

With compliments.

R. B. S.

NOTES ON BIRDS
OF SANDBACH, S.E. CHESHIRE.

R. B. SIBSON, M.A.

ARBROATH :

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Notes on Birds of Sandbach, S. E. Cheshire.

By R. B. SIBSON, M.A.

(With Map.)

The following paper has been sent to me for publication by Mr R. B. Sibson, who is now in New Zealand. I have added notes made since 1939 by Mr F. J. Brown (F.J.B.) and one or two by Captain K. C. Crosbie (K.C.C.) and myself (A.W.B.), so as to bring the paper as much up to date as possible. The most serious change in the district since Mr Sibson's paper was compiled has been the loss of Crewe Hall Pool; during the thaw in February 1945 after a bitter frost a breach was made in the dam and the pool was emptied, and unfortunately the present owners, the Duchy of Lancaster, have decided not to mend the breach, but to use the bed of the pool for agriculture.

A. W. BOYD.

INTRODUCTION.

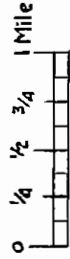
The observations recorded in this paper were made over a period of nearly four years between September 1935 and July 1939. I was always away for three weeks in April, for the whole of August and for the last week of ~~December~~ ^{December}. Otherwise the records cover all months of the year. I am grateful to Messrs A. W. Boyd and F. J. Brown, who kindly sent me their notes of birds seen in the vicinity of the flashes, and such notes are marked by their initials. and the first fortnight of January

Sandbach is situated some forty miles from the sea towards the S.E. edge of the Cheshire plain. The district lacks any outstanding hills and rises gradually from 120 feet above sea level at Warmingham to 300 feet at Rode. The limits of the area under survey are roughly, to the north, Holmes Chapel; to the north east, Davenport; to the east, Brookhouse; to the south east, Rode Pool; to the south, Oak-hanger Moss and Crewe Hall; to the south west, Maw Green; to the west, Warmingham; and to the north west, Middlewich. Of course, it was not possible or indeed worth while to pay equal attention to all sections of this area. For instance, the country lying between Sandbach and the Middlewich-Holmes Chapel road was of the type not likely to provide any but the species usually found in flat farming country with no features more distinctive than open fields, coppices and marlpits. On the other hand, a stretch of heathland like Breerton, supporting more specialised species such as Willow Tit, Nightjar and Woodcock, and with the morass of Bagmere beside it, called for more regular visiting and closer examination.

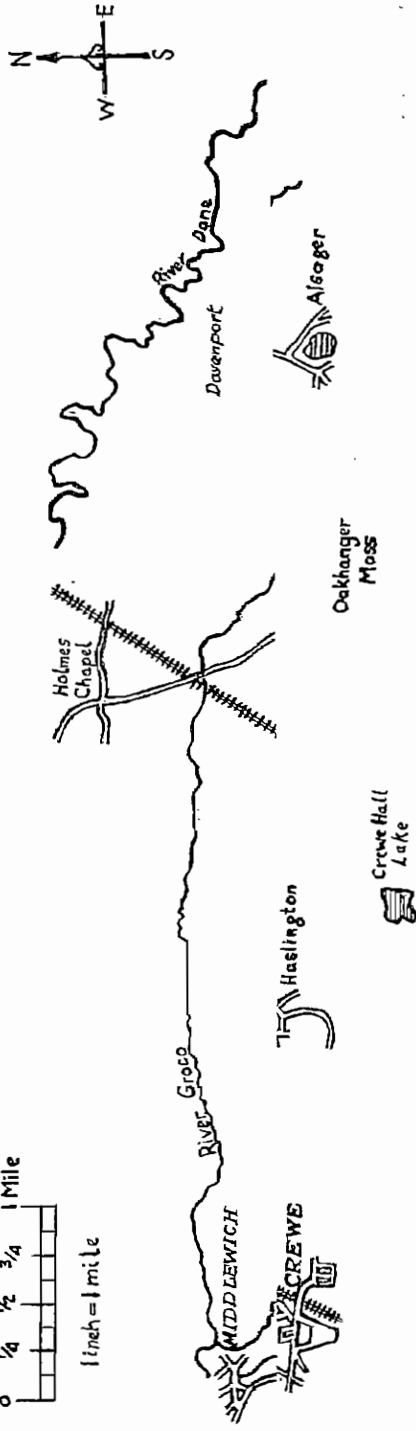
For the most part the land in this district is given over to dairy farming. The fields are divided by hawthorn hedges with oak and ash

WILLOW TIT IN SANDBACH DISTRICT

- ▲ Regular breeding place.
- Probably a regular breeding locality.
- X Noted in winter, but no evidence of breeding, although the country is quite suitable.
- + CORNCRAKE heard here.
- ≠ GRASSHOPPER WARBLER breeding here.



1 inch = 1 mile



growing among them. There is a certain amount of arable, growing corn, potatoes, greens and roots; but this forms only a small proportion of the whole. Though there are no really extensive woods, small copses are numerous. Here and there as at Brookhouse an isolated patch of primaevial peat-moss with its typical vegetation, survives.

A characteristic feature of this part of Cheshire is the "flashes," pools of comparatively recent formation caused by the land's sinking owing to brine-pumping. These flashes, most of which are increasing in size, form in hollows where streams run. There are several of them between Sandbach and Warrington; and it was around these that I made most of my observations on waders, ducks and gulls. Besides the flashes, the area contains lakes of some size at Brereton, Rode, Alsager and Crewe Hall.

There are at least seven flashes (labelled Elton A, B, C, D, E, F, G in the systematic list and on the accompanying map), which are attractive to waterfowl. In the centre of the group are Elton B and C, which, though separated by a clinker road, are really one pool of some ten acres. The water level varies considerably and is apt to change quickly. After prolonged rain the road is submerged and Elton B and C become one pool. When the water sinks a long, sandy muddy spit is exposed in Elton C, a tempting feeding-ground for migrant waders. Among its more distinguished visitors are Kentish Plover, Ruff and Black-tailed Godwit. This pool has another advantage during a hard frost. Where the River Wheelock enters it, the force of the current keeps the water open, so that Elton C may remain the only ice-free water of any extent in the district. Around the pool there is an abundance of cover. Sandpipers breed here and in winter it is a perfect haunt for teal and snipe.

Half a mile up the valley of the Fowle Brook, now somewhat polluted by sewage, is another flash, Elton A. It lies off the beaten track, and is often thickly covered with waterfowl. It has shallow edges and when it floods and submerges its grassy verges, it is an ideal haunt for surface-feeding ducks. Wigeon especially come here in large numbers. Shoveler have bred; Goosander, Pintail and Garganey are something more than irregular visitors; two Bewick's Swans spent six weeks here in 1939. There is a close connection between this pool and Crewe Hall. Birds disturbed at the one place often make for the other. This pool also has a sandy spit which attracts passing waders. Its rarer visitors include Ruff, Oystercatcher and Turnstone.

Elton D, locally known as Killarney, has shallow, grassy edges. In winter it is popular with both surface-feeding and diving ducks, especially Pochard. In December 1938 two Bewick's Swans visited it briefly; and it was here that I saw some puzzling Wagtails in June 1938. Great Crested Grebes have nested successfully in a partially submerged hawthorn hedge.

Warrington flash is about half a mile long and only some fifty yards wide. It is not much favoured by ducks or waders, but in the cover of a fringe of Bulrush, *Typha latifolia* L., along one side, Great Crested Grebes bred very successfully.

Rode Pool always has Pochard and Tufted Duck in winter. Goldeneye, Snew and Red-necked Grebe are occasional visitors.

The best of all the duck pools was at Crewe Hall. Goosander and Goldeneye were among its regular visitors, and if it was a "Snew winter," they would most likely be there.

It was not only for the waterfowl and waders that the Elton flashes repaid careful and frequent observation. They evidently lie on a "well worn" migration route, perhaps one leading from the Severn across the Pennines to the North Sea. Although the passage of waders is most marked, migrational movements of Pipits, Wagtails, Wheat-ears, Swallows, Martins, Swifts and even Terns are noted there.

Among the rarer breeding birds of the districts are Tree Sparrow, Nuthatch, Willow Tit, Grasshopper Warbler, Whinchat, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Nightjar, Teal, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Corncrake. The Willow Tit is one of the most characteristic birds of the streams and little damp woods that abound in this part of Cheshire. On the other hand, the Marsh Tit is scarce and local. I could only find it on the edge of my area at Crewe Hall, Moreton, and further afield at Redesmere. Although the Garden Warbler is reasonably common, the Black-cap is included on the strength of a single bird, seen on the edge of my area near Middlewich.

Notable absentees are Siskin (despite the prevalence of alders along the streams and alder-birch mosses such as Brookhouse), Woodwarbler, Stonechat and Green Woodpecker. The nearest Green Woodpecker I found was between Winsford and Vale Royal; but the species has since occurred at Crewe Hall. I was always hoping to see a Black Tern on passage at the flashes, but never did, and although a Red-necked Grebe appeared at Rode Pool, I was never lucky enough to find either of the two more frequent visitors to the meres of Cheshire, Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes.

Since I left Sandbach Mr F. J. Brown has added three waders to the already long Elton list, Knot (3), 21st October 1939; Sanderling, 6th August 1941; Spotted Redshank (2), 18th August 1941; and on 4th June 1941 he found five Black Terns at Crewe Hall.

The list of birds to be found in the Sandbach district now stands at well over 130—a fine tally for an inland locality.

SYSTEMATIC LIST.

HOODED CROW. *Corvus c. cornix* L. This rare visitor to the county was once recorded, feeding with Rooks near Elton D, 30th January 1938. One near Elton C, 4th February 1941 (F.J.B.).

CARRION CROW. *Corvus c. corone* L. Generally distributed.

ROOK. *Corvus f. frugilegus* L. Common. At Wheelock some nests were in Lombardy Poplars.

JACKDAW. *Corvus monedula spermologus* Vieill. Common.

MAGPIE. *Pica p. pica* (L.). Common. Nesting in tall hawthorn hedges.

JAY. *Garrulus glandarius rufitergum* Hart. Seldom seen far from woods. No evidence of any irruption or large-scale movement.

- STARLING.** *Sturnus v. vulgaris* L. Very common. Big increase in winter. Many Starlings ringed in Cheshire in winter have been recovered in Baltic countries, one marked at Crewe (F.J.B.), 1st January 1940, was recovered at Wieringen, Holland, 25th March 1940, proving that many of our winter birds come from abroad. A huge roost at Groby Wood, near Coppenhall. Even during the breeding season considerable numbers flew in at dusk, e.g., tens of thousands by mid-July 1939.
- GREENFINCH.** *Chloris c. chloris* (L.). Common.
- GOLDFINCH.** *Carduelis c. britannica* (Hart.). I found this bird so rare that I give its appearance in full. 29th September 1935, 2, Elton; 27th September 1936, 2, Elton; 18th October 1936, 1, near Wheelock; 28th November 1937, 2+, near Elton; 29th January 1939, 1, near Elton. I never found it during the breeding season, though it has bred at Nantwich, 10 miles away. From the above records, it would seem to be a casual winter visitor.
- LESSER REDPOLL.** *Carduelis flammae cabaret* (P. L. S. Müll). Well distributed as a breeding bird. A nest found at Smallwood on 10th May 1938 had fully fledged young. I never came across big flocks in winter, which is rather curious as alders line all the streams, and there are birch mosses. In fact, I noted Lesser Redpolls more often in the breeding season than at other times.
- LINNET.** *Carduelis c. cannabina* (L.). Fairly common as a breeding bird, returning to the hedgerows from mid-March onwards.
- BULLFINCH.** *Pyrrhula p. nesa* Math. and Ired. A rare bird in this district. Only twice noted in the breeding season at Bradwall Green, 1936, and Forge Mill, 1938. Otherwise a winter visitor, either single birds or pairs, to the hedgerows: e.g., November 1936, November 1937, January and October 1938.
- CROSSBILL.** *Loxia c. curvirostra* L. Alan James saw some in a plantation of young conifers near Taxmere during the 1935 irruption.
- CHAFFINCH.** *Fringilla coelebs gangleri* Kleinschmidt. Common. Regularly started to sing in mid-February—earliest date 14th—and in full song by the last week of the month.
- BRAMBLING.** *Fringilla montifringilla* L. Only once, a ♀ among a flock of chaffinches, 19th November 1937. About 12 at Crewe Hall, 3rd January 1941 (K.C.C.).
- YELLOWHAMMER.** *Emberiza c. citrinella* L. Common. Started singing in mid-February—earliest date 13th. Many still singing at the end of July. Small flocks up to 20 noted in winter.
- REED-BUNTING.** *Emberiza s. schœniclus* (L.). Widely distributed as a breeding bird along streams, beside pools and in swamps and mosses. Moved away in winter, when there was a clear gap of three months during which I never saw one. Few are left by the end of September and my latest date is 23rd October. The earliest date of return was 6th February, and by mid-March males were singing in most of their haunts. In March, birds on passage would occur in places where they did not breed, and even stay for a few days. Be-

tween 14th-21st March 1938, 4 or more frequented a field at Sandbach School, where a bank on which the grass had been burnt seemed to attract them. They were probably seeking dock and sorrel seeds which grew here in abundance. Once in early spring and once in late autumn I noted Reed-buntings in a small flock feeding in birches.

HOUSE SPARROW. *Passer d. domesticus* (L.). Very common.

TREE-SPARROW. *Passer m. montanus* (L.). Well distributed. A colony of about 6 pairs around Sandbach School readily took to nesting boxes, but suffered from Little Owls. At Elton and up the Fowle Brook they nested in hedgerow oaks and ashes. Noted also at Thurlwood, Ettiley Heath, Vicarage Park, Crewe Hall.

SKYLARK. *Alauda a. arvensis* L. Common. In winter in considerable flocks.

TREE PIPIT. *Anthus t. trivialis* (L.). A well-distributed summer resident, especially common on the peat-mosses of Oakhanger. The same singing perch would be occupied year after year, the birds returning during the last week of April. It is interesting to compare the abundance of this species around Sandbach with its scarcity around Nantwich, only 10 miles distant. For this latter observation I am indebted to Mr John Lodge.

MEADOW PIPIT. *Anthus pratensis* (L.). Only one doubtful breeding record for the district. A few birds could be found throughout the winter in marshy places at Elton, but they were most common during migration; and both in spring and autumn I often noted flocks or odd birds flying on a line roughly N.N.E. by S.S.W. at a height of 100-200 feet. The spring passage was most noticeable in the second half of March, when I have counted 50 or more coming in to roost in a small swamp. In autumn they would be quite well distributed during October, after which only an odd bird here and there would be noticed.

WAGTAIL. *Motacilla flava* L. A pair of Wagtails of this species was seen at Elton on 29th June 1938, but their plumage was unusual and it was impossible to say to what subspecies they belonged. The ♂ I saw well, and it was a puzzling bird, had a fine purplish gloss to its head when the light struck it, but lacked the distinctive white eye-stripe of *M. f. flava* L., though there was a dab of white behind the eye. Its lores were dark, and its chin white, contrasting with the bright yellow of its breast. It was possibly a variety of *M. f. flava*. The pair was seen to do a courtship flight dance. On later visits I was unable to find them. There were many yellow Wagtails, *M. flava flavissima* (Blyth), in this locality.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. *Motacilla flava flavissima* (Blyth). Well distributed as a summer resident, especially in the Elton district, where it also occurs in considerable flocks on passage, particularly in May and July, when scores are often seen together. The July flocks contain many young birds. Earliest date, 12th April (F.J.B.). Yellow Wagtails were not easy to find after mid-September. Once I counted

10 at dusk on 17th September 1938, coming into a reed-bed at Malkin's Bank to roost with Pied Wagtails, Reed-buntings and Swallows. On the 23rd there were still some; and I last saw them, 5, on 29th September, feeding among the legs of some horses.

GREY WAGTAIL. *Motacilla c. cinerea* Tunst. Widely distributed in winter, especially up the Wheelock Valley. The only place where I found it nesting was on the River Dane at Davenport.

PIED WAGTAIL. *Motacilla alba yarrellii* Gould. In the second half of September they are very common at Elton, and the majority are clearly on passage. I looked carefully, but was never able to satisfy myself that I had found a White Wagtail, *M. a. alba* L. There would sometimes be a late Yellow Wagtail with them.

TREE CREEPER. *Certhia familiaris britannica* Ridgw. Widely distributed. Noted at Sandbach School, Bradwall Hall, Rode Pool, Crewe Hall, Forge Mill, Vicarage Park, Davenport.

NUTHATCH. *Sitta europæi affinis* Blyth. Only once noted, a noisy male making the "pebble-on-ice" note at Crewe Hall, 9th May 1936. Suspected at Brereton Park.

GREAT TIT. *Parus major newtoni* Pražak. Common. Small parties noted in winter, especially where there are beeches.

BLUE TIT. *Parus caeruleus obscurus* Pražak. Common. Readily taking to nesting boxes at Sandbach School. Nesting frequently in Sandbach in street lamps.

COAL TIT. *Parus ater britannicus* Sharpe & Dress. Found wherever there are conifers; Vicarage Park, Brereton Heath, Brookhouse Moss, Rode Pool, Bradwall Hall, Crewe Hall, gardens in Sandbach, etc.

MARSH TIT. *Parus palustris dresseri* Stejn. Common at Crewe Hall, where I could find them at all seasons, but otherwise a rare bird in this district. My records are:—(1) A single straggler at Elton, 9th October 1938. (2) A family party, Dane Valley by Saltersford School, 9th July 1939. Outside my area I noted a pair at Moreton Hall, 20th February 1938, and a pair at Redesmere, 20th May 1939.

WILLOW TIT. *Parus atricapillus kleinschmidti* Hellm. The dominant black-capped tit of the district. Well distributed along the streams, never far from water or swamp, and especially fond of mosses where birch and alder thrive. Every year they breed at Brereton Heath and Brookhouse Moss. Other places where in different years I have found a nest or seen a brood on the wing, viz.: Sanderson's Brook, near Cledford; Passes Brook, by Sandbach water-works; River Wheelock at Vicarage Park—are probably regular breeding places. In winter they are thinly distributed along the streams, and there is hardly a half-mile between Elton and Rode Pool along the River Wheelock where I have not found them. In the mosses, too, they may be found in mixed flocks of tits and goldcrests.

LONG-TAILED TIT. *Ægithalos caudatus rosaceus* Mathews. Always to be found at Crewe Hall, Brereton Heath and Brookhouse Moss. Otherwise generally distributed, but not very common. Small parties noted not infrequently roaming the hedgerows in winter.

- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. *Muscicapa s. striata* (Pall.). Thinly distributed throughout the area. Sandbach birds usually returned about 20th May. An exceptionally early nest had one egg on 20th May 1937. Nest with three eggs, Elton Hall, 18th May 1943 (F.J.B.).
- GOLDCREST. *Regulus r. anglorum* Hart. Resident in suitable habitats, e.g., Brookhouse Moss. On 15th May 1938, I was shown a nest with young in a spruce in the Dane Valley, near Davenport. One gusty 20th November, when there was a big increase of Snipe, Redwings and Fieldfares, I watched a wind-blown goldcrest among herbage on the cinder-road at Elton flashes, a curious place for one. Nests at Crewe Hall; large numbers there 22nd November 1941 (F.J.B.).
- CHIFFCHAFF. *Phylloscopus c. collybita* (Vieill.). Regular at Crewe Hall in the Dane Valley. Otherwise rare in this district, my only records being for Middlewich and Taxmere. Earliest dates are 23rd March 1938, Crewe Hall, and 27th March, Dane Valley.
- WILLOW-WREN. *Phylloscopus t. trochilus* (L.). Very common. I once found a nest that was not lined with feathers.
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER. *Locustella n. naevia* (Bodd.). This somewhat elusive species was found in four localities. At two of these it would appear to be a regular summer resident, arriving in the first week of May (recorded 4th, 1937, 5th, 1938). Another locality had three singing males in 1938, but I could find none there in 1939. The fourth locality was only discovered in 1939. All localities were marshy, deep in willow herb, meadowsweet and similar vegetation; and at two of the places the birds were often singing in osier beds. I found that their evening reeling began earlier in May, soon after their arrival, than in mid-summer or July. My latest date for the song is 23rd July. Seen at Crewe Hall, 17th May 1941, but not subsequently (K.C.C.).
- REED WARBLER. *Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus* (Herm.). Breeds at Rode Pool, Bagmere and Brookhouse swamp, in all of which places there is plenty of Great Reed *Arundo Phragmites* L. The only other record I have is of a bird, probably a passing migrant, singing at Warmingham flash.
- SEDGE WARBLER. *Acrocephalus schænobaenus* (L.). A common summer resident near water.
- GARDEN WARBLER. *Sylvia borin* (Bodd.). A well-distributed summer resident in copses throughout the area.
- BLACKCAP. *Sylvia a. atricapilla* (L.). Rare. I looked hard for this bird, but only once found it.
- WHITETHROAT. *Sylvia c. communis* Lath. Common summer resident.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT. *Sylvia c. curruca* (L.). A somewhat scarce and irregular summer resident. In 1936 and 1937 a single singing male each year was all I could find. In 1938 I found none. But 1939 was a good year, and at least four singing males were found, the earliest on 9th May.

FIELDFARE. *Turdus pilaris* L. Generally a common winter visitor, arriving at the end of October or the beginning of November (earliest date, 24th October). After the first rush, when the birds are in flocks, they seem to become scarcer, but towards the end of February and throughout March they are much in evidence again. At this time of the year churned-up football fields attracted them. 1936-37 was a lean fieldfare winter. I saw none till late February, and they steadily increased throughout March, but the biggest flock (c. 50) was small compared with the March flocks of other years, which ran into hundreds.

MISTLE-THRUSH. *Turdus v. viscivorus* L. Common breeding bird. Flocks noted with Fieldfares and Redwings in winter; e.g., c. 50, 7th November 1937. Communal display of about twenty—noisy chasing through boughs of an oak near Elton—noted 24th March 1945 (F.J.B.).

SONG THRUSH. *Turdus e. ericetorum* Turton. Common.

REDWING. *Turdus musicus* L. Common winter visitor. Once in the hills near the source of the Dane I saw them on 11th October. The earliest Sandbach date is 21st October, and they were usually abundant by the end of October. 1936-1937 was not a lean winter for them as it was for Fieldfares.

BLACKBIRD. *Turdus m. merula* L. Common.

WHEATEAR. *Oenanthe a. oenanthe* (L.). One or two appear on spring passage every year. My earliest date is 1st May, and the latest in spring 19th May. I am confident that some of these Wheatears, with their richer colouring and more robust appearance, are *Oenanthe a. leucorhoa* (Gm.). I have only one record for autumn migration, one at Elton A, 7th August 1936.

WHINCHAT. *Saxicola rubetra* (L.). Not a common summer resident. It nested regularly on the railway bank at Elton, and on a rough piece of ground at Malkin's Bank. It bred in 1938, but not every year, in a third locality near Elton. Whinchats returned to Elton in the first week of May (earliest dates, 4th May and 7th May). Four pairs were the most I located in a season in the whole area. A few birds would appear on autumn passage, and an exceptionally late one was seen on 17th October 1937.

ROBIN. *Erithacus rubecula melophilus* Hart. Common.

DUNNOCK. *Prunella modularis occidentalis* (Hart.). Common.

WREN. *Troglodytes t. troglodytes* (L.). Common.

SWALLOW. *Hirundo r. rustica* L. Common summer resident. Earliest date, 2nd April. A few were always noted till mid-October, but after then only stragglers, e.g., one, 28th October 1936. In 1937, day after day, up to five were seen in the same place in the last week of October, and one stayed till 1st November.

HOUSE MARTIN. *Delichon u. urbica* (L.). Thinly distributed as a summer resident, with local concentrations. Arrived considerably later than the Swallow. Birds on migration in mid-May were often

conspicuous at Elton flashes, e.g., 17th May 1939, when there were scores of Swallows, House Martins, Sand Martins and Swifts low over the water. The bulk of the local breeding birds did not seem to arrive before the first week in May.

SAND MARTIN. *Riparia r. riparia* (L.). Common summer resident (earliest date, 2nd April 1939, when many were passing through Elton on passage). Colonies were found in the bank of the River Dane at Davenport; Dingle sand-pit, Sandbach; Rough-wood Mill sand pit, near Hassall.

SWIFT. *Apus u. apus* (L.). Locally common, e.g., in the middle of Sandbach. Often in considerable numbers on passage at Elton flashes.

NIGHTJAR. *Caprimulgus e. europaeus* L. The only locality where I found this bird was Brereton Heath, where it bred annually. It was also said to be at Oakhanger Moss; and just outside my area was known at Redheath Grange. Probably two pairs bred each year. Once on 8th June I watched a pair indulging in a spectacular courtship flight. The "quipp" call was heard repeatedly; there was much wing-clapping and the white patches on the tail of the male were very conspicuous. Towards the end of the breeding season, i.e., third week of July, there would be little or no wing-clapping, and the "quipp" call was not so frequent. Churring, however, would begin about twenty minutes after sundown.

(To be continued.)

Notes on Birds of Sandbach, S.E. Cheshire.

By R. B. SIBSON, M.A.

(Continued and concluded from p. 255, 1945.)

- KINGFISHER.** *Alcedo atthis ispida* L. Well distributed, especially along the River Wheelock.
- GREEN WOODPECKER.** *Picus viridis pluvius* Hart. Nested in an old oak, Crewe Hall, 1941-43 (F.J.B.).
- GREATER-SPOTTED WOODPECKER.** *Dryobates major anglicus* (Hart.). Always to be found at Crewe Hall, Rode, Vicarage Park, Brookhouse Moss, Brereton Heath, and in the Dane Valley. Wandered locally in winter along hedges across open country.
- LESSER-SPOTTED WOODPECKER.** *Dryobates minor comminatus* (Hart.). Often heard and seen in the grounds of Sandbach School, where it bred in 1938; probably bred nearby in 1936, 1937, 1939. In 1938 it was found breeding at Brookhouse Moss, and one was frequently heard calling at Rode in 1939. It is probably thinly distributed throughout the area in suitably timbered country. A pair at Crewe Hall during summers 1941-44 (F.J.B.).
- CUCKOO.** *Cuculus c. canorus* L. Fairly common summer resident.
- LITTLE OWL.** *Athene noctua vidalii* A. E. Brehm. Thinly distributed. Guilty of depredations against a colony of Tree-sparrows at Sandbach School.
- TAWNY OWL.** *Strix aluco sylvatica* Shaw. Well distributed. The common owl of the district.
- BARN OWL.** *Tyto a. alba* (Scop.). Thinly distributed. I knew of four localities where these birds were seen regularly, at two of which the same nesting site was known to be used annually. On several occasions I saw Barn Owls hunting in broad daylight.
- KESTREL.** *Falco t. tinnunculus* L. Found throughout the area.
- SPARROWHAWK.** *Accipiter n. nisus* (L.). Probably breeds in most woods and fox-coverts. Quite often seen about hedgerows at Elton, especially in late autumn when Fieldfares and Redwings were common.
- COMMON HERON.** *Ardea c. cinerea* L. The local heronry was at Crewe Hall. I am informed that Herons once bred at Bagmere, but none nested there during these four years; though in late June I have counted nine there. These, however, I feel certain are part of the dispersal from Crewe Hall at the end of the breeding season. There is a regular heron flight line between Crewe Hall and Bagmere and

the River Dane. Another favourite haunt in June and July was Elton A, where up to 16, mostly young birds, might be found. By mid-September Herons were quite scarce in the district. Occupied nests at Crewe Hall Pool:

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
31	21	29	29	28	41	31

The reduction in 1940 occurred after the severe winter of 1939-40. About eight second broods each year; young still standing near nests on 22nd August 1942 (F.J.B.).

BEWICK'S SWAN. *Cygnus b. bewickii* Yarr. Occasional winter visitor. Two, an adult and a juvenile, were seen to drop in from a great height at Elton D on 4th December 1938. They did not stay longer than a few minutes. On 5th February 1939 two adults appeared at Elton A, where they were frequently seen during the next six weeks, the last date being 19th March. One at Crewe Hall, 25th January 1941 (F.J.B.).

MUTE SWAN. *Cygnus olor* (Gm.). Found on all suitable waters. At Elton A there was evidently in autumn some feed of which swans are particularly fond; and every year they would concentrate there in September and October (biggest counts 30 in 1936, 45 in 1937, 40 in 1938) before dwindling away to a mere half dozen or so in November.

CANADA GOOSE. *Branta c. canadensis* (L.). Crewe Hall is one of its main breeding places in Cheshire; and flocks of 50+ were sometimes seen at Elton A. Elsewhere in the district it was occasional. A few were usually to be seen at Rode Pool.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE. *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (L.). One was frequently seen at one or other of the Elton flashes between 4th May and 11th June 1939. Probably an escaped bird.

SHELDUCK. *Tadorna tadorna* (L.). Occasional visitor. One, 24th May 1936, and one, 19th March 1939, at Elton A. Two Juv., Elton C, 18th December 1938, during some bitter easterly winds. Both birds seemed tired and were loth to leave the sheltered feeding ground they had found among the vegetation where the R. Wheelock enters the flash.

MALLARD. *Anas p. platyrhynchos* L. Breeds throughout the area. After the breeding season there is a concentration annually of Mallard at Elton A; up to 100 may be found there. Towards the end of June a few moulting drakes form the nucleus and the numbers increase till the end of July. By September few remain; and throughout the winter strikingly few are seen round the Elton flashes. There are usually plenty at Crewe Hall, and the Elton A June-September; birds if disturbed almost invariably go in that direction. Mallard are also plentiful at Bagmere, whence they flight out at dusk in all directions.

GADWALL. *Anas strepera* L. A duck at edge of Elton C on 16th September 1942 (F.J.B.).

- TEAL.** *Anas c. crecca* L. A few almost certainly breed in the district. I could always find Teal at Bagmere in mid-summer, and odd birds would frequent the flashes. In winter they were easily the commonest duck. A few would arrive in August and they would steadily increase till by the end of October there would be 150-250 on the flashes. These numbers would continue through the winter, unless there was an exceptionally cold spell to drive them out. They would re-appear soon after the water was open again. By mid-March numbers would dwindle considerably, and by mid-April only an odd pair or two would be left. They were plentiful also at Crewe Hall in winter, but I never saw many at Rode Pool. Other places where small parties were noted were Brookhouse swamp, Bradwall Marsh, Taxmere, Malkin's Bank.
- GARGANEY.** *Anas querquedula* L. Possibly a regular summer visitor and may have bred. I saw a ♂ at Elton A on 24th May 1936; and a pair in the same place on 2nd May 1937. One, 8th September 1939 (A.W.B.). One at Elton A, 4th September 1945 (A.W.B.).
- WIGEON.** *Anas penelope* L. A winter visitor in considerable numbers to Crewe Hall and certain of the flashes; but few were ever noted at Rode Pool. At Elton A the numbers are seldom large before mid-November, and are greatest generally in March, e.g. c. 100 on 3rd, 1937; 32+ on the 16th, 1938; c. 80 on the 19th, 1939. Sometimes these numbers are well maintained in the first week of April, e.g., 40+ on the 4th, 1937, and c. 80 on the 3rd, 1939. In 1938 I saw a party of nine (6 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀) as late as 1st May. In 1937 a ♀, obviously a "pricked" bird, stayed all the summer. Besides Elton A, Elton D was a regular haunt, for which my biggest count was 36. It was here that I saw my earliest autumn Wigeon, a ♂ on 25th September 1938. On 9th October a ♀ appeared. Both these dates are well ahead of all others. There was obviously something particularly attractive to Wigeon about the grassy water-logged edges of Elton A and D.
- PENTAIL.** *Anas a. acuta* L. Occasional visitor on passage. A ♂ on 14th February 1937, and a pair from 19th-29th March 1939 at Elton A. A ♀ at Elton D on 14th July 1939.
- SHOVELER.** *Spatula clypeata* (L.). Noted at all months of the year, but never in any great numbers. Breeding, though suspected every year near Elton A, was first proved in 1939 when a ♀ with eight youngsters was seen along the Fowle Brook. One or two solitary drakes were always noted in May and June. There were often several Shovelers to be seen (after the breeding season) among the somewhat bedraggled Mallard at Elton A. Otherwise they were most conspicuous in March, when three or four pairs might be found. Mid-winter records are of single birds or pairs.
- POCHARD.** *Aythya ferina* (L.). No evidence of breeding, though I have records of birds seen in mid-summer. Regular winter visitor in small numbers to Crewe Hall, Rode Pool and "the flashes." On the 31st January 1937 I counted 45 on Elton D; but that is excep-

tional. Normally in February and March, when they were most noticeable, 12-16 would be an average number for Elton A, B, C, D all put together. My biggest count for Rode Pool was 23 (18 ♂♂) on 20th February 1938.

TURFED DUCK. *Aythya fuligula* (L.). First proved to breed in 1939, when I found a duck with seven ducklings on a small sedgy pool (Elton G). Breeding may have taken place in other years, as odd drakes always lingered about the flashes in summer. Winter numbers on the flashes (Elton A, B, C, D) steadily increase from September to January. They are then at their greatest—c. 30 is the average of four or five counts a month for four years—till the end of March. By the end of April few are left. The biggest number seen together was 75, on 31st January 1937, a time when there was an influx of Pocharad also, coinciding with a spell of cold weather. Crewe Hall and Rode Pool were also regular winter resorts. At Crewe Hall I found numbers surprisingly small. At Rode Pool there were usually between 20 and 40 from January to March, and I once counted 72 on 15th February. Warmington Flash was occasionally visited, and I suspected a pair of breeding there in 1939. Once a small party was seen on Brereton Pool. Seven were present on Moreton Hall lake on the only occasion I visited it.

SCAUP. *Aythya m. marila* (L.). Occasional visitor to the flashes. A ♂, 18th January to 15th February 1936 (during a hard frost when the current of the R. Wheelock kept a small pool open at Elton C, the only open water in the district. A ♀ on 14th March 1937. A ♂, 12th March 1939. A drake at Elton B, 1st March 1941 (F.J.B.).

GOLDENEYE. *Bucephala c. clangula* (L.). Crewe Hall was the only water regularly visited in winter; the greatest number seen being 10 (3 ♂♂). Only one ever noted at Elton C, a ♂, 22nd January to 15th February 1936, with a Scaup ♂ (v. supra.). Noted at Rode Pool as follows:—A ♀ or juv., 14th February and 26th March 1937; 1 ♀, 22nd January 1939.

SCOTER. *Melanitta n. nigra* (L.). Twice recorded at Elton. A ♂ on 14th June 1936, whose presence was much resented by a pair of Great Crested Grebes. Also a juvenile on 7th November 1937. Two drakes, Crewe Hall, 15th-19th June 1942, and ♂ and ♀, 23rd February 1943 (F.J.B.).

GOOSANDER. *Mergus m. merganser* L. Probably a regular winter visitor to Crewe Hall. Noted as follows:—5 (1 ♂), 23rd February and 4, 11th March; 1 on 22nd November 1936; 11 (4 ♂♂) on 18th March 1939. Almost certainly the same birds appeared at Elton A on 26th March 1939; 8 were still present on 2nd April, and F.J.B. saw 2 pairs there on 7th April. These are the only records for the flashes.

SMEW. *Mergus albellus* L. A rare winter visitor, but possibly regular. Noted as follows:—1936, 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀, Crewe Hall, 2nd February. 1937, 1 ♂ and 2 ♀♀, Rode Pool. 31st January and 1st February

1939, 1 pair, Rode Pool. Several times between 22nd January and 11th February. 1 ♂, Crewe Hall, 29th January. A red-headed bird, Crewe Hall, 30th January 1943 (F.J.B.).

CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax c. carbo* (L.). A not infrequent visitor to the flashes.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE. *Podiceps c. cristatus* (L.). Some 7-9 pairs breed in the district. Alsager Mere, usually 1 pair. Brereton Pool, only once recorded, 1 pair, 15th June 1937, probably breeding. It is curious that this apparently suitable pool is not a regular haunt. Crewe Hall, 2 or 3 pairs. The biggest number of birds I have seen there in the nesting season is 8. There is very little suitable cover for nesting.

Warmingham Flash. One pair bred 1938-39; in 1938 2 broods—one of 3, 31st May and another of 4, 11th July, and all nine birds were seen on the pool. In 1939 brood of 4 on 15th July.

Elton Flashes:—

- 1936 Elton B—nest on submerged hawthorn; pair present, 8th March to 14th July; no young reared. A visiting Scoter was "torpedoed" by one of the Grebes.
- 1937 A pair at Elton A, B and D from mid-March. Nested at Elton D, but water-level fell and nest was abandoned.
- 1938 Nested again at Elton D; no young reared.
- 1939 Nested at Elton D. First nest robbed; second successful—2 young seen by A.W.B. in August.

RED-NECKED GREBE. *Podiceps g. griseigena* (Bodd.). One at Rode Pool on 31st January and 1st February 1937.

DABCHICK. *Podiceps r. ruficollis* (Pall.). A few pairs bred every year on the flashes and along the River Wheelock. In winter a "flotilla" of about 8 to 24 birds is usually present at Elton B. The numbers would reach their maximum in September or October. By mid-March the party would have broken up. I have heard the "yickering" courtship call on 1st March.

WOOD-PIGEON. *Columba p. palumbus* L. Breeds throughout the area. Considerable flocks noted in winter.

STOCK DOVE. *Columba oenas* L. Breeds throughout the area. Small flocks are seen in winter, but the majority of the birds apparently move away. They re-appear at their nesting sites in mid-March.

TURTLE DOVE. *Streptopelia t. turtur* (L.). A thinly distributed summer resident, commonest in the Brereton Heath vicinity. 7th May is the earliest date on which I saw one, and 22nd September the latest.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. *Limosa l. limosa* (L.). Three at Elton C on the spit feeding busily on the evening of 4th July 1939. The moult from breeding plumage had scarcely begun. After preening, they started to doze; but a passing train disturbed them, and they flew off S.S.W. One at Elton A, 4th September 1945 (A.W.B.).

CURLEW. *Numenius a. arquata* (L.). In view of the fact that Curlew are so abundant on the Pennines only a few miles to the east, it is surprising how seldom I noted them in this area. In early spring, single birds were sometimes seen at the flashes, and one was once heard " bubbling " there on 31st January. Towards the end of June and in July small parties, evidently leaving the hills, were sometimes noted flying high, generally in a direction between S. and W. Nested at Crewe Hall, 1942; two young ringed, 23rd May (F.J.B.). Probably nested there, 1941 (K.C.C.).

WOODCOCK. *Scolopax rusticola* L. Evidently bred in or near Brereton Heath, where, while looking for Nightjars, I several times saw and heard them. Twice in spring I flushed Woodcocks in Brookhouse Moss, but could find no nest.

SNIPE. *Capella g. gallinago* (L.). Breeds throughout the area where the ground is suitably marshy. At Bagmere several birds would always be " bleating " by mid-March. At Elton I once watched a Snipe " tick-tacking " on the topmost twig of a dead oak. When it dived off the bleating noise began at once.

In September and October scores of Snipe come into the flashes, especially Elton C, where at this time it is not unusual to see wisps of from 40 to 100 birds together. There is a decline over the winter months, though only a very cold spell makes them at all scarce. From the end of January into March they are in evidence again, and I once saw a solid flock of 180 or more on 3rd March. By the end of March the few birds about are presumably those breeding locally.

JACK SNIPE. *Limnocryptes minimus* (Brünn.). It is surprising that I never found this bird at Elton flashes. However, F.J.B. saw one there once. I put one up in Bagmere on 15th March.

TURNSTONE. *Arenaria i. interpres* (L.). One at Elton A on 1st and 2nd June 1939. One at Elton C, 12th September 1944 (F.J.B.).

DUNLIN. *Calidris alpina* (L.). Regular visitor at the flashes on passage in spring and autumn. Strays arrive at any time of the year, even in mid-winter. A few birds generally pass through in March, but, as with the Ringed Plover, the migration is most in evidence in the third and fourth weeks of May, when the largest parties are seen, e.g., 5 on 25th May 1938; c. 18, 23rd May 1939. It was unusual to see more than three or four together; and the flock of 18 just mentioned was quite exceptional. Stragglers were not unusual up to mid-June. The first autumn migrants were generally noted about 20th July. Seven was the greatest number seen together.

CURLEW SANDPIPER. *Calidris testacea* (Pall.). Occasional visitor on passage.

e.g., 2, 18th October 1936, Elton C.

2, 2nd April 1939, Elton C.

2, 8th April 1939, Elton A (F.J.B.).

RUFF. *Philomachus pugnax* (L.). A not unusual visitor on passage at Elton A and C. My records are as follows:—

Spring. 18th May 1936, 2 pairs, both males being in breeding dress.
 19th May 1936, 1 ♂ and 2 ♀♀. 1 ♂ had disappeared.
 2nd June 1939, 1 ♂ in breeding plumage.

Autumn. 1st November 1936, 1.
 24th and 28th August 1938, 1 ♀ (A.W.B., F.J.B.).
 25th September 1938, 1 ♀.
 8th September 1939, 1 (A.W.B.).

The two males of 18th May 1936 were especially interesting, as they were the first to be seen in Cheshire in breeding plumage since 1924. The ♂ of 2nd June 1939 in its fine feathers was not popular with the local inhabitants. I saw it violently chased by a Lapwing; and a little later a Redshank with which it was sharing a muddy puddle gave it a peck; whereat its anger was roused and its ruff of white feather rose threateningly.

COMMON SANDPIPER. *Actitis hypoleucos* (L.). One or two pairs breed every year in the abundant cover at Elton B and C, and in 1939 another pair, to judge from their excited behaviour, bred at Elton D. Otherwise they were passage migrants. In spring they first appeared in the second week of April. In autumn they were most obvious in small parties up to 8 or 10 in July. Only once did I see one in the second half of September, viz., 25th September 1938.

GREEN SANDPIPER. *Tringa ochropus* L. Regular visitor on passage in both spring and autumn, and has been noted in all months except December. Some autumn migrants appear in late June, and they are commonest in July and August. F.J.B. on 24th August 1938 saw 11 at Elton C. At this time they may be found anywhere along the R. Wheelock between Warmingham and Malkin's Bank; a weir pool by Warmingham Church being a favourite spot. On several occasions I noted odd birds or twos in November, January, and February. They are much more numerous in autumn than in spring.

REDSHANK. *Tringa totanus britannica* Math. During every breeding season Elton A, B, C and D and Malkin's Bank Pools had two or three pairs each. In 1939 about a dozen pairs bred in the vicinity of the R. Wheelock and the flashes between Elton E and Malkin's Bank. At least one pair, probably two, bred near Cledford reservoir. Once in May I saw three Redshanks at Crewe Hall; and they are alleged to have bred in the Dane Valley at Davenport, but I never saw them there. Throughout the winter a few may be seen round Elton B, C and D or along the Wheelock, but for some reason Elton A is shunned. Occasionally small flocks are seen in winter, e.g., 11, 14th January 1938, and 12, 11th December. By the end of February most pairs are on their breeding grounds, and I have heard the courtship trill on 8th February. Small parties, e.g., 10-12, are in evidence at the end of the breeding season, but in July the numbers drop, till only a few odd birds are left. Evidently

most of the local birds move away. It would be interesting to know whether the small flocks, sometimes noted in winter, are locally bred birds or immigrants. There is, I think, no doubt that migrating Redshanks pass through, e.g., a flock of 25-30, seen by F.J.B. in mid-April. Flock of 50 at Elton C, 28th March 1940 (F.J.B.). Nested at Crewe Hall, May 1941 (K.C.C.).

GREENSHANK. *Tringa nebularia* (Gunn.). Occasional visitor to the flashes. 2, 14th September 1938; 1, 15th June 1939; 2, third week of August 1939 (F.J.B.). In twos and threes in August and September of most years: earliest, 19th August 1942; latest, 23rd September 1942 (F.J.B.).

RINGED PLOVER. *Charadrius hiaticula* L. A regular late spring passage migrant at Elton A, B, and C, where small numbers appear usually not till the second half of May. I once saw a single bird on 4th May; the next earliest date is 14th May, and about the 20th is the likeliest time. Five was the biggest party noted. Seen only once in June: 9th June 1939, a Ringed Plover which could not be satisfactorily identified. Three at Elton C, 2nd and 14th April 1942; two, 15th April 1943; two, 24th April 1945 (F.J.B.). I have several August and September records of Ringed Plovers at Elton, the latest being 28th September; one, 21st October 1939 (F.J.B.).

KENTISH PLOVER. *Leucopolijs a. alexandrinus* (L.). On the evening of 21st May 1937 I watched a Kentish Plover on the spit at Elton B. With it was a Ringed Plover. There is, I believe, only one other spring record for Cheshire, namely of a bird seen at Marbury Mere by T. A. Coward.

GOLDEN PLOVER. *Pluvialis apricaria* (L.). What few records I have are of passage birds at the flashes. Single birds or very small parties, always in a hurry to be gone, were occasionally seen in February, March and July. Once in November I saw a flock of c. 30 flying very high. Though I carefully examined all flocks of Lapwings in my search for them, I was unable to find any locality where they wintered. None was ever seen in breeding plumage.

GREY PLOVER. *Squatarola squatarola* (L.). After some strong westerly winds one was seen at Elton C on 27th October and 6th November 1935.

LAPWING. *Vanellus vanellus* (L.). Breeds throughout the district. Sodden marsh, e.g., Bagmere, has the densest population. Pasture, cornfields and potato fields are also common habitats. Flocking at Elton flashes begins towards the end of May. By mid-June there are usually at least 200 birds here; and they go on increasing until by the end of July the flock may number 1000 birds. Winter numbers fluctuate according to the weather. They often run into many thousands.

OYSTER CATCHER. *Haematopus ostralegus occidentalis* Neum. Occasional visitor on passage. 1, Elton A, 3rd March 1937. 1, Elton A, 8th April 1939 (F.J.B.).

COMMON and/or ARCTIC TERN. *Sterna h. hirundo* L. and *Sterna macrura* Naumann. Occasional visitor on passage at the flashes. 1, 29th September 1935. 7, 2nd June 1938. 1, 19th October 1938. 3, 22nd May 1939. 2, 28th June 1939.

Some of these birds were definitely identified as Common Terns, and I am certain that the October bird of 1938 was an Arctic Tern. The 7 Terns of 2nd June 1938 were noticed at 9 p.m. after a day of rain and squalls, flying steadily N. with Black-headed Gulls. The 3 of 22nd May 1939 also appeared in the evening and flew on without pausing over the flashes. Five at Elton, 23rd April 1940; three at Crewe Hall, 5th May 1940. A dead imm. Common Tern at Crewe Hall, 25th September 1942 (F.J.B.).

LITTLE TERN. *Sterna a. albifrons* Pall. 1, Elton flashes, 29th September 1935, with a Common Tern.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. *Larus r. ridibundus* L. Present throughout the year, visiting arable and pasture. In winter many hundreds resort to the flashes for bathing and preening. A few non-breeders are present in May and June, after which the numbers steadily increase. At all seasons the birds depart northwards at dusk to roost. In June 1939 I suspected a pair of breeding at Elton A. They were behaving as if they had a nest and the breeding cry "kek-kek" was often heard; but I was unable to prove that eggs were laid. They were very demonstrative between 9th and 25th June, but had gone on 27th.

COMMON GULL. *Larus c. canus* L. Not a common bird in the area. Its appearances are somewhat haphazard. Individuals or small parties, among other gulls, have been noted at all seasons, but months may elapse without a single bird being seen. I never saw more than 7 together.

HERRING GULL. *Larus a. argentatus* Pont. Generally very few are present during the summer months, though once in May I noted a gathering of over a hundred juveniles at Bagmere. About the end of September or in October there is an increase. Birds are found scavenging on rubbish tips or refuse trucks in railway sidings, notably at Rookery Bridge; or preening and washing in the flashes, and in the winter towards dusk long lines of Herring Gulls, often running into hundreds of birds, pass over Sandbach, coming from the south and heading north to some roost perhaps at Witton Flashes or Rostherne Mere or Merseyside. Soon after dawn they may be seen making south with rather less determination than they show on the return evening journey, and not in such orderly lines.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. *Larus fuscus graellsii* Brehm. Noted in all months except December and January, when there is a definite gap. In Spring I first used to see them in February or March, e.g., one on 24th February 1937; one on 6th February 1939; four on 5th March 1939. Thenceforward odd birds would be seen throughout the summer till there was a big increase in July, mostly of immature, probably year-old birds. At Elton flashes they were

then most in evidence in the evenings, when it appeared that they gathered there for a rest before heading northwards just before dusk to some roost. Groups of 20 to 50 birds were not unusual, and I once counted about 100. Throughout September and October and till the last week of November a few stragglers visited the flashes or rubbish tips; but it was unusual to see more than six.

In spring, I feel certain (judging from the direction from which they came and their manner of flight) that many of the Lesser B.B. Gulls I saw were on migration. Perhaps they had come up the Severn and were making for the route by which this species has been noted crossing the Pennines.

SCANDINAVIAN LESSER B.B. GULL. *Larus f. fuscus* L. A single very black bird, seen on 11th December 1938 at Elton A was, I feel sure, of this sub-species. F.J.B. reported one also on 28th December of the same year.

KITTIWAKE. *Rissa t. tridactyla* (L.). During the cold spell early in 1937, on 22nd February, one was seen and one found dead; and one was seen on 24th February. At Crewe Hall, 25th January 1941, in severe weather; one dead after gale, 20th April 1943 (F.J.B.).

CORNCRAKE. *Crex crex* (L.). One or two were usually heard each year.
 1936. 30th May, Malkin's Bank.
 1937. 9th May, Smallwood. Also 19th and 28th.
 10th May, young corn by Sandbach School.
 1937. 6th July, between Elton A and B. Also on 16th and 23rd July.
 1938. 19th May, Moston.
 23rd May, near Vicarage Park.
 29th May, Bradwell.

I came across one instance of a Corn-crake being killed by a hay-mowing machine.

WATER-RAIL. *Rallus a. aquaticus* L. Probably throughout the area in suitable habitats. I noted them most frequently in very cold weather.

MOORHEN. *Gallinula c. chloropus* (L.). Common. Once in cold weather I counted over 60 at Elton C.

COOT. *Fulica a. atra* L. Common on all sizable waters, except at Elton B and C where, owing to lack of suitable cover, at the most two pairs attempt to breed. The total number of breeding pairs for Elton A, B, C, D, E, F and Warmingham Flash is about 25. Elton D with its easily-flooded grassy edges is much favoured and a thick hedge of dead hawthorn partly submerged provides good nesting cover. In 1936 a pair of Coots and a pair of Great Crested Grebes fought for the only possible nesting site at Elton B, and the Coots won. In the event of other pools becoming frozen over, Coots congregate at Elton C, where the R. Wheelock comes in.

PHEASANT. *Phasianus colchicus* L. Thinly distributed.

PARTRIDGE. *Perdix p. perdix* (L.). Throughout the area, but not very common.