have it scanned professionally whilst it was being taken apart and re-bound.

Dr Tim Melling for his Foreword and the picture of the 'Cock Crowing Stone'.

Mike Pinder for his Introduction.

Kirklees Museums and Galleries for permission to use as our cover their image of Mosley's portrait, which is in Tolson Museum, Huddersfield, and their image of a plate of Red-necked Grebe, which is added to this 2nd edition.

FOREWORD by Dr Tim Melling

Seth Mosley was way ahead of his time. At a time when ornithologists went out with guns, not binoculars, Mosley wrote “*I regret that the book is a record of murder and plunder from beginning to end. I do hope the time will come when men will respect bird life...*” He also regretted having given his stuffed birds to schools because we ought not to encourage children to look at death, and he frequently bemoans egg collectors, at a time when shooting and egg collecting was not only legal, but respectable. Yet you could be sent to prison for a month with hard labour and flogging if you set the moors on fire between 22 February and 24 June (see the Red Grouse account).

This takes us back to a time when over 3000 species of birds were known in the world (there are now over 9000 described species), and the British List was 493 (it is now 598).

It also takes us back to a time before we realised that Marsh Tits comprised two species. Mosley was clearly a religious man, as a number of birds have scriptural notes, and his beliefs and personal views often spill over into the text. Skylark is a great example of this; “*A Skylark in a cage six inches high is saddest of all – Made by God for the gate of heaven, condemned by man to the hell of a sunless back yard*”.

Overall, Mosley’s book gives a very informed insight into the status of birds in our area a century ago. But it goes way beyond that with insights into the ecology of the birds, often as an addendum under notes for farmers, gardeners or teachers after each species. There is a tendency to think that all birds would have been much commoner a hundred years ago but this is not the case. Birds like Corn Bunting (aka Common Bunting) and Yellow Wagtail were clearly much more common and widespread, but Tree Sparrow was “a rare stray”. Corncrake had all but disappeared from the district by 1915 but a map shows its former area of occupation. Many birds that are common and widespread now were rare or unknown in Mosley’s day. For example Carrion Crow did not breed, Reed Bunting and Treecreeper were “formerly resident”. Green Woodpecker was a rare visitor while Great Spotted Woodpecker was resident but rare, and Tawny Owl was “now very rare”. A single Stock Dove was shot in 1901 but when examined was found to be just a Woodpigeon, so the species continued as unrecorded in the district. The lack of suitable waterbodies resulted in a dearth of records of wetland birds; Cormorant was a rare straggler, and both Ringed Plover and Redshank were known from a single record each, yet there is a plausible record of Baillon’s Crake.

The book also answered a question that I have pondered from time to time since I came to live in Huddersfield. *"There is a large stone with a pointed top between West Nab and the Isle of Skye road, on which a cock grouse is said to perch every morning to crow; it is known as the Cock-crowing-stone."* A hundred years later this stone has been painted with those very words.



I think that it is a real credit to Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club that they have managed to bring this extremely rare, valuable and sought-after book into the hands of anyone interested in birds, and without cost. I don't know what Seth Mosley would have made of this digital age technology, but I'd bet he'd be pleased that his book was still widely available more than a century after he published it.

Tim Melling
August 2018

Tim is one of the leading ornithologists in Britain and has been a birdwatcher and natural history enthusiast since childhood, taking a degree in Zoology and a PhD on the Large Heath Butterfly. He is a Senior Conservation Officer with the RSPB. He has found many rare birds over the years, but perhaps most memorable to a Yorkshire audience were the Little Bunting in his back garden in January 2000 and the Easington White's Thrush in 2004. Tim served as Executive Secretary on the British Ornithological Union's Records Committee for ten years. He has made many TV and radio appearances and won the Bird Brain competition at the British Birdwatching Fair on both occasions that he entered. He watches and photographs wildlife all over the world, sometimes leading trips, but British Natural History remains his greatest love.

INTRODUCTION by Mike Pinder

Seth Lister Mosley (1847 - 1929) published his *Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District* in 1915, during his time as curator of the museum at Huddersfield Technical College. After devoting himself to the study of natural history for over 60 years, he had become an expert on many of its aspects. He must have been a remarkable character, incredibly industrious and passionate about instilling an interest in natural history in the people of Huddersfield. He was also a very active contributor to the study of natural history in a Yorkshire-wide and national context.

Mosley's character is very evident in the book's text, and an impression comes through of a very careful observer with little time for what he considered to be unscientific recording and even a rather caustic sense of humour (see the account of Pallas's Sandgrouse).

The book deals with the area drained by the rivers Colne and Holme, where Mosley had a huge amount of field experience. Each species account starts with a short quote from the earliest published attempt to summarise the birds of Huddersfield, by C. P. Hobkirk in 1859. Selected species are illustrated and the coloured distribution maps provided for most of these are the truly revolutionary aspect of the book. Distribution maps had appeared in a very few earlier publications, but probably never before in a local avifauna. The next serious attempt at mapping within a local area was probably not until the early 1950s. Distribution maps for birds breeding in the Huddersfield area were not attempted again until 2000. Apart from those for Rook and Magpie (which show individual Rookeries and nests respectively), the maps show the areas of distribution in pink. It appears that Mosley tried to give some idea of population density, although there is no mention of this in the text. On many maps, the area of pink fades gradually from right to left, reflecting the transition from more habitat-rich low-lying agricultural land in the east to the high moorlands in the west. In the case of Red Grouse, however, the colour fades from west to east, which equates with the species' preference for upland habitats. The maps are mainly of breeding distribution, but two show the winter distribution of Fieldfare and Redwing.

Mosley was a critical assessor of old records, and his book questions several of these for their lack of evidence, or as being very unlikely to have occurred. He rightly ignores a record of Andalusian Hemipode that appears in Hobkirk's list, but accepts a record of Purple Martin, though he is careful to explain that he has been unable to trace the specimen. He also highlights inaccuracies in Nelson's *Birds of Yorkshire* published eight years earlier, where these relate to Huddersfield records, but does so in the politest terms.

An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District was written, illustrated, printed and published virtually single-handed by Mosley. His son Frederick, who was head of economic entomology at University College Reading at that time, is credited as co-author on the title page, but the extent of his involvement is unknown. The book was sold in 20 instalments to subscribers, each part costing 6d. From the information on the coloured postcards that Mosley produced to promote the book, it is apparent that he originally planned 40 plates and 40 maps, but perhaps because he was producing the book almost entirely unaided on top of a very busy life, he fell short of this ambition. As far as is known, none of the extant copies contains more than 39 plates and 37 maps. One copy was reported to have an extra map, although it was not stated which species this referred to.

The book shows signs of having been rushed, such as the fact that the index is unreliable; map and plate references are in several cases muddled or omitted; the plate for Meadow Pipit is numbered out of sequence; there are also a number of typographical errors. The quality of print is variable, especially on the plates and maps, where the captions can be very faint. The limitations of the printing technology available to Mosley meant it was not possible to print on the reverse of the plates and maps. As a consequence the original book contains 76 superfluous blank pages. This may also explain why the text, plates and maps for some species are not quite adjacent to each other. Because the book was issued in sections, it was left to subscribers to have their own copies bound. It seems that Mosley did not leave sufficient margins for the book to be sewn and trimmed during the binding process and consequently the reference letters on the maps are sometimes missing or severely cropped. This may also explain the lack of a reference number on the plate for Black-headed Gull, although the index gives it the same reference number as for the Lapwing plate! None of this, however, detracts from the book's content and its importance as an historical document.

It is probably true to say that very few copies of the book ever existed; one auction catalogue suggested there were perhaps as few as 40. So far, only 25 have been traced with any certainty and not all are complete. The most accessible copies are in the local history section of Huddersfield Library. Five are in Museum libraries, and another five in university libraries, mainly overseas. Of the total, about ten would seem to be in the hands of private collectors. Because of this scarcity, and the fact that it is attractively illustrated, any complete copy of the book that comes on the market can fetch a very high price. As a consequence, *An Account of the Birds of the Huddersfield District* has remained largely unknown outside the world of natural history book collectors. For such a localised avifauna, and for its period, this book is remarkable, and the inclusion of distribution maps marks it out especially.

It is a fascinating historical snapshot, and both the book and its author deserve much wider recognition. It is for this reason that Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club has decided to make the book available through our website for the benefit of a present day audience.

The scans presented here are taken from a "complete" copy, containing 39 plates and 37 maps. We present it as it is, bar the omission of the blank pages, but otherwise retaining all the vagaries and ageing of the original. Our first edition published in August 2018 has a plate of Eared Grebe. As a result of research by Stephen Cook, it has emerged that some copies have a plate of Red-necked Grebe but not of Eared Grebe. Universities, Museums and a private collector contacted had one or the other of these two plates but not both. We have been unable to locate a copy with both plates. For the sake of completeness we have included both Eared and Red-necked Grebe in this updated edition (May 2020).

Mike Pinder
May 2020

Further reading:

B. Armitage, J. E. Dale, & S. Hey *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area* 2000

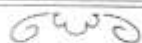
A. Brooke (2012) Brethren in the temple of science - natural history across the class divide, Huddersfield c. 1848-1865. *The Naturalist* vol 137 no. 1081 pp. 180-200

A. Brooke (no date) *The Curator of Ravensknowle*
<https://undergroundhistories.wordpress.com/seth-lister-mosley-and-the-early-years-of-tolson-museum>

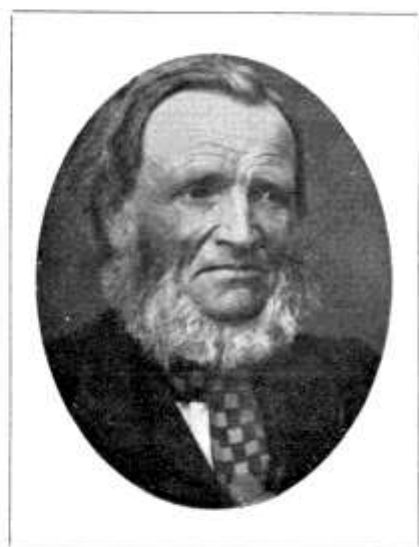
S. Davies (1992) The making of a municipal museum: Huddersfield and the naturalists. In *Huddersfield: A Most Handsome Town* ed. E. A. H. Haigh pp 681-701

C. P. Hobkirk (1859) *Huddersfield: its History and Natural History*. pp 140-145

Birds of Huddersfield.



Frontispiece



JAMES REID MOSLEY.



AN ACCOUNT OF

The BIRDS of

THE

Huddersfield District.

COLOURED PLATES AND MAPS.

S. L. Mosley, F. E. S.
Technical College, Huddersfield.

F. O. Mosley, F. R. M. S.
University College, Reading.

JAMES REID MOSLEY.

I think it appropriate that my father's portrait should form the frontispiece to this volume.

Born at Kirkburton, at some date (which he himself had forgotten) previous to 1818, which he could just remember, he learnt joinery with my grandfather, who died before my birth. Early in life he gave up joinery and took to handloom weaving, then a lucrative occupation, but about the time I was born began to stuff birds, became a good hand, and finally gave up weaving and followed birdstuffing to the end of his life. Always fond of a gun, and shooting such as Waxwings, Goldfinches, Snow Buntings, etc. then not uncommon, there is no wonder that he should desire to have them stuffed, and there being no one in the district who did such work, that he should try to do them himself. The nearest birdstuffer was at Doncaster, and my father paid him numerous visits, walking there and back on a Sunday, profiting, no doubt, at every visit, and I believe had four lessons, for which he paid a guinea.

At that time there was not only no birdstuffer in this district but so far as I have been able to ascertain there was no one interested in any department of Nature. It may be fairly stated that by his excellent work he created the taste, and twenty years later were several gentlemen, besides many of humbler means forming collections, and bird-skin clubs and naturalist societies began to spring up numerously.

Although he never got much beyond stuffing birds and making butterfly pictures, he stepped forward out of the times in which he lived, and, I believe gave me my love of Nature, at any rate he did much to encourage it, and I have not forgotten, and would not like to forget, how, when I was a very little boy, he used to take me by the hand to the fields and woods, pointing out every bird he saw and telling me its name, often riding me on his back if the journey was rather long. If anything I have done by my love of Nature has helped any one, and I believe it has, my prayer is that the credit of it may go to my father's account.

He finished this stage of his life Sept. 20, 1881, and was interred at Kirkheaton church, where my mother followed him two years later. He gave me all his large stock of birds, and his books before he died.

This Volume is Dedicated to his Memory.

P R E F A C E .

This book is sent forth as the crystalised spare moments of a busy man. To have produced it in anything like its present form at the price would have been an impossibility on commercial lines, and my only alternative was to print it myself on a small hand press. I am conscious of its many defects, but there were only two ways—to do it this way or not at all.

The Plates I leave to speak for themselves. I hope they will pass when the years I have worked are taken into consideration; if any one should consider them commendable and wish to know the secret, it is no flesh, no intoxicants, no tobacco.

I regret that the book is a record of murder and plunder from beginning to end. I do hope the time will come when men will respect bird life, when the rare birds which visit us may be encouraged to settle down and remain, and the local species be permitted to do the good service for agriculture and horticulture they were sent to do.

The total species recorded for the District is 187, leaving out a few doubtful ones, which is 81 more than Hobkirk's list of 1859. I leave it to those who doubt this number to prove their assertion that all these have never occurred. If we had had more observers whose records could have been relied upon the number might have been increased.

When I broke up my private museum and discontinued collecting I gave over 70 cases of Birds to elementary schools. This, I now think, was a mistake. We ought not to encourage children to take pleasure in looking at dead creatures, and so long as they are accessible in a public museum when required for reference, good pictures answer all practical purposes both for educational uses and private study.

It was originally intended that this volume should form one of a series on the Fauna, Flora, and other features of the District, but the work of preparing it over and above my professional duties has been so heavy that I am advised not to proceed with my plan. The matter for the other departments is now being published in the 'Huddersfield Weekly Examiner', whether it will be put into book form remains to be considered.

S. L. MOSLEY.

Beaumont Park, August, 1915.

GENERAL NOTES ON BIRDS.

(To be referred to in preparing a Lesson on any Bird.)

Birds are vertebrate animals (with backbone and internal skeleton), and they have the hottest blood.

The bones are hollow, and light.

There are air spaces under the skin which the bird can inflate; the hot blood then heats the air which expands and helps the bird to rise.

Externally the skin is clothed with feathers, which are not distributed uniformly like the hair of mammals (except in Penguins, &c.) but in tracks along the upper and under surfaces. These feather-tracks can be seen plainly in the young of a Perching Bird.

All birds lay eggs, and the great majority build nests, varying in this respect from no nest at all to the most skilfully made and beautiful structures.

When both sexes are equally brightly coloured (e.g. Kingfisher) they lay white eggs in a hole or covered nest, and both birds sit in turn.

If one sex be brightly coloured and the other plain, and the eggs are in an open nest, the plain bird only sits (e.g. Pheasant).

If both sexes are plain (e.g. Dunnock) they both sit in turn.

Eggs in open nests are coloured, similar to their surroundings—blue-green (e.g. Dunnock) in hedgerows; brown ones (e.g. Titlark) on the ground; drab ones (e.g. Partridge) among withered grass; &c.

Birds in which the sexes are of the same plain colour (e.g. Skylark) usually pair for life; where there is a moderate difference (e.g. Chaffinch) they pair for the breeding season only; where the difference is extreme (e.g. Pheasant) they never permanently pair but are polygamous.

There are over 3000 kinds of Birds known: about 493 have been met with in this country: and 189 in this district.

The modern Classification of Birds is somewhat complicated. For the purposes of this work the older and more easily understood plan of dividing into seven Orders will be followed, but the Perchers will be placed first. These orders are:—

- | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| 1 Perchers. | 3 Birds of Prey. | 5 Waders. |
| 2 Climbers. | 4 Scratchers. | 6 Swimmers. |
| 7 Runners. (Ostriches, &c., not British.) | | |

BIRDS OF THE HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.

THE DRAINAGE-AREA OF THE COLNE, HOLME, AND FENAY BECK.

ORDER 1.

PERCHERS.

This Order comprises all those birds which have three toes in front and one behind, whose claws are short and little curved, and the feet generally adapted for grasping small twigs. It includes the great majority of birds, mostly of small size, the largest being one of the Lyre Birds of Australia, which is nearly as large as a pheasant; the smallest is the least kind of Humming Bird (S. America) no bigger than a moderate sized humble bee.

The young of Perching Birds are hatched naked and blind, and for some time are helpless, being fed by the parents till able to fly—12 to 14 days.

In this order are all the true singing birds, though a very large number have no real song. Usually the plainly coloured ones are the best singers. As a rule it is the males only which sing.

These birds build the most beautiful and complete nests of any birds, but there is great variation in this respect.

All the small birds we see about here, and up to the size of a Rook (Cuckoo and one or two others excepted) belong to the Perchers.

THE CROW FAMILY.

Typical Crows are glossy black with metallic reflections, but many true crows are black and grey or black and white. Other members of the Crow Family (but not true crows), such as Magpies and Jays, are often very brightly coloured. But the climax of fantastic colour and decoration is to be found in the Birds of Paradise of New Guinea, and the Bower Birds of Queensland.

The family characteristic is a stout strong beak, with arched upper ridge, suitable for digging.

They build nests of sticks or on rocks.

They are omnivorous feeders.

They have no song, and the call is harsh.

In all the British kinds the sexes are alike in colour.

The Starlings connect this family with the next; they have a song and build in holes.

1 **RAVEN** (*Corvus corax*).

A former resident, but long extinct in this District.

"Kirklees, but does not breed there."—Hobkirk. 1859.

The only evidence I have been able to find in support of the placing of this species in a list of the Birds of this District is the existence of the place-name—Ravensknowle, a prominent hill point a little to the north-east of Almondbury. This prominent place overlooks a wide flat valley, in former time, no doubt, thickly wooded. I can remember part of the slope being wooded, and a road along the hill side is still known as Forest Road. This would form an admirable look-out place for these birds, commanding an extensive view of the forest, in which probably they bred. They bred at Walton Hall, near Wakefield, up to 1813, and Morris says that Ravens were common in most parts of the country in 1819.

SCRIPTURAL NOTES.—The Raven is the first bird mentioned by name in the Bible (Gen. viii. 7). It was the first creature sent out of the ark, but finding no place to rest, kept going and returning, perhaps feeding on the floating carcases of drowned animals, and thus became a carrion feeder; vile habits become permanent if freely indulged in.

The raven is a wild wary bird, but God can compel the wildest to obey him. When Elijah went and hid in a cave by the brook Cherith, for fear of Jezebel (1 Kings xvii. 3) God commanded the ravens to take him food, which he had not only the power but the right to do, as he provides the ravens with theirs (Job xxxiii. 41; Ps. cxlvii. 9; Luke xii. 24).

Solomon says "The eye that mocketh his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pluck it out" (Prov. xxx. 17): that is he should die and rot on the ground, and the ravens, always on the look out for carcases, would come and pick out his eyes, which are the first parts attacked. At the present day, and in this country, where dead bodies are no longer allowed to lie about, even a worse fate may befall the evil eye. A certain young man who mocked his father and despised his mother became blind.

The Hebrew word translated "raven" is usually a generic word including all the crow tribe, of which there are many kinds in Palestine, including

the Hooded Crow and a Rook very like ours. They are not only numerous in kinds but in individuals, and although their harsh notes are sometimes almost deafening, they render good service in clearing away the offensive offal from the towns.

THE CROW (*Corvus corone*).

Formerly a resident, now a rare visitor.

"Common, but seldom breeds."—Eddison, 1844 (vide 'Birds of Yorks.')

"Common in the wooded parts of the district."—Hobkirk, 1859.

I am not aware that this bird has bred in this district for many years, though formerly undoubtedly it did so. The pair in the Museum were shot from a nest in Storthes Hall woods forty-five or fifty years ago, by the keeper—Matthew Pemberton. Two eggs were taken from the nest, and both birds and eggs were brought to my father, who stuffed the former for the late Alfred Beaumont, and gave me the latter, as I had just begun to collect. After many years the birds and their eggs have again met in the Huddersfield Museum.

I am told by the old keeper at Farnley Mill that Carrion Crows are still seen about occasionally. I saw a pair, so recently as July 1909, careering over the moors about Cook's Study.

They still breed about Bretton and Cannon Hall.

HOODED CROW (*Corvus cornix*).

Rare visitor in severe winters.

Not mentioned by Hobkirk.

The Royston or Hooded Crow differs from the Black or Carrion Crow in having the back and underparts dark grey, the head, wings, and tail only being black. During continued snow or frost it is occasionally seen on the high grounds. The pair in the Museum were shot on Grange Moor many years ago, and were stuffed for the late Alfred Beaumont by my father. He had also others through his hands—one shot near Cook's Study, and another from Wessenden Head. There is a record (Nat., 1875, p. 24) of one killed on Storthes Hall Moor.



ROOK.

† natural size. The sexes are alike.

4

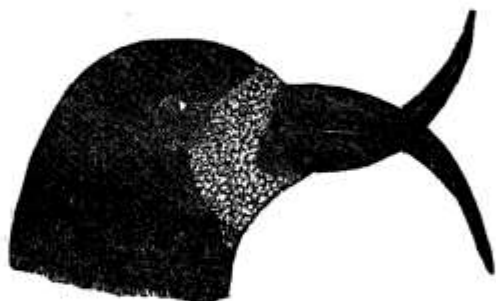
ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*).**An abundant resident.**

"In cultivated districts."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The Rook is the largest Perching Bird commonly found in this District, and is the first truly local resident bird we have to notice. A Rook is usually called a "crow," and although it is a crow this term had better be restricted to *the* Crow (No. 2).

There are many rookeries within our area, but I am not at present able to give, as I hope to later on*, the exact number, and number of nests in each. The largest is a little way out of Holmfirth on the Huddersfield Road, which, when I counted them in 1909, consisted of 208 nests. I shall be obliged to persons who will count the nests in rookeries and send me the results.

One with a curious crossed bill was shot on Taylor Hill many years ago. It went into the late Alfred Beaumont's collection, but did not come to the Technical College with the rest of his birds.



Head of the Taylor Hill Rook.

NOTES FOR FARMERS.—Rooks do good, and also mischief. The harm they do is in digging up potatoes; pecking turnips, and so letting in frost; eating newly sown corn; and, where they can get in, visiting hen-roosts, and eating the eggs. The mischief they commit is mainly on account of their large numbers; the natural food being insufficient they are driven to seek other supplies. Their natural check—the Buzzard—having been exterminated, and their not being shot in this district, they have increased beyond natural proportions.

To set against this there is the great amount of good they do. Their natural food consists, very largely, of the large grubs of cockchafer, daddy, and ghost, all of which are among the most destructive of farm pests. Some years ago I watched a flock of Rooks for several successive days from my study window. They came each day into a certain field about 11 o'clock, and remained for about two hours. On watching through a telescope I saw they were catching something, and following one bird it seemed to make a catch about every two minutes. On going to the field after the birds had gone away the first day I found nothing in particular except a few daddy-long-legs among the grass. On going to the same field again next morn-

* See Supplementary Notes at the end.

ing between nine and ten o'clock I found it swarming with these insects' and numerous pupa-cases, from which they had emerged, in the bottom of the grass. The birds came again as the day before, and when they had gone I again went to the field and found that the daddy-long-legs had gone also. So it was pretty clear that the rooks were catching the insects, and from the above figures it is easy to calculate the approximate number destroyed. Supposing one-half were females, and each usually lays 200 eggs, and allow that half of the grubs only come to maturity, the number of grubs prevented or destroyed by Rooks will be seen to be very great.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, and also pp. 1, 3, and top part on p. 5).—Take the rook as a type of the Crow Family.

The Rook is gregarious all the year, nests near houses, and face is bare of feathers (except in young birds).

The Crow is solitary all the year, nests in large woods, and face is feathered always.

New sticks are used for the nests, and the Rooks break them off with their strong beaks; the sticks are cemented by dropping wet clay or stiff mud, and the lining is grass, old rags, or anything soft. Many are blown down during the winter, and new ones are built in spring. Those not blown down are repaired, and become very large. If new nests are blown down in spring more compact ones are built. Begin in March.

Sleep at rookery from March to September; then several rookeries unite and sleep at one through winter.

In breeding time some go foraging, others stay on guard, afterwards all go. They go 10 to 30 miles. Returning tired, nearly dark, they fly low, slowly, one old bird first, cawing at intervals to lead the way. If benighted they "camp out" in some tree till morning.

Mr. Netherwood, of Sheepridge, told me of a man who shot a rook and was severely attacked by the rest of the flock, so much so that he had to run for his life to the nearest cottage. On another occasion, when returning to the rookery one night over Mr. Netherwood's garden, as they often did, he fired a shot of powder only, just to see what effect it would have on the birds. They flew in all directions, and never returned again the same way for weeks.



Grub of Cockchafer.

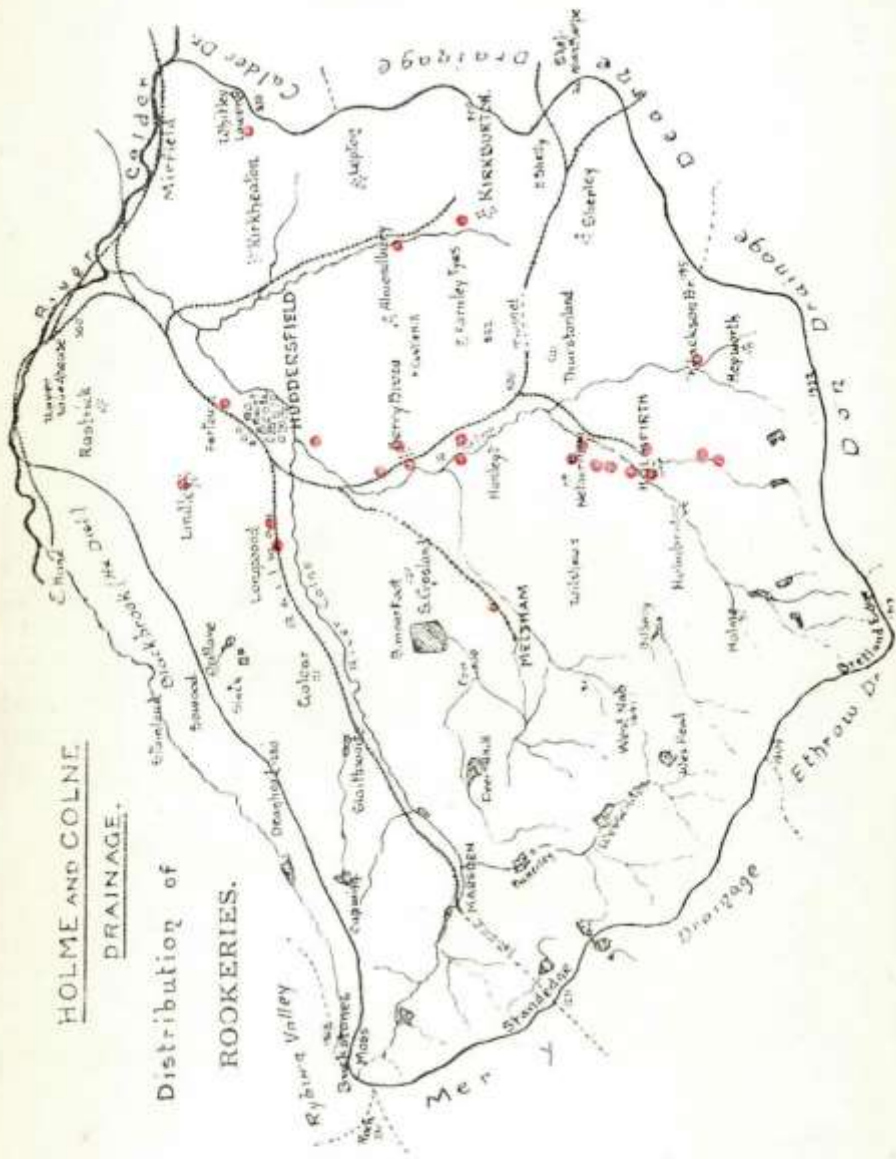


Maggot of Daddy-long-legs.

Destructive farm pests on which the Rook feeds.

HOLME AND COLNE DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
ROOKERIES.





MAGPIE.

$\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The sexes are alike.

JACKDAW (*Corone monedula*).**A not uncommon resident.**

"Rare near Huddersfield."—Eddison, 1844.

"Breeds at Almondbury Church."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Now the Jackdaw is not uncommon, and may often be seen associated with Rooks. It may be distinguished by its smaller size, quicker flap, and the note, which is not "caw" like that of the Rook, but "yak yak" repeated rather quickly. The plumage is not so metallic blue-black as in the Rook, and old birds are grey at back and sides of neck.

Many years ago a mill chimney was built at Slaithwaite with holes in. Jackdaws bred in these holes, and probably still do.

They have also bred at Woodsome and Storthes Hall, and in an old mill at Holmfirth, as well as the unfinished mill (now pulled down) in Deanhead Valley. I have also seen them about the church tower at Kirkburton.

The pair in the Museum were obtained at Slaithwaite.

SPECIAL INTEREST.—All the Crows which lay in open nests have eggs smeared over with olive-green and brown, usually almost or quite covering the bluish-white ground colour; probably protective among the green leaves and brown twigs and shadows. But the eggs of the Jackdaw, which are laid in holes, are bluish-white with comparatively few spots. It is supposed that within comparatively recent time this bird has changed its habit and taken to nesting in holes. This might have been in consequence of the destruction of the primitive forests. The result seems to be that there being no further use for the protective colouring on the eggs they are losing it. Nature never keeps anything which ceases to be of use.

MAGPIE (*Pica caudata*).

(PLATE II and MAP B.)

A common resident, formerly abundant.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Owing to their taking the eggs of game the number of Magpies has been greatly reduced by gamekeepers during the past fifty years. But they are still fairly common, and breed more or less wherever there are trees or woods, even as high as the plantation near the top of Holme Moss at over 1800ft. altitude.

When out collecting, with Miss Ball and four girls from the High School, on Oct. 14, 1910, at the top end of Honley Old Wood, we saw eight Magpies in one field at one time.

It is one of our most conspicuous birds, and it would be a pity for it to be exterminated. But alas! the love of destruction; quite recently I saw nine nailed up on an estate where game is not strictly preserved.

I have known one or two nests without the dome, and another, in Harden Clough, within eight feet of the ground, on a sloping hill side.

It is stated (*Birds of Yorks.*) that previous to 1859 large numbers of Magpies used to assemble on Stocks Moor during severe weather in winter. No reason is given, but it was probably the quantities of blackberries which formerly grew there. I was told, by Mr. Wood of Almond-bury, when over eighty, that when a boy he and his brother used to go with a "long can" and two quart cans, and nearly fill them with blackberries in an afternoon.

The old local name for the Magpie is "Pienet".

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, pp. 1 and 3, and first paragraph on p. 5).—The old name for the Magpie is Pie, and being black and white anything else of these two colours is said to be pied. Thus we have Pied Wagtail, Pied Flycatcher, Pied Woodpecker, &c. There is a black and white moth called the Magpie Moth, and a Magpie Mushroom.

The nest of the Magpie can be distinguished from a solitary rook's nest by its having a dome of sticks built over the top, probably to hide the somewhat conspicuous sitting bird. But the long tail protrudes beyond the dome, and gets the full sun upon it, which may account for its metallic colours (show Humming Birds, &c., from tropics).

Magpies are often kept tame, and allowed their liberty. They can be taught to repeat words. But they are very mischievous, pilfering any bright object they can find. Gold rings, bracelets, pins, &c., have sometimes been lost in this way, the bird going into the bedroom through an open window, and servants wrongfully accused of theft.



Magpie Moth.



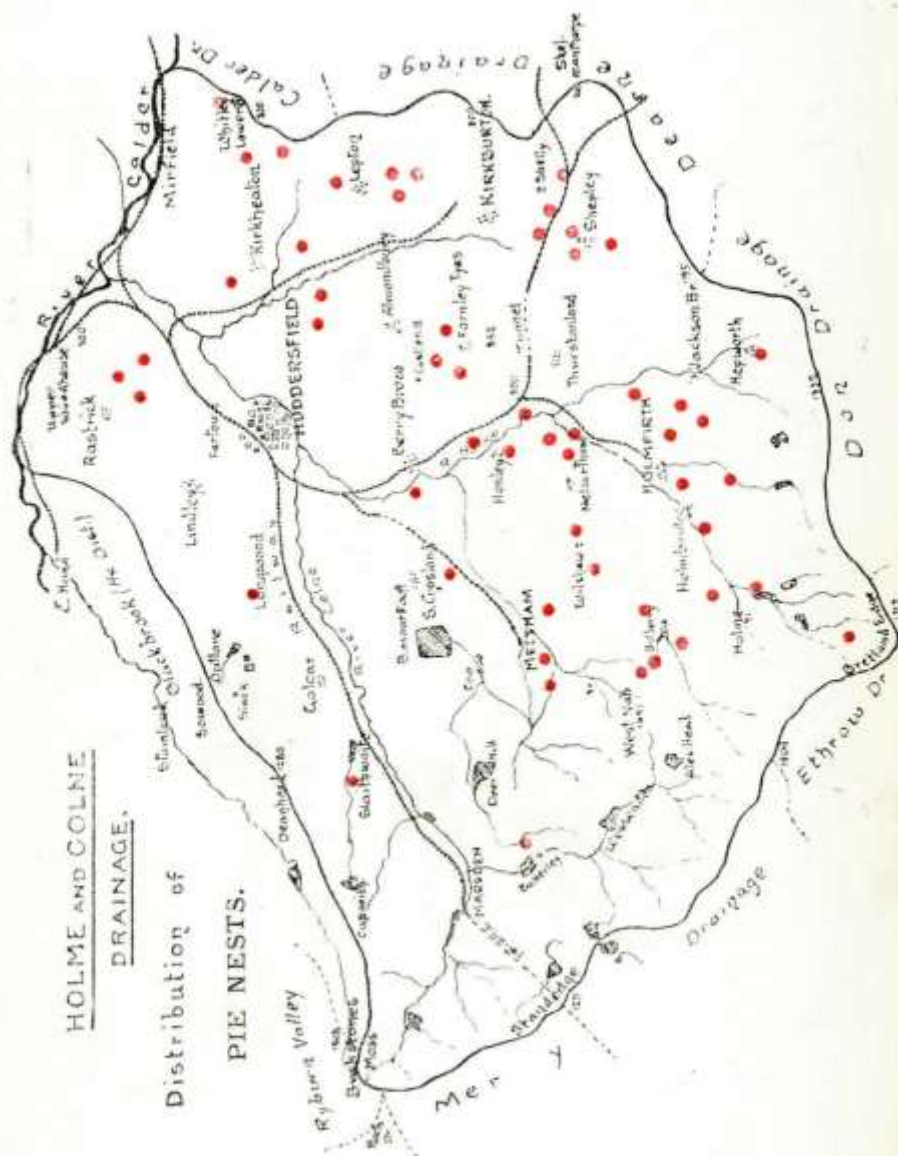
Magpie Mushroom.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

PIE NESTS.





STARLING.

A little under $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The sexes are alike.

7

JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*).

Formerly resident, now extinct locally.

"In extensive woods."—Hobkirk, 1859 and 1868.

The Jay is an attractive bird at close quarters on account of the bright blue feathers on the wing, but alive its notes are as harsh and discordant as any of the crow family; to "scream like a Jay" used to be a common saying.

I can remember the time [when this bird was not uncommon in the Mollicar and adjacent woods. It also bred in Woodsome and Storthes Hall Woods; the pair in the Museum came from the latter place. It used to be in Grimescar, and Mr. E. Fisher informs me that his father remembered it in Bank Wood. My father shot several in Kennerley Wood when he was keeper there from about 1858 to '62, and David Woffenden brought it occasionally from Whitley Hall.

But the Jay is a poacher, taking both eggs and young birds, and has had to pay the penalty of extermination in consequence.

[**Nutcracker.**—In Nelson's 'Birds of Yorkshire' it is stated that "The Rev. G. D. Armitage possesses an example which was killed in Dungeon Wood, Huddersfield, in 1870, and was purchased of Mr. S. L. Mosley who preserved it." On the appearance of this work I wrote to say that I knew nothing whatever of this bird. The Author communicated with Mr. Armitage, who stated that he purchased it from my father, but maintained that it was shot in Dungeon Wood. There must have been some misunderstanding, however, as no British-killed bird of this species ever passed through my hands, and I am equally certain my father never had one: if he had I should have known. I have asked for proof, but it has not been supplied. It must be distinctly understood that it is not Mr. Armitage's word which is doubted.]

8

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

(PLATE III and MAP C.)

An abundant resident, wherever there are old buildings or fields.

"A widely dispersed species."—Hobkirk, 1859 and 1868.

The Starling is a sub-tropical bird which has extended its range to the northward within historic time. Almost within living memory it was quite a rare bird in Yorkshire, and unknown in Scotland.

In summer they live in pairs about buildings where there are holes,

in which a loose nest of straw with a few feathers is made; the five or six eggs are pale bluish-white without spots. After the breeding season they flock together, sometimes in thousands, and live in the country. When these flocks fly the birds keep perfect order, as if moved by one common impulse. They all roost together, very often among evergreens.

The local name is Shepster, which is a corruption of "sheep-stare," derived from a habit of this bird, that when it alights on the back of a sheep or cow the first thing it does is to look (stare) around to see that all is clear.

The song of the Starling is a somewhat pleasing jabble, uttered in a low suppressed tone, as though the bird was afraid to sing out.

There is a record (Nat. 1865, p. 72) of a white one obtained near Golcar.

NOTES FOR FARMERS.—The Starling is one of the most useful of birds on the farm. It feeds almost entirely on worms and grubs, and is not much of a fruit bird, although I once saw several busy eating berries of mountain ash. They may often be seen walking about among the feet of cattle picking up the worms and grubs which wriggle out of the soil disturbed by the tread of the heavy animals. Small flocks sometimes associate with rooks, and pick up the grubs which the rooks consider too small to trouble with; so the Starlings benefit by the rooks' diggings. They may occasionally be seen perched on the backs of sheep or cattle picking off the parasites.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 3).—Though placed here in the Crow Family, Starlings are not crows; the upper ridge of the bill is straight. The metallic colours are indicative of sun heat.

In autumn, when the birds have newly moulted, each feather is broadly tipped with buffy-white, and these tips almost hide the metallic colours. During winter these white tips get worn off, and through the summer the bird is nearly wholly metallic, almost without spots. In this way many birds change colour without a moult.

The young birds, when fully grown, are dull brownish-grey, but this is changed for the adult dress at the first moult.

9 ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR (*Pastor roseus*).

A very rare visitor, one only reported.

"One shot at Edgerton."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This bird is recorded twice in Nelson's 'Birds of Yorkshire' but both refer to the same occurrence.

This bird is common on the Continent, and often strays as far as the South of England, but no further instance of its occurrence in this District has been reported since the above. This bird was shot, I believe, in 1859, and was stuffed by a barber called Tom Andrews. My father bought it from him, and kept it in a dark case upstairs, where he kept many good things out of sight. At his death it came into my possession, and I placed it in my public museum at Beaumont Park, the contents of which were afterwards transferred to the Technical College Museum, where this bird now is.



GREENFINCH.

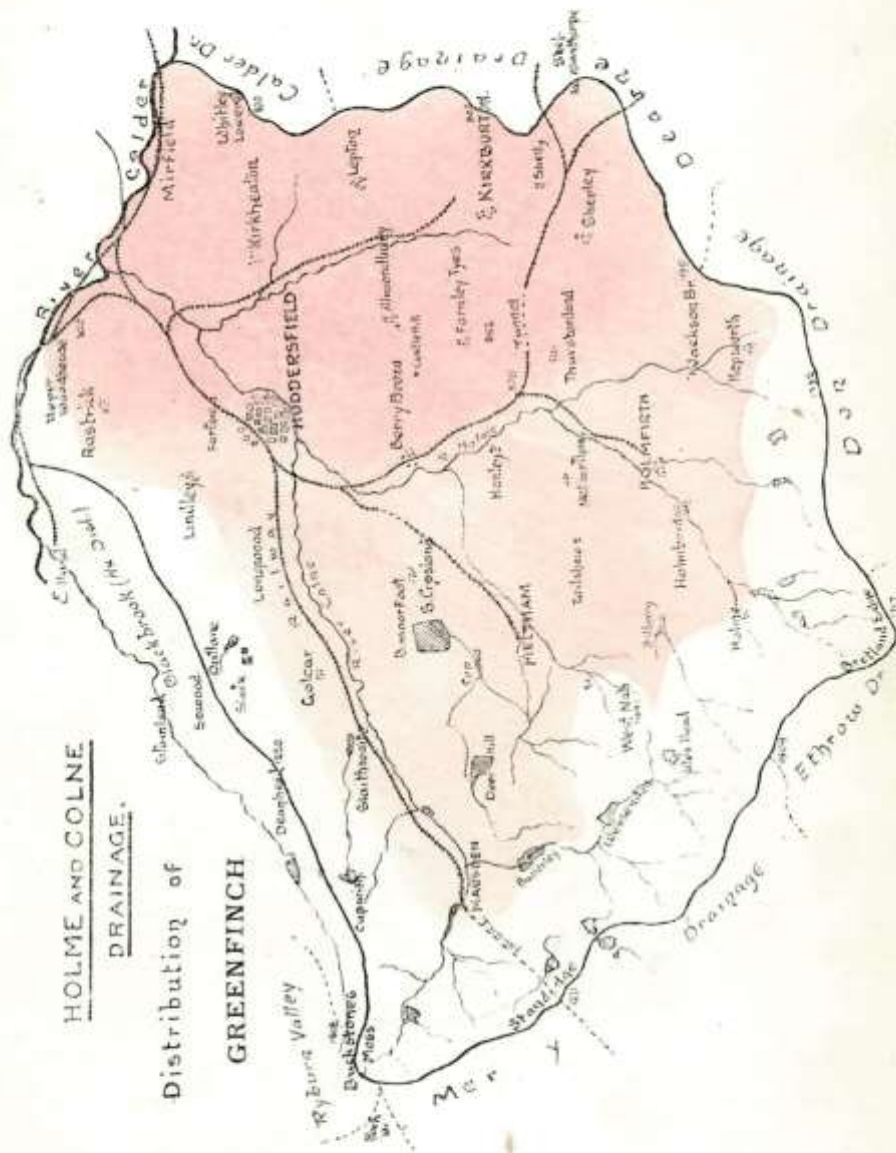
Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The female is a duller in colour.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

GREENFINCH



THE FINCH FAMILY.

The members of the Finch Family are all small birds, all the world over. It includes, in this country, the true Finches and the Buntings; in the former the gape of the bill is straight, in the latter there is an angle about the middle, and the mandibles are nipped in at the gape like a pair of round-nosed pliers.

They all feed principally on seeds, and Buntings have a projection from the roof of the mouth which is used for taking the skin off the seed; during the process it is rolled round in the mouth. The young are fed on caterpillars.

After the breeding season they unite in flocks, often several kinds together, and through the winter visit stack-yards, stubble-fields, &c., where they do a great deal of good by the number of seeds of weeds they destroy.

There is usually a difference in the coloration of the sexes (sexual dimorphism).

Nearly all have a song (males), and some of them are amongst our best singing birds: the Canary is a finch.

They all build somewhat complicated nests, some being first-rate examples of bird architecture.

There have been met with in this country 25 kinds of Finches and 18 of Buntings, and 13 and 5 respectively in this District.

Abroad the members of this family amount to thousands of different kinds, amongst the most remarkable being the Weaver Birds.

10 **GREENFINCH** (*Ligurinus chloris*).

(PLATE IV, and Map D.)

A common resident, frequenting bushy places.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Most frequent on the coal measures, because of the larger number of bushes and hedges. Its almost uniform green coloration is indicative of its habitat; many woodland birds are more or less green to hide them among the green leaves. When on the ground in a weedy stubble its green back is of equal service.

In spring the male indulges in a tumbling flight, in which it sings as it flies, but it also sings from the top of a bush. The earliest record for the song, in this District, is by Mr. Freer, at Linthwaite, March 9, 1891.

The local name is Green Len (an abbreviation of Linnet).

There is, in the Museum, a very pale drab one, almost white, tinted with lemon-yellow in places, shot in Dungeon Wood by my father, when collecting and stuffing for Alfred Beaumont.

NOTES FOR FARMERS.—This bird renders great service in winter by the number of seeds of various weeds which it takes from the ground, and in summer by the number of caterpillars it takes for its young. On the other

hand it is occasionally troublesome to seed in spring. In garden cultivation the best plan is to stretch some invisible black thread about 6in. above the soil; it frightens them when they attempt to alight. In the field this cannot be done, and a boy with a rattle must be employed.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also p. 1).—The nest is made of fine twigs and roots, lined with horsehair, which the birds pick up from farm yards, stables, places where horses have been rubbing themselves against a post, &c. The eggs (5-6) are bluish-white, with pink and black spots at the large end.

Show other green woodland birds—Willow Wren, Wood Wren, &c.

Wordsworth has a short poem on this bird.

11 HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*).

(PLATE V.)

A rare visitor, but has once or twice bred here.

This bird was unknown locally in Hobkirk's time, and there is therefore no mention of it in his book. Since then, however, it has extended its range northward and is now fairly common in several places in Yorkshire.

There are several records for this District. What seems to be the first is by Varley, who reported two seen near Longley Hall (Nat. 1875, p. 24). Another was reported from Marsden (Nat. 1884, p. 195); and Mr. Porritt noticed it, several times, at Crosland Hall during his residence there (Nat. 1901, p. 364; 1902, p. 276).

That it has bred here seems pretty clear. There is a young bird in the Museum which was shot at the bottom of Dalton in 1902, and the same year I saw peapods at Sheepridge which, I feel sure, had been cut by this bird. It probably breeds every year, but the most likely places being strictly private, and observers few, doubtless many instances remain unrecorded.

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—Should this bird become common here it will occasionally be troublesome among peas, as it now is in the southern parts of England. It clips the peas out with its large strong bill, pod and all, as neatly as if done with a ticket-punch. Remedy as for Greenfinch (No. 10).

12 CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).

(PLATE VI, MAP E.)

An abundant resident.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Found throughout the District wherever there are trees or large bushes, but much more abundant on the coal measures than on the millstone grits, in consequence of the greater amount of woods and hedges.



HAWFINCH.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The female is duller in colour.



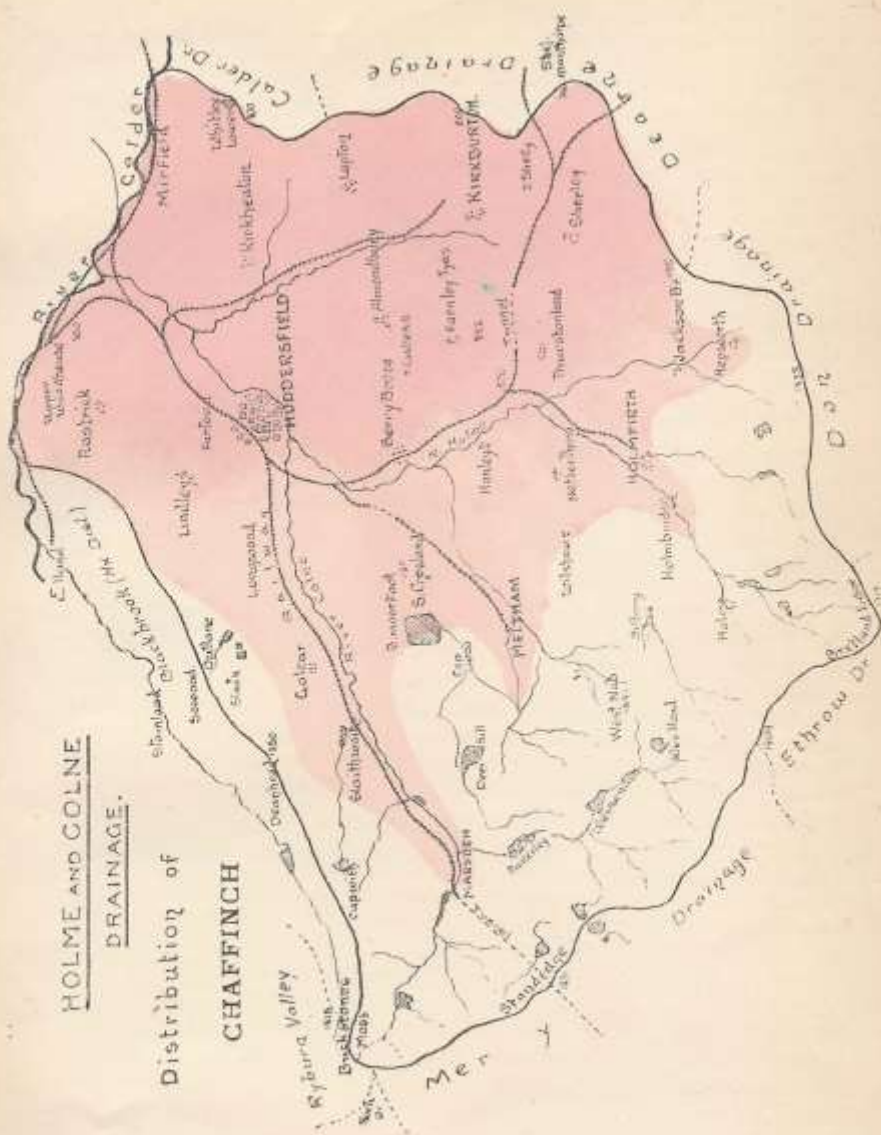
CHAFFINCH.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The female is greener in colour.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
CHAFFINCH



The earliest date I have for the song is Feb. 17, 1886, by Mr. Freer at Linthwaite.

The Chaffinch may be distinguished from all other common local birds by the white on its wings, which shows conspicuously when the bird flies.

I once found a nest, in Pennyspring Wood, with entirely blue eggs.

The local name is Spink. There is a Spinknest Road between Birkby and Edgerton.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—This bird feeds, I believe, entirely on the seeds of weeds, and caterpillars; I have had no complaints of any harm.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, and also pp. 1, 3, and 12).—After the breeding season the males and females separate and associate in separate flocks, either to themselves or along with other seed-eating birds. This habit gave rise to the specific name *caelebs* which means a bachelor.

The nest is one of the most compact and skilfully made of any British bird. It is built of moss, lined with horsehair and a feather or two. Cobweb is spread over the outside, and on this bits of lichen (where lichen grows) are stuck, to make the nest like the tree-trunk or branch against which it is usually built. The eggs (5-6) have a pale blue ground, with rust-brown washes (which in some instances entirely obscure the ground colour) and black spots.

After the autumn moult the feathers have broad grey edges, which are worn away through the winter, and the bright colours are best about April. These extra edges serve two purposes—as extra covering for the winter, and to keep the marriage dress clean for the spring.

13 **BRAMBLING** (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

A winter visitor, in severe weather in flocks.

"Storthes Hall Woods."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Formerly, when the winters were more severe, and I went out with my father on his shooting expeditions, we frequently came across flocks of this bird. The pair in the Museum were shot from one of these in Birkhouse Lane. It was also brought to him often by the keepers from Storthes Hall and Whitley, and by Dan Oldroyd from Scholes. I have seen it about Tinker's Monument and Gatehead when searching for the moth *templi* in November and December.

It has been reported (Nat. 1834, p. 194) from the Marsden moors.

It is easily distinguished, when it flies, by its white rump.

The Brambling, or Bramble Finch, breeds in the Far North of both Europe and Asia, and only migrates as far as England during very severe and long continued hard weather.

14 **GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis elegans*).

A rare visitor, but has bred here.

Not mentioned by Hobkirk, although my elder brother, who lived a young man at Lepton about the time Hobkirk wrote, used to tell me that it was often caught there by birdcatchers. Varley had one shot on Dalton Bank, and the pair in the Museum were obtained on Crosland Moor.

The above refer, mainly, to birds obtained in the winter, but I believe it has bred, within recent years, at two places, at least, within our area. J. A. Brooke, Esq., J.P. informs me that he has repeatedly seen a pair about his garden at Fenay Hall, and feels sure they have bred there. Mr. Netherwood also informed me, in 1910, that a pair had nested in his garden at Sheepridge, and had got off their young, but all the brood, parents as well, were afterwards caught by law-breaking birdcatchers.

15 **SISKIN** (*Carduelis spinus*).

A rare winter visitor.

"Shot on Kilner Bank some years ago."—Hobkirk, 1859.

About sixty years ago, one very severe winter, large flocks of Siskins visited the alder trees about Fenay Bridge, and remained two or three weeks feeding on the seeds. My father, who then lived at Fenay Bridge, shot many of them, and the pair in the Museum were from these. My brother, who was a boy at the time, told me that one of them was "nearly white." Unfortunately I did not know of this until after my father's death, and it is strange he never told me of it himself.

Varley shot one on Dalton Bank.

16 **LINNET** (*Linota cannabina*).

(PLATE VII, MAP F.)

Fairly common resident.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Thinned down by birdcatchers since Hobkirk's time, this bird is still fairly common where there are whin bushes. Many such places have been broken up, and the bird's range restricted.

The adult male in breeding dress, with crimson cap and deep pink breast, is the Red Linnet of birdcatchers.

The winter male, without the pink breast, but with brown back, is the Brown Linnet.



LINNET.

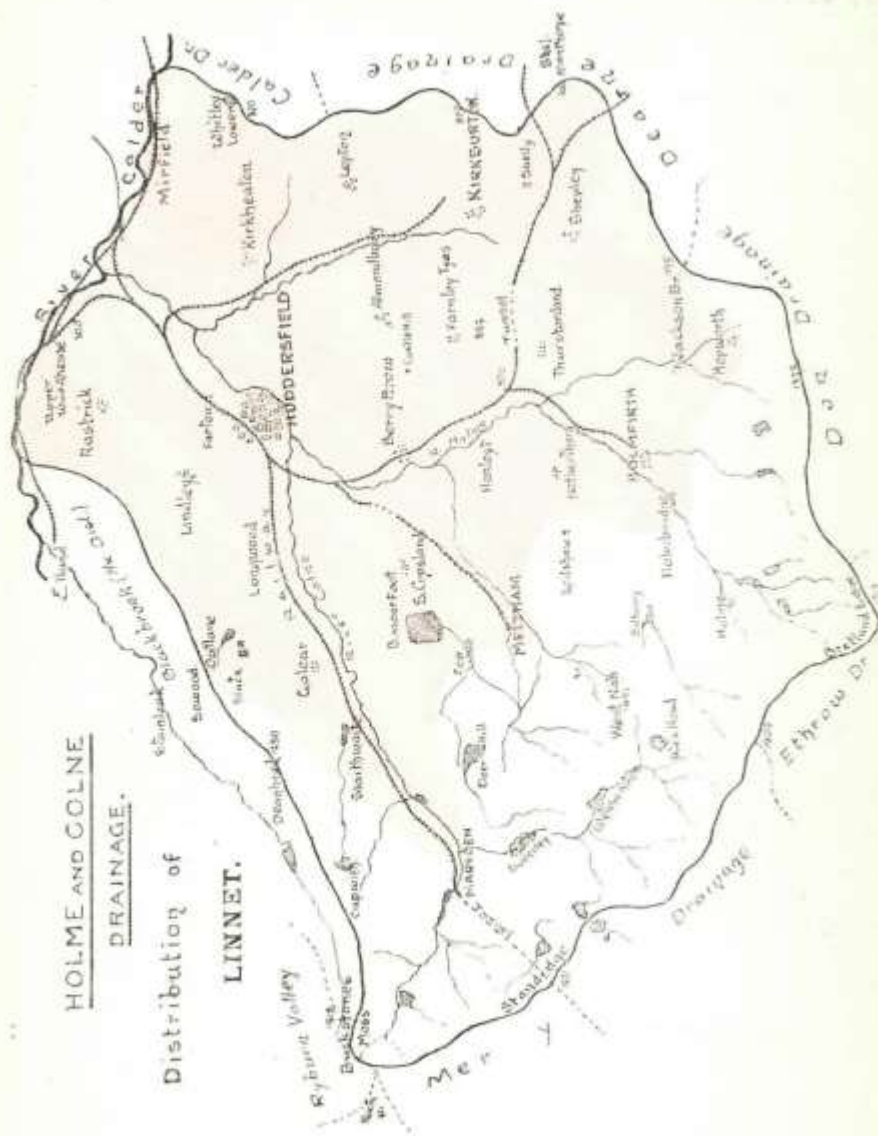
Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The female is greyer and no pink.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

LINNET.



The female, in which the back is not brown as in the male, is the Grey Linnet.

A pied one in the Museum was shot on Castle Hill side.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—This bird is very fond of the seeds of rape, turnip, cabbage, &c. and where these crops are grown for seed, and the birds plentiful, they may do damage.

The Linnet is often kept as a cage-bird, on account of its song, which, though low, is exceedingly sweet. But the keeping of birds in cages should be discouraged, and children should be told to go to the country to hear the birds sing. A Linnet's song is never so sweet as from the top of a whin bush.

The nest, usually placed in a prickly whin bush, is made of coarse dry grass-stems and roots, lined with cow-hair, obtained from where cows have rubbed themselves against posts or trees. The eggs (5-6) are very like those of the Greenfinch, but rather smaller.

17 **LESSER REDPOLL** (*Linota rufescens*).

A not uncommon resident.

"Not uncommon."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Not quite so common now as when Hobkirk wrote. A year or two after the publication of the first edition of his 'History,' when in the height of my birdnesting days, I often came across the neat little nest of this beautiful finch. About Dalton, Pennyspring Wood, and in the hedges behind Castle Hill were the places where I most frequently found it. Varley had eggs from Lepton Great Wood.

The local name was Chivey Len, but these names are being forgot in the mad rush of boys and young men for sport.

A pure white bird of this species was picked up dead at Kirkheaton (Month. Circ. Hudd. Nat. Soc., April, 1889) and passed into the late Alfred Beaumont's collection after he went to live at Lewisham.

18 **TWITE** (*Linota flavirostra*).

Common resident on ling moors.

"Moorland districts, Shepley, Meltham."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Common, I believe, on all our ling moors, even on Crosland Moor, where formerly we often found its nest; Varley once found one with six white eggs.

Its partiality for the moors has gained for it the name of Mountain Linnet.

In common with other moorland birds in continued frosts or snows the Twite leaves the moors for stubbles and farm-yards at a lower level. When investigating above Hepworth one day last winter, a snow-storm came on, and I crouched under the lee side of a wall, covering myself with an umbrella. Presently a number of Twites came up from a garden and clung to the wall, some quite close to me, and remained twittering until the storm had passed.

A nearly white one was shot on Scholes Moor, and was stuffed by Dan Oldroyd, but I do not know what became of it.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS.—The South Yorkshire moors form the southern limit of the breeding range of this species.

The flush of rosy-pink which comes on the breasts of the males of other linnets in the breeding season, in this species comes on the rump.

19 HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).

(PLATE VIII, MAP G.)

An abundant resident, wherever there are buildings or cultivation.

"Plentiful."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Owing mainly to the destruction of the Sparrowhawk, the arch-enemy of this bird, Sparrows have enormously increased during the last twenty years.

The nest, usually built in a hole in a building, is sometimes built in a tree openly, and such are often erroneously called "Tree Sparrows." During my birdnesting days a pair of Sparrows built a nest in a tree at Kid Royd. My companion—Joseph Whitwham—pulled the nest out nine times, and each time the birds built a new one in the same place. The tenth nest was allowed to remain, and they reared their young.

Several pied, and one or two white ones, have occurred in the District.

NOTES FOR FARMERS.—The Sparrow is the most troublesome bird the farmer has to deal with. Its large numbers, its great powers of increase, its partiality for corn, and its ability to subsist under almost any conditions, make it a troublesome pest, particularly at seed-time and harvest. They also bore into stacks and get at the ears, and with mice, pilfer the grain. They stop up spouts, and even disused chimneys, with their nests, causing inconvenience, damage and expense. Of course, in all this, man alone is to blame in having upset the balance of nature by removing the natural check. It must not be forgotten, however, that the Sparrow has a useful side to its life, and, when in its natural proportions, serves, as all creation does, a useful purpose. As with all seed-eating birds, the young are fed on caterpillars, and if a young Sparrow eats twenty a-day during the fourteen days it is in the nest, and if there are five in a brood, and three broods in a season, it is easy to get at an approximate number of caterpillars destroyed by one pair in one season. The best remedy would be the restoration of the Sparrowhawk.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, and also pp. 1, 3, and 12).—The Sparrow has no song, but it has a variety of different notes, used to express itself to its fellows.

The nest is a loose bundle of straw, with a hole in at one side, and lined with feathers. The eggs are bluish-white, more or less spotted and smeared with grey or brown.

SCRIPTURAL NOTES.—The Hebrew word translated "sparrow" in Ps. cii, 7, occurs about forty times in the Bible, but in all instances, except two, it is translated "bird" or "fowl" in our Authorised Version, and seems to be a generic word which included a number of different small birds, just as our word hawk includes a dozen kinds. The equivalent Greek word translated



HOUSE SPARROW.

Male } natural size. The female is plainer in colour.

"sparrow" in the New Testament, is also a word including, probably, all common small birds without a distinctive name. Some passages seem to refer to one bird, some to another. Amongst the numerous kinds of small birds found in Palestine are several kinds of true sparrows, including both the kinds found in this country.

20 **TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montana*).

A rare stray.

"Storthes Hall Woods; partial to old trees."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The above remark, doubtless written by Inchbald, seems to indicate that it bred there, but he was so careless in the manner of putting his records down that it might have been simply a thought in his mind at the time, retained from some book. I have no evidence that this bird has ever bred within this District, although it is quite likely to have done so, as a colony did breed, and probably still does so, at Horbury Bridge.

I used to find this bird occasionally among sparrows netted for shooting. The pair in the Museum were caught in this way, in Dalton, by a man called John Crossley, of Birkhouse Lane, Moldgreen. I have seen others caught near Almondbury.

As stated above, sparrows' nests in the branches of trees are not those of the Tree Sparrow, which always builds in a hole, either in a wall, rock, or old tree.

NOTE.—The Tree Sparrow differs from the House Sparrow in being a little smaller, a white patch on each side of the neck, and a chocolate hood. The note is different.

21 **BULLFINCH** (*Pyrrhula europæa*).

Resident, now rare, but formerly common.

"Gardens and shrubberies."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Birdcatchers are again responsible for the thinning down of this bird. In my birdnesting days I frequently came across the bird, and sometimes its nest, in the woods about Mollicar, Woodsome, and Storthes Hall. The last pair I saw, five or six years ago, was in the Far Wood, Farnley, but Miss Barker, Librarian at the Technical College, informs me that she saw a pair of birds at Shelley, on the 23rd of this month (April, 1912) which, from specimens in the Museum, she identified as Bullfinches.

Several instances have occurred of Bullfinches turning black when kept in confinement and fed on hempseed; such a one is now in the possession of a man at Moor End.

When a boy I used to keep a hen Bullfinch which was a good singer,

and timed its melodies to my mother's songs which she always sang at her bobbin-wheel.

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—The Bullfinch is occasionally troublesome in orchards by nipping off the flower-buds in the spring. I was once shown a pear tree, in Dr. Wrenche's garden at Baslow, which had only one pear on each branch, at the very extremity of a slender twig where the Bullfinches could not perch to take the terminal bud. A stuffed or dummy cat, suspended in the tree in March, so that it moves with the wind, will keep them off.

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*).

An occasional winter migrant, in extreme weather in flocks.

"A visitor from Norway in late autumn; a flock of these birds in Thurstonland Fir wood, in 1857."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The home of this bird is the fir woods of the Far North, which it does not leave except when, by continued severe weather, it is driven southward in search of food. At such times flocks reach this country, and settle, for a time, in our fir woods. There have been several visits since the one mentioned by Hobkirk, the last one in the severe winter of 1909-10. The pair in the Beaumont Collection came from the flock of 1857.

One is reported (Nat. 1884, p. 194) from the Marsden moors, probably some fir plantation on the moor edge.

NOTE.—The curious bill is adapted for opening the fir cones to get out the seed, on which this bird feeds. Longfellow has a short poem on a legend accounting for its form.

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).

(PLATE IX, MAP H.)

A common resident.

"Abundant and generally distributed."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The above remark is not quite correct; probably no animal or plant is generally distributed. It was an expression commonly found in natural history books in Hobkirk's day, but it must be given up. The Yellowhammer, or Yellow Bunting, loves places filled with high grass and low bushes. It is, therefore, not found on the moors, and is much less common on the millstone grits generally than on the coal measures, where it is much better accommodated.

The old local name is Youldring, a corruption of Gold-ring, from the yellow collar round the neck of an old male bird.

I once found a nest, in Harden Clough, with white eggs.

The earliest date for the song is March 10 (1902) by Mr. E. Fisher,



YELLOWHAMMER.

NOTES FOR FARMERS.—The Yellowhammer associates with other seed-eating birds in winter, and does a great amount of good by eating the seed of weeds in stubbles. I have not heard of any complaints of any injury it has done.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.—The nest is loosely made of dry grass stems, lined with fine roots, and usually built among coarse grass on or very near the ground. The eggs (4-6) are pale grey or pinkish, scribbled and spotted with dark grey and purple-brown: they vary very much.

Yellowhammer is the usual spelling in this country, but, doubtless the latter part of the name is from *Ammer*, the German for Bunting.

24 CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirius*).

A very rare visitor.

"A pair of these rare birds built at Woodsome in 1856."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The above record was probably written by Varley, who assisted in compiling the list for Hobkirk's book. I know nothing further of it, and it is singular that Varley never mentioned it to me, though we conversed a good deal about birds. I then read few books, except such as my father had (for I had no means of procuring any other) and never saw the record until after Varley's death. Of course it may be a true record, but the practice of naming eggs without seeing the birds is still far too common, and has led to many errors. Some eggs of the Yellowhammer are very like those of the Ciril Bunting.

Varley had a female of this species, which, he said, was shot at Almondbury Bank.

25 REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schœniclus*).

Formerly resident.

"Marshy districts; Shepley Mill, Water near Kirkheaton."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Sixty years ago the Reed Bunting was quite common along the Calder from Brighouse to Mirfield; then there were many places suitable to its breeding habits. Forty years ago my father used to shoot it at Dogley Mill and Shepley Mill. Twenty years ago eggs were taken at Horne Dam, Kirkheaton, and brought to me to name. Since then I have seen nothing of it in this District, and fear it is quite exterminated.

NOTE.—The male is easily distinguished by its black head and white collar; the head of the female is brown.

26 **COMMON BUNTING** (*Emberiza miliaria*).

Resident, but not so common as formerly.

"Occurs in cultivated lands."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This bird is most common on the millstone grits, where it loves to trill out its monotonous song on the top of a stone wall. When a boy I frequently found its nest, usually in a corn-field, but sometimes in a grass-field, and once in a grassy hedge bottom, in Rawthorpe Lane.

We knew it as the Bunting Lark, from its colour being similar to that of the Skylark, and from the nests being built in similar situations.

The earliest date recorded for the song is March 11 (1900) by Mr. E. Fisher.



HEAD OF COMMON BUNTING.
Showing structure of a Bunting's bill.

27 **SNOW BUNTING** (*Emberiza nivalis*).

A rare visitor in severe winters.

This bird is not mentioned by Hobkirk, but at the time his list was compiled my father was receiving a few, almost every winter, from Scholes Moor. The keeper also brought it from Storthes Hall Moor; and a shooter called Tommy Moxon, who lived at Thorp, sometimes brought one or two. My father once came across a flock above Meltham, on a piece of ground where he went snipe shooting, and I saw a small flock some years ago near Cook's Study.

One is recorded (Nat. 1880, p. 106) shot in Dalton.



SKYLARK.

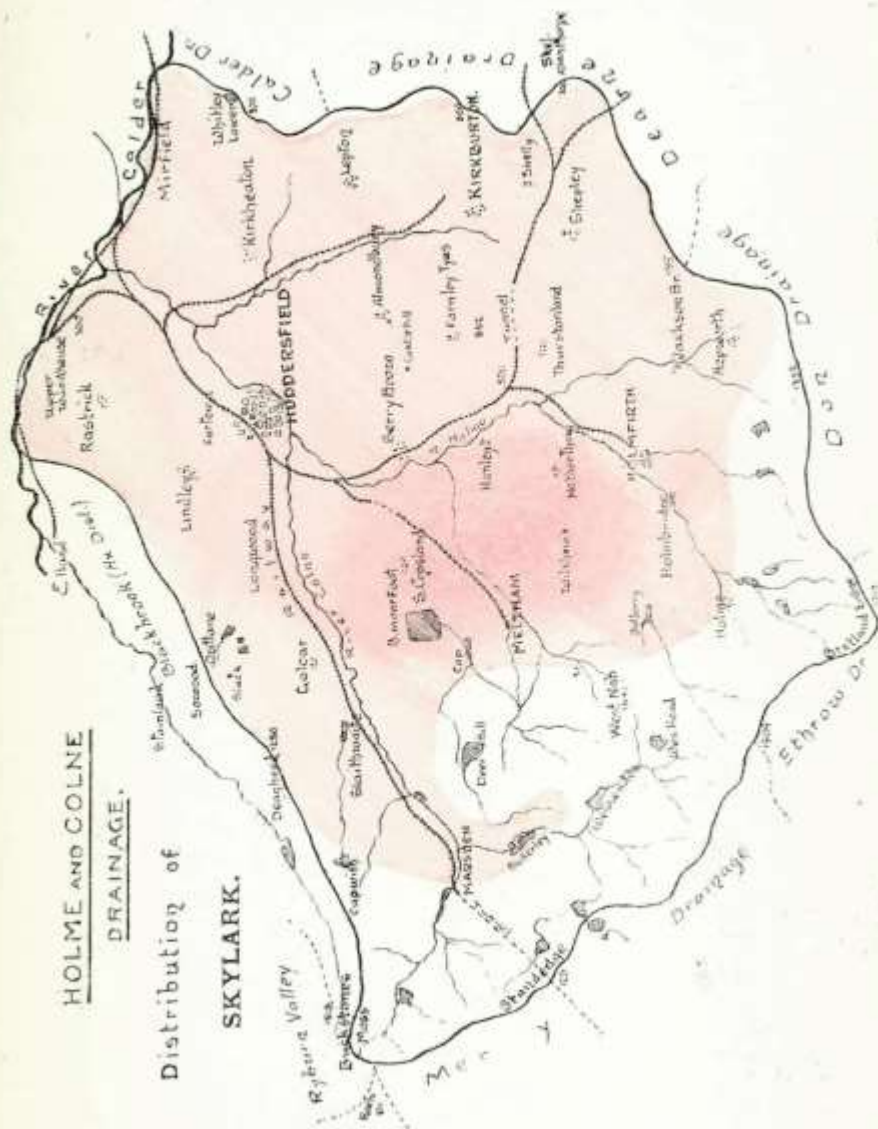
Male 1 natural size. The female is similar.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

SKYLARK.



THE LARK FAMILY.

The Larks are ground birds, the majority seldom or never perching in trees or bushes. They may be known by the medium bill, indicating a mixed diet ; and by the long nearly straight hind claw, probably useful in balancing the bird upon the ground.

Half-a-dozen kinds have occurred in Britain, but only one in this District.

28

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*).

(PLATE X, MAP I.)

A common resident.

"Abundant, and widely dispersed."—Hobkirk, 1859.

¶ Happily still plentiful in spite of lawless nest plunderers, who every year rob the birds of their young. The fact that Skylarks from the Honley Moor neighbourhood fetch most money in the Manchester market is an additional incentive to this wholesale robbery. But of all caged birds, a depressing sight at all times to thoughtful persons, a Skylark in a cage six inches high is the saddest of all—made by God for the gate of heaven, condemned by man to the hell of a sunless back yard.

The Skylark is a bird of dry sandy heaths and is, therefore, most numerous on the millstone grits, particularly where the disintegrated rough rock forms the sandy part of the soil.

The earliest date I have for the song of this bird is January 12 (1907) reported from Kirkheaton by Mr. Fisher ; the usual time is about the middle of February.

About fifty years ago two pure white ones were found in a nest at Lepton, along with two of the usual colour. The white ones were kept in cages until fully feathered, when my father got them, probably because they were hens, and stuffed them. One of these, which he had kept out of sight of buyers, became mine at his death, and was in the Beaumont Park Museum until the Corporation declined my offer to turn the whole over to them, when I sold it, along with many more good things which ought now to have been in the Huddersfield Museum. A nearly white one, with rust-coloured edges to the feathers, now in this museum, was shot at Carr Pit, and a black one changed to that dress in confinement.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—The Skylark feeds chiefly on insects, especially wireworm, and other grubs about that size. In winter it makes out with seeds, particularly those of charlock, knotgrass, and corn spurrey. In spring it will eat corn, but only takes what it can find on the surface, and any little harm it may do in this way is far outweighed by the good.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 3).—Shelley's beautiful 'Ode to the Skylark' may be made use of in dictation or recitation; most of our poets have something on this bird.

The nest is made of dry grass, on the ground, in a corn- or grass-field, in a slight hollow, perhaps where a horse has trod. The eggs (4-5) are greyish- or brownish-white, thickly and indistinctly freckled with ashy-brown, and rather glossy.

NOTE OF PROTEST.—Besides the cruel practice of stealing the young for cage-birds, larks are shot and snared for the market. Before the passing of the Wild Birds Protection Acts this slaughter was carried on wholesale. In my young days there lived a birdcatcher at Formby who could snare ten miles of the coast, and has taken forty dozen birds, chiefly larks, from his "pantles" in one morning. Lark on toast is supposed to be aristocratic, but a man who can devour a lark, whatever he may be by birth, has a larger stomach than brain.

PIPIT AND WAGTAIL FAMILY.

The Pipits are similar to the larks in colour, and have also the long hind claw, but these points of agreement are because of their frequenting the ground in earthy places where such colours protect them. In structure Pipits are more nearly related to Wagtails, with which they are now united in one family.

They are insectivorous birds, as may be guessed from the slender bill, and some are migratory.

Eight kinds of Pipits, and five of Wagtails have been noticed in Britain, and two and four respectively in this District.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*).

(PLATE XI, MAP J.)

Abundant resident.

"Very abundant on moors and barren heaths."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This is the local Titlark. Tit is a diminutive term; titmouse is a bird which creeps about like a little mouse; and small gossip is tittle-tattlin' tales. So a titlark is a small lark, very well named.

It is very abundant on the moors, but frequents also rough grassy places and cultivated ground.

It sings as it flies, another reason for considering it a little lark. It flutters up for about forty or fifty feet, and then down, describing a curve, singing both going up and coming down.

The earliest date I have for the song is March 16 (1909) at Bank Bottom, Dalton.

A pied one was obtained in Dalton some years ago.



MEADOW PIPIT.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The female is similar.



PIED WAGTAIL.

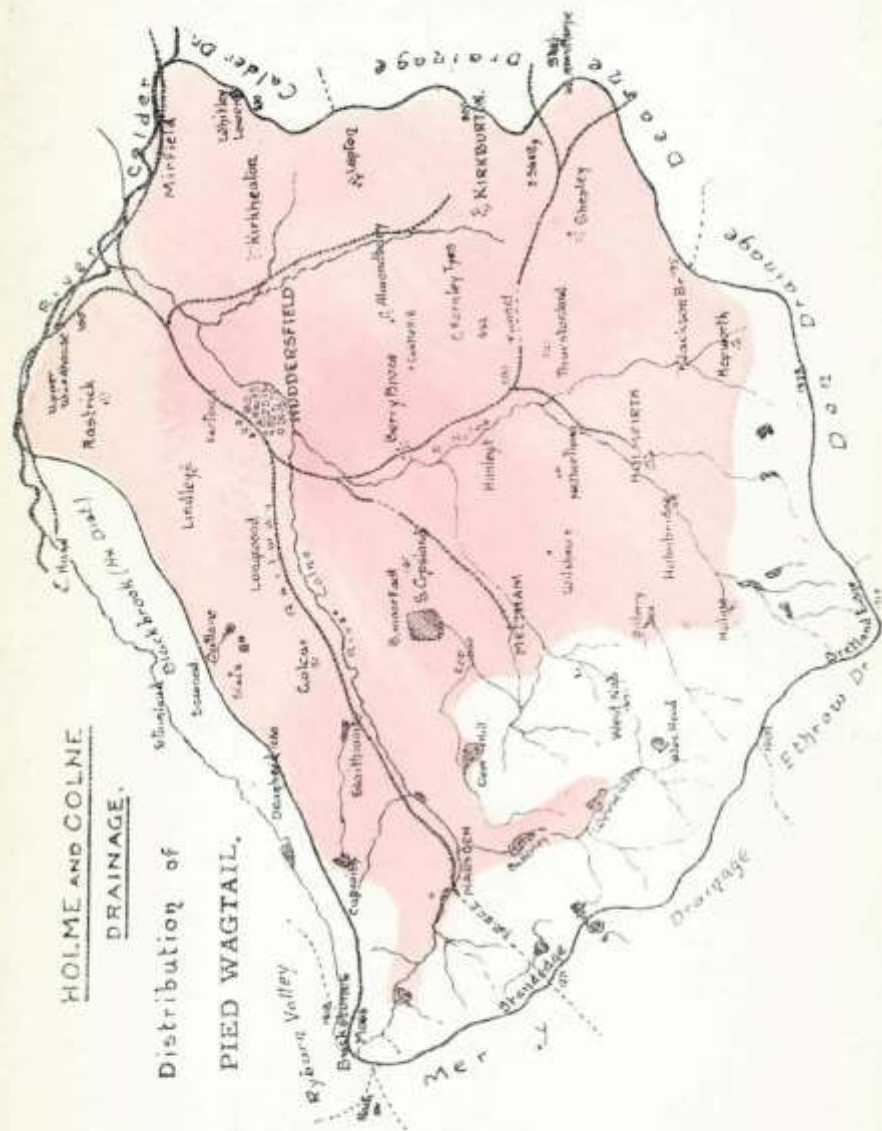
Male 1 natural size. The female is similar.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

PIED WAGTAIL.



NOTE FOR FARMERS.—A useful bird on the farm, often to be seen following a plough picking up grubs, &c. It does no harm so far as I know.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 3).—The nest is made of dry grass, lined with finer grass or horsehair; on the ground under a tuft of grass. The eggs (5-6) are usually similar to those of the Skylark, but smaller, rather darker, and without gloss; but those in different nests vary, and some are quite grey, others reddish.

30

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*).**Summer migrant.**

"Frequents wooded districts; rarely found in open country."—Hobkirk.

The Tree Pipit is so like the Meadow Pipit that in the field it can only be distinguished by its habits. It is, of course, never seen in the winter. Its song and manner are similar to those of the Meadow Pipit, except that the Tree Pipit sings in descending only. The earliest date I have for the arrival of this bird is March 16 (1904) noted at Linthwaite by Mr. Freer.

Being a woodland bird it is commoner on the coal measures than on the millstone grits.

NOTE FOR STUDENTS.—The nest and situation are similar to those of the Meadow Pipit, except that the latter bird frequents the open; but the eggs are the most variable of those of any British land bird. The reason for this variation has never been explained.

31

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla lugubris*).

(PLATE XI., MAP J.)

Summer migrant.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Though a migrant the Pied Wagtail does not entirely leave this country. Those from this District winter on the east coast. When it first arrives, towards the end of March, clean and pure black and white, it is one of the prettiest birds we have.

The earliest date for its arrival is Feb. 14 (1902) reported by Mr. Fisher from Kirkheaton.

The name by which we knew this bird in former years was Waterty Wag.

A white one, with throat-patch and cap cinnamon, now in the Museum, was shot at Slaithwaite.

NOTES FOR FARMERS.—This bird may be seen in spring following a plough busily engaged picking up the little grubs turned out, such as are too tiny for rooks or starlings to trouble with; thus preventing the young ones

growing and the injury they would do in feeding up. The Wagtails do good in catching midges and other flies.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 24).—Although this bird is so conspicuous in a ploughed field its colours are protective when in its favourite haunts. When perched on a half submerged stone in a shallow rippling stream, the black and white of the bird must exactly correspond with the deep shadows and high lights of the water, as seen from above—the viewpoint of a hawk.

The name is from the pie or magpie (No. 5), a black and white bird, and the habit of moving the tail up and down, especially on alighting, as if balancing.

The nest is built in a hole in a rock, or in a dry wall if one side be against the earth so as to prevent draught, or in a heap of loose stones; it is made of dry grass, sometimes with a bit of twine or rag, lined with feathers or cowhair. During the building of the Asylum at Storthes Hall, a labourer left his hod one night on the scaffold, turned up-side-down. In the morning he found a pair of Wagtails had built a nest under it; this nest is now in the Museum. The eggs (5-6) are greyish-white, dotted or spotted with a darker grey and black.

32 WHITE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*).

A rare visitor.

Unknown as a local bird in Hobkirk's time.

My father once shot a bird of this species at Carr Pit. I was with him at the time, and I think it was the spring of 1874. He gave it to me, as I had begun to form a collection, and it was in my museum at Beaumont Park, until I sold a number when the Corporation declined to accept the whole. I believe I have seen others, but one can never be certain at a distance without a good glass.

NOTE FOR STUDENTS.—In the hand the White Wagtail may always be distinguished by the grey rump. In the Pied Wagtail, however grey the back may be, the rump is always black.

33 GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla melanope*).

An occasional visitor in winter.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The writer of the brief remark quoted above must have been under a misapprehension, for whatever it might have been previous to 1859, the Grey Wagtail has never been common in this District since, and, so far as I know, it has never occurred but in the winter. I have often looked for it where the Dipper breeds, the two birds being usually found together, but I have never met with it.

I have seen it in winter at Kidroyd, Healey House, Fenay Bridge, Woodsome Mill, Round Wood, and one has been recorded from Upperheaton (Rep. Beaum. Pk. Mus., 1891).



YELLOW WAGTAIL.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. The female is less yellow.

34 **YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla raii*).

(PLATE XII, MAP K.)

Summer migrant.

"Common, arrives about the middle of April."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This bird is not so common as when I was a boy, but it is still a regular summer visitor. Mr. Fisher tells me he sees it every year near Kirkheaton, and I see it myself, in one place or other every spring.

The earliest date on which I have seen this bird is April 14 (1901) at Bradley. It stays for about a week by the river before it goes to the fields to settle down for the summer.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—The remarks under Pied Wagtail (p. 25) apply equally to the Yellow Wagtail.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 24).—This is the wagtail of the fields, where its green back and buttercup breast correspond with the vegetation, and hide the bird as effectually as do the black and white of the Pied Wagtail on the rippling stream.

The nest is made on the ground, usually in a grass-field, of dry grass, lined with hair. The eggs (4-6) are olive, brownish, or pinkish, usually with a short wavy black line at the large end.

THE TIT FAMILY.

This family consists of a group of genera somewhat diverse in outward general appearance, but agreeing in being mainly insectivorous, non-migratory, and which creep about, on tree trunks, rocks, or on the ground, like mice. They fly for short distances only at a time.

Some 30 kinds are found in Europe, and about one-half are British.

35 **GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN** (*Regulus cristatus*).**Rare, formerly resident.**

"Remains with us the year round."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This is the smallest of our British birds. At the time Matthew Pemberton was keeper at Storthes Hall it was common there and bred in the fir woods. He gave my father permission to shoot small birds on the estate, and I have known him return with a dozen or two of Crested Wrens, Creepers, Tits, &c. If it still breeds there it is in reduced numbers.

Within the last ten years I have seen it in Birks Wood, and also in the fir wood at Storthes Hall. A few years ago one was run down by boys at Kidroyd. Miss Brierley informed me last autumn (1911) that she had seen one in Grimescar Wood.

36 FIRE-CRESTED WREN (*Regulus ignicapillus*).**One record only.**

A bird of this kind was picked up in an exhausted state, at Armitage Bridge, on September 3, 1874, and recorded by Varley (Nat. 1875, p. 24). It is now in the Museum, having come with the Beaumont collection.

37 TREE CREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*).**Formerly resident.**

"Not unfrequent in oak woods."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Formerly this bird was fairly common in the woods at Storthes Hall, and I have seen it also in Shelley Bank Wood, Carr Wood, and Lep-ton Great Wood. The last I saw was in the fir wood at the top of Storthes Hall Lane in 1899. If it still exists in this District it is in very reduced numbers. (See under Golden-crested Wren.)

38 NUTHATCH (*Sitta cecilia*).**One authentic record only.**

"One shot at Storthes Hall in the autumn of 1847; very rare."—Hobkirk.

After my father's death I found a bird of this species in the dark case where he kept all his best things out of sight. All the birds in this case, I believe, had been obtained locally, and so precious were they to him that even I was never allowed to explore that case while he lived.

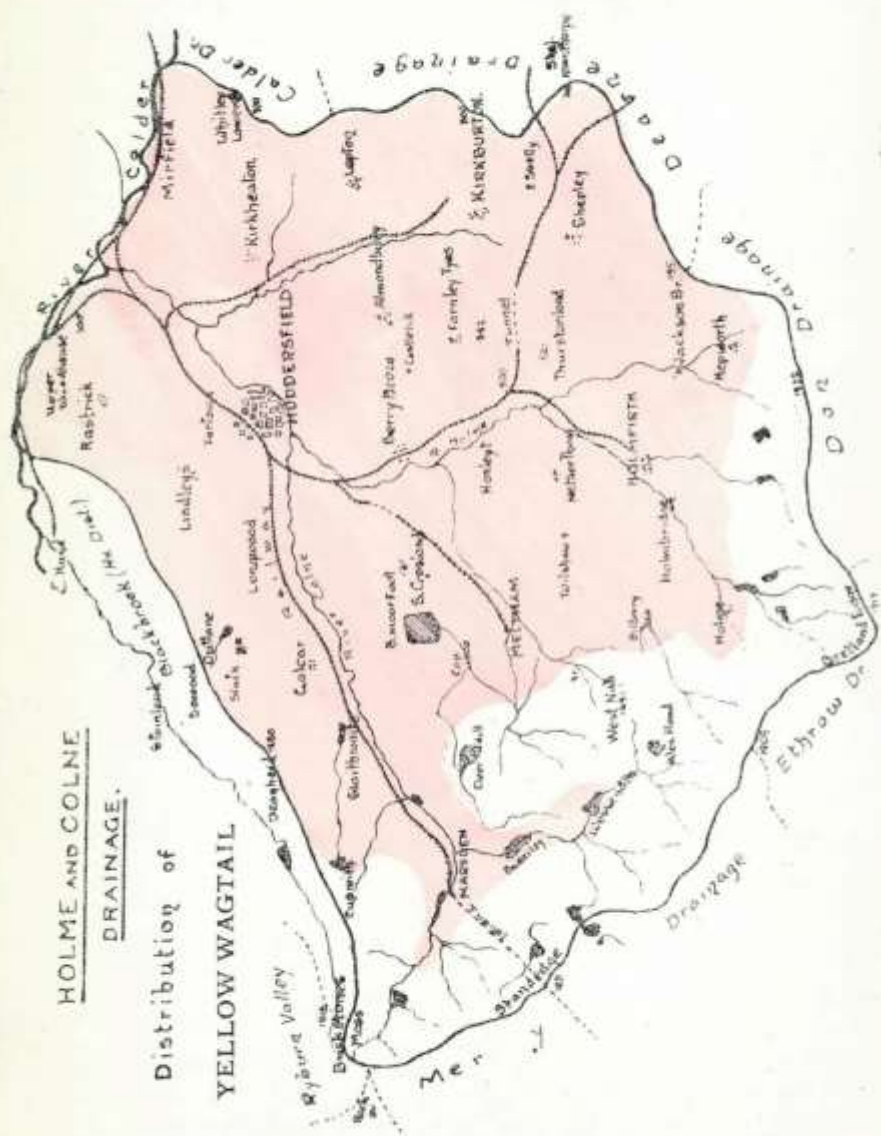
This, and the above record from Hobkirk, are all I am able to give of the bird itself, but in a report on a buried forest (Nat. 1875, p. 141) found above Netherthong, it is stated that there were many hazel-nuts "which had been perforated by nuthatches", but it is far more likely to have been the work of dormice, which we know did occur in this District, and which perforate the nuts in a similar way.

The Nuthatch might have been a resident bird here at one time, for it is reported as having been common near Barnsley many years ago.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of YELLOW WAGTAIL





GREAT TIT.

39

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*).

(PLATE XIV, MAP M.)

Common resident.

"Woods and gardens."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This handsome bird is particularly noticeable, both by its striking colours and its sharp spring note, like the noise made when sharpening a saw. All the Tits are interesting, and may be drawn to a garden, within sight of a window, by hanging up a meaty bone or lump of suet in winter, out of the way of cats. The antics of the birds are most amusing.

The local name is Oxeye.

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—The Great Tit is useful as a destroyer of insects among fruit trees, but it attacks other small birds, and drives them away or kills them.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 3).—The nest is in a hole in a building, high wall, or tree. It is simply a lining of wool, feathers or anything soft. Old pumps, baskets and the pockets of coats hung up in gardens or outhouses, inverted flower-pots, &c., have been used by this bird as places for its nest. The eggs (10-12) are white with rust-brown spots. They are, of course, larger than those of the Blue Tit.

40

BLUE TIT (*Parus cæruleus*).

(PLATE XV. MAP N.)

Common resident.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This is the commonest of the Tits, and easily recognisable by its blue cap. It occurs wherever there are woods, hedges, or gardens below 1000 ft.

Locally it is often called Bluecap.

NOTES FOR GARDENERS.—Mr. Netherwood, of Sheepridge, informs me that in 1908 one of his rose houses was badly infested with small leaf-rolling caterpillars. A pair of Blue Tits had taken up their abode in the garden and built a nest in the garden wall. One day, he and his man, by little gentle manoeuvring, managed to drive one of the tits into the greenhouse, when they shut the door and the ventilators, and left it closed for an hour. They then opened the ventilators, and in a little while the tit found its way out and flew away. Presently it returned, however, bringing the other bird, and they both went into the greenhouse. They became daily visitors, and in a short time the roses were quite clear of caterpillars.

The Blue Tit is very useful in the attacks it makes upon scale insects. I once watched one for fifteen minutes, at Fenay Bridge, picking scale from a young ash plant, and during that time I calculated it took 500 insects off the plant. I often find young ash, and other trees which have been cleared, I believe, by this bird.

Morris relates, in his 'British Birds', how a pair of Blue Tits went to feed their young 475 times in one day, each time carrying one or more caterpillars or other insects.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 27).—The nest is in a hole in a building, wall or tree, but this bird will readily make use of a nest-box if placed out of the reach of cats; the cavity is lined with feathers, wool, or moss. The eggs (10-14) are the size of peas, white with rusty-brown spots.

41

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*).

Resident, but uncommon.

"Not so common as the last mentioned; confined to woods."—Hobkirk.

When a boy I often saw this bird, even in our garden at Almondbury Bank. It is not so common now, but I come across it occasionally in the woods, and Mr. Brooke informs me that he occasionally sees it on his grounds at Fenay Hall. It has a black head and white cheeks like the Great Tit, but a smaller bird and no green.



HEAD OF COAL TIT.
Nat. size.



HEAD OF MARSH TIT
Nat. size.

42

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*).

Resident but rare.

"Woods and thickets."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This was a regular winter visitor to our garden when I lived, a boy, at Almondbury Bank, and I have seen it in all our moist woods. It was recorded in 1844 by Eddison, but has gradually diminished in numbers, and is now but seldom seen.



BLUE TIT.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

BLUE TIF.



43 **LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Acredula caudata*).

Formerly resident, perhaps so still, but rare.

"Woods and thickets."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This was one of the birds my father often brought from Storthes Hall, and on one occasion the keeper brought him a nest and eggs.

Varley had one shot in Pennyspring Wood, and it used to occur in the Woodsome (Nat. 1875, p. 164) and Whitley Woods.



HEAD OF LONG-TAILED TIT.

Nat. size.

[**Bearded Tit.**—In 1844 Eddison reported this bird as "not very common near Huddersfield" adding that he had "not seen more than three or four living specimens." He must have been mistaken! The Bearded Tit is purely a bird of the Fens, and even there very much restricted, as it always was as far back at bird history goes.]



HEAD OF BEARDED TIT.

Nat. size.

THE SHRIKE FAMILY.

The Shrikes are distinguished by their having a notch on the lower edge of the upper mandible, as in falcons.

They are called Butcher-Birds, from their habit of killing large insects and small birds and impaling them on the thorns of hawthorn hedges, reminding one of a butcher's shop.

Five kinds have occurred in this country, three of which have been reported for this District.

44 GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*).

A very rare visitor.

Although known to Eddison, and reported as a local bird (in a semi-private way to Allis of York— see Birds of Yorkshire) this species was not included in Hobkirk's list. I believe it has occurred several times, but the only one of which I can speak with certainty is one which was shot near Ponty's Gardens about forty-six or -eight years ago, by one Tommy Moxon who lived at Thorpe. I well remember him bringing it to my father, from a circumstance which I hope to relate in another volume of this series. My father gave him a shilling for it, stuffed it, and kept it for a long time in his dark case, but I do not remember what became of it.



RED-BACKED SHRIKE. $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size.

45 **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** (*Lanius collurio*).

A rare visitor, but has bred here.

"Two shot at Longley Hall."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Varley often told me that when he was a boy and lived at Bunker's Hill, Spa Wood was a beautiful wood where primroses grew, which gave the name to Primrose Hill. Amongst the many nests he used to find there were those of the Red-backed Shrike, and he used to describe how black-clocks and young birds were impaled on the thorns.

That wood is now no more, except in name, much of the ground it occupied being built upon, and the Shrike is now a rare and casual visitor, though it nested about fifteen years ago in Dalton.

It is singular that Varley, who assisted in the compilation of the list for Hobkirk's book, should not have recorded this early experience.

There is a record (Nat. 1877, p. 92) of one obtained near Farnley.

46 **WOODCHAT** (*Lanius pomeranus*).

Doubtful.

Nelson, in his 'Birds of Yorkshire', states that in 1879 Varley reported that when a boy he saw a pair of these birds taken to a birdstuffer's to stuff. It is somewhat singular that this circumstance is not given either in Hobkirk's 'History' or in Roebuck's 'Vertebrate Fauna', both of which Varley assisted to compile. Nor did he ever mention it to me, though we talked a good deal about birds. Yet we can scarcely think he would be mistaken (unless his youth accounts for it) for in after life he knew birds well, and, so far as my experience of him goes, he was perfectly truthful.

THE WAXWING FAMILY.

There are only two species of Waxwing in the world—one European, the other American. Both have occurred in this country, the former frequently.

47 **WAXWING** (*Ampelis garrulus*).

A very rare visitor in severe winters.

"Three of these rare birds were noticed some years ago at Fenay Bridge."
—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison reported in 1844 (see B. of Yorks.) that ten years before large flocks of Waxwings were seen about Storthes Hall and the neigh-

bourhood of Kirkburton, in company with Fieldfares and Redwings, and another flock about 1840.

It would be about 1848 that my father obtained several birds of this kind from a flock which was for some time about Fenay Bridge. When I became old enough to notice birds he had still one pair of these birds which he had kept for himself in the dark case, and many a time have I feasted my eyes upon them whenever I got a chance to look in. At last he sold them to Alfred Beaumont, and they are now in the Museum.

A pair was shot on Crosland Moor in 1891 (Rep. B. Pk. Mus.), and a female was obtained near Thunder Bridge. Nov. 16, 1901 (Nat. Journ. 1902, p. 18).

THE WARBLER FAMILY.

The Warblers are all small insectivorous, soft-billed, migratory birds, whose young are not spotted but plain-coloured like the parents. They are all song-birds, that is the males sing to attract the females, just as in the songless birds colour is made to answer the same purpose.

About 20 kinds have been found in Britain, and about one-half in this District.

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia cinerea*). (PLATE XVI. MAP O.)

Summer migrant, common.

"Comes about the middle of April."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The earliest recorded date for the arrival of the Whitethroat is April 7 (1901) by Mr Fisher at Kirkheaton; but on the higher grits, about Linthwaite, Mr. Freer's earliest date is May 3 (1890).

Wherever there are grassy banks overgrown with bushes, or wide bushy country lanes (now too few) the Whitethroat will be there.

The local name is Small-strea (small-straw) from the material of which it makes its nest.

NOTES FOR GARDENERS.—In gardens situated near to woods the Whitethroat proves a most useful bird from the number of small caterpillars and insects which it destroys. The practice of nest-robbing by boys should be forbidden by parents, and if there are not suitable nesting places in any wood near a garden they should be made by throwing down bundles of old pea-rods and planting briars or brambles to climb over them; the prickles keep out cats, and sometimes mischievous bipeds.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 3).—This bird is a sweet singer, though it has neither great range of notes nor power of



WHITETHROAT.

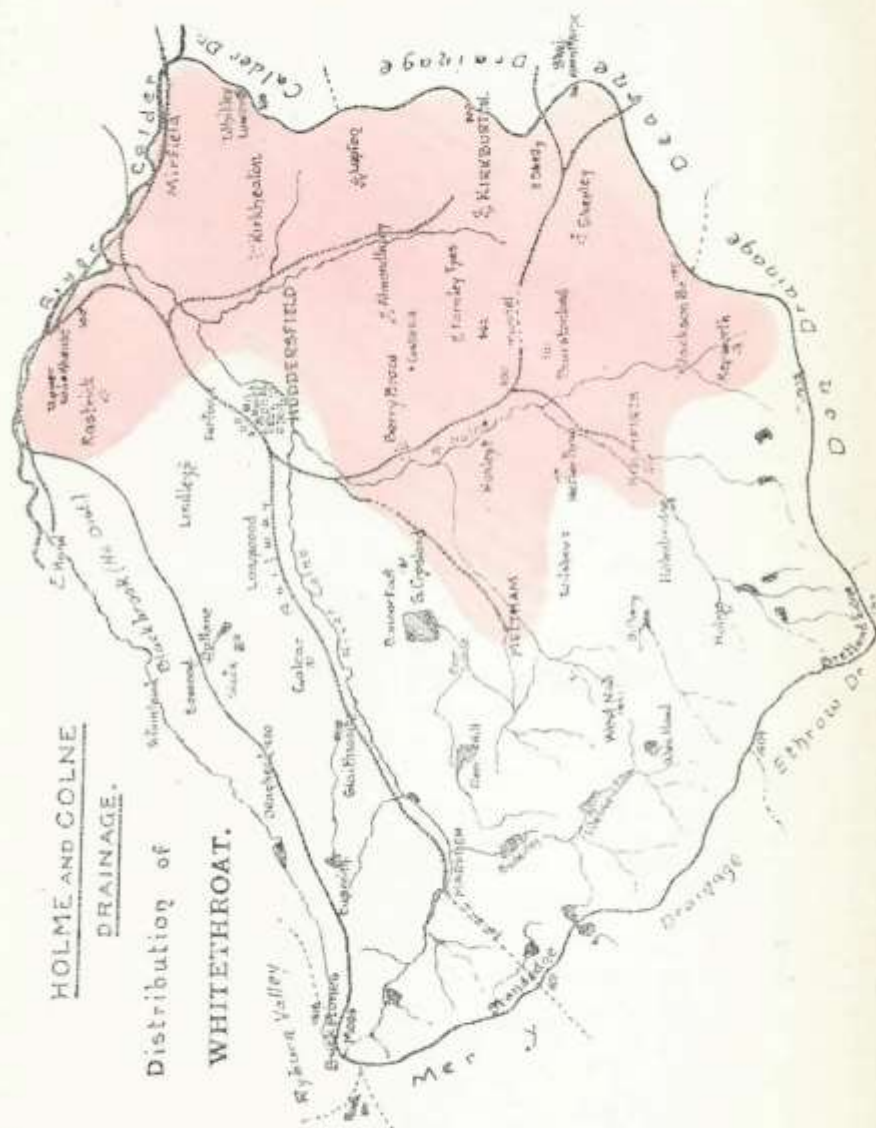
Male of natural size. Female similar.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

WHITETHROAT.



tone. It usually sings from the top of a bush, but will sometimes fly up a few yards into the air and come down singing, like a Tree Pipit.

The nest is rather loosely made of dry grass stems, lined with horsehair. It is built among low grassy scrub, a foot or eighteen inches from the ground. The eggs (5-6) are greenish-white, freckled and spotted with grey and olive-brown; very variable.

The Whitethroats of this country winter in South Africa, departing at the end of August or early in September.

49 LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*),

Summer migrant, but less common than the last.

"Sparingly scattered over the district."—Hobkirk, 1859.

In my birdnesting days, often with Joseph Whitwham, we occasionally came across the nest of this species. We found it, at various times, in Pennyspring Wood, Mollicar, Far Wood, Woodsome, and at Fenay Bridge. I have seen the bird in Saville Wood, Lepton Little Wood, and at Whitley.

A pure white one was obtained some years ago at Woodsome. It was stuffed by Gough for Alfred Beaumont's second collection.

My earliest date for its arrival is April 25 (1886).

50 BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Summer migrant, less common than formerly.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Now but sparingly scattered over the wooded portions of the coal measures, but it is a very shy bird and may easily be overlooked. I have seen the nest, and seen or heard the bird at Woodsome, Whitley Willows, Lepton Great and Little Woods, Mollicar Wood, Saville Wood, and I once found a nest with pink eggs in Sinking Wood, near Thongsbridge. Varley had eggs taken in Pennyspring, and a male bird shot while feeding on a manure heap at Moldgreen, January 26, 1866: Nelson mentions another near Holmfirth Reservoir (? Bilberry) Nov. 29, 1873.

My earliest date for its arrival is April 17 (1881) at Whitley.

[**Orphean Warbler.**—There is a statement in Nelson's 'Birds of Yorkshire' that Varley reported, in 1879, that he took the nest and eggs of this species in Pennyspring Wood (in 1856. --It is somewhat puzzling that this is not mentioned in Hobkirk's 'History', nor in

Roebuck's 'Vertebrate Fauna', both of which Varley assisted in compiling. It is a strange record, as the bird itself has only been met with about twice in this country. I can only account for it by supposing that Varley began to collect eggs before he began to collect birds (which he did) and that he found a nest, and took the eggs and named them without seeing the birds, a practice far too common with egg collectors. Later in life, when he knew more about birds, probably he found out his mistake, and dropped the record without correcting it.]

51 GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia hortensis*)

Summer migrant, not so common as formerly.

"Appears about the beginning of May; frequents copses."—Hobkirk.

Sparingly scattered over the wooded parts of the coal measures.

The earliest date for its arrival, as recorded by Mr. Fisher at Kirkheaton, is May 6 (1909).

I have seen it at Grimescar, Dalton Bank Bottom, Round Wood, Lepton Great and Little Woods, Farnley Mill, Shelley Bank, Nether-ton, and Butternab.

NOTE FOR STUDENTS.—The eggs of this species are often mistaken for those of the Blackcap, and vice versa. The eggs of the Garden Warbler have always a colour upon a colour—two paintings, while those of the Blackcap have only one.

52 WOOD WREN (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*).

Summer migrant, much rarer than formerly.

"Arrives about the fourth week in April."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Forty or fifty years ago most of our large woods had its pair of Wood Wrens through the summer. In several, even in Pennyspring Wood, I found its nest.

It is difficult to tell what has been the cause of the decrease in the number of insectivorous birds within our area during the last half century, but it is not difficult to see the sad results in the yearly defoliation of the woodland trees by the excessive number of caterpillars.

The earliest date I have for this bird is April 28 (1886) at Whitley.



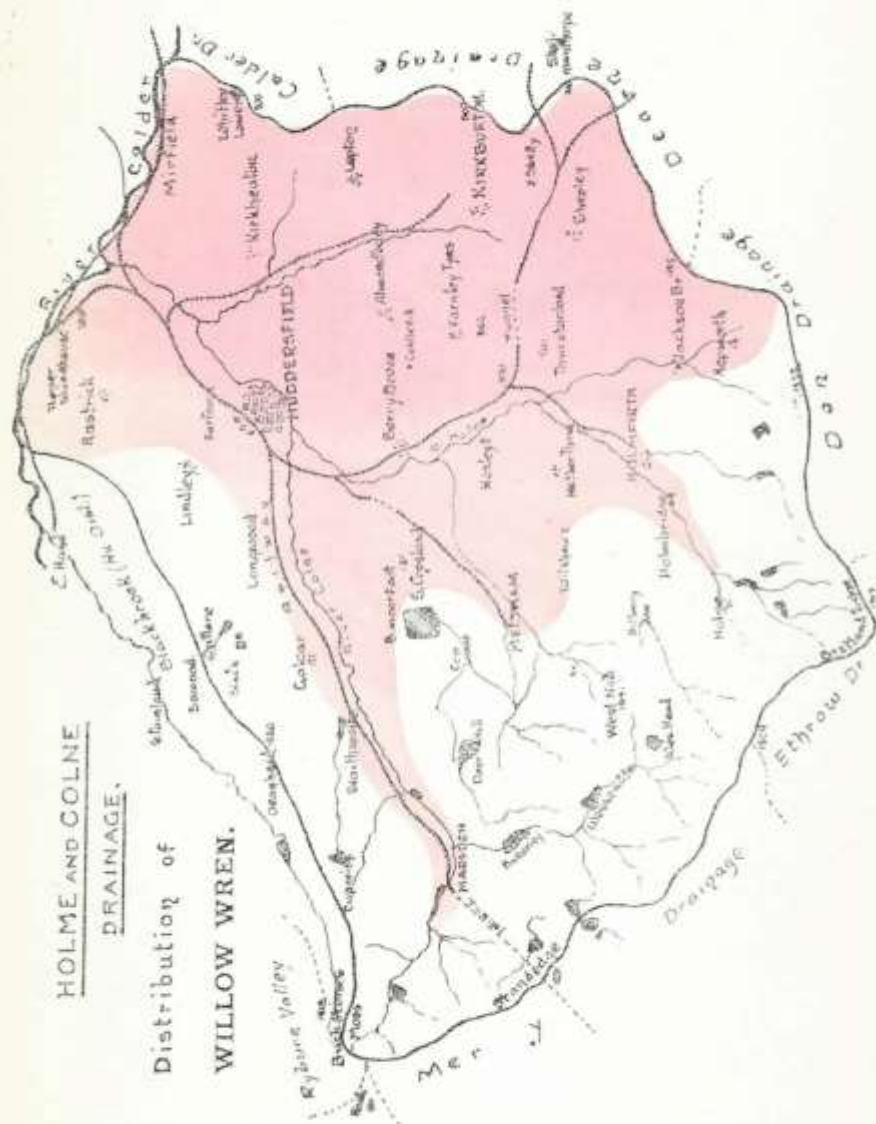
WILLOW WREN.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Female similar.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
WILLOW WREN.



53

WILLOW WREN (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

(PLATE XVII, MAP P.)

Summer migrant, abundant.

"Arrives about second week in April."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This merry little bird is the commonest warbler, and one of the earliest to arrive. If cold when it arrives it does not sing for a few days, but during the first bit of sunshine it may be heard in every bushy place in the valleys, and a little later up to 1500 ft.

The earliest date in the Kirkheaton locality, as noted by Mr. Fisher, is April 8 (1902), the earliest for Linthwaite, reported by Mr. Freer, is April 20 (1890).

We used to know it by the name of Peggy, but it was sometimes called Featherpoke.

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—All the little warblers should be encouraged, and where there is not nesting accommodation in the neighbourhood of the garden such should be made by throwing down bundles of sticks, and, if necessary, covering them with coarse wire net to keep off cats.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 34)—This bird lives among thickets, especially where there is an overgrown bank where it can build its nest. This is made in some hole in the bank, of dry grass stems, in the form of a ball, with a hole in one side, and plentifully lined with feathers. Sometimes the nest is in a bush at some little distance from the ground, and I once found such a nest in Heaton Lodge Wood. The eggs (6-8) are about the size of ordinary peas, delicate pinkish-white, with numerous small dots, or fewer larger spots of rust-brown.

This bird keeps near the ground, and seldom mounts into trees, hence it does not take the tree caterpillars which now strip the trees every spring, and which the tree warblers like the Wood Wren used to take when they were commoner.

54

CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus rufus*).**Summer migrant**, but less common than formerly.

"Frequents oaks, delighting in fine timber trees; arrives the earliest of the migrants."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This, the smallest of our warblers, usually arrives during the last few days of March; the earliest date I have is the 27th of that month (1879) at Woodsome. Formerly a pair took up their residence in most of our oak woods on the coal measures every spring. I have heard it, and in some instances found the nest, in Pennyspring Wood, Mollicar, Far Wood, Saville Wood, Carr Wood, and Whitley.

The Chiffchaff has been reported from Newsome, a most unlikely place. A "flock" has also been recorded from Drop Clough, but I have never heard this bird in the Colne Valley, and I feel confident

that in both the above instances, as well as in others I have known, the spring note of the Great Tit was mistaken for that of the Chiffchaff.

55 REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus streperus*).

Former summer migrant, but long extinct locally.

Eddison reported this bird to Allis of York in 1844 (see *Birds of Yorks.*) but Hobkirk does not include it in his list of 1859, and it is somewhat puzzling that, so far as I know, none of Eddison's records are included in that list, although he was, at any rate during the early part of his time, the only student of birds in this district.

I have not been able to obtain further evidence in support of the above statement, but it was probably correct, as the Reed Warbler still breeds within thirty miles of our District in two directions, and at the time Eddison recorded it there were plenty of suitable places for it along the banks of the Calder. It might easily be re-introduced by putting the eggs into the nest of the Sedge Warbler, only we have no private estates large enough to make such an experiment secure, and we shall need to have a very different nature-study from that which is now being taught before a pair of birds can rear a brood where boys and men can get at them.

56 SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus phragmitis*).

Summer migrant, not so common as formerly.

"Arrives about the close of April; frequents brooks and sedgy shallows."
—Hobkirk, 1859.

Still fairly common in suitable places, as along the Dogley Mill goit, Horne Dam, Sheard's Dam, Shepley Mill, &c. The earliest date I have for its song is May 2 (1889) at Dogley Mill.

This bird is an incessant songster, and if a stone be thrown into a bush where it is singing it sings still louder. It often sings in the night, and draws crowds of people, who go away much gratified that they have heard the "nightingale." A friend of mine hired an open carriage and took a party several miles to hear a "nightingale" which had been reported in the newspaper. The next night he heard the same song among some sedges at the bottom of his own garden!

57 **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** (*Locustella naevia*).

Summer migrant, rare.

"Visits us about the third week in April; frequents thickets, principally in damp situations."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Perhaps at present the rarest of our regular summer migrants. But I can remember when it bred in most of our large coal measure woods, even so near the town as Pennyspring, where it nested up to 1875 (Nt. 1875, p. 24). The song, being so similar to the continuous trill of the grasshopper, is easily distinguished.

[**The Dartford Warbler** was reported by Eddison, but surely a mistake; there is no proved instance of its ever having occurred in Yorkshire.]



PIED BLACKBIRD.

THE THRUSH FAMILY.

The Thrushes differ from the Warblers in being larger birds, and in having a comparatively stouter bill, indicating a mixed diet. The young are spotted in the first feather.

The Thrushes are numerous in most parts of the world; about ten kinds have been observed in this country, of which six occur in this District.

All the Thrushes are song-birds.

58

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).

(PLATE XVIII, MAP Q.)

Resident, abundant.

"Common throughout the district."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Being a bird of the hedgerow and bushy places the Blackbird is more plentiful on the coal measures than on the millstone grits.

It commences to sing, usually about the middle of February, but, more than once, I have heard it on the coal measures before January has been out. Mr. Freer's earliest date (presumably for Linthwaite*) is February 8 (1890). Most persons do not distinguish betwixt the song of this bird and that of the Thrush, but the song of the Blackbird is less musical, consisting of about three notes only, which are rolled over in different combinations.

Several pied ones have occurred—one with a white head frequented the garden at Fernbrook for several years. Another, mottled with white, was shot at Armitage Bridge a few years ago by an employee of the late Sir Thomas Brooke, who poached it in his employer's garden. A nearly white one was shot on Dalton Bank Bottom in December 1890, and figured in the Transactions of the Huddersfield Naturalist's Society. I have lately heard of two others, which, I believe, have so far escaped the bird anarchist. One is recorded in the 'Monthly Circular' of the Hudd. Nat. Soc. for 1908 having the back light slate-colour. In my father's private dark case was a male entirely of a very pale silvery-grey, and a female of a cinnamon colour, which I feel sure had been shot locally, probably about Lepton.

On the coal measures the nest is usually placed in a bush or on a stump in a hedgerow, but on the millstone grits, where there are fewer hedges, it is often placed on a stone wall or ledge of a rock, and I have found it on the ground on a steep bank. I once found a nest with the eggs of a uniform pale blue, one only having two or three faint rusty marks.

* It would always be better if recorders of observations would state where the observation was made.



BLACKBIRD.

Male ♀ natural size. Female brown.

NOTES FOR GARDENERS.—It is doubtless true that Thrushes of various kinds annoy gardeners by taking their fruits. But during Mr. Porritt's residence at Crosland Hall he told his gardener that no birds were to be shot or snared; I have been there when he has taken me round and pointed out twenty-six nests of Thrushes and Blackbirds, and yet there were always plenty of strawberries for visitors in season. I think the secret was the birds were fed, not only in winter but all the year round with kitchen scraps. Thrushes do a great deal of good in destroying worms, snails, slugs, grubs, &c., and if, by feeding or netting, they can be kept from the ripe fruit their services at other times will amply repay any little trouble at this time. Man does not yet sufficiently realise the important part his surroundings play in building up his own life through the senses, and to *see* other creatures happy, and to *hear* the joyous songs of birds have a great deal to do with determining his own state of mind. Many a family has been made poor and miserable by the continuous sight of a caged wild bird ever trying to escape from its prison, and then they say they have been "unlucky!"

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 40).—Call attention to the fact that the female is never black but is some shade of brown: this is sexual dimorphism. The male in the first feather is brown like the female: this points to a brown ancestor.

Mr. Dennis, of Sheepridge, informs me that one morning the winter before last, when the ground was covered with snow, he scraped a bare patch on the lawn and put down crumbs, and a peeled banana for the birds. Several Sparrows, Thrushes, Starlings, Robins, Blue Tits, and one Blackbird came, but a peeled banana was a new object to them and they eyed it curiously. At last the Blackbird ventured to take a peck, after which it flew away, but in a little while returned, bringing with it five more Blackbirds to share in the banana feast, and the banana very soon became Blackbird.

The nest is made of coarse dry grass, plastered inside with mud, and then lined with finer grass. The eggs (4-5) are pale blue-green with rust-brown spots or blotches, in some almost hiding the ground-colour.

59 RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*).

Summer migrant from the Mediterranean countries.

"Frequent on the moors."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This is the Thrush of the moors, and formerly, no doubt, it bred all round our watershed, but by the breaking up of the moors its range is now more restricted. It is still found, however, wherever there is ling along the boundary ridge.

When the late Alfred Beaumont had the shooting right over Slaithwaite Moor it was very numerous there, and he shot a great many as they set the grouse up by their alarm-note; one of these, now in the Museum, had a patch of white feathers on each side of the head. But the best variety of this species I have seen is that figured on the next page, which was obtained near Stainland, just outside our District.



VARIETY OF RING OUZEL.

60

MISSEL THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus*).

(PLATE XIX, MAP R.)

Resident, abundant in wooded parts.

"Common throughout the district."—Hobkirk, 1859.

There is probably no wood without its pair or more of Missel Thrushes; they breed up to Causewayholes Plantation nearly at the top of Holme Moss, at over 1700ft., where they make their nests very largely of sheep's wool (see Nat. 1892 p. 246 and 1896, p. 164).

After the breeding season the young and parents remain together, and sometimes two families will join, and through the winter they may be seen in companies of six or eight together.

The song is louder and bolder than that of the Song Thrush, and always from the top of a tree. The late Alfred Beaumont informed me that he had seen this bird fly up from a tree top singing when it was lightning and thundering, from which habit it has got the name of Stormcock.

The earliest date I have for the song is February 25 (1902) in Butternab Wood.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—The Missel Thrush is a very useful bird on the farm; it takes the larger snails, slugs grubs, and worms.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 40).—This is the Thrush of the woods. It is larger than the Song Thrush, and the spots on the breast are round, while in the latter bird they are tear-shaped.

It should be pointed out that birds of similar habits are not found in the same places; there is no *struggle* for existence, for nature is bountifully supplied, and great precaution seems to have been taken even to avoid competition. Take our six Thrushes which feed on similar food and so act as



MISSEL THRUSH.

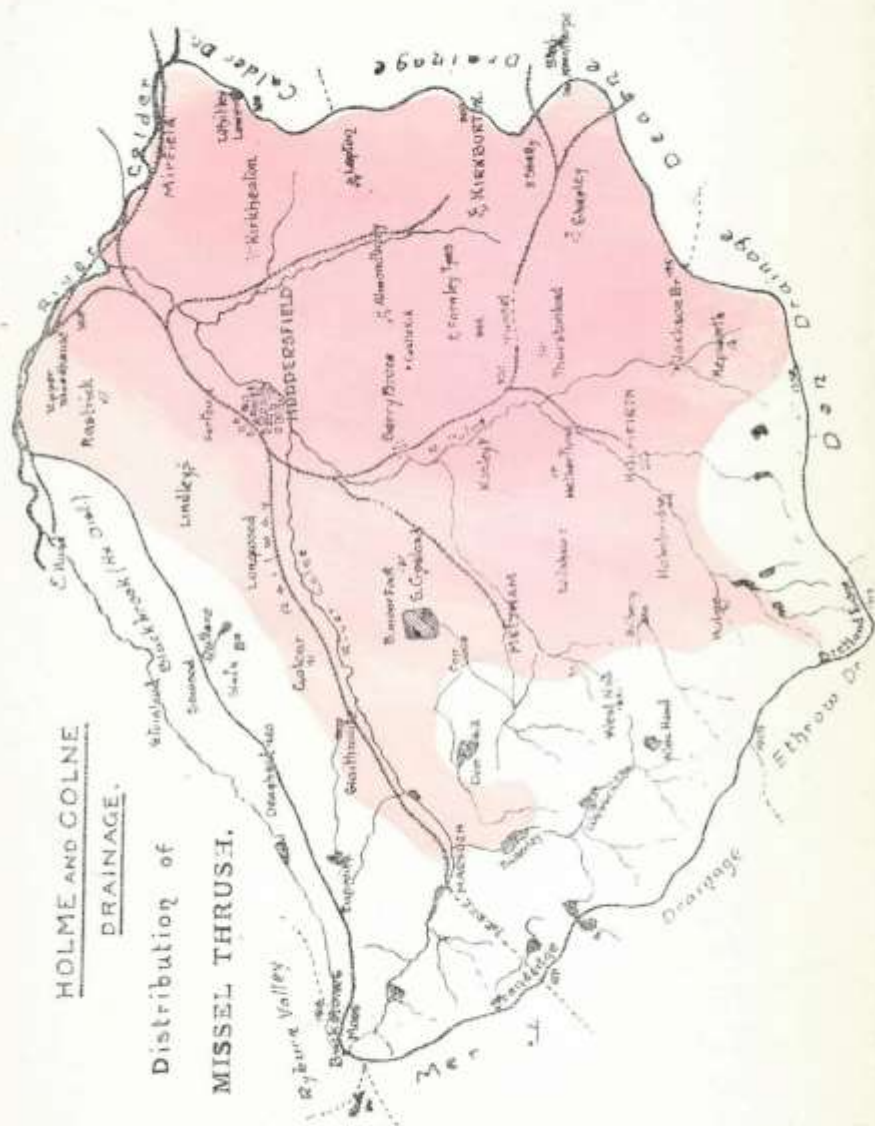
Male } natural size. Female similar.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

MISSEL THRUSH.





SONG THRUSH.

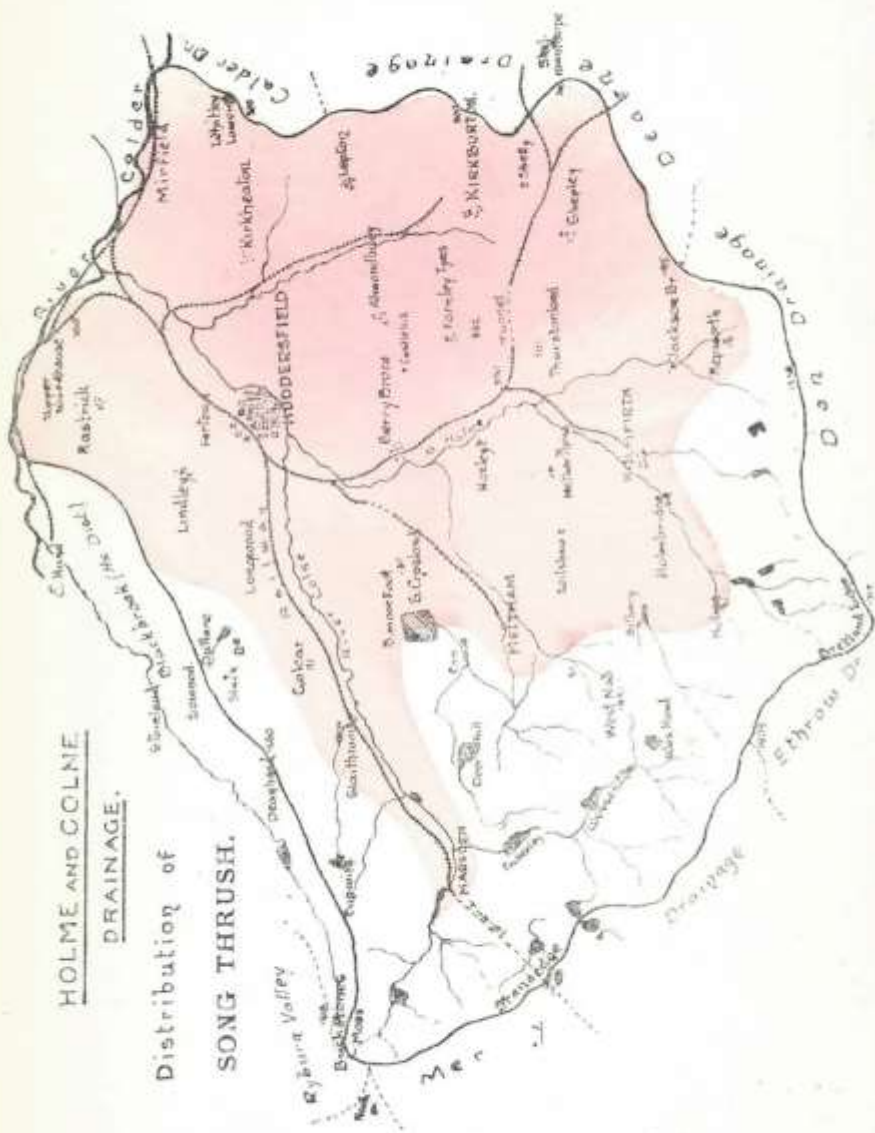
Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Female similar.

HOLME AND COLME

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

SONG THRUSH.



checks to keep down the overincrease of other creatures: the Ring Ouzel is sent to the moor, the Stormcock to the wood, the Song Thrush to the shrubbery, the Blackbird to the hedgerow, and as for the two winter thrushes—Redwing and Fieldfare—which feed largely on hips and haws, country people have long recognised that the number of these fruits is in proportion to the number of birds which are going to come—

“Plenty of hips and haws and a severe winter.”

And it is the severe winter which brings a larger number of migrants from the North.

The nest is built in the fork between the largish branches of a tree 20 or 30 feet from the ground. It is made of coarse dry grass, lined with finer grass. The eggs (5-6) are clay-colour or greyish, spotted with red-brown and grey or purple.

The name is from the bird's fondness for the berries of the mistletoe, and should therefore be Mistle Thrush or Mistletoe Thrush, as it is put by some authors, but Missel is the usual spelling.

61 SONG THRUSH (*Turdus musicus*). (PLATE XX, MAP S.)

Resident, abundant.

“Common throughout the district.”—Hobkirk, 1859.

The Song Thrush is one of our most favourite vocalists; its song is more varied and more musical than that of any other Thrush. It begins to sing early in the year, as well as early in the day—even before the sun rises. The earliest date I have is February 3 (1890) by Mr. Freer, presumably at Linthwaite.

It is also an early breeder. Nests with eggs have been found in February, and the young are often hatched before the end of March.

A pied one is recorded from Newsome (Nat. 1910, p. 411).

NOTES FOR GARDENERS.—The notes under Blackbird apply equally to the Song Thrush.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 40).—This bird is fond of snails, and it takes the snail to a stone to break the shell. In places where snails abound and stones are few, as on sandhills, one stone is used by several birds, and around it becomes strewn with broken shells: these are known as “thrush-stones”.

The nest is made of coarse dry grass, rather deep, and smoothly lined with mud or cow-dung. It is usually built in a bush, a few feet from the ground, but nests in old tin kettles, on the top of a lamp-post or a pump, in outbuildings, and even in a dwelling-room have been known. One in the Museum was built inside a plant-pot in a greenhouse belonging to Mr. T. H. Swift, of Chapel Hill. In 1906 a pair built a nest and reared a brood on the iron bracket supporting the lamp over the booking-office at the Netherton railway-station. The eggs (5-6) are bright blue-green, with distinct black spots.

62

REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*).

(PLATE XXI. MAP T.)

Winter migrant from North Europe.

"Arrives in the beginning of October."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This bird is somewhat like a Song Thrush, but under the wing is brick-red, while in the Song Thrush the same part is golden-yellow; the pale streak over the eye, and the otherwise generally darker tone of the Redwing are distinctive features. Besides, the Redwing is always seen in flocks, the Song Thrush never.

The flocks which come now are not so large, nor do they seem to stay so long as did those of forty or fifty years ago, when the winters were more severe. The earliest date I have for its arrival is October 2 (1896) at Nab Hill, and the latest date May 23 (1898) at Lepton.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—The notes under Missel Thrush may be read in relation to this bird. See also Fieldfare.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 40).—This bird, being here in the winter only, we have not the pleasure of hearing its song, but in the North, where the summer nights are almost as light as day, it makes the fell forests ring with its sweet music, and has been called the Swedish Nightingale, a title bestowed on another sweet singer—Jenny Lind—half a century ago.

As before stated there is a common saying that plenty of hips and haws foretells a severe winter, and this seems to be a provision for the greater number of Redwings and Fieldfares which come at such times. But Mr. Worldly Wiseman says it is no such thing, but simply the result of a very favourable summer when the trees were able to make plenty of sap. No doubt! but cannot the hand which puts the pot to boil light the fire?

63

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*).

(PLATE XXII, MAP U.)

Winter migrant from North Europe.

"Comes about the middle of October, remains till late spring."—Hobk.

Of very similar habits to the Redwing; they often flock together. Their notes are similar, a kind of *kak*, but the Fieldfare may be distinguished by its larger size. While the ground is bare and unfrozen they feed on such grubs, worms, &c. as they can find; when snow covers the ground they go for the hips and haws.

Eddison, writing to Allis of York in 1844, stated that Redwings and Fieldfares often stayed all the year round in the Huddersfield district, and that the year before he wrote a pair bred at Lepton. This statement was probably made on hearsay from an unreliable source; I am not aware that any proof exists.



REDWING.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Female smaller.



FIELDFARE.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Female similar.



ROBIN.

Euphonia miniacea. Female similar.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 40).—The notes under Redwing apply equally to the Fieldfare, in fact the two birds are so similar in habits that it will be better to take them together as illustrating winter migration to this country from the North.

In a lesson on some Thrush it should be pointed out that all the edible soft wild fruits are at first green and hid among the green leaves, because the seeds are then unripe and unfit to be removed; should a bird detect at this stage and try to eat them they are too hard and sour. But as soon as the seeds are ripe the fruit turns soft and sweet, and assumes some bright colour a distinct contrast to green—a signal to the birds that they are now ready to be eaten. The bird eats the fruit, digests the pulp, and the seeds, each protected in a hard indigestible case, pass through the bird uninjured, and are dropped and manured at some place where the young plant will have a better chance than if the seed simply fell under the parent tree. Wild fruits are just of a convenient size for a bird like a Thrush to swallow, and in this way, before man came upon the earth, birds scattered the seeds of fruit-trees, improved their sweetness by natural selection, and kept them going until a creature came endowed with the power to make an apple out of a wild crab, a plum from a wild sloe, and the other fruits and vegetables out of their wild ancestors, and what the Thrush receives for all the thousands of years of service is that its nest is plundered or its brains blown out by a charge of shot.

[**White's Thrush.**—One of this species has been reported from Almondbury Bank in 1864, but it was only skin and feathers, which parted company from the flesh and bones in Siberia. Fully grown young Missel Thrushes in the spotted plumage are sometimes mistaken for White's Thrushes, and have been reported to me as such.]

THE THRUSH-WARBLER FAMILY.

The Thrush-Warblers differ from the true Thrushes in being smaller, but agree with them in having spotted young, in which respect they differ from the true Warblers, which they agree with in size.

They are plentiful in most parts of the world. About twelve kinds have been met with in this country, and one-half of them in this District.

64

ROBIN (*Erithacus rubicula*).

(PLATE XXIII, MAP V.)

Resident, abundant.

"Common everywhere."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Hobkirk's remark, commonly used in his day, is now no longer considered a proper one to use in respect to any plant or animal, as none are found everywhere. The Robin is associated with gardens and

bushes in dry places, and is, therefore, not found on moors, marshes, or inside thick woods; what such a remark was intended to convey was, of course, that it was common everywhere in *suitable places*, but the latter part of the sentence was left to be understood.

Though with us all the year, probably some of our local birds move southward on the approach of winter, and their places are taken by others from more northern parts; but some stay with us all the year.

The earliest date I have for the song is January 8 (1911) at Thunder Bridge, in fact this bird sings on sunny days all through the year with the exception of a short time during the busy brooding season.

A white one, tinged in places with rust-brown was in my father's private dark case, obtained, I believe, at Lepton. I have several times found white eggs, and two now in the Museum were sent from Grimescar by Mrs. Brierley.

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—The Robin is a familiar garden bird, fond of small worms, and if encouraged and not frightened will accompany the gardener when digging and pick up the worms and grubs as he turns them out; I have known them to become so tame as to perch on the spade.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 45).—There is a notion that the Robin loses its red breast in the autumn; this arises from the fact that the full grown young has no red, but ochreous-brown mottled with buff, but the red breast appears at the autumn moult.

The nest is made of dry grass and dead leaves, lined with fine roots, and is usually built in a hole in a bank or in a wall, but all sorts of curious places have been recorded—in old discarded tin-cans, kettles, old hats, the pockets of old coats hung up in gardens or outhouses, &c. The eggs (5-7) are buffish or nearly white, sprinkled or mottled with rusty-brown.

Miss Sikes, of Almondbury, has a Robin tamed sufficiently to enter the house and take food from her lap, and she sent me a "pellet" consisting mainly of the hard parts of small beetles, which the bird had cast up on her knee. It is about the house all the year, except just at nesting time.

Mr. H. Mellor, of Netherthong, informs me that they have one which not only enters the house and dining-room, but will alight on a knife or fork or someone's hand while at dinner. On one occasion it brought five young ones into the house.

I have seen and heard of other tame Robins, and all birds would become fearless if we only treated them kindly. I have seen a girl go out on a lawn, hold out a handful of crumbs, call "dicky, dicky, dicky," and half-a-dozen little birds came and contended for positions on her fingers.

One in Mr. Netherwood's garden at Woodhouse acquired the habit of roosting in a bundle of sticks which had been thrown down in the potting-shed. They timed it, one week, and found it did not vary three minutes each evening coming to roost. The same bird (or another), which used to accompany them while digging, and even alight on their spade, built a nest in a suitable place in the garden. When the bird had been sitting for some time, and Mr. Netherwood thought the eggs ought to be about hatching, he went and peeped into the hole where the nest was, when out flew the bird right in his face and knocked his cap off. He then went to his man, who did not know that he had been to look at the nest, and told him to go and see if the Robin had hatched off. When he got there and looked into the hole she treated him in exactly the same way, knocking his cap off.

The Robin is a semi-sacred bird in all the countries of Europe.

65 **NIGHTINGALE** (*Philomela luscinia*).**Very rare summer visitor.**

"Two of these birds were noticed at the Grove in 1846."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Whatever might have been the case in the past when the country was more thickly wooded, the Nightingale has never been a regular migrant to this District within the period of local ornithological record. Nightingales have been reported at various times, but many of them have only been Sedge Warblers (see p. 38). The Grove mentioned by Hobkirk is the house under Kilner Bank, which at that time was well wooded. The record was probably written by Varley, who had very likely heard Nightingales in Edlington Wood or Sherwood Forest. These birds were heard also by the late Joseph Tindall, but he was not an ornithologist.

Varley mentions a Nightingale which visited Lockwood in his early life. But this would be before he knew much about birds, and, as the place would, almost certainly, be Spa Wood, and as the river Holme runs along the bottom, where willows used to grow, it is just possible it was a Sedge Warbler.

An undoubted Nightingale visited this District in 1875, and was heard by myself and others well acquainted with the song. It was first heard on May 5, and sang each night up to June 5, when the keeper shot it (so it was reported) on account of the rabble who collected every night and did much damage to fences and crops (see Nat. 1875, p. 3 and 24). A comic pamphlet was written on this bird by someone (I believe a man called Dyson, of Lower Houses) in which I and other local naturalists were brought forward as characters easily recognised. The locality was Mollicar Wood.

Another true Nightingale visited Lepton Little Wood in 1896. It was first heard on May 2, and I heard it on the 12th. While we were waiting for it to sing a woman came to the door of a cottage, and I asked her what time it usually began. "Just abaat a-quarter-to-ten" she replied; looking at my watch I saw it was exactly that time, and that very moment the bird struck up its *jug, jug, jug*. I do not know what became of this bird.

66 **REDSTART** (*Rusticilla phoenicurus*).**Summer migrant**, much rarer than formerly.

"Appears about third week in April; frequents walls and ruins."—Hobk.

The Redstart is the brightest coloured of our summer migrants. In my early life I used to see it at Kidroyd, Almondbury, Thorpe, Woodsome, Dogley, Storthes Hall Lane, Thunder Bridge, Kirkburton, and Dungeon Wood. Mr. Freer has reported it from Linthwaite, and Whitwham took the eggs at Grimescar and Whitley. It is now but

seldom seen.

The earliest date I have for its arrival is April 21 (1805) at Woodsome Mill.

67

WHEATEAR (*Saxicola oenanthe*).

(PLATE XXIV. MAP W.)

Summer migrant.

"Appears very early in April."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The Wheatear is one of the first of the spring migrants to arrive; I always look for it during the last three days of March. The earliest date for this District is March 29 (1894) recorded by Mr. Freer.

It frequents stony places principally on the moor edges, where it breeds, and a pair used to come into our garden and bring their young every year.

This bird is easily recognisable by the pure white lower part of the back, which shows conspicuously when it is flying from you. This has given it the local name of Whiterump.

The name of Wheatear is referred to by Chaucer, the birds being fat and eaten with frumity when the wheat was in ear.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 45).—The nest is made of dry grass, sometimes with a little moss or fine roots, lined with hair and often a feather or two, and is built in a pile of loose stones, in a dry wall with one side against the ground, or in a cleft of a rock. The eggs (5-6) are uniform pale greenish-blue. The habits of the Wheatear should be studied in its haunts; a pert little bird, which, when disturbed flies off close to the ground, and perches on the top of a wall, or clod in a field a little distance away. When it first arrives, perfectly clean, the Wheatear is a beautiful bird.

68

WHINCHAT (*Pratincola ruberta*).

(PLATE XXV. MAP X.)

Summer migrant.

"A summer visitant."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The Whinchat arrives in this District about the third week in April. The earliest date recorded is April 18 (1890) by Mr. Freer.

It is not so common as formerly, but is sparingly scattered over the pastures and grassy places, mainly between 600 and 900 ft. altitude, but I have seen it up to 1000.

This bird is fond of perching on the top of a whin, small thorn, or other plant which stands above the grass, uttering its little song, which is simply *u-tic, u-tic*.

A pure white one is in the Museum, from the Beaumont collection,



WHEATEAR.

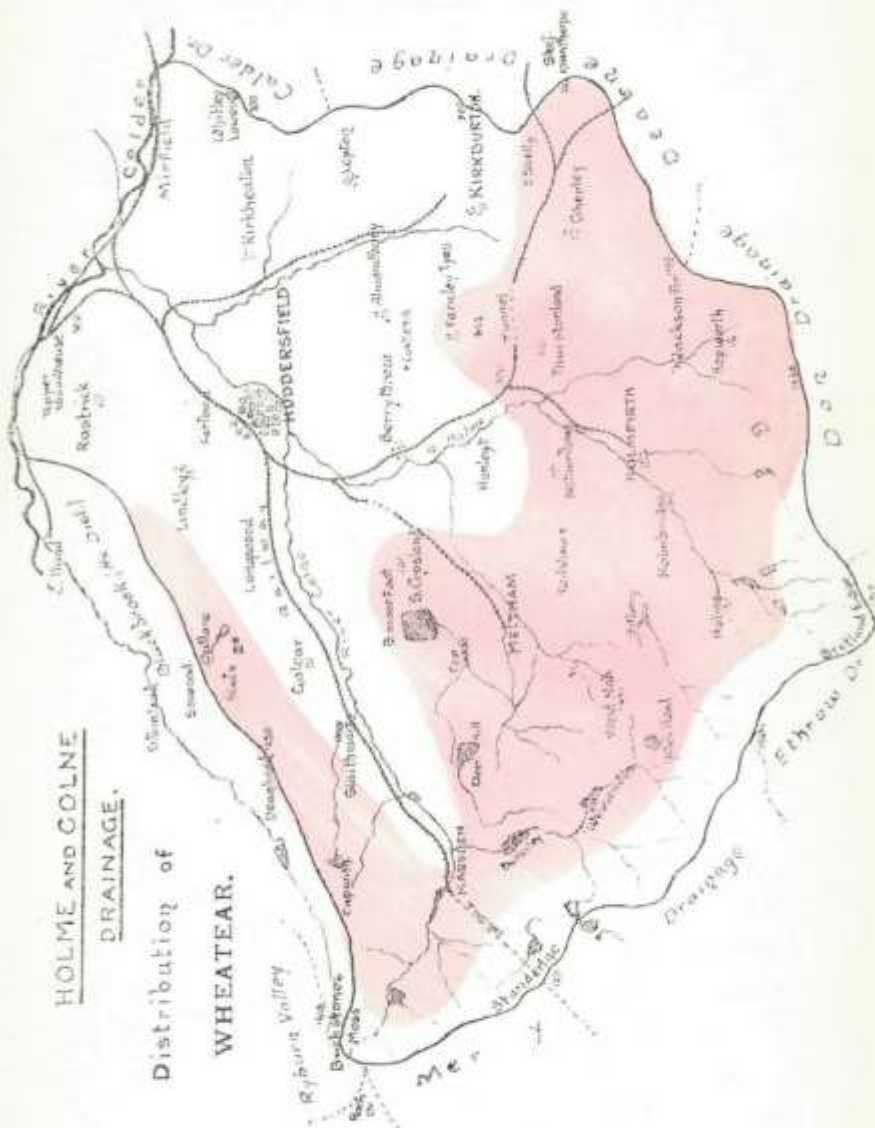
Male & natural size. Female paler.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

WHEATEAR.





WHINCHAT.

Male: natural size. Female: pale.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
WHINCHAT.



from Crosland Moor.

Local name Haychat.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 45).—The nest is made of dry grass, sometimes with a few bits of straw or moss, and lined with fine grass and horsehair. It is built on the ground among the grass, usually under a tussock or small bush. The eggs (4-5) are rather dark blue-green, faintly sprinkled with red-brown at the large end, in some forming a zone.

During the nesting time the male may be seen perched on the top of a tall plant or small bush singing its little ditty, often to the female on the nest beneath, which is usually so skilfully hid that, fortunately, it is most difficult to find.

69 **STONECHAT** (*Pratincola rubicola*).

An occasional visitor.

"Moorlands; remains throughout the year."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The above statement, from Hobkirk, and repeated in Nelson's 'Birds of Yorkshire', is very doubtful. At present, and as far back as my memory goes, it has never been known as anything but a rare visitor, but that it has occurred at different times of the year, both summer and winter, gave rise to the supposition that it was resident. Pairs have sometimes occurred, and it is just possible it might have bred, or attempted to do so, within the District. Nelson states, probably on the authority of Varley, that a pair visited Almondbury in 1878, and a pair now in the Museum were shot at Lepton some sixty years ago. Varley sought for it during the breeding season, "both in likely and unlikely places" (Nat. 1877, p. 40) but never found it. One is reported from Marsden (Nat. 1884, p. 194).

Mr. G. Crosland has recently reported to me that the Stonechat breeds every year in some heaps of stones in Wessenden, but this bird does not nest in heaps of stones, and he must have mistaken the Wheatear for it, which does, and which is often called "Stonechat".

THE WREN FAMILY.

The Wren Family consists of short-winged plain-coloured birds of shy habits, and which mostly build domed nests and lay white eggs. They vary in size from our Jenny Wren to the Lyre Birds of Australia, which are nearly as large as Pheasants, and of similar habits.

Such as have a song it is short but pleasing.

The Dunnock differs from the true Wrens in several respects, and its position in classification is doubtful.

70

DUNNOCK (*Accentor modularis*).

(PLATE XXVI. MAP Y.)

Resident, common about gardens.

"Common about hedges."—Hobkirk, 1859.

I have given this bird its common name, which is much better than that of Hedgesparrow, for it is not a sparrow, but it is a little dun-coloured bird which is the meaning of the name Dunnock.

It is a hedge bird truly, and is therefore, commoner on the coal measures than on the millstone grits.

The sweet little song may be heard on sunny days even when snow is on the ground. The earliest date on which I have heard it is January 26 (1889) at Roydhouse.

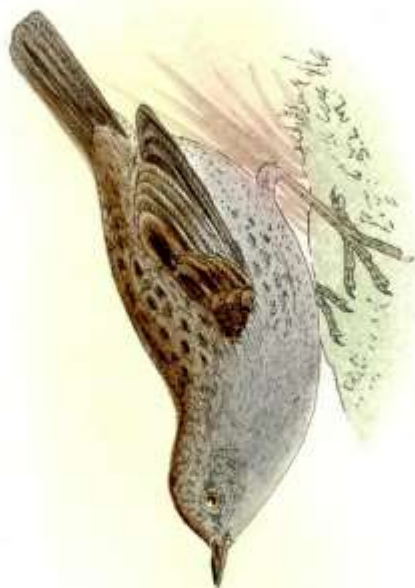
On March 14, 1865, I shot one, in my father's garden at Almond-bury Bank, entirely of a sooty-black colour; Nelson, in recording this bird, has substituted Varley's name for mine. I eventually gave it to the late F. Bond, of Staines. A white one, with a few feathers of the ordinary colour was obtained in Dalton in January 1895 (N.J.'95, p. 40).

I was once shown two eggs with a few black spots upon them, which had been taken from a nest in Grimescar Wood; a "mere collector" at the time I did not make a critical examination.

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—The Dunnock is a very inoffensive bird, and in a quiet way does a lot of good by taking ground insects.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, and 3).—The nest is built in a thick bush, among a heap of sticks, or on a post or rail in a hedge. It is made of fine twigs and moss, lined with fine grass and roots. The eggs (5-6) are uniform blue-green, the brightest coloured eggs we have.

This bird hops about on the ground under hedges, seeking for insects which drop from the hedge, sometimes ascending into it, and up to the top to sing. When on the ground it shuffles its wings in a peculiar manner as it hops along.



DUNNOCK.

♂ natural size. Sexes alike.

DIPPER (*Cinclus aquaticus*).

Resident, not very common.

"A pair of these birds were seen in Pennyspring Wood in 1857."—Hobk.

Further than the above record, probably written by Varley, nothing whatever was known of the Dipper as a local bird, until between fifteen and twenty years ago, when for some years I contributed a Natural History column weekly to one of the local papers. This was one of the means I successfully employed for stirring up an interest in Nature. During this time reports reached me of Dippers having been seen on the streams above Holmfirth; one man reported that he had found the nest and taken the eggs, but when I went to look at them he had broken them but described them as "pale blue spotted with red" which at once condemned that particular record (the eggs of the Dipper are pure white) and threw considerable doubt on all the rest. Eventually I went and explored the locality where the birds were reported to have been seen and found them! Since then I have seen this species several times, both when alone and in company with Mr. Wattam, and Mr. B. Shaw, of Holmfirth informs me that he knows where several pairs breed every year.* The Dipper has probably been here all along, but its haunts are very secluded and on strictly preserved ground, and the naturalists of the last generation probably never visited it, for not only is the Dipper there but several moths and other objects unknown to them.

Mr. T. P. Crosland informs me that the Dipper occurs in Wessenden, and one has been reported (Tr. H. N. S. Ap. 1901) from Marsden.

*It is hoped that all who know the exact breeding haunts of this and other uncommon birds in this District will keep the knowledge from nest robbers. A great many egg collectors never get beyond the schoolboy stage; their only aim is possession, and the way they "sweep the deck" when they find what appears to be an uncommon nest, generally not even taking the trouble to identify the birds which built the nest, is miserably detestable. Many will not even take the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the birds which lay the eggs. Unidentified eggs are worse than useless.

I strongly object to collections of eggs in elementary schools, they encourage nest robbing, and should be suppressed.

It may be as well if I here express what I conceive to be a humane educational study of birds' eggs and nests, which cannot be studied apart from the birds themselves; if a person's intention be merely to make a collection, well let him make a collection of postage-stamps or buttons.

There is no need whatever to collect clutches, it serves no useful purpose whatever which cannot be equally served by a carefully kept note-book. One egg from a nest, and very often one egg of a kind, are amply sufficient, and even these are not necessary where the person has ready access to a public museum where one collection should serve for a district.

A collection of carefully coloured drawings of eggs, from authenticated originals may be of more value than a collection of the real objects ever can; the educational value of making the drawings is very great, and a collection of real eggs can never be as complete as it is possible to make a

WREN (*Troglodites parvulus*).

(PLATE XXVII. MAP Z.)

Resident. common in wooded gorges.

"Abundant, remaining all the year."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison's statement in 1844, that the Wren was "not very common in the Huddersfield district" must have been from lack of opportunities for observation. In the gorge which runs through Pennyspring Wood I often used to find its nest, and in all similar places it has been a very common bird as far back as I can remember, up to 1400 ft.

Persons who used to go about at night catching birds for shooting, often found the Wren roosting in hay-stacks.

The earliest date I have for the song is February 9 (1911) at Grimscot.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3, and 50).—The nest is usually made of dry bracken, a round ball, of large size for the bird, with a little hole in at one side, and lined with feathers. But the birds will make use of other materials if handy; once when I was at Rainworth Lodge, Mansfield, a pair of Wrens had built a nest of bracken in the garden. Mr. Whitaker pulled the nest out and threw down a bundle of straw, and the birds made a straw nest. He then removed the straw nest and the straw, and put down some bedding-flocks, and they built a third nest of that.

When one nest is finished and while the female is laying and sitting, the male bird fills up his spare time building other nests, which are not lined, and which are used as roosting places. The eggs (6-8) are white, with very minute red dots at the large end.

Call attention to the short wings, indicative of a bird which does not fly much, and never far at once.

THE FLYCATCHER FAMILY.

The Flycatchers are small birds which sit on twigs watching for flies flying past; when one is seen the bird flies after it, catches it, and returns to the same twig time after time.

Many kinds are found in various parts of the world, some of the tropical species being brightly coloured, and some adorned with plumes. About six kinds have been met with in Britain, and two of them in this District.

collection of drawings, and when a rare egg has been copied it is then available for exchange for some other rare species; the same egg would serve a large number of collectors, and the rest of hoopoes, bee-eaters, golden orioles, &c. could be left to breed, as they certainly would, indeed do on large private estates where the nest robber cannot get.

Photography could come largely in the study, but it is not pictures of the nests we want now, these have been done, but pictures of the kinds of places where they are built.

In justification of these remarks I may say that for over twenty years I have never taken an egg from a bird's nest, save one diminutive egg of woodcock, which being without yolk would never have hatched. But I have made drawings of thousands, and these I shall be pleased to show to anyone thinking of taking up the study on these lines.



WREN.

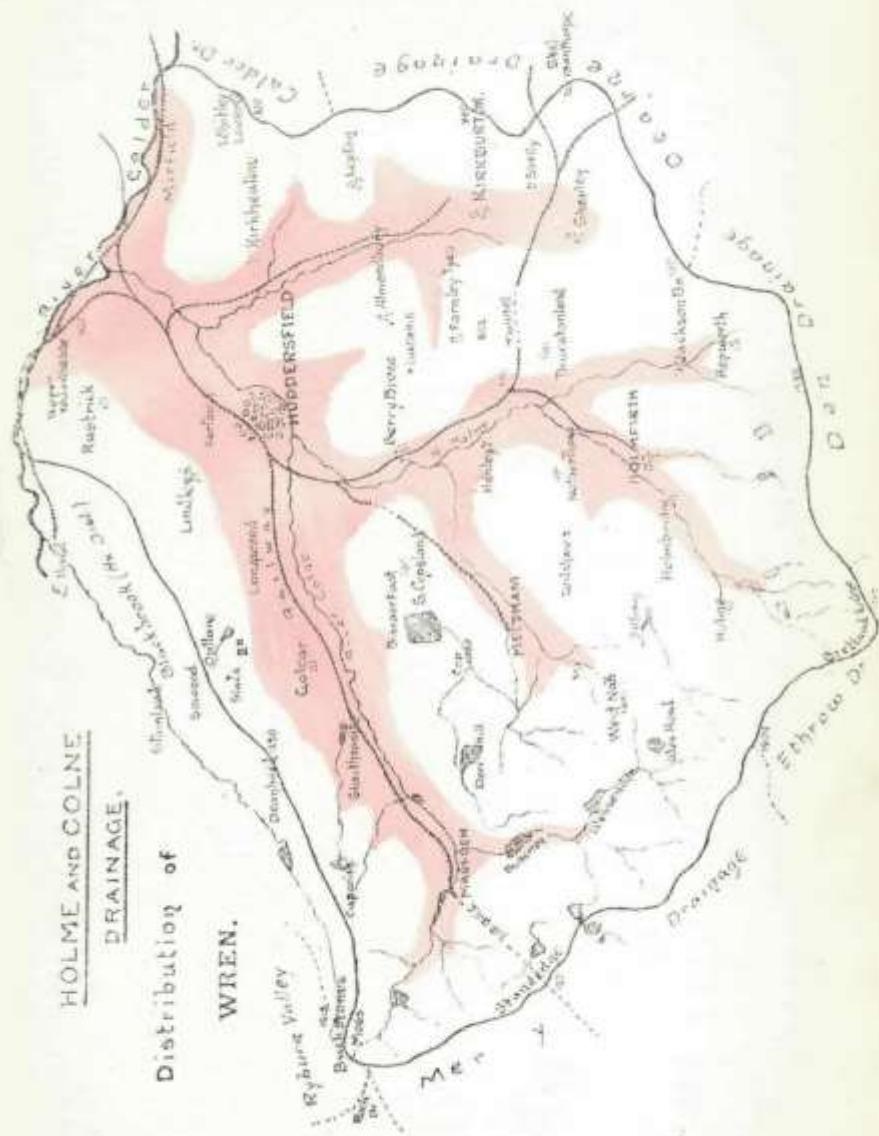
$\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Sexes alike.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

WREN.





SWALLOW.

Male $\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Female similar.

73 **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa griseola*).

Summer migrant, less common than formerly.

"Common; arrives about the middle of May."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This bird is very fond of old orchards, and where they are it builds its nest in the lichen-covered trees; in this District I have usually found it about an old garden or at the edge of a wood. There is still a tree at the edge of Pennyspring Wood against the trunk of which a pair nested for several successive years. I met with it also at Longley, Kirkheaton, Gawthorpe, Storthes Hall garden, Almondbury Bank, and Yew Green. I have not seen a pair for some years.

The earliest date I have for its arrival is May 10 (1899) at Thunder Bridge.

74 **PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa atricapilla*).

Spring and autumn visitor, rare.

"One shot at Almondbury in 1851.

The bird referred to by Hobkirk was shot by my father. I distinctly remember Varley coming to tell him he had seen a strange bird, and my father took his gun and got the bird, which is now in the Museum.

In 1844 Eddison reported (see B. of Y.) that it had bred in Dalton for several years, [probably one pair. Varley had one shot in Pennyspring Wood (Nat. 1875, p. 24); and another is reported from near Meltham (Nat. 1884, p. 26).

75 **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*).

(PLATE XXVIII. MAP AA.)

Summer migrant, common.

"Arrives about the third week in April,"—Hobkirk, 1859.

Usually the Swallow arrives a few days before the Martin. The earliest date I have is April 7 (1901) recorded by Mr. Fisher at Waterloo. The return migration starts about the third week in August, and by the middle of September they are all gone except a few odd ones which may be left behind, and such I have seen up to the middle of October.

ECONOMIC NOTES.—The Swallow renders great service by the number of flies and other insects it destroys. As the birds are on the wing daily from sunrise to sunset the number of insects captured must be beyond calculation. Many of these will be insects injurious to agriculture and horticulture, but the chief service is in the destruction of gnats, midges, and other biting flies which, in hot weather, are such an annoyance to man and domestic animals; and this is probably the reason why the Swallow has been sent to

rear its brood in cowsheds, and the Martin in the windows of our homes.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1, 3 and 54).—The long narrow wings and small feet indicate that the bird flies much and perches little. The highly forked tail is the type of tail possessed by birds which fly quickly and take sudden turns in the flight. The small soft bill tells us that the bird feeds on small insects; the large mouth that it captures them during flight, and therefore the insects must also be such as fly. The shining metallic colour of the back tells the story of the almost perpetual sunshine in which this happy bird lives—here and in South Africa.

The nest is built against the side or on the top of a beam or other projection in a cowshed or other open out-building, and is constructed of bits of straw and mud taken up a mouthful at a time; a little is built and then left to dry, when finished it is lined with feathers. The eggs (5-6) are pinky-white, with rust-red and purple spots. When feeding the young the parents do not return to the nest with every fly they capture, but wait until they get a mouthful, the earlier captures being retained by a viscid secretion from the mouth.

SCRIPTURAL NOTES.—The name of the Swallow occurs in several places in both the Old and New Testaments. The original Hebrew word *deror* signified liberty, and was well applied to these birds. There are several kinds in Palestine besides our own three common species, which are plentiful, and the Swallow and House Martin associate themselves with man as they do here, and build even in the synagogues (Ps. lxxxiv. 3).

[The following paragraph should have preceded the above, but was accidentally omitted.]

THE SWALLOW FAMILY.

These birds are known by their long pointed wings, forked tail, small feet and bill with wide gape for catching insects on the wing. They are found in all tropical and temperate countries except New Zealand. They are migratory, in summer to Siberia, North Europe, and Canada; and in winter to Patagonia, South Africa, and Australia. They moult in spring only, in their winter quarters, and return to their summer homes paired. Over 200 kinds are known.

SAND MARTIN (*Cotile riparia*).

(PLATE XXIX. MAP BB.)

Summer migrant, not so common as formerly.

"The earliest of the Swallow tribe."—Hobkirk, 1859.

When I was a boy there was a great colony of these birds just at the bend of the river at the bottom of Dalton Bank, but they were much persecuted by nest robbers, and, I believe, finally driven away during the making of the sewage works. A few, probably some of those driven away from the above habitat, used to nest in the bank of the Fenay Beck near Round Wood. A few must still breed somewhere in the District, as they are to be seen every year along the Fenay Beck and Calder.



SAND MARTIN.

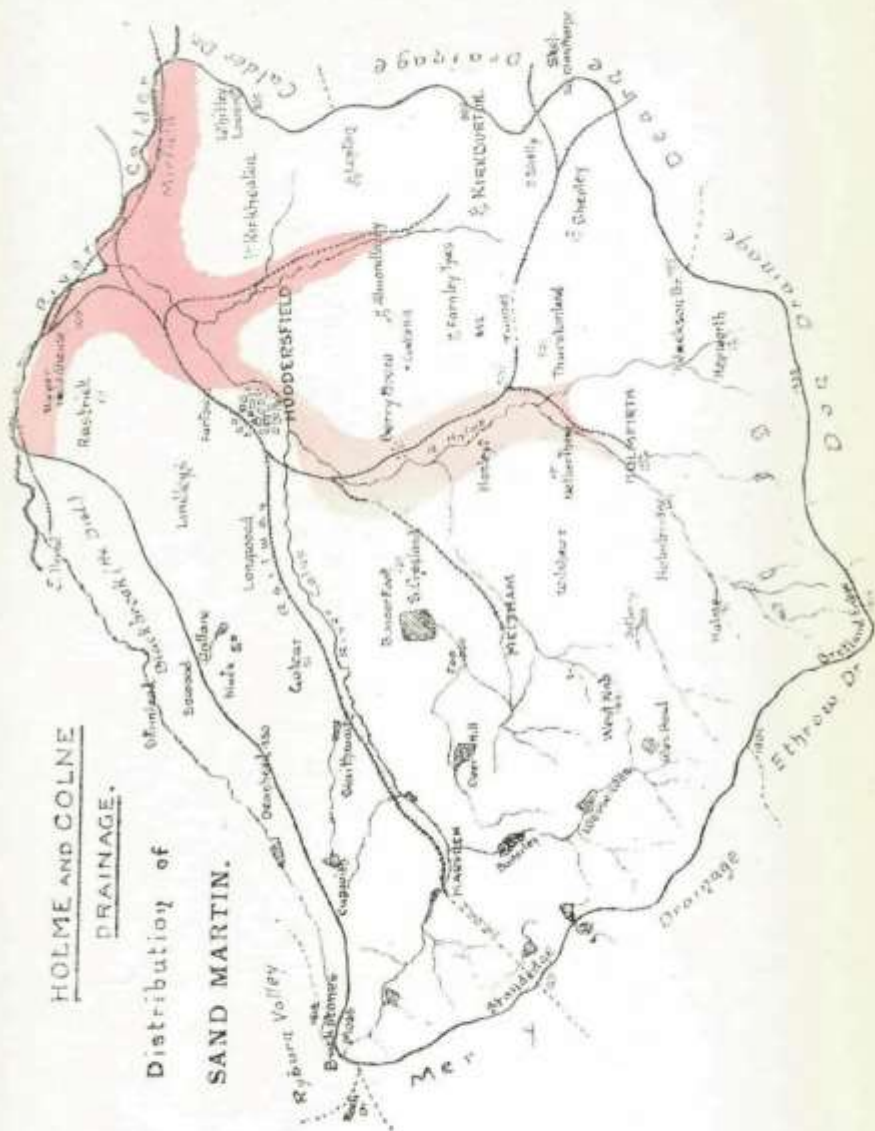
Male & immature. Female similar.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

SAND MARTIN.





HOUSE MARTIN.

Male & natural size. Female similar.

The earliest date for its arrival is April 7, (1901) noted by Mr. Fisher at Cooper Bridge.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—A most useful little bird, and quite worth while to go to some trouble to encourage. Mr. Whitaker, of Rainworth Lodge, Mansfield, built a wall on the margin of one of his ponds, and had some 2 in. drain pipes inserted into it, which, next season, the Sand Martins made use of.

NOTE FOR TEACHERS.—Nearly always seen about rivers. May be distinguished by its small size, and dull brown colour. With their tiny bills and feet they can bore tunnels into sandbanks, or even soft sandstone, for two or three feet, at the end of which a nest of feathers is made, and 5-6 pure white eggs laid. All the Swallow tribe winter in South Africa.

77

HOUSE MARTIN (*Chelidon urbica*).

(PLATE XXX, MAP CC.)

Summer migrant, but not so common as formerly.

"Arrives a little later than the Swallow; frequent."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Since Sparrows became so abundant they have driven away many of the Martins by taking forcible possession of their nests. When I was a boy there were several places where rows of nests could be seen under the eaves, or in the corners of windows of cottages, but now the places where they breed, and the number of nests are very few. I have seen none recently, except at Gawthorpe Mill.

The earliest date recorded for this bird in this District is April 7, (1901) at Marsden, by Alfred Dean. Usually they are all gone by the second week in September, but I have seen one as late as the 25th of that month (1903) at Waterloo.

A very pale drab one, almost white, was shot in King's Mill Lane, by a Mr. North, who lived at King's Mill House; my father stuffed it.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—The remarks under Swallow apply equally to all the swallow tribe. They are most useful birds, feeding exclusively on insects, and do no kind of harm whatever. It might be worth while to put nest-boxes for these birds, with apertures just too small for a sparrow to get in.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read p. 1, 3, and the paragraph on the Swallow family on p. 54).—The House Martin can always be distinguished, when on the wing, by its pure white rump, and the less forked tail; the legs and feet are feathered to the end of the toes. The eggs, being laid in a concealed place, are pure white.

78 **PURPLE MARTIN** (*Progne purpurea*).

Very rare in Britain.

"One shot at Colne Bridge in 1854."—Hobkirk.

I have not been able to trace this bird. I believe it was stuffed by a man called Burton, a glazier, in Cross Church Street, who curated the museum in the Philosophical Hall, where probably the bird was placed, and perhaps got destroyed at the unceremonious breaking up of that institution soon after. It is common in America.

END OF THE PERCHERS.

Foot of Perching Bird.



Foot of Climbing Bird.

ORDER 2.

CLIMBERS.

The CLIMBERS are, in reality, a section of the PERCHERS, which, to reduce a great and unwieldy group, are taken as a separate order.

The chief point of distinction is, that in typical Climbers there are two toes in front and two behind, but some other birds, with otherwise curious or even normal feet, which cannot be grouped with the Perchers, are placed here.

This Order includes such birds as climb up the bark of trees by means of their feet and a very stiff tail (Woodpeckers); those which climb from branch to branch by means of feet and bill, and have a normal tail (Parrots, Toucans, etc.); and those which, mouse-like, creep over rocks, under tiles, or along excavated galleries (Swifts, etc).

Usually these birds have no song; they nest in holes and lay white eggs; the Cuckoos are exceptional in both these respects, but these are strange birds, and what their habits were before they became parasitic no one knows.

THE SWIFT FAMILY.

About fifty kinds of Swifts are known from all parts of the world except the Polar Regions and New Zealand.

The distinctive characteristic, at a distance, is the very long narrow wings, which give the bird the appearance of a pickaxe when flying.

In typical Swifts all the four toes are directed forward.

They breed in clefts of rocks, caves, etc., and lay white eggs.

The Swifts of Java make brackets (usually, but erroneously called the nests) against the sides of caves. These brackets are constructed of saliva* from the mouth of the birds, which dries hard. They are collected and sent to the Chinese markets, and sold for making soup.

Humming Birds, found only in Tropical America, belong to this group.

79 COMMON SWIFT (*Cypselus apus*).**Summer migrant.**

"Arrives middle of May; breeds at Longwood."—Hobkirk.

Eddison reported, in 1844, that Swifts got less numerous year by year, and attributed the decrease to the habit of gunners shooting them for practice.

The place referred to by Hobkirk would, no doubt, be the quarries at Longwood Edge. Many years ago an unfinished mill stood in the Dean Valley. The roof had been put on, but it had never been floored, nor the windows put in—a monument of unintelligent dissatisfaction. Hundreds of Swifts bred in this mill every year, but some ten years ago it was pulled down; when the birds came the following May, their breeding place was destroyed, they had to disperse over the District, and find such accommodation as they could. Some bred in an empty building at Smithy Place, since pulled down. Others bred and still do breed, in a disused mill above Holmfirth. I have often noticed them about The Cliff, Holmfirth, Cook's Study, and also the rocks in Beaumont Park.

Swifts come late and depart early. The earliest record, for this District, is May 6 (1886), by Mr. Freer, presumably at Linthwaite. I have never seen it after the middle of August.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 56).—Although not a Swallow the Swift is a very swallow-like bird; similarity of habit has resulted in similarity of structure. The nearest allies to Swifts are the Hum-

* It is usually stated that these "nests" are constructed of partly digested disgorged seaweed, but the birds do not feed on seaweed.

ming Birds, and lecturers, laying too much stress on this fact, have sent children away with the impression that the latter birds are found in this country.

SCRIPTURAL NOTES.—The passage in Jer. viii, 7, "crane and swallow" should read "swift and crane, when the passage becomes much more understandable. The same in Is. xxxviii, 24. The Swallow is only a partial migrant in Palestine, but the Swifts arrive and depart with great regularity. They are ever flying along the streets, chattering and screaming as they fly, as in many of the towns and villages in this country, where the buildings are thatched with tiles. Both the kinds of Swifts mentioned here are common in Palestine.

80 ALPINE SWIFT (*Cypselus melba*).

One record only.

On June 2, 1881, a bird of this species was picked up, in an exhausted condition at Causway Foot, near Kirkburton. It was taken to my father, who purchased it, and brought it straight away to me in the flesh, and gave it to me for my museum. I kept it until the corporation declined my offer to found a town museum, when, along with a number of other rarities, I sold it. It went into Mr. Bond's collection.

Although common in the Alpine Region of Europe this bird is very rare in this country.

THE KINGFISHER FAMILY.

About 13 kinds of Kingfishers are known, from all parts of the world except the Polar Regions, mainly the East Indies and South America.

The toes are united for half their length.

They feed on small fresh-water fish, and nest in holes bored into river banks. The eggs are pure glossy white.

81 KINGFISHER (*Alcedo ispida*).

Formerly resident, now a much persecuted visitor.

"Haunts the banks of rivers and clear streams."—Hobkirk.

Eddison reported, in 1844, that the Kingfisher bred near Huddersfield, and before that date it was quite a common resident. My father had a green silk net which he used for catching them. Besides the

incessant persecution to which these birds have been subjected, the pollution of the streams, and the destruction of fish have had a good deal to do with reducing the number. It still visits the District every year, and would breed here if permitted. Recent records are Almondbury Bank (Nat. 1875, p. 24); Meltham (Id. 1898, p. 363, & 1901, p. 149); Crosland Hall (Id. 1901, p. 352, & 1898, p. 10); Slaithwaite (Id. 1893, p. 76); Dam Side (Tr. B. P. M., 1891); Golcar (Tr. H. N. S. 1898). Mr. Fisher informs me that it occurs in Dalton every year, but is always shot, and it is to be regretted that all the above records (except those from Crosland Hall, are records of murder. A servant of the late Sir Thomas Brooke shot one in the grounds at Armitage Bridge, and deservedly got a good dressing down from his master. The Rev. H. N. Hind reports that one was seen at Hinchcliffe Mill in September 1908. Mr. Phipps includes it in a list of birds observed about Wilshaw, and Mr. Falconer reports two in the possession of James Balmforth, of Wilberlee, shot at Golcar in 1901 and 1902.

BEE-EATER AND ROLLER FAMILY.

These birds are similar to small choughs and crows, but remarkable for their very bright colours, consisting of blues, greens, and chestnut.

About 55 different kinds are known, confined to the warmer parts of the old world.

One species of each section is native of Europe, and both occur occasionally in the British Isles, also one each of the Philippine Bee-Eater, and the Abyssinian Roller. The Common European Roller only has occurred in this District.

ROLLER (*Coracias garrulus*).

One record only.

"One shot at Fixby some years ago."—Hobkirk, 1859.

According to a list of Local Birds, compiled by Leyland of Halifax, in 1828, this bird was shot in 1824, and at the date of the list was in possession of someone at Littleborough. I have been unable to obtain any further information about it.



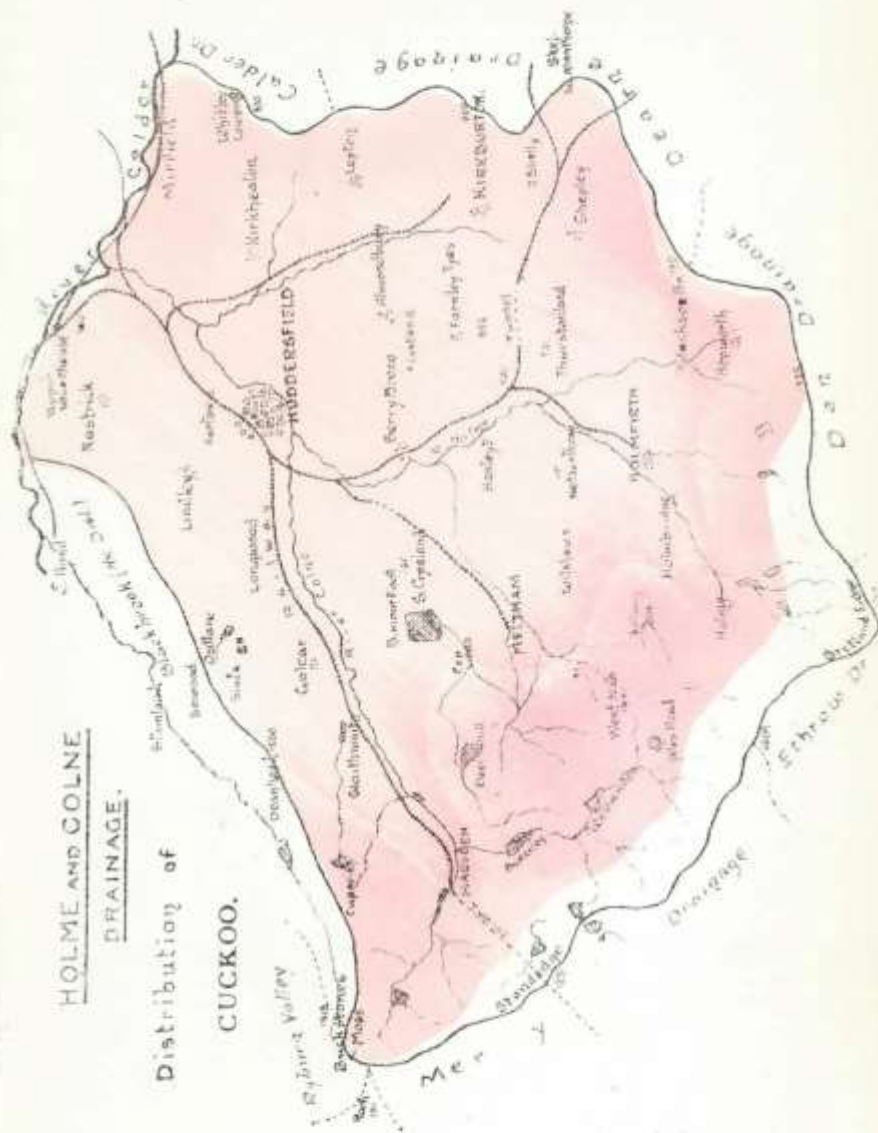
CUCKOO.
 $\frac{1}{4}$ natural size.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

CUCKOO.



THE HOOPOE FAMILY.

Only some half-dozen kinds of Hoopoes are known, confined to S. and Mid Europe, Africa, and S. Asia. The only European species visits this country every year, and has bred in the south of England.

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*).

A rare visitor.

This beautiful bird is not mentioned by Hobkirk, but since he wrote several are known to have occurred in this District. One was shot near Honley, many years ago. Another was killed near Meltham, and came to my museum in the Gibson Thornton collection. Another was obtained near Grimescar, and this also came into my possession; it went to Harwich eventually. More recently, in May 1911, one was shot by the keeper near Butternab Wood.

It is a pity we have not some large estate, and a landowner sufficiently interested in the beauties of nature to find birds a secure nesting home. Under such conditions birds like the Hoopoe would stay and breed.

SCRIPTURAL NOTE.—The word Lapwing in Lev. xi, 19, and Deut. xiv, 18, in the A.V. has been altered to Hoopoe in the R.V. It is a common bird in Palestine, and being a very conspicuous one would attract notice. It is held to be a sacred bird by the Arabs, who believe that it has charms and magic powers. Its crown of feathers is supposed to have been given to it by king Solomon. It breeds in holes in rocks and trees, which become very foul during the time the young are in, and as it feeds largely on dung oills, these may be the reasons why it was forbidden as food by the Mosaic law.

THE CUCKOO FAMILY.

The Cuckoos are peculiar in their hawk-like appearance, and the parasitic habit of many of them.

About 180 different kinds are known, from all parts of the world except the Polar Regions. Only two are found in Europe, one of which is a regular summer migrant to the British Isles.

83

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*).

Summer migrant, common.

"Arrives about the close of April; frequent on the moors."—Hobkirk.

The first notes of the Cuckoo are always jeagerly listened for. It is common all over the District, but, as Hobkirk says, is most frequent on the moors and moor edges, where it lays in the nests of the Titlark. This is the nest almost always selected in this part of Yorkshire, though I have known one instance of a Cuckoo's egg in the nest of a Pied Wagtail; the egg was of a much lighter type than those laid in the nests of the Titlark. A young Cuckoo was shown me, by a gamekeeper, in the nest of a Dunnock, but I was unable to find any portion of the egg shell.

The earliest date I have for the note is April 18 (1899) in Butternab Wood. I have often heard it at 9 or 10 o'clock at night, and once up to 11-45, while listening to the Nightingale in Lepton Little Wood.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS (read the above, also pp. 1 and 57).—The Cuckoo is a strange bird. It lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, one in each nest, and leaves them to be hatched, and the young to be brought up by the owners of the nests, called foster parents. When two Cuckoo's eggs are found in one nest two separate birds are supposed to have laid them. Different individual cuckoos are supposed to lay differently coloured eggs and that each bird selects a nest with eggs similar to its own; so Cuckoos' eggs very often resemble those in the nests where they are found, and to add to the deception the egg of the Cuckoo is very small for the size of the bird, and in this District very much resembles that of the Titlark. But in other parts of Britain, or on the Continent, Cuckoos' eggs have been found in over 100 different kinds of birds' nests, even blue ones in Dunnocks' nests. Probably always, and certainly often, the egg is laid on the ground and carried to the nest in the bird's mouth, from which has arisen the myth that "she sucks pretty birds' eggs to make her voice clear."

The Cuckoo's egg usually hatches first, and the young bird, very like a little toad, immediately begins to get any other eggs or young on its back, which is hollow for the purpose, and ousts them over the edge of the nest on to the ground. If this were not done the foster parents could not support the whole family, and finally the young Cuckoo fills the whole nest. The foster parents feed the Cuckoo so long, after it leaves the nest, that they have to get on its back to put the food in its mouth. It would be interesting if we could know what they think about their "fine baby."

Before the young Cuckoos are able to fly the old ones have gone to South Africa. In September, when the young are fully grown, they follow their true parents, led by the Guide who will lead all who put their trust in him.

There is an old rhyme about the Cuckoo worth remembering :—

In April the cuckoo shows her bill ;
In May she sings all day ;
In June she alters her tune ;
In July she prepares to fly ;
Come August go she must."

Although we always speak of the Cuckoo in the feminine gender, it is the males only which sing.

Most of the poets have something about the Cuckoo; Wordsworth has two pieces suitable for dictation or recitation,

NOTE FOR GARDENERS.—Cuckoos should be encouraged about gardens, as they take caterpillars which other birds refuse. Mr. Porritt records that last year (1912) a pair of these birds took caterpillars of the magpie moth (an insect very destructive to black currant and gooseberry bushes), estimated at 6,000, from one garden in this District.

SCRIPTURAL NOTE.—The word "cuckoo" in Lev. xi, 16, and Deut. xiv, 15, in the A. V. has been changed in the R. V. to "sea-mew" (a kind of petrel), but the species of bird to which the original word refers seems doubtful. Our Cuckoo, and also the Great Spotted Cuckoo, are common in Palestine, but it is very unlikely they were ever used for food; whereas several kinds of petrels and shearwaters, fat and oily birds, are common in the Eastern Mediterranean, and are caught and sent to the markets for eating.

THE WOODPECKER FAMILY.

The Woodpeckers are typical climbing birds. They climb up the rough bark of trees in search of insects, and the climbing feet are assisted by the very stiff tail. The bill is dagger-shaped, for digging into decaying trees in search of internal larvæ, or for excavating or enlarging holes for breeding homes. The tongue has a hard, sharp, barbed point, and the muscular arrangements enable it to be thrust out to a great distance, so that the bird can insert it into holes, pierce any larvæ it can reach, and draw them out.

Over 300 different kinds are known, from all parts of the world where there are trees, except Australia and Madagascar. Ten kinds are found in Europe, eight of them in Britain, and three have been recorded for this District.

85 **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Geococcyx viridis*).

A rare visitor.

"One shot at Storthes Hall in 1835."—Hobkirk.

Eddison, in 1844, said "very rare near Huddersfield, though formerly more plentiful" (Birds of Yorks.). My father could remember its wild cry in Storthes Hall Woods, and there can be little doubt that, when the whole district was thickly wooded, it bred here.

The only recent occurrence I know of is one killed in the Whitley Woods a few years ago, and reported to me by Mr. E. Fisher.

The cutting down of old timber trees was, most probably, the main cause of its disappearance.

86 **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.**
(*Dendrocopus major*).

Resident (?) but rare.

"Storthes Hall Woods."—Hobkirk, 1839.

There is a statement in the 'Birds of Yorkshire' that a nest and eggs were presented to the museum of the Huddersfield Literary and Philosophical Society, by Mr. Dunderdale, in 1844.

I can remember several birds of this kind being brought to my father to stuff, from Whitley Hall and Storthes Hall. Varley had one killed in Pennyspring Wood (Nat. 1875, p. 24).

Some years ago I found an elm tree, at the bottom of Saville Wood, infested with the grubs of the elm-bark beetle. The bark had been torn off, evidently by a woodpecker, and most probably of this species, to get at the grubs. Some of this bark is now in the museum.

Mr. Rane, an egg dealer of Leeds, who was in this district last year, hunting for rarities, said that a man at Lockwood had six eggs of this bird taken from a hay-stack. On going to see them I found they were white eggs of some kind, but certainly not of a woodpecker.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker is about the size of a Starling, with a conspicuous patchy black and white plumage. The male has a scarlet band behind the head, and the young bird a scarlet cap. The flight can be distinguished at a distance, being undulatory—in distinct waves up and down—from wood to wood.

The conspicuous coloration of the woodpeckers is thought to be “warning colours” to inform birds of prey of the danger of attacking a bird which can use its dagger-like bill with such force.

All the woodpeckers are useful birds in the forest from the number of timber feeding insects they destroy. Their digging into trees is mostly to get at internal larvæ, which they can hear working from the outside.

87 LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

(*Dendrocopus minor*).

A rare visitor.

“Storthes Hall Woods, rare.”—Hobkirk, 1859.

There is a statement in ‘Birds of Yorkshire’ that a pair nested in this District in 1851, but I do not know on what authority it is made.

My father had one (now in the museum) killed in or near the old garden at Storthes Hall.

I believe it still breeds just outside our District, in the upper part of the Dearne valley.

This bird frequents orchards with old trees. The Storthes Hall garden is just such a place, and I have no doubt this bird bred there formerly.

[**Hairy Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopus villosus*).—A pair, male and female, of this American species were shot in Kirklees Park about a hundred years ago. This park, although not strictly within the defined limits of our District, is only divided from it by the river Calder and one small field, and much nearer the town than some of the remote parts in the opposite direction. It seems necessary that these birds should be mentioned here.

The Hairy Woodpecker is very similar to the Great Spotted Woodpecker, except that the former has a broad white stripe down the centre of the back.]

THE NIGHTJAR FAMILY.

The external characteristics of the Nightjars are the soft owl-like plumage, the long wings and tail, the small swallow-like bill and wide gape. They feed on moths, which they capture on the wing at dusk, hence the use of the wide gape, and to make the capture more certain the mouth is beset with long stiff bristles which stand out on each side. The middle claw of each foot is like a comb, probably for tearing off the wings of a moth while it is being held in the mouth.

About 90 kinds are known, from all parts of the world except the Polar Regions, Polynesia and New Zealand. Three species are natives of the European Region, of which one is a common summer migrant to this country, and the other two have occurred as accidental visitors.

They make no nest, but lay their two eggs on the bare ground, which the colour of the sitting bird exactly imitates.

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europæus*).

Summer migrant.

"Arrives near the close of May."—Hobkirk.

This is a bird of the dry woods and bracken slopes along the moor edges.

A pair used to breed, every year, in Butternab Wood, where I have seen the eggs; also in the fir wood at Storthes Hall, Honley Old Wood, and on Honley Moor, but I am afraid it has been exterminated in all these places. Mr. Tinker informs me that it still breeds near Netherthong.

The earliest date on which I have heard the curious note of this bird is May 19 (1901) in Butternab Wood. This note—a continuous churr—cannot be mistaken for that of any other bird.

This bird is often called the Goatsucker. It was formerly supposed that the big mouth was for sucking the milk from goats and cows, which, it was supposed, they did in the night, and that the churring song was the result of the milk gurgling in the bird's throat.

ORDER 3.

BIRDS OF PREY.

The Birds of Prey include the Owls, Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, etc., all of which have the upper part of the bill pointed and curved over the lower, and which have long curved sharp claws called talons. Both these characteristics are adapted to the seizing, holding and tearing of other animals on which they prey.

The young are, at first, covered with white down, and are fed by the parents until they are able to fly.

The Hawks, Eagles, etc. build nests in trees or rocks, and lay coloured eggs, but the Owls lay white eggs in holes with little or no preparation.

Birds of Prey have no song, indeed the diurnal species are very silent; the nocturnal Owls hoot or screech.

When the District was covered with forest both sections would be plentiful, but since game preserves were established anything which had any likeness to a hawk or an owl has been most unmercifully persecuted, until now one of these birds is very rarely seen.

THE OWL FAMILY.

The Owls are mostly night birds. They have a peculiar face among birds, it being flat and the two large glaring eyes look forward, not sideways as in other birds. This arrangement is probably necessary because, in the night it is not a wide range of vision they need, as they hunt mainly by sound, until they get near their prey, when concentrated vision on one point is necessary. Their prey consists almost entirely of small mammals—rats, mice, voles, etc. In order to hear the faintest noise one of these animals may make by running among fallen leaves, an owl's ear cavity is very large, and there is a flap behind which can be elevated to catch a faint sound, just as a person places the open hand behind the ear to catch a sound. The feathers are very soft so that the bird can fly towards the sound without the slightest noise. It thus flies, a short distance at a time, until it gets near enough to see and hypnotise the object of its pursuit.

The "cruelty" scar is a phantom ghost set up by those who have not sufficient knowledge on the subject. Birds and beasts of prey do not seize and devour each and every creature which comes in their way; They are sent out to certain places, and told off each kind to its special work—to keep order, just as policemen are told off to different parts of a town. Thus the Brown Owl is for the oak wood, the Long-eared Owl for the fir wood, the Short-eared Owl for the cornfield, the Barn Owl for the stackyard. Each in its place prevents the overcrowding of certain species, and as it is the weakly and imperfect ones—those least able to get out of the way—which are taken, the species is benefited by the best being left to propagate. So far from being cruel the whole system is a most forcible expression of the Creator's forethought and goodness. Before a creature is seized it is hypnotised, and in the process of being eaten suffers no pain. When a lion was crushing the bones of Livingstone's arm and sucking his blood, he felt no pain, and did not care a straw whether it ate him or not. If creatures live they must die, and whether it is better for them to die in this painless way, or of a lingering disease, unable, for days or weeks to get about to find their food or to quench a thirst which has driven men mad?

In all the British kinds the sexes are similar, except that the female is usually the largest.

The eggs are almost round, ordinary eggs are oval to prevent them rolling away, and those which are most likely to roll away—that is of birds which make no nest, like guillemots and some waders—are most pointed at one end. Those of owls, being usually laid in a hole, where they cannot roll away have no need to depart from the round form. Two eggs are laid and then the birds begin to sit. When the eggs are near hatching two more are laid, and when the young birds do hatch their hot bodies incubate the other eggs, setting the old birds at liberty to forage. Just before the second two eggs hatch,

in some instances one or two more are laid. So ravenous are the young birds that it would be more than the parents could do to feed them if they all hatched at once. A young owl has been known to swallow nine mice one after the other, and the tail of the last one hung out of its mouth.

Owls, of all kinds, are most useful birds. Feeding almost entirely on grain destroying mammals they render very great service, and being almost exclusively night birds they are not liable to molest game.

89

EAGLE OWL.

On January 1, 1885, a large horned owl was shot at Fixby by a man named Joseph Firth. It was recorded in the 'Naturalist' for 1886, p. 114 as the European Eagle Owl, and is so copied into the 'Birds of Yorkshire'. But I believe it is the Virginian Eagle Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), and if so is the first and only one of that species which has occurred in this country.

It was stuffed, and is now at Cowcliffe.

90

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*).

Formerly resident, now a very rare visitor.

"Kirklees: partial to fir plantations and old ivy."—Hobkirk, 1839.

No doubt this was once a common bird in this valley, frequenting the fir plantations from 800 to 1,000 ft. altitude. In 1844 Eddison reported that it was becoming scarcer, and I cannot find any record of its having bred with us since that date. Many odd ones have been obtained, some of them shot in the Storthes Hall Black Fir Wood by Pemberton, the keeper, and brought to my father to stuff. One of these was a beautiful little male with a white collar, which my father gave to me, and I gave it, along with some other birds, to the Clayton West school when I broke up my museum.

One night, when collecting moths in the Black Fir Wood, I think it would be in the spring of 1864 or '5, a pair of these birds were flying about the whole evening; and might have bred, or attempted; the wood was then principally fir.

It is many years since one was reported.

91 **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*Asio brachiotus*).

Formerly a regular migrant, now a very rare visitor.

"Kirklees; visits England in October and departs in April."—Hobkirk.

All the occurrences I know anything about have been on the autumn migration. I remember several passing through my father's hands, killed in the District, but the only one of which I recollect the locality was shot on Storthes Hall Moor.

When investigating on Scholes Moor, one day last year, I met with an old man who informed me that he once shot an owl in a cornfield, which he got stuffed; on going to see I found it, as I expected, to be of this species.

It has been reported from Almondbury and Dalton (Nat. 1875, p. 24) and the Rev H. N. Hind informs me that one was killed near Boshaw Reservoir, October 20, 1908.

This is the owl of the cornfields, and is most useful in destroying mice and voles. The foolish practice of shooting every strange bird ought to be put a stop to, for often, as in this case, they are our best friends.

92 **TAWNY OWL** (*Syrnium aluco*).

Formerly resident, now a very rare visitor.

"Kirklees; builds in hollow trees or among ivy."—Hobkirk, 1859.

In 1844 Eddison reported that this species was not met with about Huddersfield. This must have been for want of opportunity to get out into the country at night, for at that time it must have been in all the large woods within the oak wood zone (500-700 ft.). It would be reduced by the felling of the old timber trees, and game preserves would finally exterminate it. I used to hear it, when I first began to collect insects and went out "sugaring" at night, in the Storthes Hall Woods, and I once heard it in Grimescar. I remember one being sent my father to stuff from Shelley.

I believe both the brown and grey forms have occurred.

93

BARN OWL (*Strix flammea*).

Formerly resident, now a very rare visitor.

"Common."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The above statement, from Hobkirk, is difficult to understand. The Barn Owl has never been a common bird in this District within my memory, and I began to take interest in birds before the list in the 'History of Huddersfield' was compiled. The only one I remember passing through my father's hands was obtained in a barn at Woodsome Mill. I believe others have been obtained, but I have no particulars.

SCRIPTURAL NOTE.—Several words in the Hebrew Bible are supposed to refer to Owls of different kinds. Tristram makes it out that one (Lev. xi, 16, translated 'night-hawk') refers to the Barn Owl; another (Is. xxxiv, 15) to the Great Eagle Owl; a third (Lev. xi, 17) to the Little Owl. These and other passages referring to owls refer to them as dismal denizens of the night, or as unclean and forbidden for food.

All the British kinds, and some others, occur in Palestine.

THE HAWK FAMILY.

This family includes all the Diurnal Birds of Prey which are not owls.

Their chief characteristics are the long curved sharp claws (talons) and the hooked upper part of the beak which curves over the lower.

They hunt by sight, and "the eye of a hawk" has become a saying for a keen sight.

The feathers are hard and stiff, quite different from those of an owl, and the flight is rapid, as the birds on which most of them prey are captured in flight.

94

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*).

A very rare visitor.

This bird is not mentioned by Hobkirk, but since the publication of his book several extensive reservoirs have been made, which have tempted a visit from birds of this species which have strayed so far from their usual haunts as to come within sight.

It is not likely that this bird, which feeds entirely on fish, was ever a resident in, or a frequent visitor to this District, owing to the almost total absence of natural sheets of water.

One was shot near the Deer Hill reservoir some years ago, and stuffed by Gough for one of the Seniors of Shepley.

Another has been reported (Nat. 1880, p. 170) from near Bilberry.

95 **HEN HARRIER** (*Circus cyaneus*).

Doubtful.

In 1844 Eddison reported that Hen Harriers were "not unfrequently seen scouring the hedgerows in the vicinity of Huddersfield." This is not the habit of the bird, and one cannot help thinking that old female Sparrowhawks must have been mistaken for the present species.

There is a female in the Museum, stuffed by my father, which may be a local bird, but he obtained it before I was old enough to notice birds, and he passed away before I began to collect data.

It has been reported from the Penistone Moors, Hebden Bridge, and Blackstone Edge (Hx. Nat. 1900, p. 86), all places only a short distance beyond our boundary, in different directions.

96 **MONTAGUE'S HARRIER** (*Circus cinerescens*).

One record only.

The only bird of this species which has occurred in our District, so far as I am aware, was a young male shot on the Meltham moors in 1882, and which I saw soon after it was stuffed by Mellor of Meltham. It was recorded in my Museum Report for 1891.

97 **SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*).

Resident, formerly common.

"Frequent."—Hobbsirk, 1859.

When I was a boy my father often went out shooting, particularly in winter time, and he often brought a Sparrowhawk back with him. I remember him shooting a pair from a nest when he was keeper in the Heaton Lodge Woods, and the keeper at Storthes Hall often brought it. I have seen it, either alive or nailed up at Woodsome, Whitley, Snailsden, and near Almondbury. Whitwham took the eggs in the Roydhouse Wood, and my late brother, who lived with an uncle at Lepton, once brought my father four eggs he had taken in Lepton Great Wood. It is still seen occasionally. Mr. J. E. Turner informs that a pair has bred for several years in a place which it is prudent not to name. It has lately been reported to me from Hade Edge, and also from Wessenden Head.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—Since the destruction of the Sparrowhawk, by the gamekeepers and petty gunners, sparrows have enormously increased, and farmers have had to pay for it. Farmers' Sparrow Clubs often do more harm than good, and at the best their remedy is only a temporary one.

The only true remedy is the re-instatement of the Sparrowhawk, by providing nesting accomodation in the form of a plantation and protection on every large farm.

98

KITE (*Milvus iclinus*).

Probably former resident, now never seen.

"Seen at Almondbury in 1853; one seen near Huddersfield by Waterton."
—Hobkirk, 1859.

Varley was responsible for the first part of the above quotation; I have heard him make the statement many times—that he saw the bird flying at a great hight and distinguished it by its forked tail.

Yarrel refers to the record embodied in the second part of the quotation.

In former times, when the country was covered with forest, and the Kite was a common bird in many parts, it would be a frequent visitor to, if not a resident in this District. At any rate it has left its record in at least one place-name—Gledholt. *Glede* is the Old English name for the Kite, and *holt* for wood, so this was the Kite Wood. It is possible that the Honey Buzzard was included under the name Glede.

99

HONEY BUZZARD (*Pernis apivorus*).

A rare visitor, perhaps once resident.

Two birds of this species have been obtained in this District within my recollection. One of them was brought by the keeper at Storthes Hall to my father, who stuffed it in his hut in Heaton Lodge Wood, about 1859 or '60, but I forget what become of it.

Another was killed, also in the Storthes Hall Woods, on May 28. 1874 (Nat. 1875, p. 24) and it had, in its gizzard, egg shells and young of Missel Thrush (Zool. 1874, p. 4153).

100

COMMON BUZZARD (*Buteo vulgaris*).

Doubtful.

"Kirklees, Storthes Hall; one trapped some years ago.—Hobkirk.

Eddison, in 1844, reported to Allis of York, that the Common Buzzard was "frequent" about Huddersfield.

All that I know further than this is the above statement from the 'History and Natural History of Huddersfield' made, doubtless, on the authority of Inchbold.

It is probable that the Honey Buzzard was mistaken for the present species, being a forest bird, while the Common Buzzard frequents crags, and we have none high enough to tempt the bird.

101 ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo lagopus*)

A very rare visitor.

Apart from the somewhat vague statement by Eddison—that in his day this bird was “scarce near Huddersfield” I can only find one record of its occurrence. One was killed on the Holmfirth moors some years ago, and stuffed for Mr. Middlemost of Longwood.

102 HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*).

A very rare casual.

“Kirklees, Castle Hill: rare.”—Hobkirk.

At least two examples of this bird have occurred in this District. The one reported from Castle Hill was killed about 1858, and which I believe to be the one now in the Museum. This bird, I remember, came to my father in the flesh when I was about twelve years old, and passed into Alfred Beaumont's collection. Inchbold, who compiled Hobkirk's list, was a frequent visitor to my father's house at that time and doubtless took his record from the bird; my father never recorded anything. I remember Inchbold bringing the list for my father to insert what he knew, but he would have nothing to do with it.

Another was shot in the wood on Dalton Bank in 1883, and stuffed by Sam Calvert of Kirkheaton (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc. Feb. 1891). I saw the bird after it was stuffed.

103 MERLIN (*Falco aesolon*).

Formerly resident, now never seen.

“Woodsome, Storther's Hall, and Fixby: rare.”—Hobkirk, 1859.

These records are difficult to understand, as the Merlin is purely a moorland bird, but Inchbold sometimes got his records awfully mixed.

Fifty years ago my father occasionally got this bird from the moors. Alfred Beaumont shot it on Slaithwaite Moor when he had the shooting right. It has occurred on Harden Moss, and in the Wessenden Valley. Fifty years since a pair nested near Ramsden Rocks.

The only printed record I can find is of one killed near Slaithwaite (Nat. 1876, p. 24).



KESTREL.

$\frac{1}{2}$ natural size. Upper figure female, lower one male.

104

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*.)

(PLATE XXXII, MAP EE.)

Formerly resident, now a rare visitor.

"Not uncommon in woods."—Hobkirk, 1858.

The Kestrel is the commonest bird of prey in the British Isles. It frequents farm lands in search of mice, as far north as Orkney and the Western Islands to St. Kilda.

I can remember the time when this useful bird was quite common in this District, and I scarcely ever went out without seeing one, or more, hovering in the air. But the misdirected persecution by gamekeepers, and the love of destruction by gunners generally, has so far reduced its numbers that I have not seen one for some years.

I was once concealed in a bush watching birds, when two field mice appeared within a few feet of where I was. I watched them for some time, when suddenly they seemed to be seized by panic, and immediately a Kestrel descended, seized one in each foot, and flew off.

Formerly it was common over all our cultivated ground and woodlands. Within the last twenty years I have seen it at Thurstonland, Brockholes, Holme, Bilberry, New Mill, and Nitherthong. Mr. E. Fisher reported it from Dalton Bank in 1911, and Miss Brierley from Fixby in 1913. Mr. Johnson Wilkinson informs me that once, while being shaved in a barber's shop in St. George Square, he saw a Kestrel come and hover in front of the station; he stopped the barber to make certain.

NOTE FOR FARMERS.—This is one of the most useful birds on the farm, feeding, as it does, almost entirely on mice, voles, rats., and other small mammals so destructive to crops and corn in stack. The destruction of such birds, almost to extinction, is a calamity to the country.

SCRIPTURAL NOTE.—Various Hebrew words have been translated "hawk," "glede," "eagle," etc. in our Bible, but it is exceedingly difficult to say, in most cases, to what bird a particular passage refers, most of the Hebrew words being generic, like our word hawk, there being several different kinds of hawks. Most of the British kinds are common in Palestine, including the Kestrel.

HOLME AND COLNE DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
KESTREL.



ORDER 4.

SCRATCHERS.

The Scratchers proper include the ground birds known as Game or Fowls. They are round plump birds with short rounded wings, taking only short flights, with much noise and flutter, and seldom or never perch. They scratch the ground to find food, as does a barn fowl.

They are mostly polygamous, the males being brightly coloured, often with decorative plumes, and the females plain like the withered ground herbage among which they nest. The female does all the sitting and caring for the young, her sombre colours serving to conceal her, as also does her loss of scent at the brooding time.

These birds have no song, but the male has a "crow" used, usually in a morning, as an assertion of authority over a certain piece of ground called a "walk" which he claims, hence the phrase "Cock of the walk."

The young are clothed with down, and can run and peck as soon as hatched. The brood is usually large.

THE GROUSE FAMILY.

The Grouse are known by the legs being feathered, in some kinds the toes also.

Four kinds are found in Britain, one of which is native of this District, and one has been introduced.

105

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus scoticus*).

Common resident on the moors.

"Frequent."—Hobkirk, 1859.

This is the only bird peculiar to the British Isles, and is specially associated with our ling moors. The local name is Grouse or Moor Game.

They feed on the young tender tops of ling, and in the autumn on the various berries—bilberry, crowberry, wortleberry, cloudberry, etc.—which the moors produce, but in severe weather they descend to the farmsteads on the moor edges and share the poultry food.

The colour of both birds and eggs much resemble the mottled ling moor, but the colour varies according to local circumstances. I am told by Mr. T. P. Crosland, J. P., that on the west side of Wessenden Valley, where the moor is almost entirely black ling, the birds are very dark, some cock birds almost black; while on the opposite side, where the vegetation is chiefly red bilberry, the birds are quite red, and after a day's shoot the birds from the two sides can easily be picked out.

Pale drab varieties sometimes occur. Such a one is reported (Nat. 1896, p. 148) from Standedge; and there is a pair in the Museum which came from Midup Moor. Mr. Anthony Sedgewick, of Ramsden formerly keeper on the Stanhope Estate, has a pair with a good many white feathers in the wings, shot near Cook's Study.

There is a large stone, with a pointed top, between West Nab and the Isle of Skye road, on which a cock grouse is said to perch every morning to crow; it is known as the Cock-crowing-stone.

Although I have little sympathy with killing creatures for the mere love of killing, I have still less with those persons who prowl the moors to pilfer the eggs or young of grouse, and perhaps set the moor on fire by carelessly throwing down a lighted match. Such persons be reminded that there is a law to send anyone to prison for a month, with hard labour and flogging, who sets a moor on fire between February 22 and June 24.

PL. XXXIII.



RED GROUSE.

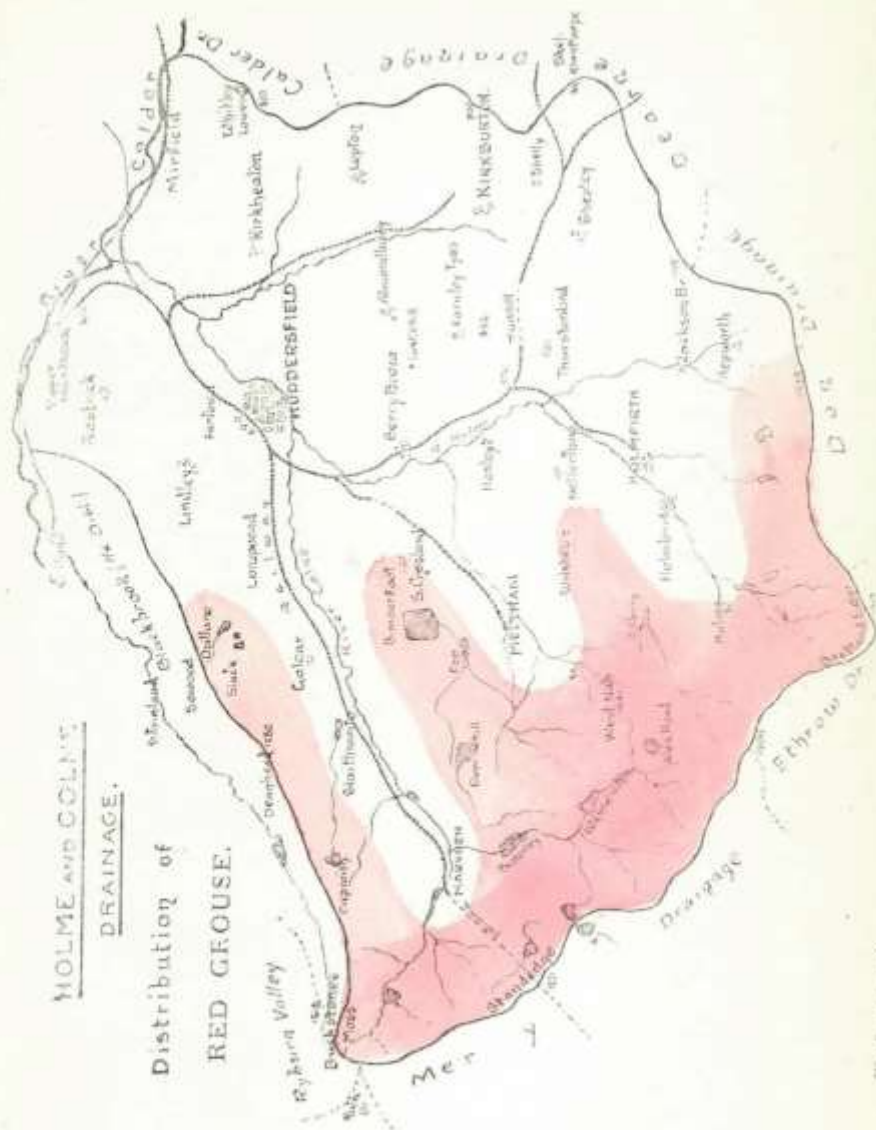
$\frac{1}{4}$ natural size.

HOLME AND COLLET

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

RED GROUSE.



106

BLACK GROUSE (*Tetrao tetrix*).

When our present moors were birch scrub, and some of the slopes pine forest, there cannot be much doubt that this bird would be a native, but if so it died out, or was exterminated, before any ornithological records were made.

Many years ago a few pairs were introduced on the Meltham moors, but owing to the place being unsuitable they did not establish themselves.

The only other instance of the occurrence of this species in this District, so far as is known, is a female shot in Crossley's Plantation, near Cook's Study, a few years ago, doubtless flown over from Dunford Bridge, where they breed, having been introduced there by the late Mr. Stanhope.

THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY.

Partridges differ from Grouse in that they have not feathered legs.

107

COMMON PARTRIDGE (*Perdix cinerea*).

Resident where preserved.

"Abundant in all cultivated parts"—Hobkirk, 1859.

At the time Hobkirk wrote this district was much more strictly preserved than it is at the present time. The Whitley, tSorthes Hall, Woodsome, and Bradley estates covered nearly all the ground suitable to this bird, and they were all preserved. The Heaton Lodge woods, where my father was keeper, and the Crosland Moor portion of which Alfred Beaumont had the shooting, belonged to Whitley, and the Honley and Slaithwaite portions to Woodsome. Dalton Bottom was the only likely bit not within the preserved areas, and whenever game of any kind appeared there a number of gunners were always prepared to leave their hand-looms and give it a warm reception.

At the present time none of these estates are preserved, and I have not seen or heard of a Partridge for years.

108

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Caccabis rufa*).

When the district was preserved broods of this bird were occasionally turned down, but they never thoroughly established themselves. In 1895 Mr. Johnson Wilkinson had one brought, caught in Longwood; and the same year one was brought to the Museum alive, caught in the same neighbourhood. The Rev. H. N. Hind informs me that one was picked up dead between Hinchliffe Mill and Hepworth, in November 1909.

QUAIL (*Coturnix communis*).

Eddison (1844) reported that he used to shoot a number, in spring, in the cornfields about Huddersfield (Birds of Yorks.).

Hobkirk (1859) does not mention it, nor in the 2nd Edition (1868).

As far back as I can remember my father had a case containing a pair of Quails and three eggs; the latter, he told me, were taken from a nest at Lepton, and my elder brother, who lived at Lepton at the time, remembered them being taken. When I began to make a collection my father allowed me to take two of the eggs out of the case, and these are now in the Museum.

Varley records (Nat. 1875, p. 24) a pair in the cornfields about Almondbury all the summer and autumn of 1874.

Many years ago I was informed by a quarryman called Bradbury, who stuffed birds, that a pair had bred in a field near Crosland Moor.

[THE ANDELSIAN QUAIL has been recorded (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1866, p. 240) as having been obtained near Huddersfield, but it was an unfortunate mistake, and although Nelson was warned, it found a place, probably through an oversight, in his 'Birds of Yorkshire'.]

THE PHEASANT FAMILY.

This is a large group confined to tropical and sub-tropical countries of Asia and S.-E. Europe. The males are gorgeously coloured. Our Domestic Fowl and Peafowl are examples.

They differ from Partridges in the different sexual coloration, the larger size, and the (usually) elongated tail.

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).

Hobkirk says "Common at Grimescar," but that remark might very well have been extended. The notes given under Common Partridge apply equally to the Pheasant, except that the former frequents the fields while the latter is a bird of the woods, of which there a few still remaining. Forty years ago large numbers were bred at Whitley and Storthes Halls. My father used to go every week during the hatching time, took the keeper a few ounces of tobacco, and brought back the dead chicks, which had been saved for him, for stuffing; those in the Museum came in this way.

A white one is recorded (Nat. 1876, p. 90) from Mollicar.



WOOD PIGEON.
 $\frac{3}{4}$ natural size.

THE SAND-GROUSE FAMILY.

Sand-Grouse are birds with two toes like Ostriches, feathered legs like Grouse, long tails like Pheasants, and lay two eggs like Pigeons. They frequent sandy deserts, and like other desert birds, lay their eggs on the bare sand.

111 PALLAS' SAND-GROUSE (*Syrhaptes pradozus*).

A rare visitor.

This bird, about the size of a common pigeon, is abundant on the sandy plains of Central Asia, and about every ten years, probably when they get overstocked, the birds migrate westward in thousands, and at such times large numbers usually reach this country. There was a great flight in 1888, when hundreds arrived and spread themselves over Britain. Those which escaped being shot for a few months settled down and bred, but the love of sport and the avarice of collectors finally exterminated the lot.

In the above mentioned year a small flock was seen near Tinker's Monument, and a man living at Shepley, shot two of them. I saw them after being stuffed; he told me he had £5 offered for them, and I thought there were two fools—one who offered the money and another who did not take it.

THE PIGEON FAMILY.

These birds seem to have no close affinity with any other group, and their inclusion with the Scratchers is only because they seem to be connected by the Sand-Grouse.

Six kinds have occurred in Britain, one of which is now extinct.

112 WOOD PIGEON (*Columba palumbus*).

Less common than formerly.

"Common in wooded districts."—Hobkirk, 1858.

This bird, also called Ring Dove, and locally "Stock Dove," has decreased very much in numbers since the woods ceased to be preserved; they were encouraged by the corn laid down for the game. It is now comparatively rare.

The one in the Museum I picked up dead in Birks Wood, having been wounded by a shot.

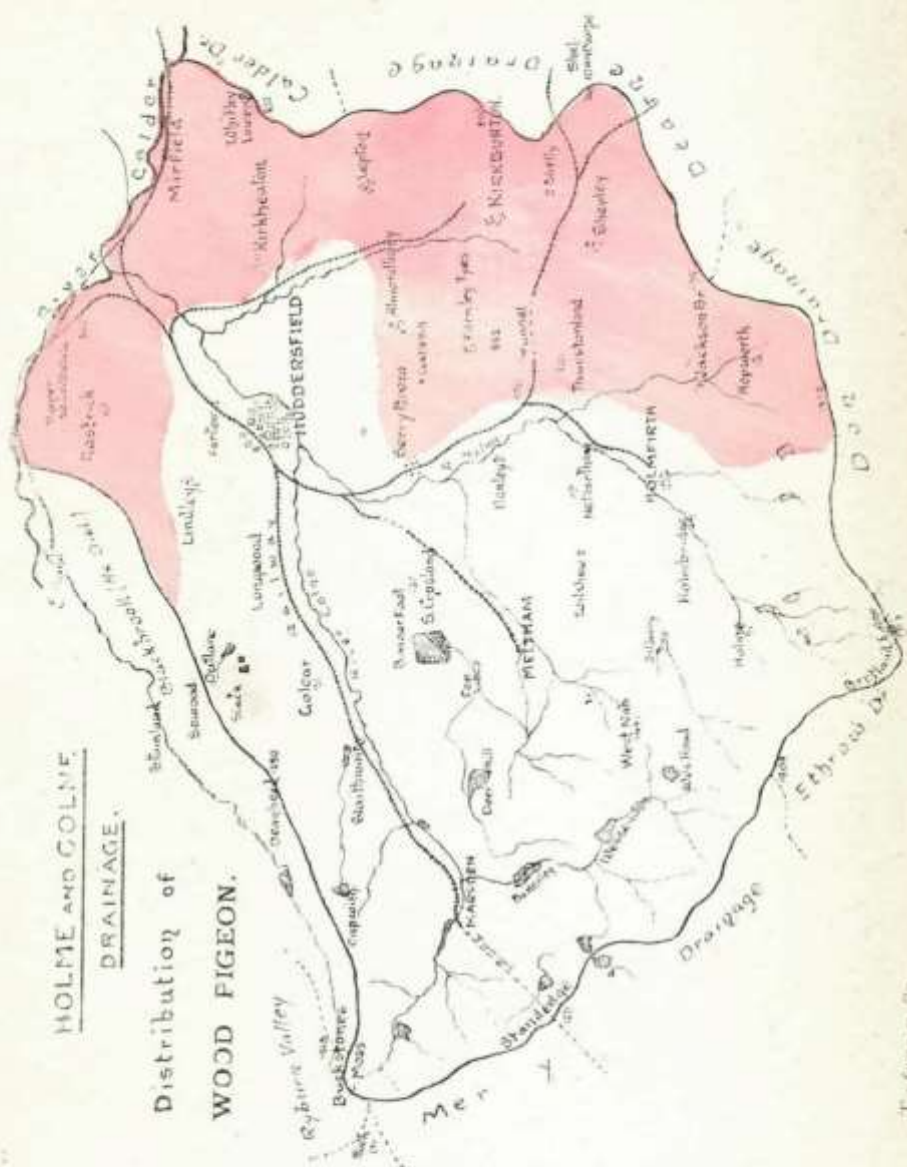
One with a grey back has been reported (Zool. 1888, p. 352).

[**Stock Dove.**—A "Stock Dove" was recorded in the Annual Report of the Huddersfield Naturalists' Society for 1901, as having been shot on Dalton Bank, but on questioning the Recorder (E. Fisher) it proved to be only a Wood Pigeon. Scientific work is of no value unless carefully done. Forty or fifty years ago the real Stock Dove bred in some hollow trees in Kirklees Park, but as that is just out of our District, I have not given this bird a district number.]

[The **Turtle Dove** seems to be extending its range northward, and should be looked for in the wooded parts of our District.]

HOLME AND COLNF.
DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
WOOD PIGEON.



ORDER 5.

WADERS.

The WADERS may be recognised by their having a space, more or less, above the so-called knee joint, bare of feathers. They cannot swim, but wade into shallow water in search of food. The legs are usually long for that purpose, and the neck and bill correspondingly long, to enable the bird to pick up its food without undue exertion.

A few, like the Land Rail, have taken to terrestrial habits, and may be called Grass Waders; their legs and bills are not unusually long.

The eggs are nearly always four, pear-shaped, and very large for the size of the birds. They are purposely placed in the nest point to point, in which position they take up the smallest space, and this enables the bird to cover them when sitting.

The young are covered with down, and in most species are able to run and feed as soon as hatched.

THE BUSTARD FAMILY.

The Bustards are fair-sized or large birds which live on sandy plains, and are remarkable for their swift running; the Ostrich is the largest example.

Thick-knees are small members of this family; one kind is British, about the size of a small fowl, but longer legs.

113 **THICK-KNEE** (*Oedinenus scolopax*).

A very rare visitor.

Two of these birds were seen near Dungeon Wood in 1865, and one of them was shot and stuffed for Mr. G. D. Armitage, then of Milnesbridge.

Another has been obtained on Elland Edge.

Probably these were stragglers from East Yorkshire, where they breed sparingly.

THE RAIL FAMILY.

Birds which live in marshy places, and weedy ponds, with very long toes and claws, which enable them to walk on floating leaves.

114 **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*).

A rare visitor.

"Has occurred in Dalton."—Hobkirk, 1858.

A pair of these birds, now in the Museum, were killed on the Fenay Beck by my father, longer ago than I can remember, but probably about the year 1850.

Three were reported (Nat. 1875, p. 25), by Varley, as having been shot in Dalton in the winter of 1873-4.

One was shot on the Marsden moors (Zool. 1884, p. 191).

Another was reported from Crosland Hall in 1899 (Ann. Rep. Hud-
Nat. Soc.)

115 **CORN CRAKE** (*Crex pratensis*). (PLATE XXXV, MAP HH.)

Summer migrant, formerly common.

"Frequents cornfields and meadows."—Hobkirk, 1858.

Also called Land Rail, and locally "Gers Drake." Thirty or forty years ago one could scarcely walk out a mile from the town, on a summer evening without hearing one or more of these birds in the fields.

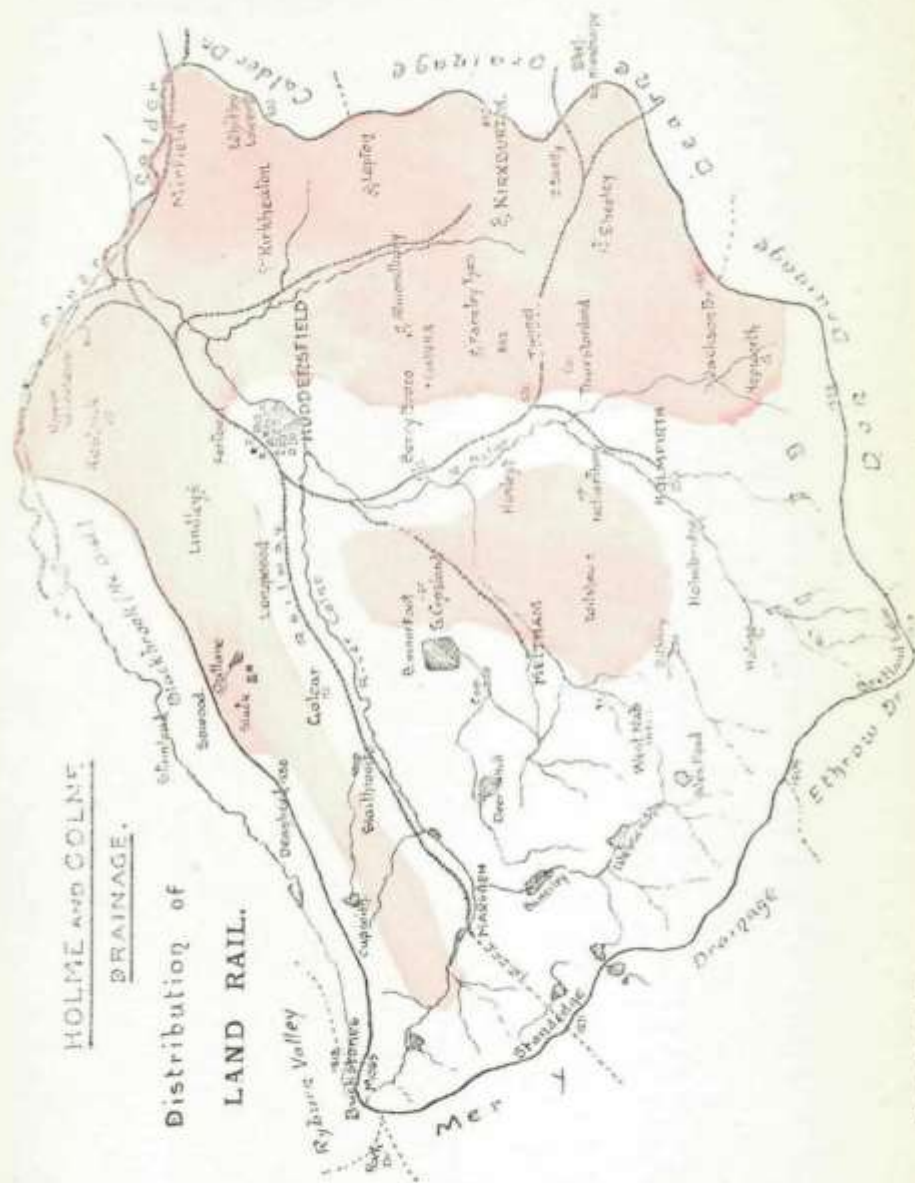


LAND RAIL.
↓ natural size.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of LAND RAIL.





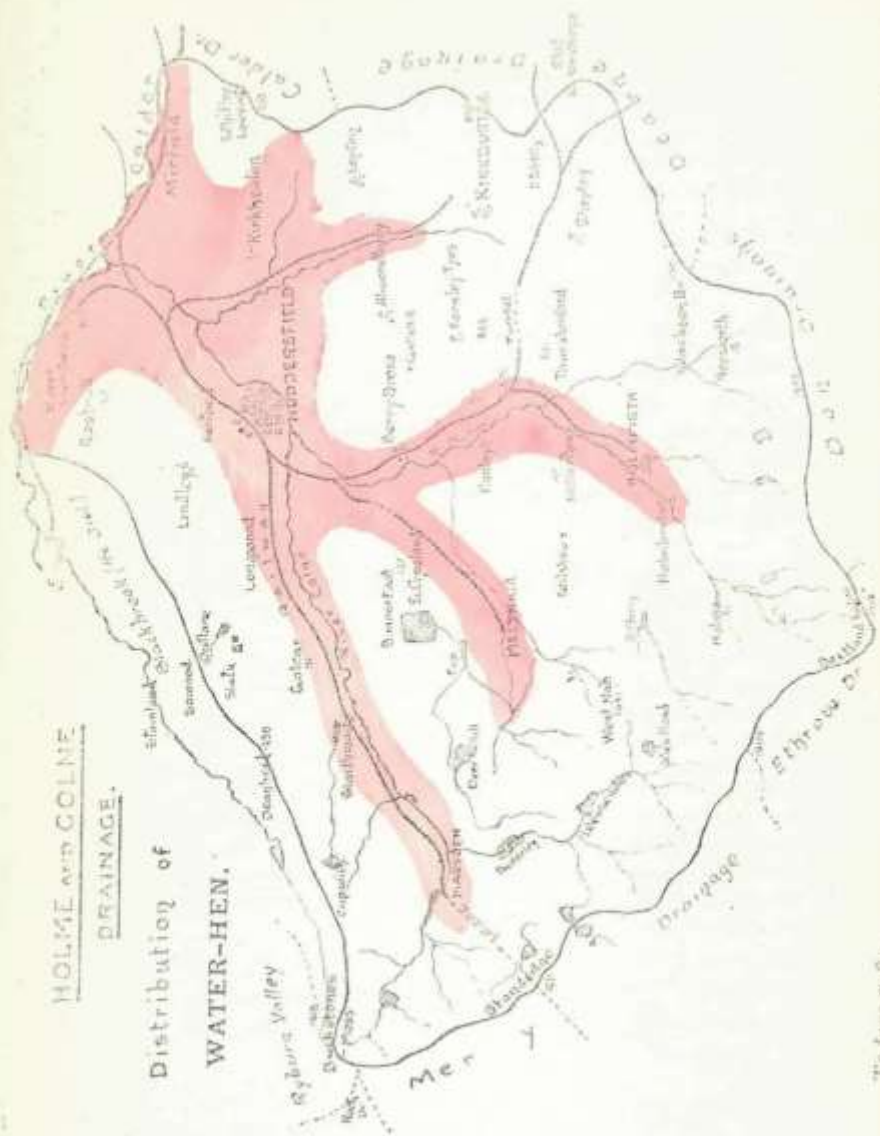
WATER-HEN.
 $\frac{3}{4}$ natural size.

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of

WATER-HEN.



To face p. 84.

MAP II.

More recently it has decreased in numbers, and I have not heard one for some years. Machine mowers have destroyed a great many.

Mr. B. Shaw reports one near Holmfirth during the present summer (1914), and one was reported from Dalton last year.

It arrives, from N. Africa, early in May, and departs early in September. The earliest date I have is May 1, at Linthwaite (Freer, '90).

116 SPOTTED CRAKE (*Porzana maruetta*).

A very rare visitor.

One was shot by my father, near Fenay Bridge, about 1862.

Another, which I remember being brought to him, was killed by flying against the telegraph-wires, near Waterloo.

A third was brought to my Museum at Beaumont Park, having been caught in a garden at Deadwaters. This is now in the Museum at the Technical College.

117 BAILLON'S CRAKE (*Porzana bailloni*).

Only once.

On Sunday, May 30, 1874, when walking out with my father, and passing Horne Dam, Kirkheaton, the man living at the farm—George Challand—came out and called my father, who was well known in the district. Challand showed him a bird of this kind which he had shot the day before on the dam, and asked him if it was any good? My father gave him 6d. for it, stuffed it, and gave it to me, having begun to make a collection. When my museum had reached over 100,000 specimens, and the Corporation finally declined them as a free gift, temporarily disheartened in my life-long efforts to raise a Town Museum, I sold a number of rarities, and this bird unfortunately left the district.

118 WATER-HEN (*Gallinula chloropus*).

(PLATE XXXVI, MAP II.)

Resident, fairly common.

It is somewhat strange that the compilers of Hobkirk's List did not include this bird. As far back as I can remember my father took me to see a nest on Dogley Mill Dam. It bred on Gawthorpe Dam and at Sheplep Mill when I was a birdnesting boy. Since then I have seen it in other places. It used to breed at Milnesbridge House, and still does so at Armitage Brige, and on some of the reservoirs above Holmfirth, on one of which there is at present a brood.

119

COOT (*Fulica atra*).

Formerly resident, now rarely seen.

In 1844 Eddison wrote "Nearly extinct about Huddersfield."

The two in the Museum were shot by my father, on Sheply Mill Dam, about 1851 or '2, and were probably a pair. Some years after he had a third sent from the same place.

More recently another was obtained on Netherton Moor (Rep. Hud. Nat Soc., 1884). Probably this latter had flown over from Gunthwaite where it breeds.

THE HERON FAMILY.

Mostly large birds with very long legs and long neck and bill. They feed on fish, frogs, mice, etc., and mostly nest in trees, laying plain-coloured eggs, not of the pear-shaped type.

120

COMMON HERON (*Ardea cinerea*).

An occasional visitor.

Seems to have been unknown, as a local bird, to those who compiled Hobkirk's List, though it has probably been an occasional visitor to this District ever since the making of the first great reservoir. Those which come here are mostly full grown young birds in the autumn, unfortunately they are nearly always shot, and very often by some thickhead who does not know what to do with the bird when he has shot it, and I have known more than one kept until they stank, and then thrown on the ash-pit.

The first one of which I have any recollection was brought to my father to stuff, about 1854 or '5; it had been shot on Slaithwaite Reservoir. He had several others brought at different times.

Varley records one (Nat. 1875, p. 24) seen at Storthes Hall on June 2, 1874; and another seen flying over Almondbury Bank on July 14 of the same year. He records another from Bilberry Reservoir, Sept. 4, 1880. Another is reported (Rep. Beaum. Park Mus. 1890) from Harden Moss.

I am told, by the keepers of the Yatchholme, Ramsden, and Holmestyes Reservoirs, which have been stocked with trout, that Herons are fairly frequent visitors.

121

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*).**A very rare visitor.**

Eddison (1844) mentioned two, one of which was in his collection.

The only other seen in this District, so far as I know, was killed at Armitage Bridge (Rep. Beaumont. Pk. Mus., 1891), on the river near the church. It was stuffed by Gough, for Alfred Beaumont, and is now in the Museum.

[GLOSSY IBIS.—Early in September, 1911, the Rev. H. N. Hind came to the Museum to report a strange bird he had seen. He looked through the Bird Collection, finally settling on the Glossy Ibis. I got the case down for him, and after making a careful examination he felt sure that the bird he had seen was of that species. I got him to write me a note, which I here give, slightly abbreviated:—

"On October 28, 1911, I came unexpectedly upon a strange bird in the field adjoining the Netherthong Vicarage. It was standing on the ground some 17 yards away, and was about the size of a small pheasant, but without the long tail, but it had longer legs. It flew away with a powerful flight, and I should think it would measure 2 ft. 6 in. from point to point of its wings. It did not rise more than ten or twelve feet from the ground, and was out of sight in a few seconds. I was well above the bird when it rose and had a clear view of the upper parts, which were reddish-brown (or chocolate) and brownish-black in patches.....I did not notice the bill, for except for the first instant the bird was flying away from me."

The next day Mr. B. Shaw, of Holmfirth, reported to me that on October 29, as he was dressing himself, just as it was coming light, he saw a strange bird standing on the top of a wall. It was not light enough to see it clearly, but "it looked like a black Curlew."

I at once went up to Blackmoor Foot, and walked round the Reservoir bank, in the hope of seeing the bird, or picking up a feather which would put the matter beyond question, but I did neither. I have no doubt, notwithstanding, that the bird seen by Mr. Hind at Netherthong, and early the following morning at Holmfirth (scarcely a mile apart) by Mr. Shaw, was the same bird, and was a Glossy Ibis. But in the absence of absolute proof I do not give it a District No.]

THE PLOVER FAMILY.

Small or medium-sized birds, seldom exceeding the size of a pigeon. The bill is thickest near the tip. Most of them breed inland, and winter on the coast.

122 GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius pluvialis*).

A few breed.

"Noticed at Almondbury and Fixby."—Hobkirk, 1859.

I have seen this bird about Snailsden Pike, and also on the moors above Buckstones, in summer, and although I never found the eggs I feel sure that it breeds at these, and perhaps other places. Morris was informed, probably by Eddison, that it bred on the Meltham moors. In the late autumn I have seen flocks of twenty or thirty (which would represent six or eight families) in the fields near Beaumont Park, and Mr. Fisher informs me that he has seen them in the fields about Upper Heaton. The last I saw was in 1911.

[GREY PLOVER.—Eddison (1844) stated that the Grey Plover was occasionally seen about Huddersfield, in the same localities as the Golden Plover (Birds of Yorks.). This was probably a mistake.]

123 RINGED PLOVER (*Aegialitis hiaticula*).

A very rare visitor.

I am informed by Mr. Fredk. Schofield, of Meltham, that he has shot this bird on the Blackmoor Foot Reservoir bank.

124 DOTTEREL (*Endomias morinellus*).

Spring and autumn visitor, on migration.

Eddison reported that the Dotterel, bred on the Slaithwaite and Marsden moors, but this was, very likely a surmise through the birds having been seen there in spring, on their way to the North-west Fells, where they do breed. I have had a full grown young bird shot on the hills bounding the Upper Aire valley, but there was no evidence that it had been bred there, and it is very improbable that this bird bred on our moors in Eddison's time.

Forty years ago Dan Oldroyd, a birdstuffer who lived at Scholes, used to bring three or four of these birds to my father every spring, shot on Scholes Moor. Two, so obtained are now in the Museum, and another pair I gave to the Keighley Museum.

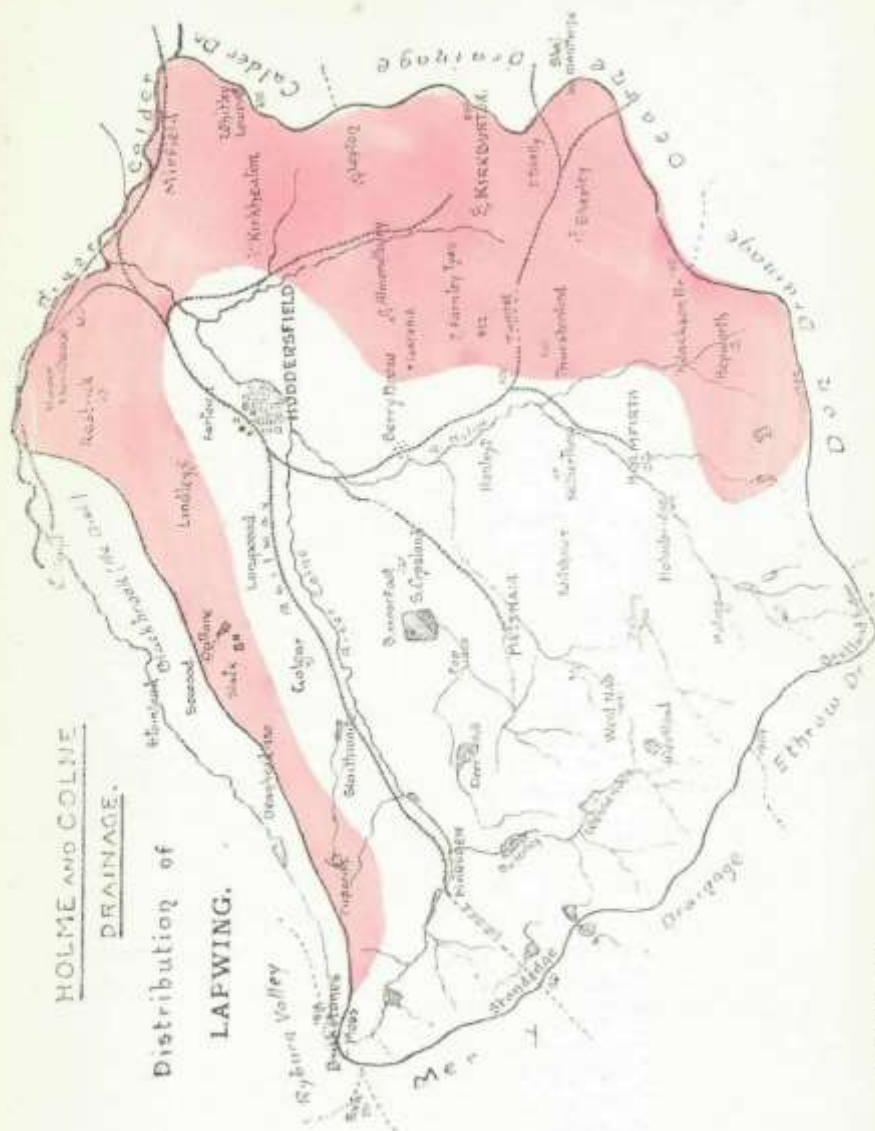


LA PWTING
IN HAWAII

HOLME AND COLNE

DRAINAGE.

Distribution of LAPWING.



To face p. 83.

125

LAPWING (*Vanellus cristatus*)
(PLATE XXXVII, MAP JJ.)

A few breed.

Fallows near Grange Hall: Fixby."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The Lapwing breeds, though not in large numbers, in the rough pastures on our moor edges. I can remember the time when it nested in the fields adjoining Crosland Moor. Eggs were reported from Upper Heaton in 1901 (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc.), and this year (1914) I have seen it in the breeding season on the high grounds above Hepworth, and at Farnley Hey.

Plover Mills, Lindley were probably named from these birds being plentiful on Lindley Moor when it was more extensive than it is at the present time.

The local name is Peewit, after the bird's note uttered when flying.

126

OYSTERCATCHER (*Œmatopus ostragalus*).

A very rare visitor.

Eddison reported that he had known of two, shot on the Marsden and Slaithwaite Reservoirs, one of which was in his collection.

Varley had one, obtained on King's Mill Dam, in 1866.

THE SNIPE FAMILY.

Usually small birds, with short legs (for Waders), but with long bill, often used for probing soft marshy ground for worms, etc.

127

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*).

A winter migrant, rather rare, but has been known to breed.

"Occurs in Storthes Hall Woods, Mollicar Wood, Fixby, etc."—Hobkirk.

The largest of the snipe family, being the size of a large pigeon.

Eddison says "Often numerous; comes about March 17." He believed it had bred in Storthes Hall and Farnley Woods.

For many years my father had a downy young one in a case with a pair of old birds, which, he told me, was taken from a nest in Lepton Great Wood, perhaps ten or twelve years before Hobkirk wrote his book. For reasons which I regret my father would have nothing to do with compiling the list for Hobkirk's book, and that was the reason why none of his records appeared in it.

One was recorded from Mollicar Wood in 1876 (Nat. p. 90), and one from Kennerley Wood in 1901 (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc.).

The late keeper at Cook's Study told me that he occasionally saw one in Crossley's Plantation, and this is very similar to places in the North of Scotland where I have found the nest.

128 **GREAT SNIPE** (*Gallinago major*).

A very rare visitor.

I had a bird of this species in my museum at Beaumont Park, which was shot in Dalton, and stuffed and given to me by my father; it went with the Baillon's Crake.

Varley had another, also shot in Dalton Bottom, Decemb. 26, 1873. (Nat. 1875, p. 24).

129 **COMMON SNIPE** (*Gallinago coelestis*).

Resident, and fairly common.

Hobkirk's remark "In low marshy meadows" should rather be "high marshy ground, for, although in frost it comes down to the river alluvium, its real home is the wet places on the shale about the moor edges. It nests in the drier places, generally in the rough natural pastures. It is fairly common all along our moorland border, and on Cartworth Moor I have watched it "drumming" on a Sunday evening from the chapel door.

130 **JACK SNIPE** (*Scolopax gallinula*).

A winter migrant, but rare.

"Has occurred at Fixby, etc."—Hobkirk, 1859.

In 1844 Eddison reported that the Jack Snipe was common in most parts, and bred at Slaithwaite. Eggs were reported, in 1881, from Stainland. Both these must have been mistakes, as it has never been known to breed in Britain. There may be some excuse in Eddison's case, for natural history books were then very few, and often inaccurate. But in recent years there are well illustrated books upon almost every branch, and it is a pity that members of local naturalists' societies do not take more care to correctly identify their observations, and in cases of this sort to secure sufficient proof at the time to place the matter beyond doubt. No doubt the Dunlin was mistaken for the Jack Snipe in both these instances.

When I was a boy my father often brought in a Jack Snipe when he had been out shooting on a winter day, and I have been out with him when he has shot them. I have seen many a one rise from a certain dike in Almondbury Fields. I have seen it also on the stream near Birks Mill, and in Whitley Willows. It has been reported from Marsden, and from Dalton Bank.

131

DUNLIN (*Triaga alpina*).**A few breed.**

"Occasionally on the moors above Meltham."—Hobkirk, 1859.

The mistakes pointed out under Jack Snipe seem to indicate that the Dunlin breeds, or did breed, in this District. Several times I have seen birds, supposed to be this species, about our moorland sheets of water. I have never found its nest, but in June 1872 I watched a pair for some time through a glass, on the margin of the Standedge Reservoir. We have a young bird in the Museum, one of three obtained by my father from Booth Dene, Sowerby Bridge; and Varley saw it above Rishworth in summer.

132

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Tringa subarquata*).**A very rare visitor.**

There is only one record. Varley had one, in the winter plumage, which he shot on King's Mill Dam, in 1837. I found an entry relating to this bird in his diary, which I examined after his death.

133

TIMMINCK'S STINT (*Tringa timmincki*).**A rare straggler.**

I remember my father having a bird of this species in the flesh. It was shot somewhere in the district, but I did not realise the importance of data until after he had finished his work, and I never got the particulars, though the bird came to my museum at his death.

One now in the Museum was presented to the Huddersfield Naturalists' Society, I believe by the late Thos. Allen, and was, very likely a local bird, but unfortunately no particulars have been kept.

134

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Totanus hypoleucus*).**A summer migrant.**

"A regular summer visitant, making its appearance in Spring and departing in Autumn; one shot at King's Mill."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison (1844) reported this bird as common, and that it "used to breed at King's Mill and Dalton Lees," but added that it was becoming scarcer as the population increased. I can remember it being fairly common on the river below the town, and I have seen it on the Colne above, but not for many years.

I am not aware that it now occurs on the river at all, but it still breeds, every year, on the margins of some of our reservoirs.

135 GREEN SANDPIPER (*Totanus ochropus*).

A rare visitor.

Eddison said "Rare near Huddersfield."

One now in the Museum was shot in Dalton over fifty years ago. My father kept it up stairs in a dark case, where he had other rarities. When I had formed the Beaumont Park Museum he gave it (and others) to me.

136 REDSHANK (*Totanus calidris*).

A rare straggler.

Eddison said "Rare near Huddersfield."

I only know of one of this species as having occurred within our area. It was shot on the Slaithwaite Reservoir about fifty years ago, and brought to my father to stuff, by a man called Garside. Its bright red legs fixed it on my mind.

137 CURLEW (*Numenius arquaa*).

A few may breed.

Eddison said it was occasionally seen on the moors around Huddersfield. The same remark still holds good, and although I have seen it in June, July, and August I have no actual evidence of its nesting. I have seen it on Good Bent, also on the moors above Meltham, on Harden Moss, and lately in the fields which used to be the Netherton Moor.

"Immature birds" were reported from Lindley Moor in 1880 (Nat. p. 41).

138 WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*).

A very rare visitor.

"One shot at King's Mill."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison said "Rare in neighbourhood of Huddersfield." This remark was probably based on a bird killed by Varley, on King's Mill Dam, about 1835 or '6, and which he recorded as a Whimbrel, but he asked me, many years after, what was the difference between this bird and the Curlew?

ORDER 5.

SWIMMERS.

With the exception of the Grebes, all Swimmers are recognisable by the three front toes, and in some species all four, being united by web.

The Grebes have scalloped lobes along each side of each toe.

There is now only one species of Swimmer native of this District—the Little Grebe—and that is almost extinct.

THE TERN FAMILY.

Small sea-birds, having the coloration and habits of gulls, and the form of swallows, hence known popularly as Sea Swallows.

139 BLACK TERN (*Hydrochelidon nigra*).

A rare straggler.

My father had two of this species, one of them in immature plumage, which were shot, at different times, on the river somewhere near Colne Bridge; they are now in the Museum. Eddison recorded it for this District, and probably his record was based on one or both of the above, as he and my father were friendly.

A third was shot on Sheard's Dam, Gawthorpe, May 7, 1907, and was presented to the Museum by Mr. E. Fisher.

140 COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirunda*).

A very rare visitor.

"Two shot at Slaithwaite."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison said "Occasional about Huddersfield."

The only one I remember as having been obtained in the District was an immature bird which was shot on the river below the town, about 1867.

One is reported from Sheard's Dam, Gawthorpe, by Fisher (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc., 1901).

THE GULL FAMILY.

Soft-feathered floating birds, mostly marine, but a few resort to inland marshes to breed. Those which occur in this District are mostly young birds driven out of their course by gales, or flocks crossing from coast to coast in stormy weather.

141 BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*).

A recent immigrant.

"Fixby."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison reported this, as a Huddersfield species in 1844.

Since the construction of the abominable open surface sewage works this gull has come inland in considerable numbers. Ten years ago flocks were to be seen feeding on the Airedale sewage farms almost any day. They continued to come, and did much good by removing perishable matter, and it was a short-sighted policy of corporate bodies to allow persons to shoot over these grounds in return for a few coins.

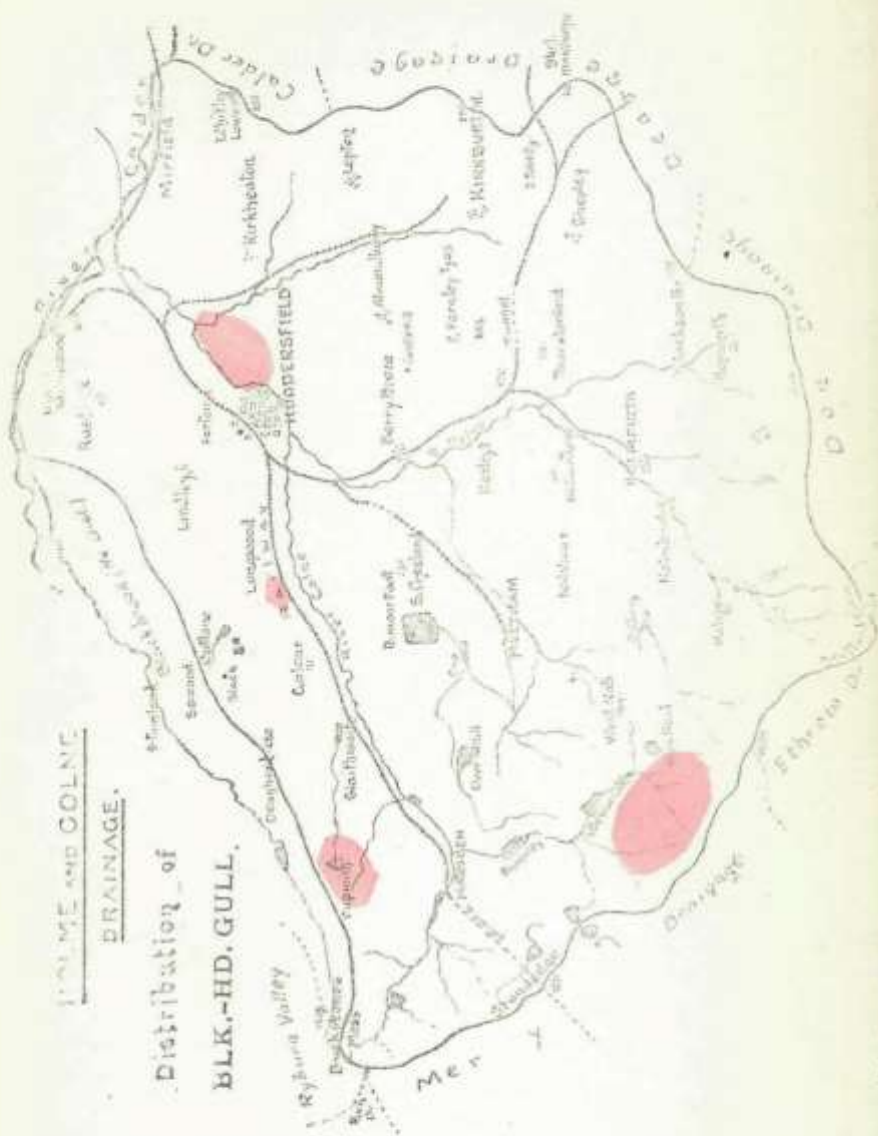
When the Huddersfield Sewage Works were made the Gulls began



BOOBY, RED-FOOTED
Sula nebouxi

TIME AND COLNE
DRAINAGE.

Distribution of
BLK.-HD. GULL.



to come here. During the summer of 1907 I passed the Compensation Reservoir at Longwood several times, and each time saw one, and sometimes two Black-headed Gulls flying about. I was afterwards told, by Mr. Arthur Broadbent, that they had nested in his sister's garden, which runs down to the edge of the reservoir. They were not permitted to nest the following year, because they ate up all the young thrushes and blackbirds as they hatched.

Mr. G. Crosland informed me that several pairs nested on the soft moors above Wessenden; this was in 1910.

In June, 1911, on two occasions I saw three of these birds careering about the Cupwith Reservoir, and Mr. John Wainright told me that he was up there one day with a terrier dog, which these three birds attacked, compelling it to retreat hastily yelping.

[LITTLE GULL.—This bird has been reported, in a very casual way, from Marsden, but I am afraid it is one of those instances, all too frequent, where a little more care in identification would have prevented the record appearing, or else the bird would have been recorded under some other name. The occurrence of this [purely marine species, at Marsden is very doubtful, and in the absence of more definite proof it cannot be admitted as a District record at present.]

142 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*).

A very rare visitor.

Eddison said that this species occurred, at times, about Huddersfield; and on several occasions I have seen one, and sometimes two, passing over, usually in stormy weather.

Mr. Dene has reported a Black-backed Gull from Standedge Reservoir, but did not say which species.

143 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*).

In September, 1901 I saw a pair of gulls, I felt pretty sure were of this species, flying over after a storm.

In June 1910 I saw one wheeling round the middle reservoir in Wessenden, and being well above it at the time I had a clear view of its dark back. Mr. G. Crosland told me that they had bred on the moss with the Black-headed Gulls.

144 HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*).

A rare visitor.

Several, chiefly immature birds, were brought to my father to stuff. I have seen others at Gough's; and one I had sent from Blackmoor.

Varley recorded several flocks in his diary, mostly flying north or north-west, and I have seen similar flocks.

145 COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*).

A very rare visitor.

Eddison reported this bird as having occurred previous to 1844.

I remember one or two being brought to my father to stuff; young birds, or adults in winter. The winter bird in the Museum is one of those.

146 KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*).

A rare straggler.

Eddison reported this bird in 1844.

My father had two or three local birds through his hands, all in winter.

Gough informed me that he had one sent to stuff which alighted on a chimney at Woodsome Mill, and overbalancing it fell down the chimney, probably exhausted.

147 RICHARDSON'S SKUA (*Stercoraris capitatus*).

"One shot at King's Mill."—Hobkirk, 1868.

I know nothing beyond the above.

THE PETREL FAMILY.

Petrels are oceanic birds, some of them small, hence Petrel, which means little Peter, because they seem to walk on the water, bearing themselves up with their wings.

They may be distinguished by the nostrils being tubes along the upper part of the bill.

The largest member of this family is the Wandering Albatross.

148 MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus anglorum*).

A rare visitor.

"One caught at Newtown Mill Dam."—Hobkirk, 1868.

Another is recorded (Nat. 1979, p. 75) as having been caught in Long Lane, Dalton.

A third (now in the Museum) was caught in an exhausted state, on Crosland Moor, August 20, 1892, and was brought to my museum at Beaumont Park.

149 FORK-TAILED PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*).**A rare visitor.**

Mr. Dene reported one (Nat. Jour., 1895, p. 67) picked up in an exhausted state in Marsden. It was stuffed by Gough for Mr. T. P. Crosland, J.P., in whose possession I saw it at Wessenden Lodge.

150 STORM PETREL (*Procellaria pelagica*).**Doubtful.**

Eddison said that this species was met with about Huddersfield, but as nearly all the so-called "Storm Petrels" which have occurred inland, that I have examined, have been Fork-tailed Petrels, it is possible that the bird or birds on which the above remark was made, may have been of the latter species.

151 FULMAR (*Fulmaria glacialis*).

This species is included here on the authority of Eddison, who reported it as having occurred at Huddersfield.

THE DIVER FAMILY.

Stiff feathered torpedo-shaped sea-birds, which swim half submerged (or more at will) and dive readily.

152 LITTLE AUK (*Mergulus alle*).**A rare straggler.**

Several have been picked up at various times, in an exhausted state.

One now in the Museum came to my father from Slaithwaite more than fifty years ago.

Another has been reported (Nat. 1884-5, p. 127) from Outlane.

A third was picked up in York Street, February 1, 1895 (Rep. Hud. Nat. Soc.).

A fourth has been reported from Holme Bridge (Nat. Journ, 1895, p. 5).

153 RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*).**One record only.**

A bird of this species was obtained at Marsden, May 2, 1906 (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc., 1907).

154 BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Colymbus arcticus*).

Doubtful.

My authority for including this species as a bird of this District is the statement (B. of Yorks.) by Eddison, that it had occurred at Huddersfield. Presumably this would be in the winter, when birds of this species and the next are so much alike that it is very easy to make a mistake.

155 RED-THROATED DIVER (*Colymbus septentrionalis*).

A very rare visitor.

This is also recorded by Eddison, but in this instance I can supply additional evidence. He stated that one of the birds shot here was in the museum of the Philosophical Society, in the Philosophical Hall.

I remember one being brought to my father from Slaithwaite,

156 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Colymbus glacialis*).

One record only.

Mr. F. Greenwood, of Meltham, informs me that he shot one on Blackmoor Foot Reservoir, in the winter of 1900-1.

THE GREBE FAMILY.

Diving birds of the torpedo shape, with feathers which shine like silk, especially on the underparts; and toes with lobed webs on each side.

157 LITTLE GREBE (*Podiceps fluitans*).

Retident, but confined to one or two pairs.

"A pair shot at King's Mill, and one at Dalton."—Hobkirk, 1868.

Eddison said "Not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, where it stays all the year."

I can remember when "Tom Puddings," the local name for these birds, bred on Sheard's Dam, Horne Dam, and Dogley Mill Dam. I only know of a single pair at present.

One is reported from "near Huddersfield" in 1879 (Nat. p. 76).

The Rev H. N. Hind informs me that one was obtained on Ramsden Reservoir, Sept, 29, 1909; and Mr. Turner, of Netherthong, tells me he has seen one near Hinchliffe Mill.



EARED GREBE

158 **EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*).**A rare visitor.**

"One shot on Sheard's Dam, Kirkheaton."—Hobkirk, 1868.

Eddison stated that a few stray examples had been obtained about Huddersfield.

My father had one from Slaithwaite. All the occurrences, I believe, have been in winter.

159 **RED-NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps griseigena*).**Doubtful.**

Eddison said that "many" had been taken or shot near Huddersfield. Doubtless these would be in the winter, when the various Grebes are so similar that differentiation, and particularly at that day when books were few, would be a difficult matter. I know of no recent occurrences, and include this species to give Eddison the benefit of the doubt.

160 **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*).**A very rare visitor.**

The bird now in the Museum, in full breeding plumage, I remember being sent to my father, in the flesh, by Alfred Beaumont. It had been killed somewhere in the District, but I never got the particulars.

I am informed, by the Rev. H. N. Hind, that one was shot on the Boshaw Reservoir, October 24, 1908.

Mrs. Haigh, of Ramsden, has one stuffed, which was shot on Ramsden Reservoir five or six years ago, and which may be the bird referred to by Mr. Hind, a slight confusion as to place having arisen.

THE GANNET FAMILY.

Large sea-birds, having all four toes united by web.

161 **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).**A rare straggler.**

"One shot at Learoyd's Mill."—Hobkirk, 1868.

One was obtained "near Huddersfield" in 1870 (Birds of Yorks.).

Two were reported (Hudd Nat. Soc.) obtained on the Longwood Reservoir in 1910.



Red-necked Grebe

Red-necked Grebe

2

WINTER

MAINTAINS WINTER VISITOR TO E. COAST. BREEDS IN TROPICS. W. ASIA.

162 **CRESTED SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax graculus*).**One record only.**

Mr. Alfred Kaye, of Lindley, gave me the information that about forty years ago a bird of this kind alighted on the top of a mill chimney at Folly Hall, and was shot and stuffed by Robert Kaye, of New-some.

163 **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*).**A very rare visitor.**

"One caught on Emley Moor."—Hobkirk, 1868.

Eddison reported one "near Huddersfield," perhaps the bird referred to by Hobkirk.

An immature bird, in the spotted plumage, was caught at Slaithwaite, about 1854 or '5. It was brought to my father, who kept it alive for some time.

The Rev. H. N. Hind informs me that one, in immature plumage, was caught by a boy, between Hinchliffe Mill and Holme, September 19, 1909, and was stuffed for Mr. Turner, of Upperthong.

SWANS AND GEESE.164 **MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*).**Domesticated.**

Tame or semi-tame Swans often break away from their surroundings and take long flights, sometimes, perhaps, missing their way, and becoming tired alight on any sheet of water which happens to be within sight; such are usually reported as "wild swans." One was shot on Cupwith Reservoir in 1906 (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc.).

Formerly Swans were kept on the pond at Milnesbridge House, but the only places where they are now kept are Sheard's Dam at Gawthorpe, and the public parks belonging to the town.

165 **WHOOPEE** (*Cygnus musicus*).**Doubtful.**

Eddison reported that this bird was occasionally met with on our moors. It is impossible to tell now whether the birds referred to were true Wild Swans or only escaped tame ones.

166 CANADA GOOSE (*Bernicla canadensis*).**Domesticated.**

One of this kind was shot at Shepley some years ago, probably an escape from some private pond. Formerly pairs were kept at Shepley Mill, and at Milnesbridge House, and an egg, now in the Museum, was laid at the latter place.

167 BERNACLE GOOSE (*Bernicula leucopsis*).**A rare straggler.**

Eddison reported this species from Marsden, Slaithwaite, Meltham and Holmfirth moors.

In Varley's Diary (Young Naturalist vol. iv) mention is made of two flocks of Bernacle Geese, one of five and the other of seven, flying over Almondbury, on March 26, 1873, in a northerly direction.

In 1891 nine appeared on the Wessenden Reservoir, several of which were shot, and stuffed by Gough (Rep. Beaum. Park Mus., 1891).

168 BRENT GOOSE (*Bernicla brenta*).**Doubtful.**

Eddison said this species occurred on our moors, and gave the same localities as for Bernacle Goose, but although there is no proof that he was wrong, it looks very much as if he had surmised from birds seen, probably at a distance, or perhaps only reported to him.

169 GREY LAG GOOSE (*Anser cinerea*).**Doubtful.**

This species has been recorded from Marsden, but the record requires confirmation. There are, of course, plenty of tame geese, which are domesticated descendants of the wild Grey Lag.

170 EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Chenalopex aegyptiaca*).**One record only.**

A bird of this kind was shot at Slaithwaite in 1895 (Nat. Journ., p. 40) and was stuffed by Gough. Probably escaped from some park.

THE DUCK FAMILY.

The Domestic Duck may be taken as a type of this family. The bill is broader and flatter than in geese, and as a rule ducks are smaller, though certain geese are smaller than average ducks.

171 SHELD-DRAKE (*Tadorna cornuta*).

A rare visitor.

Eddison mentions this among the ducks "frequently" met with on our moorland sheets of water in his day (Birds of Yorks., p. 432).

The only occurrences I know of are four on Gunthwaite Dam (just outside our area) some years ago. A shooter put them up, two flew one way, and two in the opposite direction; he killed the four with a double discharge, and they are now at Scissett.

Some years ago a Huddersfield tradesman brought a sitting of eggs of this bird from Arnside, and they were placed under a sitting duck in Greenhead Park. They hatched out, but as soon as they were able to fly four of them flew away, and the rest were caught and pinioned.

172 SHOVELLER (*Spatula clypeata*).

A very rare visitor.

Included, by Eddison, in the list of ducks frequently met with in his day on our moorland sheets of water. I have never seen one obtained in the District, but as I know it breeds within an hour's flight there is no reason why it should not occasionally occur.

173 MALLARD (*Anas boscas*).

A straggler, probably once resident.

"A pair shot at Slaithwaite, and one at King's Mill."—Hobkirk, 1868.

Hobkirk's records for King's Mill were furnished by Varley, who worked there in his early life (from about 1833 to '36). At that time, he told me, the river was dammed back, forming a kind of lake, and willows and reeds grew thick around, amongst which water-hens nested, perhaps Mallards too, and other waterfowls were frequent visitors.

One evening, at dusk, I saw a pair of ducks, I felt sure were of this species, come and wheel round Bilberry Reservoir, and then fly off across Good Bent, probably to Yateholme.

Mr. Wood, fishmonger, informs me that he has had wild Mallards from the dam at Whitley.

Our ordinary tame ducks are a domesticated breed from the Mallard, which, like other domesticated animals, have a tendency to whiteness.

174 WIGEON (*Mareca penelope*).**A very rare visitor.**

"A pair shot at Dalton Lees."—Hobkirk, 1868.

I have seen another pair killed on Sheard's Dam, Gawthorpe, many years ago.

Another, a female, was brought to the Beaumont Park Museum, from Slaithwaite.

The late keeper, who lived at Cook's Study, told me he occasionally shot a Wigeon on the reservoir close to his house.

175 TEAL (*Nottion crecca*).**A straggler, probably once resident.**

"Five on a dam in Squirrel Wood, Woodsome."—Hobkirk, 1868.

Eddison said it was occasionally seen about Huddersfield.

The late keeper at Cook's Study informed me that he shot a pair on the reservoir in 1911.

It has also occurred on Bilbeyry and Slaithwaite Reservoirs.

176 GARGANY (*Querquedula circia*).**A rare visitor.**

This species is mentioned by Eddison among the ducks occasionally obtained or seen on the moorland waters, but without any particulars. As it has been recorded from the Calder at Elland and Copley Mill, it may also have occurred within our area, but it is included here under protest against statements which have every appearance of being surmises and not stated to be such.

177 FERRUGINOUS DUCK (*Fuligula nyroca*).**One record only.**

"Shot at Dalton, December 1858."—Hobkirk, 1859.

I know nothing about this bird beyond the above.

178 POCHARD (*Fuligula ferina*).**A casual.**

This is included in Eddison's duck list.

The only actual record I know of is of one killed at Kidroyd, Oct. 15, 1879 (Nat. p. 59). I have seen its nest within an hour's flight of this District.

180 TUFTED DUCK (*Fuligula cristata*).**A rare visitor.**

This species was included, by Eddison, in his list of 1844, but I do not know of any further evidence of it as a local bird. But as I have seen its nest and eggs within an hour's flight in two opposite directions, it is not improbable that it might have occurred here.

181 SCAUP (*Fuligula marila*).**Doubtful.**

All that I know of this, as a local bird is that Eddison included it in his list of ducks which occasionally visited the moorland sheets of water.

182 PINTAIL (*Dafla acuta*).**A rare casual.**

This is another of Eddison's indefinite records; but in this instance I have the confirmatory evidence of the keeper of the Slaithwaite moors, who told me that he once shot a duck, on Cupwith Reservoir, "with a muck-coloured head and two long feathers in its tail."

183 GOLDEN-EYE (*Clangula glaucion*).**A very rare visitor.**

"One shot at King's Mill."—Hobkirk, 1859.

Eddison's statement that this species had occurred at Huddersfield might have been based on the above occurrence, but no date is given in either instance, and I did not find any mention of it in Varley's diary.

184 COMMON SCOTER (*Oedemia nigra*).**A straggler.**

Eddison included this in his list of local ducks.

I have had two, both immature birds, one from Slaithwaite and one from Holmfirth.

One was reported from Marsden in 1891.

The late keeper at Cook's Study told me that he sometimes shot "black ducks" on the reservoir; and other shooters in the locality have given me the same information.

185 VELVET SCOTER (*Oedemia fusca*).

Doubtful.

All that I know about this as a local species is that Eddison included it in his list. It is an oceanic duck, and very scarce even near the coasts.

186 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus cuculatus*).

Doubtful.

Three are reported (Nat. 1885, p. 127) as having been shot near Kirkheaton on December 2, 1884. As the recorder lived at Stainland and probably only reported them from hearsay, it is possible they may have been the next species.

187 GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*).

A very rare visitor.

On December 1, 1883, a small flock of these birds were seen near Kirkheaton, and some of them were shot (Rep. Hudd. Nat. Soc. 1884, p. 9).

SPECIES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED JUST OUTSIDE
OUR AREA.

Woodlarks have been reported from Salterhebble, and other places about Halifax, but the records have never been proved.

Grey-headed Wagtails have also been reported by the same persons, and although one of them offered to show me one of the birds when I went to see it he "could not find it,"

A Grey Phalarope has been reported from Denby.

A Lesser Tern from Barkisland.

A Sandwich Tern from Copley.

We shall be pleased, always, to have notes on District Birds, particularly if they are not shot. Any information of importance additional to what is given above will be published in the Nature Column of the 'Huddersfield Weekly Examiner', and in our Monthly Circular, post free 1/6 a-year.

I N D E X.

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| Birds of Prey | 1, 65 | Duck, Ferrugin | 101 | Pl. v | |
| Bittern | 85 | " Scaup | 102 | Haychat (Wainchat) | |
| Blackbird | 39, 40 | Duck Tufted | ... | Hedgesparrow | |
| Pl. xviii, map O | | " Wild | 100 | (Duncock) | |
| Blackcap | 35 | Dunlin | 89 | Heron | 84 |
| Bluecap (Blue Tit) | | Duncock | 1, 50 | Hobby | 72 |
| Brambling | 15 | Pl. xxvi, map Y | | Hoopoe | 61 |
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| " Snow | 22 | Fulmar | 55 | Pl. xxx, map EE | |
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| Cuckoo | 61 | " Sand | 79 | Nightjar | 64a |
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| Dipper | 51 | " Common | 94 | Osprey | 69 |
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| " Red-throat | ... | " Les. | ... | " Eagle | 67 |
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| " Stock | 80 | | | | |

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| Partridge, Com'n | 79 | Shoveller | ... | " Long-tailed | 31 |
| " Red-leg'd | ... | Shrike, Gt. Grey | 32 | Titlark | |
| Pastor, Rose-col. | 12 | " Red-back'd | 33 | (Meadow Pipit) | |
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| " Grey | ... | Sparrowhawk | 70 | " Orphean | 35 |
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| " Andalusian | ... | Stint, Timminck | 89 | Pl. xxxvi, map II | |
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| Rook | 7 | Thick-knee | 82 | " Les. Sp. | ... |
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ABOUT HUDDERSFIELD BIRDWATCHERS' CLUB

Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club was formed in 1966 and registered as a charity in July of 2003, with the aims of:

1. Studying and recording the wild birds of the area and publishing an annual report:

Members and other bird watching supporters are out and about throughout the year observing birds across the area and submitting records for analysis by our Recorder. We now have a wealth of data covering some 52 years, an invaluable source for studying the trends in local bird populations. The Club is the only organization in the area undertaking and publishing this kind of ornithological recording and our ***Birds in Huddersfield*** annual report has been published every year since the Club was formed.

From time to time we also publish more specific, one-off works, including in 2001 an ***Atlas of the Breeding Birds of the Huddersfield Area***, in 2004 ***Birds of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir 1985-2003*** and in 2008 a major work ***The Birds of the Huddersfield Area***, which reviewed the complete history of every species recorded in the area since records began, right up to modern times. In 2017 we published ***A Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir, Huddersfield***, a history of Huddersfield's most studied site.

We also publish on-line and in our annual report the ***Huddersfield List***, a checklist of all the species of wild birds and additional races that have officially been accepted as having been recorded in the area. This is now updated annually as a 'tick list' to enable birders to record their own yearly and lifetime sightings around Huddersfield.

Our publications are to be found in the Huddersfield Library and go to many regional and national ornithological and wildlife conservation bodies.

The whole of the Club archive, including all of our publications since 1966, has been made available in digital format via our new web site (see below) for viewing by the public. This is an invaluable source for everyone interested in the history of the birds of the area.

2. Promoting education of the public about wild birds and their habitats:

Our lecture and meeting programme runs between September and May

each year, at which visiting experts present on a wide range of birding topics, from local to overseas, with some stunning still and video photography. We also have a wealth of birding and photographic expertise within the Club and enjoy presentations from members equally as knowledgeable and fascinating as our visitors.

Each year, we hold a number of local 'patch outings' or bird watching walks on which members pass on their knowledge of local sites of particular birding interest.

Our web site www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk contains information about birding in the area, as well as about the Club and our activities. The forum is open to public view and shows the latest local bird sightings posted by members, often with photos, and is a great way of finding out what is about.

3. Supporting research into conservation of wild birds and their habitats:

Readers will be only too well aware of the threat to many of our wild birds, but if conservation is to be effective, it needs to be based upon hard evidence and research. This is where the Club comes in. We have members with substantial experience in bird observation and surveying and there is also a role for less experienced volunteers.

The Club has played a major role in many bird life surveys of local, regional and national importance, including over 50 for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), RSPB, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park, Kirklees Metropolitan Council and The Friends of Beaumont Park. We also advise Kirklees Council on bird life issues through our representation on its conservation committee and provide data in connection with proposed planning applications for such as wind turbines.

We aim to undertake a survey programme of some type every year, of a part of the Club area or of a particular species.

In 2014/15 we launched a nest box scheme, working with another local charity the Bridgewood Trust that provides support for adults with learning difficulties and which built the boxes at their centre in Edgerton, providing occupational work for people in their care. Boxes were provided free of charge to several local woodlands, targeting threatened species such as Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, as well as more common species.

Our work is undertaken entirely by un-paid volunteers and we rely entirely upon the generosity of members and upon voluntary donations for funding.

Members of the public are welcome to all of our meetings and patch outings, free of charge (voluntary donation), and we try to provide something for birdwatchers of all tastes and experience. It is a great way to learn about birds and to meet fellow birders.

So, whether old hand or beginner, why not come along and join us?

Simply contact any member of the Committee - see inside rear cover or visit our website for more information.

www.huddersfieldbirdwatchersclub.co.uk



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