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XXXI.—*Bird Notes from Southern Spain.*

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THE following notes have been compiled from observations made in southern Spain between December 1918 and July 1920, while the writer was serving at the Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar. Anyone using that fortress as a daily base for ornithological work in Spain finds it very difficult to get any distance into the country, and for that reason no attempt was made to cover a great amount of ground, but efforts were confined to working a small district as thoroughly as possible. Most of these observations, therefore, were made around Algeciras and in the neighbourhood of the Sierra Carbonera (Queen of Spain's Chair); but the local enforcement at Algeciras in 1920 of a Spanish law prohibiting the firing of a gun between March 1st and August 1st, hampered work near there so much, that, whenever possible, attention was given instead to Almoraima Cork Woods, 16 miles to the north. On three occasions, through the kindness of my old friend Colonel Verner, visits of a few

days at a time were paid to the neighbourhood of the Laguna de la Janda, and the Retin Hills. Notes on migration were regularly made, and it was hoped that constant watching at the Europa Lighthouse, Gibraltar, would give good results ; but the nature of the light (double occulting with red and dark sectors), and still more the meteorological conditions which prevail in the usually clear atmosphere of the Straits, have rendered the return a meagre one. "Bird Nights" were few and far between, and it was only occasionally that a bird struck the lantern. It is possible that were the observations continued over a series of years, valuable information might be obtained, and more so if collaboration could be carried out with the lighthouses at Capes Spartel and St. Vincent, where, it is said, that at times many birds are observed. For some at present inexplicable reason the Europa light was only attractive to birds when the wind was westerly. When migrants were seen on the Rock after an easterly wind, even though the meteorological conditions seemed favourable, the invariable report from the lighthouse was, that none had been seen in the rays.

Attention was chiefly given to the Passeres, and owing to want of time no skins of the larger birds were preserved. With regard to these no information was obtained which is not already recorded in Irby's 'Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar.' The more one tries to do ornithological work in southern Spain, the more one must admire the results obtained by that excellent ornithologist, whose earlier observations, at all events, were made from the same base as that from which I worked and under much more difficult conditions as to transport.

It has been assumed that the 12 to 15 miles stretch of water which lies between southern Spain and Morocco, is a well-defined boundary line between the ranges of many subspecific forms of birds. The result of these observations is to dissipate that theory to a considerable extent : the Hawfinch, Dartford Warbler, Fantail Warbler, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, and probably the Great Tit, Mistle-Thrush, and Martin, formerly considered subspecifically different, must now be

recognised as the same on both sides of the Straits, and it is probable that once the birds of the Riff district in Morocco have been thoroughly gone into, further discoveries will be made, showing that there is practically no difference between the majority of the birds of the northern Moroccan coast and their representatives on the Spanish side.

I beg here to acknowledge my indebtedness to Captain W. M. Congreve for his great help in obtaining for me specimens of the breeding birds from Almoraima, to the light-keepers at Europa for their many acts of kindness and assistance, and to Mr H. F. Witherby for kindly determining some of the subspecies for me. Mr Witherby's remarks on these have been added to the notes, and are enclosed within brackets.

Of 260 skins brought back, the great majority are in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh: the others are in Mr. Witherby's collection.

***Corvus corax* subsp.**

Breeds fairly commonly. A party of twelve was seen on ploughed land near Laguna de la Janda on 10 December: no specimens were obtained.

***Corvus monedula*.**

Not observed.

***Garrulus glandarius fasciatus*. 2 ♂; 3 ♀; 1?**

Plentiful in Almoraima Cork Woods, but not observed in the cork-woods round Algeciras, or in the Sierra Retin to the westward. Specimens obtained in winter had been feeding solely on acorns. The wing-measurements of two males were 188 mm., of three females 172 to 178 mm., being as long as, and not shorter than, typical *G. glandarius*.

[There are several differences in a series of the south Spanish form as compared with the typical Jay, but some individuals are difficult to distinguish, and the form cannot be regarded as very well differentiated. The streaking on the crown is broad and pronounced, but not more so than it is sometimes in the typical bird; in the centre of the upper breast is a dark grey patch usually well marked, but this is

also occasionally the case in the typical bird ; the bill is decidedly deeper, and this is perhaps the best character.—H. F. W.]

Sturnus vulgaris.

Not observed either winter. Its usual migration route must lie farther to the westward.

Sturnus unicolor.

A pair seen in Almoraima Cork Woods on the 6th of June were probably nesting. They are very uncommon. Capt. Congreve found a nest with two fledged young on 30 May in the same district.

Oriolus o. oriolus.

A common summer visitor, first seen 23 April, on which day several were noted migrating at El Valle, west of Tarifa, having apparently just crossed the Straits.

Last observed on 6 September.

***Chloris chloris aurantiiventris.* 2 ♂ ; 1 ♀ .**

Breeds. Its numbers are greatly increased in late October and November, when a heavy toll is exacted by bird-catchers on the passing migrants. The return journey was not much in evidence ; a small flock of both sexes was seen 28 April at Sierra Retin, and a female struck the Europa lantern on the same date. The autumn migrants of this species passed during the day. It has seldom been recorded as on passage at night.

***Coccothraustes c. burryi.* 4 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .**

Not uncommon, but difficult to observe. 4 males had wings ranging 98 to 101 mm., and 2 females 92 and 96 mm.

[The two females match female examples of *C. c. burryi* exactly, and are very much paler and greyer than any examples of the typical form, but the males are somewhat intermediate in colour. The differences, however, between this and the typical form are always more marked in the female. The size is slightly large for *C. c. burryi*.—H. F. W.]

***Carduelis c. weigoldi.* 2 ♂ ; 2 ♀ ; 1 juv.**

Resident. Many migrants come south in October and remain during the winter, when large flocks are met with

all over open country. These flocks do not finally break up till April. The wings of males obtained measured 74 and 77 mm. and of females 74 mm.

[The Goldfinch from Portugal and Algeciras is remarkable in being very nearly allied to *C. c. parva* of Madeira, from which it differs only in being of a rather darker shade of umber on the crown, mantle, sides of breast, and flanks. *C. c. africana* is found on the eastern side of Spain, *e. g.*, Malaga, Valencia, and the Balearic Isles, but the limits of the ranges of the two forms cannot yet be exactly defined.—H. F. W.]

Spinus spinus. ♂ & ♀.

According to the bird-catchers this bird only visits Andalusia every seventh year. They were not observed during the first winter, but on 1 November, 1919, a large migration began, and many no doubt crossed to Africa. Throughout the winter they were exceedingly plentiful among the alder-trees in the sotos at Almoraima. Evidence of a return journey from Africa was obtained in February. They were last seen in the first week in March.

Serinus serinus. ♂.

Resident: also arrives in numbers at the end of October, large flocks being at times seen, and many must cross the Straits. The spring migration was not noted.

Passer d. domesticus. 3 ♂.

Abundant. Wings 77 to 78 mm.

Fringilla c. cœlebs. 5 ♂ (1 juv.); 1 ♀.

Resident. Is rather a late breeder, fresh eggs not being found till May. Its numbers are increased in winter. In autumn this bird was noticed as abundant in open scrub, where it feeds largely on the seeds of a *Thymellea* which flowers in September.

Acanthis cannabina mediterranea. 2 ♂; 3 ♀.

Found throughout the year, but more numerous in winter, many migrants arriving in October and November. Noted in open country in the low grounds till 22 March. Breeds chiefly among the scrub on the hillsides, fresh eggs being

found towards the end of April. A pair evidently breeding was seen in the Almoraima Cork Woods on 6 June. Wings of two breeding males measured 75 and 77 mm., and of one breeding female 75.

***Emberiza calandra.* ♂.**

Common and resident, breeding not only on the lower ground but well up the hillsides in rough scrub, and also occasionally in the cork-woods. At the end of June the males became silent. They were heard again in song on 11 December.

***Emberiza cirrus.* 1 ♂ ; 2 ♀.**

Common and resident. In the winter they were not observed in flocks to the same extent as in the eastern Mediterranean.

***Emberiza c. cia.* 1 ♂ ; 3 ♀.**

Breeds in considerable numbers on the Queen of Spain's Chair, coming comparatively low down. A male was seen on 11 January and a female was shot on 7 November, but the bird is only casual in winter. The only evidence obtained of autumn migration was on 27 September, and in spring a female was seen at Gibraltar on 2 March, with other migrants, after an east wind. This bird is recorded as being single brooded, but in all probability two broods are at times reared: young fully fledged were found on 14 May, and fresh eggs at the beginning of June. The position of the nests found varied: one was in a rock crevice, another at the foot of a small bush, while three were about two feet off the ground and well concealed in thick heather.

Emberiza hortulana.

Only once observed, namely, on 2 May, when a female, apparently on passage, was seen at Laguna de la Janda.

***Alauda a. arvensis.* 1 ♀.**

Migrant and winter visitor. First observed 22 October, when one struck the aerial at Gibraltar. Noted in flocks at the end of October; they remained till March.

Lullula arborea.

Met with only in the breeding season in the Almoraima Cork Woods, where they were local. No specimens were obtained.

Galerida cristata pallida. 3 ♂; 1 ♀.

Common and resident.

Galerida t. theklæ. 3 ♂; 1 ♀; 1 juv.

Resident. The opinion was formed that the Crested Larks which bred in the lower grounds and the cornlands were *cristata* and those found on the scrubby hillsides were *theklæ*, and birds shot confirmed this opinion. On the Queen of Spain's Chair, Crested Larks (three shot were *theklæ*) bred commonly. In the winter none were observed on this ground, but of six caught at that season on the low grounds near Algeciras and sent to me, four were *theklæ* and two *cristata*. It was evident that the birds breeding on the rough hillside left there on the approach of winter. The only other evidence of movement obtained was on 19 October, when, following a strong easterly gale, three Crested Larks arrived near Europa Point with many migrants. They remained there during the winter and disappeared in March; the subspecies could not be ascertained.

Calandrella b. brachydactyla. 2 ♂; 1 ♀.

Resident and migrant. Is a local breeder near Algeciras. One was seen in the Hospital grounds on the 21st of September, and a male struck the Europa lantern on the 2nd of October. Evidence of spring migration was obtained on 13 April when two were seen on passage, and on 14 April when one was caught alive at the lantern.

Melanocorypha c. calandra. 1 ♂; 2 ♀.

Found near Algeciras in winter, but not observed in the breeding season. Breeds in abundance on the plain at Laguna de la Janda.

Motacilla a. alba. 1 ♂.

Winter visitor. First seen 17 October. Later became abundant. Most depart in March; a late bird was seen on 11 April.

Motacilla lugubris.

Seen on several occasions. No specimen obtained.

Motacilla c. cinerea. 1 ♂ ; 1 juv.

Resident, breeding behind Algeciras on the Rio de Miel. More abundant in winter.

Motacilla f. flava. 1 ♂ .

Passes on migration. Seen in small parties at the beginning of October and again in spring, the last date being 10 May, when one struck the wires at Gibraltar. The southern form, *M. f. cinereocapilla*, was not identified with certainty.

Anthus t. trivialis. 1 ♀ .

First observed on autumn migration 27 September, and passed in small numbers until 29 October ; not noted on spring migration.

Anthus pratensis. 1 ♀ .

Abundant in winter ; first seen in autumn on 17 October, last seen in spring on 25 March.

Anthus c. campestris. 2 ♂ ; 1 ♀ ; 1 juv. ♂ .

First observed on 7 May, when it was very numerous on passage. A few pairs remained to breed on the low ground near Algeciras and also on the Queen of Spain's Chair. Last seen 17 August, when an old bird was feeding full-grown young.

Certhia brachydactyla ultramontana. 4 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .

Common resident in the cork-woods. The wings of four males measure 59 to 61 mm., and of two females 58 mm.

Regulus i. ignicapillus. 1 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .

Resident, and joining with Tits in winter. Wing ; males 52 mm., females 47-50.

Parus major excelsus? 6 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .

Generally distributed in the wooded districts. Breeds at Gibraltar.

[These Great Tits and a series from Portugal appear to me intermediate between *Parus m. major* and *P. m. excelsus*, but are perhaps nearer the latter race. The white wedge on the outer tail-feathers is more restricted in the majority than in *P. m. major*, and the colour of the mantle is darker and like *P. m. excelsus*; on the other hand, the outer webs of the inner secondaries are not so grey as in *P. m. excelsus* nor are the underparts so bright a yellow. The bills are, on the whole, larger than in *P. m. major* and like *P. m. excelsus*, while the wings of fourteen males measure 72-77 mm., or about the same as in *P. m. major*, namely, 73-79.—H. F. W.]

***Parus cæruleus harterti*. 9 ♂.**

Abundant in the cork-woods. Breeds also at Gibraltar, apparently an extension of its range since Irby's time.

[I have compared these with a large series from Portugal (*P. c. harterti* Tratz, type-locality Oporto) and find them to be the same. This form is very near *P. c. ogliastræ*, but the mantle is darker and more bluish-green. The wings of the series measure: males 57-65 mm., females 57-62.—H. F. W.]

***Parus cristatus weigoldi*. 6 ♂; 2 ♀; 2 juv.**

Abundant in Almoraima Woods and not uncommon behind Algeciras, but not observed in the Retin Hills.

[This form was described by Tratz from Portugal, and I have compared this series with a series from Portugal. They are intermediate in colour between *P. c. scoticus* and *nitratu*s, the colour of the upper-parts being not quite so dark as in *P. c. scoticus*, and having in some examples a slight rusty tinge on the rump, cheeks, and underparts, while in others the underparts are even whiter than in *P. c. scoticus*. The wings of the whole series measure: males 60-63, females 57-60 mm.; this is smaller even than *P. c. scoticus*.—H. F. W.]

***Ægithalus caudatus irbii*. 1 ♂; 3 ♀.**

Only observed in the neighbourhood of the Long Stables at Almoraima. Wings measure: male 58, three females 55-56 mm.

Lanius s. senator. 2 ♂ ; 1 ♀ juv.

First observed in 1919 on 4 April and in 1920 on 2 April, after which dates the birds became numerous. A belated migrant was seen at Gibraltar on 23 May (the wind had been strong easterly for two days). They begin to nest soon after arrival ; a full clutch of six eggs was found in the Sierra Retin on 4 May. In autumn none were seen after 17 September.

Sylvia c. communis. 2 ♂ ; 1 ?

Common on migration ; not found breeding near Algeciras, but nests at Almoraima. First seen 27 March ; a male struck the lantern at Europa 29 March. Many passed during April. The first evidence of autumn migration was on 19 August, when one was found dead at Gibraltar under the telegraph wires ; last was seen on 22 October.

Sylvia simplex. 1 ♀ .

Seen only on passage. First noted 11 April ; a female struck the Europa lantern on 30th of that month. In autumn observed on passage 17 September.

Sylvia a. atricapilla. 2 ♀ .

Resident. Numbers are greatly increased during migration. In spring they began to pass through on 25 February, both sexes travelling together, and passage continued throughout March. Autumn migration was difficult to observe, but was in full swing in the middle of September and continued during October. Males struck the aerals on 9 October and 22 October. It was heard in song at Gibraltar on 8 January.

Sylvia m. melanocephala. 4 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .

Resident and common. Breeds early. Noted building on 26 February ; first egg laid 9 March. A nest watched had first egg laid 28 March : incubation period 13 to 14 days ; fledgling period 11 days. Nestlings examined had no down ; inside of mouth orange : flanges pale yellow. The pair were building their second nest on 23 May : it contained three eggs on 31 May.

Sylvia conspicillata.

Not met with, though constantly looked for. The statement ('Ibis,' 1911, p. 743), that it is common on the Sierra Carbonera, cannot be confirmed. A nest, from which the young had flown, was found on 18 June, 1919, between the rivers opposite Gibraltar, and identified as belonging to this bird. It exactly resembled the nests of this species I have seen at Malta. This place is close to the ruins of Carteia, a locality given by Irby as the most likely one near Gibraltar where it would be met with. Unfortunately, the spot could not be revisited. I quite agree with Capt. Lynes ('Ibis,' 1912, p. 473) that this bird is very local in southern Spain.

***Sylvia h. hortensis.* Orphean Warbler. 1 ♂; 2 ♀.**

Was found breeding in small numbers in the cork-woods behind Algeciras, and a pair seen in June at Almoraima were also breeding. This bird was recorded by Irby as very rare in the vicinity of Gibraltar, and it is possible its numbers are now slowly increasing. It is abundant in the Sierra Retin to the westward, and for a migrant breeds early, eggs considerably incubated being found on 4 May. In autumn last observed on 17 September: its arrival in spring was not noted.

***Sylvia s. subalpina.* 3 ♂; 1 ♀.**

First observed in 1919 on 12 March, in 1920 on 11 March, and passes in small numbers during March and April. A male was killed at the lantern on 2 April. The return migration takes place in September: a young male was killed at the lantern on the 18th of that month. A pair seen in Almoraima Cork Woods on 25 April were noted as probably breeding, and this was confirmed later by Captain Congreve, who found four nests. As Irby failed to find it breeding near Gibraltar, an extension of its breeding range is probable. It was not observed near Algeciras as a breeding bird.

***Sylvia undata toni.* 6 ♂; 3 ♀; 1 juv.**

Common and resident on the hillsides. They are early breeders; hard-set eggs were found at the end of March, and

young were seen leaving the nest on 11 April. The nests were chiefly in small low furze bushes and very difficult to find; they were also placed in heather. The wings of six males ranged from 48 to 51 mm., of three females 48 to 50. The only evidence of migration obtained was the presence of one low down, close to the sea at Gibraltar, along with other migrants on 3 March; the wind had been strong easterly for two days.

Favier records it as a migrant at Tangier. Hartert (Vögel. Fauna, p. 601) gives, on Jourdain's authority, the eggs of this southern Spanish bird as distinctly smaller than those of *S. u. dartfordiensis*, thus confirming the bird's smaller size.

[These are quite typical of the north African form. How far north it extends has yet to be decided, but certainly Portuguese birds north of the Tagus are not of this subspecies.—H. F. W.]

Agrobates g. galactotes. 1 ♂.

Summer visitor, nesting not uncommonly in the prickly pear gardens. First seen 9 May. A pair were noticed on 17 August feeding young just able to fly. The only record of their departure was on 18 September, when one was seen at the lighthouse. This was the only occasion on which a bird was identified in the beams. It came up wind with its tail spread out, rendering recognition easy, swerved at the last moment and struck the dark tower above the lantern hard, knocking out a cloud of feathers; unfortunately it could not be found afterwards. Nestlings examined were black-skinned with no down, inside the mouth orange-yellow; flanges white; no tongue spots.

Locustella n. nævia. 1 ♂; 1?

Twice obtained on autumn migration. First on 14 September on the banks of the stream behind Algeciras: the second among dry palmetto scrub on 12 October.

Cettia cetti.

Seen and heard close to Algeciras on the banks of Rio de Miel, but no specimen obtained.

Acrocephalus s. scirpaceus. 1 ♂ ; 2 ♀ ; 1 ?

Not uncommon among the alders and oleanders on the banks of the Rio de Miel during October. (First seen on the 6th, last on the 22nd.) In spring one record : a female struck the Europa lantern on 17 May.

Acrocephalus palustris. 1 ♀ .

A female was shot 4 October among dry bracken in a cork-wood.

Acrocephalus a. arundinaceus. 1 ♀ .

Twice seen on autumn migration. One on 14 September and another on 29 September; on both occasions among the bushes on the banks of the stream behind Algeciras. The stomach of one shot contained a freshwater shrimp.

Acrocephalus schœnobæus. 1 ♂ .

A male (exceedingly fat) struck the lantern at Europa on 30 July.

Acrocephalus aquaticus. 1 ?

One was obtained on 22 October haunting palmetto scrub.

Hypolais polyglotta. 4 ♂ ; 1 ♀ ; 1 juv. ♂ .

Numerous in the breeding season. First seen in 1919 on 11 April (an early date), in 1920 on 24 April. One was killed at the lantern on 3rd of May. None were observed after the end of August.

Hypolais pallida opaca.

Seen on only two occasions : is not common.

Phylloscopus t. trochilus. 1 ♀ .

Noted on passage in March and again in September. It could not be found during the winter. Several doubtful birds were shot, and all proved to be Chiffchaffs. No trace could be found of this bird breeding. Irby records it as breeding, and also as present during the winter. The subject requires further investigation, and can only be settled by the production of a winter skin and a bird from the nest. Is

it possible that confusion has arisen in the breeding season from the resemblance of the local Chiffchaff's eggs to those of the Willow-Warbler?

***Phylloscopus c. collybita.* 2 ♂ ; 4 ♀ .**

Found all the year round, but much more numerous in winter. It breeds in fair numbers in the woods round Algeciras and at Almoraima, and from the presence of a pair in the Sierra Retin on 24 April, it may be assumed they nest there also. During the winter months they are found generally distributed both in wooded and in open country. During March there were passage movements, and the opinion was formed that the winter visitors then departed. Throughout most of the month it was difficult to find these birds in the cork-woods behind Algeciras, but at the end of the month they were again in evidence, and the song of the male, a double note followed by about five descending notes, could then be heard. A nest was found partly built on 19 April about two feet up in a gorse bush. It could not be visited till 10 May and then was found in ruins, but the domed nest with feather lining and remains of pink-spotted eggs sufficiently identified it. A pair was located near, and the hen was watched building a new nest in a bramble. A week later the hen was shot from the nest, which contained four eggs with pink spots closely resembling Willow-Warblers. The nest was scantily lined with feathers (seven of which were those of the Oriole). These birds are indistinguishable from typical *collybita*. One male from Almoraima has an aberrant wing formula, the second primary being 2 mm. longer than the 7th but shorter than the 6th. The song of the male seems to change as the summer advances: in June "chip chip chip chip" followed by the descending notes was heard, and at times four or five sharp monotones only. The typical "chip chop" of the bird was heard in the Alameda Gardens, Gibraltar, on one occasion only, and in January.

***Phylloscopus b. bonelli.* 3 ♂ .**

Breeds in some numbers in Cobre Wood behind Algeciras, and abundantly at Almoraima. Nests seen were invariably

on the ground and had, as a rule, a few hairs in the lining. It was once noted on migration, on 3 April. The Wood-Wren (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) was not observed.

Turdus v. viscivorus. 1 ♂; 1 juv.

Resident in small numbers in the cork-woods at Almoraima. Young were seen abroad on 25 April. The adult is much greyer, especially on the rump, than British specimens. A juvenile shot in June compared with British juvenile of the same age is much greyer both above and below, being almost devoid of any tinge of buff colour.

Turdus p. philomelus. 1 ♀.

A winter visitor in small numbers. Latest date seen, 29 March.

Turdus merula algirus. 2 ♂; 8 ♀; 1 juv.

Resident. Many, however, migrate. In the middle of July they collect in family parties, and in September were very numerous in the woods behind Algeciras. Their numbers gradually thinned until the middle of October, when they were reduced to winter numbers. There was an increase in March, but it was less noticeable. The wings of two males measure 122 and 123 mm., the tails 120 mm. Of eight females, wings 112 to 118 mm., tails 106 to 116 mm.

[These are like the Algerian form, but if anything whiter on the chin and with paler edgings to the feathers of the underparts. How far north they extend we do not know, but Blackbirds which I have seen from Portugal and other parts of the Peninsula seem to be of the typical form, and I cannot differentiate *T. m. hispaniae*.—H. F. W.]

Monticola solitaria.

Resident, and passes through on migration in small numbers. It was observed migrating in autumn on the 4th of October and again on the 22nd, and on spring migration many passed Gibraltar on 10 March; only males were seen.

Phœnicurus p. phœnicurus. 1 ♂.

A bird of passage first noted on 24 March ; a male struck the lantern on 6 April. Much more abundant on autumn migration. First seen 6 September, during the remainder of that month and throughout October it was much in evidence ; last observed 29 October.

Phœnicurus o. gibraltariensis. 1 ♂.

Winter visitor and bird of passage : not observed breeding near Gibraltar. In autumn first noted on 25 October. In the spring the first movement noted was on 28 February ; by 23 March the winter visitors had gone : the only record after 26 March was a belated female seen 8 May.

Erithacus r. rubecula. 1 ♂ ; 4 ♀ ; 1 ?

Migrant and winter visitor. At the beginning of October they were very abundant in the woods behind Algeciras, the males being in full song. Most of these passed on, but during winter they were common. The return journey took place in March and early April. One female struck the Europa lantern on 23 March.

Erithacus r. witherbyi. 3 ♂ ; 4 ♀.

The breeding form is a rare bird behind Algeciras, only two pairs being noted. At Almoraima in the damp sotos it is much more plentiful, but still cannot be called common.

[The Robins from Algeciras are puzzling but must, I think, be of the Algerian form, though they may belong to the Moroccan *E. r. atlas*, as they are very slightly darker and less olivaceous than *E. r. witherbyi*. The difference is, however, very small, and the Moroccan form may possibly prove not separable when birds in fresher plumage than those which Capt. Lynes obtained are collected.—H. F. W.]

Luscinia megarhyncha. 1 ♂.

Abundant summer visitor. First noted on 6 April : their departure in autumn was not observed.

Cyanosylvia suecica cyanecula. 2 ♂ ; 2 ♀.

Irby records this bird as rare in this neighbourhood, and gave it as his opinion that it passed farther to the eastward.

In spring one was seen behind Algeciras on 27 February, and in autumn many were found skulking among the oleander bushes on the banks of the Rio de Miel. They were first noted 17 September, and last seen 5 October. The local bird-catchers knew the bird well, and gave it the name of "Camancho." On being shown one and asked if he knew it, one man promptly produced another from his pocket; it had been caught in a spring-back trap set for larks.

Saxicola r. rubicola. 4 ♂; 5 ♀.

Found throughout the year. They are early breeders; fresh eggs were found on 28 February (full clutch). An unusual site for this bird's nest was noted on the Queen of Spain's Chair on 28 May, being a hollow in a rock face about two feet above the ground and quite open: the nest contained three young and an addled egg. Local breeding birds undoubtedly migrate. There was a great diminution in their numbers at the end of September, but any further movement on their part was masked by the arrival of migrants from the north at the beginning of October. Large numbers of Stonechats arrived at Gibraltar on 17 October; the great majority passed on, but some, chiefly in pairs, remained during the winter. A return movement in spring was observed beginning on 17 February, and continued until 20 March, after which date no Stonechat was seen on the Rock. The breeding birds and all the migrants obtained with the exception mentioned below, were of the typical race.

Saxicola r. hibernans. 1 ♀.

One female obtained on 12 October is indistinguishable from British birds of corresponding date, and is probably a migrant from Portugal.

Saxicola rubetra.

Chiefly a bird of passage but occasionally seen in winter. Two females were seen 11 January, 1919. They were observed passing through, both males and females, on 16 April and again in autumn, 27 September.

Ænanthe æ. ænanthe. 1 ♀ . . .

Passes on migration. First seen 22 March, 1919, and 2 April, 1920 ; one struck the Europa lantern 14 April. In autumn many were seen at Gibraltar 17 October ; they had all passed on next day. Two seen near Tarifa on 2 May were probably the Greenland form (*Æ. æ. leucorrhœa*), but no specimen was obtained.

Ænanthe h. hispanica. Black-eared form. 1 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .

First seen 22 March.

Black-throated form. 1 ♂ ; 2 ♀ .

First observed 12 March. Both forms bred on the Queen of Spain's Chair and also on some rough ground at El Cobre behind Algeciras. In 1919 their numbers were about equal. In 1920 the black-throated were in the proportion of about 4 to 1 of the black-eared. Autumn migration began early ; birds of the year were seen on the move on 10 August, and again during the month and in September ; the last record was 21 September, when amongst them was a black-throated male. Birds in the brown stage of plumage were once seen : on 7 May, 1919 ; they were very wild.

Ænanthe l. leucura. 1 ♀ .

Resident in very small numbers. It was observed passing on migration on 20 March. In autumn seen on passage on 21 September, and a considerable number on 20 October. A nest found in a rock crevice on the Queen of Spain's Chair on 9 May, 1919, had over 200 stones in its foundation. Another on 12 May next year, was in a hollow in a low cliff and had no stones at all. Both contained eggs. In the latter instance the hollow was so small that there was no room for a breast-work.

Cisticola c. cisticola. 3 ♂ ; 1 ♀ ; 1 juv.

Breeds abundantly near Algeciras in the wheatfields, and after the wheat is cut, in grassy patches. There are many late broods : a young bird not fully grown was seen on 17 September. In August and September they were common along the river-banks, but departed in early October,

and during winter only a very occasional bird was seen. At that season of the year, they are very common in the suipe-marshes at Laguna de la Janda. They return to the wheat-fields about the end of March. The local name for this bird is "Tumanavilla."

[Fantails from various parts of the Spanish Peninsula are like the northern African birds, and these must all be called *Cisticola c. cisticola*, those from other parts of Europe (*C. c. harterti*) being distinguished by their buff and less grey colour (see Bull. B. O. C. xl. p. 119).—H. F. W.]

Prunella m. modularis. 1 ♂.

An uncommon winter visitor; three only were seen. The bird obtained has the wing-formula of the so-called *occidentalis*, which subspecies I am unable to distinguish.

Troglodytes t. kabylosum. 4 ♂, 1 ♀; 1 juv.

Judging by the number of nests found this bird is not at all uncommon, but they are skulking and not often seen.

[The upper-parts are decidedly less rufous than in *T. t. troglodytes* and like the northern African form, but the underparts are considerably more barred than is usual in *T. t. kabylosum*, though the bills are fine as in that form. In Portugal the typical subspecies is found.—H. F. W.]

Muscicapa g. grisola. 1 ♂; 1 ♀.

First seen in 1919, 7 May, in 1920 on 5 May, and the passage continued till 23 May. A very abundant nester in the cork-woods. Autumn passage was prolonged: during the latter half of September and the first week of October, they were continually in evidence; a single bird was seen on 22 October.

Muscicapa a. atricapilla. 1 ♀.

Seen only on passage. In spring a solitary bird was seen on 14 February (the Gibraltar district seems to lie out of the line of its spring migration). Two were seen on 4 May at the Sierra Retin. In autumn it was common, being first observed 21 September, continually during October, and last seen on 4 November.

***Hirundo r. rustica.* 2 ♀.**

First seen 13 February, 1919, and in 1920 on 7 February. Observed collecting mud for nests on 7 March, and at Laguna de la Janda had young nearly fledged on 29 April. The breeding birds took their departure from Gibraltar about 15 August, when it was noticed their numbers had greatly diminished. After that date their appearance was irregular and they were considered migrants from the north. On 22 October after a strong east wind they arrived in hundreds. They were last seen 7 November.

***Hirundo rufula.* 1 ♂.**

A single bird was seen at the Laja del Ciscar near Laguna de la Janda on 26 April, 1919, hawking for flies in company with Martins and Urag-Martins. On 2 May, 1920, a pair were seen at Don Pedro Cliff about eight miles distant from Ciscar. They were settling down collecting mud and were evidently preparing to breed. Where these birds were found was about thirty miles distant from the Moorish coast, and as they are found in Morocco there is no reason they should not, at times, cross the Straits. Col. Verner informs me that a bird of this species had been seen in the same neighbourhood several years before.

***Delichon urbica meridionalis.* 2 ♂ ; 4 ♀.**

First seen in 1919, 29 March, and in 1920, 14 March. They breed in large numbers at Algeciras and in many cliffs around. The breeding birds at Algeciras left the district in the first week of August, and only odd birds were seen after the 7th of that month. The wings of two males measure 105 and 101 mm., of the four females 100, 101, 102, and 105 mm., being, with the exception of one male, within the measurements given for this subspecies. This one bird is also the only one whose measurement between secondaries and the tip of the wing equals that of typical birds measured. Under these circumstances, and taking into account that in autumn the local birds migrate two months before the northern birds appear, I consider the placing of them, for the time at least, in this group justifiable.

Delichon urbica urbica.

Spring migration uncertain, being masked by local breeding birds. In autumn odd birds, probably of this race, were seen late August and September. On the 6th of October, they were very plentiful in company with Swallows, and on the 16th many hundreds were at Gibraltar. All had gone by 21 October. Last seen on 7 November.

Riparia r. riparia.

Not common. Many crossed Laguna de la Janda plain on 25 April in company with Swifts. Noted in autumn first on 27 September, again seen 6 October, and last on 12 October.

***Riparia r. rupestris.* 1 ♂.**

Seen throughout the year. Many passed through on migration 17 to 21 October. On 20 October, at 10 A.M., one struck the telegraph wires over my head and was captured. This bird was in company with others making their way to the African coast. Its stomach was quite empty: apparently it had started its journey that morning without hunting for food.

***Dryobates major hispanus.* 2 ♂; 3 ♀.**

Found fairly commonly in the cork-woods, and easily obtained in winter when associating with Tits; at other times rather shy. On one occasion ants were found in the stomach, and twice pieces of acorns.

Lynx t. torquilla.

Seen only once, on 19 January.

***Micropus apus apus.* 1 ♂.**

First seen 2 April, 1919, and in 1920, 29 March. Bred abundantly at Gibraltar. The local birds had mostly gone by 31 July, and only occasional birds were seen after that date. Last observed 17 August. On 25 April, it was seen migrating in large numbers across Laguna de la Janda. There was a steady stream of birds for about two hours in the late forenoon making north across a light easterly wind. From the direction of their flight, they must have struck the Spanish coast at Zahara de los Atunes.

Caprimulgus r. ruficollis. 1 ♂ : 1 ♀.

Breeds in small numbers : first observed 26 April.

Last seen 12 October.

Merops apiaster.

Summer visitor : it arrived both years on 11 April. In autumn was first seen migrating on 10 August, and many flocks were noted migrating by day on 14 September.

Alcedo atthis ispida.

Seen on autumn migration on 30 August, and odd birds observed both on the seashore and on the stream in September and October. In spring only once noted, viz., on 22 March.

Glareola pratincola.

A small colony of about twelve pairs was found near Tapatanilla at Laguna de la Janda. Two nests had eggs on 2 May. One had two eggs somewhat incubated. This is a very early date.

Totanus maculatus.

One was seen on the seashore on 30 May in company with a Sanderling.

Charadrius a. alexandrinus. ♂ & ♀.

Breeds in fair numbers between the rivers opposite, and also on the seashore to the north of Gibraltar.

Calidris arenaria. 1 ♂.

One shot on 30 May showed no sign of breeding. It had lost a leg, and so probably had not migrated.

Podiceps fluviatilis.

One struck the aerial at the north front, Gibraltar, on 7 October.

Alectoris rufus intercedens. 2 ♀.

Commonly distributed.

[These are paler and of a greyer brown on the upper-parts, and especially on the rump, upper tail-coverts, and central tail-feathers, than birds from northern Portugal, and this confirms Hartert's conclusions (see Nov. Zool. xxv. p. 63).—H. F. W.]