Report on the Bird Bones from the Pleistocene Levels Sun Hole, Cheddar*

BY DON BRAMWELL

The material submitted was small in amount and fragmentary. The latter makes determinations difficult in some cases, whilst the small number of birds represented makes it unsafe to draw conclusions as to the biotype existing at that time over the south-west of England. I am, however, of the opinion that some bushes and scrubland existed in the sheltered valleys to support such birds as Black Grouse, Magpie and the Passerine type.

Grouse, or Ptarmigan, Lagopus sp., is certainly present, perhaps both, though the size is more akin to modern Red Grouse, Lagopus scoticus. In addition to the remains listed there are, from the fourth foot, an undetermined tarsal bone of an immature bird allied to Tetraonidæ or Phasianidæ (length estimated as 47 mm.), and undetermined fragments of coracoid and scapula, thought to belong to Anatidæ or closely allied order.

Species	Foot Levels in Pleistocene					
	I	2	4	5	6	7
Grouse or Ptarmigan (Lagopus sp.)	x			x		
Jackdaw (Corvus monedula)	x	1		х		
Thrush (Turdidæ)	x	1				
Finch (Fringillidæ) Black Grouse (Lyrurus tetrix)	x	x		x		v
Magpie (Pica pica)		^	x	۲Â		^
Raven (Corvus corax)		l.		x		
Blackbird (Turdus merula)					x ?	
Swallow or Martin (Hirundinidæ)		}	x			

* This report was not received till after the "Second Report on Sun Hole, Cheddar. The Pleistocene Levels", had been published. (TRATMAN, E. K., Proc., 1955, Vol. 7, 61-72).

39