

In the Countryside **ON RECORD** in September **New discs to note**

At the beginning of September it is still Summer, but by the end it is definitely Autumn, with the first leaves turning yellow on the trees, most of our more attractive wild flowers already over, and all but a few of our Summer bird visitors on their way back to Africa.

The last swifts, except for a few stragglers, left our shores in August, but in September the swallows and martins are still conspicuous, gathering on telegraph wires and other perches before they, too, fly off southwards. Some will stay into early October, but most will be gone by the end of September.

Of other Summer migrants, the only conspicuous ones in September are the chiffchaff and willow warbler, which both have a renewed burst of song before they, too, depart. It is, however, too early for the arrival of any of our regular Winter visitors, such as the fieldfare and redwing.

Besides the irregular song of chiffchaff and willow warbler, several of our resident birds start their Autumn revival of singing this month. You can expect to hear the robin, hedge-sparrow, wren, and wood pigeon, and occasionally also the song thrush, skylark, and chaffinch.

The wood pigeon's September song is actually not a revival, but a continuation of its Summer song. For the wood pigeon nesting is still in full swing in September. This is one of the months when farmers go round poking out the pigeons' flimsy twiggy nests, each with two plain white eggs. For the wood pigeon is one of the great pests of the farmer, gobbling both grain and greenstuff. The reason why it has such



Making the most of blackberry time

a late nesting season is that there is more corn and weed seed in the Autumn, so that it is easier to find food for the young birds.

There are hardly any sea-birds on the cliffs in September, but at the beginning of the month you can still see the young fulmars sitting on the ledges where they have been growing up for the past

five or six weeks. Fulmars look remarkably like gulls at first sight, but you can always distinguish them by the two curious tubular "nostrils" at the base of their bills.

September is, of course, the great time for wild fruits. During this month you can see them in all three colour stages: the completely unripe green berries, the ripening red berries, and the completely ripe black ones.

Most of the other berries to be seen in our woods and hedgerows this month are food for birds rather than people, but a very interesting collection can be made. There are the black berries of the privet, the buckthorn, the dogwood, and the wayfaring tree; the red berries of the hawthorn, dog rose, and guelder rose; the orange berries of the sea-buckthorn, and the rowan or mountain ash; and the beautiful pink berries of the spindle tree.

Word of warning

Some berries to be seen at this time of year are actively poisonous and dangerous to eat, so it is wiser not to sample any but the familiar blackberry. Among those to beware of are the berries of the woody nightshade, which are green at first, then yellow, and finally red; and the deadly nightshade, which has black berries as big as small cherries. You can also be poisoned by eating the berries of lords and ladies, which appear in orange spikes in the hedge bottoms.

RICHARD FITTER

LONNIE SATTIN: *I'll Fly Away* on Warner WB15. Lonnie began his singing career as soloist in his father's church choir. His love of singing took him into many contests and eventually he decided to make it his career. This song is based on the Negro spiritual and is given strong treatment by the young man who has been named as a future rival to Harry Belafonte. (45. 6s. 4d.)

JOHNNY WESTERN: *The Ballad of Paladin* on Philips 45PB1030. Western was actually playing an acting role in the television series *Have Gun, Will Travel* when the idea came to him to write a theme song for this popular programme, and he recorded it. (45. 6s. 4d.)

DOROTHY SQUIRES: *This Place Called Home* on Decca 45F11262. It was during one of her fleeting trips to Britain that Dorothy Squires made this recording. Both she and her husband, actor Roger Moore, are working away from home, and this song seems to express how much they miss their own country. (45. 6s.)

GERARD HOFFNUNG: *At The Oxford Union* on Decca LF1330. Hoffnung was a cartoonist, a tuba player and a painter, but in recent years his best-known enterprise was his Music Festival, held at London's Festival Hall, at which almost anything could happen. Famous pianists would play the penny whistle, conductors would beat a toy drum. His speech to the Oxford Union has the same wild humour. (LP. 22s. 10½d.)

JOHN NEVILLE: *Palgrave's Golden Treasury* on Caedmon TCE128. The brilliant young actor John Neville, reads selections from the Romantic poets, including Keats, Wordsworth, Shelley, and Burns. (EP. 14s. 7d.)

ROBIN HALL and JIMMY MACGREGOR: *Glasgow Street Songs* on Collector JESS. This likeable young couple are frequent visitors to the *Tonight* series,



Jimmy Macgregor (left) and Robin Hall

where they have often sung folk songs from Scotland. The examples included on this particular recording are always entertaining and often very amusing. (EP. 13s.)

GERARD SOUZAY: *Songs by Chausson, Fauré, Duparc* on Decca CEP662. Souzay is unsurpassed in the singing of French songs and this selection of them is delightfully performed. (EP. 14s. 7d.)

NORTH-WEST PASSAGE—Henry Hudson's great voyages (6)

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>DURING THE FIRST WINTER MONTHS HUDSON'S MEN OBTAINED THEIR FOOD FROM BIG COVEYS OF WHITE PARTRIDGES...</p> | <p>SEVERAL OF THE CREW BECAME ILL WITH SCURVY AND FROSTBITE...</p> <p><i>Save some for the sick men aboard!</i></p> <p><i>How shall we work the ship home with half the crew stricken down?</i></p> | <p>WITH THE APPROACH OF SPRING, THE BIRDS VANISHED, AND THE MEN WERE REDUCED TO EATING THEIR RATIONS WITH MOSS AND FROGS...</p> <p><i>I would as soon eat sawdust!</i></p> | |
| <p>ONE DAY AN INDIAN APPEARED. THE FIRST INHABITANT OF THE REGION THEY HAD SEEN, HE EXCHANGED DEER AND BEAVER SKINS FOR KNIVES...</p> <p><i>A savage! This means trouble!</i></p> | <p>BY SIGNS THE INDIAN INDICATED THAT MANY OF HIS PEOPLE LIVED TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH, AND THAT AFTER A FEW "SLEEPS" HE WOULD COME BACK WITH SOME OF THEM...</p> | <p>HUDSON ASKED THE CREW TO HAND OVER THEIR KNIVES SO THAT HE COULD TRADE THEM WITH THE INDIANS FOR FOOD, BUT ONLY TWO MEN WOULD CONSENT...</p> <p><i>Who knows? We may buy all the food we want from the Indians!</i></p> <p><i>There's no trusting savages Master!</i></p> | <p>DISCOURAGED BY THE SAILORS' ATTITUDE, THE INDIAN DEPARTED AND DID NOT RETURN WITH HIS FRIENDS, AS PROMISED. HUDSON SET OUT IN THE SHIP'S BOAT TO FIND THEM...</p> <p><i>Try to catch some fish while we are away!</i></p> |

WILL HUDSON FIND THE INDIANS—AND THE HOPED-FOR FOOD SUPPLIES? SEE NEXT WEEK'S INSTALMENT