

northern groups of islands. A female was captured on 29th May during a rush of migrants. This species has not been recorded, I believe, for Scandinavia or Northern Europe, and its appearance at Fair Isle can only be attributed to erratic wandering (overshooting its range when seeking summer quarters), or to being carried out of its course by the influence of adverse weather conditions.

**GREATER WHEATEAR, *Saxicola leucorrhoa*** (Gmelin).—The first Wheatears that came under our notice as immigrants on their passage southwards consisted of numbers of this large brightly-coloured race. They arrived during the first week of September, and their movements continued at intervals down to the end of the month. Some days they were very numerous, and their large size was in marked contrast with that of the native birds. The wing measurement of specimens varied from 98 to 105 mm.; several males and females reaching the latter dimension. The adult male at this season has the mantle a mixture of pale grey and light brown, and the two pretty white stripes on the side of the head, one extending from the forehead over and well behind the eye, and the other from the chin to under the eye, are conspicuous. I had seen these birds on my previous visits to the island, but had never found them so abundant as in the past autumn. In the spring the northern passage commenced during the first week of April, and the old males were then remarkable for the brilliancy of their plumage. This early date for the northward passage was probably induced by the wonderful outburst of summer weather experienced during the last week of March.

The summer home of this race is E. and W. Greenland and the lands on the opposite side of Davis Straits, and Iceland; and it probably winters in West Africa. Its regular lines of migration are by way of the Faroe and British Islands; and I have captured examples at the lanterns of the Eddystone Lighthouse and Kentish Knock Light Vessel, when on their southern passage in the autumn.

151. **BLACK-THROATED WHEATEAR, *Saxicola occidentalis***.—On 25th September a fine male in winter plumage was detected by me among the numerous scattered examples of the Common Wheatear. Mr. Grimshaw, who examined the crop, found it to contain entirely insect matter, consisting of the larvæ of two noctuid moths and the fragments of several ichneumons (Hymenoptera).

This bird is new to Scotland, and is the third example which is known to have visited the British Isles ; the others having been obtained in Lancashire and Kent respectively, and in the spring. It is not so very extraordinary, perhaps, that this species should overstep its distribution when moving northwards to reach its south-western European summer quarters in spring ; but it is very remarkable that it should proceed northwards instead of southwards when embarking upon its autumn journey to winter quarters.

152. BLACK REDSTART, *Ruticilla titys*.—This bird is new to the fauna of Fair Isle, and has not hitherto been recorded for any island of the Shetland group. An immature bird was detected among a rush of migrants in April, and another, a female, appeared on 8th November.

This species is only a wanderer to northern parts of Britain, but is a regular winter visitor, in small numbers, to the southern counties of England and Ireland.

ARCTIC BLUETHROAT, *Cyanecula suecica*.—The Bluethroat was not observed in September, as in our previous visits, but may have escaped notice owing to the shelter afforded to it and other migrants by the standing corn. Only two came under notice during the past autumn, namely, on the 7th and 9th of October.

WHINCHAT, *Pratincola rubetra*.—This once supposed rare visitor to the Shetlands again appeared during the spring passage, when it was observed on no less than eight dates in May and early June, sometimes in fairly considerable numbers. It did not appear, or escaped notice, during the autumn movements until 9th October, on which late date a young male was captured.

153. MISTLE THRUSH, *Turdus viscivorus*.—The Mistle Thrush is regarded as a very rare visitor to both Orkney and Shetland Archipelagos, and has not hitherto been detected at Fair Isle. During the past year, however, it visited the island in small numbers in both the spring and the autumn passage movements, occurring in March, October, and November, and is probably an annual visitor.

HEDGE ACCENTOR, *Accentor modularis*.—This species is mentioned on account of the great numbers which appeared on several occasions in April, especially on the 9th, when hundreds were observed in all parts of the island.

RED-BREADED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa parva*.—I saw a bird of this species in immature plumage on 27th September. Like those seen last year, it was extremely shy, wary, and restless,