

## Notes on Some Ayrshire Birds

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GREY LAG GEESE.—A few pairs are now breeding regularly in Colmonell parish.

BLACK-THROATED DIVERS.—A pair was observed on a loch in Straiton parish in 1955 throughout the summer, but no nest was found. They returned in 1956 and I first saw the nest on 25th May, when she was sitting hard on a single egg. This egg mysteriously disappeared on 8th or 9th June, but she subsequently laid and hatched two eggs on the same nest. On 10th July she was seen with one tiny chick and on the following day the second egg hatched; but neither chick was ever seen again. One of the parent birds was found dead on the loch side in September. A single adult returned to the loch and spent most of the summer there. Black-throated divers continue to be seen most years since—a pair was noted several times in the summer of 1960—but no reliable reports have reached me of breeding since 1956.

RED-THROATED DIVERS.—Also observed most years. Only two instances of breeding have been noticed, in Straiton parish. A nest of this species containing one egg was found in 1957, but the nest was robbed. Bred successfully on an adjacent site in 1958—one young bird reared.

HEN HARRIERS.—Reared three young near Muirkirk in 1960, probably the first time they have nested in this county for a hundred years.

COLLARED DOVES.—A small colony, the most westerly in Europe, was located near Girvan in the spring 1959, and there is evidence that they had then been established for a couple of years previously. In the autumn of 1959 the total of old and young was known to be not less than eleven birds. Unfortunately they seem now to have left the district.