

There was no bush whatever nearer than 25 miles at the least from our particular quarter. Their invasion was at the time when the gooseberry & currant's crops were on the bushes. It was good sport shooting and also killing with the shanghai. There was never again any invasion in any following year. A bird that was common during stormy weather was the dotterel, a bird slightly larger than the ground lark, with a whitish body underneath and a broad band across the breast. Usually they appeared in large flocks in winter time. Another common bird at certain times was what we called the sea martin a slate colored bird, with a swallow like tail.

Pipit

I mentioned the ground lark, the sky lark was another kind of bird much the same appearance, rather more stoutly built, but ~~at~~ what magnificent songsters. These latter birds were imported and to a certain extent crossed with the native bird.

The real skylark I am given to understand had no joint in the claws of the feet, so that it was not possible for it to settle say on a wire fence.

Very many of the birds however that I have seen have not this distinguishing mark, and possibly ^{are a cross} have got that benefit from the ground lark, whilst the native bird has not acquired the vocal qualities of its relationship with the other species.

In these later days, and more especially in the

north, where there is practically no agricultural work done, no cereal crops grown, there is by no means a sufficiency of insect eating birds, and to my idea (which however may be wrong) the insect pests have almost become a plague, and when it was possible at one time to grow good crops of swedes, turnips &c. it is now almost out of the question, and at one time crops of these kinds could be grown in successive years, on the same land, but not so now. Even with the aid of fertilizers, they seldom come to maturity.

In the early days of my life at Brookside and for at least about thirty years of my experience on the farm, I cannot call to mind of any instance in our district of using any kind of ^{stureal} fertilizer in order to assist in the growing of crops. The only kind used in general was the farmyard manure, and this was generally carted out on to the grass paddocks and spread or put into the ground where potatoes or other root crops were grown, but even in this it was mostly limited to the pasture and mostly dug into the gardens.