

**ORNITHOLOGICAL RAMBLES IN
SUSSEX; WITH A SYSTEMATIC
CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF
THAT COUNTY, AND REMARKS
ON THEIR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION**

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Ornithological Rambles in Sussex; With a Systematic Catalogue of the Birds of That County, and Remarks on Their Local Distribution by A. E. Knox

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A. E. KNOX

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Printed by Hildreth, & Walton.

HERON ALIGHTING ON ITS NEST.

Page 27.

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THE BIRDS OF THAT COUNTY,

AND

REMARKS ON THEIR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION.

By A. E. KNOX, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S.



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PREFACE.

THE following letters were originally addressed to a friend, residing beyond the Tweed, and owe their appearance in a collected form to a subsequent suggestion that they might become a popular contribution to the Fauna of Sussex, possessing some attractions for the sportsman as well as the ornithologist.

The author cannot, however, conceal from himself, that having on the present occasion limited the sphere of his observations to a single county, it would be vain and presumptuous of him to expect that they should prove as interesting to the general reader as to those who, from local circumstances, might be supposed to feel somewhat of an enduring interest in such records, or as to an old and intimate friend, in whom "auld

lang syne" and congeniality of tastes had ensured a ready listener.

But to take a wider view of the subject. It will be admitted that the geographical position of Sussex, as a southern maritime county, with its long line of sea-coast, is favourable for observations on the migratory birds, while the remarkable variety of soil and scenery contained within its limits appears to have a considerable influence on the local distribution of many species; but without indulging in speculative theories, or attempting to follow up the various links in the chain, geological, botanical, and entomological, the author still ventures to hope that he has been able to throw some little light on these matters;—that a few sparks may be struck from the following pages, which hereafter in abler hands may be fanned into a flame, and more fully elucidate this mysterious and interesting subject.

With regard to himself, he may perhaps be allowed to say, that an ardent love of Nature has throughout life been his ruling passion, and the

study of her works his greatest delight; while a residence of many years on the coast, as well as in the interior, of Sussex, has afforded him advantages which do not fall to the lot of every local observer.

The illustrations are taken from drawings made on the spot by the author. The "Heron alighting on its Nest," as depicted in the Frontispiece, was sketched by him while concealed among the upper branches of an adjoining tree, under the circumstances narrated at page 27, and is a faithful representation of the attitude of the bird at that moment.

Although from the desultory nature of these papers he has sometimes thrown off the restraint which a rigid adherence to systematic order might have imposed upon him, yet with the view of imparting to the work a more scientific character than it would otherwise possess, and at the same time increasing its utility for purposes of reference and comparison, the arrangement observed by Mr. Yarrell in his admirable work on

British Birds, and the nomenclature adopted by that distinguished zoologist, have been adhered to in the Catalogue, as appearing to possess in the highest degree the advantages of correctness and simplicity.

That this little volume may tend to awaken a taste for similar pursuits in some who have hitherto passed unobservant along the shores and through the woods of this interesting county, and perhaps serve to assist in the diffusion of those humane and enlightened views so ably advocated by Mr. Waterton in his 'Essays on Natural History,' is the sincere wish of

THE AUTHOR.