

G.C.S.Ingram Photographic Notebook. No.1

DATE	
27 th April 1908	Explored the Wild Gardens & found 6 or 8 thrushes nests, two containing eggs & the others young of various ages. Photographed nest on the east side containing young of a fairly good size. Light was very bad & had to give an exposure 3 secs at F11. Special rapid plates. Also photographed a Blackbird nest in rhododendron bush containing 3 eggs: 2 secs at F8 S.R.Plates. Pair of Mistle Thrushes busy building near railings in NW corner in a very exposed fork of a birch tree. Nest contained a fair amount of paper used by Harriers as scent. The birds visited it while we were watching & did a little work upon it.
28 th April 1908	Blackbirds nest now contains two young and one egg. Photographed it again giving 1½ secs at F16 as light was very much stronger. Visited thrush nest on east side & found the female at home. Approached very cautiously and found her so tame that I set up camera about 7 feet from her & took her portrait: 1½ secs at F9 advancing closer again to a distance of 4 feet and again photographing her: F16, 2secs. S.R.Plates. While moving the camera a little nearer however, she quietly slipped off nest & retired. Keeper showed us a Hedge Sparrow home with 5 eggs against a tree stump covered with ivy upon it at F16 giving 11/2 secs. Keeper also pointed out a Wrens nest among the ivy growing about a tree near the shelter, which contained nothing as yet. The Mistle Thrush seem to have given up building in the Birch tree & removed to centre of little wood. Chaffinches have commence building & we found a couple of new nests.
30 th April 1908	Went down with Herbert to Swanbridge and had a look around there. Found a Blackbirds nest with the female at home, but did not disturb her. In the camp field Rabbits were swarming. Startled a family of grown ones and by advancing very cautiously & slowly got within ten feet of them & watched them feeding & playing around. One was attending to its toilet & it was very pretty to see the way it washed itself like a cat does. Retired & fetched my camera & sat down about a dozen feet from their burrow. Three came out in about 3 mins time & sitting in front of their home indulged in a doze. Snapped them with F8 shutter: F6 at 1/8 th sec. The noise of the shutter woke them up but did not frighten them away. Moved closer very slowly & when within six feet of them they hopped off into the hedge but did not go far & after I had waited perfectly still for a few minutes, two of them came back towards me & were snapped, the noise of the shutter on this occasion sending them scuttling off as hard as they could go. Exposure etc same as 1 st snap. Hearing from Mr Watts at the farm that they had found some plovers' nests in a field near St Mary's Well Bay we set out to try our luck. After some trouble we found the field which was very swampy & about 5 acres in size. Lapwings were flying around & rabbits could be seen feeding in numbers. Commenced to search the field thoroughly walking up & down being certain there were nests in it. After about an hours search when we had nearly reached the far corner I came across one containing two eggs. It was on top of a very small tussock of low grass, the dead stems of which composed the apology for a nest. As the light too bad to photograph it determined to come down early the following morning, and so proceeded to pick out landmarks by which the nest could again be located, which were as follows: Count five burrows up into the middle of the field from the tree in a straight line.
1 st May 1908	Got up at 5.10am. Herbert called at 5.20am and we started for Swanbridge arriving at the field at 6.10. On the way down noticed a large number of snails crossing the road, and the fields around Lavernock abounded with rabbits and plovers feeding. As we walked across the field towards the nest the bird left in our sight & so we had no difficulty in walking straight to it. Took six photos of it. The first four at F16 at ½ sec and the other two snaps F6 at 1/16 th sec and F8 at 1/8 th sec. The pair of birds hovered around us all the time calling in their uneasy way.
7 th May 1908	Went up to the Wild Park & set up camera in front of Hedge Sparrow's nest and after covering it with cloth and walked away with the end of the tubing to shelter. Put ball on the ground and withdrew to the path where we watched nest thro the glasses. Waited ¾ of an hour while the old bird flew about near the nest, but it never ventured on. Took a short walk to other side of stream to try & locate Chaffinches nest & although we failed back in our search we found a young thrush that was not quite able to fly. Caught it carried it protesting all the way back to the camera. The Hedge Sparrow had not gone on nest so took camera away & portrayed the baby thrush on a seat and on the path: F8 at 1/25 th sec after which we returned it to the spot we had found it & had another look for the Chaffinch which was at last found the hen bird being at home. As it was too high for the tripod we left it for the next morning when we had our extension legs with us. Keeper called us & showed us a Long-tailed Tit nest

	under construction in one of the flowering shrubs near path with one of the birds hovering around & later one we found a thrushes with eggs & a nest with young ones in a hole of a stump belonging to a pair of Robins.
9 th May 1908	Went up to the Wild Park taking extension legs and small tripod with me. Took two photos of the Chaffinch nest "which I had to focus from Herbert's shoulders": F16, 2secs. From there we went over to Hedge Sparrows nest & found that someone had been taking eggs as only two now remained. Set to work & built a screen of dead branches covered over with ivy & bramble to hide the camera. This took us until 7.45pm. When I put a slide in a carrying the tubing of shutter away went into shelter but the bird did not come back & so I mad an exposure on the nest to see if all was right for another day, F16 at 2 secs. Went over to the Long-tailed Tits nest & made two exposures on it F16 at 2 secs. No sign of the birds could be seen however & I was afraid they had deserted before the eggs were laid.
11 th May 1908	Wild Gardens again. Went straight over to the Hedge Sparrows nest. Found that the eggs had hatched out and that there were two young ones now in the nest. Set up camera behind screen & carried the end of the release into hiding & waited but as the bird did not come back so went off to have a look around. Saw the Long-tailed Tit close to nest & so have hoped of it bringing up a family in the nest it has constructed. When I got back I was just in time to see the Hedge Sparrow go on its nest so after waiting for some little while pressed the bulb and so made an exposure F16 at 1 sec. Crept up quietly to change the plate but the caught a glimpse of me and left. After changing the plate went for another walk around & came across a young Blackbird among some nettles After some trouble & stings I effected its capture at which it protested to its utmost. Placing it in my cap I set out to look for Herbert to whose care I committed it while I went back to see if the Hedge Sparrow was again at home. Found her there & after making another exposure took away the camera, and took two snaps of the young Blackbird in Herbert's hand: F6 at 1/16th Sec. Saw a fine pair of bullfinches. Herbert brought a Grass Snake around in the evening & took its we took its photo in the garden: F6 at 1/8th sec.
12 th May 1908	Went up to Wild Gardens again & started straight away with the Hedge Sparrow setting the camera up under cover & carrying end of tube into hiding. In this way we secured two photos at F16 at 1 sec. I then crept up & hid beside the camera and ain a few minutes the bird was back on the nest within 3 feet of me. She however seemed uneasy & after sitting for a few minutes turning her head from side to side & listening intently she flew off of a sudden & did not come back for some little time, and then she simply flew down & off again at once as I took the camera away and went off to photo of the Wren's nest which now contains 6 or 8 eggs. Took two of this; F16 at 1/2 sec and F23 at 1 sec in a very god light. On the way to our bikes I found a Green-veined White butterfly engaging the sun on some Monkshood. In trying to secure a record of it I approached too close and it flew off but settled again upon some hazel leaves, and the sun disappearing at that moment behind some clouds it closed its wings over its back. The green & black veins on the underside made it extremely hard to pick out from among the leaves on which it was resting. Secured two photos of it in this position: F6, 1/8th sec and F8, 1/8th sec. Found a Blackbirds nest containing one egg in the wood. Very good position to photograph. Hedge Sparrows nest with four nearly fully fledged young near Keepers shed. Hedge Sparrow seemed to have heard the shutter in the second exposure for when I closed it the bird flew off. Squirrel in the wood nesting near the top of a tree. Kingfisher perched on a dead branch over the brook while I was photographing the Small White & a pair of Mistle Thrushes seemed anxious to see what I was doing. Blackcaps truing to secure a cobweb for its nest. Long-tailed Tits seen again in tree where the squirrel was seen.
13 th May 1908	Wild Gardens. As we walked to the Keepers Shed to get the tripod saw Kingfisher again at the same spot as yesterday. Hedge Sparrow busy feeding her young outside the shed & Thrush sitting on her nest in the tree near. Went over to try our hands at the Robins. Opened up the nest & found the young ones fully fledged & all ready to go. Took a photograph of them F16 at 1/2 sec (Cedit & Neal E. Rapid). The old birds were so bold it encouraged us to focus a stick placed at the entrance of nest for the birds to alight on, and then carry the end of shutter release into hiding. After waiting a few minutes, the cock bird arrived with a supply of which he quietly disposed of & then came out & perched on the stick enabling us to take a shot at him. After he had gone & the late had been changed one of the young ones hopped out

	and perched on the stick where he was fed by the female who arrived at the same time. He subsequently fluttered to the ground & hopped around. We had several tries at the old birds as they came to feed the young and then we removed to Blackbirds nest near by containing four eggs which Herbert found while we were waiting. This we photographed F16 at 2 secs.
14 th May 1908	Having finished moving the tree trunk the night before we took it up to the Wild Park & fastened trails of ivy & Bramble all over it and then set it up before the Hedge Sparrows nest. It rained all the while & so I covered the young birds with my cap. After setting it up we left it for the birds inspection. The Blackbirds nest we found on the 12th now contains three eggs. Noticed a Small White butterfly hanging on to a sprig of Ladys Smock in the rain. Picked the flower with the insect still on it and put it into a sheltered spot under a tree close to the trunk.
15 th May 1908	Went up to Wild Park by myself. Found when I came to focus that the tree was too near the nest so had to move it back. Put my exposure metre on the edge of the nest & focused on that covering the young birds with my cap when the showers came on. After focusing took meter away & shut myself & camera up inside the tree trunk. The female came back almost directly & after giving the food she had brought with her commenced to attend to the sanitary arrangements of nest. While I watched she took what the young one had cast to the edge of nest where she pulled it to bits & ate it after which she again covered the young. The male was somewhere near & she chirruped to him several times. At last he came in sight and alighted on the edge of nest with his bill full of small flies etc. The female flew off but was too timid to stay & flew off again. A heavy shower coming on the female came back in a hurry with what food she had found which she divided & then covered the chicks with her wings drooping over the sides of nest to let the rain slide off. IN about five minutes I heard her chirruping again and the male again made his appearance with a mass of small flies etc. He was bolder in the company of his mate & when she got up he distributed the food & then they both stood on the edge of the nest looking at the young birds for a minute. The female claimed a small toll of flies from the male before she got up from the nest. The female was very bold & however much row I made she did not seem to mind. I whistled, tapped the dark slide & made a good deal of row changing them but she seemed most unconcerned about it. When she cleaned up her nest the second time she flew off with the dropping somewhere where I could not see her, so I could not say how she disposed of it. Rain drops collected on Females back as she sat. In cleaning up the nest, in each case the female did the job & carried the droppings off in her bill to some mspot I could not see. I made several exposures (six) exposures at speeds ranging from 1 ½ to 1 ½ secs @ F16. C & Neils Extra Rapid Plates. When I had to leave I undid the tree trunk shaking it considerably as I did so, and withdrew the camera, but the female was still n the nest when I walked off, any retreat being covered by the tree.
16 th May 1908	Went up to Wild Park again to try & procure a couple more exposures on Hedge Sparrow. After being shut up by Herbert I waited but it was some time before the birds came back. The first to arrive was the male who was very shy & only ventured to come into some bushes near bye. The female arriving, however, he grew bolder & came to the nest delivering half the small flies he had brought to the female & both birds then proceeded to feed the young, the male then leaving & the female settling down on the nest. The young seemed to be old enough to object & it was very funny to see them pointing their heads from in under her, and trying to get some fresh air. Took two of the female F16 at 2 secs (C&N plates). Removed the tree trunk to the Blackbirds nest near bye which contains 4 eggs. Set it up near the nest & got inside to wait but although the birds came pretty close they did not return in time for me to get a photo. Herbert found another nest with eggs. Went up by myself in the afternoon. Found the eggs of the Blackbird quite cold so presuming that the tree trunk was keeping him off removed to the Hedge Sparrow nest again, and set up camera there spending the afternoon inside observing the birds. Took one snap at F6 at 1/8th sec SR Plate. About 6.00pm took a walk around and by staying vey still in one spot discovered a Marsh Tit nest, the male revealing it by going to feed the female. Took a look in & was greeted with the sussing that tits usually make. The female was sitting safely on her eggs so left her. When I passed the Blackbirds nest later in the afternoon the female was snug on the nest once more.
18 th May 1908	Wild Park in the morning. Found that Marsh Tit nest had been destroyed the broken remains of the eggs lying around amid the ruins of the nest. Cannot think how it

	could have been reduced to that as the hole was far too small for anyone to put their hand in & the stump had not been broken or touched as far as I could see. Hid camera away among some bushes near the Blackbird nest and took the release into hiding. Left it & started for a walk around. Herbert in the meantime having settled inside the tree to observe the Hedge Sparrows. By carefully watching the birds I discovered a Linnets nest in some Heather near the shelter with one egg and also another Hedge Sparrow s nest with four eggs. Secured two photos of the Blackbird at F11 at 2 secs and 3 secs. Imperial S.R. Herbert found later on a Blackcap nest and 4 eggs in a bramble bush about 5ft from the ground. Blackbird comfortably sitting again, the removal of tree trunk evidently being appreciated
19 th May 1908	Wild Gardens. Started at the Blackcaps nest and took two photographs F16 at 2 secs and 3secs. Imperial S.R. after which I removed trunk to the Blackbird nest near the Robins. Set it up there & covered it over and waited inside for some time but the bird did not come back. The nest now contains 3 young and 1 egg. The Linnets nest has now two eggs and the Blackcaps five. Keeper showed us a Willow Warbler nest with 2 eggs near the path. Light was very poor indeed,
20 th May 1908	Having obtained the key from Mrs Pettigrew we visited the Llandennis Bamboo Garden to see if we could find the Moorhens nest. Arrived up there at 6.00am & started to look around. Found four Greenfinches nests [* Nests made of small twigs, moss & wool, lined with rootlets & hair] all containing eggs. Photographed one in a variegated Holly tree with 5 eggs; Made the exposures on it, one at F16 at 1 sec and the other at F32 at 3 secs. Lovely morning the sun shining gloriously. Found the Moorhens nest was under construction and nearly completed. There were at least five old nests of hers also, one being situated in a crotch of a tree quite a foot & a half above the water. Made a couple of exposures of the pond with the nest in the foreground, F6 at 1/8th sec. Imperial S.R. While we were watching a Water Vole left the shore we were standing on & swam across to a small island. Cycled up again in the evening and moved the tree trunk nearer to the Blackbirds nest, after which I walked around to see if I could see anything. As I turned a corner in the path I saw a Bullfinch in the act of disappearing into a furze bush. As there were people about I could only glance at the spot as I passed but that was sufficient to show me the bird sitting on the nest. Marked the spot in my mind for tomorrow morning.
21 st May 1908	Went up to the Wild Park by myself. Visited the spot where I had seen the Bullfinch last night and peeped in. I could not see the nest at first but when I moved to a spot about a foot further on the bird flew out close to my face. The nest contains seven eggs & is in a good position to photograph. Within two feet of it is a Song Thrush nest with eggs. Walked over to the Blackbirds. The bird was on but soon flew off. Set up camera & moved tree a little nearer, and waited. Bye & bye the female came back but was very suspicious & uneasy & when I opened my shutter to test if she would notice she went off in a great hurry & did not come back so as I wanted to take a walk around I took the camera away & walked over to the Wood Willow Warblers which now contains 6 eggs. The Linnets has four eggs & the Wren seems to be still sitting. While I was talking to the Keeper I saw a little Wood Willow Wren fly int a low bush & disappear. On examining the spot the bird flew out of the nest containing 5 eggs. In the evening Herbert and I went down to Sully Island. Almost the first thing Herbert found when he reached the island was a Lapwing nest containing two eggs which were deposited in a slight scratching which a rabbit had made. It was lined with rabbit droppings & situated on the highest point to westward. Further down on the stones he found another with 2 eggs & a small pebble in it. This one was very hard to see on account of the ground. The wind was blowing very strongly so after setting up camera we sheltered it as best we could & took two photos, F16 at 1 sec I.S.R. after which we went back on to the West Point & took 2 photos of that nest at F16, 1 sec. The wind up there was blowing a perfect gale & vibrated the camera so much that there was practically no chance of getting a good photo.
22 nd May 1908	Herbert called & we went up to the Wild Gardens. Tried our hands at Bullfinches nest opening it up & leaving the camera, taking the release into hiding. Although they both hopped about the bush for more than an hour neither would venture on the nest so had to make a couple of exposures on the nest and eggs only, F6 at 2 sec and 1 sec ISR. The stop was left open by mistake. F16 should have been used. Made an exposure on Heather bushes containing Linnets nest, F16 at 1½ sec I.S.R. Herbert found another Wren's nest and eggs.
23 rd May 1908	Went to the Wild Park with Herbert. Tried the Bullfinch again but although she returned to her nest and not for a little while she was very uncomfortable & soon flew

	off again before I had a chance to take her. Took one of the nest & eggs F23, 4secs & 3secs & then went to Linnets & made two exposures on that, F16 at 2 secs and F23 at 3 secs. I then set the shutter to 1/8 th sec and taking camera in my hand stalked the blackbird in the middle of the wood as she sat on her nest. She did not move when the shutter went off but directly I started to change she slide off she went, so I walked across to the tree trunk before the other nest & waited in that. The bird soon came back with a fine fat worm & I took his photo as he stood on the edge of the nest.
25 th May 1908	Wild Gardens with Herbert. Discovered that the Bullfinches neat had been robbed also the Thrushes near it. Went to the Willow Wrens nest near the Shelter. The female was on but left as we came close. She did not go far however but stayed in the bushes near bye. Took two photos of the nest, F16, 4 secs and seeing how bold the bird was put in a slide & took the end of tubing away a few steps. The bird went on to the nest almost immediately & I took her photo there, F8, 2 secs. Changed the plate, the bird leaving again as I did so but she was back again in the bush before I had finished and when I turned to walk away she slipped on again. Took another photo of her same exposure & stop, and then went over to the trunk by the blackbirds nest. The female was on & left as we came up but although I waited for 20 mins neither she or her mate came back. Herbert found a thrush with eggs in the rhododendrons opposite the shelter.
6 th June 1908	Put up a Nightjar near our tents at Cefn Onn Tunnels.
7 th June 1908	Sat near the Wood Warblers nest at camp a watched the male feeding the young. He was very bold indeed but the female was extremely timid and only hopped around in the bushes near uttering her plaintive alarm note from time to time. Seeing how bold the male was I went & fetched my camera & sat down within four feet of some tall plant he perched on before going down to the nest. He was very tame indeed & my being so near did not seem to disturb him at all for he kept on bringing fat green caterpillars but the female kept off and although she would fly away & bring food from time to time she never ventured near the nest & after a time swallowed the food she had brought herself. Took four snaps of the male perched on the plant near nest and went down to the flat above the tunnel. Plenty of Small Blues and Skippers. Also found a Drinker Moth caterpillar. Took a photo of female Blue & another of a male. Tried to secure a photo of some Dragon Flies but could not get near enough to them.
9 th June 1908	Nightingale sang for a short time about 8.00pm.
14 th June 1908	Saw an Adder basking near the tents & shortly afterwards caught a Blindworm. Harry and I had a snake hunt on Stonehenge. Saw a very large Grass Snake but missed it. Came back & after opening up the nest a bit took photo of the Wood Warbler (male) feeding the young also another of him on a grass stem. While I was doing this heard Harry calling and hurrying to him found he had caught the Grass Snake. After some time we managed to tie him securely and took him into the field. A fine big spec. He was quite the longest I have ever seen. Lovely moonlight night. Slept with the tent wide open & the full moon shining on to my face. Woke about 1.30am and heard a vixen calling in the wood. A moon seems to make them noisy.
15 th June 1908	Heard today of a Tit whose young were killed by boys. When it came back to the nest & saw the dead birds lying around it seemed paralysed but after a while it flew off again and had only gone about 6 yards when it fell down quite dead.
17 th & 18 th June 1908	Slept with Herbert at the Sully Camp. Woke about 3am & sat up. Outside the tent a small flock of Wood Pigeons were feeding & rabbits were out in numbers. Going to the station we frightened a rabbit feeding in the field & it dashed right into one of Herberts gins. We soon killed it with a blow on the back of head with a stone. Slept with the tent wide open. As I lay in bed I could see the other side of the channel by the light of the waning moon. The moon looked lovely shining on the sea.
20 th June 1908	Went up to our camp arriving there about 3.30pm. The young Wood Warblers & Robins have both gone. Surprised a large adder on the stones to east of tents & captured it. Took it home alive and chloroformed it. Shall keep it in spirit. Two feet long and beautifully marked. Saw a couple of grass snakes but failed to capture them.
30 th June 1908	Went down to Swanbridge to photo a lark's nest with four eggs. Found the nest with four eggs. Found the nest easily & made three exposures, F22 at 1/3 rd sec, Sov Plates. The last exposure was made with the near tripod leg stayed with string to a peg in the ground to prevent the camera falling onto the nest. Picked up a large number of flight feathers of Lapwing & a couple of Wood Pigeons.
30 th August 1908	A couple of Brown Owls heard around our tent early in the morning. Wasps swarming. Saw a family of 3 grass snakes all together.

6 th September 1908	Struck camp. Found and destroyed wasps nest in the bank north of the Golf links.
24 th January 1909	Thrush singing quietly to itself while on the ground in the garden. Blue Tits very bold coming to bone hung up while I was standing at the window. Swarms of starlings hunting around the garden & a few sparrows
31 st January 1909	Wren again in the garden searching about at the bottom of the walls, also a Tomtit & several sparrows & starlings. Thrush singing.
7 th February 1909	Thrush singing as I passed down the walk. Hung up some pieces of coconut & a ball of suet & waited. Toms came frequently. Snapped one, F8 at 1/15 th sec. Bad light. Royal Standard Ex. Rapid Plates. Two pairs of Great Tits & several Toms searching the wall of garden. When anything was found they would carry it to some convenient stick or stone & perching on the top pick it to pieces holding it down with claws. Robin also seen in garden & of course plenty of starlings & sparrows. The string by which the suet is suspended is extremely thin but the Blue-tits can grasp it without difficulty, as above.
8 th February 1909	Set up camera before leaving for the office. After dinner went up & sat down and waited. Blue Tit soon came but the wind swayed it so much while it hung to the suet I was afraid to snap & while I waited someone came into the garden & frightened the bird away. Did not come back although I waited as long as I was able.
9 th February 1909	After dinner ran up and sat by camera. About ¼ hour afterwards a Blue Tit arrived but was immediately driven off by another who attacked the ball of suet. Released the shutter & secured what I thought would be a good photo (on examining camera found that the shutter had come undone & blown over lens so expect nothing but failure. The tit stayed until I dew out the slide, after having changed it, & just as I was preparing to take another snap it flew off. Waited until it was time to go back to office but no bird came so took camera away. Just as I had finished, the wretched bird arrived back. Such a luck.
10 th February 1909	Was enabled to get two photos of Tits, F8 at 1/15 th sec, plates as before, but on development found both underexposed. Decided to wait for new lens.
12 th February 1909	New lens arrived and I fitted to the shutter. Also renewed the suet as the tits had eaten it all away.
13 th February 1909	Set up camera when I got up. Succeeded in snapping a tit hard at work on the suet at 8.45am, F5.8 at 1/15 th sec, C&N Rapid plates.
14 th February 1909	Moved the bamboo with the suet down a foot nearer camera. Succeeded in taking 5 snaps during the last ¾ hour I spent in the room. The light was splendid during the last ¾ hour. In the morning the tits were driving one another away but after dinner they arrived in company one to the coconut & one to the suet. Is there anything in the old saying about St Valentine's Day being the birds wedding day, I wonder? Upon development found I had two fairly good photos of the five. The others were blurred this the rapid movements of the birds.
15 th February 1909	The two tits were feeding together again this morning.
16 th February 1909	Set up camera in the morning early. Bird feeding while I was dressing. Took two photos at dinner time.
17 th February 1909	Set up camera when I got up. Bird feeding then. Dinner time I went up to room at 12.35 & found a bird there. Took its photo. After dinner succeeded in getting 5 more. For the last two removed the camera some way inside the room. Although I have not seen the two tits feeding together again, they were in the laburnum tree together today & seemed to be good enough friends.
18 th February 1909	In spite of every care being taken & allowances made when focussing only two of the photos taken yesterday turned out anything like, so decided to move the camera further back to get a greater depth of focus. Made three exposures today with the camera a foot or so further off. The Tit seems to have got used to the sound of the shutter as each time I exposed it took no notice. At the same time as I was photographing it coal was being wheeled thro the garden underneath it, but without any effect upon it as it seemed to take no notice of the noise. At 12.30 about 18 inches of the stick is in full sunlight but it is in shadow again by 12.50.
19 th February 1909	Yesterday's photos being all in focus, although two were spoiled by movement of the bird. I again set up camera when I got up and as I was dressing one of the birds was feeding. Dinner-time they were not in sight when I got home, and only one put in an appearance after dinner & then it only came as far as the tree. While I was watching I noted several starlings with purple heads & green bodies & a robin was singing near by.
21 st February 1909	Started at 8.00am for Cefn On with Herbert on our bikes. Passing along the park Chaffinches & Thrushes were singing. Also saw several Hedge Sparrows. There had been a heavy white frost but it was a lovely morning. Going up the hill the frost

	was as thick on the top of one of the gates that Herbert scrapped it again into a ball which he threw at me. Arrived at the farm at 8.40am and started to follow up stream thro wood. Observed 3 nests in the top of tall firs. Looked like Squirrel dreys but the trees & their branches were so thin we did not dare to venture up. Climbed up thro the woods to foot of the rocks which we climbed marking first accents of two at the top. Raced up the first of these with Herber & only beat him by a very short head. Walked along the top and came down via the rocks under telegraph wires. Saw a pair of Mistle thrushes feeding near the top. Did a bit more climbing away to east of the telegraph wires and then started back thro fields into the wood again. Searched all the while for primroses but only found young leaves. Birds observed: Chaffinches, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Starlings, Marsh Tits, Blue Tits, Missel Thrushes, Magpie, Hedge Sparrows, Robins, Wren, Long-tailed Tits (H). Other Life: Adder basking, Rabbit (H), Spiders, Centipedes, Gnats. Birds heard but not seen: Skylark, Jays, Rook, Great Tit, Yellowhammer. Flowers: Catkins, Daisies, Primrose, Wild Strawberry, Dandelion, leaves on Honeysuckle, Lords & Ladies appearing. Photographed a tree with catkins and ivy berries – C.E.R., 1/25th sec at F16. Light value 4 & another mass of catkins in hedge, same plate at 1/45th sec at F11. In wood behind camp photographed tree rammed with catkins, F11 at 1/45th sec. While walking down south bank from camp to Tunnel Flat noticed what I first of all thought was a dead snake. On looking further found it was an adder basking. Its colour was a very faint brown & its makings were hardly to be seen. As I did not wish to kill it but take its photo called to Herbert to bring me a stick, but while he searched it suddenly glided into its hole near bye so we lost it. However, we found on the same bank primroses in bloom & photo'd 2 roots, F11 at 1/20th sec. Harry Allin turned up so we decided to take our own photos. Used the whole length of tubing & F.P. shutter. Started home at 12.45am.
4 th March 1909	Snow on ground. Birds in Garden: Blue Tits, Great Tit, Thrushes, Redwings, Robin, Sparrows, Blackbirds, Starlings. This is the first time I have seen a Redwing in town
5 th March 1909	Birds observed in Garden. Snow partly melted; Blue Tits, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Hedge Sparrows, Starlings. The Hedge Sparrow uttered its song twice. xxxx observed Redwing again, this time in front garden.
17 th March 1909	Heavy white frost. H & I went up to Wild Park at 6.30am but found it was not open. Walked into lake portion and observed several Moorhens feeding with wild ducks. Also observed bird which we put down as a Water Rail.
27 th March 1909	White frost. Went up to the Wild Park at 6.15am. Found the gate open all right so commenced to look around. Herbert found an old tree and in one of the folds of the cloth discovered what we took for a Queen Wasp hibernating. Took two photos of it 'in situ', F16 at 4 & 6 secs, C.E.S.R. plates. While standing on path to west of pond I observed a pair of Long-tailed Tis busy in a bush & when I examined it I found they had started building.
30 th March 1909	Went up to the Wild Gardens at 6.15am. Found that the Long-tailed Tit had added a good deal to their nest. Took two photos, F22 at 14 & 12 secs, C.E.S.R., as the nest was high up in a bush and had to use long tripod and focus by sitting on H's back. He went off in one direction after & I entered wood by the north. Observed & heard the first Chiffchaff. Robin seen with moss in its bill & watched it to a place close to where there was a nest last year. Hedge Sparrows watched & in bush seen in, found the commencement of a nest. Pheasant flew over the wood & several Ducks. Joined H who had seen a squirrel & had I watched it digging up nuts & eating them. While walking back with him to bikes we saw the squirrel again.
31 st March 1909	Wild Park with H. Found a Mistle Thrushes nest composed of moss & together with paper shavings. Song Thrushes nest found with eggs. Robin nest also found nearly ready. Set up the tree trunk near the Robin nest.
4 th April 1909	Went up to Cefn On with Harry Allin. A lot of primroses and coltsfoot out. Found a tree in the wood covered with ferns, photographed it, F5.6 at 1/15 th sec C.E.S.R. Also found a Blind Worm sunning itself & took 3 photos of it (1/2 sec at F11, C.E.S.R.
5 th April 1909	Wild Park with H. Long-tailed its nest completed externally. Robins nest lined and ready. Found a Blackbirds with 2 eggs & H another Thrushes 4 eggs. Squirrel seen again digging up nut s & eating them. Moved the tree trunk nearer Robins nest.
8 th April 1909	First Brimstone Butterfly observed at Llanishen.
9 th April 1909	Harry and I got up & started for Cefn On at 6.am. Had breakfast up there. Very hot day. Went up to the top. Saw several Tortoiseshell, Brimstone & Peacock butterflies also bees, Hover Flies etc. Coming back surprised a grass snake at entrance to

	wood but did not catch it. On South Bank Tunnel saw another grass snake but missed that also. The banks had been burned. Picked up 2 Blind Worms that had been caught by the fire and killed. Took several photos of Coltsfoot, Sallow Catkins and Blind Worms.
10 th April 1909	Saw 2 Grass Snakes up at the camp. Missed both although I caught one but it managed to escape after a struggle.
16 th April 1909	Went up to Wild Park with Herbert. Blackbirds nest deserted, 2 eggs being left. Robins nest contains 5 eggs. H found a Pheasant crouching in the undergrowth. Took my camera and managed to secure two photos; F16 at 4 & 5 secs, C&N.E.S.R. While moving a stick to get a better view the bird took fright & flew off. Photographed the Robin's nest F16 at 10 & 7 secs, same plates. H found a Blackbirds nest so I went over to it. The hen was on and sat tight. I took two photos of her, F11 at 4 & 5 secs, same plates. Blackcap singing. H found Hedge Sparrows newly completed nest & I found another & watched the bird take a beak full of moss to it.
17 th April 1909	Went up to Wild Park with H. Dull morning, some showers. Keeper showed us a Blackbirds nest with 3 eggs built in some ivy against a bank. Took 2 photos. One 2 secs at F16, I.N.F. plate. The other closer up F32 at 4 secs C.E.S.R. plate. Went over to Robins nest. The bird was on & I managed to get one photo of her F16, 7secs, C.E.S.R. While opening the stops she went off so took a photo of the nest, F16 at 9 secs, C.E.S.R. Found a nice group of Marsh Marigolds and made an exposure on them F16 at 4 secs, I.N.F.plate. Had a look around & found a Blackbirds nest nearly finished & another with 2 eggs. H also found one with 2 eggs & a Robins with one. Photographed some primroses F16 at 4 secs, I.N.F.plate. Coming home saw first swallows, 4 of them by the lake.
19 th April 1909	Wild Gardens with H. As the photo of Robins nest was a bad one went over there and took another F16, 13secs CSR plates. Herbert had observed a Wren on Sunday & on going to place where he had seen it found a nest made of grass, moss & leaves. Took two photos F16, 6 & 4secs INF. Took blackbirds nest that I found on Saturday F22, 6secs CSR plate. Herbert found a robins nest in an ornamental fir tree, with eggs, also 2 blackbirds & a thrushes. Photographed a spiders web covered with fog. CSR plate, F5.6, 1/25 sec. Took two more photos of Long-tailed Tits nest IWF plates, 2 & 4secs.
20 th April 1909	As I had left bike in office had to walk up. H and I took a punt & visited the first island on the west side of the lake. Found the nests of 3 Mallards and one Scotor. Photographed Mallard on nest, F5.8 at 4 secs, I.N.F. & then putting the bird off took 2 of the nest and eggs, F8 at 6 secs, I.N.F. after which we went over to the Scotors and took three of it on the nest, F8 at 3 & 4 secs, E.S.R., F22 at 12 secs, E.S.R. Took two others of Mallard sitting on its nest in another part of the island, F8 at 4 secs, C.S.R. There was another Mallard sitting close to the waters edge but as I had no more plates we embarked and got out at the top of the lake and took a look around the Wild Gardens. The Thrush we thought had deserted was sitting safely. The Blackbird that had just finished building on Friday now contains 2 eggs. The Robins nest we found had been robbed all the 6 eggs being taken. While photographing the Scotor heard the cuckoo for the first time this year.
21 st April 1909	Wild Park with Herbert. Had a good look around. Removed some twigs that were in the way of getting a good photo of Blackbird by the leaf mould. While I was doing this the bird slipped off. Observed a Chiffchaff visiting a certain spot with leaves in its bill so moved into a good position & watched it. On going to the spot found it was building a nest about a foot from the ground against a tree trunk, the structure being composed of dead leaves. Hedge Sparrow nest to north contains one egg. Found another Blackbirds in the bushes opposite shelter, & Herbert found one to the North and also a Long-tailed Tits with 3 or 4 eggs. The Keeper told us there was a nest of an Upland Goose in the Bamboo Llandennis garden so we decided to go there the next morning. The Robin in fir now sitting and on and as I watched its mate brought a worm for it & afterwards drove off a Hedge Sparrow that was hunting about near bye. While riding up a pied Blackbird flew out from near xxxx below lake, head throat & back nearly all white.
22 nd April 1909	Went up to Bamboo Llandennis Garden with H. Met Keeper outside gate and he opened the garden for us and showed us the nest of the Upland Goose with the bird on. Also showed us a Blackbird nest with young, the hen bird on. Also showed us a Blackbirds nest with young, the hen bird was at home. After he had gone we photographed the goose on its nest, F16 at 4 secs, C.S.R. plates, taking 3 photographs of the bird. It sat so closely H had to lift it off to enable me to take a photo of the eggs, 8 in number. Took 2 @ F16 at 4 secs, same plates. After looking around and finding nothing more went back to Wild Gardens. Had a look around. H finding a thrushes nest with the bird on & I found a nest commencing to be built & a

	Hedge Sparrows with one egg. In the same Heather bush as Hedge Sparrow a pair of Linnetts were busy but could find nothing. Thrushes nest near fish ponds now contains 3 nearly fledged young. Long-tailed Tits observed busy on nest last found carrying feathers in for the lining.
23 rd April 1909	Wild Park with H. Borrowed a ladder and some rope from Keeper and proceeded to the Long-tailed Tit nest which is perched amongst Honeysuckle about 12ft up a tree. Fixed on extension legs to camera but found they were too short so had to tie on another tripod to give required height. Set up camera and then stood ladder on end, moving it to a tree by means of a rope. H then held it steady and I mounted and found the camera just right. Focused and put in slide but could not stop lens down and the legs were so springy owing to the length the camera was moved by every breath of wind. Took a snap '1/15 th sec at F4.5, C.S.R. plates and then another same exposure and plate but stop F5.8. Moved the camera a little further back and took 2 more, F5.8, same exposure and plate. Altered the position of the ladder and camera and took another snap, same stop, exposure and plate and then tried a time exposure F16, 2 secs, same plate, after which we packed up and cleared. Raining heavily while we were packing. Observed pied blackbird sitting on Hay rick as we passed on our way home.
26 th April 1909	H and I went up to Wild Park. Gate not open so waited and while doing so walked into a field on the other side of the road and there saw a Yellow wagtail. Several Skylarks were singing around & I saw the first Swifts. No one turning up to open gate so H got over. When he got back he told me he had found another Wrens nest & a Thrushes. Got over gate and had a look around. Chiffchaff nearly finished nest externally. Hedge Sparrow in stump contained 2 eggs & the one in bush in wood 4. H' [Hedge] Sparrows in heather 4 eggs. Robins in stump had been robbed one egg only being left. Saw the Wrens nest which is built on a bolt under the bridge nearest Keepers house. Watched a Kestrel hovering over some fields. Saw Pied Blackbird on my way up. Saw pied blackbird again & a pair of cuckoos.
27 th April 1909	As H failed to turn up went out by myself. Took a boat and rowed up to the islands. Landed on the first. Found Swan's nest with bird sitting. Set up camera. Bird lifted to expose 1 egg then proceeded to lay a second. Landed on the first & found the female was on, the male standing by the side of nest. Set up camera & while I was watching, the female got up & I saw there was only one egg in the nest, however at that moment the bird layed another and afterwards started some improvements on the nest moving the eggs by curling her neck around & putting the under side of her bill under them & lifting them about. Took 1 photo of her, F8 at 1 sec, ??S.R. Bird settled and dosed. Took 2 photos of her in this position, F22 at 3 secs, Imp.S.R. Moved to Mallard nest. 1 photo of female on nest, F22 at 4 secs, Imp.S.R. and then tried the nest by the waters edge. Bird very uneasy and shuttled off the eggs. Took 2 photos of her, F22 at 4 secs, Imp.S.R. Explored the next island and found nothing although I observed a pair of Long-tailed Tits about a bush & a Whitethroat came out of some nettles but could find no trace of a nest.
28 th April 1909	As H failed did not turn up started off by myself. Took a boat to explore remaining islands. Landed on first to east. Found a Mallards nest among some nettles the bird going off saw it contained 12 eggs. A pair of Swans also had a nest. Took a photo of the Mallards nest, F22, 3 secs, also two of the Swan, F16, 2 secs. Found on the same island a Thrushes nest with 4 eggs <u>unspotted</u> & a Blackbird with 4 eggs. Embarked & landed on 2 nd island East. Found a Blackbirds nest 4 eggs. Took 2 photos of it, F22 at 3 secs. Embarked & landed on the centre island. White Duck on nest & Scotor. Took two of the Scotor on its nest, F22 at 3 secs, & used the last plate on the white ducks, F22 at 3 secs. As I was stepping into the boat a Mallard got up from under my feet. The nest contained 11 eggs & it was a wonder I had not stepped on it when I landed. Pied Blackbird again seen at same place.
29 th April 1909	H again failed to turn up so started by myself calling for key at office. Saw Mr Pettigrew who gave me the key & told me there was a nightingale at the Heath. Directly I got up to the Wild Gardens it started to rain. Watched a Wren & found its nest. While I sheltered under the yew tree saw a mouse run down a hole, which I marked with a stick. Took a photo of Wrens nest F22, 3 secs, C.E.R. plates. Took two Hedge Sparrows nest in bush in wood, F22, 4secs, F32, 7 secs, C.E.R. plates. Went over to Chiffchaffs nest & found 2 eggs in it. Took two photos, Near view, F22, 4 secs, a little further off, F32, 7secs, C.E.R. plates. While I was looking around by the entrance saw another mouse run thro the grass to the bushes.
30 th April 1909	Wild Park with H. Took a good look around. Found a Blackbirds with 4 eggs In the Heather near Hedge Sparrow. Took a photo of some Ladys Smock, F22, 2 secs,

	C.E.R. plate. Sat on a seat in the sun for a long time watching the birds with the glasses. H found a nest in the Rhododendrons near shelter but could not identify it.																											
1 st May 1909	Wild Park with H. Took a photo of Marsh Marigolds, F32, 6 secs, also a bush of Blackthorn, F32, 5 secs,& then tried Blackbirds nest at edge of wood. The bird was on when I arrived but left. Took a photo @ F32, 9 secs, putting my watch into the nest to lift the eggs. H & I tried to find the Robins nest near bridge. While I was doing this suddenly remembered I had left watch in nest. Went over & found the bird calmly sitting on it and when I removed it, it was very hot. The nest H found yesterday is a Chaffinch the female being at home when I saw it. H with the aid of a ladder examined a thrushes nest high up which contained 4 eggs, also the other Chaffinches which contained 5 eggs. 4 eggs now in Chiffchaff nest.																											
5 th May 1909	Wild Park by myself. Nothing in Chaffinches nest in rhododendrons. The Hedge Sparrow was so was the blackbird & Chiffchaff. Moved the trunk to Hedge Sparrow nest putting the bird off as I did so. Went away to get some green stuff & while doing so found a Daddy Long Legs. When I came back with some ivy the bird was on, but slipped off again on my approach. Put the ivy on & retired with my camera inside. The bird was back directly & I secured 4 photos, F8, 1½ secs. Afterwards I withdrew to where I had seen the Daddy Long Legs. It was still there so I took its portrait, F8, 1½ secs, F22 at 3 secs. Found a Chaffinches nest building in a tree near the Leaf Mould. Afternoon: Closed at 3pm. Went home & finished my control box putting in leaves, moss, stones etc and then slipped in the grass snake. Managed to get 6 photos in all, F16, 3 secs & F22, 7 secs, Imp. S.R.																											
6 th May 1909	Wild Park by myself. Went over to Hedge Sparrow & after moving tree a little nearer went inside & set up camera. Found however that I could not get a good view of bird so had to give up for the morning as I was afraid of disturbing the bird too much. Moved tree a little nearer however before I left. By standing still near Long-tailed Tits nest by leaf mould, I observed a Willow Wren who was pulling pieces of leaves off & taking them into an old stump of a tree. Went to the place & found that she had evidently started building. Chiffchaffs nest contains 5 eggs.																											
7 th May 1909	Wild Gardens with H. Went to Hedge Sparrow & after some alterations managed to get 6 photos in all, 3 exp F16, 3 secs; 2 exp F32, 7 secs & 1 snap F7, 1/25 th sec. The bird was very tame & took no notice of the noise I made only hopping off into the bush if I came outside the tree. Willow Wren hard at work at nest. Long-tailed Tits nest near it destroyed by some bird or animal 2 or 3 of the eggs lying on the ground & the side of the nest torn out. Herbert found one egg untouched, he also found a thrushes nest with 4 eggs,																											
	Last entry states “Entered 15/9/19. GCSI.”																											
	Photographs Sold to Cassell & 60 xxxx <table><tr><td>Subject</td><td>Neg No</td><td>Price</td></tr><tr><td>Long-tailed Tits Nest</td><td>A1</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Bullfinches Nest & eggs</td><td>A2</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Willow Warblers Nest & eggs</td><td>A3</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Lapwings Nest & eggs</td><td>A4</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Wrens Nest</td><td>A5</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Hedge Sparrows on Nest</td><td>A6</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Blackcap Warblers Nest & eggs</td><td>A7</td><td>5/-</td></tr><tr><td>Thrushes Nest & eggs</td><td>A8</td><td>5/-</td></tr></table>	Subject	Neg No	Price	Long-tailed Tits Nest	A1	5/-	Bullfinches Nest & eggs	A2	5/-	Willow Warblers Nest & eggs	A3	5/-	Lapwings Nest & eggs	A4	5/-	Wrens Nest	A5	5/-	Hedge Sparrows on Nest	A6	5/-	Blackcap Warblers Nest & eggs	A7	5/-	Thrushes Nest & eggs	A8	5/-
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