

PREFACE

THESE Studies are offered as contributions to what has ever been an attractive branch of the science of Ornithology. They are the result of many years' personal observations and researches, during which exceptional opportunities have been afforded me for acquiring special knowledge of the subject.

In the year 1880 it was my good fortune to become the intimate friend of the late John Cordeaux, who first inspired me with an interest in bird-migration that has never waned. In 1883 I was elected a member of the British Association Committee on the Migration of Birds as observed on the British and Irish Coasts. On the completion of the investigations it was my privilege to be entrusted with the preparation of the Reports, five in number, embodying the results of that great enquiry—a task which was finally accomplished in 1903.

The preparation of these Digests revealed the fact that, vast though the data were, much desirable information was still lacking. This led me to undertake a series of special investigations with a view of contributing to our knowledge on these moot points, and in the hope of adding to the lore of the subject of Bird-Migration generally. A residence of forty-seven weeks in light-houses and in a lightship, and fourteen weeks spent

on the remote islands of St Kilda and Ushant, enabled me to accomplish these objects.

In addition to other aspects of the subject, attention was devoted to the relations between migrational and meteorological phenomena. In carrying out these particular investigations I was singularly fortunate in enlisting the aid of Dr W. N. Shaw, the Director of the Meteorological Office, who has kindly revised the study devoted to Migration-Weather. The series of Charts which so usefully illustrate that study have also been specially prepared by Dr Shaw.

Several of the studies have appeared in the pages of *The Ibis* and *Reports of the British Association*; but in each case they have either been largely supplemented by subsequent researches, or carefully revised in the light of further knowledge.

A number of the stations visited had either never before been explored ornithologically, or only partially so, and as their bird-life is of considerable interest, a complete concise account of their feathered natives is afforded.

During the many years devoted to this work I was the recipient of many acts of kindness, and have been laid under numerous obligations. For these, gratitude compels me to express my deep sense of the value of the services rendered and my high appreciation of them.

To Her Grace the Duchess of Bedford, the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House, the Commissioners for Northern Lighthouses, to the late Mr John Bruce of Sumburgh, and Mrs Bruce, Mr Robert Bruce, and the MacLeod of MacLeod, my indebtedness is due for special facilities afforded for carrying out the investigations.

For valued assistance of a varied nature my obligations are also due to the Hon. Gladys Graham Murray, the Misses Baxter and Rintoul, Mr Henry Johnstone, Mr Coventry Dick Peddie, Mr William Evans, Dr Harvie-Brown, and Mr John Mackenzie. Nor should the various lighthouse keepers among whom my lot has been so frequently cast be forgotten, especially Mr and Mrs Wallace of Fair Isle.

In conclusion, I must express my thanks to the Publishers for the great care they have bestowed upon the production of the work.

WM. EAGLE CLARKE.

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