

A NEW SCOTTISH BIRD: THE AQUATIC
WARBLER AT FAIR ISLE.

By WILLIAM EAGLE CLARKE.

BY the occurrence there of the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus aquaticus*), Fair Isle, the British Heligoland, has again contributed not only an interesting addition to the Scottish avifauna, but also a remarkable extension in the northern range of that bird both at home and abroad. This species is a rare visitor to England, where it has been known to occur in spring or autumn on over a score occasions, chiefly in the south-eastern and southern counties, and there is little doubt that it has nested there on more than one occasion, though the details have never been made public. It has twice been obtained on the south coast of Ireland. Hitherto Leicestershire has been the most northern county known to have been visited in the British Isles, so that the Fair Isle bird was indeed a great traveller. The Aquatic Warbler is a regular summer visitor to Central and Southern Europe, and finds there its northern limit in Southern Denmark, but beyond that area, so far as the writer is aware, it has not been detected even as a wanderer at the period of its migrations. It is also a native of North-west Africa, and winters there, but it is probable that it has cold-weather retreats in the adjacent tropical region.

Our Scottish specimen is a male, and was captured at Fair Isle on the 23rd of October—a late date—during a period marked by the occurrence of a number of uncommon and regular migratory visitors. In its dress of rich rufous buff heavily streaked with black on the upper surface, it is a very conspicuous bird. The deep buff under parts of this specimen, which is in winter plumage, lack the dark striations on the throat and flanks which are characteristic of its summer dress.

