

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1897.

MEETING AT BANFF.

The Club met on Thursday evening in the Reading Room of the Town and County Club. In the absence of the president, Mr Greig was called to the chair. The Rev. Mathew C. Thorburn, Lumphanan, was admitted a member of the Club, and Mr Robert Hardy, National Bank, was nominated for election at next meeting. The secretary read a communication from Mr Alexander Robertson, Macduff, describing a piebald crow seen by him at the Palmer Cove, which gave rise to remarks from various members. Mr Robertson's letter, which was dated 24th February, stated that, 'during the late snow-storm, many birds, strange in the vicinity of Macduff, unless in exceptionally severe weather, paid us a visit, and I was much interested in watching the curlews, plovers, redshanks, snipe, sandpipers, &c., picking up any food they could find among the sea-weed on the rocks at the west end of the town. One morning during the storm, I saw a flock of

rooks on the shore below the Palmer Cove apparently searching for breakfast, and in the middle of them I noticed what I at first thought was a black and white pigeon. Thinking it strange that a solitary pigeon should be in such company, I walked in their direction; but when about 150 yards off the flock, this bird got up and at once flew off in the direction of the Duff House woods, followed more leisurely by its companions. From its excessive shyness, I have no doubt it had been frequently shot at. The very short time I saw it on the wing satisfied me that it was a rook whose primaries on both wings were white. Some years ago, when spending a holiday in Morange, I several times saw a lapwing with the same peculiarity, the primary feathers white and the rest of the plumage normal.'

There was read the following paper by Mr J. A. Harvie-Brown.