

College of Arts and Sciences  
IRAQ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
*Publication No. 10*

Field Observations  
*on*  
The Birds of Iraq

II. Pteroclididae - Timaliidae

By  
H. J. MOORE, B. A. (Cantab),

and

C. BOSWELL, B.Sc. (Hons.) Lond., D.I.C., Hon. Ph. D.  
(Baghdad), F.Z.S.



Published by : Iraq Natural History Museum

Ar-Rabita Press, Baghdad  
1956







College of Arts and Sciences  
IRAQ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
*Publication No. 10*

Field Observations  
*on*  
The Birds of Iraq

II. Pteroclididae - Timaliidae

By

H. J. MOORE, B. A. (Cantab),  
Biology Master, Clayesmore School, Dorset

and

C. BOSWELL B.Sc. (Hons.) Lond., D.I.C., Hon. Ph. D.  
(Baghdad), F.Z.S.

Professor of Biology, Royal College of Medicine, Baghdad.  
Formerly Lecturer in Biology, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Medical College, London.



Published by: Iraq Natural History Museum

Ar-Rabita Press, Baghdad  
1956





College of Arts and Sciences  
TRAP NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM  
Washington, D. C.

Field Observations  
on  
The Birds of Iraq

H. P. T. T. T. T. T.

M. J. MOORE, JR. (Author)  
Instructor, Government School, Doha

C. Rossell, Jr. (Illustrator)  
Doha, Qatar  
University of Texas, Austin, Texas  
Department of Zoology  
University of Texas, Austin, Texas



Moore

Published by the Trap Natural History Museum  
Washington, D. C.



TABLE OF ORDERS AND FAMILIES  
INCLUDED IN PART II

**CONTENTS**

PART II

	Page
Table of Orders and Families ... ..	IV
List of Birds ... ..	111



TABLE OF ORDERS AND FAMILIES  
INCLUDED IN PART II.

	Page.
<b>Columbiformes:</b>	
Pteroclididae	111
Columbidae	113
<b>Psittaciformes:</b>	
Psittacidae	119
<b>Cuculiformes:</b>	
Cuculidae	121
<b>Strigiformes:</b>	
Strigidae	123
<b>Caprimulgiformes:</b>	
Caprimulgidae	126
<b>Coraciiformes:</b>	
Alcedinidae	130
Meropidae	134
Coraciidae	138
Upupidae	140
<b>Piciformes:</b>	
Picidae	142
<b>Passeriformes:</b>	
Alaudidae	144
Hirundinidae	151
Oriolidae	157
Corvidae	158
Paridae	167
Sittidae	172
Certhiidae	175
Pycnonotidae	175
Troglodytidae	176
Cinclidae	176
Turdidae	177
Sylviidae	196
Timaliidae	212



## PART II

## Order COLUMBIFORMES

## Family PTEROCLIDAE

## 147. LARGE PIN-TAILED SAND-GROUSE. ( قطا كدرى ) عراقى - ١٤٧

*Pterocles alchata.*

C &amp; S. 22 records.

			B					B		B		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
			K					K	K	K	K	

This species is dealt with fully in Ticehurst (op. cit.) and though we have numerous records, no clear picture emerges, nor do the records suggest any modification of their status. Sportsmen say that the enormous flocks of between the wars are rarer these days and Boswell confirms this. I never saw more than a thousand at a time. It is certainly true to say that in the Kut-Sheikh Sa'ad area from 1942-4 they were not seen in any numbers, and the breeding grounds described by Pitman were not found. One of their sources of food, the vegetable matter in the droppings of camels must be diminishing with the spread of the motor-car. In 1945 coincident with the drying up of the Suweicha lake, fairly large numbers were seen around Kut, in the autumn. When feeding they move forward in a pack like Starlings (*Sturnus*) at roosting time, and if alarmed the flight begins at the front of the flock. It was noticed in November 45 near Kut that among several small flocks some birds were paired. Sandgrouse were often seen in the distance when the species could not be determined, though the larger flocks are usually composed mainly of this species. Two injured birds were kept in captivity successfully for some time.

North. 6 records.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			W	W	W	W			W		

Between Baiji and Mosul in August 42 they were very abundant. They were seen at Bashiqa (8 October) and in large flocks on the banks of the Great Zab at Quwair (27 October 44) in the



Mosul area, and local opinion is that they move away from the north during the winter when the rains come. They were not seen again until 16 April 45 at Hadhra. Vosper noted continual movements to the west of parties up to 30 in June and July 43 at Sharqat; while none were seen to go east. The time of the movements 0600-0900 hrs. suggests movements to water.

## 148. SPOTTED SAND-GROUSE.

١٤٨ - قطا مرقط

*Pterocles s. senegallus* (L).

C &amp; S. 13 records.

				B	B							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
			K					K	K		K	

This sand-grouse have been fully dealt with by Ticehurst (op. cit.) and these notes add little to the knowledge of their distribution. Around Kut it is most conspicuous in September and October when the birds come in from the desert and are found near the roads and on desert tracks. I met them, still in flock, near Bedrah on 8 April 44. PNC records a nest in a flattened hoof-mark near Baqubah with three eggs on 14 June 44. Measurements of two specimens obtained are found in the appendix. This species seemed to be constant in its choice of localities and not subject to the fluctuations in number and local distribution of *Pterocles alchata*. It was frequent in the desert between Kerbela-Nejef in September, and Maclaren found it the only sand-grouse around Zubair near Basrah in May-June 43, where birds flew to water only in the morning from 05:30 to 07:45 hrs.

**North.**

The sand-grouse grounds lie to the south and west of Mosul, areas we did not visit frequently. I did not see it near Mosul nor in the Sinjar in autumn-winter 1944-45, and Vosper has a solitary record of one from near Sharqat on 15 July 43.

## 149. IMPERIAL SAND-GROUSE.

١٤٩ - قطا اسود البطن

*Pterocles o. orientalis* (L).**North.**

We have only two records, both from the North from the



Mosul district. Three were seen at Quwair on the Great Zab (27 October 44) and 7 between Mosul — Tel-Afar (5 February 45). It was not seen by us in Central 'Iraq.

**C & S.**

PNC records two from c50 miles NW of Shuaibah (14 December 45).

Family COLUMBIDAE

150. STOCK-DOVE.

۱۵۰ - حمام بری

*Columba o. oenas* L.

**C & S.** 3 records.

From Central and Southern areas we have two records from near Baghdad for December 41 and 43, in both cases associated with Ring Dove (*C. palumbus*). A pair was found at the ruins of Wasit in the desert E. of Hai on 9 May 43. Possibly it is overlooked.

**North.**

In Kurdistan it was frequent if not abundant around Penjwin between 27 August — 12 September 42, where it inhabited well wooded valleys and slopes up to 4500 ft. They came to the river and the crops in the late afternoon. On the Mosul side, which is less well wooded, a few were seen in November, January and April. Its northern status is doubtful.

151 .ROCK-DOVE.

۱۵۱ - حمام طورانی

*Columba livia* Gmelin.

**C & S.** 28 records.

B	B	B	B	B		B		B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			K	K			K	K	K

There is little to add to its status in the Baghdad area, and the absence of records from some months is no doubt due to its having been taken for granted. It frequents the mud-cliffs by the Diyala Br., the ruined Ziggurat at Agar Quf, Deltawah (Khalis), and several places on the Baghdad — Khanaqin road. It is still



plentiful at the arch of Ctesiphon near Sulman Pak; and is common between Wadi Mohammadi and Rutbah. Some were seen in the foothills of the Pusht-i-Kuh, east of Bedrah, and a few pairs breed at Kut, c3 pairs in the gardens of Haji Ali and beyond the oil storage tanks by the Gharraf regulator there was always a small flock. Maclaren saw them in the Zubair district in May and June, where he thought they bred in wells, and at Hindiyah he noted several large flocks throughout April, as well as domesticated pairs breeding, but no large numbers were seen again until late August.

**North.** 28 records.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W

In Kurdistan it was common in all the months I was there, from August to May. It was noted among other places in the conglomerate cliffs of the Khabur River at Zakho, breeding in the falls of the limestone gorge at Sharanish Islam, and breeding in a cave near Harir. Flocks were first noted at Seramadia on Mt. Bishmish on 28 August 44, and were last recorded at Zawita near Dohuk on 25 February 45. On the Mosul plain it is common in the rocky valleys of streams and rivers, and nearer to the city it becomes abundant, though, no doubt, as Maclaren notes, these birds are not truly wild. Oddly, none were recorded at Choarta in E. Kurdistan, nor at Penjwin by Maclaren or myself in autumn.

152. WOOD-PIGEON, or RING-DOVE.

طبان - ١٥٢

*Columba palumbus* L.

**C & S.** 15 records.

B	B	B	B					B		B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Flocks were recorded from areas near Baghdad from September — March. In Baghdad itself the largest numbers were seen in the Salachiyah gardens, where Boswell saw c300, some in Eucalyptus (1 January 44), while outside Baghdad flocks were common in gardens by the R. Diyala at Deltawah (Khalis), and on the way to Khanaqin at Abu Jisr, Abu Hawa and Abu Hadid. Boswell records one from Alwiyah on 24 April and there is a solitary summer record from PNC (15 July 45). If they still breed



there they are not much in evidence, as we never came on them, nor were there any at Kut, nor in the woods on the Tigris by Suweira. One observed in February had the bill buff and the green on side of neck meeting dorsally.

**North.** 19 records.

							E	E				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
W			W	W		W	W			W	W	

In Kurdistan it is widespread and breeds in the woods clothing the mountain sides and valleys at 4000-5000 ft., but it cannot be said to be a common dove, and apparently deserts large areas in winter. In three weeks (26 August — 19 September 42) at Penjwin, only 3 wanderers were seen by the river, though Maclaren the next year found it very abundant there in autumn. At Choarta, not far distant, on 14 August it was frequent and a nest found on that date had two eggs in it by the end of the next day. The nest was more heavily built than we see in Britain and lined with dried herbs, oaks leaves and a few feathers. Vosper found it common in the scrub oak woods around Shaqlawah — Rowanduz area between 26 July — 9 August 43, though less frequent in orchards.

In the valleys around Amadia it was seen in threes and fours into late August 44. This region is more treed than the corresponding one in Penjwin. Boswell saw them there in July 43; and we both noted them in Zab Gorge. In the winter I only saw it in flocks, but Williamson saw odd birds near Dohuk in January and November. On 16 November flocks of up to 40 were seen between Sharanish and Perakh N.E. of Zakho. In April 45 some birds were paired (Barzan) but flocks were still seen 20 at Reizan and 75 at Jafrika (26 April).

It would seem to be resident in suitable localities in the north, forming flocks that wander in the winter, and to be subject to fluctuations in numbers.

153. TURTLE-DOVE.

١٥٣ - صلصل ، فاخنة برية مرقطه

*Streptopelia turtur* (L).

**C & S.**

							B					B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
			K	K								K



The records suggest passage migrant. They were noted as the dominant bird in a garden a few miles outside Baghdad on 23 April 42, and again as the dominant birds over the green crops around Hai on 17 May 43 with the peak of that wave of migration on 21st April; while in the Kut area the main autumn passage was encountered on a trip up the Tigris from 2-11 September Kut to Suweira, the birds being abundant at the latter place on the 11th September, while a fortnight later they were very abundant in huge flocks at Kut centreing round the riverside gardens of Haji Ali Shabbut. In 1945 on 28th September only one or two were left. The autumn passage for that year is clearly indicated by the records; while PNC has, as a late date for Baghdad, the 30 September 45.

First dates were: Kut 7 April 44, 17 April 43, Baghdad 22 April 42. The migrant flocks keep to the orchards (bisatin), date groves, and crops on the banks of the rivers and huge numbers may be seen on the shoals in the evening when the sun's glare is diminishing. They were found roosting in tamarisk scrub (19 April). 20 birds were seen migrating in a dust storm in the desert East of Wasit about 20 miles from the R. Gharraf on 9 May 43. On a trip to the Pusht-i-ku foothills in April 44 none was seen.

#### North.

							E	E						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
			W	W	W		W	W			W			

In E. Kurdistan at Penjwin in late August and early September they occurred in small colonies in the scrub oak whenever high enough trees were present. They were not seen after 8th September in Penjwin nor after 9 September at Ser-Amadia (W. Kurdistan) where only a few birds were seen from 14 August — 13 September 44. From Ser-Amadia Boswell has no records from 12-16th July nor in fact for the first half of August.

Vosper found them common and nests with eggs were seen at Rowanduz from end of July-August 43.

They were frequent at Choarta (E. Kurdistan) (August 14th. 45) where they came to drink at the pool in our camp.

In the Spring a forerunner was seen in the Mosul area on 19 April 45, but it is interesting, that in extensive tours of hill country culminating in a journey to Barzan between that date and 26th April, none were seen, which suggests that the migrants had



not got so far North by then. In 1944 May, travelling north from Baghdad they were seen at Samarra (8th May), but not, however, again until beyond Mosul on the Zakho road. Near Zakho town they were common, and odd pairs were seen on passes near Bersivi and Dohuk but not beyond to Amadia. Going East from Eski Kelek onwards they were seen at Rubar Kara, Harir and on the Spilik pass (14 May). Whether the northern birds are of a different race we cannot say, but in view of this possibility, to generalize on the whole country migration would be unwise.

Maclaren saw a straggler in an orchard near Mosul on 8 December 43. At the time of spring migration at Kut, I was struck by the appearance of two dimorphs, some birds appearing blue grey with little chestnut on the wing coverts, and others which were smaller were mainly chestnut. No specimens unfortunately could be obtained. This distinction was noted on several occasions.

154. COLLARED TURTLE-DOVE.

١٥٤ - فاختة مطوقة

*Streptopelia d. decaocto* (Frivaldszky).

**C & S.**

There is little to add about the distribution of this species. It was met with at Baghdad, Kut, Diwaniyah, Suweira, Zorbatiyah, Samarra (4 May 46), Baiji, K2, Kirkuk, Amara, but not at Fao in November. I found a nest at Kut with two eggs on 19 April 43. PNC records other nests from BD.: 19 May, nest in fork of orange tree, 12 foot up with 2 eggs; 26 May, nest in fork of Euphrates poplar with one egg; 30 May, nest 20 ft. up in Date Palm with two eggs. A pair of Pied Crows (*C. corone capellanus*) swooped down on the nest, which one of the doves attempted to defend. In the struggle, one egg, partly incubated, was knocked out of the nest and a Crow flew off with the other. Maclaren writing of Hindiyah mentions that several June nests were robbed by Magpies (*Pica*). A late nest was on 22 October 45 (PNC) at Baghdad, still with eggs, and young were also being fed at this time. Flocks are formed in the autumn, the largest I saw in the Kut area being one of c150 on telephone wires near Aziziyah. It may often be found at the waters edge and is fond of feeding on mud-flats on the rivers. Birds with the outer tail feathers only slightly paler may have been immature birds. For the description of a squab found at Baghdad on 18 August, see the appendix.



**North.**

It was recorded from Kirkuk (4070 ft.), but not from Suleimaniya nor Penjwin. Maclaren says they are abundant all the winter on the Mosul plain, especially in orchards near the town. After 11 March only a few remained, and courting activities were noted, so perhaps a few pairs stay to breed. Possibly I omitted to note them down, but it is odd that I have no records from the Mosul area for the winter and spring 1944-5.



## Order PSITTACIFORMES

## Family PSITTACIDAE

155. ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET.

١٥٥ - بيضاء مطوقة

*Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli).**C & S.**

B	B							B	B	B		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
S												

Frequent verbal reports were received of a passage of small green Parakeets in April and September of other years, and Lt. Col. Dwyer writing in the PNC Bulletin says: "I found in 1938 and 1939 two nests of Parakeets. From 1935-9 the Parakeets were regular summer visitors, but I have not seen them since". I never had the good fortune to see these birds but in response to an appeal in the columns of the PNC Bulletin a number of reports of them came in and finally Boswell obtained one of five in Alwiyah (Baghdad) in January 46. Details of this specimen will be found in the appendix. Fledglings taken from a nest were brought to the Royal College of Medicine in the spring of 1952. The specimen which is preserved in the Museum of the Royal College of Medicine in Baghdad was a female of the Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*). The records from Baghdad are of small parties (3-9) who drew attention to themselves by their raucous cries. They were not wild, but very restless and constantly on the move, as one observer notes: "flying from tree to tree, especially Eucalyptus trees, and settling near the top doing some screeching". They were also seen to perch on telegraph wires. The recent records from Baghdad are: 3 and 9 Adhimiyah on 26 February 42 (Boswell and Gubbins); heard at Medical College 28 February 42 (Boswell); Adhimiyah 24 August 42 (Scrimshire), 6 at Alwiyah 30 September 45, 11 October and 22-23 October 45 (Deeks, Sainsbury, Swan in PNC). Williamson also reports them from Basrah where on two occasions in May he saw five birds (1945). A resident informed him that a few, not more than a dozen, were seen at about that time every year and that they usually roosted in Gum trees (*Eucalyptus*) for a night or two, and



seemed to move North when they left (in litt. Williamson 4 November 45).

We do not think the records, to-date, justify any reliable estimate being made of the status of the bird. It is possible that in Baghdad they are a resident colony originating from introduced birds; but the restless behaviour of the birds and the sporadic nature of their appearances support Col. Dwyers contention that they are partly summer visitors. According to Stuart Baker 'Fauna of British India' they breed in India in February and March and are extensively grain and fruit eaters. If they are visitors they certainly arrive early (or else Boswell's birds were overwintering), though, of course, the weather in February in Baghdad is different from that in Britain. The bird is a wanderer and Whistler in 'Popular Handbook of Indian Birds' states that their range extends to Baluchistan. If they prove to be yet another example of an Indian species extending its range into 'Iraq; the early history of their arrivals is of special interest and it is hoped that any observer who can throw more light on their occurrences will communicate with the 'Iraq Natural History Museum.



## Order CUCULIFORMES

## Family CUCULIDAE

## 156. CUCKOO.

١٥٦ - وقواق

*Cuculus canorus* L.

## C &amp; S. 8 records.

				B	B					B			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
												K	

There are few records from the C & S areas. First records for Kut were 3 April 43, 19 April 44, both single males. Boswell and Meiklejohn saw one on the lawn of the Alwiyah Club 3 May 46. PNC has two records for the return passage 14 and 21 August 45. He does not sing en route, and I could not call him up.

## North. 14 records.

				W	W					W	W		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
												E	

To the exile the sound of the Cuckoo in Kurdistan is welcome. They appear in the third week of April (14 April 45 Aqra) and are plentiful and clamorous throughout April and May especially in the fertile mountain valleys. Sitting in a tent at Barzan I could hear birds calling in all directions. There are records of odd birds from the Seramadia district on return migration (16 August and 1 September 44). It is likely that it breeds and it would be interesting to know what species it parasitizes. Recorded from Mosul, Sharqat, Aqra, Zakho Gorge, Zawita Gorge, Sarsing, Seramadia, Kiri, Barzan, Ruba Kara, Spilik Pass, Rowanduz Gorge and Diana. In E. Kurdistan in the relatively treeless Penjwin valley a single migrant male passed through on 8 September 42. Birds on passage frequent the tamarisk scrub by rivers.

## 157. GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO.

١٥٧ - وقواق مرقط كبير

*Clamator glandarius* (L).

## North. 4 records.

I came on this species on 8 April 45 on the Dohuk stream



below that town, where the stream runs between steep earth cliffs on the outer side of bends and rich orchards on the inner. It is as noisy a bird as a Magpie (*Pica*) with a harsh call 'tchwerk' and also 'chuwagh-chuwagh-chuwagh-chuwagh'. At one time it was chased by a Magpie and flew low like a Jay (*Garrulus*), from tree to tree without going far. I found it only in those gardens with substantially tall trees. On the 19 April I saw a pair, again in an orchard, just outside Mosul. A Magpie's nest in the orchard had two kinds of eggs. One more bird was seen at Barzan. Vosper writes that he saw one in the Rowanduz area in July which was reluctant to fly, from a tree. It had the base of the bill swollen and he was sure it had not long been fledged. It would appear to be a summer visitor to Kurdistan and probably breeds there in small numbers.



## Order STRIGIFORMES

## Family STRIGIDAE

158. BARN OWL.
- ١٥٨ - بومة بيضاء

*Tyto alba* (Scopoli).

Five records from Central Iraq: Baghdad (27 July, 19 August 42), Madhatiyah (21 October 45. PNC), Hai near Kut (4 May 43), and young birds in the grounds of the British Embassy (6 July 45, PNC): and a solitary record from Kurdistan (Aqra 14 April 45). Owls are not popular with Arabs and their calls should not be heard by young children. To obviate this, the tribesmen near Hai beat petrol tins near a house where an owl is calling. The former noise no doubt is beneficial.

159. SCOPS OWL.
- ١٥٩ - شبح

*Otus scops* (L).**North.** 2 records.

The bell like call of this Owl was first heard from the tents of Mullah Mustafa at Barzan on 25 April 45. In the tense tribal and political situation at the time, the sound of this call, which was new to me, beginning at dusk from the valley opposite, in this remote area, was particularly exciting. It was heard again on 16 August 45 at Choarta.

The Striated Scops Owl (*Otus brucei*) was not met with at Baghdad. Boswell records an owl softly calling 'poo, poo, poo' at Baghdad on 14 April 44. It called at the rate of 78 per minute and continued without a break for 1½ minutes till it was disturbed by a passing car. The nearest description to this is the call of Tengmalm's Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) which the handbook (Witherby) refers to as a rare vagrant to Asia minor, but in winter.

160. EAGLE OWL.
- ١٦٠ - بومة كبيرة (مستشرة) ، بوهة

*Bubo bubo* (L).

Williamson saw two on 7 January 45 on the Khazir river in a steep sided wadi which were chased by a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco*



*peregrinus*) into a deep crack in the wall of a branch wadi. On 12 January 45 he flushed two from some large Euphrates Poplars at the mouth of a wadi leading into the Great Zab above Eski Kelek.

## 161. LITTLE OWL.

١٦١ - بومة صغيرة

*Athene noctua* (Scopoli).

## C &amp; S. 5 records.

It is surprising how few records there are for the C & S areas. I saw it twice, between Baghdad — Habbaniyah on 9 December 41, whence PNC records several on 15 May 45, and on 3 May between Baghdad — Sumaika, North of Baghdad. PNC records it from the Agar Quf near Baghdad (14 October) and Boswell saw one near Yusufiyah (24 November 44). These scanty records suggest that it is not as frequent as it was during the 1914-18 war. (vide Ticehurst 1922).

## North. 11 records.

	W		W	W				W		W	W	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

South of Mosul it is recorded from Jebel Hamrin, and the Wadi Qassab (May 44), from Mosul, Baqaq Su (May and November), from Seramadia, one on 7 September 44, from the Gomel Su (November 44) several from Eski Kelek (December 44), where Williamson obtained one; from near Dohuk (4 on 8 April 45), and the ruins at Ashur (15 April). Williamson records it from Shinnaf (February 45) and mentions that it is frequently seen in cover when shooting and on bridges and culverts in the Mosul area. Vosper reports it as common from Rowanduz — Shaqlawah in July — August. It is evidently more frequent in the North.

## 162. TAWNY OWL.

١٦٢ - بومة سمراء

*Strix aluco* L.

Maclaren saw an owl that he considered to be of this species in thick tamarisk near Mosul on 10 January 43.



## 163. LONG-EARED OWL.

١٦٣ - بومة اذناء

*Asio otus* (L).

Williamson flushed c20 in ones and twos from a small clump of Euphrates poplars and brambles at Shinnaf on the Great Zab above Mosul on 9 February 45. They had not been found there before and were no doubt migrants.

## 164. SHORT-EARED OWL.

١٦٤ - بومة صماء

*Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan).**C & S.** 5 records.

Six winter records from Baghdad area and one from Kut (20 November 45). Apart from occasional shooting expeditions, bird watching outings were usually in more open ground than this bird prefers. It is of interest that there are no records from the North to-hand. One obtained near Aziziyah in February, a pale form, was prepared as a skin, and rests in the Museum of the Royal College of Medicine at Baghdad.



## Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

## Family CAPRIMULGIDAE

## 165. NIGHTJAR.

١٦٥ - ماص المعز ، سيد

*Caprimulgus europaeus* L.

## C &amp; S. 3 records.

				B								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
							K		K			

One on 4 May 42 at Baghdad, one on 31 August Kut and one between Kut — Jassan on 21 October 43, a late date. A female specimen caught at Kut in a club garden had the Wing 195 and Tarsus 18.

**North.**

A nest was found on an earthy ledge of rock at Seramadia with one egg on 15 July 43. The female bird showed pronounced injury feigning. It hatched the next day. (Hucker and Boswell). I saw one at Kirkuk on 14 September 44.

## 166. EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR.

١٦٦ - ماص المعز المصرى

*Caprimulgus aegyptius* Lichtenstein.

This is more common than the European species and driving in the desert at night between Kut — Baghdad, it is frequently put up into the headlights when crouching in the road. It has favourite haunts, especially where the land is salty. Specimens were obtained. Maclaren saw parties of c20 in June and September 43 at Hindiyah. Vosper records one only from Qaiyarah on 18 May 43.







c50 *A. melba*, arriving from the West, proceed North in the direction of the Turkish frontier on 4 August. Between 20 August — 9 September 44 small numbers were crossing the saddle in company with larger numbers of Alpine Swift, and our last date was from near Mosul on 11 September.

The first migrants were met at Alton Keupri and at Erbil on 10 March 45, and thereafter birds were seen at Mosul (3 on 13 April) and on the Bastura Chai (2 on 24 April).

Vesper records flocks of Swifts occasionally at Qaiyarah going South (e.g. 40 on 18 May 43).

#### 168. ALPINE SWIFT.

*Apus melba* (L).

خطاف ابيض البطن - ١٦٨

#### C & S. One record.

In the foothills of the Pusht-i-ku on the Persian frontier at Tel Ziliab Alpine Swifts were frequent, (8 and 9 April 44). During sexual chase they uttered a call: 'cheg-cheg-chga-chga-chga ... running into a trill. Curiously this is very like the call of *Ammodendix* the See-See Partridge.

#### North. 16 records.

	W	W		W	W		W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
							10	11
							12	
							E	E

Small numbers were seen round the higher peaks of 6000 ft. or over at Penjwin in September 42. Occasionally they visited the valley, and Maclaren also noted them over the river in 1943. They were recorded in May from Bersivi (9 May 44), at Shaqlawa, c35, and probably breeding in a cave at Harir (14 May 44).

At Seramadia, Boswell saw two parties of c50 arrive from the West and then fly in a Northward direction towards the Turkish mountains, (4 August 43). Here too, Boswell and I saw them on many early mornings between 19 August — 11 September 44, migrating south. With the Hirundines and with *Merops apiaster* they circled round the peaks before drifting south, and were most abundant on 9 September. None were seen in the late autumn or winter until 24 April 45, when they had arrived in the cave at Harir.



## 169. INDIAN SWIFT.

۱۶۹ - خطاف هندی

*Apus affinis.*probably *galilejensis* (Antinori).

Small short-tailed Swifts with white chins and conspicuous white rumps were seen on Qala Tepe (4112 ft.) near Zakho on 8 May 44. Vosper also saw small swifts with white rumps in the Rowanduz — Shaqlawa area on high ground in August 43. They are evidently not common.



## Order CORACIIFORMES

## Family ALCEDINIDAE

170. PIED KINGFISHER.

سماك ابقع - ١٧٠

*Ceryle r. rudis* (L).

C &amp; S. 37 records.

B		B		B	B	B	B				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
K		K	K				K	K	K	K	K

It is suspected that there are local movements of birds according to season and the height of rivers; and also their distribution is limited by habitat requirements. Thus at Kut they are not particularly common, though a few are usually fishing near the Gharraf regulator, but going south on the Tigris towards Amara they become very common, where a sufficient height of bank occurs, for example on the Buteira canal. At Kut the birds reappeared on 27 September 45 after a period of absence. Unlike the White-breasted Kingfisher (*H. smyrnensis*) they are not found away from water. A nest at Baghdad had one young on 14 July 42. Recorded outside Baghdad from Deltawah (Khalis) (November — December), Shammiyah (October), Diwaniyah (October), Suweira (December), Ali Sharji (November), Khamisiyah (December), Hindiyah (April).

The call is a twittering 'tsitertsittersitter', and when uttered from a perch, the tail is raised. Noted clinging to bulrushes on pools near Baghdad, where they seemed to scare other birds off. In fishing they soar up, the beak and head go down, they may hover and then dive down. One hovering, on one occasion descended into a tree to perch. They are fond of settling on shoals and spits in the rivers, but do not often fly over extensive water. One which was flying across the Tigris at its widest at Kut resembled a Coot (*Fulica*) in flight.

This is again a species which would repay individual study.

North. 19 records.

	W	W	W	W	W			W	W	W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
							E	E			

In Western Kurdistan this species is met with up the Tigris



from the Jebel Hamrin to Qaiyara and to Mosul. North of this it occurs on most of the streams of the Mosul plain, such as the Khosar, Baqaq Su, Khazir River, Gomel Su, Rubar Dohuk and on the Khabour at Zakho. It occurs on the Great Zab up to Eski Kelek. The upper reaches were little visited, but it was certainly not seen at Kiri on this river N.E. of Amadia. In other words it reaches the outlying ridge of the mountains. To the East it was not recorded from the Rowanduz and Shaqlawah regions, but it occurs at Kirkuk and Suleimaniya and lowland valleys beyond. Maclaren found it at Penjwin in August — September. I did not see it there but found it lower down on the same stream at Choarta. These are remote tributaries of the Little Zab, and it was seen on this river at Alton Keupri. The river passing through Kirkuk is unpromising in August and it was surprising to find it there. Much further south, it was not found on the swift running Kunjam Cham, a broad, shallow watercourse east of Bedrah. (cf. Ticehurst 26. Found in the streams in the hills east of Ali Gharbi).

## 171. KINGFISHER.

١٧١ - سماك اخضر صغير

*Alcedo atthis* (L).

C &amp; S. 10 records.

							B	B	B	B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

I never saw one at Baghdad. Our records refer to Deltawa (Khalis) 40 miles to the North of Baghdad. PNC however has records from 28 August — 16 September 45 at Baghdad. Maclaren only saw them at Hindiyah after 28 April, and notes they are sparse. I saw one at Fao on 10 November 45, in the Palm belt. There are no rings of it spreading and no one found it breeding. I saw none at Kut. There are odd records from Basrah.

North. 13 records.

							W	W		W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
							E	E			

A form occurs on streams in the Penjwin district in which the wings contrast darkly with the pale blue rump. Considering the number of fish in these streams, it is surprising that it or



other Kingfishers are not more abundant. Also seen at Choarta. To the West it was noted as frequent in the Rowanduz area by Vosper at the end of July, and was seen by Boswell (1943) and me (1944) on the Great Zab at Kiri near Seramadia in August. On the Gomel Su it was seen at Khennis (12 October), and at its junction with the Hazir River (5 November and 23 November 44). One other record from the Bageira gorge (12 November) completes my observations. Maclaren notes it as sparse on the Tigris backwaters. Spring and breeding records would be welcome. I certainly never saw one from December — May, but long residence alone is likely to enable an adequate picture of distribution to be built up.

172. WHITE-BREASTED KINGFISHER.

١٧٢ - سماك ابيض الصدر ، مهلهل

*Halcyon s. smyrnensis* (L).

**C & S.** 35 records.

B	B	B	B			B	B	B	B	B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	K	K	K								K

To the English observer, this bird, after the first shock of meeting with it, comes to be regarded as one of the common place features of Date-Gardens, and no doubt many records were not put down by us. In Baghdad it is recorded from July — April after which month it is not so much in evidence. It breeds at Baghdad as PNC reports of nine, in one locality on 15 July, that one was feeding young. At Kut it appeared in the Spring from 24 February to 28 April, and was not again recorded until 21 November at Umm Al Binni on 1945. Maclaren reports that at Hindiyah it is abundant in the marshes and in the flooded willow brakes. A pair on 2 May began to excavate a hole. They were present throughout the summer, so it is likely that they breed. PNC reports it from Khan Mahawil near Museyib (6 April 45), Maclaren saw one north of Samawa (15 February) and I noted it at Diwaniyah (9 October 42). Driving from Qurna — Basrah (9 November) four were seen. I have no records for the Bedrah — Zorbatiya date gardens. It occurs north of Baghdad at Deltawah (Khalis). Williamson notes it as common in the creeks between Ashar — Marqil, but not in the Khamisiyah marshes (December 45). It occurs in the palm-belt at Fao. (November 45).

It perches on trees, sheltering in palms in the heat of the day, and also on the tops of flag-poles and wireless masts from



which it calls (Williamson). In the Clay pit pools at Baghdad we have seen it clinging to reeds. In flight the broad stumpy wings show a distal white patch, and it flies quite directly with short sharp hoists, a 'Lolloping flight' as Williamson describes it.

Apparently it does not eschew fish, as PNC records one at Baghdad swallowing a fish almost as large as itself. It is a noisy bird, with a raucous stropping or pumping call 'chuk-chuk-chukkeruk etc.'. In March from dense foliage it produced a high pitched rapid descending call, like a giant babbler; which I did not associate with the bird until it was seen in the act. This descending call was also heard at Kut. (28 April). Williamson describes interesting display flights. "In May and early June one used to give display flights out of the date gardens behind our house in the early mornings. He would go lolloping up to about 150-200 ft. screaming loudly the while, and then come down in a steep and fairly tight spiral below the level of the palm-tops, and then do it again". (Basrah).

**North.** 8 records.

	W		W	W		W	'			W		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
								E	E			

In Kurdistan the few records all come from rivers. Maclaren saw them at Penjwin and at Suleimaniya in August — September 43, but the Penjwin birds may have been migrants as none was seen in 1942 at the same time of year. Gent records one from Mosul (28 April 43); I saw it on the Khabur at Zakho (9 May 44). It was reported from the Great Zab at Eski Kelek (13 May, 29 December and 11 February). Vosper notes it as uncommon in the Shaqlawah — Rowanduz area from the end of July — August 9th, and I saw one there on the Bastura Chai on 24 April 45.

The records are insufficient to allow of generalization on its status, but it is not a common bird. The records are of interest in indicating that it can be found far from date-gardens. A name heard for it at Kut was 'Tyur Al Jebel', the Mountain bird.



## Family MEROPIDAE

173. BEE-EATER.

۱۷۳ - وروار اورپی

*Merops apiaster* L.

C &amp; S. 25 records.

				B	B				B			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		K	K	K					K	K		

At Baghdad they were frequent by 18 April 42 and still a few on 11 May. At Kut it first appeared on 4 April 43, and on 19 March 44, and was last seen on 10 May 43. Autumn date of 29 September 42 at Baghdad, between Hillah — Kifl on 21 September 45, and last record at Kut on 31 October 42. Birds are usually first heard in the early morning or at eve sailing round the towns such as Kut, uttering their rippling call. That of *apiaster* is lower pitched and more bubbling than that of *M. superciliosus*, with which it also migrated. On 14 April 44 in the morning flight at 0645 at Kut it was noted that there were more *apiaster* than *superciliosus* but within a week the *superciliosus* were in the ascendance. With the two Bee-Eaters are often a few Lesser Kestrels (*F. naumanni*). They are characteristic of the Pusht-i-ku foothills in early April, and migrate, probably, on a broad front, though they must keep in range of crops for insect food. It is possible that they are paired when migrating, but this requires further observation. Maclaren noted small parties flying upstream at Hindiyah on 6 April 43 and 2 May 43, with birds returning in early September.

North. 32 records.

							E	E				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
			W	W			W	W	W			

*Apiaster* is the dominant Bee-Eater of the hills and on a drive from Suleimaniya to Penjwin in late August the Persian Bee-eater (*M. superciliosus*) is replaced by *M. apiaster* when one gets into the mountains proper (over 3000 ft.). At that time they are fond of soaring in parties around the summits of hills of 6-7000 ft. often in company with Hirundines and Swifts (*Apus*). They also circle over scrub-oak forest. When Maclaren returned from Penjwin on 7 September 43 he found them spread all over the foothills







the same reasons. The next morning they will again be circling round the town, and then perhaps pass on. One flock of c35 which appeared at Kut on 16 April 43 performed no evolutions but went straight in at 400 ft. towards the wood and palm groves. On the other hand birds were heard circling on 12 October 43 two hours after sundown, though they may have been pausing on migration. I confirm their migration at night. Large numbers were heard over Kut on the night of 17 April 43. The following passage from my notes describes my first meeting with these birds on 18 April with Boswell, at Baghdad. "The most conspicuous feature was the universal presence of Bee-Eaters. I had heard a rolling, whistling call from birds flying overhead many days previously, but had not had the opportunity to identify them. On some semi-desert on the green outskirts of Alwiyah I first met these gay creatures. Volplaning down with wings arched as a cross-bow and with thin central tailfeathers, one first saw the cinnamon under wings. They settled here and there, odd birds on the ground, glittering with brilliant green and blue. At other times they perch on telegraph wires in small groups, each bird separated from the other by a short distance; also on Eucalyptus trees, and they seem unique in being as happy on the ground as on a perch. In the evening birds were collecting and flying across, sometimes singly, sometimes in parties, flying in no strict formation and keeping up repeated trillings 't-r-r-r-p'.

Short sharp wing beats are followed by glides, but not with the regularity of the Starling (*Sturnus*). They may be found at all times of the day with almost any types of bird. I have seen them squatting on sandbanks in the Tigris beside Terns and a Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*). On this particular evening it was evident covered some 40-50 calling noisily in a tree. Here I was astonished that a roosting movement was in progress and we eventually dis-to see them perched mainly in pairs, the partners sitting side by side as closely as in the customary illustrations of love birds!''

Boswell records them copulating on telegraph wires (9 May 47). As to their food, we saw one bird perched in a tamarisk devouring head first, after beating it on a bough, a large Dragonfly. Another was seen similarly maltreating one of the large Blaps beetles. The appearance of the Bee-Eaters in 'Iraq is greeted with mingled admiration and despair, since they are the heralds of hot weather.

The interesting feature in the distribution of this species is the question of their overlap as breeding birds with *M. apiaster*, and this point is in part discussed under that species. The habitat



of this species comprises most types of ground seen in the 'Iraqi plain and they are one of the few birds able to make much of the bare mud desert, sharing with other birds the preference for settling on salty ground or patches on roads. (subkha). These patches are usually darker and moister, but in bare stretches of desert they are only found near some water. I noticed this on the Baghdad — Mosul and Baghdad — Kirkuk roads and in the desert East of Hai. In the latter region after riding all day and seeing none it was interesting to find a colony around a small hillock. When they arrive, they are fond of green crops, a wheat field in Baghdad (23 April 42) having birds perched on every available stem, their green colour blending perfectly with the corn. Flocks settling in the evening were noticed to orientate so as to face the sun. When disturbed such flocks rise sharply and turn.

Late dates are 22 October 43 (Kut), 14 October 45 (Baghdad PNC), 27 October 43, 6 south of Hillah (Gent), and Boswell saw three late stragglers south of Yusufiyah on 24 November 44. As regards migration dates I should say that at Kut at any rate it was exceptional to see them in numbers before the first week of April, but otherwise our records agree with Ticehurst's summary (1922).

Abundant breeding sites were noted in hummocks and in the earthworks of the Nahrwan (ancient canals) between Taji-Mashahida, which are presumably among those referred to by Ticehurst as lying between Baghdad — Samarra. PNC gives interesting details of colonies on the Fellujah road. In one embankment on the roadside there were 125 nesting tunnels in 50 yds., while in another area of 60 x 27 yds., 641 holes were counted. One nest excavated, had three eggs and a naked fledgling about three days old on 3 June 45.

**North.** 15 records.

								E	E					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
			W				W	W	W					

In the North they tail out when the plains reach the mountains proper. On a trip north in early May from BD. — Mosul they were found where there was moisture up to the Jebel Hamrin, after which, I saw none in the Tigris valley to Mosul, nor at Zakho and Dohuk, and none throughout Kurdistan between 7-15 May. On the other hand the first record of 1945 was at Qaiyara on 15 April, and Vosper reports them as abundant, and nesting







at Agar Quf, and were breeding on the Malwiya ruins at Samarra. At Baghdad, birds around the disused kilns, beyond the Bund Pools at Sheikh Omar, were most active in the early morning at six, where they were driving off Hooded Crows (*Corvus corone*), and flying round, flipping their wings, and cawing like minor Rooks (*C. frugilegus*). One drove off a tame pigeon from above the porch of the Iranian Legation. On 13 June near Khanaqin PNC records them flying down to snap up grasshoppers. Like the Bee Eaters (*Merops*) they favour telephone wires as perches, where they look rather like Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*). But they also perch in low scrub such as tamarisk. When perched they often bob their tails. Though frequently seen in pairs, it is possible that males arrive first, as from 15-20th April 44, only one of a pair, which nested every year in a garden at Kut, had arrived. They were reported from Shahraban, Hindiyah, Suweira, Bedrah, Zorbatiyah, and at Tel Ziliab and Kan-i-sakht on the arid foothills of the Pusht-i-ku.

**North.** 33 records.

W W W W W W  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
 E E

In Kurdistan the bird is well distributed, being commoner on the rolling plateau than in the mountains proper where it occurs in the valleys and up to 3000 ft. Between Mosul — Samarra it is common, and it occurs at Mosul, Zakho, Dohuk, Amadia, Duri, Heiss, Sharanish, Sirsing, Rowanduz Gorge; and in the East at Kirkuk, Suleimaniya at Penjwin (where Maclaren reports it as breeding), and at Choarta. It was first seen in spring on 19 April 45 at Mosul, and Williamson reports a pair evidently nesting in a conglomerate cliff over the R. Khosar at Mosul on 23 April 44. In the first week of May 44, though it was abundant on the Mosul plain up to the foot of the hills, the main wave of migration had not reached the mountain areas. Vosper thought that the local summer visitors to Qaiyara decreased by the beginning of July. At Zakho, in the Khabour valley, parties of 7-10 were common in mid-August 42. Last recorded on 22 September 44 between Erbil and Mosul.











## Order PICIFORMES

## Family PICIDAE

178. GREEN WOODPECKER.

١٧٨ - نقار الخشب الاخضر

*Picus viridis* L.

North. 13 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									11
									12
									E

Locally resident throughout Kurdistan. Its call was followed up and the bird first seen on 18 September 42 in a wood at Penjwin, where Maclaren saw one at 4000 ft. In 1943, birds were heard calling at Sarsing near Amadia on 11 May 44. A juvenile was seen below Ser Amadia (16 August 44) and one on the Great Zab at Kiri. During the winter it was seen at Zawita (12 November), Sharanish Islam (16 November), Mangesh (31 January 45), Piris Dagh 21 January and 25 February (6 March) and between Amadia — Harik (30 March 45). A specimen was obtained on 21 January at Zawita by Williamson. W 158, T 31, Bill broken). Lower breast a green brown, moustachial streak with very little crimson. Generally paler grey than *pluvius*. In March the birds were vociferous. Not, we believe, hitherto recorded from 'Iraq.

179. SYRIAN WOODPECKER.

١٧٩ - نقار الخشب السوري

*Dendrocopos s. syriacus* (Ehrenberg).

North. 30 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								10
								11
								12
								E
								E

In the Penjwin district of E. Kurdistan this species was found wherever the scrub-oak develops into a woodland with trees of 20 ft. or more. The bird shows a preference for self-contained copses. Here it was relatively tame allowing good views. It is a noisy bird and its call is a resounding 'tchip' with a whinnying call not unlike a Moorhen (*Gallinula*). One in flight was heard to produce a clap sound, but whether with its wings as in a dove or not was uncertain. At the heat of the day from 1200-1430 hrs., it was the only active bird.



When touring West Kurdistan in May 44, it was only met at Sirsing near Amadia, a well-wooded area, and was not seen near Zakho Gorge, though Williamson saw it there on 10 November, nor at Pirman, Rowanduz nor Diana. In the wooded valley N of Seramadia it was fairly frequent in July 43 and August 44, but shy. Birds seen in the pine woods at Zawita Gorge on 12 November 44 were bold by contrast. It was also recorded from Sheikh 'Adi, Bersivi, Sharanish, Mar Yakoub, Mangesh, Piris Dagh, Spilik and Choarta. Only once was one seen on the Mosul plain at Eski Kelek in river scrub on the Great Zab (c800 ft.) (29 December 44). It probably breeds where suitable woods occur.

Another, and smaller Spotted Woodpecker was seen in woods near Seramadia in August. It was about the size of a sparrow, and had a shriller call than *D. syriacus*. I was riding at the time and only a snap view was got. It seemed too small for *D. medius*, another species which was not encountered, but is evidently not common as no others were seen.

180. WRYNECK.

١٨٠ - ١٥١

*Jynx torquilla* L.

Few records, and all from European gardens. One at Baghdad on 18 April 42 had been there many months according to Gubbins. Seen at Baghdad on 2 May 42, 3rd May 44 and 16 September 42 when Boswell had an exceptional view of one feeding at an ant's nest and later sitting on a nebbuk tree. One on migration at Kut on 7 April 44. Not recorded by me from Kurdistan.



## Order PASSERIFORMES

## Family ALAUDIDAE

## 181. DESERT LARK.

١٨١ - قنبرة البادية

*Ammomanes d. deserti* (Lichtenstein).

Desert larks were seen on the south edge of Lake Habbaniyah on 11 August 42, and PNC reports them between Fellujah and Rutbah (25 May 45). The contributor suspected they were breeding near the latter place. I found them to be characteristic birds of steep stony nullahs at Tel Ziliab on the Persian frontier East of Bedrah (8-9 April 44) and at Kan-i-Sakht to the North of Bedrah (13 April). The birds here were restless and noisy, and had a whistling call 'ral-churrulew-cheeoo', as well as a rippling call like that of *Merops apiaster*. When singing on the wing, the bird itself appears to ripple in flight. The birds were in territory and may well breed. They are likely to be *A. deserti fraterculus* which subspecies Ticehurst (1926) reports from East of Ali Gharbi.

In Kurdistan I found them at the foot of the hills behind Diana (15 May 44) and in a steep rocky gully behind Harir (24 April 45). No doubt they occur widely in Kurdistan, but as they frequent the barren lower foothills, observers are less likely to have tarried in these uninviting localities. This applies in particular to South and East Kurdistan.

## 182. CALANDRA LARK.

١٨٢ - ععل

*Melanocorypha calandra* (L).

C &amp; S. 6 records.

B	B																		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
												K	K						

It appears to be a winter visitor to the Baghdad and Kut areas. Boswell and I saw a flock of Calandra mixed with Skylarks and Crested Larks outside Baghdad near Diyala Bridge (23 January 42) and a specimen was obtained. In this, the black on the lower throat was definitely continuous across the throat, though with a bay in it, and this was visible in flying birds. The specimen was examined carefully as the continuous band is a character of



*M. bimaculata*, but the detailed description (q.v. in appendix) corresponds exactly with that in the Handbook of British Birds (Witherby), and the secondaries were tipped white except the last three. Compared with the other larks in the flock, the Calandras in flight did more short glides like a Starling (*Sturnus*).

On 1 March 42, 17 were seen behind the Bund Pools at Sheikh Omar, Baghdad, and also showed the continuous black band. On 20 March they were abundant in small scattered parties between Baghdad — Hillah in the desert.

On the desert road from Kut — Shadi they were seen on 6 December 42, and one was shot near the Suweicha flats on 15 November 45, which had a small wing 121-2. PNC records a flock of c100, thirty miles NW of Shuaibah on 14 December 45. We do not know if the contributor considered the possibility of their being *M. bimaculata*.

**North.** 17 records.

W	W	W	W	W						W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
										E	E	

They were a constant feature of the bird life of the Mosul plain from Tel Kotchek in the West to near Erbil in the East, but were not seen north of Simel on the Mosul — Zakho road. They were recorded in September when I was up in the mountains proper, and during those months in 1942, we met them in the broad Penjwin valley in E. Kurdistan.

Travelling north from Baghdad to Mosul in May 44, it was surprising not to meet them, but north of Mosul they were frequent, and from their behaviour I thought they were breeding (6 May 44). On that trip none were seen between Mosul — Erbil. Returning at the end of September, I found Calandra still singing on 12 October. In late October they were common near Ain Sifni, near Quwair on the Great Zab, and on the Khosar, but infrequent on the Gomel Su. At the foot of the Jebel Sinjar they were no longer in flocks on 7 February 45, though there were still a few flocks near Simel (18 February 45), and a small flock on the Baqaq Su 11 March). In records from 23 March onwards their behaviour suggested breeding near the Khosar, at Zumar, between Mosul — Tel Kotchek (where they were common and singing), and between Sharqat and Hadhra.



*Calandrella* spp.

Both *C. rufescens* and *C. cinerea* were recorded from Kut and from Baghdad. Generally my records refer to *C. cinerea*, but opportunities for clearing up the unsatisfactory status of these birds in the 'Iraq Fauna were poor, as so often the birds were put up when travelling by car on duty, and when it was not feasible to stop and spend time on them. Details of observations are given in the appendix. In the monthly chart, records are combined unless the birds were established as 'minor'.

**C & S.**

	B	B										B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
			K	K				K	K	K	K	

My impression is that *C. cinerea* and *C. rufescens*, are winter migrants to the Baghdad district, but that *C. cinerea* may be resident in desert cultivation around Kut and Hai. The latter was noted in hummocky grass desert east of Hai on 25 May 43. *C. cinerea* was the commoner bird. 18 records were attributed to it and 3 to *rufescens*, two of which were definite. (28 December 41, Deltawah (Khalis): 6 December 42 Kut).

**North.**

				W			W	W	W	W		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
								E				

*C. cinerea* on migration were seen at Penjwin in September 42 and there was a trickle of *Calandrella* sp. across the Ser Amadia col (6100 ft.) in August and September 44. A few were seen on river flats in the Mosul area in October — November 44, being less numerous at the end of November. At Eski Kelek on 13 May 44, birds were singing and suspected to be breeding; but from December 44 to the end of April 45 none were recorded from Kurdistan. It is surprising that Meinertzhagen (1924) had no additional information to contribute to Ticehurst (1924), and our notes do little to help. Here is another fascinating field of enquiry for an ornithologist with time to concentrate on a single genus.



## 184. CRESTED LARK.

١٨٤ - قنبرة متوجة ، ابو قوبر

*Galerida cristata* (L).**C & S.**

There is little to add to Ticehurst (1921). They become less frequent in Baghdad by mid-April, when winter birds would have moved out. On the south shore of L. Habbaniyah none were seen on the margins: only *Ammomanes* and *Alaemon* (11 August 42). They hide in the shade cast by any tussock or elevation in the ground, and in the barren desert west of Hai, they sheltered from the sun in shady water pits. Birds were seen paddling on all shoals of the Tigris at Kut (27 August 43). In the Kut district they were not common between Kut and Bedrah though a few occur at Warmiziyah, Tel Ziliab, and Kan-i-Sakht (April 44). They frequent the Wasit ruins in the desert east of Hai (9 May). On the road from Kut — Baghdad, fewer were noticed in October than in other months.

**North.**

W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E											

In Western Kurdistan they are typical birds of the Mosul plain, but they breed in small numbers up in the valleys of the hills, a nest being found at Barzan on 25 April 45 with six eggs. In May 44 they were seen in the Zakho Gorge (7 May), in the open scrub land near Sirsing (12 May), on the Pirman pass and singing in territory in the hills behind Diana (15 May). Otherwise they were not seen in the hills on this tour. They move away from the hills down to the plains rather earlier than most birds, since none were recorded in the Seramadia district by Boswell (11 July — 15 August 43), nor by me (14 August — 13 September 44).

In Eastern Kurdistan, I recorded none from Choarta (5232 ft.) from 13-22 August 45, though they occur between Kirkuk — Suleimaniya (2750 ft.). In the broad Penjwin valley they were present in small numbers at the end of August 42. Around Mosul a few were recorded from October onwards near the Great Zab, Baqaq, Khosar, at Eski Kelek, and two at Mar Matti (2800 ft.) in the Jebel Maklub (21 January 45). An increase in numbers occurred in early April. Vosper notes them as abundant in the Shaqlawa — Rowanduz district between 26 July — 9 August 43.



A bird displaying at Baghdad on 7 March 42 had the tail cocked up to 45 degrees and the wings drooped slightly. The head and neck were bent back with the crest vertical. The effect of the display is to emphasize the streaks on the throat, and the crest. The female took little notice. The bird is known well as a mimic, and I heard passages in songs resembling Green Sandpiper and Greenshank in May, and Rufous Warbler in September. Many nests were found, one with one egg on 10 June, and details may be found in the appendix.

## 185. WOODLARK.

قنبرة الاحراش - ١٨٥

*Lullula arborea.*(probably *pallida*, Zar.).

North. 8 records.

W	W	W								W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
							E	E			

In East Kurdistan five were seen near Penjwin (12 September 42) in a sheltered wooded valley, and c10 were seen at Choarta on 15 August 45. In West Kurdistan I saw one on 15 November between Bersivi-Sharanish; on 9 December 44 and again on 18 February 45 there was a small flock on the Geli Spi pass above Zakho. In the Amadia valley, which I had noted in May 44 as ideal Woodlark country, birds were abundant and singing between 18-31 March 45. A male was observed displaying with wings dropped and half spread before the female which stood passively by. Broken song heard on ground on 18 February. No certain records from Central Iraq.

## 186. EASTERN SKYLARK.

قنبرة الحقول - ١٨٦

*Alauda arvensis* L.

C &amp; S. 20 records.

B	B	B								B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
									K	K	K

The records agree with the status described in Ticehurst (1921), and range from 22 October (43) Kut — 24 March (45) (PNC). PNC records three from Basrah on 14 December 45 associating with Calandra, thus filling a gap noted in the Fauna (1923). I did not



meet it South of Sheikh Sa'ad when driving from Kut to Basrah in November 45 and none were seen at Fao. In all probability it is more frequent in the Central Wheat and Barley area than in the Southern rice lands, where the area of marsh is much greater. In the northern Mosul plain it is more abundant (q.v.). One specimen obtained on 8 January 42 at Baghdad had measurements: W 118, Tail 66 and a long tarsus 28; while two from a flock at Mosul, 4 January 45, were (W 112, Tars. 22 Bill from Skull 14, Hind Claw) and (W. 121, T. 23, B. 15, and claw 14) respectively. We were constantly struck by the dark appearance of these larks. This may be enhanced by the pale bright colours of the desert surroundings. The crest too is less noticeable, and the call which is difficult to represent (a richer 'chuddle-ee differs from that of *A. a. arvensis*. I have no record after December for Kut.

**North.** 20 records.

W	W	W								W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

In the north they are winter visitors to the rolling Mosul plain, a famous and ancient grain growing area, arriving at the end of October (27 October 44 Quwair on Great Zab river) and staying till half way through March with a few straggling flocks of a few birds later. (6, Mosul — Zakho 25 March 45). They are most abundant in January and February. Here also they appear dark birds, their upper parts contrasting cleanly with the dead white background of the underparts. On the gravel banks of the Gomel Su (5 November) restless flocks were flying with Corn Buntings (*Emberiza calandra*), Short-Toed (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) and Calandra (*Melanocorypha calandra*) larks, Spanish Sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*) and Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*).

In the same area on 22 November they and the Short-Toed Larks (*C. brachydactyla*) were far fewer in number. At Mosul a flock was seen with Linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*). Between Mosul — Tel Afar they were the dominant small bird at the end of January (26 January 45), as also between Mosul — Dohuk (29 January). On the latter road I made some counts over the mile stretches. The road runs across undulating downland and birds put up by the car were counted.

18 February.

1st count ... 137 birds.

2nd count ... 156 birds.



Of these one third were in pairs, and the rest in small flocks up to 20.

25 February.

One count ... 34 birds. Weather colder.

11 March.

1st count ... 16. One flock of 12, two pairs.

2nd count ... 46. One flock of 10. Higher ground (1000 ft.).

17 March.

No pairs seen, only a few restive flocks.

25 March.

A very few in pairs and one small party of six birds.

187. BIFASCIATED LARK.

154 - 188

*Certhilauda alaudipes.*

This remarkable bird occurs in the desert between Kut — Bedrah in addition to the areas mentioned in Ticehurst (1921 and 1926) I also saw it at Mukashafa near Tekrit on 4 May 45. Records for Kut — Bedrah area are given below:—

7 July 43. Kut — Bedrah road, one.

9 October 43. Kut — Shadi desert road, one.

21 October 43. Kut — Jassan, one.

Berdah — Aziziyah across desert 5.

13 April 43. Kut — Jassan, two.

The triangle between Kut — Bedrah and Aziziyah though desert, is not a gravel area, though east of Zorbatiyah where the gravel plateau begins it was not seen. Small parties were seen between Nejef — Kerbela, 21 September 45; and Gubbins reports odd birds between Shithatha — Ukheidha in February. They were seen by us in lonely shingle desert between Fellujah — Habbaniyah in December. South west of Lake Habbaniyah on undulating gravel plain, birds were only seen in August crouching in the shade formed by troughs in the gravel. Where the gravel was level, none were seen. Ten were counted in as many miles, and their grey and rufous plumage made them inconspicuous. On the mud on the edge of the lake, however, large numbers were met with, about fifty birds being seen, but not in flocks. There, the pale grey of the plumage made the birds stand out conspicuously. The long decurved bill and the long whitish legs are distinctive at rest, as the black and white wings are when the



birds fly. In December 45, about 5 were counted between Baghdad — Wadi Mohammadi, and odd birds were frequent as far as Rutbah which was very birdless. Two more were seen between the pumping stations T3-H4, and after that no more. In December I noted 'The outer primaries appear a yellow buff at rest, and the back, mantle and crown a peculiarly oily grey. They run along the road and though reluctant to fly, may fly a short distance, and then continue running, occasionally swivelling round. I think they avoid the obvious desert motor routes', None were seen in the desert south west of Mosul. PNC reports 8 near Basrah between Luqait — Tel Al Laham.

The call is a soft jangling 'jinzing' reminding me of a Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*).

#### Family HIRUNDINIDAE

188 SWALLOW.

۱۸۸ - سند و هند ، سنونو یتى

*Hirundo rustica* L.

(probably *rustica*).

**C & S.** 58 records.

	B	B	B	B	B		B	B	B	B	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	K	K	K	K			K	K	K	K	

Details of arrivals and departures.

1941. Baghdad. One seen in October. Last date 9 November 41.

1942. Baghdad. First. 13 February near Deltawah (Khalis).  
Widespread. 26 February.

Decrease. 18 April.

Last. 1 November.

Kut. Last 1 November.

(On 9 February 42. in the Shamiya Desert (Lat. 31. Long. 47)

Swallows entered a tent and tried to roost. Gubbins).

1943. Kut First. 22 February.

Nesting. 9 April.

Late and last. 22 September and 15 October (Suweicha lake).

They are infrequent at Kut in September.

Basrah (Shuaibah). First. 17 February (Maclaren).

Baghdad — Rutbah. Late. 10-14 October (abundant) (Maclaren).



1944. Baghdad. Early. 12 March not necessarily the first.  
 Kut. First. 24 February.  
 Nesting. 26-27 March at Husseiniyah.  
 Migrating 9-13 April on Persian frontier.  
 15 April Kut.  
 19 and 21 April big migration waves. Kut.
1945. Baghdad. Early. 16 February (PNC).  
 Fledged young being fed. 18 May (PNC).  
 Late. 21 October. Madhatiyah. 10. (PNC).  
 Hilliah. Late. frequent at end of September when few at  
 Kut.  
 Kut. Late. 29 September.

In April 44 when migration was in full swing at Kut, it was interesting to find a steady stream of migrants crossing the barren nullahs and plateaux at 1000 ft. on the Persian foothills north of Ziliab, near Bedrah.

PNC records a Swallow mobbing a Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) in May. They frequently nest in the houses of Arabs and are not ejected. In one Sheikh's house they visit the same room yearly and molest a bat which likes the apartment. At Husseiniyah near Kut on 26/27 March birds were singing all night at nests in passages of the palace of the Amir Rabia.

**North.** 43 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
						E	E					

The early Swallows in the North were no later than those seen in Central Iraq. First date 25 February 45 (Mosul), and they were frequent round Mosul by mid-March, but when visiting Amadia at the end of March, birds were not established as far north as that. Maclaren noted a pair lining a nest at Mosul on the 10 March 43; and I saw them round nesting sites at Kirkuk on 9 March 45. By the end of April birds were nesting in the Serai at Billeh (25 April 45), beyond the first two mountain ranges. When travelling North in May 44, I was just ahead of a big migration wave, Swallows being seen all the way up from Samarah — Bei — Fetha Gorge — Wadi Qassab, and being abundant on the plain north of Mosul; but few were seen at Zakho or in the Amadia valley. Migrating birds were seen at Eski Kelek on



the Zab and in the Rowanduz Gorge (13-14 May). In the summer Vosper had nests at Qaiyarah at the end of May, and he saw large congregations in the Shaqlawah district, at the end of July 43. In the Autumn visit to Penjwin (42) streams of migrants in fast flying flocks were going E & SE up the main valley between 26 August — 19 September 42; and they are frequent between Kirkuk — Suleimaniya — Choarta in the second week of August.

It is not unusual to find Hirundines circling round summits on migration. e.g. Hazar Maia (7516 ft.) near Penjwin, Seramadia (6-7000 ft.) At Seramadia, Boswell recorded none from July to mid August in 1943, but there was a steady trickle of migrants over the col during the period 4-11 September 44, usually in the early morning. Round the peaks, too, in the morning were Swallows with *Merops apiaster* and *H. daurica* (8 September), with *Riparia* and *Merops apiaster* (9 September) and with Alpine Swifts and *Riparia* (11 September). In contrast to the Centre and South of 'Iraq, September and October records are more frequent on the Mosul plain, and the last date was two on the Baqaq Su on 9 November 44.

189. RED-RUMPED SWALLOW.

١٨٩ - سنونو احمر العجز

*Hirundo daurica* L.

A single record from the central plain on March 43 when one was seen over the Bund Pools at Sheikh Omar, Baghdad with *H. rustica*. When the foothills of the Pusht-i-ku were visited on 9 April 44 this species was seen at Tel Ziliab within territorial 'Iraq. The song is short and rather like that of a Wheatear. In the South Maclaren saw two over tamarisks at Shuaibah on 22 February 43.

**North.** 15 records.

W W W W W  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

In Kurdistan they are quite frequent, being seen near Zakho at Geli Spi (7 May 44), Sharanish Islam, Zawita Gorge, Amadia (all May) and at the Suwara Tuka pass and at Seramadia (August), and at Rowanduz Gorge where they had arrived on 24 April 45, were common and breeding in May 44, and according to Vosper still had nests with young at the end of July. They were



seen near Dohuk on 13 September, the day I left, and when I returned at the end of September, I saw none. First arrivals were seen hawking round steep cliffs of the R. Zab at Harik near Amadia on 30 March 45, and they were at Barzan on 25 April. On the wing they appear a larger bird than *H. rustica*, and have a steadier gliding flight.

## 190. CRAG-MARTIN.

١٩٠ - خطاف الشواحق

*Hirundo.*

This is a local bird in the North and confined to rocky gorges. It was seen in a giant cave at Harir near Shaqlayah and in the Rowanduz Gorge (c10 on 14 May 44). At Seramadia they were frequent round mountain tops (17 August 44), in the Sulaf gorge (23 August), Duri Gorge (18 August), and in the Zab gorge near Jisr Bulbul (30 August 44). They had returned to the Harir cave by 24 April 45. These birds had dark axillaries and a twittering call, with the upper parts pale brown. When entering the cave at Harir they uttered a weird shrill shriek. Similar birds, thick set with blunt wings and dark axillaries which were seen at Tel Ziliab near Kut were probably also of this species. Though I tried to get views of the throat I was unable to, and hence cannot say whether my birds were *rupestris* or *obsoleta*. A specimen should be obtained from Harir. *Rupestris* is the species breeding in Persia.

## 191. HOUSE-MARTIN.

١٩١ - خطاف الضواحي

*Delichon urbica* L.**C & S.** 2 records.

Only once recorded from the Central plain, a single bird at Kut on the Tigris on 12 September 45. There was a very high wind (NW) and drop in temperature. At Tel Ziliab on the Persian frontier c15 were seen on migration on 9 April 44.

**North.** 13 records.

			W	W	W				W			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

On the way north in May 44, one was seen at Samarra (4 May 44) one on the Khosar at Mosul (5 May) and several round



the pass to Sharanish Islam (10 May). In the precipitous pine clad Zawita gorge above Dohuk they were frequent and c100 old and new nests were counted on 12 May. They were also seen at Sirsing. In the Rowanduz district they were on wire with Swallows by the Rubar Kara (14 May) and I saw a few in the Rowanduz gorge. Williamson however saw c50 individuals here building nests under the overhanging rock (7 May) and on 24 April 45 I saw them circling high up at the north end of the Gorge and collecting mud near Hopkings' bridge. There were no birds at the Zawita Gorge colony on 14 August 44, and an odd bird only was seen at Seramadia circling the peaks on 8 and 9 September 44. Presumably the main body leave earlier. The first return migrants single birds, were seen on 15 March 43, Mosul, (Maclaren), and on 11 March 45, Baqaq Su near Mosul. None had reached the Zawita gorge by 29 March 45. In the Serai at Billeh large numbers were breeding on 25 April 45, birds continually entering the office of the Qaimmaqam where we were conferring with Mulla Mustapha. The usual breeding sites in Kurdistan are apparently precipitous rocky gorges where there are streams (and hence mud) and overhanging shelves of rock. The occupation of this lonely fort, the Serai at Billeh raises the interesting question of how long the serai has been built and whether other buildings in Kurdistan are used.

## 192. SAND-MARTIN.

١٩٢ - خطاف الشواطئ

*Riparia riparia* (L).

C &amp; S. 38 records.

				B	B				B			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
				K	K				K	K		

From the records we have, a somewhat different impression of the status of this bird in central Iraq emerges. At Baghdad we have one record of the Spring migration of a single bird, weak and exhausted, on 24 April 44, while Boswell records them on 5 May 44, but on 27 September 42 they were common on the Bund Pools at Sheikh Omar and odd birds were seen on 9 October at Diwaniyah. The birds do, however, keep strictly to the river and the Tigris at Baghdad was not watched as carefully as the Bund Pools.



At Kut in 1943 the first migrant, a single bird was seen on 10 April and by the last week of that month they were abundant. In the Hai district on the Gharraf and surrounding crops they were frequent in May being noted especially on 20 and 24 May when large numbers were flying north, low and singly all day. No breeding colonies were found near Kut. In 1944 the first Kut migrant was on 22 April. The migrating birds were singing.

Return migrants were seen on the Tigris at Kut on 1 August 43 and between 27-31 August they were migrating. On 27th August they were passing downstream all day. On the shoals were flocks of up to c100 birds always settled on the downstream tip of the shoal. On the 31st they were similarly flying upstream and roosting on the upstream tips of shoals. The river here, however, zig-zags and they were in fact facing and moving south. Near Aziziyah, however, on 7 September 43 they were facing up river, *and* up wind. Touring up river, odd birds were seen in the first week of September 43 and a fresh wave of migrants was met on the 7th. They were seen away from the river on the Khor Es Suweicha on 22 September and last recorded on 25 September 43. In 1945 returning birds were still abundant on 16 September and last recorded on 29 September 45. At Kut, at sundown, an exodus of bats occurs and Sand Martins were seen once consorting with them. PNC reports them at Shahraban (3 September 45), near Shuaibah on 16 February 45, and Maclaren thought some were passing north at Hindiyah on 2 May 43.

**North.** 21 records.

			W	W		W		W	W			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
							E	E				

Travelling North up the Tigris in May 44 the migration was in full swing, and the stream was met at Samarra, Fetha Gorge (4 May) at Mosul, on the Khosar, singing, (5 May) and towards Dohuk where they were abundant between 5-12 May. It is suspected that they follow the Tigris pretty closely as none were seen in the mountain valleys beyond at Zakho, Amadia or Rowanduz. Boswell records none over Seramadia in July and August 43, but we both saw them with Swallows (*Hirundo*), European Bee Eaters (*Merops apiaster*) and Alpine Swifts (*Apus apus*) crossing the pass at 6100 ft. between 8-12 September 44, though none were



seen in April, Williamson saw them at Mosul on 26 April 44. In Autumn, migration was in progress at Salamiyah 28 September and a few were on the plain between Mosul — Dohuk on 15 October 44. Vosper thinks he saw a small flock going downstream at Qaiyarah on 18 July 43.

In E. Kurdistan they are common passage migrants in autumn in the Penjwin valley and were also seen at Choarta. Between 4-18 September 42 there was a continual stream of migrants centred round the river valley and surrounding crops at Penjwin. Birds moved leisurely upstream in an E and S.E. direction, some flocks haunting an area for several days before moving gradually upstream. On 4 September, just after dark, a compact flock of birds, two deep, in a flat mass, c150 came tearing over the ground about 2 ft. up, going up valley at a tremendous speed. Whether they were migrants or birds hurrying in to roost in the reeds in L. Merivan, cannot be said. The only parallel in my experience is that of Starling (*Sturnus*) flocks in Britain flying in late to a roost when held up by a head wind.

#### Family ORIOLIDAE

##### 193. GOLDEN ORIOLE.

١٩٣ - صفارية ، صفر

*Oriolus oriolus* (L).

**C & S.** 3 records.

We have one record from Kut on April 44 when a male was heard singing on passage in Sheikh Ali Al Amir's orchard. The flute like 'weela-weeo' was preceded by a whistling warbling song like a squeaky flute. Baghdad records are one seen by Boswell 21 April 42; PNC, one 23 April and Gubbins one 24 August 42, and PNC one from Latifiyah on 1 June 45.

**North.** 20 records.

W W                      W W  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

E E

In the north, however, it is a characteristic bird on Spring and Autumn passage in the mountains. At Penjwin in East Kurdistan single birds were seen in orchards above the village (29 August, 2 September, 19 September 42), and at Choarta one came through the camp singing and calling and several were singing in the Cham-i-Quizilga valley (17-18 August 45). In the West it was common in May at Sharanish, seen all up the road from



Dohuk — Sirsing, at Shaqlawa and in the Rowanduz gorge where it was singing and calling (10-14 May 44). In the latter place I heard an alarm call 'kyer' repeated six times. I suspected it was breeding at Sharanish. Around Seramadia, Boswell records it on 14 July 43 and along the Mosul — Amadia road (30 July 43), while it was seen in all the small villages in the Seramadia district, and on the Great Zab at Kiri (14-31 August 44). It seems likely that it breeds in the fertile green orchards clustered round the villages in the mountains. Vosper notes Orioles, often young birds being common in orchards near Shaqlawa (26 July — 9 August 43), and Williamson records two adults and three immature birds frequenting the garden of the Dominican Monastery at Mar Yakoub near Dohuk (26-27 August 44). The first bird of the year was seen at Barzan on 25 April 45 when visiting Mullah Mustafa, and two days later Orioles were singing on the Spilik pass.

#### Family CORVIDAE

194. RAVEN.

١٩٤ - غراب اسحم ، غراب نوحى

*Corvus corax* L.

**C & S.** 8 records.

B

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

K K

None were seen at Baghdad. At Kut it was seen at Bedrah, Zorbatiyah, Warmiziyah and Tel Ziliab in March and April 44. Between Hillah — Kifl I saw 5 on 21 September 45, and when leaving 'Iraq, 10 at Wadi Mohammadi and 4 between that place and Rutbah (18 December 45).

PNC reports 3 between Baghdad — Baquba (23 September 45) and I saw it at Khan Bani Sa'ad (21 September 44); and one carrying nesting material at Samarra on 5 May 44. Boswell records two circling over the cliffs beside L. Habbaniyah on 9 May 47.

**North.** 37 records.

W W W W W W W W W W W W

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

E E

In the North it is common and widespread in the hills, being



recorded at Amadia, Erbil and Harir in May 44, and it was particularly abundant at Seramadia in late summer. From September — April it may be seen in the Mosul plain and it probably deserts the remoter mountain valleys between October — March as it was not seen above Suwara Tuka pass during these months. On 30 March there were birds at Amadia. It is frequent around Penjwin in E. Kurdistan in August and September. Two, competing with Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*) and Egyptian Vultures (*Neophron perenopterus*) for a dead goat's head, were kept off by the Egyptian Vultures, which are little larger than the Ravens. A small party of 7-9 haunted the camp at Seramadia (6010 ft.) from 15 August 44. The roosting birds began to stay together in a flock during the day on 24 August. The roost was in a steep gully and 40 birds used it. Birds were seen till we left on 13 September 44. Boswell noted a congregation of 45 on the crags in the same area on 1 August 43. A Red-wattled Plover was seen to chase one away on the R. Khosar (23 March 45).

194. PIED CROW.

١٩٤ - غراب ابقع

*Corvus corone capellanus* Sclater.

We intend to refer to the Pied subspecies of the Hooded Crow as the *Pied Crow* and the black and grey subspecies as *Hooded Crow*, as these two subspecies cannot be confused in the field.

There is little to add to the distribution of this bird as described in Ticehurst (1921-22). It occurs at Bedrah where there are date-palms, and in April 44 was seen as far up as Warmiziyah on the road from Bedrah to the Persian frontier. It was not recorded from Kurdistan.

In the PNC records, a nest is described as being comparatively small, 16 ft. up in an apple tree in a river-bank orchard, built of sticks and pieces of palm-fibre and lined with wool. On 23 March it contained 5 eggs. I found a nest at Kut with 3 eggs on 13 April 43 (it had a single egg on 11th and 12th), and another nest with young on 17 April 43.

Freshly fledged birds were terrorizing other birds at Kut on 10 April 44; and PNC records one attacking a hare which escaped unhurt. They have the most extraordinary rattling call sounding as if the bird had swallowed a comb. Williamson thinks it is made by the bill and remarks: "like a White Stork's rattle, but a lot faster, lasting about a second and repeated three times in ten seconds.



They are fond of the sandspits and shoals in the Tigris, a preference they share with Eagles and Pi-dogs among others. On the edge of the Bund Pools at Sheikh Omar, Baghdad, blood from slaughtered animals accumulates and the 'bath' is dominated by Black Kites, (*Milvus migrans*), Egyptian Vultures (*Neophron perenopterus*), and Pied Crows in turn, the latter being in control in August.

## 195. HOODED CROW.

١٩٥ - غراب ابقع

*Corvus corone* L.*sharpai* Oates or *sardonius* Kleinschmidt.**C & S.** 5 records.

				B							B	B
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
											K	

Unfortunately careful records of this species were not kept to enable us to gauge dates of arrival and departure. I note them as occurring at the end of November 41 and some still being at Baghdad on 11 May 42, when they were being chased by Rollers (*Coracias garrulus*). At Kut I saw a pair at Jassan on 21 October 43. This is not far from the hills.

**North.** 21 records.

	W	W	W	W	W		W				W	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
								E		E		

A common resident in Kurdistan especially near villages, but it is confined to the hills and I never saw any south of the Zakho — Dohuk — Spilik line, though Williamson reports four from an orchard near Mosul on 4 January 45. I saw some, ten miles east of Kirkuk on the Suleimaniya road. In the Seramadia district it was not common in August only being seen at Heiss and a party of 7 at Kiri on the Zab, which came to the river early in the morning. At Penjwin it is common and the flocks in autumn have regular flight lines to and from feeding grounds. c60 roosted in trees in Penjwin village. At Sinat on 17 November 44, birds were cawing.



## 196. ROOK.

١٩٦ - ٤٣

*Corvus frugilegus* L.**C & S.** 27 records.

B		P								B	B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		K	K						K	K	K	

The status of Rooks at Baghdad and Kut was as described in Ticehurst, but no birds were recorded as seen in April.

First dates were:

20 October 45. Latifyah (PNC), 26 October 45 BD. (PNC).

25 October 43. Kut, 26 October 45 Kut.

Last recorded:

24 March 46. (PNC) , 26 March 44 Kut.

Boswell records large flocks of up to 500 birds, tumbling and twisting from the sky in the evening with much noise, to congregate like a black carpet on the old golf course at Alwiyah.

After a short time they would all take off, near dusk and flight to the river, presumably to drink before going to roost in a date garden in Sa'adun.

c500 were seen flying NW near Baghdad at 11.00 a.m. on 9 November 41. Rooks at Baghdad associate with Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*) and Pied Crows (*C. corone capellanus*) and have favourite mounds in open ground. Large numbers were seen on sand spits and cliffs on the R. Diyala N.E. of Baghdad. The largest roosting flock seen (c5000) was over the woods at Suweira: not to be compared with Meinertzhagen's flock of c193,000 at Khanaqin, (Meinertzhagen 1924). Rooks occur at Bedrah (5 March 44). Prior to roosting complicated evolutions take place as seen in Starlings (*Sturnus*) in Britain. A movement like a rippling carpet when on the ground was seen, and also complex evolutions over the roost site.

**North.** 6 records.

W		W							W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Like Meinertzhagen I saw no rooks in the Kurdish hills from



August — March, though they occur infrequently on the Mosul plain. These birds are mainly migrant flocks in passage. First recorded at Salamiyah near Mosul on 28 September 44 and again on 27 October 44. Noted on the Khosar on 30 December 44 and on the R. Khabur at Zakho on 25 March 45. Williamson saw the arrival of several thousands together with Jackdaws (*C. monedula*) and Starlings (*Sturnus*) of Zakho on 10 November 44. They were coming from the direction of the Turkish frontier and going ESE over the hills S. of Zakho. This was 36 hours after the first fall of snow on the Goyan and Sloopi hills of Turkey. On the 11th November large flocks were passing over Mosul in the forenoon. We had no evidence of breeding.

## 197. JACKDAW.

١٩٧ - غراب الزرع

*Corvus monedula* L.**C & S.** 2 records.

We have two records from Central Iraq, though we saw it much more frequently with rooks; at Yusufiyah near BD. (9 December 43) and two at Kut (22 November 45). These latter, certainly wanderers, were very tame and were driven off by a Pied Crow (*C. c. capellanus*). The grey of the bird seemed to be more of a silvery sheen. They were not seen above Bedrah towards the frontier.

**North.** 13 records.

W W W W W	W W
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	11 12
	E

In the Mosul area they were locally distributed in small numbers in the outer mountain fringes and on the Mosul plain. It was met with at Mosul in November and January and a flock was seen on 9 February. There were a few at Ashur on 15 April 45. In the winter local concentrations occur, a flock of 120 being seen at Mangesh in the snow on 30 January 45. None were seen in East Kurdistan at Penjwin or at Choarta in autumn, though they occurred ten miles out of Kirkuk on the Suleimaniya road (21 November 44). In May 44, 15 were seen at Wadi Jahnan, S. of Mosul, and 15 on the Rubar Kara near Shaqlawa, from which district Vosper reports a flock of c200 in early August 43. None were seen in the Amadia valley or at Seramadia during August — September 44. Williamson reports many hundreds with flocks of rooks (*C. frugilegus*) and starlings (*Sturnus*) at Zakho (10 November 44). We have no records of breeding.



## 198. MAGPIE.

عقوق - ١٩٨

*Pica pica.*probably *bactriana* Bonaparte.**C & S.** 19 records.

This bird has extended its range. Meinertzhagen (1924) notes it on the Euphrates at Nasiriyah. I saw two at Juamisa near Suweira (11 September 43), at Hafriyah near Aziziyah (21 February 44), and one at Husseiniyah, 12 miles from Kut, on 4 March 44. In 1943 and 1944 I can vouch for there being none at Kut. When I returned to Kut in 1945, three were seen at Husseiniyah (15 November), two in Kut itself (22 November) and two between Kut and Shadi. Evidently it has spread down the Tigris recently as such a bird is not likely to have been overlooked in this well-worked area in the 1914-18 war. At Hillah I saw 50-60 on the grass bank by the river at dusk on 20 September 45. Williamson reports one from Basrah in early summer (1945) and one from near Khorramshahr on the left bank of the Shatt-Al-Arab on 23 October 45. He adds that they are not common at Basrah.

PNC reports a nest with 4 young at Baghdad on 28 April 45.

**North.** 45 records.

In Kurdistan it is common and resident everywhere, both on the Mosul plain and in the W. Kurdish hills up to 6000 ft. at least. It also is common at Penjwin and Choarta in the East. Driving from Mosul to Rowanduz and Rayat and back on 10 December 44, it was the commonest bird. It does not entirely desert the more northern valleys in hard weather. South of Mosul eleven at Wadi Jahnan (5 May 44) and at Taza Khurmatli, S of Kirkuk it also occurs. At Kirkuk it breeds, and a family of juveniles there had a bare patch of green-yellow skin behind the beak. A nest in an orchard near Mosul found on 19 April 45 had two kinds of eggs, and, as a pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos were in the orchard, I suspect it may have been parasitized.

## 199. JAY.

ابو زريق - ١٩٩٩

*Garrulus glandarius* (L).**North.** 24 records.

W W W W W    W W W    W W

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

E E

Dark-headed Jays were first noted at the end of August 42



in thick woodland near Penjwin. They keep fairly high in the hills (3000 ft. and upwards), courtship being observed on a wooded summit (6450 ft.) above Diana in May 44. From May to September they are very shy and wild and difficult to observe. In the winter they move down to wooded valleys and passes; Zawita gorge (2800 ft.) being a favourite haunt. In winter they are much tamer and more numerous where they occur. Even then, they are local and on a trip from Erbil to Rayat in December 44, only one was seen. By the end of March they begin to return to the higher ground and there were some in the Amadia valley on 30 March 45, though they were absent again in May 44. In the wooded valley between Gali Ali Beg and Barzan none were seen nor heard on 25 April 44. They most probably breed as they are recorded for every month covered by this report (July — May). They do not occur below the Kurdish hills.

At first sight it looks a very different bird from the English Jay, being much greyer, the lower half from back view, being, when the folded wings cover the white upper tail coverts, completely black, with a thin white V mark on the lower wings, and a dark tail. The crown was black and the side of the head white with a black malar stripe. There was no visible crest. The primaries and secondaries were black with a thin white speculum containing a small patch of Jay-blue. The under tail coverts were white, as were the rump and upper tail coverts in flight. The underparts were a pale grey cinnamon, with long feathers on the abdomen; and the legs were grey brown. This description comes from field notes made at Penjwin, where it was well distributed, being found on all wooded heights above 5000 ft., and one or more were seen on the summits of mountains climbed. A specimen was eventually obtained for us by Williamson at Zawita, a description of which will be found in the appendix.

It has a harsh call like its British counterpart. In March at Bebaidi another call 'Kur-wik-kur' like a coarse Curlew; and on the Piris Dagh one in the same month 'warbling'. A courting pair produced some weird screeches which I will not venture to reproduce verbally. The bird examined in winter came nearest to descriptions of the race *atricapillus*, but no skins were available for it to be determined.



## 200. CHOUGH.

• غراب اعصم احمر المنقار - ٢٠٠

*Coracia pyrrhocorax* (L).

North. 31 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Choughs were common in the Western Kurdish hills and probably breed. They were not seen south of the Dohuk — Zakho range of hills. Curiously they were not found at Penjwin (August — September) nor at Choarta (August) in Eastern Kurdistan. They were first seen by me above Zakho on the Qala Tepe (4112 ft.) on 8 May 44 where I suspected they were breeding. The birds were indulging in aerial evolutions with a Swift *Micropus affinis*. They were also seen in May at Sharanish (3500 ft.) where I again suspected breeding in the precipices below the village, and in the Rowanduz Gorge. At Seramadia there were at first isolated pairs (19-23 August). Later, numbers increased but the birds were still in pairs. On 5 September a big flock was located near Dergini, of 150 birds, of which many still flew in pairs.

Throughout the winter they were seen in small numbers, usually pairs, throughout the area (Khennis 12 October, Sharanish — Sinat area (15 November), Mar Yakoub (29 January 45) Mangesh (31 January), Aqra and Piris Dagh (3-6 March 45). Several flocks of c10 were seen at Billeh in the broad valley of the Great Zab. They occurred on the snowfield of Seramadia, as well as in the valley below (18 March) and a large flock c200 was seen at Bamarni in the evening of 31 March. My last view was of 47 at Reyzan on 26 April 45.

The relationship of the birds, in pairs, and between birds in the gregarious roosting flocks provides an interesting study. Small feeding parties were seen on plough, and Williamson reports the interesting case of one caught up in a huge flock of migrating rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*), jackdaws (*C. monedula*) and starlings (*Sturnus*) at Zakho on 10 November 44 (q.v. under Rook).

## 201. ALPINE CHOUGH.

• غراب اعصم ألبى - ٢٠١

*Coracia pyrrhocorax graculus*.

North. 21 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

I first suspected these birds inhabited Kurdistan when wan-



dering round the mountain fortress of Amadia at 4.30 a.m., I saw a chough with red legs and a straw yellow bill like a blackbird, float by. Boswell saw them at Seramadia in July 43, and from 15 August — 8 September 44 these birds on their morning flights from their roost, passing over our camp at Seramadia in numbers ranging up to 200. The day to day notes give an interesting picture of some of their daily movements.

- 15 August, 55 flew over camp at 0800 hrs.
- 16 August, 135 flew over camp at 0745 hrs.
- 17 August, 117 flew over camp at 0745 hrs.
- 19 August, Morning flight as usual from roosting precipices to feeding grounds on the southern slopes of Ser.
- 20 August, Morning flight at 0730 hrs.
- 21 August, Some on crags of Mt. Perasuwa in late morning.
- 23 August, Flying low over camp at 0730 hrs. There may have been 200. I counted 140 and then stopped.
- 25 August, c200 over at 0740 hrs.
- 26 August, Morning flight from roost disjointed, and not so regular.
- 3 September, The routine flight from the roost is more broken up. 22 at 0545 hrs., c50 at 0730 hrs.
- 4 September, No big fly past.
- 5 September, 50 over at 0555 hrs. In the forenoon 200 in a flock near Dergini. They rose 2000 ft. towards us in a thermal and then started aerobatics. In flight like cross-bows. Mostly they fly with legs dangling down 'retracting the undercarriage' momentarily when pulling out at the end of a dive.
- 6 September, None seen or heard at time of morning flights
- 8 September, Only two in the morning.
- 9-13 September, None seen.

The records indicate that, compared with the Common Chough (*C. pyrrhcorax*), the flocks were integrated at an earlier date and the daily flights show that the roosting flight and may be the site of the roost, were altered at the beginning of September, possibly prior to moving off to winter quarters. No large flocks were met with in the winter. The recording of the morning flight was an easy matter.

They have a high pitched rippling call like a Babbler (*Crateropus*) and much resembling a distant referee's whistle. As



soon as I heard this I stepped out of my tent to inspect the fly-past. Williamson saw 3 in conglomerate cliffs South of Zakho and 20 feeding in fields outside Zakho (10 November 44). On the same day c20 were noted in the composite rook flock (cit sup under Rook). I saw 2 between Sinat and Derashish (17 November), a few in the snow field covering Seramadia (18 March 45) and two near Harik in the Amadia valley (30 March 45). I would describe their status as being probably a resident, locally abundant. Not hitherto recorded from Iraq.

#### Family PARIDAE

##### 202. GREAT TIT.

٢٠٢ - قرقف كبير

*Parus major* L.

North. 31 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					E	E		

Confined to Kurdistan, there are no records further south than the river-jungle at Eski Kelek. Near Penjwin it was found at the 5,500 ft. contour, in scrub oak on Mt. Kishadar, was common on the Hazar Maia (7516 ft.) and in wooded heights and orchards above Penjwin village. These birds had a grey white patch on the nape, the 'Bishop's apron' was less visible and they appeared smaller than our British race, *P. major newtoni*. They also occurred at Choarta in August 45. In May 44 none were found on the Qala Tepe above Zakho, but they were singing in the Rowanduz gorge (14 May and above Diana (6650 ft.). With Long-tailed (*Aegithalos caudatus*) and Blue Tits (*P. caeruleus*) they were found in wooded scrub-oak glades below Seramadia in July 43, (Boswell) and August (16-30 August 44). In the winter small numbers were seen in the mountain passes (Zawita, Bageira), Sharanish (15 November), Mar Yakoub (29 January) and they were frequent in the snow at Mangesh (30 January 45) and were regularly recorded through March and April when my work took me to the mountains. In the valley between Amadia — Harik (30 March) they were the commonest of the Tits and from 6th March onwards birds were singing. Generally they are not as common as Blue Tits (*P. caeruleus*) and keep more to the Scrub-oak woodland, and I only saw them in treeless valleys during hard weather. It is likely that they breed. Calls heard: a musical 'tchweez-ai' (August) 'wee-ou-wee' (September).



## 203. BLUE TIT.

٢٠٣ - قرقف ازرق

*Parus caeruleus* L.**North.** 38 records.

W	W	W					W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
							E	E			

At Penjwin in east Kurdistan Blue Tits were seen throughout my stay from 28 August — 19 September 42 in scrub-oak woodland at sufficient altitude. On one occasion they were found in willows in the Penjwin river valley. At Choarta juveniles were present in mid August 45. Boswell records them for Seramadia in July and remarks that their colour is 'more watery than *Parus c. obscurus*', and they were frequent in the woods from 16 August — 11 September 44; though less apparent in September unless one happened on a party. Between 12 October 44-30 March 45, they were frequently recorded in small numbers mainly in the mountains as at Zawita and Bageira where they were the commonest Tit, at Sharanish (common 16 November), Mangesh, Aqra Dagh, Piris Dagh, Billeh and in the Amadia valley where they were last seen. They also wander down the rivers into the Mosul plain and were recorded in winter on the Baqaq Su, at Eski Kelek, and in tamarisk jungle by the Tigris at Mosul (9 February) when the weather was hard in the hills. I never saw them in April 45, nor in May 44, though I was moving about the hill areas then, and suppose their status to be much like that of the other tits: breeding locally in 'Iraqi Kurdistan at suitable altitudes, but re-inforced by Turkish birds in the winter. Song was first heard on 6 March 45. In hard weather they join finch flocks.

## 204. SOMBRE TIT.

٢٠٤ - قرقف حزين

*Parus lugubris* Temminck.**North.** 21 records.

W	W	W	W	W			W			W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
							E	E			

I first came on these medium sized Tits in woodland of com-



paratively tall scrub-oak at the foot of Kishadara Mountain in the Penjwin valley (17 September 42), and in that district they proved common in woodlands. In May 1944 parties of 5-6 birds were seen in the boulder strewn scrub summits of Qala Tepe (4112 ft.) above the Zakho gorge and in pine woods in the Zawita gorge (11 May 44). At Seramadia in August they were only found in the steep wooded gorge of the Great Zab at Kiri. From November to April 45 they were recorded from a variety of places in the mountains around Zakho, Amadia, Aqra and Billeh and on the Spilik Pass, and finally in August they were the tamest and most frequent small passerine in a pear-grove on a hill above Choarta.

Their status is that of a characteristic bird of the Kurdish scrub-oak woodland. Probably they retire into the higher wooded valleys nearer the Turkish frontier for the breeding season, or remain on wooded summits and gorges in the southern ranges; and then spread out into the warmer valley in autumn.

In build they are compact and between a Great and Blue Tit in size. The black and white areas on the head neck and throat are strongly contrasted giving an unmistakable pied appearance, while the remainder of the plumage is a light grey brown above and a clean white below. Full descriptions from a specimen obtained at Bageira on 12 November 44 will be found in the appendix. In behaviour they are bold and at times noisy birds, joining winter flocks of buntings, finches, Blue and Great Tits in the hard weather (February 45). At this time they feed a lot on the ground among dead leaves, and are the last birds to fly when disturbed.

At Choarta where I had time to watch them, they were frequent in parties of four or five, which may have been family parties (August 45). They fed on the heads of thistles, were fond of hovering about six inches over the water of a pool in our mountain camp situated in a pear-grove. In territorial squabbles they hop angrily about from twig to twig, fanning wings and puffing out all feathers. On tree tops they hop from twig to twig, or hop 'about-turn' on their own twig, and one doing this was observed to take no notice of a Spotted Flycatcher, on the same bough. When however another of its species arrived, it hopped towards it, giving a sharp 'chirrup' and eventually drove it away. The tail is often flicked and the head constantly turning. A variety of calls was recorded, of which details are given below:



**Penjwin** (September):

A soft rolled ripple call before the 'tchah' of a Tit. Also a preliminary 'su-su-see-chaazzer', the preliminary phrase being sometimes rippled. Once, when a territorial dispute developed, it gave vent to a wild burst of calls and whistles like a Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

**Zakho** (May):**Dohuk**

Chattering and a shrill 'tsisisilip', and also 'Ter-cher-wee'.

**Zakho** (February):

In winter flock of finches, a loud 'tschiit'.

**Choarta** (August):

(a) Short soft harsh trilling 'churr' which I considered might be a recognition call.

(b) A louder call with the trill broader used in challenging intruders and singing at them.

(c) 'Chiup' preliminary to the 'trill-churr' recorded at **Penjwin**.

(d) A soft sibilant 'sis' when foraging. Probably the basis of the winter flock calls of Zakho.

The birds became noticeably noisy in the last days of March.

## 205. LONG-TAILED TIT.

٢٠٥ - قرقف طويل الذنب

*Aegithalos caudatus* (L).

**North.** 14 records.

W	W	W		W		W							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
							E	E					

In the Kurdish mountains in political 'Iraq the Long-Tailed Tit is considered to be mainly a winter wanderer and though it no doubt breeds on some summits, the parties met with in May (Qala Tepe above 3000 ft. 8 May 44; Rowanduz Gorge, common in parties 14 May 44) are probably composed of non-breeding birds. I first saw a party among bush-covered crags on the limestone







## Family SITTIDAE

## 207. COMMON NUTHATCH.

خازن البندق - ٢٠٧

*Sitta europaea* L.

North. 17 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 12
						E	E			

Probably resident in suitable wooded localities in the hills. First encountered in Penjwin in September in oak woods at the foot of Kishadara Mountain (17th September 42). It was quite common here where there were trees of sufficient height. In May 44 I found them in low scrub-oak (4'6") at Pirman and again in the Rowanduz gorge; but none were seen near Zakho, Dohuk or Amadia then. In August 44 they were present on the Suwara Tuka pass, and frequent in wooded glades around Seramadia and on the Great Zab at Kiri. From 12 October — 25 April 45 they were commonly met with at such suitable localities as Sheikh 'Adi, Sharanish, Mangesh, Aqra and Piris Dagh, on which latter mountain they were common and calling by 6 March. Calls heard resemble those of the British bird and included the 'whitt-whitt etc.', a soft 'sit' and a very weak 'see'.

The birds seen seemed small and had short bills. One watched in a pear grove on a hill by Choarta would run down a tree and while clinging to the bole with his claws, probe in the soil with his beak. In contrast to the Rock Nuthatches, with their noisy mobile parties, birds of this species do not wander far during the day from their abode. The Choarta birds had pale buff underparts with slightly more rufous under tail coverts and flanks. One in March on the Piris Dagh had very chestnut flanks. Specimens are desiderata.

## 208 &amp; 209. ROCK NUTHATCHES.

خازن البندق الصخري - ٢٠٨ و ٢٠٩

- (1) Large Rock Nuthatch. *Sitta tephronota*.
- (2) Small Rock Nuthatch. *Sitta neumayer*.

There are two kinds of Rock Nuthatch in Kurdistan, the one large and noisy, the other smaller and not quite so noisy. Unfortunately no specimens were obtained.



(1) **Large Rock-Nuthatch.**

W W W W W            W        W W  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

It is resident and must breed in Kurdistan, though no nests were found.

(2) **Small Rock-Nuthatch.**

          W        W            W  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

This was less frequently identified and I believe it to be the less common of the two. It was certainly breeding in the Sulaf Goarge near Amadia (18 March 45).

As these birds are of some interest, full field notes are appended. In some cases there was no opportunity to establish which species was present in a locality and such records are indicated as Rock-Nuthatch, unspecified.

Small Rock-Nuthatch 14 August 45. Choarta.

The black eyestripe is not heavy and ends at the eye. The under parts are all dead white with faint buff washing on under tail coverts. Smaller. Not such long neck or long bill. Bobs in the same way. But call 'khwieia' harsh like a fighting cat and the 'churrp' lighter than Large Rock-Nuthatch prolonged and slowing down towards end. Flies readily into trees, behaving on the trunk like a common nuthatch. Legs grey, bill grey, upper mandible deeper but not beyond occiput. Made deep bows from a crouching position with beak on ground to bittern-like upright stance. all in one sharp movement.

(Specimen of *S. rupicola* in British Museum had W. 73).

11 June 44. Rock-Nuthatch unspec. A pair seen in the sandstone outcrop of the Hazir River near Mosul catching and eating grasshoppers. (Williamson).

Late July — August 43 Rowanduz area. Vosper assumes the Large Rock Nuthatch to be the common Nuthatch of the rockface, noisy in its chattering call or plaintive cry. The eyestripe in most cases was very broad, though one bird had but a narrow one. The amount of chestnut under the tail and on the flanks varied considerably. The birds appeared to move in parties which might easily have been families though I never saw any young.



- 12 October 44. Sheikh 'Adi. Large Rock Nuthatch. Wooded mountain valley and Limestone gorge at Bavian.
- 15 November 44 Zakho near Sharanish Islam. Large Rock Nuthatch.
- 16 November 44. Sharanish-Perakh. Large Rock Nuthatch.
- 17 November 44. Sinat. Rock Nuthatch. unspec. Assyrian NUQRA.
- 29 January 45. Mar Yakoub Monastery (3000 ft. Large Rock Nuthatch.
- 18 March 45. Amadia. Bedaidi. Small Rock-Nuthatches going
- 3 March 45. Aqra Dagh. Large Rock Nuthatch.
- 6 March 45. Piris Dagh. Rock Nuthatch unspec. in gorge.
- 18 March 45. Amadia. Behaidi. Small Rock Nuthatches going into flask shaped nests on overhanging slopes of rock.
- 24 April 45. Harir. Cave Large Rock Nuthatch.
- 25 April 45. Barzan. Rock-Nuthatches unspec.
- 14 August 45. Choarta. (S.E. Kurdistan). Large Rock Nuthatch. Black stripe through eye goes well back down neck making the neck seem longer than in the Small Rock Nuthatch. Under tail coverts rufous and flanks pale rufous. It flew into a tree. In flight wings rattle like a partridge. Will stand on edge of rock legs wide apart and lean right down vertically over edge. Sharp bobbing up and down. A very angular bird and gaunt. From the front the wings appear 'attached'. Calls: Initial call announcing arrival a rapid chattering trill which soon broadens into a more liquid bubbling 'under-water' call; frequently followed by a jarring harder note of great variety".

(This bird resembled the type specimen in British Museum of *Sitta neumayer kurdistanica* from Mar Yakoub N of Dohuk W. 90-94).

Large Rock-Nuthatch.





## Family CERTHIIDAE

## 210. WALL-CREEPER.

دآب - ٢١٠

*Tichodroma muraria* (L).

It was delightful to find this bird in the wild and precipitous gorge leading up to Sinat, the most north-westerly village on the 'Iraq — Turkish frontier. It was spotted as a black and white bird on a face of a precipice with grey crown and mantle and a white chin. The crimson on the wing coverts was only visible with glasses. Col. Wallis (in litt.) informs me that he saw one at Diana beyond the Rowanduz gorge on 25 December 44. The pass across the Piris Dagh above Billeh seemed to be a suitable habitat, but none were seen. The most surprising record is of one seen by Boswell on the ruined Arch of Ctesiphon near Baghdad on 17 February 48 which gave magnificent views. Anywhere less likely to produce a Wall-Creeper than the flat desert around Baghdad could hardly be imagined; but Ctesiphon is in fact only 130 miles west of the Pusht-i-Ku mountains over the Persian frontier and Ticehurst (1926) records one on the ruins of Nineveh at Mosul in January which is 35 miles as the *Tichodroma* flies from Dohuk where it also occurs (Ticehurst op. cit.).

## Family PYCNONOTIDAE

## 211. WHITE-EARED BULBUL.

بببب - ٢١١

*Pycnonotus leucotis* Gould.probably *mesopotamia* Ticehurst.**C & S.**

There is no evidence of the extension of the range of this common bird of south and central 'Iraq. East of Kut they extend to Zorbatiyah near the Persian frontier. PNC records nests in May and June in Euphrates Poplar, Mulberry, Orange bushes Eucalyptus and usually Date Palms. There was a nest at Baghdad with three eggs on 15 July 42. A few notes on habits are included, since this bird comes to be taken for granted in 'Iraq, and it is just such a common species that is best suited for careful study of behaviour. They are bold birds, perching on wires or in trees, characteristically perching at an angle and with crest erected (October) usually in conspicuous positions. Birds at Basrah in October were in a loose congregation of c20, some chasing each other in squabbles during which the call (q.v.) is repeated three or four times without halt. In one squabble a bird flew up off



the ground, round and then down again. As it did this it flashed its orange-yellow vent patch. They hop on the ground. The tail is fanned slightly in flight. No special roosting behaviour was observed. Songs and calls heard include " a quiet bubbling, chuckling song from the shade of palms" (October; "two sharp notes with emphasis on the first, then song falling away with short, round warbles" (October). Initial notes of song may be repeated four or five times without ensuing song (October). Has a harsh angry call: 'Tchak, Tchak' Sings on ground, perched, or in short flights. April song (Baghdad) a rapid bubbling and a very protracted 'chip-chop' song. Seen to paddle in ditches with pigeons and waders.

#### Family TROGLODYTIDAE

212. WREN.

٢١٢ - سكسوكة الجيطان ( لبنانية )

*Troglodytes troglodytes* (L).

**North.** 20 records.

W	W	W	W									W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
E												

Wrens were found throughout Western Kurdistan from 12 November — 25 April 45, being most abundant in snowy weather at Mangesh near Dohuk (31 January 45). They were recorded as singing 17 November at Sinat, and then again on the Baqaq Su on 11 March 45. They occur near streams in gorges and mountain valleys and in scrub by rivers on the plain (Gomel Su, Baqaq Su, Great Zab, Hazir R). Only once was one seen at Mosul, in tamarisk scrub (9 February). In Eastern Kurdistan they were seen east of Kirkuk in typical *Ammoperdix* country. Small numbers wander further south and one was seen at Baghdad on 15 February 42 in an Alwiyah garden and another in January 41.

#### Family CINCLIDAE

213. DIPPER.

٢١٣ - غماس الماء

*Cinclus cinclus* (L).

**North.** 2 records.

A Dipper was seen in the Berserini Gorge between Rayat and Rowanduz on 10 December 44. Another I was surprised to find in the Sulaf gorge near Amadia on 31 March 45, frequenting a tum-



bling mountain stream only a few feet across. It was moving upstream and swimming in pools. The head was chocolate brown, the wings had a fine barring, and the breast band was not brown as in *gularis* but definitely darker, though not black. It appears to be an uncommon winter visitor to Kurdistan.

#### Family TURDIDAE

##### 214. MISTLE-THRUSH.

٢١٤ - سمنة الدابوق

*Turdus viscivorus* L.

**North.** 11 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Mistle Thrushes are certainly winter visitors in small numbers to the Kurdish mountains, being first recorded at Zawita on 12 November 44 when some fifteen were seen, and they were last noted at Harir and Barzan on 25 April 45. By 30 January they were singing and from then onwards the traveller going from Dohuk to Amadia or from Aqra to Billeh would be sure to hear their drowsy whistling. Around Sinat they prefer open country, not being seen in steep wooded gorges or narrow valleys.

It is likely that they breed.

##### 215. SONG - THRUSH.

٢١٥ - سمنة مطربة

*Turdus ericetorum* Turton.

(probably *philomelos*, Brehm.)

**C & S.** 9 records.

B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
K											

Recorded, usually in twos, from 9 December (42) to 18 April (42) at Baghdad. At Kut only a single bird in a migration stream was seen, on 14 April 44. In Baghdad they were frequent in dense fruit groves in March.

**North.** 11 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
E											

An early migrant was seen at Kiri on the Great Zab beyond



Seramadia on 31 August 44. Birds reached the Mosul plain by 23 November 44 and were common in scrub jungle on the river courses until 11 March 45. During this period none were seen in the mountain areas. They are very shy, as Maclaren also notes; and some on the Baqaq Su had a curious habit of hiding in a cavity or hole under rocks and popping out one after another when disturbed. (cf. behaviour of roosting Blackbirds (*T. merula*). One was seen at Kirkuk on 9 March 45. There are no records from Penjwin or Choarta for the autumn. A specimen was obtained at Mosul on 4 January 45. It had the wing 122, tarsus 31.5, bill from frontal feathers, 15. The rufous tinge was not on the flanks and did not extend to the throat. I considered it to be subsp. *philomelos* from the descriptions in the handbook.

## 216. BLACK-THROATED THRUSH.

٢١٦ - سمنة سوداء الزور

*Turdus ruficollis* Pallas.

At least one pair frequented Alwiyah (Baghdad) from December to February 42, I first saw them on 8 January. On 9 January Boswell reported one from Daoudiyah and I saw a further female on the Karradat Miriam side of the river (19 February). Another pair was seen on 25 February 42 in Alwiyah. Beyond these I have no records from Kut or from the north. Like other Thrushes here, it is a quiet bird. A call 'chuk chuk' like a Ring Ouzel (*T. torquatus*) was heard. One watched crept about flower beds near shrub hedges and flew up to perch in a tree where it allowed close approach. In size it seems small for a Thrush and the first one I saw I thought at first to be a 'start'. Field descriptions of a male and a female are to be found in the appendix.

## 217. BLACKBIRD.

٢١٧ - شحورور

*Turdus merula* L.

C &amp; S. 7 records.

B	B	B								B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
										K	

At Baghdad our records agree with the provisional status in Ticehurst (op. cit.). Single birds were recorded usually in dense cover or in gardens from 24 November — 7 March. A male of a



pair was singing on 25 February 42 at 5.0 a.m. but with a weaker song than that of the British bird. It was not seen at Kut until 1945 when a male was found at Husseiniyah (15 November). This compares interestingly with the presence of Magpies (*Pica*) also in the Amir Rabia's orchards at Husseiniyah.

**North.** 40 records.

W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					E	E			

From November to May there are abundant records both from Mosul and the plains and from remote mountain villages and passes. In November they were most abundant at Bageira above Dohuk in the scrub on the steep sides of a closely wooded valley and in the river jungle at Eski Kelek. First recorded singing on 25 April 45 at Barzan. Boswell records them at Sermamadia and Vosper at Rowanduz during July (43) and they were in the wooded valleys of the former district during August and September (44). On the R. Zab at Kiri some 20 were watched stealthily crossing the river one at a time to roost in trees and in tamarisk. At Penjwin, in August and September, there were a few in woods and orchards in the valleys. They also occurred in rocky situations, where one would expect to find Ring Ouzels (*T. torquata*). One small party of c8 on the summit of Hazar Maia (7800 ft.) seemed to be migrants. It was also recorded from Choarta in August 45. It is likely that some pairs breed in the mountains.

218. ROCK-THRUSH.

سمنة الصخور - ٢١٨

*Monticola saxatilis* (L).

Three records of passage migrants refer to Baghdad (26 February 42; female 23 April 42; female 2 May 42), while Maclaren had a single male at Hindiyah on 4 April 43. As the female may puzzle observers, a few points may be described. It appears a very barred bird, with head and back grey brown, and below the ground colour is brown, tinged rufous. Besides bars, it appears streaked below especially on rufous flanks. The chestnut tail and upper tail coverts seen in flight are diagnostic for a bird of this size, the tail being flashed like a Redstart (*Phoenicurus*). When flying off. A slightly pale orbital ring was noticed. Iris dark,



legs light brown, bill dull brown. It was silent, perching in bushes and on small eminences on the ground; and its way of stretching up its neck and general upright posture suggest a Thrush or Chat immediately.

In the North it too seems to be a passage migrant. Boswell saw a fine male at Seramadia (16 July 43) and I saw five in the same locality on 9 September 44.

## 219. BLUE ROCK-THRUSH.

٢١٩ - سمينة الصخور الزرقاء.

*Monticola solitarius* Müllc.,

North. 16 records.

				W		W	W	W	W	W		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
								E				

Only recorded from Kurdistan where it was most in evidence around Seramadia from July to September. It probably breeds there as Boswell saw two come of a crack in the rocks there on 15 July and I saw many juveniles on mountain peaks. It was singing on 9 September 44. They like to sit perched upright like Wheatears (*Oenanthe*) on pinnacles or on tops of boulders, and then fly off low like a cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*). The juveniles which have a black and blue streaky plumage with bars of flecks somewhat resemble Starlings (*Sturnus*). The furthest off the hills I found it was on the Baqaq Su above Mosul (9 November) but there were none there in March. They certainly stay late in the hills also, as on 16 November they were seen between Sharanish and Perakh. Another autumn record from the foothills is of two seen at Mindan on the Hazir river (29 October 44). I saw none thereafter up to the 27 April 45, but on 8 May 44 they were singing on Qala Tepe above Zakho. Vosper met them in the Rowanduz gorge in July and August and I saw a single one near Penjwin (2 September 42).

## 220. WHEATEAR.

٢٢٠ - ابلق

*Oenanthe oenanthe* (L).

G &amp; S. 23 records.

				B	B							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
				K				K	K	K		

Few records came from Baghdad (20 March and 23 April) pos-



sibly because they are on migration here, being birds of open country, and most recording at Baghdad was done in orchards and jungles or near water. At Kut a pair appeared on 1 April 43 and up to 17 April both sexes were moderately frequent. In 1944 they were more abundant, appearing on 6 April (all males) and were also frequent near Bedrah and up to Tel Ziliab on the frontier. Here on the higher plateau of foothills with *Oe. hispanica* they were temporarily co-dominant. Last seen on 25 April.

Return records from Kut are 24 October 42, 22 October 43, 25 November 43, 13 September 45, and three between Amara and Kumait (7 November 45). In the desert west of Hai in October they were found in damp and dry holes dug for water. The status in Ticehurst (1922) remains unmodified. Maclaren had two in a garden for the first three weeks of May 43, found them frequent at Hindiyah especially in early April, and also between Baghdad — Rutbah and to the frontier in October.

**North.** 19 records.

	W	W	W	W			W	W						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
							E	E						

Travelling north from Baghdad in May 44, birds were seen at Samarra (4 May) and Mosul on the Wadi Qassab and the Khosar (5 May). Further north they were not met with at that time. In August 44 they were frequent between Mosul — Dohuk (14 August) and present in small numbers including juveniles at Seramadia between 16 August — 11 September 44. One at Bashiqa on 8 October and one near Dohuk 25 February 45. Possible first migrants (males) at Mosul on 13 March 45 and several records for Mosul and the plain from 6-15 April 45. In East Kurdistan they were very abundant and in full migration in the Penjwin valley from 23 August onwards, with a preponderance of females, and from then on were to be seen on every bush and tussock. Frequently squabbles for these 'singing posts' were observed and occasional snatches of song heard. Some were on the summit of Hazar Maia (7800 ft.). Also seen between Kirkuk and Qara Anjir (13 August 45).



## 221. DESERT WHEATEAR.

٢٢١ - ابلق البادية

*Oenanthe deserti* (Temminck).

C &amp; S. 11 records.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
								K		K	

Recorded from Kut from 16 September — 7 November 45, most frequently in the last week in September. I only got to know this species in my last few months at Kut. Yealland writing in the PNC bulletin describes how on 26 May 45 he found this species breeding a few miles east of Rutbah. "I came to a low ridge not more than three feet high. As I approached a Desert Wheatear slipped quietly from this ridge, I soon found its nest in a slight hollow under a large stone on the edge of the ridge. It was loosely put together, of stalks and bents, lined with fine grass. There were five eggs, bluish green evenly spotted over almost the entire surface with reddish brown". West of Rutbah this species appeared more numerous. Maclaren saw a male at Wadi Mohammedi on 11 October 43. PNC records several at Shahraban on 2 and 23 September 45. Maclaren who found them paired by mid-February and sparsely distributed near Marqil observed a female battering a live Lizard 5" long.

## 222. BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR

٢٢٢ - ابلق اسود الاذن

*Oenanthe hispanica* (L).

C &amp; S. 11 records.

			B						B			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
			K							K		

In 1942 they passed through the Baghdad district in small numbers starting on 20th March I have no return passage records from Baghdad, but Boswell saw a male (black throated) on 16 September 44 at Baghdad. The spring birds were silent, and both dimorphs were present. At Kut, two and one passed through on 3rd and 12th April; but at Tel Ziliab (8-9th April 44) and Kan-i-sakht (13th April), they were more abundant and in the foothills were with the Wheatear (*Oe. oenanthe*) the temporary co-dominant birds. All had black throats. It was twice recorded on the return passage 21 and 22 September 43, both times in the desert. This is a hill-bird the main passage is probably up the foothills of the Persian ranges.



North. 29 records.

				W	W			W	W	W			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
							E	E					

A summer migrant to the north, it breeds in the Kurdish hills where there is scrub. At Penjwin, Maclaren found them extremely abundant in August 43. He notes that the adult males were mainly above 4500 ft. while the females and immatures were in the plain. A few of the black-throated form were seen. He first arrived on 21 August. I went there on 27 August the year before and only saw a few birds frequenting the camp and perched on telephone wires in the valley. There were also a few at Choarta in August 45.

Touring Kurdistan in the second week of May (44), Black-Eared Wheatears were frequent, singing and in territory on the higher ground (Qala Tepe, Zakho Gorge, Sandur, Sirsing, Amadia and Pirman). At this time of the year they are in striking black and white plumage. At the Zakho defile, they occupied scrub ranging from half way down the pass to near the summit of Qala Tepe (4112 ft.) and one was seen to chase a Redstart (*Phoenicurus*) and a Swallow (*Hirundo*) off his territory. Only scratchy call was heard in the south from birds in migration, on the Persian foothills, these birds had a rich full warbling song. At Sirsing where the wood is denser they were singing from tree-tops of Scrub Oak. At Amadia they started the dawn-song at 0430 hrs. with short warbled phrases, and pipit-like squeaks.

At Diana near Rowanduz on 15 May a nest was found under a stone on a mountain side covered with scrub oak and boulders. It had six eggs. Boswell found birds feeding young at Seramadia (12-16 July). The species was frequent there and both dimorphs were seen with young. He watched them sitting on top of a thornbush or boulder and flying up to catch insects. I was there in 1944 and found numbers of juveniles between 15-18 August. On 26 August there was an influx of migrants and they became abundant. They were last seen on 11 September, by which time Wheatears of all sorts were scarce. The first returning birds were seen at Hadhra on 24 April and were singing on the Spilik pass on 27 April. Here again both dimorphs were present and in song-flight a white throated bird imitated a Swallows' (*Hirundo rustica*) song.



*Oenanthe leucomela* (Pallas).

**C & S.** 7 records.

			B	B									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
			K	K									

Despite Ticehurst's warning that 'observations without specimens are well nigh useless, as in the field so many are alike (1926), since specimens were not easily obtainable, it was decided to persevere and to take careful field notes and to get to know this group as thoroughly as opportunity permitted. Since all doubtful records have been omitted, the records only represent a fraction of the wheatears seen. After a time the different species were distinguishable, not only plumage grounds but also from habits and from other intangible characteristics of each kind. For one studying this group in the field, we recommend him to make diagrammatic fieldsketches and also to have with him a chart of wheatears' tails. For this, Meinertzhagen's Birds of Arabia is of value where a full survey of the genus will be found. Lastly, juveniles and females are best left alone at first, as they are confusing.

This conspicuous wheatear, with among other features a white crown, black mantle and white under tail coverts was seen on spring passage at Baghdad (2 males 7 March 42, one male 21 April 42), at Kut (one male 21 February 44, one male 13 April 43) and also from Tel Ziliab (male and female 8 April 44) and Kan-i-sakht (13 April 44). Seen in open ground, crouching on clods in a high wind, flying up into a tree to rub its bill on a bough; it is a silent traveller, and appears a slimmer longer winged bird than say *Oe. finschii*.

**North.** 8 records.

			W	.			W						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
							E						

Between 23 — 31 August 44 it was frequent on passage over the Seramadia pass, as was the Black-eared Wheatear (*Oe. his-*



*panica*); and in E. Kurdistan it was abundant near Suleimaniya and Choarta (13-16 August 45). Spring birds were seen near Mosul on the Jebel Ain Zala (6 April 45) and on 25 April 45 at Barzan. In May 44 none were seen when touring Kurdistan. Their provisional status must be that of passage migrants.

224. ARABIAN WHEATEAR.

٢٢٤ - ابلق عربي

*Oenanthe finschii* (Heuglin).

**C & S.** 2 records both November.

Twice recorded at Baghdad, a male on 1 November 41 near Taji in a deserted stretch of road with no vegetation, and a male secured by Boswell on the Baquba road on 2 November 45. W. 90+, T 25, B 13.

**North.** 8 records.

W	W	W					W	W		W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 12

A winter visitor to the Mosul plain and foothills from December to March. Two males were seen at Seramadia on 19 August 44 and one male on 4 September. Afterwards recorded at Eski Kelek (29 December), a few in bare stony gullies on the Jebel Maklub at Mar Matti (2800 ft.) 22 January 45, where one was obtained W. 91, T.23, B from skull 13, at Mar Yakoub (29 January), Jebel Sinjar (7 February), two at Nimrud (1 March) and one on the Mosul — Zakho road (25 March 45). The August birds at Seramadia were singing, and one song was timed for 90 secs with no pause. The song is a scratchy one like other wheatears but includes rich fluty whistles, which with other phrases may be repeated. It is delivered from a rock. Subsong was heard at Seramadia in September. The January birds were singing also.

225. ISABELLINE WHEATEAR.

٢٢٥ - ابلق اشهب

*Oenanthe isabellina* (Tenminck and Langier).

**C & S.** 8 records.

Recorded: near Baghdad from 7 December 41 — 5 March 42; from between Baghdad — Aziziyah in the desert (5 November 45); from Hor Es Suweicha near Kut 21 April 44. One was obtained



for me by Sheikh Abdulla Al Amir on 16 November near Kut (details in appendix). In thick Suaeda scrub near Ali Gharbi on 7 November in the morning, a male was singing on a spray of bush with a rich, prolonged song, rather lark-like with imitatory phrases. When disturbed it dived low and flew just above ground to another perch. The species was not seen in the North.

## 226. RED-TAILED WHEATEAR.

٢٢٦ - ابلق احمر الذنب

*Oenanthe xanthopyrmyna* (Ehrenberg).

**C & S.** One record.

7 March 42. Baghdad.

**North.** Five records.

3-11 September 44. Seramadia up to four birds watch. d. 17 November 44. Between Sinat-Derashish. One.

As these are uncommon birds, field notes are here given in detail. The Baghdad bird seen on river flats in Karradat Miriani (7 March) was a blue-grey brown bird with a tail largely dark. The base of the tail was white, and the tips were white. The wings were sepia, and the flanks, vent, upper tail coverts and rump were orange rufous. There was a short slightly paler superciliary streak. It was seen beside an *Oe. leucomela* male, also on migration, compared with which it had a more upright stance and apparently longer tarsi. The white base to tail suggests the phase *xanthopyrmyna*. Lack of black throat suggests a female.

Of the Seramadia birds the first was seen by Boswell (3 September 44). We both watched several on 8 September on mountain slopes. As they had a black throat and a rufous tail with distal third black and fine white tips, we considered them to be *cummingi*. They had a faint eyestripe. On 9 September we went out to watch them again and noted that they were white under the wings and had grey legs. One well marked specimen lacked the white tips to tail feathers. Another showed dirty white at the base of the tail in flight. Another, which we thought to be a juvenile or in moult had the throat stippled with grey and the feathers of the rump and upper tail coverts only apically rufous. The proximal half of the tail was white with no rufous. They were very tame and relatively silent birds. Unlike other wheatears they were not restless, sitting motionless on a rock until approached closely, when they would dive round the corner on to another



rock. One watched on 9 September had a fairly upright stance and twitched its tail slightly, now and then flying vertically up, to do a mid-air curtsy and descent. This was done from a boulder to feed on the ground and then return to the boulder.

The call was like most wheatears a 'tchazz'. It also had a plaintive 'cheep' like a Willow Warbler. (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). A sub-song was heard, sweet with many warbler like notes of from 10-45 seconds duration. On the 11 September four were seen and shortly after we left the area. Our impression was that they were on passage. In November I saw a similar bird in the hills between Sinat-Derashish near the Turkish frontier. The bird at first sight looks more like a Redstart (*Phoenicurus*) than a Wheatear.

227. (MOURNING WHEATEAR).

٢٢٧ - ابلق حزين

*Oenanthe lugens* (Lichtenstein).

2 males at Baghdad near Agar Quf (17 February 42).

A family at Seramadia, Kurdistan. (17 August 44).

Male near Ali Sharji, Amara (7 November 45).

The Baghdad birds in fresh plumage had crown, forehead and nape white with a little grey on nape. Throat, ear coverts, back, wings black. Chest, underparts white. Rump white. Under tail coverts rufous. Tail white, with black terminal band (1 cm.) except for central feathers dark to half way. The combination of black back and rufous under tail coverts rules out other pied wheatears, and these birds may have been *lugens*.

At Seramadia a family of wheatears were found on the slopes of Mt Bishmish and were confined to the scree and boulders at the foot of a precipice. I am inclined to think they had bred there. They were in juvenile and winter plumage. Upright stance, dark, mottled, with black throat and pink under tail coverts. Tail as in Baghdad specimens. *Hispanica* and *leucomela* were available for comparison. Their backs were darkish. Call, a strident 'chazz'. Another party was found on Mt Perasuwa, one of which had the under tail coverts a brick red.

In November a cock wheatear was seen near Ali Sharji between Kut — Amara, with breast and crown white, and mantle, scapulars and throat black. The under tail coverts were orange buff.



## 228. HUME'S WHEATEAR.

٢٢٨ - ابلق اسود وابيض

*Oenanthe albinigra* (Hume).

8 April 44. Kut. Tel Ziliab near Persian frontier.

Four wheatears, all black except for white breast, belly, upper and under tail coverts were found in bare stony gulleys at the foot of the Pusht-i-ku in territorial 'Iraq in April 44. Ticehurst (1926) records *albinigra* from this wadi.

229. (WHEATEAR sp. *Oenanthe* sp.).

5 November 45. A single bird in lonely desert by a culvert near Aziziyah. Had upright stance, with typical bobbing. General colour smoky black tail black, (showing no white in flight) breast and throat appeared tinged chestnut. Dull white on quills shown in flight. Eye dark, legs by transmitted light dull brown.

230. (WHEATEAR sp. *Oenanthe* sp.).

This large and striking wheatear was found only in the neighbourhood of Shaqlawah in West Kurdistan. Its regular haunt is a stony gully at the foot of the Harir gorge where on 14 May 44, several of both sexes were found, and who, from their behaviour were probably breeding. The plumage of the bird is similar to that of *Oe. hispanica* but the black of the neck and wings meets. But the size and general rounded appearance of the bird is quite different to any other wheatear seen in 'Iraq. The stance is very upright and the birds display a sharp bowing action. They are very bold and have a call which sounds like a large grasshopper taking off.

The area was revisited on 24 April 45 and they were present. The female is similar but the black is replaced by a light brown. There were also some light brown individuals with darker throats which may have been immature birds. They were also seen on the Bastura Chai, and a male on the Spilik Pass. (27 April 45).

## 231. STONECHAT.

٢٢١ - قليعى مطوق

*Saxicola torquata* (L).(probably *rubicola*, *maura* and? *variegata*)

C &amp; S. 36 records.

B	B	B								B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
K		K	K	'				K	K	K	

It was frequent round Baghdad from November onwards in



such localities as the scrub near the Aqar Quf, on the Washash, in the Pig Garden east of Diyala Bridge, and further afield at Hab-baniyah, ubiquitous near Deltawah (Khalis) a favourite shooting locality. It was still common in Baghdad by mid February (42); few were seen afterwards and the last dates are not as late as recorded in Ticehurst (1922), a male near Hillah on 20 March 42 and at Baghdad 24 March 45 (PNC). No birds were picked out as the '*maura*' or '*variegata*' types.

At Kut it was unnoticed in winter 42/3, a few being seen between 7-17 April 43. The first returned on 25 September 43 (9 September 45) and birds were seen from 14 January, 24 March — 7 April 44 on which date a pair of almost black and white birds were seen which might have been the '*variegata*' type, as well as the typical form. One was also seen at Tel Ziliab (a female) on 8 April 44. In 1945 they were seen from 9 September till I left at the end of November, and on a trip south I recorded it from Sheikh Sa'ad, Amara, Qal'at Saleh (frequent) and in the palm belt at Fao. Both forms occur at Kut but the pied birds are much less frequent. The forms which we have tentatively suggested were '*variegata*' type had white upper tail coverts and plenty of white on the tail (vide sub).

**North.** 16 records.

			W	W						W	W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
									E			

At Penjwin four juveniles were first seen on 4 September, becoming more frequent a few days later, and seen again on 12 September 42. Not recorded from Choarta in August. They appear to follow rivers on migration and to stay near them in winter quarters. At Mosul they were seen from 12 October — 27 December 44, juveniles being frequent. They were not found beyond the first foothills except near Bersivi on the Zakho side (15 November). They next appeared in March (7 March) from Aqra — Mosul and on 11 March there was an influx of '*maura*' type with a few almost black and white birds with little but white on the tail which I again took to be '*variegata*' type. Again on 8 April 44 they were frequent on the stream south of Dohuk. Almost every individual differed in plumage especially with regard to the amount of red on throat. Again some '*variegata*' type were noticed. None were seen in Kurdistan in May 44 nor at Seramadia in July (43),



August — September (44), so it is unlikely that any breed. Collections of an interesting series would not be difficult on the streams on the Mosul plains in winter and the nature of these varieties or races might become apparent. Readers are referred Meinertzhagen's Birds of Arabia (1954) where the systematic difficulties into which this sprightly bird has led writers are vividly presented.

## 232. WHINCHAT.

٢٣٢ - قليعي احمر

*Saxicola rubetra* (L).**C & S.** 10 records.

				B	B							B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
				K								

PNC has a record for Baghdad for 3 April 45, and Maclaren had one on 31 March and on 28 April 43 at Hindiyah and Boswell saw a male at Fellujah on 9 May 47. My Kut records are of a male (13 April 43), two on 17 April and single birds in 1944 on 7th and 15th April, while one was seen at Kan-i-sakht on the Persian frontier on 13th April 44. Maclaren records one, probably the same one, at Zubair from 15-26 May 43. These rather late records of migrating passerines from the very south of Iraq are curious. Cumming recorded it from Fao in May (Ticehurst, 1922). At Kut the bird is evidently primarily a bird of spring passage.

**North.** 2 records.

I saw but one at Bersivi near Zakho on 9 May 44. Maclaren reports a few immature birds in the Penjwin plain in late August 43. I did not meet it there though I saw *S. torquata* which he does not mention.

## 233. REDSTART.

٢٣٣ - حمراء

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (L).(probably *phoenicurus* and *samamisticus* (= *mesoleuca*)**C & S.** 28 records.

				B	B							B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
				K	K							

In 1942 by the 21st April there was an abundance of migrants, 25 being counted in half-a-mile of palm and shrub garden, includ-



ing many females and first year birds. Only a few remained by 11 May. At Kut in 1943, the first was seen on 1 April and up to 17 April a big passage went on. They were possibly the dominant passerine migrants and frequented gardens and beanfields. All these birds were of the race *phoenicurus*. In 1944, early migrants were seen on 24 and 27 March, the birds being males. They remained abundant until the end of the month, proportionately more females occurring by then. One was seen at Kan-i-sakht (13 April). Maclaren records a female in a garden at Zubair on 7 May 43, and notes them as frequent from mid-April at Hindiyah. He also noted several at Wadi Mohammedi in October, which is a record of interest.

**North.** 20 records.

			W	W	W				W		W	W		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
							E	E						

At Penjwin in September 42, birds of the *samamisticus* (= *me-soleuca*) race were frequent in oak woods, where the trees were of a height suitable for tits (*Parus* sp.) and Nuthatches (*Sitta* sp.). With them were many juveniles. Maclaren in 1943 (August — September) also noted this race at Penjwin; and I saw a few at Choarta in August 45. Travelling north in May 44 there were several at Samarra (4 May), a few males at Sharqat and birds were singing and apparently in territory in Zakho Gorge. No direct evidence of breeding was obtained. A few juveniles were seen at Seramadia between 16-30 August 44. Returning at the end of September, I saw one at Sheikh 'Adi on 12 October and again near Sharanish on 16 November. The first spring bird was a female on the Baqaq water on 11 March 45 (Maclaren had a male *phoenicurus* at Mosul on 22 March 43); then at Hadhra ruins (16 April) and by the 27 April they were singing and in territory on the Spilik pass. No *samamisticus* were recorded from western Kurdistan.

234. BLACK REDSTART.

٢٣٤ - حمراء سوداء

*Phoenicurus ochruros* (Gmelin).

(probably *ochruros* and *phoenicuroides*)



**C & S.** 16 records.

W W W	W W
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	
E	

Baghdad district records run from 2 November 41 — 7 March 42, several of these records refer to *ochruros* but a male *phoenicurus* was seen on 23 January 42. Some *ochruros* were watched in pomegranate and vegetable allotments. When in cover they slip about slyly, flashing the red conspicuously before diving into cover. But will come out and stand on a hillock allowing close approach. They are rather silent. The call of male *ochruros* is 'wheet' like a leaf warbler. A pair were found frequenting deep muddy clefts in the bank of the Diala River on 8 December 43. They were *ochruros*.

Kut produced but two records, 14 January 44 and one *phoenicurus* near a flood pool which on 21 February 44 was singing. Odd birds were recorded from 14-22 November 45.

**North.** 21 records.

W W W	W W
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	
E	

At Penjwin odd birds were seen in early September (2-8/42), one of which was doubtfully thought to be *phoenicurus*. None were seen there by Maclaren, and I recorded none from Choarta in August 45. In the Mosul area small numbers (mostly *ochruros*) were regularly seen from 3 November 44 — 30 March 45. They occurred in mountain areas (Sharanish, Perakh, Mar Matti and Mar Yakoub monasteries, Zakho pass, and in the Amadia valley), on river courses (Eski Kelek, Gomel Su, and Mosul at Albu Sef) and in urban areas (Mosul gardens, Kirkuk). Many of my records specify *ochruros* and there is no mention of *phoenicurus*. A puzzling bird with a greenfinch-like (*Chloris chloris*) song with only the upper breast black was seen near Amadia on 18 March 43. It may have been *semirufa*, as records of song in winter quarters are scarce, the following may be of interest.

22 November 44, a male *ochruros* singing from the top of a bridge over the Zab at Eski Kelek. Consisted of a brief warble followed by a sound as if the song had been swallowed and ejected under pressure.



16 March 45. Mosul, singing in our garden, recorded as a female. (This may have been a first year male. I remember it as a very brown bird).

18 & 30 March 45. Amadia district. Bebaidi and Harik, singing. None were seen in Kurdistan in May nor in July — September at Seramadia.

235. NIGHTINGALE.

۲۳۵ - هزار

*Luscinia megarhynchos* Brehm.

C & S. 8 records.

B B B  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
K K

Nightingales can be heard regularly each year in the area of Karradah known to English residents as 'Devonshire' (Karradat Sharqiyah), which has extensive orchards. PNC has records of them being frequent there, and also near the confluence of the Washash and Tigris, from 8 April — 22 June 45, song being heard in all cases.

At Kut it appeared and was singing on 17 April 43, 23 April 44 (Husseiniyah) and birds were singing at night in the garden of Sheikh Abdulla Al Yasin on 10 May 43. Migrating birds will sing in the scantiest of cover, as one on 28 April was singing in the small lock-gate gardens of the Kut Barrage.

North. 14 records.

W W W  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Going north in May 44 birds were heard at Samarra (4 May), at K2 (5 May), and were common at Mosul and in the mountains where they probably breed. They frequent scrub-covered gorges, orchards and particularly riverside jungle. There are no records for the autumn. My first arrival was on 13 April 45 at Mosul, but Maclaren has a very early arrival of at least one singing in a thick bramble brake by the river at Mosul on 24 and 28 March 43.

236. BLUETHROAT.

۲۳۶ - مسهر

*Luscinia svecica* (L).



**C & S.** 11 records.

	B	B	B									B
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				K					K		K	

Although some care was given to making field notes on the plumage of these birds, the data are insufficient for determining the races. One form is quite a common winter visitor being seen at Baghdad between 27 December and 15 February 42, but four out of six records refer to December. At Kut they were found in tamarisk scrub by the river in September, and they were really frequent in late November (20 November 45) perching on sprigs of *Tamarix*, feeding on the ground and also in liquorice. They run fast on the ground and have an alarm call, a soft 'dhuck-dhuck'.

A larger bird with long wings drooping in wheatear-like upright stance may have been *magna* (17 April 43. Kut).

**North.** 3 records.

Bluethroats were only seen in the north at Mosul in cabbage fields in January 45. Two were obtained and measured: (i) W. 71 mm., T. 26 mm. Tail 55 mm. (ii) W. 3 mm., T. 27 mm., B (from frontal feathers) 11 mm. The former had a conspicuous red spot above the blue, but no white spot; the other had upper blue feathers with a satin-white base which gave a white spot when the head was raised. Wing measurements do not help much as Hartert gives the wing of males of *svecica* as 74-81 mm., while the Handbook of British Birds (Witherby et al) says 69-74 mm.; but *svecica* now includes *gaetkei* (Kleinschm) which Wardlaw Ramsay gives as 74-78 mm. The differences in wing and "wing-tip" measurements have been shown to be individual and not racial by Steinbacher (Orn. Monatsber. XLIII, March 1953, pp. 38-41) and for this reason *gaetkei* was struck out of the List (Br. Birds XXXI p. 13). The measurements in the Handbook are misleading.

## 237. ROBIN.

٢٣٧ - ابو الحنا.

*Erithacus rubecula* (L).(probably *caucasicus* and *hyrcanus*)**C & S.** 14 records.

	B	B	B										B
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
				K						K	K		



In Baghdad, first recorded on 7 December 43 (9 December 41 Habbaniyah), and first singing on 26 January, they were never frequent and being shy escaped notice. Last recorded by me on 13 March (44) but Allouse (1953) records one on 4 April 48. At Kut a few also occur but I have only three records, of a bird giving snatches of song at Husseiniyah (26 October 45), one November record, and again at Husseiniyah on 23 February (44). In November 45 they were met with south of Kut down the Tigris at Ali Gharbi, Ali Sharji shrine, Kumait, Amara and at Fao where on 10 November 45 they were singing in gardens. Two in bare desert, but not far from cultivation near Ali Gharbi on 7 November were engaged in territorial fighting.

**North.** 17 records.

W	W	W										W	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
												E	

In Kurdistan it is a more frequent winter visitor being recorded from 5 November 44 — 18 March 45. They are common in the wooded mountain valleys north of Zakho up to the Turkish frontier and they penetrate down the streams on to the Mosul plain, frequenting the drier scrub on the Baqaq, Gomel and Great Zab rivers. None were seen at Mosul itself. In the Zawita gorge they occur in the pine wood with Juniper shrub layer, and were still there in snow on 25 February. In March they were seen at Billeh and were quite common in scrub-oak woodland on 17 March. The song is noticeably different from our British bird, and in one case was prefaced by a loud initial 'tue-tue'. None were seen in April, May, nor from July — October and it seems unlikely that they breed.

238. WHITE THROATED ROBIN.

٢٣٨ - ابو الحناء أبيض الزور

*Irania gutturalis* (Guérin).

This bird was found singing and apparently in territory on the Geli Spi pass above Zakho on 6-8 May 44. Apparently a 'start', with grey plumage, rosy underparts and a black tail spread out like that of the Rufous Warbler (*Agrobates galactotes*), it remained a mystery until I was able to see a copy of Dresser and later examine specimens. My field notes are. Slightly larger than Redstart (*Phoenicurus*), with crown dark grey; white supercilium,



chin black, or with two black gular stripes and a central white stripe. Throat and ear coverts black; Breast a bright rufous brick (in another chest and belly washed pink), belly under tail coverts white. Mantle back and rump blue grey, tail black, central feathers with white. Black under tail is conspicuous when lifted. It cocks its tail up and spreads it like a Rufous Warbler (*A. galactotes*). It flits from bush to bush like a warbler. Aggressive behaviour, singing at an intruder. The song when not in flight consists of short stretches of rich bursts with grating passages. In flight a full rich loud song, fluttering with wings dropped and tail fanned, is most striking. Habitat fairly dense scrub on rocky hillside. It is not an easy bird to watch; and had not returned to the Zakho locality by April 45; nor did McNeile find it in 1949.

#### Family SYLVIIDAE

#### 239. CETTI'S WARBLER.

٢٣٩ - عاجة ستي الشرقية

*Cettia cettia* (Temminck.)

North. 22 records.

W W W · —  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
E E

Watched at Penjwin on 8 September 42 in damp vegetation (where Maclaren also notes it as frequent in 1943 and at Choarta (15 and 20 August 45). I am familiar with this warbler and its startling song from the Camargue and was lucky to obtain good views. In W. Kurdistan in May it was common and well distributed in fertile valleys and passes, being common and singing at Zakho (6 May), at Bersivi, Sharanish and all the way up to Amadia from Dohuk. There were also a few on the Tigris banks at Mosul on 12 May. None, however, are recorded from the Amadia mountains in August and September which is odd, in view of their presence in E. Kurdistan at this time. From 11 March — 27 April 45 when I left, they were quite common and recorded on the R. Baqaq; at Dohuk, in Amadia, Gomel Su, and the Rowanduz Gorge, Spilik Pass, Barzan and at Sharqat, South of Mosul (16 April 45). An odd bird was heard to produce its single loud 'chik' call on the Gomel Su on 5 November 44 and again at Baqaq Su on 9 November when the reiterated 'cheek-chk-chk-chk etc. call was heard. Birds were generally found near water but at Jafrika near



Gali Ali Beg it was in lush vegetation away from water. The status must remain undetermined in Kurdistan, but Allouse (1953) records that E. S. Steward found it breeding at Hatra (May 1949).

## 240. MOUSTACHED WARBLER.

٢٤٠ - هازجة ام الشارب

*Lusciniola melanopogon* (Temminck).probably *mimica* (Mad.).

There are five records from the Centre and South and two from the North. On 11 August 42, one was seen on the S. of Lake Habbaniyah my description was: 'a small warbler with streaked plumage, a conspicuous white supercilium and the long tail jerked up as in the Rufous Warbler (*Agrobates galactotes*)'. Birds were seen on the Washash near Baghdad and several near Baqubah on 7-8 December 43 described as 'a small skulking bird like a Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*), first noticed by a call of 'tick'. Crown of head dark chestnut, black eyestripe and conspicuous broad white supercilium. Chest brown, and back (not mantle) unstreaked. Under parts and under tail coverts white. Tail brown. No median coronal stripe, nor dorsal streaks. It cocks its tail up. It was also recorded from Umm Al Binni near Kut (19 November 45) and by Williamson from Khamisiyah near Basrah (15 December 45). In the North it was seen on the Gomel Su (5 November 44) and on the Baqaq Su in the Mosul district (9 November 44).

## 241. GREAT REED WARBLER.

٢٤١ - هازجة القصب الكبيرة

*Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (L).

C &amp; S. 7 records.

B B

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

E

Only recorded on spring passage, it first identified singing in the reeds in a clay pit at Baghdad (23 April 42). It is quite a large bird, red brown especially on crown and rump, with faint dark bars on tips of folded primaries and on tail. The tail is rounded with central feathers longer, darker in its apical third and finely tipped white. The underparts are a dull white buff whiter on chin and breast. The buff flanks and under tail coverts



show well when the tail is cocked. There is a slight dark eyestripe and a paler supercilium. The birds keep low in the reeds during the hot daytime, appearing only for an instant on a reed-flower. From 5.30 a.m. onwards in the cool of the morning, however, I found them exposing themselves from every reed top, gurgling away their song. The throat and neck were ruffled and the crest stuck up like a Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*). The gape is a blood red colour, and as with other passerines in the hot weather the beak is often agape, when perching. The bill is dark and thick and long. The legs appear pink by transmitted light and brown grey by reflected light. The Song consists of a very deep harsh guttural sound, as much like a Frog's croak as anything, followed by a short rambling song. The guttural sounds may be represented as: 'croak-croak-croakerdee'. They were seen and heard singing at Baghdad during late April and May, at times being seen in cane brake adjoining Alwiyah cantonment. PNC records one singing on 13 May 45, which supports the view that they may well breed. At Kut one appeared with a wave of migrants on 19 April 44 and at roosting time was put up from a small leafless bush which also harboured a small party of Spanish Sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*), three Red-backed Shrikes (*Lanius collurio*), a Woodchat (*L. senator*), two Menetries Warblers (*Sylvia melanocephala*) and four Olivaceous Warblers (*Hippolais pallida*). Two days later three were in thorn and in corn clinging to grain stalks. They were silent. In the North I saw but one which was singing on the Khosar at Mosul on 5 May 44.

## 242. &amp; 243. REED WARBLERS.

٢٤٢ و ٢٤٣ - عواج القصب

*Acrocephalus* sp.

	B	B	B			B													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
							K	K											

Reed Warblers (other than *A. arundinaceus*) were common and singing in the Clay Pit ponds at Baghdad on 23 March 42. A small red brown Reed Warbler resembling *A. scirpaceus* was common and singing in this locality on 23 April 42, and also on the Bund Pools at Sheikh Omar on 5 May. On 5 August there were a few on these pools but none on the Clay Pit ponds on 7 August 45. At Kut near Hai, in thorn by a canal was a Reed Warbler with very pale buff flanks and under tail coverts (20 May 43), and the next day a bird was heard singing from reeds the



song being unlike *A. arundinaceus* but too coarse for *A. scirpaceus*. The birds seemed larger than *A. scirpaceus* and may have been in fact of the *griseldis* race of *arundinaceus*. A species of Reed Warbler was common in the Suweicha Lake on 16 June 43. Like the Phylloscopids, this group really needs concentrated study if anything is to be achieved.

## 244. SEDGE-WARBLER.

٢٤٤ - هازجة السعد ، أم نوح

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (L).

One singing at Baghdad on 11 May 42 is our only record, and Maclaren notes them as frequent at Marqil in a garden throughout May until 4 June 43, observing that they were very skulking.

## 245. MARSH-WARBLER.

٢٤٥ - هازجة البطائح

*Acrocephalus palustris* (Bechstein).

A short stumpy warbler of earthy brown colour with a conspicuous white eye rim may have been of this species; but it is a species with which we are unfamiliar. It was seen on 12 May 44 near Mosul on the banks of the Tigris.

## 246. OLIVACEOUS WARBLER.

٢٤٦ - هازجة زيتونية

*Hippolais pallida* (Hemprich and Ehrenberg).probably *elaieca* (Lindermayer).

C &amp; S. 21 records.

B B B B B  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
K K K

At Baghdad the first record, 24 March 45, comes from PNC. By mid-May there was one every 10 yds. in a transect made in Karradat Miriam, a host of them having fallen on the land, singing away with their chattering scrape, their wild extravagant outpouring. Parts of the song can be likened to arpeggios. By 12 May, they were singing in every garden and cover all day and even at night. They were already defending territory with crest raised angrily and puffed feathers, chirring away and displaying with trembling wings and shouted song. PNC gives the following details of nests:







In late summer there were a few at Penjwin in sheltered parts of the valley with sufficient cover. Birds at Choarta (19-22 August 45) were silent except for calls. At Seramadia one was still singing in snatches on 18 August at Duri, and they were last seen on 23 August.

There is no doubt that this species would make a good subject for detailed study. It is plentiful, easy to see and resident through much of 'Iraq.

(One watched in terraced cultivation above Penjwin appeared more rufous than *H. pallida elaioca* and had white outer margins to the outer tail feathers).

247. BLACKCAP.

٢٤٧ - ابو قلنسوة

*Sylvia atricapilla* (L).

**C & S.** 8 records.

B B B

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

K

At Baghdad PNC reports one on 24 March 45. A male seen on 19 April was silent. On 3rd May, Blackcaps were singing, at times from the densest cover. At Kut on 5 April 44 both sexes were present but not singing. By 14 April they were among the dominant migrants, four males and a female being found in one small garden. The next day none were found. On 20 April 43 with a fresh wave of migrants they were common, Sheikh Ali Al Amir's orchard being full of them (20 were counted). Maclaren records them as being sparse at Hindiyah at the end of April.

**North.** 7 records.

W W W W W

W

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

In the North a male appeared in our garden at Mosul on 28 January 45 and was still with us on 9 February. A female was recorded in an orchard on 19 April and one was seen at Jafrika on 26 April 45. The main migration, I suspect arrives, later. At Zakho on 6 May 44 there were several, silent; and single autumn birds are recorded from Seramadia (female, 9 September 44) and Penjwin (female 19 September 42). It is evidently not a common migrant in Kurdistan, and the main passage may follow the Tigris.



A few evidently winter round Mosul (vide Meinertzhagen 1924, Ticehurst 1926).

248 BARRED WARBLER. ٢٤٨ - حاججة مقلمة

*Sylvia nisoria* (Bechstein).

Four records. 11 May 42 at Baghdad one; one with a wave of migrants at Kut on 26 April 44, two more at Kut on 28 April 44, and one in the Zakho gorge on 7 May 44. In flight it appears a blue grey bird and the call is a harsh grating. The eye of one seen at Baghdad was more red than yellow. On migration they frequent gardens and orchards.

249. ORPHEAN WARBLER. ٢٤٩ - مناغى بستانى

*Sylvia hortensis* (Gmelin).

At Choarta between 14-22 August 45 there was another puzzling *Sylvia*. Attention was first attracted by a sub-song from a warbler in our camp in a wood. It was sustained and bubbling within a small compass like a Garden Warbler (*S. borin*). No scolding note was heard on that occasion. The bird was skulking and different in habits from *S. mystacea*. It had no vinous tinge, the crown was black and contrasted strongly with the white chin. The next day it was watched more carefully and it was noted that the bird had a grey back, a black grey cap which came below the eye. It was larger than *mystacea* and had a pure white throat and chin. The song (fuller this day) was composed of rich musical warbling phrases, with many whistles which began with a ripple. Some short phrases were repeated, and it contained no harsh notes. It was delivered half heartedly, but in contrast to other birds it still sang at 10.30 a.m., by which time the heat had silenced other birds. I was inclined to vote it an Orphean Warbler (*S. hortensis*) a species which we do not know.

Finally in the spring of 1945 at Dohuk (8 April) a warbler was frequent and singing from trees in the Rubar Dohuk with a long song containing repetitive phrases. They had dark grey heads with a paler forehead, the chin and throat pure white, back and mantle grey brown and the tail was not graduated. Zarudny, a mine of ideas, likely and unlikely, records the eastern form *crassirostris* from the Zagros.

These unconfirmed 'sight' records of a difficult genus add nothing to systematic ornithology, but as these notes are



intended primarily for the assistance of ornithologists working in Iraq we hope it will encourage someone to go up into the hills and collect some of these doubtful warblers and clear up the matter.

250. GARDEN WARBLER.

٢٥٠ - هازجة البساتين

*Sylvia borin* (Boddaert).

At first confused with the Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*) and records from Baghdad, where it is probably common on migration have been omitted. At Kut it appeared on 13 April 43 and on 14 April 44. In the North it was common and suspected breeding in the Zakho gorge on 7 May 44. Its gape was a red-orange and the legs a pinkish brown. It sang from the centre of a bush as in Europe, the song being much richer than that of the Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*). Birds in the broken scrub country near Sirsing in the Amadia valley repeated phrases in their song and included an imitation of *Merops apiaster*. They appeared to be territorial (12 May 44). It was recorded from Kirkuk on 21 September 44. Maclaren records one from Marqil in the south on 9 May 43.

251. WHITETHROAT.

٢٥١ - زريقة فرائية ، هازجة بيضاء الزور

*Sylvia communis* Latham.

**C & S.** 7 records.

			B					B						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
				K					K					

Recorded from Baghdad on 18 April 43 (though not necessarily a first date) and from Kut on 17 April 43 and 19 April 44. An exhausted bird was found in a Baghdad garden on 21 August 42. The measurements were W. 74.5, Tarsus 21, Bill (culmen to hairs) 9. Iris dull yellow brown; legs and feet pale brown. Eye rim buff. It was also recorded from Kut in the autumn, 15 September 45. Maclaren did not see them before mid-April at Hindiyah and notes that they persist throughout May at Marqil. This confirms Cheesman's observation in Ticehurst (1922).



## North. 14 records.

			W					W W					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
								E					

To Kut it is, at any rate, a passage migrant. Travelling north from Baghdad in May 44 I was either with or ahead of a big passage of different birds. Whitethroats were seen up to Samarra (4 May 44) but not north of this place. Earlier waves must occur as one was singing in our garden at Mosul on 13 April 45 and sub-song was heard from two near Agra (14 April 45), and birds were on the Spilik Pass on 27 April 45. From 19 August — 9 September Whitethroats, in small numbers, passed over the col of Seramadia (6100 ft.) and one was obtained on 9 September (W 71 mm., Bill 10 mm., Tarsus 23 mm. a small wing for *icterops* the form described from 'Iraq). At Penjwin they were seen between 2-19 September 42 in the valley and were common on the summits of Hazar Maia (7516 ft.). Maclaren also found them common in the scrub by the river here in the autumn of 1943.

252. LESSER WHITETHROAT. ۲۵۲ - زریقه فرانیة صغيرة

C &amp; S. 12 records.

								B					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
		K K						K					

Mostly recorded from Kut where it was frequent by 3 April 43 and the sub-song was heard from migrants. On 8 April they were abundant in low grown vines and were last recorded on 19 April. In 1944, four were seen on 24 March, the big movement went through on 14 April, and between 5-15 May none were seen. One return migrant was seen on 15 September 45 at Kut. Maclaren records them as frequent throughout April at Hindiyah (43) and as present at Marqil in May. Boswell had three in his garden at Baghdad on 20 September 44. I have no certain records from the north.

253. SARDINIAN WARBLER. ۲۵۳ - دخلة راساء ، هازجة سردینیا*Sylvia melanocephala* (Gmelin).

After seeing much of the Menetries' Warbler (*S. mystacea*) in Central 'Iraq. Birds were seen in Kurdistan whose habitat, beha-



viour and appearance were dissimilar to this species. In the Zakho gorge and on Qala Tepe, above 3000 ft., there were a few warblers apparently occupying territory, which it was considered might be Sardinian Warbler (*S. melanocephala* sp.). The cap was dark and sharply defined and the underparts were without the pink wash. They had a sharp 'tek-tek' call like that of a Blackcap (*S. atricapilla*).

In Baghdad on 25 April 42 among migrants a number of male warblers were seen with no trace of pink on underparts, which had the head clearly black and distinct from the mantle. Several similar birds were recorded crossing the Seramadia saddle (17 August 44). Ticehurst (1926) in the 'Additional Notes to the Avifauna of 'Iraq' mentions *S. m. melanocephala*, Gm. as being not uncommon at Mosul.

254. MENETRIES' WARBLER.

٢٥٤ - هازجة ميتري

*Sylvia melanocephala mystacea* Menetr.

C & S. 29 records.

	B	B	B	B	B	B	B					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		K	K					K	K	K		

At Baghdad: Last recorded in 1941 on 2 November, it was not seen again until 15 February when three migrant males were seen in 'Devonshire' or Karradat Sharkiyah. The head, forehead and cheek look black, the throat and breast a pinky white, the allula black and white, the distal parts of the primaries with pink margins, the back grey black, tail black with white outer tail feathers. The legs were light brown and the iris an orange-yellow. One flitted silently about, cocking its tail up, as Boswell remarked at the time 'like a woman trying on a hat'. This description of plumage is given to help newcomers to 'Iraq, as it is noticeable that the contributors to the excellent PNC bulletin apparently overlooked this, one of Iraq's most characteristic birds. In April they were frequent, but less in evidence as their weak whitethroat-like scratchy song was drowned by the chorus of other warblers, in particular the Olivaceous Warbler (*Hippolais pallida*). Gent records one on 20 June at Baghdad, and there were several in August (22 August 43) on the Hypocolius Island and at Diwanayah on 9 October 42.



At Kut they are apparently more markedly summer visitors, being first recorded on 2 April 43 and 27 March 44. In 1943 they were not recorded after 19 April. In 1944, after a few forerunners, a wave of migrants came through on 7 April, followed by a bigger wave on 14 April, when, together with Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) they were the dominant passerines temporarily. The next day there were none. They were temporarily frequent again on the 20th and on the 28th April when there were several migrants in the small lock gate garden of the barrage. Some may stay and breed, for although in 1944 I left for Kurdistan at the end of April, in 1943, when I was engaged in crop estimation throughout May I did note them. The Ménétriès however is one of those common birds in 'Iraq, whose presence one does not always note down. In trips to the Persian frontier at Tel Ziliab and Kan-i-sakht but one doubtful individual was seen.

It seems that this species keeps to more fertile habitats on its migration route. In the autumn it was noted on 25 September 43, but in 1945 when there was time to spare to look for birds at Kut, there were only a few on 9 September, one on 28 October, two on 3 November and one seen at Ali Sharqi on 7 November, on a motor trip from Kut — Fao and back. This bears out the winter status described in the Iraq Fauna (Ticehurst 1922). The call is a jarring (tchek-k-k-k-k-k').

**North.** 7 records.

W W

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

In Eastern Kurdistan it was not recorded from Penjwin in September 42, nor from Choarta in August 45. In the West there was a definite passage in April (first record 8 April Dohuk, 16 April Sharqat, 25 April Jafrika and 27 April when it was common below the Spilik pass. All the birds recorded were in song. In May 44 there were several pairs at Zakho itself (6 May) and one male at Eski Kelek (13 May). There were none at Seramadia (August — September 44). Two doubtful records from Mosul for October and November. The impression is that its place is taken by the Sardinian Warbler (*S. melanocephala*) in the Kurdish hills. In the barren nullahs above Tel Ziliab on the Persian frontier east of Kut, a striking warbler were seen but not identified. It



was a small grey bird with brick red underparts quite unlike the vinous tinge of the Ménétrières' Warbler, it cocked its tail up and had, I think, a white chin. Ménétrières' does however occur here (Ticehurst 1926).

255. EASTERN RUFOUS WARBLER.

حمره شرقية - ٢٥٥

*Agrobates galactotes familiaris* (Ménétr.).

C & S. 16 records.

				B	B	B	B	B	B				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
				K	K								

It is easy to get first records for this conspicuous bird, and the records show remarkably constant dates.

18 April 42. Baghdad.

17 April 43. Kut.

14 April 44. Kut.

18 April 45. Baghdad.

17 April 43. Mosul (Gent).

I have not September dates for Kut, but PNC records a few at Baghdad on 2 September 45.

*Song*: The song resembles a more musical Robin (*Erithacus*) song. His cool chilly notes, suggestive of an autumnal robin, place him as perhaps the best songster in Iraq. The variety and richness of the song are past any of the weird chucklings and utterances of the Bulbul (*Pycnonotus*). As with Song Thrushes (*Turdus ericetorum*), the song is divided up into phrases but there is no repetition. The scrape and chatter typical of warblers have to be listened for before they are noticed. When singing the beak is wide open. The sub-song is more hurried. Calls heard include a 'twee' like a phylloscopid, a 'sing' like a Hedge Sparrow (*Prunella*) and another call once heard was a 'gew-gaw' uttered from a perch. They sing often from branches of date palm. It is found wherever there is cover, with a liking for moist spots and irrigation ditches. It has been found on the desert tails of cultivation near Hai.



North. 15 records.

			W	W			W	W	W					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
							E							

When I left Kurdistan at the end of April 45 no Rufous Warbler had been seen since October, but Gent reports one from Mosul on 17 April 43. In May 44 they were found widely distributed in small numbers from Zakho, up the Dohuk road to Sirsing, at Harir, and at Diana. I saw none between Baghdad — Samarra — Mosul then, and curiously enough Vosper does not mention it from Qaiyarah in May and June (1943).

Walking up the Zakho gorge they were found to increase in abundance with height and birds were in territory (7 May 44). In late summer there were one or two round the camp rubbish dump at Penjwin (29 August 42), though Maclaren who was there a week earlier in 1943, found them fairly frequent there by the river and in low oak scrub. During a month's leave, bird watching at Seramadia, only on two occasions did we see it, one on the way up, beyond Dohuk (14/8) and two in the fertile village of Duri (18 August 44). Williamson reports several at Mar Yakoub monastery (27 August 44) and one at Mosul on 11 September 44. I saw no birds thereafter in the district. A distraction display was observed with the red tail fanned, the bird moving away from a nest at Hai in Central Iraq (21 May). Details of nests published in the PNC bulletin will be found in the appendix.

256. WILLOW WARBLER.

عازجة الصفصاف - ٢٥٦

*Phylloscopus trochilus* (L).

G & S. 23 records.

				B	(B)									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
			K	K	K							K		

The feeble song of the Willow-Warbler was heard at Baghdad on 19th and 21st April 42. We have no autumn records from Baghdad.

At Kut in 1943 the spring passage had already begun on 1st April the birds being very abundant the following day. They were



not recorded that year after 8 April. They were on the way back on 25 September 43. An early bird (with the first Swallow (*Hirundo*) of the year) was seen at Husseinayah on 24 February 44; migrants appeared on 24 March and thereafter were recorded up to 20 April 44. Some seen on 6/4 were rather large and slim and the eyestripe was a clean white. It may be noted that they were also passing along the barren arid frontier at Kan-i-sakht (13 April 44). Return birds were twice seen at Kut in 1945, a very yellow green bird on 7 September 45 in thorn and tamarisk and two birds on river banks on 29 September 45. Inevitably Phylloscopids were noted from time to time when there were not opportunities for detailed observation. Of interest were some small leaf-warblers (*Psylloscopus* sp.) in Dwarf Poplars at Baghdad on 11 May 42, one of which was a light brown with no green tinge, but which had a pollen yellow patch on the wing margin. Also on 21 May 43 near Hai (Kut liwa), some phylloscopids were present in thorn-heath. These two records suggest that stragglers (probably *trochilus*) may linger well into May. In this respect it is interesting that Maclaren records them at Hindiyah as frequent after mid-April, with one flock of about 40 birds being noted until 2 May 43. He also notes a late bird at Wadi Mohammedi on 11 October 43.

North. 11 records.

W W  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
E

At Penjwin, Willow Warblers were seen from 1-19 September 42 up to 7000 ft. They were frequent passage migrants being found with *P. collybita* in the most unlikely situations. One bird watched was very grey with a buff supercilium and the yellow line near the first primary. In May 44 a few were seen in the Zakho gorge (7 May) Bersivi (9 May) and were singing in the dawn song on the Amadia fortress on 12 May 44. At Seramadia from 17 August — 9 September Phylloscopids were present, but with so many birds to see they were not studied. A Willow Warbler was heard feebly singing in Dohuk on 8 April 45, there were birds at the Hadhra ruins (16 April) and they were recorded on the Spilik on 27 April 45.



*Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieillot).

probably *collybita* (Vieillot), *abietina* (Nilsson) and  
*tristis* (Blyth.).

**C & S.** 11 Records.

			B	B								B	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
		K	K									K	

A winter visitor. No early records from Baghdad, 20 November being the earliest from Kut. PNC notes them as frequent in March (45) at Baghdad and our last record there was on 19 April 42. First song heard was at Kut on 18 February 43, where they were very abundant on 2 April and not recorded subsequently. No specimens were obtained. Gent records a late song at Marqil (22 November 43).

**North.** 11 records.

		W	W	W	W							W	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
												E	

At Penjwin very dark brown birds with dull white underparts, which were thought to be *tristis* were seen on 3 September 42, one with a very greeny yellow eyestripe (4 September), and both Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers (*P. trochilus*) were abundant on passage at all heights up to 7000 ft. on 12 September. None were recorded from Choarta (August 45). In the West none had reached Seramadia in August — September 44 and were first recorded on the Gomel Su (5 November). From then onwards there were records up to 8 April 45 (Dohuk). A specimen obtained on 27 January 45 at Mosul corresponded in all details with the description of *tristis* in the Handbook (W. 60, T. 20, B. 10).

First song in Mosul on 14 February 45. Migration was in progress in March when the birds were abundant in the undergrowth by the Baqaq Su, a few of which were singing. (11 March 45). None were seen in May in Kurdistan.



## 258. STREAKED WREN-WARBLER.

٢٥٨ - ابو زعر

*Prinia gracilis.*(probably *irakensis*, Meinertz).**C & S.** 44 records.

B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
K			K	K	K			K	K	K	

In the South it is resident all the year where it occurs. That it is not recorded from Kut in certain months is due only to carelessness. It was very abundant at Kut where it frequented bean-fields in April. There were some in the reeds of the Suweicha lake in June, October and April, both when green and when brown and dry. It was the only inhabitant of tamarisk and suaeda scrub in January.

**North.** 2 records.

We have two records from the North. One singing on the Baqaq Su above Mosul on 11 March 45 and one in a 'bustan' on 19 April 45 also at Mosul. None were seen at Penjwin, either by me or by Maclaren, nor at Choarta nor at Seramadia (August—September), nor elsewhere between September and April. Further records from the north would be of interest. One would expect to find it in the jungle flats at Eski Kelek. It is a small bird, with a long tail of graduated feathers has a ruffled look and is a dull streaky brown in colour. The eye is red. It is a busy little bird keeping to low herbage, creeping about on the ground, and appearing on the top of a spray, or a bulrush, when its dead white breast shows up conspicuously even at a distance. It often only flies a foot or two to the next clump. By April it is less obtrusive though the song is more rarely heard (18/4). However in Kut they were singing everywhere on 14/4. And they sing again in May. One was watched giving his 'cricket' song from a single reed. With bill opened wide, his feathers stick out all round and his tail seems to consist of an ill-assorted bundle of feathers of different lengths. The full song was first heard in February (15/2. Gent) and sounds like a locustid insect, followed by a 'chip-chip-chip' etc. The calls include a single jarring note, a warning 'tick', a soft finch like 'chit' (heard only in November) and the 'tzit-tzit'.



## 259. FAN-TAILED WARBLER.

٢٥٩ - ابو زعر مروحي اللذب

*Cisticola juncidis* (Rafinesque).**C & S.** 15 records.

B						B	B	B	B	B		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
K		K		K								K

Recorded at Baghdad on 2 November 41 and again on 3 August 45, when Col. Wallis and I saw birds with fledged young. PNC bulletin records several at Baghdad through August up to 26 October, and it is noted at Shahraban (23 September 45). One was seen at Baghdad on 20 July 43 by Gent. Finally PNC records it on 11 January 46 at Baghdad. It is evidently resident at Baghdad.

In the cultivation near Hai there were always a few being put up when we rode through green corn on crop estimation between 4-24 May 43. It first makes itself known by a soft call 'sit-sit', delivered with an upward jerking flight which is most characteristic. In size it is small, no bigger than a *Prinia*, of slight build and has a pale brown back with dark streaks, a rufous buff rump and the tail in flight appeared very pale and slight. It showed a preference for 'showq' (thorn) heath or weedy cultivation and there were about 1/250-300 acres in the vast Suleimaniya moqat'a of Sheikh Belasim Al Yasin. They cling to single plant stems and when three were watched thus at Umm Al Binni near Kut on 20 November the rufous buff flank and under tail coverts, and the buff on the side of the chest were noted. One was seen in vegetable gardens near Kut on 14 Jan 44. They were seen over green barley at Husseiniyah on 27 March 44. We have no records from Kurdistan. The Baghdad birds, at any rate, are likely to be *Cisticola juncidis neurotica*, Meinertz. (vide Meinertz. Ibis October 1924 pp. 601-625).

## Family TIMALIIDAE

## 260. HUTTON'S BABBLER.

٢٦٠ - ثرثارة هاتون

*Turdoides caudata*.probably *huttoni*, Blyth.**C & S.**

B		B				B	B			B	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Babblers were only seen at Baghdad, where they were a common spectacle in the gardens of Alwiyah, and near the Agar



Quf, 19 miles south at Yusufiyah, and 60 miles east at Hafriyah. Out of the breeding season they move about in small parties often of seven birds, creeping and hopping along the ground like a small procession of mice from palm stump to palm stump, uttering whistling calls. In April they were paired, going for the top of conspicuous singing posts, and driving off sparrows. One would call high, and its partner reply at a lower pitch. They also have a descending scale of calls. PNC reports Babblers of some species from Shahraban in September. Insufficient attention was unfortunately paid to this species.







كلية الآداب والعلوم

# متحف التاريخ الطبيعي العراقي

نشرة رقم (١٠)

## ملاحظات حقلية عن الطيور في العراق

( القسم الثاني )

وضع

هـ . ج . مور

ب . ع . ( كمبردج )

مدرس علم الاحياء في مدرسة كلايسمور . دورست ( انكلترا )

و

جارلس بوزويل

ب . ع . شرف ( لندن ) ، د . ف . فخريه ( بغداد )

استاذ علم الاحياء في الكلية الطبية الملكية العراقية ببغداد



مطبعة الرابطة - بغداد

١٩٥٦



