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THE BIRDS OF LONDON

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BY

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PREFACE

IN the following pages an effort has been made to include all the species of birds which have occurred, more or less frequently, within a radius of some twelve miles of London, and to give as complete an account as possible of their distribution. In the Appendix will be found mention of one or two species which have been reported to have occurred in the vicinity of London, but whose occurrence is open to doubt, together with such additions as have been made since the first part of the work was written.

The nomenclature and classification followed are those adopted by Mr. Howard Saunders in his recently published "Illustrated Manual of British Birds."

SEARCY

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Among those who have contributed notes and information, the author especially wishes to thank Messrs. A. F. Gates, H. T. Booth, B. R. Harrison, and others, for their assistance. Information has also been gathered from Mr. J. E. Harting's valuable "Birds of Middlesex," Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton's "Harrow Birds," Colonel Bridgeman's list of birds forming the Appendix to the "Flora of Harrow," and other works; also from the columns of the "Zoologist," the "Field," and other periodicals.

INTRODUCTION.

A FEW words upon the various localities mentioned in the following pages may, perhaps, not be out of place here, especially as such a small proportion of Londoners are at all well acquainted with the said localities, and even those that are will probably pardon me this slight digression. To begin then in the east, the farthest point mentioned is Dagenham Lake. This is situated some four miles beyond Barking and on the north side of the Thames, with which it was until recently connected. It is a deep and clear sheet of water, and is fully a mile in length by perhaps one-sixth of a mile in breadth at the widest part. The edge of the water is fringed with dense beds of reeds and sedges, forming a cover for water-fowl, which, however, are not abundant, owing no doubt to the lake being so much frequented by fishermen and gunners. Nevertheless, in the early morning, particularly in the latter part of the year, a few wild ducks of several species may be seen, while the wary and artful moor-hen is always about. In the beds of reeds,

etc., the reed warbler abounds, and is perhaps more common here than elsewhere in the vicinity of London. After the breeding season numerous flights of gulls frequent the lake, and now and then one or two great herons pass over, coming from the Wanstead heronry. Numbers of wagtails, pipits, and various other small birds, frequent the marshy fields around, and in the autumn also one or two kestrels are frequently to be seen hovering over the stubbles.

Between Dagenham and Ilford there is little but the vast stretch of arable land, with the scrubby hedges and shorn trees, but at intervals you come across a rippling brook or rivulet, on which you are sure to find one or other of the wagtails at all times of the year: the elegant grey wagtail predominating in the winter, and the equally elegant pied and yellow species in the spring and summer; in spring comes hither the chattering sedge warbler, and on the larger streams the wary moor-hen abounds. The fields, also, are not without their feathered inhabitants; finches and buntings of many species are always present, besides many other birds, and in the winter prodigious flocks of lapwings may be seen. Perhaps, in the early autumn, you start out before daybreak for a "tramp abroad," when all nature—human and otherwise—seems dead, and stumble across the fields for the first half-hour while all is silence. Almost before the day begins to break you hear the lapwings crying over the fields, their far-off *pee-wit* at this time seeming in the stillness like hopeless lamentations. About daybreak

the redbreast bursts into song; then from the elm-tree across the field comes the rich pipe of the blackbird, seeming to arouse the sparrows in the tree-tops, which, in their first waking moments, commence their noisy chirping. *Now* up springs the laggard sky-lark, speeding upward with his joyful carol, but not until the humble robin has been heralding the approach of day for nearly half-an-hour.

On the marshy lands by the river Roding at Ilford and Wanstead, the common and jack snipes, golden plover, and similar birds are not uncommon in the winter. Here, also, may generally be seen a few great herons from the adjoining Wanstead Park, sometimes they are to be seen flapping slowly and awkwardly along over the marshy fields, uttering at intervals their loud, harsh notes, or, perhaps, you may come upon one of these fine birds standing motionless in one of the marsh ditches or pools and watching for its prey; so still will it stand that the eye frequently fails to detect it, until your nearer approach suddenly creates a startling phenomenon in the shape of a rushing mass of wings and legs as the great bird heavily takes to flight.

Separated from Ilford and Romford by a great expanse of almost treeless and hedgeless fields (formerly part of the forest), are the remains of the Forest of Hainault, consisting of several detached portions stretching along the ridge of high ground on which is situated the village of Chigwell Row, beyond which latter place there still remains one fairly large

tract of woodland. The ornithology, however, is almost identical with that of Epping Forest, which is only separated by a valley of some three or four miles in width. The latter may yet lay good claim to the title "forest," for, in spite of former extensive inroads, which have now, happily, been checked, it is still a very extensive tract, and, in some places, solitary enough to tempt a visit from the wildest of our birds. In this, one of the few surviving remnants of our old-time British forests, several shy and uncommon birds are yet to be found: the wary and handsome jay always abounds; the magpie, also, although much less common, is still to be found breeding in the forest; while the somewhat local stock-dove breeds quite commonly in the hollows or crowns of the pollard trees. Of raptorial birds, the kestrel, sparrow-hawk, and several species of owls, frequent the forest, while the merlin and hobby are both of occasional occurrence. Now and then you catch a glimpse of the brightly-plumaged green woodpecker as it flits through the woodlands, or you observe the neat circular aperture of its nest high up in the main limb of a tree. The great and lesser spotted woodpeckers also inhabit the forest, although both are rare. The handsome redstart is common in the spring, breeding in holes in the old pollard trees; and there are also hosts of other small birds.

Few pleasures have so great an attraction for me as an early morning's ramble through some unfrequented part of this great woodland, when "madding crowds"

are far away and the woods echo only with Nature's laughter—the song of birds—or the wind comes sighing gently, sadly through the trees at the silent hour of noon, when the birds have ceased their song and the drowsy insects hum in the stillness from flower to flower above your head, as you lie far from noise and care in the dreamy solitude of the woodlands. I have loved to visit our forest at all ages and seasons, be she young in the budding springtime or old and hoary on some cheerless day of winter, for here are always life and wealth in the wondrous workings of old Nature.

Wanstead Park (now open to the public) consists almost entirely of wood and water, there being a chain of small lakes extending the whole length of the park, while the river Roding winds through the adjacent flats. There is an ancient heronry (of about thirty nests or more) on an island in one of the lakes; and there is also an extensive rookery here. Fifty years ago, says Mr. J. E. Harting, a pair of ravens inhabited the park and built their nest in the herony on an inaccessible tree.

Hadley Wood (in the immediate vicinity of Barnet) is perhaps nearly two miles in length, but of considerable breadth anywhere, being a mere strip of woodland extending from Monken Hadley to the out-of-the-way little place known as Cock Fosters. It is a natural and ancient wood, mostly covered with old timber and tangled undergrowth, partaking somewhat of the character of Epping Forest, and the ornithology

is also similar; jays, green woodpeckers, carrion crows, etc., being found in small numbers; the woodcock I have observed once only; the rather scarce and local nuthatch also inhabits this wood, but I have only noticed the birds in one particular part of the wood: I believe this to be a peculiarity of the species.

On the main road to Barnet, and midway between that place and London, are situated the well-known Highgate Woods; there are several woods here, the four principal ones being, Bishop's Wood, Caen Wood, Gravel-pit Wood (belonging to the Loudon County Council), and another wood which is the property of a farmer. The principal feature in the feathered population of these woods is the abundance of the warblers, of which the following species are to be found in the spring,—nightingale, whitethroat, lesser whitethroat, blackcap, garden warbler, chiffchaff, willow wren, sedge warbler, and grasshopper warbler; excepting the two last, all are exceedingly common. A few redstarts are also to be found breeding here. The tree creeper and four or five species of titmice are common, particularly in the winter, when the tiny goldcrest also abounds. The lesser spotted woodpecker frequented one of the woods during the early part of 1891, and the great spotted and green woodpeckers are also said to have occurred.

Passing Kingsbury Reservoir, an irregular and extensive sheet of water, often visited by wild ducks, plovers, sandpipers, etc., you approach the vast extent of quiet meadows lying between Kingsbury, Harrow,

and Edgeware. There are no woods to speak of, but the land is well timbered, and the hedges ample. Here in these unfrequented meadows the carrion crow abounds, almost outnumbering the rook, unlike which it invariably constructs a new nest every year. Many of the old nests may be observed in the trees about the fields, and these are often utilised by the kestrel and sparrow hawk, the former particularly being common about here. Indeed, it is a familiar sight to see a kestrel gliding low down over the fields, or occasionally hovering almost motionless in mid-air, the bird being easily recognised by its beautiful reddish mantle. The lapwing also breeds commonly here, and in strolling across the fields you will perhaps come across the four familiar eggs, placed in a slight depression in the short grass, and visible at several yards distance. In these great thorn hedges you will frequently find the nest of the red-backed shrike, with its four, five, or six beautiful eggs, or see the strikingly handsome bird itself sitting motionless on a dead branch or other eminence and waiting its prey. By the tiny streamlet the reed bunting starts from its nest at your approach, and on the willow branch above his nest the sedge warbler gabbles his varied notes as the evening creeps on. Perched on the topmost spray of the hedge, the corn bunting utters his monotonous *clink, clink*, while from the post the spotted flycatcher darts with noiseless and circling flight at the dancing gnats. In the stillness of evening, you are listening to the mellow and varied pipe

of the song thrush, when from the neighbouring tree strikes up the nightingale in notes so deep and rich that the melody of the song thrush sinks into comparative insignificance. Then in the twilight the lapwing comes circling around you, crying mournfully, *wallup, poo-ee, poo-ee, wee-ip*, weird notes that make one wonder strangely what they mean, or if they have a meaning; while from the distant fields comes the interminable note of the land-rail, the grove upon the hill whispers a distant *cuckoo, cuckoo*, and ever and anon comes the faint trilling of the grasshopper warbler.

In the south the most notable places are:—Richmond Park, in which there is an increasing heronry, and the woodpeckers and other forest birds are still to be found, the nuthatch also being common in one part. The extensive Wimbledon Common is resorted to by many species; the jay is remarkably common here most years. Farther afield, Epsom Common, Ashted Woods, and the beautiful rural neighbourhood are the resort of many shy and scarce birds. Then there are Hayes and Keston Commons, where a very pleasant day may be spent by the student of almost any branch of natural history; owing to the presence of some pine plantations, a few crossbills come here in winter. Still going east, there are, near Plumstead, Abbot Heath Wood and the adjacent heaths; sand martins are common here, breeding in the numerous sand and gravel cuttings.

All the foregoing localities are well worthy of a

visit, or rather of two or three visits, and it should be borne in mind that the birds are far less wary in the early morning than later in the day, when they are more shy, and also go farther afield.

H. K. S.

THE BIRDS OF LONDON.

1. *Turdus viscivorus*, Linn. MISTLE THRUSH.

[*Resident.*] As a breeding species this is somewhat sparingly distributed over the whole of the rural and suburban districts; it is rather abundant in Richmond Park and on Wimbledon Common. More common everywhere in winter, arriving about the end of September in company with other thrushes.

2. *Turdus musicus*, Linn. SONG THRUSH.

[*Resident.*] A common resident over whole area.¹
A few inhabit the London parks and gardens.

3. *Turdus iliacus*, Linn. REDWING.

[*October—March.*²] Of somewhat general distribu-

¹ "Whole area" is exclusive of urban district, unless expressly mentioned. ² Both inclusive in every case.

tion in small numbers during the winter, although I have found it more common along the north side than the south. It is very common about Ilford, and fairly so around Harrow, associating in flocks with the Fieldfare, etc.

4. *Turdus pilaris*, Linn. FIELDFARE.

[*Mid-September—Mid-April.*] Fairly numerous over whole area ; very common in the neighbourhood of Ilford and Romford. It is gregarious in company with other species, but may be easily distinguished by the blue-grey lower back, which is conspicuous in flight. This bird is commonly known as the "Blue Felt."

5. *Turdus merula*, Linn. BLACKBIRD.

[*Resident.*] A very common bird over whole area ; even in most of the London parks. Its numbers are increased in winter by small flocks of migratory birds.

6. *Turdus torquatus*, Linn. RING OUZEL.

[*Spring and autumn migrations.*] An occasional visitor during migration. I observed one in Highgate

woods in September, 1887, and one near Kenton, Harrow, April 13th, 1889. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 2) mentions two occurrences near Harrow, in April, 1830, and May 11th, 1838. A specimen taken at Turnham Green (Middlesex) is in the British Museum. A male bird was seen at Wanstead Park, September 5th, 1877; and another was seen by the River Roding, on the spring migration in 1884 (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

7. *Saxicola œnanthe* (Linn.) WHEATEAR.

[*April—September.*] Breeds occasionally, I am informed, on Wimbledon Common and Banstead Downs; it has also been observed during the breeding season by my brother on Epsom Common. I have observed one straggler at Willesden, April 29th, 1890, and another near Kenton, Harrow, May 3rd, 1891. In the appendix to the "Flora of Harrow," p. 142, the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman mentions "two seen near Mutton Lane, March, 1875." The late Mr. F. Bond's collection also contained three shot at Kingsbury.

8. *Pratincola rubetra* (Linn.) WHINCHAT.

[*May—September.*] The “grasschat” breeds regularly in the north-west district, all round Harrow; I have occasionally observed it at Highgate, and also at Beckenham. It breeds not uncommonly on Wimbledon Common, and quite abundantly on Epsom Common, which is well suited to the bird’s habits. The *ü-tick* of this bird must be familiar to everyone who has rambled over our commons or meadows during the spring.

9. *Pratincola rubicola* (Linn.) STONECHAT.

[*Resident.*¹] Furze-covered commons are the favourite haunts of this bird, and it is naturally rare in parts where these do not exist. It breeds not at all uncommonly on Wimbledon Common; and probably on Hayes Common, Kent, where it is rather frequent in the autumn. I have often noticed it about Ilford in the winter, and also at Epsom. It also breeds abundantly on Epsom Common, which is, however, strictly speaking, beyond our limits. In the

¹ A partial migration takes place *within* the British Islands during the winter, yet I have observed birds in the vicinity of London at all seasons.

north-west, it breeds occasionally in the neighbourhood of Harrow; I flushed a bird from an empty nest near Greenford, June 18th, 1888, and found another nest, near which were the parents and young, at Perivale Wood, June 29th, 1890.

10. *Ruticilla phœnicurus* (Linn.) REDSTART.

[*May—September.*] Somewhat local as a breeding species in the vicinity of London. It breeds commonly in Epping Forest; and I have also found it nesting in Highgate Woods. It breeds rather sparingly about Harrow, although I have never found the nest, and have myself only met with the bird there after the breeding season. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, however, mentions finding several nests near Harrow in 1890 ("Harrow Birds," p. 3). It is of casual occurrence in Richmond Park and on Wimbledon Common; and rather numerous in the autumn on Hayes Common, Kent. I observed a beautiful male recently (August 28th, 1892) near Epsom.

11. *Ruticilla titys* (Scop.) BLACK REDSTART.

[*Casual.*] A somewhat scarce visitor, usually in

autumn and winter. The first British example was shot at Kilburn on the 25th October, 1829, and Yarrell recorded another subsequently seen in the Regent's Park. Another specimen, a female, was shot in a brickfield at Shepherd's Bush, and one was killed a few years previous to 1866 by Mr. Engleheart in his garden at Blackheath ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 39). Mr. Howard Saunders mentions one that "frequented the grounds of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, from November, 1885, until the snowfall of January 6th, 1886" ("Manual Brit. Birds," p. 34); a specimen from Wimbledon Common is in the same museum.¹

12. *Erithacus rubecula* (Linn.) REDBREAST.

[*Resident.*] Very common over whole area, especially in winter, when its numbers are increased by

¹ The male of this species differs chiefly from the common redstart in having a conspicuous white patch on the secondary wing-feathers, and in being *minus* the chestnut breast, the black extending from the throat to the belly, where it becomes grey. The female is greyer both above and below than the female common redstart, and has the axillaries and under wing coverts *grey* instead of *buff*.

immigrants from the Continent. It is at no season gregarious.

13. *Daulias luscinia* (Linn.) NIGHTINGALE.

[*End of April—September.*] This well-known bird and matchless songster, is a fairly common visitor to the following localities — Epping and Hainbault Forests, Hadley Wood, Highgate Woods, Wembley Park, the lanes and copses around Harrow, Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, Epsom Common, Esher, Oxshott, Hayes Common (Kent); and more rarely to Ilford, Clapham, Beddington, and Carshalton. It is, however, rather retiring in its habits, and chiefly frequents woodlands, etc.

14. *Sylvia cinerea*, Bech. WHITETHROAT.

[*Mid-April—Mid-September.*] In spring and summer common over whole area.

15. *Sylvia curruca* (Linn.) LESSER WHITE-
THROAT.

[*Mid-April—September.*] Almost as generally distributed as the last-mentioned species, although never

so common. I have found it breeding most abundantly in Highgate Woods and around Harrow.

16. *Sylvia orphea*, Temm. ORPHEAN WARBLER.

[*Casual.*] The *known* occurrences in this country are but two or three in number, although the bird breeds commonly enough in many parts of France. As regards London, Mr. J. E. Harting, records the capture, near Holloway, of a *young bird unable to fly*, in June, 1866 ; we may safely assume that this bird was hatched somewhere in the neighbourhood, no doubt together with several others of the same brood.¹

17. *Sylvia atricapilla* (Linn.) BLACKCAP.

[*Mid-April — September.*²] A not uncommon summer visitor, and almost invariably a frequenter

¹ Doubtless the resemblance between this species and the blackcap is the reason for its being overlooked ; but the orphean warbler may always be distinguished by the white on the outer pair of tail feathers.

² Individuals have been known to remain in this country through the winter. I observed one in Highgate Woods, March 29th, 1891, which had probably wintered here.

of woods and copses. I have found it breeding most commonly in Highgate Woods, and in one or two places near Harrow. I have also information of its breeding at Roehampton and on Wimbledon Common.

18. *Sylvia hortensis*, Bech. GARDEN WARBLER.

[*May—September.*] Perhaps more common than the last-mentioned bird, like which it frequents only wooded localities. It breeds at Hadley Wood, Highgate Woods, Wembley Park, Perivale Wood, and several other spots around Harrow; it also breeds occasionally on Wimbledon Common, and more abundantly on Epsom Common farther afield.

19. *Sylvia undata* (Bodd.) DARTFORD WARBLER.

[*Resident.*] A rare and local bird in the vicinity of London. Mr. H. T. Booth informs me that this species is not uncommon during the spring on Wimbledon Common, but he has been unable to discover the nest. He has not observed it in winter there, although it remains in this country throughout the year. Mr. J. E. Harting states ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 55) that he has "seen this species on

Stanmore Common, and Harrow Weald Common"—both in the vicinity of Harrow—and also mentions that it has been caught on Hampstead Heath by a bird-catcher, who informed him that he had found the nest there. I observed an individual on Epsom Common on the 20th of November last (1892), and have no doubt that it is of not uncommon occurrence there.

20. *Regulus cristatus*, K. L. Koch. GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN.

[*Mid-September—March.*¹] Common and of general distribution throughout the winter, although apparently somewhat scarce in the south-west district. I do not myself know of any authentic instance of its breeding, but I have noticed individuals remaining as late as the middle of April, and have seen a pair in a fir plantation near Hadley on the 18th of August, 1889, which had possibly bred there. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, however, states that (in the neighbourhood of Harrow) he has "many records of nests

¹ The majority leave us about the end of March, but a pair or two appear to remain and breed in several spots in the neighbourhood of London.

found in 1828-31 (more than one), 1831-37, 1854-60, 1878 (four), 1889, and 1890, but few records have been kept of other years " ("Harrow Birds," p. 5).

21. *Regulus ignicapillus* (C. L. Brehm). FIRE-
CRESTED WREN.

[*Casual.*] An irregular winter visitor to the British Islands, its visitation appearing to correspond with that of the last-mentioned species. As regards London, a specimen obtained by a bird-catcher in Epping Forest, November 26th, 1878, is in the British Museum, to which it was presented by Mr. R. B. Sharpe.

22. *Phylloscopus rufus* (Bech.) CHIFFCHAFF.

[*April—September.*] Very generally diffused during the spring and summer; breeding in Hainault and Epping Forests, Hadley Wood, Highgate Woods, many places around Harrow, and on Wimbledon and Epsom Commons. This is one of our earliest spring arrivals, frequently making its appearance in March, and announcing its presence by its tremulous, though pleasing little song, *chiff-chaff*, *chiff-chaff*, *chiv-chave*.

23. *Phylloscopus trochilus* (Linn.) WILLOW
WREN.

[*Mid-April—September.*] Even more common than the last-named bird throughout the spring and summer. It breeds almost everywhere, chiefly frequenting woods, etc.; but near Harrow it also breeds very commonly in the hedges about the meadows. It is also very abundant in Highgate Woods and Wimbledon Common, and has even been noticed in the London parks.

24. *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Bech.) WOOD
WREN.

[*End of April—September.*] A scarce and local visitor anywhere in the vicinity of London. In July, 1888, I observed both parents and young in a wood at Perivale, near Harrow, and I also heard a bird singing in the same wood on the 19th of April, 1889. Mr. H. T. Booth, a trustworthy observer, tells me that a pair or two breed occasionally on Wimbledon Common. A correspondent (Mr. B. R. Harrison of Highgate) writes me that the wood warbler is an annual visitor to Highgate Woods, and

that he has found the nest with four young birds in.¹

25. *Acrocephalus streperus* (Vieill.) REED
WARBLER.

[*May—September.*] Not at all a common species except in certain localities. It breeds up the Thames, and has been recorded by Mr. R. H. Mitford as breeding annually in lilac trees in his garden at Hampstead; Mr. Harting also records a similar case of nesting in a garden at Ealing, "this was at least half a mile from the nearest stream of water" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 47). It occurs in the neighbourhood of Harrow, where an individual was taken at Alperton in August or September, 1888, while creeping about in a hedge at some distance from any water. I have found this species also on Dagenham Lake, beyond Barking, and I believe it occurs there in some abundance.

¹ This bird may be distinguished from the two preceding species by its larger size, shorter tail, and more yellowish plumage. The peculiar "shivering" song, too, is quite unmistakable when once heard.

26. *Acrocephalus phragmitis* (Bech.) SEDGE
WARBLER.

[*Latter part of April—September.*] A common summer visitor; it breeds about Ilford and the neighbourhood, occasionally at Highgate, and very commonly on the streams about Harrow. Also regularly at Richmond and Twickenham, and near Epsom. I believe it occurs in several places near Lewisham in the south-east.

27. *Locustella nævia* (Bodd.) GRASSHOPPER
WARBLER.

[*End of April—September.*] Rather scarce anywhere near London, although breeding occasionally at Brentford and on Wimbledon Common; also, perhaps, in Highgate Woods, where I noted its arrival, April 28th, 1888. I believe it nests annually in the neighbourhood of Harrow; I noted its arrival both in 1889 and 1890, and on May 31st, 1890, found a nest containing recently-hatched birds, which, from its situation and construction, undoubtedly belonged to this species. Mr. J. E. Harting has “frequently

observed it at Willesden, Hendon, and Kingsbury” (“Birds of Middlesex,” p. 44).

28. **Accentor modularis** (Linn.) HEDGE
SPARROW.

[*Resident.*] Common and resident over whole area, although, perhaps, rather more abundant in the winter. It is a great frequenter of gardens, and is at no time gregarious.

29. **Cinclus aquaticus**, Bech. DIPPER.

[*Casual.*] Mr. J. E. Harting (“Birds of Middlesex,” p. 27) mentions an individual having “been shot at the stream which runs through Wembley Park,” and sent for preservation to London, where it was seen by the late Mr. F. Bond; and he also states, that in the spring of 1862, one was observed at the brook near Colin Deep Lane, Hendon. I consider this species to be of quite accidental occurrence anywhere in the neighbourhood of London.

30. **Panurus biarmicus** (Linn.) BEARDED TIT-
MOUSE.

[*Casual.*] Years ago, before the fens and meres

were drained, this species bred in most of the southern and eastern counties of England, but at the present time its breeding-haunts are restricted to two or three localities, and it is already looked upon as a rare bird. In the vicinity of London it is of very rare occurrence; there is a specimen in the British Museum, obtained at Barking, and presented by Mr. Theodore Fisher; while Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that "one of these birds (a male) was shot on Stratford Marshes, after rough weather in December, 1890."

31. *Acredula caudata* (Linn.) LONG-TAILED
TITMOUSE.

[*Partly resident.*] Not uncommon anywhere during the winter, but quite scarce in the breeding season. A few breed in Hainault Forest, Highgate Woods, Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, Epsom Common, and perhaps other localities.

32. *Parus major*, Linn. GREAT TITMOUSE.

[*Resident.*] Breeds almost over whole area, but is somewhat more common during the winter than

in the spring or summer. I once found four eggs of this species in a new and unaltered nest of the bullfinch ; whether the rightful owners of the nest had deserted it of their own accord, or had been summarily ejected by the usurpers, must for ever remain a mystery.

33. *Parus ater*, Linn. COAL TITMOUSE.

[*Partly resident.*] This is much the rarest of the five species of titmice to be met with around London. A few may be observed in most localities during the winter, but in the breeding season it is rare anywhere, and I have never found the nest near London, although I have observed one or two birds in spring at Wembley Park and other localities, where they were doubtless breeding. It may possibly breed near Keston (Kent), where I observed several birds in a pine plantation on March 30th, 1891, and also in August (1889). Mr. J. E. Harting has "found the coal tit nesting at Kingsbury, Edgeware, Elstree, and Harrow" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 58).

34. *Parus palustris*, Linn. MARSH TITMOUSE.

[*Partly resident.*] During the winter this is a good deal more common around London than the last species, particularly in the forest district, where I believe they breed. A few pair breed about Highgate, and I have observed the bird in spring in Wembley Park. Near Sudbury (Harrow), on April 28th, 1889, I found a nest of this species in a decayed stump of a tree, at a height of nearly seven feet; the nest was then completed, but the birds deserted it and no eggs were laid. On Wimbledon Common, May 9th, 1891, Mr. H. T. Booth found a nest of this species with six fresh eggs; this nest was also in a decayed stump, at about the same height as that last mentioned, and the burrow was in both cases made by the birds.

35. *Parus cæruleus*, Linn. BLUE TITMOUSE.

[*Resident.*] A well-known resident and breeding species over whole area; it may frequently be noticed in urban district.

36. *Parus cristatus*, Linn. CRESTED TITMOUSE.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence anywhere in

England; it is a resident in Scotland, inhabiting the oldest forests, and seldom wandering far from its haunts. Mr. J. E. Harting mentions a specimen in the collection of Mr. W. Warner, which was shot in the spring of 1860, in a small spinney in Cool Oak Lane, Kingsbury ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 50, 57).

37. *Sitta cæsia*, Wolf. NUTHATCH.

[*Resident.*] A scarce and local species, and very retiring in its habits, usually frequenting the upper limbs of tall trees in the older woods and parks. It is a not uncommon resident in Richmond Park, straying occasionally to Coombe Wood, and it has also been noticed at Burgh Heath. An individual which was observed in a garden at Epsom, July 1st, 1892, had no doubt strayed from the neighbouring Ashted Woods, where the species is a fairly common resident. It has been noticed at Harrow, and is said to have bred there in 1890. I have also observed the birds several times, and in pairs, in Hadley Wood; they were always in the same part of the wood, and I have no doubt of their breeding there. I am also informed that it occurs at Highgate, along the Hamp-

stead Lane, and in the woods on Lord Mansfield's estate.

38. *Troglodytes parvulus*, K. L. Koch. WREN.

[*Resident.*] Resident and very common over whole area.

39. *Certhia familiaris*, Linn. TREE CREEPER.

[*Partly resident.*] Rather common during the winter, particularly in Hainault and Epping Forests, Hadley Wood, Highgate Woods, and the neighbourhood of Harrow, in each of which places a few remain to breed. It is less common at any time of the year in the southern districts, though occasionally visiting Richmond Park and other parts.

40. *Motacilla lugubris*, Temm. PIED WAGTAIL.

[*Partly resident.*] Of general distribution, although not very common; breeding sparingly in most districts. A large proportion leave us late in the year, returning in March and April.

41. *Motacilla alba*, Linn. WHITE WAGTAIL.

[*March—September.*] This is a rare visitor to the

British Islands, chiefly at the time of spring and autumn migration. It was first added to the British list by Mr. F. Bond, who, in May, 1841, found two pairs at Kingsbury Reservoir, and shot three birds; since then it has been observed at the same place in the springs of 1843, 1859, and 1862. Mr. J. E. Harting has also "noticed this species at Harrow Weald in May" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 63). My own observations of this species are as follows: a pair at Elmer's End, near Beckenham, September 1st, 1889; a fine adult male near Chigwell Row, March 16th, 1890; a pair (adults) on the canal near Harrow, June 1st, 1890, and an individual at the same place on the 10th June, so that they may have bred there. Owing to resemblance to the pied wagtail, occurrences of this species are, no doubt, frequently overlooked.¹

¹ The adult white wagtail may be readily distinguished from the pied wagtail, it having the upper plumage ash-grey, while this is black in the latter species. Below also, the white wagtail has only the throat and upper breast black, the remainder being whitish, while the pied wagtail has the under parts almost entirely black.

42. *Motacilla melanope*, Pall. GREY WAGTAIL.

[*End September—January; occasionally in early spring.*] Common during the autumn and winter on the streams about Ilford and Romford. Occurs more rarely at Hayes Common, Beckenham, and the south-west district; I have observed it once only at Highgate and Hadley. It has been seen by Mr. J. E. Harting at Kingsbury Reservoir and Hendon ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 63, 64). I observed an individual on the Brent, near Harrow, May 2nd, 1891; I have never before seen a grey wagtail near London in the spring, and consider it to have been only a late straggler; it appeared to be a female.

43. *Motacilla flava*, Linn. BLUE-HEADED

WAGTAIL.

[*Spring and autumn migrations; rare.*] An irregular visitor to the British Islands, usually in the spring. Mr. H. T. Booth tells me that during June, 1890, he observed four or five birds of this species on Wimbledon Common; he obtained a close view

of them and is positive as to their identity.¹ “In May, 1864, Mr. W. H. Power shot an immature bird of this species at Kingsbury Reservoir” (“Birds of Middlesex,” p. 64). Yarrell records a specimen taken in April, 1837, “a short distance north-east of London.”

44. *Motacilla raii* (Bon.) YELLOW WAGTAIL.

[*April—September; casual in winter.*] Fairly common along the Thames at Putney and Richmond during the spring and summer, also occurring in winter. It is a regular, although rare, summer visitor about Harrow. A few are to be met with in summer on the streams about Epping Forest, Ilford, and the neighbourhood; I have observed it once at Ilford in winter.

45. *Anthus trivialis* (Linn.) TREE PIPIT.

[*Mid-April—September.*] Very generally distributed in spring, breeding mostly in or near woods

¹ The chief distinctions between this species and its near relation, the yellow wagtail, lie in the white eye-stripe (yellow in the latter species) and the bluish-grey crown and nape (yellowish-olive in the yellow wagtail).

and copses, although around Harrow it breeds freely about the meadows. The song of this pipit is, perhaps, familiar to all who have visited the woods or fields in April or May; it is usually commenced as the bird starts upward from a tree or other point, and rises as it soars up, gradually sinking again as the bird descends, until it ceases abruptly as it regains its perch.

46. **Anthus pratensis** (Linn.) MEADOW PIPIT.

[*Resident.*] Sparingly distributed as a breeding species, more common everywhere in autumn and winter. Breeds occasionally on Wimbledon Common; common in autumn and winter on Hayes Common (Kent), probably also breeding there. A few breed near Harrow, where also they are common during the latter part of the summer and autumn, particularly young birds.

47. **Anthus obscurus** (Latham). ROCK PIPIT.

[*Casual.*] This is essentially a coast-loving species, and, therefore, rare anywhere inland. In October, 1845, the late Mr. F. Bond killed seven at Kings-

bury Reservoir, and Mr. Harting shot one of a pair at the same locality on the 20th of March, 1866 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 67). Another was caught at Harrow in November, 1862 (Bridgeman, "Birds of Harrow," p. 145).

48. *Oriolus galbula*, Linn. GOLDEN ORIOLE.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence during the spring and summer. The number of recorded occurrences are fewer than one might be led to expect. Mr. J. E. Harting gives several instances of its occurrence:—A male, in the late F. Bond's collection, was shot at Harlesden Green, May 11th, 1851; another male was killed at the Well Springs, Kingsbury, in 1857, and disposed of to a dealer in London; in May, 1862, a third male was observed in a garden at Frognaal, and another was seen, April 21st, 1863, on a park paling between Edgware and Barnet ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 36). A more recent occurrence is that of a male bird shot at the Park, Harrow, in May, 1888, and recorded in the "Zoologist" for 1888, p. 393. In the counties of Kent and Surrey this brightly-plumaged bird occurs almost annually.

49. *Lanius excubitor*, Linn. GREAT GREY
SHRIKE.

[*Winter ; irregular.*] Of occasional occurrence during the autumn and winter, specimens having been obtained at intervals in most districts around London. Mr. J. E. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex") mentions the following occurrences: A male shot at Wembley Park, in January, 1841, by the gardener of the Rev. Mr. Gray; one caught in a net near Harrow, and another subsequently shot by a keeper, these presumably between the years 1850 and 1854; a specimen in Mr. Harting's collection was shot in the parish of Hendon, during the winter of 1854; and it also occurred at Kentish Town and Kilburn, in 1850 and 1862. Mr. A. F. Gates, of Stratford, writes me as follows:—"One of these birds was captured by a bird-catcher of the name of Jeffreys, in 1889, at Leyton; it swooped down on his decoy birds, and was caught in the nets (this bird I have seen). I may mention that the bird-catchers about here often catch kestrel hawks in the same way." He also writes later that he has had a very fine specimen of the great grey shrike sent him, which

had been shot at Barking on February 25th, 1893. The late H. Doubleday had one of these birds alive which had been caught in Epping Forest.

50. **Lanius collurio**, Linn. RED-BACKED SHRIKE.

[*May—August ; occasionally later.*] A common and conspicuous summer visitor, frequenting commons, the outskirts of woods, or grassy lanes and quiet old hedgerows, for the purposes of nidification. It breeds very commonly around Harrow and Edgware ; rather less so near Finchley, Highgate, and Hayes Common (Kent) ; also in the forest district. It breeds occasionally on Wimbledon Common, and more abundantly further afield, as at Epsom, Leatherhead and Dorking. I have found the nest with half-fledged young as late as August 6th, in the neighbourhood of Harrow.

51. **Ampelis garrulus**, Linn. WAXWING.

[*Casual.*] A very rare winter visitor. It has occurred in the vicinity of London on several occasions at long intervals, as in 1850, when examples were obtained at Kilburn, Eltham, Harrow, Highgate, and

other places. (See "Birds of Middlesex," and "Zoologist" for January, 1850)

52. *Muscicapa grisola*, Linn. SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER.

[*May—September*.¹] A fairly common visitor to most districts, usually preferring woods and plantations or quiet grassy lanes in the breeding season, while it often comes into gardens and orchards later in the summer. It breeds commonly in several spots around Harrow, also in Highgate Woods and several other localities ; it is said to breed still in some of the London parks, where individuals may occasionally be observed.

53. *Muscicapa atricapilla*, Linn. PIED FLY-CATCHER.

[*May—September ; rare*.] This is only a very local visitor to the British Islands, and it is especially scarce in the south-eastern counties. Although by no means common near London at any time, I have several records of its occurrence. Mr. J. E. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 26), records a male shot in

¹ I have noticed individuals as late as October 6th.

May, 1842, at "The Hyde," which is situated between Kingsbury and Hendon. Colonel Bridgeman ("Flora of Harrow," App. Birds, p. 140), writes:—"I know of one authenticated instance of the occurrence of this rare bird here: a nest with three eggs was taken in The Grove, about the year 1836, and the eggs are still preserved." A specimen taken at Blackheath, April 30th, 1883, is in the Natural History (British) Museum; it was presented by Mr. T. Fisher. Mr. H. T. Booth informs me that he has observed it once, May 29th, 1889, in Richmond Park. Mr. B. R. Harrison, of Highgate, writes me as follows:—"The pied flycatcher I have not seen myself, but I have been told by the woodman in the Wood Lane woods that a pair were seen there last summer (1892)." This is only hearsay evidence, but I believe it to be genuine. Mr. Harting states that in May, 1849, Mr. Spenser shot a male pied flycatcher in Mill Field Lane, near Highgate, while early in May, 1859, two pairs were taken alive in Bishop's Wood, and a fifth at the same place in the same week ("Birds of Middlesex"). In Epping Forest a female was taken on the 13th of September, 1877, and was

identified by Mr. Harting, while two others were shot in Theydon Grove (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

54. *Hirundo rustica*, Linn. SWALLOW.

[*Mid-April—Mid-October.*] A common and well-known visitor to the entire district. I have often noticed swallows flying overhead in some of the busiest parts of London.

55. *Chelidon urbica* (Linn.) MARTIN.

[*May—Mid-October.*] Like the last-named, this species is common everywhere around London ; sometimes venturing far in among the habitations of man. It still breeds in several districts, such as Highgate, which are fast losing their rural beauties in the ever-extending metropolis.

56. *Cotile riparia* (Linn.) SAND MARTIN.

[*April—September.*] Rather a local species in the vicinity of London. I have met with it in some numbers in the neighbourhood of Plumstead, where it breeds annually. It also breeds in the chalk pits at Pinner, and has been observed at Kingsbury

Reservoir. Some years ago it bred annually at Ilford, and I believe it has also nested there recently, while it is stated to still breed in the railway cutting between Leytonstone and Wanstead (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

57. *Ligurinus chloris* (Linn.) GREENFINCH.

[*Resident.*] Common over nearly the whole area; its numbers being increased during the winter months by arrivals from the Continent. It breeds very commonly wherever arable land occurs, but is rather scarce where there is much meadow land, as around Harrow and Edgware where I have only occasionally found the nest. Breeds abundantly about Ilford, also near Epsom where I have found the nest with eggs as late as August 1st.

58. *Coccothraustes vulgaris*, Pall. HAWFINCH.

[*Resident.*] Although decidedly uncommon, the Hawfinch is by no means so rare near London as many people would imagine; this is probably owing to the bird's shy and retiring habits. It appears to be not uncommon in Epping Forest, and it also

occurs in Wanstead Park, sometimes straggling to Ilford. It is still found as near the metropolis as Highgate Woods, where it breeds annually; I myself came across several nests there in 1888. In the Harrow district it seems to breed no longer, although several nests are recorded to have been found there years ago ("Harrow Birds," p. 15); the bird, however, frequently occurs during the winter; I knew of one being shot on the Brent in the winter of 1891-92. Mr. H. T. Booth informs me that it occurs sparingly in Richmond Park, Coombe Wood, and Burgh Common, but he has not seen the nest in that district. I have seen an example which had been shot near Epsom, and I think it may probably breed about this neighbourhood. Old woodlands are the favourite haunts of the Hawfinch in the breeding season; its call-note is unmistakable—a shrill whistle repeated four times.

59. *Carduelis elegans* (Steph.) GOLDFINCH.

[*Partly resident.*] In the neighbourhood of London the goldfinch chiefly occurs as a visitor during

the spring and autumn migrations. Many years ago it would have been found nesting almost anywhere around London, but at the present time it is decidedly rare as a breeding species. I have, however, received eggs which were taken near Finchley, and have seen the bird in Highgate Woods during the spring. Mr. H. T. Booth informs me that it breeds, though rarely, on Wimbledon Common; while at Epsom last year (1892), my brother found a nest with four eggs, and I have also several times noted the bird there during the present winter. At Alperton, near Harrow, I have several times observed this bird, in company with other species, on the canal banks, whither it was attracted by the thistles, etc., growing on the refuse heaps. As regards the eastern districts, Mr. A. F. Gates, of Stratford, writes me as follows:—“Goldfinches, although still scarce, are to my mind steadily on the increase.” Years ago, when I was living at Lewisham, the goldfinch went by the name of “cutthroat” among the boys about there.

60. *Chrysomitris spinus* (Linn.) SISKIN.

[*Winter; irregular.*] The siskin, or aberdevine, is seldom seen in the vicinity of London except during the autumn and winter, and even then not very commonly. A few visit Ilford almost every winter, and I have seen an adult male (alive) said to have been taken there in August, 1889. In the neighbourhood of Harrow it occurs at irregular intervals during the winter. A specimen obtained at Turnham Green (Middlesex) is in the Natural History Museum. It has been observed in Wanstead Park on several occasions (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

61. *Passer domesticus* (Linn.) HOUSE
SPARROW.

[*Resident.*] Extremely common over whole area. In winter I have seen flocks thousands strong about the corn-ricks near Ilford. It is one of our earliest breeding species, usually commencing early in March—often even in February.

62. *Passer montanus* (Linn.) TREE SPARROW.

[*Resident.*] This species appears to have been

strangely overlooked until within recent years ; this is no doubt owing to its resemblance to the house sparrow.¹ Even in the vicinity of London it is rather local as a breeding species, and yet I have found it breeding quite abundantly around Harrow—always in holes of old trees, usually pollard willows. I have also found the nest occasionally near Ilford, where the bird is common enough during the autumn and winter, frequenting the wheat stubbles in considerable numbers. Mr. H. T. Booth tells me that it has bred near Wimbledon, and I have seen an example of the bird which was shot at Epsom, but have not met with it in any other localities.

63. *Fringilla ccelebs*, Linn. CHAFFINCH.

[*Resident.*] Common over whole area ; perhaps

¹Probably a short description of the tree sparrow may prove useful to some as a means of identification. It is a peculiar fact that the sexes are alike in plumage, thereby differing from all other British *Fringilline* ; the young bird, moreover, scarcely differs in plumage from the adult. This species differs chiefly from the house sparrow in having the crown, nape, and scapulars chestnut brown ; a black patch on the white side of the head ; the black on the throat more extended ; and both median and greater wing-coverts tipped with white.

the commonest breeding species in the neighbourhood of Harrow. In the cold season its numbers are increased by parties of immigrants, but most of the winter birds are males, females being then scarce.

64. *Fringilla montifringilla*, Linn. BRAMBLING.

[*Winter; irregular.*] Of irregular occurrence in this part of England, its visits depending upon the severity of the weather on the Continent. It appears to occur more frequently in Epping Forest than elsewhere; small parties have also been noticed from time to time at Kingsbury, Edgware, and Harrow. I have seen a specimen which was shot at Epsom, where it is of occasional occurrence.

65. *Acanthis cannabina* (Linn.) LINNET.

[*Partly resident.*] Common, nearly everywhere in the autumn and winter, especially so in the east and south, in which districts it is also to be found breeding in small numbers, wherever suitable places present themselves; owing, however, to the absence

of these in the north and north-west, it is decidedly scarce as a breeding species in those districts; in fact I have never found the nest in Middlesex myself, although it still breeds sparingly there.

66. *Acanthis linaria* (Linn.) MEALY REDPOLL.

[*Winter; rare.*] Of rare and irregular occurrence in winter, chiefly on the eastern side. It has occurred at Harrow, Kingsbury, Elstree, etc. ("Birds of Middlesex"), and has been taken in Epping Forest by the late H. Doubleday, and Mr. J. L. English (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

67. *Acanthis rufescens* (Vieill.) LESSER
REDPOLL.

[*Partly resident.*] Of fairly regular occurrence in most districts during the winter, particularly at Ilford, Wanstead, the forest district and Highgate Woods, in which latter place it occasionally breeds.¹ It also breeds exceptionally at Harrow,

¹ A nest which I found in a wood at Highgate, July 11th, 1888, was placed against the trunk of an oak, at a height of about nine feet, and supported by the small twigs; the nest was loosely composed of small twigs, roots, grass-blades, moss, down of plants, wool, and string; and

and has been observed in summer occasionally on Wimbledon Common, although I believe the nest has not yet been found there.

68. *Acanthis flavirostris* (Linn.) TWITE.

[*Winter; rare.*] Occurs occasionally during the winter, chiefly on the eastern side. It has occurred occasionally at Harrow during the months of October, November, and December ("Flora of Harrow," Birds, p. 147). Mr. J. E. Harting records its occurrence at Kingsbury in October, 1863 and 1864, and on Harrow Weald Common ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 80). I have frequently noticed the twite in the London bird-catchers' shops, and some of them, no doubt, had been caught in the neighbourhood of London.

69. *Pyrrhula europæa*, Vieill. BULLFINCH.

[*Resident.*] Of fairly general distribution, inhabiting the outskirts of woods, common, old grassy

lined with fine grass-blades, hair, wool, string, shreds of a green rug or carpet, and the down of plants—together, however, it was not larger than a chaffinch's; it contained three fresh eggs of a greenish-blue ground, spotted with pale reddish-brown, and measuring about $\cdot 63 \times \cdot 48$ in.

lanes, etc., wherever tangled bushes or tall hedges are to be found. I have found it breeding in the forest district, Hadley Wood, Highgate Woods (rarely), Wembley Park and Perivale Wood, near Harrow; Wimbledon Common, Hayes Common and the neighbourhood of Beckenham, and also in some abundance about Epsom and Ashted. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that in Wanstead Park and neighbourhood the bullfinch is rare.

70. *Pyrrhula erythrina* (Pall.) SCARLET GROS-
BEAK.

[*Casual.*] A very rare straggler, during migration, to Western Europe; it does not breed any nearer to us than Northern Russia, while its true home is in Asia. Still it has occurred on two occasions in this country, one being on October 5th, 1870, when a female was taken near Caen Wood, Hampstead; this specimen subsequently passed into the collection of the late Mr. F. Bond. As Mr. Howard Saunders says, "Other examples have probably occurred from time to time, and have been overlooked; for young birds or females of this species might easily be mis-

taken for greenfinches ” (“ Manual of British Birds,” p. 189).

71. *Pyrrhula enucleator* (Linn.) PINE GROSB-
BEAK.

[*Casual.*] Recent investigations have shown that this handsome grosbeak is of not nearly such frequent occurrence as a straggler to this country as was at one time supposed. As regards London, Mr. Harting says (“ Birds of Middlesex,” p. 91) :— “ Yarrell mentions a female bird of this species in his own possession which was shot some years ago at Harrow-on-the-Hill. This bird has since passed into the collection of Mr. Bond ; ” after his death it was offered for sale at Stevens’ in May, 1890.

72. *Loxia curvirostra*, Linn. CROSSBILL.

[*Winter ; rare.*] Of irregular occurrence in the vicinity of London during autumn and winter, perhaps more commonly in the south and south-east than elsewhere, owing to the extensive coniferous plantations in those districts. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton (“ Harrow Birds,” p. 19) mentions it as

having occurred on five or six occasions between the years 1827 and 1863. In the "Naturalist's Journal" for February, 1893, Mr. B. R. Harrison (of Highgate) writes:—"A few years ago a flock of crossbills were seen in the Highgate Cemetery, but of late years not one has come under my notice." A specimen from Turnham Green (Middlesex) is in the Natural History Museum. On September 15th, 1889, I was standing among a clump of pine trees on Hayes Common, when a crossbill came flying over, uttering a note resembling *gip, gip, gip*, and settled on a bough above my head, but it took flight again directly it discovered my presence. This is the only time I have observed this bird in the neighbourhood of London. A pair of crossbills nested recently in some firs at the "Bower," close to Epping Railway Station (Buxton's "Epping Forest.")

* * ***Loxia pityopsittacus***, Bech. PARROT CROSS-
BILL.

This variety of the last-named species is not considered by modern authorities to possess sufficient differences to entitle it to rank as a sub-species. A

fine male specimen of the parrot crossbill was killed at Harrow-on-the-Hill, January 21st, 1850 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 92). Three were killed at one shot by a boy at Lambourne ("Zoologist," 1861, p. 7759).

73. **Loxia bifasciata** (Brehm.) TWO-BARRED
CROSSBILL.

[*Casual.*] The white-winged crossbill visits the British Islands only at irregular intervals, usually in flocks or small parties, and a fair number have been taken in various parts of the country since 1802, when it was first recorded. In the neighbourhood of London, the late H. Doubleday shot an example in his garden at Epping, in the summer of 1846.

74. **Emberiza miliaria**, Linn. CORN BUNTING.

[*Partly resident.*] Rather a local species in the breeding season. It breeds annually at Alperton, near Harrow, both on the railway embankment and in the adjoining meadows—there not being the ghost of a cornfield in the neighbourhood. It has also been observed on Wimbledon Common in the spring.

During the winter it occurs commonly in small flocks on the eastern side.

75. *Emberiza citrinella*, Linn. YELLOW
BUNTING.

[*Resident.*] Common almost over whole area, breeding wherever arable land or commons, etc., occur. In the neighbourhood of Harrow, however, the nest is seldom to be met with, and I have only come across two or three nests there in as many years. It breeds very commonly around Ilford, and during the autumn and winter large numbers of the birds may be seen about the fields.

76. *Emberiza cirlus*, Linn. CIRL BUNTING.

[*Resident ; very local.*] A scarce and local species in the neighbourhood of London. According to my own experience it has a considerable partiality for pasture-land or meadows, and the nest is most likely to be found in low bushes on the border of the field near to the hedge-row. It was in such a situation that I saw a nest, containing three much-incubated eggs, taken at Epsom on the 31st July,

1892. I have also noticed the bird itself in November on Epsom Common. I have also seen a nest with three eggs, which Mr. H. T. Booth found on Wimbledon Common, May 25th, 1890; and I believe a nest with one egg was found near Lewisham in 1884. Three specimens of the bird are recorded as having been obtained at Kingsbury Reservoir; while a nest, with three eggs, was taken near Wembley Park in May, 1861, and the nest, with one of the eggs, passed into the possession of Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex").

77. *Emberiza hortulana*, Linn. ORTOLAN.

[*Casual.*] The ortolan bunting was first recognised as a visitor to this country from an individual which was taken alive in Mary-le-bone Fields, about the year 1776; this specimen is now in the Newcastle-on-Tyne Museum. Subsequently several other examples have been taken in the vicinity of London, but some of these may possibly have been escaped birds, as large numbers of ortolans are imported annually into this country.

78. *Emberiza rustica*, Pall. RUSTIC BUNTING.

[*Casual.*] An Asiatic species which is said to be gradually extending its range westward; its occurrence in this country has been recorded on three occasions during the last five-and-twenty years, but it cannot be looked upon as more than a quite accidental visitor. The third of these occurrences was in the vicinity of London, and therefore comes within the scope of the present work. It was that of a young male which was taken by a bird-catcher at Earlstree Reservoir, November 19th, 1882, and sent in the flesh to Lord Lilford ("Zoologist," 1883, p. 33).

79. *Emberiza schoeniclus*, Linn. REED BUNTING.

[*Resident.*] Breeds sparingly in most districts wherever there are small streams or marsh-ditches. I have found it breeding more commonly around Harrow than elsewhere near London. In winter, it is rather abundant about Ilford, and also in autumn on Epsom Common and other commons in the south. This species is also frequently

known as the black-headed bunting, which has led to an unfortunate confusion with another species (*E. melanocephala*, Scop.), which is only of very rare occurrence in this country.

80. *Calcarius lapponicus* (Linn.) LAPLAND
BUNTING.

[*Casual; on migration.*] The summer home of the Lapland bunting is chiefly within the Arctic circle, but it migrates southward in winter, and is then found throughout the greater part of Northern Europe. In England it frequently occurs during the autumn migration, but seldom at any other season. Since 1826, when it was first recognised as a visitor to this country, some six or seven individuals have been taken near London. On the 25th of October, 1892, Mr. Cole, of Great Portland Street, showed me a female Lapland bunting which had been shot at Kingsbury Reservoir. He called it a "bunting lark," and the name is, in one sense, not so inappropriate, as the bird is very often found associating with larks.¹

¹ The male Lapland bunting bears some resemblance to the male reed bunting, but may readily be recognised by the

81. *Plectrophenax nivalis* (Linn.) SNOW
BUNTING.

[*Winter; irregular.*] Like the last-named species, the summer home of this little wanderer lies in the bleak and barren regions of the far north, it having been found breeding almost as far north as man has penetrated. In the vicinity of London it is only of very irregular occurrence. Mr. A. F. Gates, of Stratford, writes me as follows:—"I have a specimen of this bird in my collection which was shot at Temple Mills, Stratford, in January, 1892, and after heavy gales I have occasionally seen small flocks of them on Hackney Marshes. Mr. J. E. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 75) only gives three instances of its occurrence in Middlesex, *viz.*, a male shot near Edgware in 1840, and which was

broad white stripe *above* instead of *below* the eye, extending backwards down the side of the neck, and by the bright chestnut band on the nape; it is also a somewhat larger bird, and the tarsi are black, with the hind claw long and nearly straight. The female has the crown and chestnut collar streaked with brown and black; the upper plumage paler than in the male, and the throat white, with an irregular blackish gorget.

in the collection of the late F. Bond until his death; one taken by a bird-catcher near Kingsbury Reservoir in October, 1862 (this was in company with bramblings); and another male shot by Mr. C. Wharton at Kingsbury, February 8th, 1865.

82 *Sturnus vulgaris*, Linn. STARLING.

[*Resident.*] Common almost everywhere, including many of the parks and gardens in urban district. Gregarious in autumn and winter.

83. *Pastor roseus* (Linn.) ROSE-COLOURED
STARLING.

[*Casual.*] An Oriental species in which the migratory instinct appears to be particularly strong, it having occurred at irregular intervals in almost every part of Europe. It has visited nearly every part of the British Islands, including the neighbourhood of London. It was first recognised as a visitor to this country from a specimen obtained near Norwood (Middlesex) in 1742.

84. *Garrulus glandarius* (Linn.) JAY.

[*Resident.*] This handsome and wary bird is not nearly such a quickly decreasing species in the vicinity of London as many people appear to believe. It is certainly a local bird, but that is due to the fact that its favourite haunts are old woods, or dense plantations and thickets. It is still fairly common in Epping and Hainault Forests, Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common, and Ashted Woods; and less so in Hadley Wood. In the Harrow district it still breeds near Oxhey and Bushey ("Harrow Birds," p. 21), and I was informed by an old resident that it was rather common about Wembley Park and Kingsbury until about ten years ago. Three or four years ago it was still nesting in a wood near Finchley. On Wimbledon Common, Mr. H. T. Booth tells me it was scarce or unknown until about six years ago, since which time it has remained comparatively common.

85. *Pica rustica* (Scop.) MAGPIE.

[*Resident.*] Of much more restricted distribution than the last-named species. At the present

time it is confined to a few of the oldest woods and parks, and is unknown away from these localities. It still breeds fairly commonly in the forest district and in Ashted Woods and other woods in the neighbourhood; I believe it also breeds, though rarely, in Hadley Wood. In Wembley Park I have often seen the birds about one particular little copse, and they have also wandered from here to Alperton, where as many as five or six were observed at once a few years ago; it is to be hoped that this fine bird will not desert the park if it should be thrown open to the public as proposed. It also still breeds in the woods about Oxhey, which are also in the neighbourhood of Harrow. Even in London itself the magpie has nested not very many years ago in Kensington Gardens, and Yarrell states in his "History of British Birds" (first published between 1837 and 1843) that he had himself counted twenty-three individuals in the same grounds.

86. *Corvus monedula*, Linn. JACKDAW.

[*Resident.*] Of fairly general distribution, mostly

frequenting old churches, etc., or old timber in parks. During the winter I have frequently seen flocks of jackdaws about Ilford and other places. It has often been noticed in Kensington Gardens and other of the London parks.

87. *Corvus corax*, Linn. RAVEN.

[*Casual ; formerly breeding.*] This fine bird is now practically extinct in the neighbourhood of London, but I suspect it has occasionally visited Epping Forest within recent years. Not many years ago it still bred in several parts of Essex ; Mr. J. H. Gurney has shown that, until sixty years ago, a pair inhabited Wanstead Park. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 22) says :—" Dr. Ed. Hamilton notes this bird as 'occasionally seen' in his time (1828-32), and remarks, 'I think the date of a pair of ravens nesting in Lord Northwick's was 1828 or 1829. I did not see them, but I believe Goshawk did, and tried to get them shot.'" Mr. Harting records its breeding in Hyde Park in the early part of the century ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 95).

88. *Corvus corone*, Linn. CARRION CROW.

[*Resident.*] More common in the northern districts than the southern, owing to the scarcity of game and gamekeepers in the former. I have found it nesting abundantly everywhere around Harrow, occasionally in woods, etc., but usually in the summits of the trees about the fields. When placed in the smaller branches at the top of the tree, the nest is unattainable, but may be often seen in a fork of the main limbs, and is then often robbed. I have even found the nest at a height of only twenty or twenty-five feet from the ground. The crow is also found breeding in Epping Forest, and occasionally at Ashted Woods, Wimbledon Common, and near Finchley. In 1887 and 1888, a pair even reared their young in Kensington Gardens.¹

89. *Corvus cornix*, Linn. HOODED CROW.

[*Winter ; irregular.*] Of irregular occurrence during the autumn and winter, chiefly on the eastern

¹ A ready distinction between the nest of this species and that of the rook, is to be found in the lining: the rook using grass, roots, etc., while the carrion crow always lines its nest with wool, fur, hair, rope-ends, etc.

side, I observed a flock of between fifty and sixty hooded crows near Ilford, November 19th, 1889; they were feeding in a ploughed field in company with a few rooks. Mr. J. E. Harting states ("Birds of Middlesex") that a few examples have been obtained at long intervals at Cricklewood, Hendon, Kingsbury, and Bushey.

90. *Corvus frugilegus*, Linn. ROOK.

[*Resident.*] One of our most familiar birds. There are rookeries or single nests in almost every locality. Among the largest of the rookeries near London may be mentioned those in Ilford, Cranbrook, and Wanstead Parks. For many years a small rookery has existed in Gray's Inn Gardens, in one of the busiest parts of London. In 1890 there was still one pair breeding in a private garden at Chalk Farm, close to the L. & N.-W. station; while in the same year two pairs bred in another garden near Camden Town station.

91. *Alauda arvensis*, Linn. SKYLARK

[*Resident.*] This well-known songster is common

everywhere around London : in winter its numbers are increased by flocks of migratory birds.

92. *Alauda arborea*, Linn. WOOD LARK.

[*Resident.*] A somewhat scarce and local species in the neighbourhood of London. I have seen it about Ilford in the winter, and I am told that the nest has been found there, but I have no evidence of this. Mr. J. E. Harting considers that in Middlesex the wood lark is "resident throughout the year, but nowhere common" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 72). A nest was found near Bushey, May 18th, 1889, by Mr. R. Bosworth Smith ("Harrow Birds," p. 23). Mr. H. T. Booth informs me that he has observed this species at Fulham during the winter, and has noticed it on Wimbledon Common in summer, but he has not found the nest.

93. *Otocorys alpestris* (Linn.) SHORE LARK.

[*Casual.*] A rare winter visitor at long intervals. A specimen was taken alive on Hackney Marshes in March, 1865 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 74). The numbers that visit us have perceptibly increased of

recent years, and, as it breeds no farther away than Norway, it may become even more common in the future.

94. *Cypselus apus* (Linn.) SWIFT.

[*May—July*.¹] Tolerably common, and breeding in every district around London. It is known locally as “screecher,” “devililing,” etc.

95. *Cypselus melba* (Linn.) ALPINE SWIFT.

[*Casual*.] A very rare visitor. Mr. Harting (“Birds of Middlesex,” pp. 128, 129) states that one day in August, 1841, a white-bellied swift was seen sporting with a number of the common species over the reservoir at Kingsbury, and a bird of this species shot the following day near Reading is supposed by him to have been the same bird.

¹ I once observed an individual near Harrow as early as April 20th (1890), but it usually appears in the early part of May. The majority invariably depart about the end of July, but individuals are occasionally known to remain later.

96. *Caprimulgus europæus*, Linn. NIGHTJAR.

[*Mid-May—September.*] In the neighbourhood of London the “goatsucker,” or “fern owl,” is somewhat scarce and local. It is found not uncommonly in Epping Forest, and Mr. A. F. Gates states that it occurs sparingly in Wanstead Park. I observed an individual in Highgate Woods, May 23rd, 1888, flying at mid-day, and being chased by a song thrush; three or four specimens are also said to have been shot there in 1892 (“Naturalist’s Journal,” vol. i., p. 31). I have also noted it once in May, 1889, at Alperton, Harrow; while it is a regular visitor to Oxhey, where the eggs are stated to have been found on three occasions, the last time (1890) by Mr. R. Bosworth Smith (“Harrow Birds,” p. 23). Mr. H. T. Booth informs me that it breeds occasionally in Richmond Park and on Wimbledon Common. Last year, 1892, I met with it breeding rather commonly at Epsom and Ashted.

97. *Iynx torquilla*, Linn. WRYNECK.

[*Mid-April—September.*] A somewhat scarce and local summer visitor, almost always found in

woods, etc. It visits the forest district regularly ; Mr. B. R. Harrison, of Highgate, writes that it occurs at Highgate ; and I have myself heard it in the spring in Hadley Wood. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 24) notes it as not at all common near Harrow, but records nests found annually in the immediate vicinity of Harrow. I heard the bird in Wembley Park in the spring of 1891. It also visits suitable localities all along the southern district.

98. *Gecinus viridis* (Linn.) GREEN WOOD-
PECKER.

[*Resident.*] A forest-loving bird, and therefore naturally rather local. It is not uncommon in the forest district, and has also been met with in Wanstead Park. In 1891 I noticed it on several occasions in Hadley Wood, and it has also been noticed in Highgate Woods. It is reported to have bred years ago at Harrow, and appears to have done so more recently, as Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 24) states that "on July 24th, 1889, a young bird, still unable to fly, was brought

to Mr. R. Bosworth Smith by a railway porter, who said that he had caught it near Harrow. In the south, a few inhabit Richmond Park, straying from thence on to Wimbledon Common; while I have found it to be quite common in Ashted Woods. At Uxendon Farm, near Harrow, I observed some incomplete burrows in 1891, which had probably been made by this species.

99. *Dendrocopus major* (Linn.) GREAT
SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

[*Resident; rare.*] Scarce at any season, and rarely breeding in the neighbourhood of London. It inhabits Epping Forest, and has been observed in Wanstead Park exceptionally. Mr. B. R. Harrison, of Highgate, states that he has observed it in Highgate Woods ("Naturalists' Journal," vol. i., p. 31). It is now rare in Middlesex, though formerly not uncommon; but in the "Field" for April 26th, 1890, Caroline M. Roe, of Kendall Hall, Elstree, writes:—"I have had the great spotted woodpecker make its nest and hatch out in the grounds here." I believe it occurs in Richmond Park, where I

have noticed one or two burrows, in the upper limbs of trees, which were, certainly, too small to be those of the green woodpecker.

100. **Dendrocopus minor** (Linn.) LESSER

SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

[*Resident.*] Although only sparingly distributed, this is probably the commonest woodpecker in most localities near London. It is so shy and retiring in its habits that one would seldom detect its presence, were it not for its peculiar and unmistakable call; this is a loud and shrill *plee, pleee, pleee, pleee, pleee*, quickly repeated, and coming with almost startling effect in the stillness of some woodland glade; practised eyes might sometimes detect a little bird, scarcely as large as a great titmouse, high up, clinging to the upper branches, but it usually escapes notice. The lesser spotted woodpecker still inhabits the forest district, straying from thence to Wanstead Park and Ilford. I have seen a specimen obtained at the latter place. At Highgate, in the early part of 1891, I several times saw and heard an individual (or perhaps two), which

frequented one of the woods. I have also heard it once, February 8th, 1891, in Wembley Park, near Harrow. In this locality it would appear to be not at all scarce, as the eggs have been found near here in 1891 and again in 1892, each time by Mr. H. T. Booth. The first occasion was on May 31st, 1891, the site selected being a small stump on the bank of the Brent, near the L. & N.-W. Railway; the stump itself was only three or four feet in height, and the nesting-place was excavated near the top of it; there were two eggs in this, and the bird was seen to leave it. A second nest was found in 1892 near Uxendon Farm; this was excavated at a greater height in the decayed stem of a small tree, and contained four eggs. I have visited the sites of both these nests on more than one occasion, and have also seen the eggs. This species has been noticed occasionally also in Richmond Park, while further afield, in Ashted Woods and the neighbourhood, I have often seen and heard it in 1892 and 1893.

101. *Alcedo ispida*, Linn. KINGFISHER.

[*Resident.*] Now, unfortunately, both local and

rare in the neighbourhood of London; but half a century ago it seems to have been very much more common. At the present time I only know of one locality where it still breeds in the vicinity of London; this is at Twyford Abbey on the Brent, where a few pairs have bred for many years. They seldom wander far from the grounds, although I have occasionally seen them on a shady portion of the river close to the canal which bounds the property referred to; on the slightest alarm, however, they dart under the archway and regain their sacred precincts on the other side. Years ago specimens have been observed or shot in various parts of Middlesex, but such occurrences are rare at the present time. In the east, I have evidence of specimens being obtained from time to time in the neighbourhood of Ilford, where they were fairly common years ago, but have nearly been exterminated on the Roding and other streams by means of the execrable practice of spreading nets across the stream. An old taxidermist at Ilford tells me, however, that a few still exist on those streams in spite of persecution. Mr. A. F. Gates

writes me that he has seen it once in Wanstead Park, and also occasionally on Hackney Marshes, but there they usually fall victims to the gun of the Cockney sportsman. Down in rural Essex, away from the shadow of the metropolis, the kingfisher is still quite common. James Rennie, in his "Bird Architecture," published in 1844, mentions it as breeding annually "in the bank of a stream at Lee, in Kent." Instances are on record of its occurrence in thickly populated districts, and even in these days individuals are noticed from time to time on the Serpentine in Hyde Park.

102. *Upupa epops*, Linn. HOOPOE.

[*Casual ; summer.*] A very rare visitor in the spring—I should, perhaps, say "and summer"—but as very few of the birds arriving in spring live to see the summer, this would be superfluous. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 116) records one shot in the summer of 1830 near Caen Wood, Hampstead; another was shot at Fulham on the 28th September, 1832; a third was obtained in 1850 at Golder's Green; and in April, 1865, one

was shot at Neasdon. Edwards mentions a specimen shot at Norwood, which seems to be the earliest record for the neighbourhood of London. In the "Field" for April 26th, 1890, Caroline M. Roe, of Kendall Hall, Elstree, writes that during the greater part of April 17th, 1890, "a hoopoe, in beautiful plumage, was on the small lawn in front of my house." In 1886 one frequented a garden at Knotts Green for several days (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

103. *Cuculus canorus*, Linn. CUCKOO.

[*Mid-April—August.*¹] A regular summer visitor, and of very general distribution; it has even been reported from Kensington Gardens in the spring.

104. *Strix flammea*, Linn. BARN OWL.

[*Resident.*] Occurs sparingly in most of the localities around London. It is not uncommon in the forest district, straying from thence to Ilford and

¹In the neighbourhood of London its note is seldom heard until the third week in April. The majority have departed by the beginning of August, but young birds have occurred much later.

other places. I have noted it once (1888) at Highgate, and have received an egg from there said to belong to this species, although abnormally small. In the neighbourhood of Harrow it is now rare as a breeding species, although still nesting annually in the district. In March, 1889, one of these birds frequented the village of Alperton, near Harrow. On the 24th of April, 1892, Mr. H. T. Booth dislodged a barn owl from a hollow elm at Uxendon Farm, near Harrow; I subsequently visited the spot with Mr. Booth, but the owl had then, apparently, deserted the tree. In the south-west it has occurred occasionally at Fulham and other localities, while about Epsom and Ashted, and other places away from London, I believe it is not at all uncommon.

105. *Asio otus* (Linn.) LONG-EARED OWL.

[*Resident.*] A scarce bird near London, although more common some twenty miles away, particularly in Surrey. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 14, 15) mentions specimens shot at Hendon, Kingsbury, December 31st, 1862, and between Kings-

bury and Preston in January, 1865. He also states that the eggs have been taken in Wembley Park in June, 1861, and in Canon's Park, Edgware, May 29th, 1863, and he adds that it is also found in Pinner Wood, where he has reason to believe that it breeds, and in Ruislip Wood, on the north-west side of the county, while it was at one time common in Caen Wood, Hampstead. It also occurs not uncommonly about Epping in Essex.

106. *Asio accipitrinus* (Pall.) SHORT-EARED OWL.

[*Winter; irregular.*] Of irregular occurrence during the autumn and winter; it is frequently seen abroad in the day-time, and not uncommonly falls to the gun of the sportsman, owing to its frequenting turnip fields and stubbles; it often goes under the name of "woodcock owl." I have observed this species on one occasion at Ilford, November 30th, 1889, when an individual crossed the road at sunset at some height above me. One is recorded by Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 27) as having been killed near Wembley between the years 1828-32. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex,"

p. 15) records a male and female killed near Kingsbury Reservoir in the winter of 1840-41; a few years later, in October, a pair were killed by the late Mr. F. Bond and his brother as they rose with a covey of partridges; examples have also occurred near Scratchwoods, Edgwarebury and Edgwarebury Common, the last—at Edgwarebury—in November, 1865; in November, 1860, one was shot near Caen Wood, and another near the same place in December, 1861.

107. *Syrnium aluco* (Linn.) TAWNY OWL.

[*Resident.*] Somewhat rare in the vicinity of London. It is perhaps more common in Epping Forest than elsewhere. I am told that it occurs in Bishop's Wood, a considerable wood between Highgate and Hampstead. In the early spring of 1889 this owl was often to be heard at night at Alperton, near Harrow. Mr. Harting notes it as "rare" in Middlesex, and records the capture of an adult male at the Wells Springs, Kingsbury, in the spring of 1844, and three examples at Caen Wood, Hampstead ("Birds of Middlesex"). In the appendix to the "Flora of

Harrow," p. 139, the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman states that a nest was found in the Grove, Harrow, in the spring of 1862. I have also seen specimens which were shot recently at Epsom, and I believe it breeds there.

108. *Athene noctua* (Scop.) LITTLE OWL.

[*Casual.*] The first recorded British example of this species was caught alive in a chimney near the Tower of London, in 1758, since which time many examples have been obtained in England, although it is thought that most of them must have been imported birds and not really wild. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 21) remarks:—"I have been assured by Mr. Constantine Minasi (brother to the late consul for the two Sicilies), a gentleman well acquainted with birds, that some years ago, while returning one evening from shooting at Kenton Park, Sudbury, he distinctly saw a little owl on the wing." This was written about the year 1866; the place is rendered "Sunbury," but Sudbury is no doubt meant.

109. *Circus cyaneus* (Linn.) HEN HARRIER.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence in the vicinity of London. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 28) mentions one seen, between 1828 and 1832, in the flesh, at a bird-stuffer's shop at Harrow, but it could not be ascertained whence it came; a second example (female) was seen near Harrow by Lord Lilford, between 1846 and 1850. Mr. Harting states that an adult male was shot in the parish of Willesden, several years previously to 1866, and another bird, supposed to be a female, was seen in 1862 near Blackpot Farm, Kingsbury.

110. *Buteo vulgaris*, Leach. COMMON BUZZARD.

[*Casual.*] Now a very rare visitor, although formerly frequent enough; within the present century it bred commonly in many parts of Essex, but it has long ago been banished as a breeding species from the eastern and south-eastern counties of England. In the "Birds of Middlesex" (published in 1866) Mr. Harting records its occurrence at Kilburn, Edgeware, Mill Hill, and Harrow; but it occurs much more rarely in Middlesex at the present

day. The same authority mentions it as having occurred of recent years in Epping Forest.

111. *Buteo lagopus* (J. F. Gmel.) ROUGH-LEGGED
BUZZARD.

[*Casual.*] Of exceptional occurrence during the autumn and winter. Two examples in the Natural History Museum were shot years ago by the late H. Doubleday in Epping Forest.

112. *Haliaetus albicilla* (Linn.) WHITE-TAILED
EAGLE.

[*Casual.*] Examples, usually immature, of this species are taken or observed almost annually in the eastern counties of England during the autumn and winter, when the birds bred in the northern regions are migrating southward; and it is not in any way remarkable for some of these occurrences to take place in the neighbourhood of London. Yarrell records specimens shot many years ago at Coombe Wood, Wimbledon Common, Henley, and Epping. Other names for this eagle, are "erne," "cinereous eagle," and "sea eagle."

113. *Accipiter nisus* (Linn.) SPARROW HAWK.

[*Resident.*] Sparingly distributed around London, but nowhere common. It is not uncommon in Epping and Hainault Forests, often straying from thence to Ilford, and occasionally to Wanstead Park. It is also a casual visitor to Highgate Wood. It still breeds in the neighbourhood of Harrow, where I have several times disturbed the bird from old nests of the crow, etc., although I have not found the eggs. It occurs occasionally in Richmond Park, while I have frequently seen it at Epsom and Ashted, and I believe it breeds in the neighbourhood.

114. *Milvus iclinus*, Savigny. KITE.

[*Casual.*] Formerly common; in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, it was so abundant as a scavenger in the streets of London as to attract the notice of foreigners visiting this country, but for many years now it has been practically extinct in this part of England. Mr. Harting, however, records the fact that kites have been observed by the late F. Bond at Kingsbury on two occasions, once on April 3rd, 1850,

and again "about five years later" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 11).

115. *Pernis apivorus* (Linn.) HONEY BUZZARD.

[*Casual.*] A rare visitor in the summer and autumn. It has occurred during recent years in Epping Forest, when a specimen was seen by Sir T. F. Buxton, on Woodridden Hill, several times in September, 1881 (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). A specimen presented to the Natural History Museum by Mr. H. Langton was obtained at Bishop Stortford, which lies at no great distance north of Epping.

116. *Falco peregrinus*, Tunst. PEREGRINE
FALCON.

[*Casual.*] This fine species, famous in the history of falconry, is still of occasional occurrence in the vicinity of London. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me as follows:—"One of these birds was picked up wounded on the Stratford Marshes, quite close to the railway station, in January, 1889, and was recorded by me in the 'Zoologist' about that date. The specimen is in the collection of Mr. Murray,

of Stratford." Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 29) states, on the authority of a bird-stuffer, that a pair of these birds were shot close to Harrow during the Christmas holidays of 1888. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex") says:—"I have seen a female peregrine that was shot in January, 1862, at Forty Farm, in the parish of Harrow. During the second week of November, 1865, a peregrine was killed at Canon's Park, Edgware, and another seen. The following week one was shot at Stanmore, and it is supposed that these were a pair." He also mentions occurrences at Highgate, Southgate, Finchley and other places, and says that for many years a pair frequented the top of St. Paul's, where it was supposed they had a nest.

117. *Falco subbuteo*, Linn. HOBBY.

[*Casual; summer.*] A rather scarce summer visitor, although many years ago it used to breed in more than one locality near London. Mr. J. E. Harting records three eggs being taken from an old crow's nest in Pinner Wood on the 3rd

of May, 1861; he also mentions its occurrence at Harrow in 1862, and at Kingsbury on April 24th, 1863, and also at Kilburn, Primrose Hill, Bishop's Wood, and other places ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 4, 5). The hobby has also been noticed several times of recent years in Epping Forest, where a pair nested and brought off young two years (1846-47) on the Hill Hall estate (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that "there is a specimen of this bird in Mr. Murray's collection at Stratford, obtained on the Plaistow Marshes some years back." On the 5th of August, 1892, I observed a bird near Epsom which could not possibly have been other than a hobby; it was coursing over the fields near some preserves, and passed me twice at no considerable distance, thus giving me a fairly good view of it.

118. *Falco vespertinus*, Linn. RED-FOOTED
FALCON.

[*Casual.*] A very rare visitor, in spring and summer, to the British Islands; it has recently occurred on one occasion in the immediate vicinity

of London. Under date of October 6th, 1892, Mr. W. E. Dawes, of 72 Denmark Hill, Camberwell, writes as follows to the "Naturalists' Journal" for October, 1892:—"I have just finished stuffing and mounting a very rare and beautiful bird, the red-footed falcon or orange-legged hobby (*Falco rufipes*). It is a female in mature plumage, and was shot a few weeks ago at Nunhead, S.E., by Mr. T. Brown ('Young Nimrod') of the Railway Tavern, Nunhead, and it is now in his collection of British birds. . . . These birds live to a great extent (if not entirely) upon insects, a fact borne out by the contents of the crop of this specimen, in which were only the wing-cases of some beetles and what appeared to be the skins of some small caterpillars. They are no doubt harmless to young game and poultry."

119. *Falco æsalon*, Tunst. MERLIN.

[*Casual; winter.*] The merlin has its breeding haunts chiefly in the northern portions of the British Isles, but during the winter it migrates southward, and is then of occasional occurrence in the neighbour-

hood of London. In the winter of 1857 a bird-catcher netted an immature female on Hampstead Heath, and another individual was shot at Stonebridge, on the Brent, in April, 1861, and was obtained by Mr. Harting for his collection ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 6). Another example, obtained at Turnham Green, is in the Natural History Museum. The merlin is also stated to have occurred in Epping Forest during the winter.

120. *Falco tinnunculus*, Linn. KESTREL.

[*Partly resident.*] The kestrel, or wind-hover, is much the commonest raptorial bird in the neighbourhood of London. It is a not uncommon resident in the forest district, straying from thence to Ilford, Wanstead, Dagenham, etc. I have noted it occasionally in Highgate Woods, and also in Hadley Wood. In the Harrow district it is still fairly common, and a few pairs bred annually about Wembley Park, Kenton, Pinner, and other places. I saw a nest taken on May 3rd, 1891, near Kingsbury, there being only one egg in it. About Epsom and Ashted the kestrel is also not uncommon, and, I believe, breed-

ing. During the autumn and winter it is more common everywhere around London, occurring then frequently in the immediate vicinity of London.

121. *Pandion haliaetus* (Linn.) OSPREY.

[*Casual.*] To the southern and eastern coasts of England the osprey is a not unfrequent visitor during the autumn months, and it is therefore not very surprising that it should occur in the neighbourhood of London. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 2) states that on the 1st of October, 1863, a male osprey was shot near Uxbridge, in which neighbourhood it had been observed for some days before it was killed; while in September, 1865, a pair of ospreys frequented for some days a sheet of water on the estate of Mr. J. D. Taylor, of Southgate.

122. *Ardea cinerea*, Linn. COMMON HERON.

[*Resident.*] Not at all uncommon in the neighbourhood of London. There is a very old heronry in Wanstead Park, said to have numbered over 60 nests in 1890, and from which the birds make long excursions down the Thames and elsewhere; I have

often seen them on the marshy ground near Bark-ing. There is another heronry at Osterley Park, Norwood (Middlesex), and it is probable that most of the birds seen at Kingsbury Reservoir, and about Harrow, come from there. There is also a new and increasing heronry in one of the preserves in Richmond Park, the birds from which occasionally visit Putney and Fulham; in 1890 there were about thirteen nests in this heronry, all in three large trees, but the previous year there were only four or five nests.

123. *Ardea purpurea*, Linn. PURPLE HERON.

[*Casual.*] Although breeding as near to us as Holland, the purple heron is only of irregular occurrence in England, chiefly in the eastern counties. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 31) records a specimen seen, in the flesh, in 1829, in a bird-stuffer's shop at Harrow, and which was said to have been killed near Harrow. Selby mentions a bird captured "near London," but it is not known whether this refers to the above specimen or not.

124. *Ardea ralloides*, Scop. SQUACCO HERON.

[*Casual.*] A rare and irregular visitor to this country, chiefly in spring or summer. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 164) states that "a specimen of this bird was shot at Kingsbury Reservoir, in 1840, and a second example has since been obtained," the date being uncertain.

125. *Nycticorax griseus* (Linn.) NIGHT HERON.

[*Casual.*] An occasional visitor in spring and autumn. The first recorded occurrence in this country was that of an individual shot "near London" in May, 1782. The night heron is also included in a list of birds occurring at Kingsbury Reservoir, which was published in the "Zoologist" for 1843.

126. *Ardetta minuta* (Linn.) LITTLE BITTERN.

[*Casual.*] Of irregular occurrence in spring and autumn, and exceptionally in winter. Mr. Harting mentions several instances of its occurrence:—"A male shot at Elstree Reservoir in 1840; another male shot more recently at Kingsbury Reservoir; and an individual killed on the River Lea, near

Enfield, on the 18th September, 1847, and sent to the late Mr. Bond."

127. *Botaurus stellaris* (Linn.) COMMON
BITTERN.

[*Casual.*] Of rare and irregular occurrence at the present time. Quite a number of occurrences in Middlesex are on record. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 105) mentions specimens shot at Kingsbury Reservoir, Hendon, and Stanmore, in 1843 and 1856. Individuals are recorded in the "Field" as having been obtained at Eastcote, near Ruislip (1876); on the River Brent (1879); on the Brent at Perivale (1887); at Northholt (1887); at the Lower Farm, Denham, near Uxbridge (1887). An example was killed "a few years ago" near Wanstead Park, Essex (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

128. *Platalea lucorodia*, Linn. SPOONBILL.

[*Casual.*] Now of very rare occurrence in the neighbourhood of London, although Mr. Harting has drawn attention to the fact that in early times there was a breeding-place at Fulham ("Zoologist," 1886).

The same authority gives a very interesting account of the occurrence of a pair of spoonbills at the Kingsbury Reservoir, October 23rd, 1865; they were a male and female, both immature ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 166-170).

129. *Anser cinereus*, Meyer. GREY LAG-GOOSE.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence during the autumn and winter. Owing to the difficulty of getting near them, it is very often impossible to say to which species the birds seen from time to time belong. Mr. Harting mentions grey geese as having occurred several times at Kingsbury Reservoir, without having been identified, some of them probably bean geese. In the winter of 1860-61, however, two birds were shot from a "gaggle" of thirty, on the Brent, in Hendon parish, and these proved to be grey lag-geese ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 33). Two birds seen a few years ago, near Ilford, may possibly have belonged to this species, as may also a party of fourteen geese which I observed flying over the Hampstead Road last winter.

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

[*Casual.*] A rare visitor in the winter, when it sometimes visits this country in some numbers from the Continent. Mr. Harting only mentions a single instance of its occurrence in Middlesex. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," p. 33) says:—"Dr. Hamilton records a flock which 'came and settled and remained for some days in the fields below Sudbury.' Later, a bird of this species was shot by his brother (1828-32)."

131. *Bernicla ruficollis* (Pall.) RED-BREASTED
GOOSE.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence. Montagu, on the authority of Dr. Latham, states that one was shot "near London" in the severe frost of 1766. Others have since been obtained in various parts of the country, but none nearer London than Maldon, Essex, where one was taken in 1871.

132. *Bernicla brenta* (Pall.) BRENT GOOSE.

[*Casual.*] This is essentially a marine bird, and

apparently of rare occurrence in the London district. In the "Zoologist" for 1843, the late F. Bond recorded the occurrence of this species at Kingsbury Reservoir.

133. *Anas boscas*, Linn. MALLARD.

[*Partly resident.*] Quite the commonest of its family in the neighbourhood of London, being most common in the autumn and winter, although a few pairs breed in some localities annually. It is, naturally, more frequent on the eastern side, where I have seen it frequently at Dagenham Lake, Ilford, etc., in the autumn and winter, and less commonly in the spring. It also breeds annually in the forest district, and some are stated to constantly frequent Connaught Water (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). It is not uncommon on Kingsbury Reservoir in the winter, and I have also seen it near there in the spring. It also seems to breed annually at Oxhey, where several nests have been found recently ("Harrow Birds," p. 34).

134. *Anas strepera*, Linn. GADWALL.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence in the vicinity

of London. Mr. J. E. Harting mentions an adult male obtained at Kingsbury Reservoir in 1842-43 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 225).

135. *Spatula clypeata* (Linn.) SHOVELER.

[*Casual ; winter.*] An occasional winter visitor, though scarce. It has occurred at Kingsbury Reservoir, but Mr. Harting remarks that seldom more than five or six are seen at one time ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 224).

136. *Dafla acuta* (Linn.) PINTAIL DUCK.

[*Casual.*] Of very irregular occurrence in the neighbourhood of London. Mr. Harting says that it "has occasionally been killed on our reservoirs and fresh-water pools in winter, but its appearance is very uncertain" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 225).

137. *Querquedula crecca* (Linn.) TEAL.

[*Irregular ; winter.*] Chiefly known as a winter visitor to the neighbourhood of London, where it is less frequent now than formerly. A few pairs also breed from time to time in several localities. I am

informed that large numbers have sometimes been observed on the large pond in Danston Park, near Bexley. Mr. Harting states that in former years it was a regular winter visitor to Middlesex, but at the time he wrote (1866), it was very uncertain in its appearance ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 229-30). Near Harrow a nest is stated to have been found at Oxhey Pond in 1875 ("Birds of Harrow," App.)

138. *Mareca penelope* (Linn.) WIGEON.

[*Winter.*] A fairly regular winter visitor; it appears about the end of October, but is more common later in the season. It occurs almost annually on most of the larger reservoirs, etc., in Middlesex, notably Kingsbury Reservoir. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that he has a fine bird of this species in his collection which was obtained at the latter place. The wigeon has occurred in various parts of the forest district during the winter (Buxton's "Epping Forest,") and I am informed that it often frequents the lake in Danston Park, Bexley, at the same season. I have also observed it once in the autumn at Dagenham

Lake, beyond Barking, where it may possibly be of frequent occurrence.

139. **Fuligula ferina** (Linn.) POCHARD.

[*Winter.*] A somewhat scarce and irregular winter visitor to our larger reservoirs and other waters. To Middlesex, Mr. Harting says it is a "winter visitant, varying much in numbers in different years" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 235). Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that he "heard of one of these birds being seen on the waters of Wanstead Park in the year 1888."

140. **Fuligula nyroca** (Gülden.) FERRUGINOUS
DUCK.

[*Casual.*] The ferruginous or white-eyed duck is a rare visitor to this country, principally in the winter and early spring. Near London, a solitary female was shot at Kingsbury Reservoir on the 24th December, 1863 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 236).

141. **Fuligula Cristata** (Leach.) TUFTED DUCK.

[*Winter.*] A tolerably regular winter visitor to our larger waters; it, however, varies greatly in

numbers, apparently according to the severity of the season. It has often occurred at Kingsbury Reservoir, and Mr. Harting states that as many as thirty birds have been seen there at one time, during hard weather. The tufted duck has also occurred in winter at Wanstead Park.

142. **Fuligula marila** (Linn.) SCAUP DUCK.

[*Casual.*] A marine species of accidental occurrence in the vicinity of London. Mr. J. E. Harting records two killed at Kingsbury Reservoir about the same time—prior to 1843 (“Birds of Middlesex,” pp. 236, 237). A specimen from the same place in the Natural History Museum, was presented by Mr. Harting.

143. **Clangula glaucion** (Linn.) GOLDEN-EYE.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence in winter. Mr. Harting notes its occurrence on three or four occasions between 1863 and 1865 at Kingsbury Reservoir (“Birds of Middlesex,” pp. 238, 239).

144. **Ædemia nigra** (Linn.) COMMON SCOTER.

[*Casual.*] Essentially a marine bird, but it has

been known to occur on several occasions at Kingsbury Reservoir. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me as follows:—"I have a specimen in my collection shot by Mr. Broughton on the waters of the Welsh Harp, at Hendon, in December, 1890, and which was evidently blown inland during the rough weather previously." Another specimen from the same place is in the Natural History Museum, to which it was presented by Mr. J. E. Harting, who has also recorded other instances of its occurrence there.

145. *Mergus merganser*, Linn. GOOSANDER.

[*Casual.*] An occasional visitor to our waters in winter. During the winter of 1885, a party of fifteen goosanders remained on the Basin at Wanstead Park for five days (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Mr. Harting records a fine male shot at Kingsbury "several winters" previously to 1866 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 240).

146. *Mergus serrator*, Linn. RED-BREASTED
MERGANSER.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence during the winter months. It has been shot on two or three

occasions at Kingsbury Reservoir ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 248).

147. *Mergus albellus*, Linn. SMEW.

[*Casual.*] A very rare winter visitor. Mr. Harting gives three instances of its occurrence at Kingsbury Reservoir, *viz.*, a single bird shot previously to 1843; two immature males and an adult female obtained in January, 1849; and a fine old male killed in the winter of 1860-61 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 239).

148. *Columba palumbus*, Linn. RING-DOVE.

[*Resident.*] The ring-dove or wood pigeon is more or less common wherever there are woods or groves suited to its habits. It is fairly common in the forest district and in Hadley Wood; scarce in Highgate Woods; abundant in Richmond Park, Ashted Woods, and other localities; while it is more or less commonly distributed over the remaining localities. In the winter I have sometimes seen very large flocks about Ashted Woods. In the London parks it is a common bird, even more so than in some rural locali-

ties; in Hyde Park it is quite abundant and also very tame.

149. *Columba œnas*, Linn. STOCK-DOVE.

[*Partly resident.*] Rather local, but not uncommon in some localities. The birds that breed in the neighbourhood of London seem to leave us in the winter, their places then being taken by small numbers of migratory birds. It breeds not uncommonly in the forest district, and also, I am told, at Danston Park, near Bexley, where I have observed the bird on one occasion. The nest is stated to have been found near Harrow in 1888 and 1890 ("Harrow Birds," p. 37). I believe it still breeds in Richmond Park, where the bird may frequently be observed.

150. *Turtur communis*, Selby. TURTLE-DOVE.

[*May—September.*] Sparingly distributed in suitable localities during the breeding season; it almost exclusively inhabits woods and copses. It breeds in the forest district, Highgate Woods (rarely),

Perivale Wood (near Harrow), Wimbledon Common, and other localities.

151. *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* (Pall.) PALLAS'S
SAND-GROUSE.

[*Casual.*] An irregular visitor, whose visits appear to be becoming more numerous of recent years. Large numbers have reached this country from time to time, and "specimens" have been obtained in nearly every part of Great Britain, a few having been killed in the vicinity of London. In July, 1863, two male birds were killed by Mr. John Read near South Mimms, and were recorded in the "Zoologist" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 139). Mr. A. F. Gates writes me as follows:—"In 1888 a flock was seen and some specimens shot at Barkingside, and which I recorded in the 'Zoologist' at that time."

152. *Phasianus colchicus* (Linn.) PHEASANT.

[*Resident.*] A common bird in the "game" districts; not common in Middlesex owing to the absence of preserves.

153. *Perdix cinerea*, Lath. COMMON

PARTRIDGE.

[*Resident.*] More generally diffused than the last, as it is not confined to game preserves, etc., but breeds freely about the fields; it is least common in Middlesex

154. *Caccabis rufa* (Linn.) RED-LEGGED

PARTRIDGE.

[*Resident.*] A local species in the neighbourhood of London. Mr. A. F. Gates, of Stratford, writes:—"As far as my experience goes I think this bird is on the increase on the outskirts here; it certainly has, to a certain extent, driven our 'home' bird in some quarters farther afield." I have never met with the red-legged, or French partridge in Middlesex, where it seems to be scarce. Mr. Harting gives two instances of its occurrence in 1865, in which year a covey was found on Brockley Hill in October, and a brood was said to have been reared at Elstree; he, however, regards these birds as being merely stragglers from Hertfordshire ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 141.)

155. *Coturnix communis*, Bonn. QUAIL.

[*Summer; rare.*] A scarce visitor in the spring, and has been known to nest occasionally; it usually leaves us in October, but is of exceptional occurrence during the winter months. Mr. Harting records the eggs being taken near Harrow in 1842 and 1848, and also mentions a specimen obtained at Boreham Wood ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 141, 142). Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that he saw a brace of these birds rise from a ploughed field at Manor Park (Essex) in October, 1889.

156. *Crex pratensis*, Bech. LAND-RAIL.

[*May—September.*] A regular visitor and of fairly general distribution. It is, perhaps, most common in Middlesex, where its note may be heard every spring in the fields all around Harrow; there is not a vestige of a cornfield here, and, owing to its evident partiality for these quiet meadows, the name "corn-crake" seems to be a mis-nomer in this case. I have also heard it occasionally about Highgate, but it is more common further away from the suburbs. I have seen the bird on one occasion

near Lewisham, and believe it occurs annually in several places near there. Mr. H. T. Booth tells me that one was killed in the Stamford Bridge grounds (S.W.) in 1889, and considers the bird to be scarce in his district. Further away, however, as at Ewell and Epsom, I have found it to be not uncommon.

157. *Porzana maruetta* (Leach). SPOTTED
CRAKE.

[*Casual.*] A rare species in the neighbourhood of London, usually occurring between May and October. Mr. Harting gives twelve instances of its occurrence in Middlesex up to 1866 ("Birds of Middlesex"). It is of occasional occurrence in the forest district (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Although both local and scarce, the spotted crane breeds annually in East Anglia and other parts of England, but I am not aware that it has nested of recent years near London.¹

¹ This species is intermediate in size between the land rail and the little crane; it is darker in plumage than the former, and has the upper parts speckled with white.

158. *Porzana parva* (Scop.) LITTLE CRAKE.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 205) mentions one shot on the banks of the Thames, near Chelsea, about the year 1812, and Yarrell states that in May of that year another was purchased in the shop of a London poulterer. The little crane is a genuine visitor to this country, chiefly on migration, and breeds commonly over the larger part of the Continent.

159. *Rallus aquaticus*, Linn. WATER-RAIL.

[*Resident.*] A scarce bird near London; probably more frequent in winter than at any other season. It is stated to be fairly common about the Forest streams (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Mr. Harting mentions a nest found at a small pond near Kingsbury, but thinks that the water-rail is chiefly a winter visitor to Middlesex, and notes its occurrence at that season at Elstree Reservoir, on the River Brent, and near Hendon. A female bird was picked up dead by the roadside near Osterley Park, October 31st, 1890, and was recorded in the "Zoolo-

gist" for February, 1891, by Mr. Anthony Belt, of Ealing.

160. *Gallinula chloropus* (Linn.) MOOR HEN.

[*Resident.*] Common on almost every description of water; very abundant about Ilford.

161. *Fulica atra*, Linn. COOT.

[*Resident.*] A somewhat scarce and local species in the neighbourhood of London. I have frequently seen a few birds on the lakes in Ilford and Wanstead Parks, where they breed, and I have received an egg said to have been taken near Finchley. The coot still breeds at Ruislip Reservoir and perhaps others of the Middlesex reservoirs.

162. *Œdicnemus scolopax* (S. G. Gmel.) STONE
CURLEW.

[*Casual.*] An occasional visitor, chiefly on spring and autumn migration, although it sometimes occurs as late as December, even in East Anglia, while Mr. Howard Saunders says that a tolerable number pass the winter in Cornwall and South Devon ("Man.

Brit. Birds," p. 515). Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 143) only gives one instance of its occurrence in Middlesex up to 1866, this being towards the end of April, 1848, when a male bird was shot in a fallow field near Bushey Heath. In Epping Forest one was seen at Fairmead Thicket, April 21st, 1883, while a young bird was taken in the lower forest (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Mr. A. F. Gates informs me that one was shot on Hackney Marshes in December, 1889, and adds:—"They arrive in the eastern counties in April, leaving in October, therefore I think the bird being obtained so near London in December rather remarkable and worth recording. I may mention that I saw this bird within a few hours after its having been killed." The occurrence of the bird as late as December, however, although exceptional, is by no means unknown. The species is also sometimes known as the "great plover," "Norfolk plover," or "thicknee."

163. *Cursorius gallicus* (J. F. Gmel.) CREAM-
COLOURED COURSER.

[*Casual.*] A very rare and irregular visitor to

this country. Mr. A. F. Gates sends me the following particulars of one of these birds which was shot on Hackney Marshes (close to the Essex boundary) on October the 19th, 1858, and recorded in both the "Field" and "Zoologist" at the time:—

"It was followed for some time by a man who was shooting with a muzzle-loader, but having exhausted his supply of caps, he ran into the White House Inn to borrow a fresh supply, and having told the landlord that there was a strange bird about, they both went in pursuit. The day being very windy and stormy, the bird had not gone many yards from where it was first seen, and the landlord had the good fortune to shoot it. This man's name was Beresford, and the same inn is still kept on by his widow, who has this bird, amongst several others, on view. Cooper, of Radnor Street, St. Luke's, preserved the bird, and I believe large sums of money were offered for it at the time."

164. *Eudromias morinellus* (Linn.) DOTTEREL.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence during the spring and autumn migrations, when the bird is on

its way to or from its northern breeding-grounds. In April, 1859, a small 'trip' of these birds appeared on Burnt Oak Farm, in the parish of Kingsbury ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 146).

165. *Ægialitis hiaticula* (Linn.) RINGED PLOVER.

[*On migration.*] The "ringed dotterel," "stone-hatch" or "sandlark" is a fairly regular visitor during spring and autumn migrations, when it occurs at Kingsbury Reservoir and other congenial localities.

166. *Ægialitis curonica* (J. F. Gmel.) LITTLE
RINGED PLOVER.

[*Casual.*] An extremely rare visitor to this country. Only five genuine examples have been obtained in this country, and two of these were shot at Kingsbury Reservoir, where Mr. R. H. Mitford killed an immature male on the 20th of August, 1864, while on the 30th of the same month Mr. Harting also obtained an immature bird.¹

¹ Several other birds, which have been recorded as examples of this species, have been proved to belong to the smaller and brighter-plumaged form of *Æ. hiaticula* (ringed plover) which visits us in spring from the south of

167. *Charadrius pluvialis*, Linn. GOLDEN
PLOVER.

[*Winter.*] A winter visitor, although perhaps most frequent during the spring and autumn migrations. Near Ilford, I have noted it on both migrations, and small parties are also usually to be seen throughout the winter. A pair obtained at Epping by the late H. Doubleday are now in the Natural History Museum. It also visits the neighbourhood of Kingsbury and Harrow in some numbers during the winter, although, apparently, less commonly than it is stated to have been formerly. Last winter, I twice saw this bird on some low-lying ground near Ashted Woods.

168. *Squatarola helvetica* (Linn.) GREY
PLOVER.

[*On migration.*] A scarce visitor on migration; I do not know of its occurrence in the winter. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that in the spring of 1890, a

Europe. The differences between this form and the true little ringed plover will be found summarised in Mr. Howard Saunder's "Manual of British Birds," p. 526.

flock of these birds settled on the Stratford Marshes, and one was shot and was seen by him in the flesh. It is stated to have occurred by the River Roding in late autumn (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). In the Natural History Museum is a specimen obtained by H. Doubleday at Epping.

169. *Vanellus vulgaris*, Bech. LAPWING.

[*Resident.*] This is by far the commonest plover at any season, and also the only one breeding in the neighbourhood of London. I have bracketed the species as "resident," but in my opinion it is not really so, for I suspect the birds that breed near London wander from us in the winter, and the large flocks that may then be observed are all immigrant birds, and I have particularly observed that the birds which breed with us invariably make their appearance some time in March. I have found the lapwing breeding commonly in the unfrequented meadows around Harrow, Kingsbury and Edgware. A few also breed at Trent Park (near Barnet), also near the remnant of Hainault Forest and at Fairmead Bottom, Epping Forest, and a few pairs breed

on Epsom and Ashtead Commons in Surrey. Very large flocks frequent the fields about Ilford and Romford throughout the winter. The bird is also known as the "peewit" from its familiar and most usual note.

170. *Streptilas interpres* (Linn.) TURNSTONE.

[*Casual.*] A shore-frequenting bird, of very rare occurrence inland. On the 24th August, 1864, Mr. Harting came across one of these birds at Kingsbury Reservoir, while the keeper informed him that many years ago he had killed two late in autumn at the same reservoir ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 157, 158).

171. *Hæmatopus ostralegus*, Linn. OYSTER-CATCHER.

[*Casual.*] Another shore-lover, but which is occasionally found on inland waters. Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 159) mentions one shot by the late F. Bond at Kingsbury Reservoir in July, 1859, and another killed at Elstree Reservoir early in April, 1866.

172. *Recurvirostra avocetta*, Linn. AVOCET.

[*Casual.*] Eighty or ninety years ago the avocet nested commonly in many parts of the English coasts, but the combined efforts of the agriculturist, the collector, and the artificial fly-dresser proved too much for it, and at the present time it is merely an irregular visitor to our shores. In the neighbourhood of London it is naturally of very rare occurrence, but in May, 1854, a solitary bird was shot at Kingsbury Reservoir ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 182).

173. *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linn.) GREY

PHALAROPE.

[*Irregular.*] An irregular visitor, chiefly during the autumn, but occasionally in the winter or spring. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that "a fine specimen of this uncommon bird was shot on Saturday, November 8th, 1891, on the marshes adjacent to the town of Stratford; there is also a record of one killed by a stone from a boy's catapult on Wanstead Flats in November, 1888. This last bird is, I believe, in a private gentleman's collection at Forest Gate." Another specimen was shot at North Weald by

the Rev. L. Cockerell (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Mr. Harting says that the late F. Bond shot a pair at Kingsbury Reservoir in September, 1841, and another pair were shot at the same place in the winter of 1850 ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 214, 215). In October last I saw a grey phalarope in the shop of a London taxidermist which had been shot at the same reservoir about a year previously.

174. *Scolopax rusticula*, Linn. WOODCOCK.

[*Partly resident.*] Chiefly known as a winter visitor near London, but it has been known to breed in the forest district, and may, perhaps, do so annually. An old taxidermist at Ilford informed me that this bird was quite common years ago in Hainault Forest, before it was cleared, and that it was then frequently taken near Ilford, where it still occurs although more rarely. In Epping Forest, it is of fairly frequent occurrence during the winter; a specimen was shot on Hackney Marshes in November, 1891. I have observed the woodcock once, March 27th, 1891, in Hadley Wood, and Mr. B. R. Harrison, of Highgate, writes

me that he has observed it in Bishop's Wood near that place. In the neighbourhood of Harrow the woodcock is now only of occasional occurrence, although it is recorded as having been more plentiful in former years. Mr. Harting (writing in 1866) says that "Wembley Park used to be a famous place for cocks." It has also even occurred in the London parks.

175. *Gallinago major* (J. F. Gmel.) GREAT
SNIPE.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence, principally during the autumn migration. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that "one was shot near Forest Gate in November, 1889, and brought to me for identification; it was a very fine specimen." Of two specimens in the late F. Bond's collection, one was shot at Kingsbury in 1842, and the second in Hendon Fields, November, 1851; a third specimen was shot, late in the autumn of 1856, on the Brent, and another was killed on Bushey Heath ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 188).

176. *Gallinago cœlestis* (Frenzel). COMMON
SNIPE.

[*Winter.*] Not at all uncommon between October and March. A few birds visit the neighbourhood of Ilford and Wanstead and also Hackney Marshes annually, and specimens are often shot. I am informed that recently it was observed in a field near the Brent at Stonebridge Park for several successive winters; it has also been observed at that season near Harrow and in other parts of Middlesex. I believe it has been reported to breed on Wimbledon Common, but Mr. H. T. Booth, who knows the district well, informs me that he has only seen the bird there on one occasion, and that was in winter. The common snipe is also of occasional occurrence near Epsom in winter, and has even been observed in Hyde Park, while it was lately observed on the Thames at Blackfriar's Bridge. The variety known as "Sabine's snipe" is now generally regarded as a melanism of the common snipe: a bird which was believed to have belonged to this variety was shot on the

Brent in the winter of 1860-61, but was not preserved ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 187.)

177. *Gallinago gallinula*, Linn. JACK
SNIPE.

[*Winter.*] Like the last, a fairly regular winter visitor, but scarcely so common. Its distribution is substantially the same as that of the common snipe, but in Middlesex at least it seems to occur much more rarely than in former years. It appears to be tolerably frequent in the neighbourhood of Ilford and Wanstead and on Hackney Marshes.

178. *Macrorhamphus griseus* (J. F. Gmel.)
RED-BREASTED SNIPE.

[*Casual.*] Also known as brown snipe. An American species of very rare occurrence in this country. A specimen was shot on the Brent, near Stonebridge, in October, 1862, and a second, in the late F. Bond's collection, was killed, some years previously to 1866, on the banks of the Thames at Battersea ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 195).

The first-mentioned example is now in the Natural History Museum.

179. *Tringa fuscicollis*, Vieill. BONAPARTE'S
SANDPIPER.

[*Casual.*] Another American species, and of very rare occurrence in the British Isles. Mr. Harting says that a specimen from Mr. Dresser's collection, sold at Steven's in December, 1865, was labelled, "Shot by Mr. Goodair, at Kingsbury Reservoir, 1856" ("Birds of Middlesex").

180. *Tringa alpina*, Linn. DUNLIN.

[*On migration.*] A fairly regular visitor to our larger waters during the spring and autumn migrations. It often drops down on Kingsbury Reservoir, and specimens have frequently been shot there.

181. *Tringa minuta*, Leisler. LITTLE STINT.

[*On migration; casual.*] Occurs from time to time on our reservoirs and lakes during the spring and autumn migrations. A specimen in the Natural

History Museum was shot, in October, at Kingsbury Reservoir, at which place about a score of birds have been obtained. A specimen procured by H. Doubleday at Epping is also in the same museum.

182. *Tringa temmincki*, Leisler. TEMMINCK'S
STINT.

[*Casual.*] Occurs, at intervals, in spring and autumn at the larger reservoirs, etc. At Kingsbury Reservoir, two examples were obtained in the spring of 1839, while several others occurred in the autumn of the same year; another specimen was taken in May, 1859, and one on the 31st August, 1861 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 200). A specimen from the same place is in the Natural History Museum.

183. *Tringa subarquata* (Güld.) CURLEW-
SANDPIPER.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence on migration, chiefly in autumn. Mr. Harting mentions six or seven instances of its occurrence at Kingsbury Reservoir between the years 1844 and 1865, chiefly in the month of September. A specimen obtained at

Epping by Doubleday is in the Natural History Museum.

184. *Tringa canutus*, Linn. KNOT.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence on migration or in winter. I have seen a specimen stated to have been shot near Ilford. It is of casual occurrence at Kingsbury Reservoir ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 196).

185. *Calidris arenaria* (Linn.) SANDERLING.

[*Casual.*] A rare visitor during migration. The occurrence of one at Kingsbury Reservoir was recorded in the "Zoologist" for 1844 by the late F. Bond, while two others were obtained at the same reservoir about ten years later (*Op. cit.*, p. 156).

186. *Machetes pugnax* (Linn.) RUFF.

[*Casual.*] A rare visitor during the migrations. It appears to have been of more frequent occurrence at Kingsbury Reservoir formerly than it is at the present time, for Mr. Harting says that between 1838 (when the reservoir was formed) and 1866

about a dozen of the birds were killed there ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 184). The female is termed the "reeve," the name "ruff" belonging to the male bird.

187. *Totanus hypoleucus* (Linn.) COMMON
SANDPIPER.

[*On migration.*] The common sandpiper or summer snipe annually visits our brooks and reservoirs on its passage to and from its northern breeding-grounds. It usually makes its first appearance about the end of April, and, after a short stay, it leaves us again until the end of July; the earliest date I have noted it on the Brent, in spring, is April 26th, and in summer, July 21st. It occurs on most of the larger streams around London, and Mr. Gates writes me that he has frequently observed it on the lakes in Wanstead Park. A pair are even stated to have been observed in Kensington Gardens in June, 1890. The note is a shrill and rapidly-uttered *peet, peet, peet*, and the flight is swift and erratic.

188. **Totanus glareola** (J. F. Gmel.) Wood

SANDPIPER.

[*Casual.*] A rare visitor to our larger reservoirs in autumn. The late F. Bond obtained five birds at Kingsbury Reservoir, while Mr. Harting saw one at the same place on the 4th August, 1863, just after it was killed, and he also mentions two more from the same locality in the collection of Mr. Minasi ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 178). A specimen in the Natural History Museum was obtained at the same reservoir, but no date is given, and it may perhaps be one of the above-mentioned specimens.

189. **Totanus ochropus** (Linn.) GREEN

SANDPIPER.

[*On migration.*] Occurs during the spring and autumn migrations on several of our larger streams. I have observed it on the Brent at Stonebridge Park on the 2nd May, and it also occurs in other parts of Middlesex; in the Natural History Museum is a specimen from Kingsbury Reservoir, while there are also a pair from Epping which were procured by Doubleday. During migration

the bird frequently occurs on some of the forest streams. Mr. Harting states that it has occasionally been killed in December and January ("Birds of Middlesex").

190. *Totanus calidris* (Linn.) COMMON REDSHANK.

[*Casual.*] An occasional visitor to our reservoirs, etc., in spring or autumn. Mr. Harting mentions its occurrence at Kingsbury Reservoir in April, 1865, and May and August, 1863 (*Op. cit.*, p. 172). A specimen in the Natural History Museum from the same place was obtained in August. I believe this species also visits Dagenham Lake, beyond Barking.

191. *Totanus fuscus* (Linn.) SPOTTED REDSHANK.

[*Casual.*] Of rare occurrence in autumn and spring. At Kingsbury Reservoir, a fine bird, in breeding plumage, was killed in June, 1841, and a second example obtained in August, 1859, while another individual, in winter plumage, was shot at Stonebridge, on the Brent, in 1849 ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 171, 172).

192. *Totanus canescens* (J. F. Gmel.) GREEN-
SHANK.

[*Casual.*] A rare and irregular visitor during the spring and autumn migrations. Mr. Harting mentions the occurrences of ten birds at or near Kingsbury Reservoir between 1839 and 1863, in the months of August and September, and he also flushed a greenshank from a small pond between Kingsbury and Stanmore in August, 1864 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 180).

193. *Limosa lapponica* (Linn.) BAR-TAILED
GODWIT.

[*Casual.*] A rare and uncertain visitor in spring or autumn. In May, 1851, a fine example, in full summer plumage, was shot at Kingsbury Reservoir, while four more birds were seen there on the 29th of April, 1863 ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 183, 184).

194. *Limosa belgica* (J. F. Gmel.) BLACK-TAILED
GODWIT.

[*Casual.*] Of very rare occurrence at the present day, although it may have been more frequent

formerly. Yarrell mentions three occurrences at Kingsbury Reservoir in spring, and its occurrence there is also recorded in the "Zoologist" for 1843 (*Op. cit.*, p. 183). In the early part of the century this godwit still bred in several parts of the eastern counties.

195. *Numenius arquata* (Linn.) COMMON CURLEW.

[*Casual.*] Of occasional occurrence in spring or autumn. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that "two of these birds were shot on the Hackney Marshes after rough weather during the present year (1892) and were sent to a local taxidermist for preservation. It has been seen several times about Epping Forest, and one was killed at Copped Hall (Buxton's "Epping Forest"); and it has also been observed occasionally near Harrow and in other parts of Middlesex.

196. *Numenius phæopus* (Linn.) WHIMBREL.

[*Casual.*] A rare visitor at irregular intervals; I have never observed it nearer London than the mouth of the Thames. It has been shot or seen

on four occasions at Kingsbury Reservoir between 1850 and 1866 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 171).

197. *Hydrochelidon nigra* (Linn.) BLACK TERN.

[*Spring and autumn.*] Occurs on the Thames in spring and autumn, though not common; it also visits the larger reservoirs, etc. Two specimens killed on the Thames are in the Natural History Museum.

198. *Sterna fluviatilis*, Naum. COMMON TERN.

[*Spring and autumn.*] Occurs on the Thames and the larger reservoirs, etc., during the spring and autumn. This is the commonest of the terns which visit us, and it has even been noticed occasionally on the Serpentine in Hyde Park.

199. *Sterna macrura*, Naum. ARCTIC TERN.

[*Spring and autumn.*] Like the last, this tern visits the neighbourhood of London in the spring and autumn, but it is never so common.

200. *Sterna minuta*, Linn. LITTLE TERN.

[*On migration.*] Of irregular occurrence on the spring and autumn migrations, but it is not at all common.

201. *Xema sabinii* (J. Sabine). SABINE'S GULL.

[*Casual.*] This gull has its breeding-grounds in the Arctic regions, migrating southward in winter, when it occasionally occurs in the British Islands. Mr. Harting records a bird killed near Blackwall in September, 1862 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 251).

202. *Larus minutus*, Pall. LITTLE GULL.

[*Casual*] Of rare occurrence in the vicinity of London, although it occurs in some numbers from time to time, during winter, on the east coast of England. The first recognised occurrence of the little gull in this country was that of a young bird shot on the Thames, near Chelsea, prior to 1813, and described by Montague. Mr. Harting mentions another, shot in the spring of 1863 while flying over the Thames in Blackwall Reach ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 254).

203. *Larus ridibundus*, Linn. BLACK-HEADED
GULL.

[*Winter.*] Of frequent occurrence during the spring and autumn migrations, while it often visits us in flocks during the winter, it being naturally most abundant on the eastern side, as at Ilford, Dagenham Lake, etc., at which places I have come across numbers of this gull during the autumn and winter. On the 7th of December, 1890, I observed very large flocks of gulls in the fields about Ilford, composed of various species of gulls, the black-headed gull, however, forming a considerable proportion, while I also recognised herring gulls and kittiwakes. Black-headed gulls have also occasionally visited Kingsbury Reservoir, the Serpentine in Hyde Park, and other places.

204. *Larus melanocephalus*, Natt. MEDITER-
RANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL.

[*Casual.*] Quite of accidental occurrence in this country. In the Natural History Museum is an immature example said to have been shot in January, 1866, near Barking Creek on the Thames, and

identified by Mr. Howard Saunders in 1871. There seems to be no reason for doubting the authenticity of this occurrence, and I have therefore included this bird in the present work on the strength of it. (See Mr. Saunder's remarks in his "Man. Brit. Birds," p. 651). A second example was obtained a few years ago at Breydon Broad, Norfolk.

205. *Larus canus*, Linn. COMMON GULL.

[*Winter.*] Not at all a common species, although occurring occasionally up the Thames and in various localities around London, it having occurred now and then in the London Parks ; I have observed it once in St. James' Park in March. Mr. Harting mentions the occurrence, prior to 1866, of three birds at Kingsbury Reservoir and a flock at Bushey Park. In winter the common gull has the head and nape spotted and streaked with greyish-brown, which renders it easy of recognition.

206. *Larus argentatus*, J. F. Gmel. HERRING
GULL.

[*Winter.*] Of not uncommon occurrence in winter

on the eastern side, and frequently straying up the Thames. I have often seen small numbers of herring gulls, in company with other species, about Ilford, Barking, and Dagenham Lake, during the autumn and winter, but in every case they were immature birds. On the 24th of May, 1891, I saw one of these birds in a ploughed field near Wimbledon Common; it seemed to be in mature plumage, and from its manner it was either exhausted or injured in some way.

207. *Larus fuscus*, Linn. LESSER BLACK-BACKED
GULL.

[*Casual.*] A rare bird in the neighbourhood of London, but occasionally occurring in autumn or winter, chiefly after rough weather. It has occurred at Kingsbury Reservoir on two or three occasions ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 281).

208. *Larus marinus*, Linn. GREAT BLACK-BACKED
GULL.

[*Casual.*] This fine species is of rare occurrence in the vicinity of London, but examples, usually imma-

ture, have been taken or observed from time to time. Mr. J. E. Harting states that the late F. Bond shot an old bird of this species, many years previously to 1866, at Kingsbury Reservoir, while a large immature grey gull seen there in 1862, and two more seen in 1864, were probably of this species ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 263).

209. *Rissa tridactyla* (Linn.) KITTIWAKE GULL.

[*Irregular.*] A somewhat irregular visitor, chiefly after rough weather. I have observed it in winter, near Ilford, in company with other species, and have seen a few at Dagenham Lake in autumn. It has also been occasionally noticed in the forest district after stormy weather (Buxton's "Epping Forest"). Mr. Harting mentions it as occasionally occurring at Kingsbury and Elstree Reservoirs after strong easterly winds ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 259). The kittiwake has also been noticed more than once on the Serpentine in Hyde Park.

210. *Stercorarius pomatorhinus* (Temm.)

POMATORHINE SKUA.

[*Casual.*] A rare and irregular visitor. Mr.

Harting mentions one shot near Kingsbury prior to 1843, another killed near Harrow in 1841, and a third found dead "more recently" in Wembley Park, while another example was shot on the Thames, towards the mouth, in August, 1862 ("Birds of Middlesex").

211. *Stercorarius crepidatus* (J. F. Gmel.)

ARCTIC OR RICHARDSON'S SKUA.

[*Casual.*] Of rare and occasional occurrence during migration. Several examples have been shot on the Thames, while in the autumn of 1842 four young birds of the year were shot at Kingsbury Reservoir ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 270). In the Natural History Museum there is an immature example from Gravesend.

212. *Fratercula arctica* (Linn.) PUFFIN.

[*Casual.*] Of accidental occurrence during stormy weather. Lord Lilford has recorded one that was captured, May 16th, 1885, in a bedroom of the house of Sir John Walrond in Brook Street, Grosvenor Square.

213. *Colymbus arcticus*, Linn. BLACK-THROATED
DIVER.

[*Casual.*] A very rare visitor, and of quite exceptional occurrence in the neighbourhood of London. A specimen in the Natural History Museum was obtained years ago at Fulham and presented by W. J. Broderip. Mr. Harting states that a young male was shot by the late F. Bond at Kingsbury Reservoir, in the winter of 1843.

214. *Colymbus septentrionalis*, Linn. RED-
THROATED DIVER.

[*Casual ; winter.*] A rare bird, but of more frequent occurrence than the last. Mr. Harting says that in winter birds of this species have often been seen, and occasionally shot, at Kingsbury Reservoir ("Birds of Middlesex," pp. 245, 246). In January, 1877, an immature bird was seen on Wanstead Basin (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

215. *Podiceps cristatus* (Linn.) GREAT CRESTED
GREBE.

[*Winter.*] A not unfrequent visitor to our reser-

voirs and larger ponds, chiefly during the early part of the year; I do not know of its having bred anywhere in the neighbourhood of London. Mr. A. F. Gates informs me that the great crested grebe has been seen, at rare intervals, on the water in Wanstead Park. It has also been seen once or twice of recent years on the ponds in Richmond Park. Mr. Harting gives four instances of its occurrence, previously to 1866, at Kingsbury Reservoir, during February and March.

216. *Podicipes griseigena* (Bodd.) RED-NECKED
GREBE.

[*Casual.*] A rare and accidental visitor. Mr. A. F. Gates writes me as follows concerning it:—
“During the year 1877 news was brought me that one of these birds was to be seen on the water at Finnis’s Park at Wanstead, yet although I went some few times I was unable to see it, but have every reason to believe that it was seen there, as my informant was well-acquainted with these birds.”
This latter surmise appears to be correct, as it is recorded elsewhere (Buxton’s “Epping Forest”) that

in February, 1877, one of these birds was a week on the Basin at Wanstead Park.

217. *Podiceps nigricollis*, C. L. Brehm. BLACK-
NECKED OR EARED GREBE.

[*Casual.*] A rare and irregular visitor. Two specimens were obtained at Kingsbury Reservoir in 1841, and its subsequent occurrence at the same place was recorded in the "Zoologist" for 1843 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 244).

218. *Podiceps fluviatilis* (Tunst.) LITTLE
GREBE.

[*Partly resident.*] Most common during migration or in winter, it being comparatively rare as a breeding-species near London. I believe it breeds in Wanstead Park, where the bird may frequently be seen, and it even nests in some of the London parks, particularly in St. James' Park. Col. Bridgeman states that a nest was found near Oxhey, in 1875 ("Birds of Harrow"). This year (1893) I have found it breeding not uncommonly on Epsom and Esher Commons. Mr.

A. F. Gates writes me that he has occasionally observed it on Hackney Marshes.

219. *Puffinus anglorum* (Temm.) MANX

SHEARWATER.

[*Casual.*] Of quite accidental occurrence in the vicinity of London. Mr. G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton ("Harrow Birds," add.) gives the following instance of its occurrence near Harrow:—"Through the kindness of Mr. D. Meinertzhagen, of Harrow School, I have been able to examine a specimen of this bird, which was caught by a workman in a field at Greenwell, near Sudbury, while being chased by rooks. . . . It was caught on September 22nd, 1891, and died on September 27th."

220. *Cymochorea leucorrhoa* (Vieill.) FORK-

TAILED PETREL.

[*Casual.*] An American species which appears to have considerably increased its numbers on this side of the Atlantic during the last half-century. It is, however, of only accidental occurrence in the neighbourhood of London. Mr. Harting

mentions one caught alive, in an exhausted state, by a man at work on the high road between Edgware and Stanmore, on the 4th January, 1850, and a second, shot near Bow Creek, in March, 1864 ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 271). Mr. A. F. Gates writes me that "a specimen of this uncommon bird was shot from the river wall, close to Barking Town, in 1874." This species is also sometimes known as "Leach's petrel."

221. *Procellaria pelagica*, Linn. STORM PETREL.

[*Casual.*] This well-known little wanderer is another accidental visitor of rare occurrence. It has occasionally occurred on the Thames, and Mr. Harting ("Birds of Middlesex") mentions one shot in November, 1824, between Blackfriars and Westminster Bridges, and another caught in October, 1857, on the Edgware Road, near Paddington.

APPENDIX.

28a. *Accentor collaris* (Scop.) ALPINE ACCENTOR.

ONE of these birds, the first taken in England, was shot in August, 1817, on the border of Epping Forest, near Walthamstow, by James Pamplin of Walthamstow, and was subsequently identified by Gould.

46a. *Anthus richardi*, Vieill. RICHARD'S PIPIT.

Occurred "near London" in 1812 (Vigors) and in 1836 (Gould, "Birds of Europe").

60a. *Serinus hortulanus*, K. L. Koch. SERIN.

Mr. Howard Saunders states that one or two examples have been obtained "near London" ("Man. Brit. Birds," p. 169).

* * *Pyrrhocorax graculus* (Linn.) CHOUGH.

A few months ago I heard of a chough being

knocked over with a stone at Balham and taken to a taxidermist's shop ; it was an old bird, and I could only surmise that it had escaped from captivity.

92*a*. *Alauda brachydactyla*, Leisl. SHORT-TOED
LARK.

In the Natural History Museum is a specimen labelled "Orpington, Kent. May, 1884. Presented by Theo. Fisher."

101*a*. *Merops apiaster*, Linn. BEE-EATER.

A very rare visitor at long intervals. Mr. Harting has seen a stuffed specimen said to have been killed many years ago between Kingsbury and Hampstead ; he could obtain no further particulars as to its capture ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 121). It is also stated to have been observed at Wanstead, Essex (Buxton's "Epping Forest").

108*a*. *Scops giu* (Scop.) SCOPS OWL.

"One example of this little owl was taken some time since near London" (Yarrell, "British Birds").

108*b*. **Bubo ignavus**, T. Forster. EAGLE OWL.

In the "Zoologist," Mr. Thos. Hall writes that "on the 3rd November, 1845, my father preserved for Mr. Burgess, Temple House, Hampstead, a female specimen of the great horned owl (*Strix bubo*). It was caught, after much trouble, in a hedge near the house, and was kept for some time until it died,"—it having been severely wounded in the wing ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 13).

111*a*. **Aquila chrysaetus** (Linn.) GOLDEN EAGLE.

Authenticated instances of the occurrence of this fine bird are extremely rare; for although records are not wanting, they very probably refer to immature examples of the white-tailed eagle, and not long since a reported golden eagle turned out to be a rough-legged buzzard! Mr. Harting states that "During the autumn of 1859, a gentleman well acquainted with the bird saw a golden eagle on the wing in the neighbourhood of Barnet, and the following week the capture of one in Kent was reported. He conjectures that it was the same bird" ("Birds of Middlesex," p. 1). A specimen (measuring seven feet six inches across the wings) is reported to have

been obtained two years ago at Waltham Cross :
vide daily papers of January 15th, 1891.

* * **Bernicla canadensis** (Linn.) CANADA GOOSE.

The Canada goose is not now recognised as a true visitor to the British Islands, it having been domesticated in this country for upwards of two centuries. Two of the birds were shot by the late F. Bond many years ago on Kingsbury Reservoir.

132*a*. **Cygnus olor** (J. F. Gmel.) MUTE SWAN.

Occurs in a semi-domesticated condition on the Thames, etc. An adult male, shot at Kingsbury Reservoir in 1888, is in the Natural History Museum.

* * **Tringoides macularius** (Linn.) SPOTTED
SANDPIPER.

A specimen in the Natural History Museum is labelled : "Kingsbury Reservoir. Bond Collection." The latest worker, Mr. Howard Saunders, however, does not include the species in the British list, on the ground that there is insufficient evidence of its capture in this country. (See his remarks in his "Manual of British Birds," p. 592.)

THE END.

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