

BIRD LORE IN FOREGLEN

- Cock.* A cock crowing between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. (in winter at any rate) presages death in the vicinity.
- Crow.* A crow perched within twelve yards of the door presages ill fortune.
- Hen.* Crowing hens are not uncommon. A woman who raises a large number of poultry in the vicinity, when asked what she does with them, replied "Thraw their necks. They're nae lucky."
- Hooded Crow.* The local people hate its ravenous cry. Ask why and you are told it's unlucky. Ask in what way and there is no definite answer.
- Owl.* To see an owl during the day is reckoned to be unlucky. An owl hooting during the day is taken to presage rain and to portend bad luck.
- Seagull.* Country people used to pay particular attention to the flight of gulls. The following jingle was common in the parishes inland from Buckie on the Moray Firth in the boyhood of an old man who died, aged 80, in 1926.

"Fan the gows flee tae the sea
Warm weather it will be.
Fan the gows flee tae the hills
We'll get water tae oor mills."

- Swallow.* Swallows which build in houses or steadings are immune from harm. It would be a breach of hospitality to harry them. To do any harm at all would be to invoke ill luck.

Collected by Mr. A. C. W. Sinclair, Tomintoul. The material relates to Forglan and district. The School would be very grateful for similar collections from all parts of Scotland.