

HMS Note book 1912 (1). Jan-April 1912

H.M.Salmon, 22 Richmond Road, Cardiff

Monday January 1st	<p>Cycled out to St-y-Nyll in the afternoon. I photo'd the pond from same place as taken in the Summer F16, 1sec, 4pm rather dull. An inquisitive Robin came round me while I was doing this & I tried to photo him but couldn't, he would not stay still long enough.</p> <p>A small flock of about 20 Lapwings flew over while I was waiting there. Saw 10/12 Coot on the top pond. Walked right round, nearly all the Moorhen were on the bank, on the top left hand side, (West side) about 20 of them flew out when I went along. Saw no duck. Saw a flock of Fieldfares & a few Redwings & a pair of Magpies just behind the farm where they nested last year.</p> <p>Riding back just after 5pm just by the X [cross] roads below Waterhall a Barn Owl flew across the road on front of us.</p>
Thursday January 11	Saw a small bat flying round Mount Stuart Square about 3.30pm.
Friday January 19	Skylark picked up dead in garden this morning. Feathers quite clean & not frayed. Found on lawn near Clothes line. Slight wound on back of neck.
Saturday January 27	Cycled out to Llandaff, but as But wasn't in I rode back via Birchgrove, Lisvane, Llanishen & St Mellons to Marshfield, St Brides & home via Rumney. From Marshfield to Rumney I saw Redwing & Fieldfares, few Lapwings scattered and one big flock. Many Blackbirds, Thrushes & Robins. Skylarks in flocks of 30/40 all along the roadside. Met H.N.S between St Brides & Rumney.
Sunday January 28	At the Lake, which was almost empty. Saw ¾ pairs each Wigeon & Tufted Duck, & one Smew (?) * (see Feb 28, p8). No Pochard. Near Llandennis saw Redwings, Fieldfares, small flock of Lapwing.
Saturday February 3	At St-y-Nyll. Skating in the snow on the ice among reeds. Saw tracks of Coot & Moorhen also small Rabbit (?). Saw one Wild duck flying over 4.30pm.
Wed February 21	Went up to Wild Park 6.30 this morning with Geoff & HNS. Came on to rain thick drizzle. On the way up heard Skylark & many Song Thrushes singing. It was dark. Had a look round but saw nothing special. Saw a couple of Song Thrushes fighting, their feathers pressed in tightly until they looked very little larger than Robins. They were still at it when we left. On the last xxxx a flock of 60/100 B [Black]headed Gulls, many of them were getting the black head. Saw also 2/3 pairs of Wigeon, several Coot & 3 Tufted Duck males.
Thursday February 22	Four Jackdaws came down onto the lawn 8.45am feeding on the bread put out. Stayed about 10 minutes.
Saturday February 24	Cycled out with GCSI to small pond beyond Llanishen where HNS saw Frog Spawn last Sunday (Feb 18). There was a large quantity there, some very well developed. Small flock of about 20 Golden Plover (?) flew over. Saw small flock of Fieldfares also a pair of Magpies & found their old nest. G photo'd frogspawn & hazel catkins, latter showing female flowers. Saw a male Winter Moth also moorhen on pond.
Monday February 26	Slavonian Grebe brought in to office for identification. Shot at Taffs Well on ponds at last Sat. aft; 24 th (by Lewis).
Tuesday February 27	Saw Mounterey re Slavonian Grebe. He said he had had two more in this winter. Also showed me two Little Grebes, one found alive at Lisvane & other at Llantwit Fadre.
Wed February 28	Went up to Lake 6.30am. Saw 12 Wigeon. Two of these probably the pinioned birds so there were probably 10 wild birds; 4 females & 6 males. Also 30/35 Coot&

	<p>about 20 Tufted Duck. The lake is about ½ full so I walked up the stream but there were only Moorhens & Duck up there. 1 Coot on the mud between the islands. Saw one of the Magpies also 3 L.T.Tits [Long-tailed Tits] flying down the lake. Went onto the Wild Pk [Park]. G found a Song Thrush's nest just started. Saw the bird leave it. We also saw Goldcrests, Mistle thrush, flocks of Redwing & Starlings. What we really went up for was to see if the Smew (?) or Slavonian Grebe (?) was still there *(see Jan 28, p4). The bird I saw on Jan 28 (which I took to be a Smew, because it was like the immature female Smew seen on Sun Feb 13 1910. Mr Proger said they were Smew then) may not have been a Smew. It may have been the Slavonian Grebe, as I saw it from a distance of about 150 yards & I hadn't my glasses. It had a dark head, back of neck & back with white throat & breast & white bars across wings, which answered the description of the Smew seen two years ago.</p> <p>The Grebe, at that distance, would look very much the same. I am not certain if it has white bars on the wings through.</p> <p>I couldn't see it very well, as all the ducks were crowded into the stream, the rest of the water being frozen over. It swam low in the water, and dived several times, and as far as I could see it seemed to propel itself from behind, as its legs seemed placed well back, though I didn't think much of this at the time, as the Smew is of course, essentially more of a diving duck than, say, the Mallard or Wigeon. It was also seen on Friday Feb 11 (HES) & was thought to be a female Great Crested Grebe but looked rather small. Dad said it swam like a Grebe, but he didn't notice if it showed white bars on the wings and after seeing the Slavonian Grebe he said he was certain that the bird at the lake was a Slavonian Grebe. So the probability is that it was a Slavonian Grebe, though I should have liked to have identified it absolutely definitely.</p>
Saturday March 2	<p>Went up to Lake with GCSI (6.30am). Saw 20/25 Coot & the Wigeon. Tufted Duck are now paired and there are only 5 pairs left. Mallard also paired now. In the Wild Park we had a general look round, but found nothing fresh. The Song Thrush's nest found 28th xxxx not added to. Saw Kingfisher on ponds. Also 3/4 female pheasants & male Green Woodpecker and several Redwings.</p> <p>In the afternoon cycled out to Llandaff with Bert. Walked over to R [Radyr] Quarry. On the River there were a good many Black-headed Gulls some with full black heads, others partly & a good number quite white. Went through the Quarry into the wood. I found a Song Thrush's nest practically finished, with used lining, built in a small ivy covered tree. It was rather wet with the previous heavy rain & I should not be surprised if it was deserted. We found several other nests just started, all probably Song Thrush's.</p> <p>We then went across to Maesyllech & on the pond saw several moorhens. In the wood we saw only pigeons & Pheasants. On a tree by the Keepers hut we saw 9 sparrowhawks heads nailed up, also 2 Magpies and 2 Pole traps. These had been used recently as there were several feathers on the jaws of each.</p> <p>We went across to Waterhall Wood. There were many Primroses out on the Rly [railway] embankment the side which faces. In the wood saw only Pigeons, Pheasants, Magpie & two stoats hung up on a tree. No sign of fresh owl castings. On the pond we saw 3 Snipe and the usual Moorhens & heard a Magpie tack in the wood.</p> <p>HNS went out to see if the Dipper was building this afternoon and tells me the nest is there nearly finished.</p>

Monday March 4 to Wednesday March 6	<p>West of England trip. From the train on Monday I could see very little. At Radstock saw several Skylarks, also Rooks & Jackdaws in flocks. At Sherborne (Tuesday) sawⁱ several Hedgesparrows. At Martock, two medium size Rookeries, all the birds busy building. From Martock to Taunton saw a large flock of B.H.Gulls [Black-headed] On one of the flooded fields & a man in the carriage said that while the skating was on in January one of them with a ring on its leg was shot. Nearing Taunton saw one Moorhen near the river, and one Magpie, also an old Magpie's nest.</p> <p>At Taunton (Wed) saw one Woodpigeon in a tree in the town. Taunton to Bridgewater saw a small flock of Lapwing, about 50. Crows nests fairly common. Dunball – many gulls on the river; B.Headed & Herring Gulls mostly. Small rookery birds building. 4 pairs of Lapwing mobbing rooks & using spring calls.</p> <p>Bridgewater to Bristol – fair number of Crows nests about & saw 1 Magpie's nest. Saw a Dabchick on pond not far from Nailsea.</p>
Saturday March 9	<p>(6am) Went out with HNS to see Dipper's nest. Both birds were just up stream above the bridge. The nest is practically finished & is lined. We went on to the other bridge, but the birds don't appear to have started there yet. There was no sign of a nest, though one of the birds flew up, over the bridge & then round back again.</p> <p>We went back via the reservoir fields, but there was only one Lapwing there.</p> <p>Aft [Afternoon]. Went out to Llandaff & as Bert couldn't come, went by myself over to R [Radyr] Quarry & through the wood. I went to have a look at the Song Thrush nest found last Sat (2nd) & saw the bird was on, so didn't disturb her, as I expected. She was only keeping the nest dry & she might desert.</p> <p>Went on to the second wood where I found a Song Thrush nest containing 4 eggs. The eggs felt or seemed to me to be slightly warm, though the nest was rather damp, as though the bird had been off for some little time. It had just started to rain. Saw a Marsh Tit then walked on through Radyr & Taffs Well up the mountain behind the big "pond" or reservoir where the Slavonian Grebe was shot. Coming back, at 5.30 I was just under the viaduct and saw the Jackdaws going back to the Iron Mines on the Little Garth. There were first about 800, then another 200 & then 4 smaller parties of 50 to 70 each, besides odd half dozens. In all about 1200 birds.</p> <p>Went back same way & had a look at the thrush's nest in first wood. I couldn't see if the bird was on, so went to it, she flew off & I found the nest contained 4 eggs.</p> <p>Bert said there were more in it on Wednesday March 6. Rained solid all afternoon.</p>
Wednesday March 11	<p>6am. Went out to see the Thrushes nests found (Saturday) with eggs. The bird was sitting all right on the first one, but the other is, I think, deserted. It was damp on Saturday but is now quite wet. I had a good look through the wood on the way back, one of the others "beginning" found on the 2nd nest has developed into a Blackbirds nest, & is now practically quite ready though rather damp. None of the others seem to have been touched.</p> <p>Just as I was going to my bike in the quarry I saw a little bird flitting about & got my glasses out to look at it. Saw it was a female Lesser Redpoll & seemed very hungry, it was eating the seeds out of I went nearer but it took no notice of me, being too busy feeding. So I got out the camera & got within about 5ft & got one snapshot at 1/50th sec F6.8, then it went to another plant as I tried to get nearer. So I shifted the camera & after a little careful moving got within about 3ft & took 3 snaps. All f6.8, 1 at 1/50th sec and 2 at 1/10sec, Plates Well. X 5 (3&4) on halves.</p> <p>7.30-7.45 am rather dull.</p>

Thursday March 14	<p>6am. Went up to the Park, but it was not open, and as I was by myself I couldn't get in. The only birds I could see on the lake beside the resident Mallard etc were 5 Coot. I saw a Heron flying over.</p> <p>I went up past the Reservoir fields but there were no Lapwing there & then on to the Coed-y-Gores Brook. The Dippers nest contains 1 egg. I saw one of the birds. In the wood close to Coed-y-Gores Farm I saw a Song Thrush's nest practically finished, and farther on, on the other side of the farm, another Thrushes nest built in an ivy covered tree in the hedge. The bird was sitting, but there were no eggs. Heard Blackbird in Richmond Road imitating police whistle.</p>
Saturday March 16	<p>Cycled out to Llandaff 6am with G & through the quarry & wood. The Song Thrush is sitting hard now. Heard & saw one Chiffchaff & we heard it continuously all the morning. The Blackbird's nest contains one egg now. We had a good look round; all the nests found on Mar 2 are now being built up. There is also a Wren's nest under the old tree. I saw it there on Mar 2 but thought then it was the remains of the old one. We found one or two beginnings, probably Thrushes.</p> <p>In the afternoon cycled out to Llandaff, intending to go to Hensol with Bert but as it turned out so wet we decided not to go there. We went towards St-y-Nyll and leaving the bikes at a cottage walked up the stream between the two railways. In the marshy fields higher up we saw 3 Herons, about 20/30 resident Lapwings & a few Snipe, also a large flock of Lapwings & Golden Plover. Saw a fresh Carrion Crows nest, but did not get up to it as it was so wet. Walked back via the old Mill. There were a number of owl castings there, but no sign of the birds.</p>
March 18-22.	<p>Monday March 18. <u>Carmarthen</u>. Saw Robins nest just started in hole in wall.</p> <p>Thursday March 21. <u>Cardigan</u>. Saw two Cormorants on the river also gulls – Herring, B.B. [Back-backed] & B.H. [Black-headed]. Wrens nest just started & Mistle Thrush's finished. Many Magpies about and several Herons.</p>
Saturday March 23	<p>5.45am. Went up to W.[Wild] Park with G & H & saw the nests which had been found during the week. Song Thrush 4 eggs. Two Blackbirds nests 3 eggs each, both are sitting. Goldcrests nest started on 18th added to a little. A pair of Kingfishers were seen on the stream on Monday 18th & the hole was found partly dug out, but nothing done since. On the 18th they found a Song Thrush's nest, 3 eggs & 1 young one. On the 29th there were 3 young & 1 egg but on the 22nd the young had disappeared & only the addled egg left. We found this morning a Mistle Thrush's nest, 4 eggs, up the top of a fir tree, the first Mistle Thrush's nest I have seen, but quite unphotographable. Several other Thrush's & Blackbirds nests partly built. I also found an old Goldcrests nest. Saw a flock of Redwings – Cock Pheasant xxxing & flattening his wings.</p> <p>Afternoon. Went out to Llandaff with Bert over the quarry & woods. On the river bank in the field nest to the Brickyard found a Song Thrush's nest & 4 eggs. In the Quarry we found a Blackbird's nest quite finished and two Song Thrush's one containing 1 egg & the other just finished. Also saw one Chiffchaff. It was <u>not</u> singing. In the first wood we found a Song Thrush nest nearly finished and a Blackbirds just started. The Song Thrush's which had 4 eggs on Mar.9 now contains young I should think, hatched yesterday. Two of the other Song Thrush's nests found previously contain 1 & 3 eggs respectively & the Blackbirds, which had one egg on the 16th now contains 3, bird sitting. In the other wood found a Song Thrush's nest with 4 eggs and a Blackbird's about finished, also a Robin's nest just started. In the Song Thrush's nest found Mar 9 with 4 eggs there are now 2 young. I had thought it was deserted.</p>

	<p>In the bushes between the woods I found a Song Thrush's nest finished. We heard one Chiffchaff all afternoon in the first wood.</p> <p>In the Quarry we saw that the Bee Orchis were coming up, about a dozen plants.</p>
Sunday March 24	Went up to the Park. Saw a Coot on the lake. Saw the Goldcrest in the W [Wild] Park.
Monday March 25	6am. Went out to see how the Dipper is getting on. It is alright so far, 5 eggs. I went on to the other bridge & waded up the stream from the river, but no sign of a nest or bird. I didn't look at the Song Thrush nests found on the 14 th as it was so wet. The nests were still there, however.
Tuesday March 26	<p>5.45am. Went out with G to Llandaff fields to see a nest which HNS found. It was a Song Thrush's, 4 eggs. Saw a pair of Stock Dove and 1 Jay (?). Went on to R [Radyr] Quarry. The Song Thrush's nests are robbed & eggs squashed but the Blackbirds is alright, though no eggs yet. In the wood the nests are all alright. Heard and saw the Chiffchaff all morning, only one still.</p> <p>Coming home in Richmond Rd saw a Jackdaw take up a piece of old rope to its nest in a chimney.</p> <p>HNS went down to Cog Moors found 9 Lapwings 'nests' but no eggs.</p>
Wednesday March 27	<p>5.45am. Wild Park. Goldcrest's nest built up a good deal. One of the Blackbirds nests 3 eggs is I think deserted. Heard two Chiffchaffs. Found another Mistle Thrush Blackbirds nest ready. Song Thrush's finished. Robins just about half built. Saw a hen Blackbird with white mark on back at base of tail. Several pair of Duck walking about. I saw one of the Kingfishers leave the nesting hole, and later on we saw the pair. Saw a weasel run in at SW gate.</p>
Thursday March 28	<p>Morning wet. Went out in the evening via R [Radyr] Quarry & put up hiding tent at Song Thrush's in second wood which contained 2 young on Sat 23, but found the nest empty. In the quarry I saw a pair of Wheatears. Heard Chiffchaff in first wood & saw another between the two woods. In the Song Thrush's nest which on Sat contained one, are now 4 eggs, but the one which contained 3 is deserted. S [Song] Thrush's nest between the woods now has 4 eggs. Blackbirds in the 2nd wood contain two eggs.</p>
Friday March 29	<p>5.45am. Went out to the Duck Wood near Marshfield. Found no nests with eggs, but found three which I think will be nests. Saw two rabbits crouching at the foot of a tree quite surrounded by water. In the next wood saw a Sparrowhawk (?) nest near where we had the one last year, and also a Magpie's nest. Neither finished saw the pair of Magpies. Heard one Chiffchaff and in the wood near the house heard a G [Great] Spotted Woodpecker "drumming".</p> <p>29.3.12. Frosty outside town.</p>
Saturday March 30	<p>5.30am. Went up to the W [Wild] Park. All nests alright. Saw the pair of Kingfishers. Blackbird's nest found on Wed now 3 eggs. HNS found a Rpbins nest nearly finished & I found another about half built & a Song Thrush's nest, 2 eggs. Song Thrush's nest found Wed contains 1 egg. Saw a Dipper on one of the islands in the lake.</p> <p>In the afternoon Herb, HNS & I went to Hensol. I climbed up the tree which I got up last year. There are now 7 nests in it, one a small nest, is empty same as last year. Two contain young and the remainder 3, 3, 4 & 3 eggs. I fixed up a dummy camera ready for Friday next. Bert got up to several Rooks nests containing young & chipped eggs. The Herons remained on the nests till I was halfway up the tree.</p>
Monday April	<p>15.30am. Went out to the fields at Red Laver [Rhydlafa] where the Lapwings are. Found 3 nests containing respectively 1, 2 & 2 eggs and a number of other</p>

	<p>"scratchings". Saw a large number of Snipe. Carrion Crows nest doesn't seem to have been touched at all since Mr 16.</p>
Tuesday April 2	<p>5.30am. Went up to the W [Wild] Park. Song Thrush's nest near entrance now 4 eggs. No fresh nests at all. Goldcrests nest now finished outside. Saw one of the Kingfishers. Then went out to the Dippers nest, 3 of the young just hatched & 2 eggs unhatched, eggshells still in the nest. Saw a pair of Grey Wagtails close by the bridge. Went on to the other bridge, the Dippers are just commencing building there. Saw one of the birds bringing moss etc. Heard Chiffchaff in the W.Park & outside. Frost in town, not outside.</p>
Wednesday April 3	<p>5.30am. Went out to Llandaff with Bert to Waterhall. One of the geese from the farm has its nest in the middle of the big patch of floating reed & is sitting. Photo'd her from the bank (F32, [1 ½ lens] 3secs [XS]) and I found a Little Grebe's nest containing 1 egg (which was not covered). I photographed this as it was (F32, 3secs) (XS). Bert waded all over the pond but found nothing else. Heard Chiffchaffs.</p>
Thursday April 4	<p>5.30am. Went up to W [Wild] Park. The Robin's nest HNS found on 30th Mar now contains 1 egg. G saw another pair of Goldcrests building but couldn't find the nest. I found a Robins nest just about ready. It is a very large nest, built between the stumps of some of the laurels which have been cut down. H found a Wren's nest, but it is not lined yet. Heard several Chiffchaffs.</p> <p>Bert, GCSI & HNS at Red Laver [Rhydlafa] Lapwings nests have 4 eggs. At Waterhall Grebe's nest robbed. Saw a House Martin.</p>
Friday April 5	<p>Started out at 6.15am & as it was too wet to go to Hensol. Bert & I went to Church Village & Efail Isaf. We went up past Tonteg Platform & left our bikes in the fields, walking round in a big circle through Efail Isaf & the woods above. We found first a Magpie's nest nearly finished in the hedge alongside the "canal". Then two Carrion Crow's nests in the small woods alongside the Railway both finished. Another Carrion Crows near Efail Isaf Station, not properly lined yet. On the other side of the Rly [Railway], above Efail Isaf saw one Lapwing & found the remains of another, probably this one's mate. In one of the woods further on we found a Magpies nest containing 2 eggs. In the wood where the Carrion Crow & Magpie usually nest, we found the Magpie's nest nearly finished on the usual side but the Carrion Crows was in a holly bush in the hedge about 100 yds from the road. It was, like the one at Efail Isaf, unlined.</p> <p>Then we went along the hedge & the small Wood near Tonteg & found three Magpies nests, 2 practically finished & 1 unlined, also a Mistle Thrushes nest 4 eggs & a Blackbird's one egg. Rained all day.</p>
Saturday April 6	<p>Aft. Went out to St-y-Nyll with Bert. We waded all around the top pond. Saw a pair of L [Little] Grebes & found what I think is their nest. Also found what I expect is the start of the Coot's nest in the floating weed at the top end. Found several starts of Moorhen nests & two with eggs, one with 1 egg & the other which was built entirely of green watercress, containing 2 eggs. Near the one also we found a number, 4 or 5, Moorhen eggs sucked. Saw 12 Mallard. Many Chiffchaffs about & saw 4 Swallows. Found a Magpies nest in the wood at top end. Not finished lined yet.</p> <p>In the orchard at the old house found Blackbird's nest half built and another with 4 eggs. Song Thrushes nest with 2 eggs and a Mistle Thrush's about half built.</p>
Easter Monday April 8	<p>6.30am. Went to Hensol with Bert. It was fairly fine but blowing a hurricane. We got there about 9am & had the cameras fixed up all ready about 11am. Had to</p>

	<p>lash myself into the tree when fixing the camera. Birds came flying over at intervals & our bird came on to the nest just before 1pm. It was very dark just then so I let her sit for about ½ hour, but it didn't brighten at all, so I snapped her then (F11, 1/30 sec X5). Had dinner & then I went up & changed the plate. It brighten up after 3pm, but was blowing worse & as the bird didn't come back I went up & took the camera down. The birds were all sitting & the male birds standing alongside several nests when we got there. The sitting birds did not leave until I was quite 2/3 of the way up. The nest which was empty last week now contains 3 eggs and the 3 eggs in one of the other nests have hatched since last week. In another tree adjoining there is a Heron's nest containing 4 eggs and in the other big tree there is one nest only, I think containing young.</p> <p>During the afternoon two trees were blown down near us and we also saw two Rooks nests blown out. One came down in pieces at intervals, but the other was blown out wholesale, sitting bird and all. She did not leave it till it was about ¼ of the way down. Eggs were of course smashed. Found several lots of bird's nest fungus and Jews Ear. Saw & heard Chiff chaff.</p>
Tuesday April 9	<p>Walked out to Marshfield Bert, HNS & I & went through the woods. I went to our Mar 29. No sign of Duck's nests at all, the Magpies are beginning to line the nest. Found a Blackbirds nest 3 eggs & a Robins nest nearly finished. Went through Marshfield and out towards the sea wall. Found Carrions Crows nest containing 6 eggs in a fairly good place for photographing. Heard several Chiffchaffs & saw 4 Fieldfares & a pair of Herons.</p>
Wednesday April 10	<p>5.30am. Went up to the Wild Park. Saw nothing of the Kingfishers. 3 / 4 Chiffchaffs about & others in the lake Park. I found the other Goldcrests nest. The one first found now contains 1 egg & I photo'd it (F32, 12secs). Robin nest found Mar 30 now has one egg & the other found April 4, 4 eggs & in the one which contained 1 egg on Mar 30 there are now only 2. HNS found a Song Thrush's nest with one egg. Saw a young Rabbit.</p>
<i>HMS Note book 1912 (2) April- May 1912</i>	
Thursday April 11	<p>5am. Went out to Marshfield to photo the Carrions Crows nest found on Tues May (9th). Couldn't get far enough away to use my camera & 7" lens so I used Geoff's stereo (F10 <u>2</u> 1sec; F22 <u>2</u> 2secs; F12 <u>1</u> 4secs). Saw several Herons. The Crows mob the Herons if they come near their nests. We noticed this on Tuesday also. Saw many Reed Buntings in pairs, but no Yellow Wagtails or Swallows. Saw & heard a couple of Chiffchaffs. I fixed up a dummy camera in the next tree ready for Saturday.</p> <p>Went out in the evening to R [Radyr] Quarry to put up hiding tent at a Song Thrush's nest in the wood but found it was robbed. All the other nests there had been robbed except the one between the two woods (see Mar 23 & 28). This now contains young hatched about a day I should think.</p>
Friday April 12	<p>5.30am. Went up to the Wild Park. All nests alright. Robin's found Mar 27 now has 2 eggs. Robin's in the laurel bush has 5 eggs. Found a Song Thrush's nest with 1 egg. Goldcrest has 2 eggs only this morning, they are the white type. HNS & I went out to see how the Dipper has got on over Easter & found that the nest & young had been pulled out. Saw the pair of Grey Wagtails & I think they are nesting in one of the holes under the bridge. (Very cold & white frost).</p>
Saturday April 13	<p>5am. Went out to Marshfield to see that the Carrion Crows nest was alright for this afternoon but found the eggs were taken. Saw 5 or 6 Herons & asked the old</p>

	<p>farmer where they nested. He said their “rookery” was on the other side of Newport, 4 miles along the Chepstow Road, turn to right at New Inn. Heronry is half way to Magor about 2 miles near Peterstone W [Wentlooge]. I saw a male Tree Sparrow. On the way back I saw several Chiffchaff. 4 Yellow wagtails, all males, 2 Swallows & 10 Tree (?) Pipits. I got up to the other Carrion Crows nest seen but it is not yet ready.</p> <p>In the afternoon went to Rhydlafer [Rhydlafa] with Geoff, HNS & Bert. There are 4 Lapwings nests with 4 eggs each. We tried photographing the birds but no good. Before we left one of the nests, and two of the eggs in it, were smashed by a cow & we put the remaining two into other nests. Heard a Snipe “drumming”.</p> <p>Went on afterwards to (G & I) St-y-Nyll. Saw one Coot. The nest which we thought might be the Grebes has been added to, but contains nothing. Saw a pair of Mallard & one duck flew up from the wood on the E side, top end. We also saw 3 small duck, Teal or Garganey (?), 2 female & 1 male probably. The Moorhen’s nest at top end is empty. The other one contains 6 eggs and there is a heap of reeds put nearer it by someone trying to photo it (left my card). Saw two Swallows and a Common Sandpiper. Very many Chiffchaffs about. Mistle thrush’s nest contains one egg.</p>
Monday April 15	<p>Went out at 4.30am to Rhydlafer [Rhydlafa] & Geoff tried again from the tent but she wouldn’t come back. One of the nests of 5 has gone since Saturday. Put up a few snipe. Heard 8/9 Willow Warblers also Chiffchaffs.</p> <p>In the evening went out to Radyr & put up my tent in front of the S [Song] Thrush’s nest between the woods. Heard several Chiffchaffs but no Willow Warblers.</p>
Tuesday April 16	<p>5am. Went out to try to Photo the Song Thrush. As I was by myself I had to frighten the bird away and then dash back into the tent before they could see me. One of the birds came back immediately & fed the young (6.15am) & I got one snap (1/10”) then but they were suspicious afterwards and though they would come behind the bush they wouldn’t come to the nest. So I went out & chased them away again & got back. One came with food about 7.20 and after hesitating for 10 minutes came & fed the young & I got another snap (1/10th sec) (both F6.8, Well XS). Heard at least 7/8 Chiffchaffs & one of them perched on the tent & I stayed about there singing for 10 minutes or so.</p> <p>Saw nothing of Willow warblers coming back over the common at Whitchurch I saw 2 Swallows.</p>
Wednesday April 17	<p>5am. Went out to St-y-Nyll to photo Mistle Thrushes nest, but found it was robbed, probably Jackdaws I should think. Searched round the orchard. Found a Song Thrush’s nest 4 eggs and a Blackbirds, built on a ledge in the rock, containing 3 eggs. Saw a Blackcap (male) & heard a Cuckoo. Latter was in the field by the mill. It said “cuckoo” half a dozen times & then Cuck-cuck-oo, then “cuckoo” 2/3 times again. I found a Goldcrests (?) building in one of the fir trees up the drive & Geoff found a Robins containing 5 eggs. Went down to the pond. Heard a Blackcap in the little wood nest the farm. On the top pond saw 3 Coot, & heard the Grebe. Saw one Mallard at top end. We walked right round, but saw nothing fresh. Coots nest at top seems to be built up some more also Grebes, but no eggs yet in letter. Heard another Blackcap in wood at top end. Magpies nest contains 4 eggs fresh. Many Chiffchaffs & Willow Warblers about everywhere.</p> <p>Saw a Blue Tit building in a hole in one of the trees near the X roads below Waterhall.</p>

Thursday April 18	5am. Went out to Llandaff to have another try at the Song Thrush from the hiding tent (I put it up again last night). Bert shut me in but the bird didn't come back until 6.55am, but between then & 7.30 I got 5 photos of her (1/10 sec, F6.8 X 5)
Friday April 19	4.30am. Went out with GCSI to Cefn On to try to photo the Magpies nest. It now contains 5 eggs, which are exceptionally well marked. Geoff took some photos with his stereo camera and then I got up with the ½ plate & after removing one or two sticks from the top, was able to photo the interior showing the eggs (3/F16, 4secs XS, 1/F22, 8secs). Heard a Nightingale singing also Willow Warbler & Chiffchaffs.
Saturday April 20	5am. Went out to Llandaff to try to photo Song Thrush again from (tent which I put up last night). She came back regularly until about 7.15 & then stopped. The young will be flying tomorrow I expect. They were preening themselves & flapping their wings a good deal. I took two of the bird and one of the young (F6.8, 1/10sec XS). Bert found a Hedgesparrow's nest & a Chaffinches, both finished but neither with eggs. In the afternoon went out to Rhyd Laver [Rhydlafa] to look for Snipe's nests. We walked over the whole field putting up number of Snipe, but which were probably feeding. Eventually saw one go up flying low & straight along the ground for some distance before she rose up high & on searching the place found the nest 4eggs, right in the centre of a tuft of grass. Practically no nest, just a few pieces of dry grass. Saw a Meadow Pipit carrying a bit of grass, but it dropped it. Also saw a pair of Yellow Wagtails. We went back & got the cameras. I took 4, 2 ½ plate F32, 3secs; F45, 6secs & 2 ¼ plate F22, 2secs XS. Found a Lapwing nest, 2 eggs and saw 4 Swallows. Saw two more Swallows when going home. Many Willow Warblers & Chiffchaffs about.
Monday April 22	5.30am. Went up to Wild Park. Had a good look round. In the wood found two Blackbirds nests 3 & 4 eggs both in good positions for photographing. Hedge Sparrows nest 4 eggs about 8ft up a tree and another Hedgesparrow's nest & 4 eggs on one of the heather bushes. A peculiarity about both of these nests was that neither had any horsehair (or only 1 or 2 pieces) lining, while Robins have plenty. Goldcrest is sitting, but we didn't count the eggs. Found another Blackbirds nest in a Heather bush, bird sitting but no eggs. I photo'd the Blackbird's nest with 4 eggs (1/4 plate, F22, 22secs XS). Heard Cuckoo also 2 Blackcaps singing Chiffchaffs, W [Willow] Warblers.
Tuesday April 23	5am. Went up to the Park. I photo'd the Blackbird's found yesterday (5.30am) (1/2 plate, F32, 20secs AS). Tried to get the bird sitting but she would not stay. Then I photo'd the Wren's nest found Apr 4 (F16, 5secs AS). Then I went across to the Hedge Sparrows nest & fixed up my tent to try to photo the bird but she wouldn't come back. Herbert looked all round, found Hedge Sparrows nest, 3 eggs, Ducks (Mallard) 12 eggs, (Aylesbury) 11 eggs, Long-tailed Tits nest – this was built in the fork of a tree over the stream about 15ft up. Saw Chiffchaffs & W [Willow] Warblers in pairs also Blackcaps were singing all over the park. At least 4 male & saw one female. Went out in evening & put up dummy & tent at Snipe's nest.
Wednesday April 24	4.30am. Went out to Rhyd Laver [Rhydlafa] with Geoff to try to photo the Snipe on her nest. I fixed up my camera, using the Elec release and got in the tent about 50yds away. She came back in just over 10 minutes time, but I thought it was another bird which I think has used a nest about 30yds away as it alighted near there & must have walked to the nest. About 6.45 some cows came along &

	<p>smelling round the camera, frightened her off. So we drove the cows off and I went in the tent again. She was back in 10 minutes & flew down to the same place as before so I waited 6/7 minutes & then pressed the button. I had set shutter at 1/10, F6.8 it was very bright. She didn't leave the nest at the click of the shutter. She always flew round "drumming" when we were at the nest. Saw two Cuckoos and 8/9 Yellow Wagtails. The male Wagtails were fighting a good deal. Lapwing nest has 4 eggs.</p>
Thursday April 25	<p>4.30am. Went out to have another try to photo the Snipe. We fixed the camera up & put up the tent but she would not come back. The pair flew round a bit while we were getting the cameras ready but disappeared in a few minutes & we did not see them until we went to take the camera away. Saw altogether 6 Swallows, 4 Cuckoos, 9/10 Yellow Wagtails, one male came repeatedly on to the bush by the tent & on the ground within 3 ft of the tent. Many Chiffchaffs & Willow Warblers. Heard Blackcap I Rhyd Laver wood and one C. Whitethroat.</p>
Friday April 26	<p>Went up to Wild Park. All nests alright. Goldcrest has 9. Saw two Willow warblers building & found both nests which are about half built. Blackcaps in pairs. Heard 3 / 4 Cuckoos & saw Sand Martins. Saw a Chaffinch building in one of the trees S end. Saw a pair of Marsh Tits.</p>
Saturday April 27	<p>4.30am. Went out to Rhyd laver [Rhydlafa]. We found that the Snipe eggs had just hatched so covered the young up with a handkerchief to keep them warm while we were arranging the cameras. She came back immediately we left and I got 3 photos of her (F6.8, 1/10 XS) on ½ plates. The male bird came back also several times to the nest, but he got behind the grasses at the back. I photo'd the young also (F6.8, 1/10sec AS) in the est.</p> <p>In the afternoon Bert & I went out. We found the young Snipe had left the nest & came across two of them with the female about 20 ft from it, but could find no trace of the male & the other two young. I photo'd these two we found F11. 1/4sec XS; F16, 1/2sec AS. Then we walked all over the field but failed to find anything else (met Ansalds). Saw a Redshank which flew up from the side of the stream about 20yds in front of us.</p> <p>Then we went on to St-y-Nyll. I had the waders & waded round the pond. Found the Grebes nest which contains 2 eggs. The nest found previously is now submerged. The nest is almost 6 ft from the one found last year. The Coots nest is still unfinished & I found another about ½ built in the patch of reeds where we had the one in 1908. Found 4 Moorhens' nests with 7, 4 6 & 1 eggs. Saw 4 Sandpipers on the pond. Also a good many Swallows here & at Rhyd Laver. Saw one Whitethroat. No sign of Garganey & only saw 1 Mallard. Bert picked up a piece of Mallard's egg. The nest which I thought might be a Goldcrests found Apr 17 is not a goldcrests, probably a Chaffinch's.</p>
Monday April 29	<p>Went up to the W Pk [Wild Park] 5am. I tried to photo the Hedge Sparrows on the nest, which now contains 3 young but she wouldn't stay on. I also tried to photo the Goldcrest sitting & was successful, though she sat with her tail to the camera (F22, 12secs; F32, 24secs) XS. The Blackbird nest which contained 4 eggs now has 3 young, so put my tent up there. Then went in the tent by the Robins nest & got 6 photos of the female bird sitting (2sesc, F16; 1/10, F6.8; 4 – 1/4sec, F6.8 XS). Heard Cuckoos.</p>
Tuesday April 30	<p>5am. Went up W [Wild] Park. I tried to get both the Hedge Sparrows on the two nests but no good, neither would come back. I had a good look round, saw another Chaffinch building & found another Willow warblers nest.</p>

	<p>Heard Cuckoos & saw 1 Swallow. Saw 5 Swifts at top end of Richmond Rd flying round houses screaming.</p>
Wednesday 1 st May	<p>5am. Went up to W [Wild] Park. I went into the tent by the Blackbirds nest, but the birds would not come back for some time. The female came first & fed the young then the male. I snapped him (F6.8, ¼ sec) but he moved at the first click. Then the female came back & settled on the nest, so I photo'd her sitting (F6.8, ¼ sec). She went off & as she didn't return I went to the tent by the robins nest. I got 2 plates of the female (F6.8, ¼ sec XS0. Found Bullfinch's nest 5 eggs & Greenfinches ready also Chaffinches nest in a willow about 2 ft from ground. Saw wasps nest started in shelter.</p>
Thursday 2 nd May	<p>5am. Went out to Morgans Tea Gardens but no sign of either Dipper or Grey Wagtails. Saw two Swallows at Coed-y-gores. Saw several Whitethroats. Then I went over to the Heath. Saw a pair of Lapwings on that bare patch. About ½ dozen Whinchats including 2 pairs. Heard & saw one Nightingale, also several more Whitethroats. Saw a Kestrel.</p> <p>Then I went back to the Park & got 3 photos of the Robins from the tent – one of the male bringing food to the female on the nest (1/4 sec, F6.8 XS). The Chaffinches nest found yesterday contains 5 eggs.</p>
Friday 3 rd May	<p>Went up to the Park & I went into the tent to photo the Blackbird. I got 8 photos altogether, one of the male & 7 of the female (4sec, F6.8, XS) but it was very dark. Geoff found another Blackcaps nest partly built.</p> <p>In the evening went out to St-y-nyll & put up a tent at the Grebes nest which now contains 5 eggs. Saw 8/10 Swallows. Saw a Wild Duck with a brood of young. Heard Corncrake.</p>
Saturday 4 th May	<p>Went out to W [Wild] Park 5am. It was very dark. I photo'd the Chaffinch sitting (F32, 16secs; F22, 9secs XS). Then I had a try for the Bullfinch and after a while I got her to remain. I took one (F16, 5sec XS). We had a walk round while waiting. The W [Willow] Warbler on W side now contains 1 egg. The one by the shelter is I think deserted, the other two are lining. First Blackcap's nest is finished. Wren's nest found Mar ... now lined out & contains 1 egg & I think the other is being lined. I found a Chaffinch just started and a Greenfinch containing 1 egg on the E side of wood. The egg is almost pure white & unspotted. The other Greenfinch is not quite finished lined yet. Saw 10 Swifts & one Swallow in Richmond Road. Saw 2 Whitethroats outside Park.</p> <p>In the aft [afternoon] went out to St-y-nyll. Geoff went into the tent to photo the Grebe & got several photos of both birds at the nest. I had a look round, found beginnings of at least 6 Blackcaps nests & one nest 5 eggs. Saw pair of Moorhens with young on bottom pond. Moorhens nest which contained 4 & 6 last week now have 8 & 7. Coots nest on E side contains 7 eggs, but no sign of other nests that I could see from tree top. Magpies nest contains 5 eggs and is alright.</p> <p>I also found two Wood Pigeons nests, now one, but no eggs. No sign of Garganey. Saw 3 Wild Duck, 2 Drakes & 1 duck. Saw one Sandpiper. About 20 Swallows altogether.</p>
Monday 6 th May	<p>4.30am. Went to Taffs Well & to Iron Mine in Little Garth. Stock Doves nest in old hole 2 eggs. One of these was small and very round. Other was bigger & pointed each end. Go to three Jackdaws nests 4, 5 & 5 eggs. One of these nests was built on the ground under a bush on one of the wide ledges. Just under the one in the hole photo'd the site (F11, 1 ½ secs) & the nest (F32, 7secs; F45, 14secs XS) also a view (F11, 1sec) XS.</p>

Tuesday 7 th May	5.30am. Went up to Park. Saw 1 Swallow. Photo'd Bullfinch (F20, 10secs XS) & the Chaffinch (F22, 15secs) XS. Found two Hedge Sparrows nests, 3 eggs & one with one egg at 6am, 2 eggs at 6.30. Greenfinch has 2 but the one which had 1 on Sat is robbed. Willow Warbler found Apr 30 has 2 eggs. Other has 4 & Wren has 4. Blackcap has 3 eggs. HNS found Ducks nest with egg. Saw Kingfisher flying over. Goldcrest has young just hatched. Saw pair of Whitethroats.
Wednesday 8 th May	Wet. Did not go out.
Thursday 9 th May	4.30am. Went out to St-y-nyll. Found Grebe's nest robbed. Probably rats or crows. So shifted the tent & put it up in front of Moorhen's with 8 eggs at top pond. Moorhen's with 7 up there is robbed, looks like rats. Coot's nest contains 8 eggs and the other Moorhen was alright, but one of the eggs outside the nest. Saw no Sandpipers, 10/12 Swallows, numbers of Swifts. Heard a Sedge Warbler & Geoff found the nest (?), which is about half built. Geoff saw a Spotted Flycatcher. Heard 2 Corncrakes (X Rds [crossroads] below W'hall [Waterhall]).
Friday 10 th May	5.30am. I went pout to St-y-nyll & put the tent a bit nearer the Moorhens nest. Saw nothing fresh. Heard 2 Corncrakes.
Saturday 11 th May	5am. Went out to St-y-nyll wth Geoff. Cleared the reeds from the front of the Moorhen's nest. She has started building up the nest with green reeds. Had a look round the little wood behind the farm. Found a couple of Blackcaps nests just started. Saw a S.[Spotted] flycatcher near Llandaff. Heard one Corncrake. In the afternoon I went out with Bert & got in the tent just before 3pm & stayed till 6.15pm but she would not come back. She came behind the reeds about 3 ft from the nest at 5.15 but that was all I saw of her. Bert found a Quails nest, 2 eggs, 2 Hedge Sparrows 1 each. Greenfinches 5 eggs. I saw a pair of House Martins.
Sunday 12 th May	<p>Geoff, Herbert & I went down to Port Talbot, 5.55am train. Walked to Porthcawl, around to the ponds at Morfa. We saw many Sedge Warblers also several Yellow Wagtails. Saw one & then a small flock of 7/8 Teal, all males I think, on small pools in the Sandhills. There were many Lapwings also in the wet valleys in the Sandhills. I found one nest, 4 eggs, though many of them had young.</p> <p>When we got to the Gullery we saw 5 BH [Black-headed] Gulls circling round high overhead, but when we went down into the valley 6 came flying round. I found 2 nests only, one in exactly the same place as the one was last year, not finished yet and the other about 20 ft away containing one egg. Could not see any sign of the other pair's nest. I also found another Lapwings nest, 4 eggs. Geoff found a Meadow Pipit's nest, 5 eggs built in the middle of the dwarf Willow bushes. We also found 5 young Lapwing, 4 in one brood & one of another. Then we went across to the Brook & on one of the shell beaches Herbert found a Ringed Plovers nest, 4 eggs. We saw no sign of the Merlins at all.</p> <p>We got out onto the beach found several Oystercatchers' scratchings. In one case I saw the birds making them but found no eggs there. In on [one] of the "entrances" to the Sandhills we found an Oystercatchers nest 3 eggs & a Ringed Plovers with 2 eggs. We walked all along the beach to Sker but found no nests. Saw four fellows out from P'cawl [Porthcawl] searching the beach for nests. We20/25 Lesser Terns and small flocks of Dunlin & a few, 5/6 Sanderling. The Dunlin were in summer plumage with the Black underparts.</p> <p>On Sker Point we saw a very large flock of Oystercatchers, probably 40 or more, counted 37, also 5 large Terns, probably Common, and here also a few Lesser Terns.</p>
Monday 13 th May	[No entry]

Tuesday 14 th May	<p>5am. Went up to the Wild Park. We found that the eggs from many nests have been taken, probably by mice. The Greenfinches have gone also Blackbirds, Hedge Sparrows (3 nests).</p> <p>I photo'd the Chaffinch on her nest F32, 15secs (these eggs are now hatched, as also are the Bullfinch's) and then I did the Bullfinch. First of all she was very shy, but later on she got very tame & I got a large picture (F32 & F45, 15secs XS). The Blackcaps nest now contains 5 eggs & I photo'd it (F64, 25secs XS). Then Wren's nest which I photo'd contains 4 eggs. Willow Warblers have 7, 6 & 7 eggs. Saw the Kingfishers several times.</p> <p>In the evening went up to the Heath. Heard the Nightingale. Saw a male RB [Red-backed] Shrike.</p>
Wednesday 15 th May	<p>Went out to St-y-nyll 5am to photo the Wood Pigeon's nest that Bert found on Sat but found it was rather impossible, as it was a very dark place & was wet & windy. Also 1 egg was hatched. We searched all the other trees & found another Woodpigeon's nest & 1 young one also another unfinished. The Blackcaps eggs are hatched.</p>
Thursday 16 th May	<p>5am went up to the Heath wood. Heard the Nightingale again but couldn't find the nest though we searched well. Geoff found a Whinchat's nest, 5 eggs. We went over to get the cameras & when we got back there were 6 eggs. Photo'd it (F22, 4secs, covd [covered] & uncovered XS). Saw a Wheatear.</p> <p>In the evening went out to Ely with G. Scott to see the Whitethroat's nest he had found, 5eggs. Saw Blue Tit leave hole in tree & heard Corncrake.</p>
Friday 17 th May	<p>5am. Went out to St-y-nyll to put dummy camera in the Hiding Tent at Moorhen's nest. Whitethroats ready, Bullfinch 1. Saw a Flycatcher, heard Corncrake.</p>
Saturday 18 th May	<p>5am. Went up to Heath. G photo'd Whinchats nest. Saw 5 pairs. Went back to W [Wild] Park. I photo'd W [Willow] Warblers nest (F45, 80secs Hydra plate). Saw a flycatcher. Found W [Willow] Warblers nest 4 eggs. One of the others is smashed. Ducks nest 9. Last found hatched.</p> <p>In the afternoon went to St-y-nyll to photo Moorhen. I got in by about 3pm. The birds were coming near the nest singly & together about every 10 minutes till 5.15 when one came on. I photo'd her (F6.8, ¼ sec XS) but she went off before I could change the plate. Although they kept on coming near neither would come on again though I waited till 6.30pm. Geoff found a Marsh Tit's nest in a tree about 15ft up. Saw flycatcher. Bullfinch has 2, Whitethroat 1.</p>
Sunday 19 th May	<p>Vale of Neath. Biol.Sec. Field Walk. Heard Curlew on Hirwaun Common. On the Rivers saw Dippers & 1 pair of Grey Wagtails. Few Swifts, several Swallows & 1 pair of House Martins. Found Blackbirds nest 5 eggs & Dippers nest, young. Saw very few birds generally. Photo'd ants nest F6.8, 1/50.</p>
Monday 20 th May	<p>5am. Wild Park. Very dull so couldn't try W {Willow} Warbler or Goldcrest. We watched the LT [Long-tailed] Tits which now have young & found that 3 birds were feeding the young. One had less tail bent so we could tell for certain. We went all round & found Greenfinches with young, Moorhen with one near the S.Bridge. Saw 4 H [House] Martins in Shirley Rd. In the evening went up & put up a dummy in the tree at LTT [Long-tailed Tit] at Reservoir Wood. Heard 2 Nightingales.</p>
	<p>On inside of back cover: Gess (?) 52 Aymesbury Rd.</p>