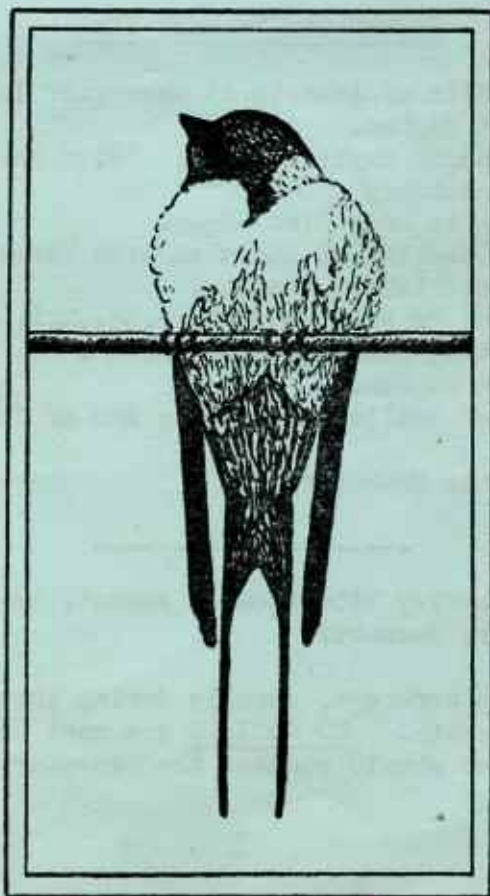


SHOREHAM
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

First Annual Report

1954



For the Year 1953.

List of Officers

J. Stafford President

Miss C. Biggs Hon. Secretary

N.C. Smith)
) Council
G.W. Rampton)

EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

- Jan 31st RSPB Film of Avocets at Havergate Island.
March 1st Day at Pagham.
March 28th Talk by Mr Bayliss-Smith. "Bird Photography
in an Estuary".
May 9th Outing to hear Bird Songs.
Oct 25th Joint meeting at Shoreham with Horsham
Natural History Society.
Oct 31st Talk by Mr H.A. Thompson, B.Sc., M.B.O.U.
"Shooting Birds with a Camera".
Nov 29th Day at Pagham.
Dec 12th Film of Swallow and Osprey and of Isle of
May.
Dec 29th Visit to Newhaven.

Duck Count at Amberley Wildbrooks; August, September,
October, November, December.

Outings have been arranged, usually during the last
weekend of each month. NO NOTICES are sent out, but
members interested should contact the Secretary for
particulars.

Meetings also have been popular, with a record attendance of forty-three to hear Mr Bayliss-Smith.

The only complaint, if we may make one, is that members tend, during the summer months, to be rather slow in passing round their copies of "British Birds".

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA. 1953.

Compiled from records of members and of the boys of Lancing College and Steyning Grammar School. The occurrence of the following species in the Shoreham area is thought to be of interest. These records have been submitted to the Sussex Bird Report.

<u>Garganey</u>	Mar 24 & 25 near Coombes. (L.C.)
<u>Quail</u>	One flushed twice New Holmbush Farm Jun 20. (Mrs Farmer).
<u>Jack Snipe</u>	On several occasions early Mar (L.C.). One Nov 4. (T.Marr).
<u>Green Sandpiper</u>	Cuckoo Corner Mar 2 & 20. (L.C.)
<u>Kittiwake</u>	One oiled juv. Shoreham Beach Jun 17.
<u>Hooded Crow</u>	1 to 3 present in early months of year, but last seen Mar 23. (J.M.T.)
<u>Black Redstart</u>	Several present in early months of the year. Also seen Apr 23 & Nov 2. (L.C.)
<u>Grasshopper Warbler</u>	One seen and heard reeling May 4 & 5.
<u>Blackcap</u>	One male in Shoreham garden Feb 1 & 2.
<u>Chiffchaff</u>	One present in Sanctuary Feb 27. Seen most days until March.
<u>Firecrest</u>	6 seen Feb 15, 1 on Mar 24 and one for two days, Apr 7 & 8. (L.C.)
<u>Great Grey Shrike</u>	One at Sanctuary Oct 24-26.
<u>White Wagtail</u>	One at Widewater Apr 21-22.
<u>Brambling</u>	Up to 12 in early weeks of the year, single birds Jan 26 and Mar 15.

(L.C. Record from Lancing College.)

BIRD RINGING REPORT

There is at the moment only one member who is allowed to use B.T.O. rings. However, by use of the telephone, several interesting species caught by colour ringers have been ringed with B.T.O. rings.

In the ringing year Oct.1952-Oct.1953, 258 birds of 23 species were ringed. This number is almost entirely made up of trapped adult birds. The ringing of nestlings is felt to be too disturbing to the birds. The total was made up as follows:-

Robin 23	Great Tit 7	Wood Pigeon 2
Dunnock 9	Blue Tit 19	Pied Wagtail 3
Wheatear 1	Song Thrush 16	Spotted Flycatcher 1
Wren 3	Blackbird 31	Willow Warbler 13
Starling 29	Greenfinch 28	House Sparrow 27
Stonechat 1	Blackcap 1	Lesser Whitethroat 1
Chaffinch 18	Redstart 1	Whitethroat 13
Chiffchaff 8	Redshank 1	

Recoveries of interest.

Blue Tit ringed Shoreham Feb 13 picked up dead 35 miles N.E. 22.4.53.

Robin ringed Shoreham August 15 picked up on Kent coast 100 miles S.E. 30.9.53.

Accounts

<u>Expenditure</u>	£ s d	<u>Receipts</u>	£ s d
By British Birds	1 5 0	To Balance 1952	10 7½
Hire RSPB Film	15 0	29 Subs. @ 5/-	7 5 0
Hire of Hall 3 times	1 11 0	7 Subs. @ 2/6d	17 6
Sussex Bird Report	5 0	Collections at	
Cost of Lantern	3 10 0	3 Meetings	2 13 8
Sundry Expenses	1 10 4	Sundry Receipts	10 0
Postage	1 5 3		
Balance	1 15 2½		
	£11 16 9½		£11 16 9½

REPORT ON THE SANCTUARY FOR 1953.

For the information of those members who have not yet visited it, the Sanctuary lies at the foot of the Downs along the Steyning-Shoreham road and is the land owned by Brighton Corporation for the Waterworks and Pumping Station.

Though of only about two acres, it contains a considerable variety of habitat, attractive to many species of birds. Of necessity, the observations there have been irregular and rather infrequent. However, in the past twelve months a total of 78 species has been recorded. Of these, four are of sufficient note to be worthy of special mention in the detailed report. Many other species have no doubt passed through unnoticed.

As a public path borders the North side of the Sanctuary, notice boards were erected to ask people to keep to the path. These proved such an attraction as scratching posts for the cattle grazing there, that the posts collapsed with the strain. It has been found that the natural defences of stinging nettles and bog are enough to deter all but the most adventurous of small boys. The fact that a Blackbird's nest a few yards from the path, survived to the hatching, speaks for itself.

Several nest boxes were put up in the copse, in a part which can only be reached through the garden of the resident Waterworks Engineer. These boxes were unfortunately placed too low, and only two were occupied - by Blue and Great Tits, both of which reared broods. No birdsnesting was done. If adult birds were observed repeatedly flying with food in the area of the Sanctuary this was taken as proof of breeding there.

As luck would have it, this year the reeds in the stream were due to be cut. This was being done in May and caused much interference with the nesting birds; in fact no Reed Warblers stayed to breed this year.

No report on the Sanctuary would be complete without a word of thanks to Mr Weatherhead, the Resident Engineer and his wife, who have so wholeheartedly co-operated with us, and suffered the violation of their solitude, not with silence, but with welcome. We can only hope that we have not in any way caused them annoyance.

DETAILED REPORT ON THE SANCTUARY FOR 1953.

The list of birds which follows is arranged in such an order as to give some idea of the status of the birds in the Sanctuary. Twenty three species of birds were thought to have bred. These included, in addition to the commoner birds, three pairs of Nightingales and probably also a pair of Bullfinches. Also, a Cuckoo may have laid eggs in nests in the Sanctuary.

RESIDENTS

Blackbird	Kestrel	Chaffinch
Reed Bunting	Great Tit	Yellow Hammer
Wren	Linnet	Robin
House Sparrow	Bullfinch	Carrion Crow
Meadow Pipit	Moorhen	Magpie
Corn Bunting	Rook	Greenfinch
Song Thrush	Duncock	Starling
Jackdaw	Goldfinch	Missel Thrush
Blue Tit	Wood Pigeon	Sky Lark

SUMMER VISITORS

Chiffchaff	Willow Warbler	Nightingale
Cuckoo	Swallow	Whitethroat
Sedge Warbler	Yellow Wagtail	Turtle Dove
Reed Warbler		

WINTER VISITORS

Fieldfare	Water Rail	Snipe
Goldcrest	Stonechat	Redwing
Lapwing	Green Woodpecker	Partridge

PASSAGE MIGRANTS

Grey Wagtail	Shoveler (1 pr)	Brambling (1)
Firecrest (1)	Blackcap	Grasshopper Warbler
Whinchat	Spotted Flycatcher	(1)
Common Redstart	Great Grey Shrike	Lesser Whitethroat
Wheatear	(1)	Jack Snipe (1)

OCCASIONAL VISITORS

Sparrow Hawk	Longtailed Tit	Teal
Mallard	Tree Sparrow (3)	Stock Dove
Pied Wagtail	Common Gull	Herring Gull
Blackheaded Gull	Redshank	Little Owl
Tawny Owl	Heron	

FLYING OVER

Cormorant	Curlew	Swift
Sand Martin	House Martin	

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GIBRALTAR POINT, LINCOLNSHIRE, AND ITS BIRD LIFE.

Gibraltar Point is a well-known bird observatory and ringing station on the East Coast of England. It is also an important Nature Reserve, and is owned by the Lincolnshire Naturalists Trust.

During the recent summer of 1953, I was lucky enough to be staying in the nearby town of Skegness, three miles away. I went to the Point bird-watching quite often, and met the warden in charge, who invited me to help him with the catching of the many small migrating birds passing through. I made three trips out to the Point in the early morning to help with the ringing.

The first time, August 19th, we caught 42 small birds in the two Heligoland traps situated at the Point. These birds were 30 Willow Warblers, (they are the commonest birds caught at this time of the year), 5 Whitethroats, 3 Reed Warblers, 3 Dunnocks and a Crossbill. The last-named was caught during the afternoon, after it had flown into one of the traps by itself. It was weighed, had full measurements and details of plumage noted down, ringed and released.

The second time was not so lucky, 12 Willow Warblers, 1 Dunnock and 4 Whitethroats being caught and ringed.

The third time we had a mixed bag; a Pied Flycatcher, a Redstart, a Lesser Whitethroat, a Common Whitethroat, a Garden Warbler, over 20 Willow Warblers and a Yellow Wagtail, which is very seldom caught on migration as it is normally a high-flying bird. A Swallow flew into the trap, but got out.

We saw many waders, including a Spotted Redshank. On July 30th we watched Sanderlings arriving from the North. It was raining and nobody was on the mudflats. The birds were arriving in thousands. The next day they had settled in and were to be seen scattered about the mudflats in small parties, feeding with other small waders.

Other birds seen at the Point during the time that I was in Skegness, but which I missed seeing, included 2 Short-Eared Owls, a Marsh Harrier, a Little Crake and a Waxwing.

During 1952 about 35 species nested in the Nature Reserve. 148 species were seen and 1,675 birds of 60 species were ringed. Many species were observed migrating, including Swallows, House Martins, Sand Martins, Swifts, Tree Pipits and Yellow Wagtails.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Gibraltar Point, and saw many birds which I hadn't seen before.

T. Marr. aged 13.

BIRD WATCHING IN NORWAY.

(August 17th. - September 4th. 1953.)

Owing to bad weather - incessant rain and cloud, fewer birds than usual were seen during this period.

The crossing offered glimpses of sea birds - Gulls (Herring, Common and Black-Backs), Kittiwakes with many immatures looking like a different species with their dark banded wings. Nearer land were seen a few Terns and Gannets, while about midway in the North Sea were Fulmars wheeling in the wake of the ship. Considerably more of these were seen during the return trip on September 4th, but no Terns.

On land the commonest bird appeared to be the White Wag-tail which was frequently to be seen around every habitation in town and country, and amongst the hay hung up to dry on wire between posts. Winchats and Meadow Pipits often accompanied White Wagtails in the hay.

In a typical country garden at Trollhaugen (the home of Grieg) near the village of Hop on the outskirts of Bergen were Blackbirds, Robins, Great Tits, Redwings and also a Red Squirrel. Flocks of Hooded Crows and Magpies were a normal sight in every valley, but there was a singular absence of Rooks and Jackdaws.

Following the steamer up the Sogve Fjord were Common, Herring and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, and occasionally a Dark Tern or two were seen. Along the coastal inlets were scattered groups of Scoter or Guillemots, with a few Velvet Scoter, or were they Black Guillemots? These dark birds would frequently put up and attack the Gulls.

In the mountains - Jotunheimen and near the Jostedal Glacier were flocks of Fieldfare and Hooded Crows. Wheatear were everywhere in scattered groups and one climber reported Snow-Bunting above six thousand feet. A pair or two of Ring Ouzel were seen on a rocky slope and Dippers inhabited the mountain streams, showing off their bobbing dancing movements

on a rock when disturbed. In one remote glacial spot was a Norwegian Ryper - a species of Ptarmigan, showing its dark grey plumage above and light striated breast - it flew low over the rocks with short flights and came to rest on top of a large rock uttering its warning note "Scree, Scree".

In the coniferous forests clothing the mountain slopes were various species of Warblers and Goldcrests; while in the larger forested area stretching from Lom to Pollfoss north east of the Sogne Fjord were seen Willow Tits (northern variety?), one or two Crested Tits, some possible Siskin, Fieldfare with less Redwing and a few Brambling. Higher up towards the tree-line were Martins or Swallows circling in the sky preparing for migration.

M. Whorlow.

BIRDS SEEN IN A SOUTHWICK GARDEN SINCE 1945.

This garden consists of $1\frac{5}{8}$ acres of various trees and shrubs and flowers, and there is also a lawn and vegetable plot. Large trees surround the garden on three sides. There are no special inducements to birds such as nest-boxes or food put out for them.

In the following records the very common species are omitted.

Jackdaws, Pigeons, Starlings, Jays, Magpies and Owls roost in the large conifers. Once I saw two Missel Thrushes mobbing a Tawny Owl, their place being taken with an equal lack of success by two Jays when the first birds tired.

Finches. Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Goldfinches common. Linnets less so. In 1950 a small invasion of Siskins increasing from one to six between Mar 14 & Apr 6.

Buntings. Yellow and Cirl. The latter is heard singing most Springs. Male and female once seen for some weeks but no sign of nesting.

Pipits. Meadow only. Infrequent.

Wagtails. Pied fairly frequent visitor, Yellow occasional

Tits. Great and Blue common, Coal Tit frequent, Marsh rare. 6 Long-tailed Tits together on one occasion.

Tree Creeper fairly frequent visitor. Five at one time observed on one occasion.

Nuthatch seen once, in early April.

Flycatchers. Spotted regular visitor; also seen with juveniles. Pied...four single birds between 1945 and 1951, one leaving on October 6 - a late date.

Goldcrests seen every month except June, July and August. Greatest incidence in October and November. On January 13, 1952 female heard singing and identified visually.

Firecrest seen three times in November 1949 and once in October 1952.

Warblers. Numerous Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers pass through on migration in Spring and Autumn. My earliest Chiffchaff was on March 10, 1952, and my latest on October 21st of that year. Blackcaps, Whitethroats and Garden Warblers. One or more of these are usually seen and heard in the Spring and in the Autumn.

Thrushes. Blackbirds and Song Thrushes nest every year. Missel Thrush probably also. Redwings seen feeding in the garden several times in cold weather. Fieldfare observed once on a tree in January. Blackbirds are very numerous, and quite a few variously pied ones have been seen.

Common Redstarts seen occasionally.

Nightingales have been heard singing in the garden on several occasions.

Robins, Dunnocks and Wrens all nest and normally stay the winter.

Swallows sometimes nest.

Woodpeckers. Green and Lesser Spotted frequent visitors. Greater Spotted seen twice only.

Cuckoos seen occasionally in the tall trees, and I once found a juvenile drowned in one of the water butts.

Owls and Hawks. The Barn Owl seen twice and the Little Owl once, the latter perched in the same tree as a Tawny Owl. Kestrels sometimes settle but are then mobbed by Jackdaws, etc. Sparrowhawk seen once.

Woodpigeons very numerous, up to fifty at one time in the trees, and a flock of about two hundred was also seen flying over. Stock Dove seen once or twice. Turtle Doves frequent up to 1950, but none seen since.

This account is in note form for reasons of space, but I hope that it will have given readers some idea of the variety of bird life to be seen in this delightful garden, which I have been able to visit frequently. I am sure that a keener and more experienced eye than mine would have been able to add even more species to this list.

J. Twort.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LIST OF MEMBERS

Miss J. Barclay	44 Ventnor Villas, Hove, 3.
Mr & Mrs Barnard	23 Shaftesbury Road, Brighton.
Miss C.M. Biggs)	
- Miss J.M. Biggs)	7 Mill Hill, Shoreham.
Capt: J.H. Biggs)	
Mr G. R. Brand	Lancing College.
Mr & Mrs Brooker	S.C.T. Sorting Office, Brighton, 1.
Mr C.F. Brown	17 St Aubyns Road, Portslade.
Mrs E.L. Clackett	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.
Miss B. Crook	West House, Southover, Lewes.
Miss Dubois	326 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham.
Mr G.A. Eager	Mill House, Mill Hill, Shoreham.
- Mr & Mrs Farmer	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham.
Keith Farndon	34 Pembroke Crescent, Hove, 3.
Miss D. Fowler	273 London Road, Burgess Hill.
Mr R. Golding	10 Hogarth Road, Hove.
Miss Hunt	51 London Road, Horsham.
Miss J. Johnston	1 Clarence House, Marina, Bexhill.
Mr T.L. Kermode	Lancing College, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. L. Kent	218 Brighton Road, Lancing.
Mr F.W. Kilvington	22 Grange Road, Southwick.
Mr A.J. Luker	The Grammar School, Steyning.
Tony Marr	59 The Green, Southwick.
Mr W.D. McKecknie	73 Conaught Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
- Mr & Mrs Rampton	34 Croft Avenue, Southwick.
Miss G. Rouse	17 The Link, West Green, Crawley.
Graham Ruston	93 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
- Mr F. Severs	Sea Winds, Beach Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr & Mrs Smith	60 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
- Dr & Mrs Stafford	Stonehouse, Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mrs Sutherland	5 Highcroft Villas, Brighton.
Mr. G. Tilbury	6 West Side, Wood-dale, Billingshurst.
Mr & Mrs Twort	63 The Green, Southwick.
Mr & Mrs Weatherhead	Mill Hill Pumping Station, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss M. Whorlow	31 Palmeira Avenue, Hove, 3.
Miss W.M. Woodruffe	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.