



## THE NATURALIST.

## BURCHELL'S RHINOCEROS.

GR<sup>EAT</sup> INTEREST has been excited amongst zoologists by the arrival in London of two perfect skeletons and skins of the most gigantic of the rhinoceroses, namely, that which is known scientifically as *R. simus*, and popularly, though erroneously, as the white rhinoceros. The specimens were both obtained by Mr Coryndon, who states the species had not been seen or heard of since 1892, when Mr Ayre and himself came across several specimens, two of which were shot. When Mr Coryndon described the shooting of these specimens in the *Field* of May 20, 1893, he received a commission to obtain if possible specimens for Mr Walter Rothschild's museum at Tring. Returning in the ensuing winter to the north-eastern portion of Mashonaland, where he thought the species would be found, he discovered to his great delight the spoor of the *R. simus*, which is easily distinguished from that of the common black species, *R. bicornis*. To quote his own description, as given in the *African Review*:

Suddenly I descended, lying down under a rise, facing me, and about a mile off, two great black things which I knew to be white rhinoceros. The wind was then blowing from me in their direction, and my business was to get up behind them. They lay about 100 yards from the lee of some thick bush, but between them and the bush was a patch of long grass, fortunately left by the bush fires. Telling the "boy" to remain behind, I crawled up behind the grass. My difficulty, of course, was finding the two rhinos together. They are not dangerous animals except one gets in front of them after they are wounded. They trot surprisingly fast, and though not very keen sighted, have excellent scent and hearing. I reached the tuft of grass and looked through. I saw that the animals were evidently suspicious, and one of them had got up. As I knew that the other would soon rise too, I waited. Presently the other stood up, and then suddenly up went their ears, and I knew that they had "spotted" me. They stood towards me shoulder on. The usual way to shoot a rhino (in that position) is to hit him in the shoulder, which fractures the bone and prevents him getting away. As I wanted the animals for museum purposes, however, it was necessary to avoid, if possible, spoiling the skeleton. Before they had time to move I had shot them both in the lungs. No. 1 got away about a mile before I finished him with four bullets. No. 2 in the meantime had made off at a tremendous gallop down the valley, and had turned off into some thick bush. I doubled across, and, cutting off the corner, reached the bush about 100 yards behind the rhino, who had been throwing up blood by the gallon. I followed his track for 500 yards, till he emerged from the bush on the other side into the open. Here, as he subsided into a trot, I was only fifty yards behind him. I was so blown that I did not dare to take a snap shot. I therefore leant my gun on a tree, and panted two bullets close to the root of the tail. This finished him off. He went 200 yards into some bush, grunted heavily, sank down on his belly, and never got up again. When I looked round I saw the boys, who had followed me, up trees. They had expected a final charge, and had taken precautionary measures. The two rhinos were magnificent brutes. They were both fully-grown bulls, and each of them was quite equal in bulk to two of the very largest Clydesdale horses. The following are the principal measurements: No. 1, height at shoulder, 6ft. 8in.; length of anterior horn, 1ft. 11in.; posterior horn, 8in.; length from base of front horn to tip of tail, 18ft. No. 2, height at shoulder, 6ft. 6in.; anterior horn, 1ft. 7in.; posterior horn, 7in.; length from horn to tail, 14ft. 6in. Then came the heaviest part of the work—the task of skinning and preserving the hides, besides taking sketches, plans of the skeletons, sorting up the bones in separate bundles, properly numbered and labelled. The business became very unpleasant in three or four days, when the flesh began to rot. Ultimately it was finished, and the boys carried the bones and hides to my head camp, at a big



only for the museum of Mr Walter Rothschild, but also for the national collection.

Now that Mr Selous has resigned active exploration, the mantle of this mighty hunter could hardly fall on more worthy shoulders.

W. B. TEGETMEIER.

## WILD BIRDS PROTECTION ACT (1880) AMENDMENT.

ON Wednesday afternoon the second reading of this bill was moved by Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P., who pointed out that it differed from a bill on the same subject which the House of Commons passed through all its stages last year, in that certain amendments made therein in the House of Lords are incorporated as alternative to the original provisions. Under the bill as it is now presented county councils are empowered to apply for an order: (1) for the prohibition of taking eggs within specified areas; (2) for the prohibition of taking the eggs of named species of birds; (3) for the addition of any bird not included in the schedule of the original Act to the said schedule. The following is the full text:

A BILL TO AMEND THE WILD BIRDS PROTECTION ACT, 1880. WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the better protection of certain species of wild birds in the United Kingdom: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may for all purposes be cited as the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1894, and shall be construed as one with the Wild Birds Protection Act, 1880 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"), except as hereinafter provided.

2. A Secretary of State may, after the passing of this Act, upon application by the county council of any administrative county by order prohibit: (1) The taking or destroying of wild birds' eggs in any year or years in any place or places within that county; or (2) the taking or destroying of the eggs of any specified kind of wild birds within that county or part or parts thereof, as recommended by the said county council and set forth in the said order. (3) The application by the county council shall specify the limits of the place or places, or otherwise the particular species of wild birds to which it is proposed that any prohibition in the order is to apply, and shall set forth the reasons on account of which the application is made.

3. A Secretary of State may, on the representation of the council of any administrative county, order that the principal Act shall apply within that county, or any part or parts thereof, to any species of wild bird not included in the schedule of that Act, as if that species of wild bird were included in the schedule of that Act, and on the making of such order that Act shall apply accordingly.

4. (1) The council of an administrative county shall in every year give public notice of any order under this Act which is in force in any place within their county during the three weeks preceding the commencement of the period of the year during which the order operates. (2) Public notice under this section shall be given: (a) As regards each place in which an order operates, by advertising the order in two local newspapers

Castellain, jun.); 7th, Richmond Park (A. H. Marsham); 9th, New Forest (W. A. Fox); 9th, Sibton, Yorkford (P. A. Wood); 12th, Chelmsford (C. Smoother).

BLACKCAP.—April 3, Chelmsford (C. Smoother); 6th, Elstead (S. A. Davies).

CUCKOO.—March 21, 25, Keswick, Norwich (J. H. Gurney); Bodlehead, Conway (T. H. Wood); 21st, Hawthorn (J. H. Gurney); 22nd, Dickses; April 2, Hawthorn (W. S. Dickses); Chelmsford (C. Smoother); 3rd, Iffeld, near Crawley (C. Smoother); 4th, Baxhill, Sussex (J. Oliver); 4th, Chelmsford (C. Smoother); 4th, Bath (A. Castellain); 4th, Worcester (Rev. W. A. Faulkner); 5th, Ashford (J. W. B.); 5th, Wool, Dorset (E. B. Banks); 7th, water, Isle of Wight (A. R. Saunders); 7th, Park (W. R. Read); 7th, Barnstaple (J. Parkin); 8th, Sibton, Yorkford (T. M. Ward); 8th, Worcester (T. H. Gurney); 8th, Brentwood (G. Brampton); 8th, Corfe Castle (E. R. Banks); 8th, Wolbur, Beds (E. Webster); 8th (A. J. Daines); 8th, Dunmow (J. W. Meares); 8th, Hampstead, Berks (H. W. B. Berwick); 8th, Pulborough (H. G. Pulling); 8th, Tiverton (Sir Kingston James); 9th, Swanage (J. Andrews); 9th, Lewes, Sussex (J. H. Gurney); 10th, Godalming (S. A. Davies); 10th, Leicester (B. N. Gurney); 11th, Wellesbourne, Warwick (F. E. Morgan); 11th, Woking, Surrey (J. S. Brownwich); 11th, Bromfield, Shropshire (L. B. C. Bagot).

NIGHTINGALE.—April 4, Chelmsford (C. Smoother); Baxhill, Sussex (J. Oliver); 8th, Chiddingfold, Surrey (C. Smoother); 8th, Flax Bourton, Somerset (C. Smoother); 9th, Lewes (J. H. Verrall); 9th, Tring, Hertfordshire (F. E. H. Guillemand); 10th, Godalming (S. A. Davies); 10th, Chelmsford (J. W. Meares); 12th, Iffeld, Sussex (C. Smoother).

WILLOW WREN.—March 29, Chelmsford (C. Smoother); Bath (A. Castellain, jun.); 7th, Fainswick, Gloucestershire (Witchell); 7th, New Forest (J. E. Kelsall); 8th, Sibton, Yorkford (T. M. Wood); 9th, Godalming (S. A. Davies); Kensington Gardens and Richmond Park (A. H. Marsham); 11th, Middlesbrough (T. A. L. Fthouse).

WHEATEAR.—April 6, Elstead (S. A. Davies); 7th, Walton-on-the-Naze (E. Bidwell); 7th, Bromfield, Shropshire (Rev. L. B. C. Bagot); 10th, Bishop Auckland (J. T. Proud).

YELLOW WAGTAIL.—April 7, Walton-on-the-Naze (E. Bidwell); Godalming (S. A. Davies).

TREBLE DOVE.—April 10, New Forest (W. A. Fox).

SANDMARTIN.—April 12, Bromfield, Shropshire (Rev. L. B. C. Bagot).

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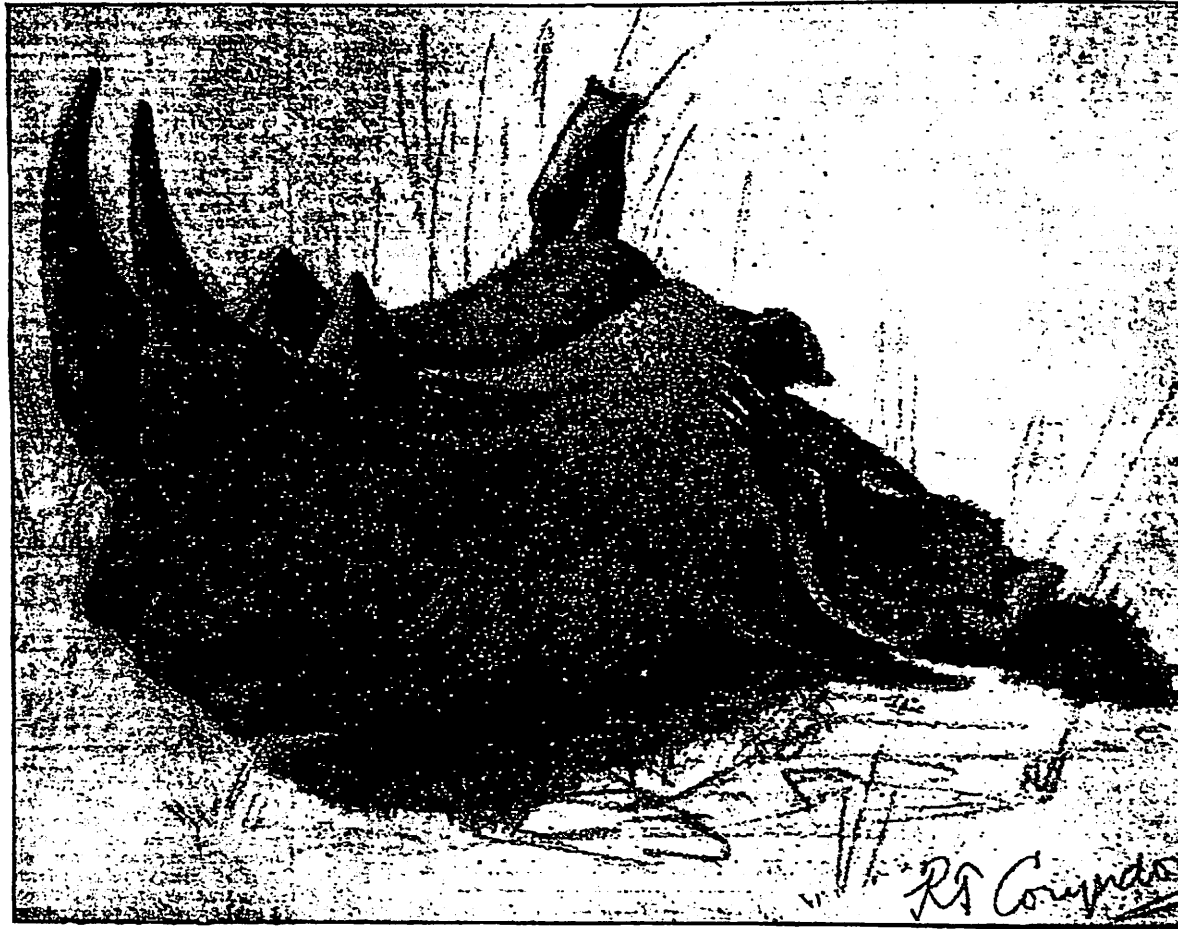
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Burchell's, or the square-mouthed rhinoceros, is very absurdly termed the white rhinoceros; for its dirty, dark slaty colour is even deeper than that of the better known African species, *R. bicornis*. It is difficult to account for this misnomer, although it has been suggested that, as the animal is more lacustrine in its habits, it may have been seen by the earlier settlers covered with dried mud or clay, which gave it a lighter colour; and hence its name. It is by far the largest of the whole group, and is undoubtedly the heaviest of all living terrestrial animals, with the exception of the elephant. It differs from the other species in having a square upper lip; that of the ordinary African rhinoceros is pointed and prehensile, enabling it to pull branches of trees and twigs into its mouth. The square-mouthed species feeds entirely on grass, which its broad, square upper lip enables it readily to obtain. It is only found in Africa south of the Zambezi river, and of late years has become extremely scarce—in fact, its extinction cannot be far distant now that the country is opened up to sportsmen. The exact character of the head of the *R. simus* is very strikingly shown in the engraving of the two heads reproduced from Mr Coryndon's own drawing, which he has most obligingly lent for the purpose. The broad, square upper lip, some 9in. from side to side, is readily distinguished, and is remarkably distinct from the pointed, prehensile

said order. (3) The application of the county council shall specify the limits of the place or places, or otherwise, the particular species of wild birds to which it is proposed that any prohibition in the order is to apply, and shall set forth the reasons on account of which the application is made. 3. A Secretary of State may, on the representation of the council of any administrative county, order that the principal Act shall apply within that county, or any part or parts thereof, to any species of wild bird not included in the schedule of that Act, as if that species of wild bird were included in the schedule of that Act, and on the making of such order that Act shall apply accordingly. 4. (1) The council of an administrative county shall in every year give public notice of any order under this Act which is in force in any place within their county during the three weeks preceding the commencement of the period of the year during which the order operates. (2) Public notice under this section shall be given: (a) As regards each place in which an order operates, by advertising the order in two local newspapers



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(From a Sketch by Mr R. T. Coryndon.)

circulating in or near that place; (b) by fixing notices of the order in conspicuous spots within and near each place in which the order operates; and (c) in such other manner as the Secretary of State may direct, or as the council may think expedient, with a view to making the order known to the public.

5. Any person who, after the passing of this Act, shall take or destroy or incite any other person to take or destroy (a) the eggs of any wild birds within any area specified in the order; or (b) the eggs of any species of wild bird named in the order shall, on conviction before any two justices of the peace in England, Wales, or Ireland, or before the sheriff in Scotland, forfeit and pay for every egg so taken or destroyed a sum not exceeding one penny.

WILLOW WREN.—March 29, Chelmsford (O. Smoothy), Andover (A. Castelain, jun.); 7th, Falmouth, Gloucester (O. Witcomb); 7th, New Forest (J. E. Kelsall); 8th, Salisbury (T. M. Wood); 9th, Godalming (S. A. Davies), Kensington Gardens and Richmond Park (A. H. Macdonald), 11th, Middlesbrough (T. A. L. Fithouse);  
WHEATEAR.—April 6, Elstead (S. A. Davies); 7th, Waltham Chase (E. Bidwell); 7th, Bromfield, Shropshire (Rev. J. T. Bagot); 10th, Bishop Auckland (J. T. Proude).  
YELLOW WAGTAIL.—April 7, Walton-on-the-Naze (E. Bidwell), Godalming (S. A. Davies).  
TURTLE DOVE.—April 10, New Forest (W. A. Fox).  
BANDMARTIN.—April 12, Bromfield, Shropshire (Rev. J. T. Bagot).

SANDPIPER.—April 13, Bromfield, Shropshire (Rev. J. T. Bagot).

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The most noticeable feature of this list is the general absence of any money to the amount of the arrival of the cuckoo. Although, as stated in the issue of March 31, it has been our fortune to see a cuckoo before April 1st in most years (and, of course, later), it is impossible that so many observations of different parts of the country should have been mistaken. I endorse the sentiments of an excellent field naturalist, Gilbert White, who, relying upon Scopoli's authority (which he doubted not to have since been proved to be true) that woodcock and their young remained in the XXXI, to Pennant's account forbids me to say absolutely that any fact has been witnessed to such a fact. So with the cuckoo, random samples us to conclude that not so many observations have been made must have some foundation in fact. And it is especially the wryneck, or "mate," as it is called in parts of the country, whose name, should have been given to the cuckoo in its early years.

The swallow and the gale have appeared at their usual time for the year, and this is the case with the redstart, tree pipit, songtail, and other small birds.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES

HOOPOE IN KENT.—A specimen of the hoopoe was shot by the keeper on the morning (April 7). The bird believes it has been in the neighbourhood for some time as during the winter frequently heard a strange bird uttering a note which he resembled the whistle of a steam engine.—S. [The bird has been a hoopoe, which has a note of a very different character. Moreover, this bird is a summer visitor, usually arriving in Kent although a few instances of its having been found here in winter have been recorded. We have just seen one which was shot at Cichester on April 10. But why is not the Wild Birds Act respected?—Ed.]

HUMMING-BIRD HAWK-MOTH.—I saw a fine specimen

seven were engaged in carrying the bones and hides. The upper jaw alone was a good load for one boy.

Burchell's, or the square-mouthed rhinoceros, is very absurdly termed the white rhinoceros; for its dirty, dark slaty colour is even deeper than that of the better known African species, *R. bicornis*. It is difficult to account for this misnomer, although it has been suggested that, as the animal is more lacustrine in its habits, it may have been seen by the earlier settlers covered with dried mud or clay, which gave it a lighter colour; and hence its name. It is by far the largest of the whole group, and is undoubtedly the heaviest of all living terrestrial animals, with the exception of the elephant. It differs from the other species in having a square upper lip; that of the ordinary African rhinoceros is pointed and prehensile, enabling it to pull branches of trees and twigs into its mouth. The square-mouthed species feeds entirely on grass, which its broad, square upper lip enables it readily to obtain. It is only found in Africa south of the Zambesi river, and of late years has become extremely scarce—in fact, its extinction cannot be far distant now that the country is opened up to sportsmen. The exact character of the head of the *R. simus* is very strikingly shown in the engraving of the two heads reproduced from Mr Coryndon's own drawing, which he has most obligingly lent for the purpose. The broad, square upper lip, some 9in. from side to side, is readily distinguished, and is remarkably distinct from the pointed, prehensile upper lip of the other African species.

One of the specimens obtained by Mr Coryndon—that intended for Mr Walter Rothschild's museum at Tring—is now on view at Mr Rowland Ward's studio in Piccadilly; it has been mounted in an eminently satisfactory manner. I had the pleasure of inspecting it with Mr Coryndon, and he expressed himself highly satisfied with the work of the taxidermist. In order to bring this huge skin to the coast, it was found necessary to divide it into three parts. The skin of the head and neck constituted one part; that of the body and the limbs was divided into two equal portions by an incision which extended down the back and under the belly. Some idea of the difficulty of obtaining these animals may be inferred from the fact that this one had been repeatedly wounded by the natives. Mr Coryndon showed me old wounds in the skin, from underneath which he had extracted in some cases leaden and in other iron bullets; but none had penetrated much deeper than the skin. Whether a living *Rhinoceros simus* will ever be obtained and exhibited in our zoological collections is a matter of considerable doubt. All the other species have been seen in our zoological gardens. Several specimens of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, *R. unicornis*, have been shown in the gardens of the Zoological Society, and it has been, so to speak, familiar to Europeans since the first specimen was sent to Emmanuel, King of Portugal, in 1513. We have also had specimens of the Java rhinoceros, *R. sondaicus*, a species which has an extensive range in the east. A third species is the Sumatran rhinoceros (*R. sumatrensis*), from Malacca, which is two-horned; and there is a variety of it which is termed the hairy-eared rhinoceros (*R. lasiotis*); this comes from Chittagong. These are all Asiatic; and then we have the African (two-horned *R. bicornis*, and a variety of it which is known as the Kikuyu, which differs apparently only in the relative length of the two horns.

Some exceedingly long taper horns were exhibited by Mr P. L. Selater at a meeting of the Zoological Society last year, which have given rise to a suspicion of the existence of another species. This matter will, however, be probably set at rest, as Mr Coryndon departs next week for a two years' tour of exploration to the north of the great lake Tanganyika. During this period he purposed to collect not



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circulating in or near that place; (b) by fixing notices of the order in conspicuous spots within and near each place in which the order operates; and (c) in such other manner as the Secretary of State may direct, or as the council may think expedient, with a view to making the order known to the public.

5. Any person who, after the passing of this Act, shall take or destroy or incite any other person to take or destroy (a) the eggs of any wild birds within any area specified in the order; or (i) the eggs of any species of wild bird named in the order shall, on conviction before any two justices of the peace in England, Wales, or Ireland, or before the sheriff in Scotland, forfeit and pay for every egg so taken or destroyed a sum not exceeding one pound.

6. Any expenses incurred by the council of a county under this Act may be defrayed by that council as expenses for general county purposes within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1888, 51 & 52 Vict. c. 41; or, so far as respects Scotland, the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, 52 & 53 Vict. c. 50.

7. (1) This Act shall apply to Scotland, with the substitution of the Secretary for Scotland for a Secretary of State. (2) This Act shall apply to Ireland, with the substitution of the Lord Lieutenant for a Secretary of State, and of the grand jury for the council of an administrative county, and any expenses incurred in carrying this Act into effect in Ireland shall be defrayed out of grand jury cess.

In a discussion which followed, Mr T. Healy said he did not rise for the purpose of objecting, but he wished to know what security they had that the Lords, who seemed to have peculiar views on the subject of wild birds, would not again introduce new provisions. On the question being put an objection was raised to the second reading, and it was consequently postponed.

#### ARRIVAL OF SUMMER BIRDS.

THE under mentioned dates are not to be regarded as the earliest which have been noted this year, two previous lists having already appeared in the *Field* of March 31 and April 7.

- HOSE MARTIN.—April 5, Iowlands, Taunton (T. Meyler).  
SWALLOW.—April 3, Swanage (J. Andrews); 5th, Chester (T. H. Thornely); 5th, Berryhead (Sir Kingston James, Bart.); 6th, New Forest (J. E. Kelsall); 6th, Chelmsford (J. W. Meares); 6th, Bath (A. Cas'allain, jun.); 8th, High Barnet (S. Morse); 9th, Selly Oak, Worcestershire (J. H. Hague); 9th, Weburn, Beds (B. Webster); 11th, Wellesbourne, Warwick (F. C. Morgan); 12th, Audlem, Cheshire (C. W. Kellock, jun.); 12th, Bromfield, Shropshire (Rev. L. R. C. Paget).  
REDSTART.—April 7, Bath (A. Castellain, jun.); 7th, Stroud (C. A. Wittell); 9th, Keswick, Norwich (G. H. Gercey); 10th, Sibton, Yoxford (T. M. Wood); 10th, Chelmsford (C. Smoother).  
WRYNECK.—March 31, Chelmsford (C. Smoother); April 1, Malvern Wells (W. A. Fox); 4th, Windesham, Surrey (J. S. Bromwich); 6th, Elstead (S. A. Davies); 8th, Corfe Castle, Dorset (E. R. Banks); 10th, New Forest (J. E. Kelsall).  
TREE PIPIT.—April 5, Ripley (S. A. Davies); 7th, Bath (A.

lately that any fact is this because I have never been witness to such a fact. So with the cuckoo, candour compels us to conclude that with so many observations must have some fragments of fact. And it is certainly the wryneck, or "wrymate," as it is called in parts of the country. Its name, should have been the cuckoo in its own right this year.

The swallow and its gale have appeared at the usual time for the year, and this is the case with the redstart, tree pipit, and other birds.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

HOOPOE IN KENT.—A specimen of the hoopoe shot by the keeper in the morning (April 7). The bird believes it has been in the neighbourhood for some time as during the winter. I frequently heard a strange bird uttering a note which resembled the whistle of a steam engine.—S. [The bird has been seen in Kent. Moreover, this bird is a summer visitor, usually arriving in Kent although a few instances of its having been found here in winter have been recorded. We have just seen one which was shot at Chichester on April 10. But why is not the Wild Birds Act respected?—Ed.]

HUMMING-BIRD HAWK-MOTH.—I saw a fine specimen of the moth while walking through my sister's orchard house, which I burst. The gardener and I attempted to catch it, but it was too active for us. I have never seen one so early in this country, although it is not uncommon later in the year when the weather is warmer. Our weather has been abnormally warm since the appearance of *Macroglossa stellularum*.—O. O. (Bridge Hall, Bury, Lancashire).

MORTALITY AMONGST SEAPOWL.—I have been told on account for the very large number of dead razor-bills and guillemots which have been washed ashore on this (the Fife) coast during the last month or two. Within a distance of about a quarter of a mile between Crail and Anstruther, no fewer than twenty-four were cast up, in all stages of decomposition. Can they be attributed to the very violent gales we have experienced this year? I do not see how otherwise to account for the occurrence. FORTUNE (Barrismuir, Crail, N.B.). The circumstances are not precedent. From time to time we receive reports of large numbers of guillemots, razor-bills, and puffins being washed ashore after a storm at sea.—Ed.

OTTER AWAY FROM WATER.—I read with great interest Mr Durham's letter on an otter being found away from the water. This is by no means so very uncommon, as during a long experience of otter hunting I have frequently found them lying out in woods and on the land they constantly go right away from the rivers and lakes and the water amongst the rocks and boulders. This is more especially so in the breeding season, instinct, no doubt, teaching them that their young are safer there than close to the river, where they are liable to be swept away by sudden floods. I know one case very similar to that Mr Durham describes, where two otters were lying up in a dry drain a mile away from any river or pool. Fish are not absolutely necessary to the existence of otters, there are many other things they feed upon.—H. W. CLIFF (Calcot, Reading).

HERON NESTING ON THE FARNE ISLANDS.—It may interest some of your readers to know that a pair of herons nested this spring among the boulder stones on the east end of the outer Wideopen. The nest was about 3ft. 6in. in diameter, and was composed of bleached sticks gathered from the inner Wideopen. The