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Some birds are yearly becoming more scarce in the north, for instance, the shieldrake, bittern, ruff, lapwing, black tern, black-headed gull, and golden plover; and, on the contrary, one or two other species are gradually spreading themselves more widely over the face of the country, such as the shore lark, Siberian titmouse, &c. Many of the summer migrants do not appear in the same numbers on each succeeding year. The nuteracker is a striking instance of this fact; and at certain seasons, when the supply of fir-cones and berries is short, fewer of the partial migrants are to be seen in the midland forests during the winter.

That the British fauna is far richer in accidental varieties than that of

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APRIL 74, 1961.) THE FIELD, THE COUNTRY CENTLEMANS NEWSPAPER

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