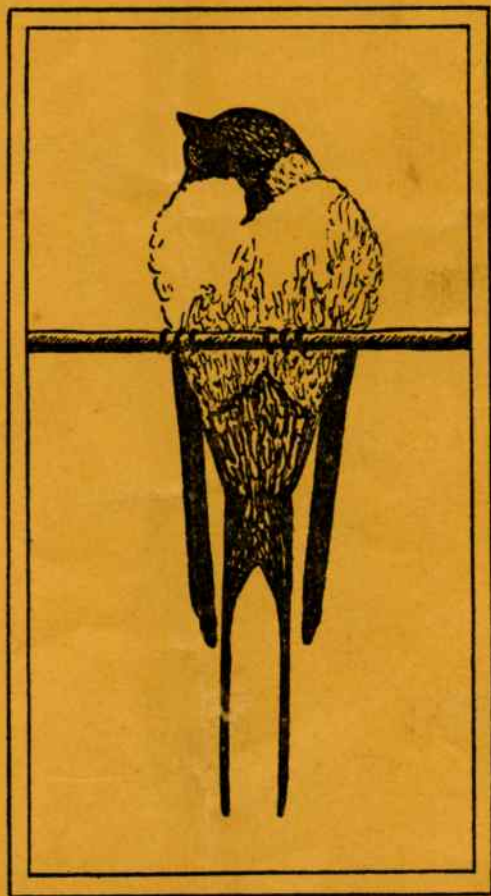


SHOREHAM  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*Third Annual Report*  
**1956**



*For the Year 1955*

(Price : ONE SHILLING & SIXPENCE)

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

This has been another year of progress. The fencing of the Sanctuary is now complete, with gates, padlocks and bridge.

The Society continues to grow in size, several new Members with a good knowledge of birds have joined this year. Also several beginners have now reached considerable ornithological maturity. This is making a sound nucleus for the Society to work on, and should lead to greater interest for all Members.

The occasion of the nesting in Sussex of the Bee Eaters being kept a secret from the Society has caused some concern. I should like to say that I did offer the services of the

Society to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to act as wardens. This offer was not taken up by them.

With the increasing number of records being sent in, some of them of the more unusual birds, may I stress the wisdom of getting an unusual record confirmed at once. It is not to be thought of as a slight on one's ability to identify birds, but rather as a reinforcement of the record, and also for giving other people the pleasure of seeing a new bird. In this report will be found the names and addresses of Members, most of whom will be only too glad to co-operate in this.

A further advance has been sending a representative from the Society to the West Sussex Bird Protection Committee. Mr. N. C. Smith has very ably undertaken this important task on our behalf.

J.S.

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#### GLAUCOUS GULL

The Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) found by Mr. Twort at Shoreham on the 19th of December, 1954 continues to be seen in and around Shoreham almost daily. For a bird of this species, in apparent good health, to stay on this coast for such a length of time is most unusual, if not unique. The plumage has changed little over the year, although now there is, when viewed in a good light, a trace of grey on the mantle and more colour in the bill. At night it flies out to sea to roost with the Great Blackbacked Gulls. By day it tends to feed and rest rather on its own.

As the Glaucous Gull does not become mature until the fourth, or even the fifth, year its present plumage is not out of order. The suggestion that it is perhaps an albino Great Black-backed Gull has been made and must, I feel, be considered although it is very unlikely to be one. Should it stay with us until the Spring some more definite plumage change should be apparent and will help to solve the problem.

J.S.

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### THE DUCK COUNTS

As last year we continued to count Amberley Wildbrooks for the National Wildfowl Enquiry run by the Severn Wildfowl Trust.

Those members who have taken part in the count will realize what an extensive area this is to be covered. The number of duck present depends as might be expected, upon the weather. The months of January, February and March being the most interesting if there is frost or floods.

The species seen are largely Mallard, Teal, Widgeon, with Tufted Duck, Pintail, and Shoveller up to 20-30 from time to time. Counts of 800 - 1000 duck made during the floods, were incidentally the highest for Sussex that Winter.

As well as adding to the knowledge of Wildfowl movements and status there is always the chance of seeing an unusual bird. Short-eared Owls were regular until the floods of March, which attracted a party of Bewick Swans. In April a Hawfinch was seen there, and there is always the hope of something of interest, even in the more barren Autumn months.

J.S.

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### THE CENSUS OF SHOREHAM BIRDS

From records that have been sent in it has become apparent that Members do not quite realize what is required.

The aim of the enquiry is to find, for example, when the Redshanks leave the estuary in the Spring to breed and when they return in the Autumn, and in what numbers; on what date parties of Tits appear in the gardens in the Autumn and the Goldcrests in the Sanctuary, and so on for all species of birds.

It may be asking too much of Members and require too much time but it would be most interesting if the information could be accumulated.

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J.S.

## BIRD SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1955

During the past year the fencing has been completed. Gates with padlocks have been fixed in the East and West sides so that it is now possible to walk right through the copse, crossing the stream by means of a railway-sleeper bridge presented by Mr. G. Rampton. The second gate was largely the work of Mr. Eager. Notices have been erected by the Water Board to show that it is private property.

The total number of species recorded in the Sanctuary has now reached 92, a notable number for so small an area which is not kept under continuous observation.

After three year's watching there can be no doubt now that the area of the Sanctuary is indeed a halting place for migrant birds. In it there are so many varied types of habitat available that there appears to be no limit to the species which might possibly occur there in the course of a year.

This year the recording of two Common Sandpipers and one Green Sandpiper on migration was indeed a highlight. No doubt they were attracted by suitable feeding conditions at the edge of the stream. A Kingfisher appeared again at both the Spring and Autumn migrations. Grasshopper Warblers arrived in force at the end of April; at one time 8 could be heard reeling together in and around the copse. By mid-May there were 4 singing Nightingales present, and there is every reason to believe that 4 pairs nested. Hopes of a pair of Water Rails staying to breed were raised when they were still present until late in April but this unlikely event did not occur.

In the copse is an ivy-clad tree which sheltered two Tawny Owls, where they could invariably be found roosting in the day time, until well into the spring.

Sad to relate there was a good deal of interference with nests this year, due no doubt to rats, Magpies and Carrion Crows and other notorious stealers of eggs and young. However, in certain cases the human element cannot be quite excluded. In view of this it is thought preferable



that there should be no examination of birds <sup>at nests</sup> at all by members in future. Approach by members may leave tracks which point the way to the next for other less scrupulous visitors, human or otherwise.

Nesting of a pair of Lesser Whitethroats was almost a certainty, a singing male being present throughout the breeding season. The Swallows in the barn had a most unfortunate year; only three pairs attempted to build nests. From these the eggs vanished. Two nests were rebuilt but no young reached the free flying stage. The reason for this remains obscure as they are well protected from outside interference.

The Sanctuary is always well worth a visit at any season of the year, for the population is always changing.

Members are reminded that the area of the Waterworks, Mr. Weatherhead's cottage and garden, are out-of-bounds. This is by order of the Water Board, and Mr. and Mrs. Weatherhead continue to give us their co-operation, but we must in return respect their privacy.

Keys to the Sanctuary gates can be obtained from the Secretary for a small deposit.

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#### DETAILED REPORT ON THE SANCTUARY FOR 1955

The list of birds which follows is intended to indicate in comparison with last year the present status in the Sanctuary of the species mentioned. Six new species were reported for the first time, making a grand total of 92 since the records began in 1953.

#### RESIDENTS

Blackbird	Kestrel	Chaffinch	Reed Bunting
Great Tit	Yellow Hammer	Wren	Linnet
Robin	House Sparrow	Bullfinch ?	Carriion Crow
Meadow Pipit	Moor hen	Magpie	Corn Bunting
Rook	Greenfinch	Song Thrush	Dunnock
Starling	Jackdaw	Goldfinch	Misel Thrush
Blue Tit	Wood Pigeon	Skylark	

### SUMMER VISITORS

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

### WINTER VISITORS

Fieldfare	Water Rail	Snipe	Goldcrest
Stonechat	Green Woodpecker	Redwing	Lapwing
Partridge			

### PASSAGE MIGRANTS

Grey Wagtail	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Tree Pipit
Firecrest	Blackcap	Whinchat Kingfisher
Common Redstart	Spotted Flycatcher	Wheatear Black Redstart
Common Sandpiper	Green Sandpiper	Grasshopper Warbler

### OCCASIONAL VISITORS

Mallard	Long-tailed Tits	Teal	Stock Dove
Pied Wagtail	Common Gull	Redshank	Mute Swan
Little Owl	Black-headed Gull	Brambling	Jack Snipe
Tawny Owl	Herring Gull	Heron	
Red-legged Partridge			

### FLYING OVER

Cormorant	House Martin	Curlew	Swift
Sand Martin			

### REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR

Mute Swan.	2	23rd March
Black Redstart	1	28th March
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.	1	29th & 31st. March
Common Sandpiper.	2	6th September
Green Sandpiper.	1	31st August
Red-legged Partridge		26th April

### NOT RECORDED THIS YEAR

Wigeon	Wood Warbler	Marsh Tit	Tree Sparrow
Cirl Bunting	Pied Flycatcher	Ring Ouzel	



### NEST BOXES

One pair of House Sparrows	-	Two broods
One pair of Great Tits	-	Five young
One pair of Blue Tits	-	Six young

### LIST OF BIRDS WHICH BRED IN THE SANCTUARY THIS YEAR

Blackbird	Great Tit	Yellow Hammer	Sedge Warbler
Song Thrush	Linnet	Robin	Reed Warbler
Wren	Moorhen	Magpie	Willow Warbler
House Sparrow	Dunnock	Greenfinch	Swallow
Corn Bunting	Goldfinch	Starling	Nightingale
Blue Tit	Wood Pigeon	Cuckoo	Whitethroat
Chaffinch	Lesser Whitethroat		

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### BIRD RINGING REPORT FOR 1955

The British Museum has changed the Ringing year to run now from 1st January to 31st December. In the past twelve months a total of 702 birds were ringed of 38 species. Of these 637 were ringed as adults and 65 as nestlings.

The total was made up as follows:-

Willow Warbler	45	Wren	10	Meadow Pipit	3
Linnet	6	Robin	37	Pied Wagtail	4
Coal Tit	4	Missel Thrush	2	Spotted Flycatcher	2
Blue Tit	73	Reed Bunting	2	Tree Creeper	6
Chaffinch	22	Redwing	2	Turtle Dove	5
Song Thrush	36	Rook	1	Little Owl	1
Starling	248	Stock Dove	3	Nightjar	2
Great Tit	36	Blackcap	1	Swallow	1
Goldcrest	1	Chiffchaff	18	Green Woodpecker	1
Blackbird	43	Whitethroat	20	Kestrel	1
Dunnock	20	House Martin	7	Wood Pigeon	4
Redstart	1	House Sparrow	3	Goldfinch	1
Greenfinch	25	Litt Grebe	1		

This is an increase of 24 on last year. Goldcrest, Tree Creeper, Meadow Pipit and Stock Dove were ringed for the first time.



Lancing College in the person of R. Catchpole was responsible for the ringing of 291 of the birds. It was a good year for migrants. 96 migrating birds of 9 species were ringed.

#### Recoveries of Interest

- Song Thrush. Ringed at Shoreham 21/2/55.  
Found dead West Hoathley 19 miles N.E.  
on 25/3/55.
- Starling. Ringed at Shoreham on 22/3/55.  
Found dead at Wobbelin, Germany 525 miles  
N.E. on 26/3/55. It had travelled the  
distance of 525 miles in a direct line  
from Shoreham in something under 72 hours.  
No doubt a bird that had wintered with us  
and was returning to Russia to breed.

Other recoveries concerned only local birds and there was nothing notable about them.

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#### NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1955

Compiled almost entirely from the records of members.

These records of birds seen in the Shoreham and District Area, are of interest, either because the species are not seen annually in numbers, or because the date of the occurrence is unusual.

The following have contributed:- C.F.Brown. J.Stafford.  
Mrs.O.M.Chapman. Mrs.E.Jenkins. Lancing College. B.A.E.Marr.  
H.Sturman. G.W.Rampton. R.Ruston. F.Severs. H.G.Thompson.J.M.Twort.

Red-throated Diver. Few records except from the sea.  
One on Hove Lagoon 25th February. One on Widewater on 4th to  
5th March. One on the Adur on 23rd March, and one there on  
28th November - 1st December.

Red-necked Grebe. One on Southwick Canal 12th January -  
1st February and then on Hove Lagoon 3rd to 15th February.

Slavonian Grebe. One on Southwick Canal 12th January, and on off Shoreham Beach on 29th October.

Black-necked Grebe. One on Widewater 7th - 17th January.

Gannet. (Three over the sea Widewater.) One adult 21st September. Two immatures 8th October. Two (1 adult) 1st November. All flight views Widewater.

Shag. One (dead, oiled) on Canal Bank, Southwick 22nd January.

Pochard. One Male Adur, Shoreham, 2nd February. Pair on Widewater 3rd March.

Goldeneye. One female Hove Lagoon 27th February - 9th March.

Velvet Scoter. One male off Shoreham Beach 6th November.

Red-breasted Merganser. Four off Widewater 28th February One off Shoreham Beach 22nd - 29th October. Nine Adur, Shoreham 30th October and nine, probably the same, Widewater 1st November - all females or immatures.

Shelduck. One Adur, Shoreham 6th May. Two there on 27th June.

Brent Goose. Five off Widewater Beach 8th October.

Peregrine Falcon. One female Shoreham 25th September.

Red-legged Partridge. Pair above Lancing 28th April.

Water Rail. One near the Rubbish Dump 27th January and 27th March. One at the Sanctuary 31st March to 22nd April. One near Toll Bridge 27th November.

Oyster Catcher. One near Norfolk Bridge 12th August. Seventeen in flight Shoreham Beach between 26th October and 6th November.

Grey Plover. One near Norfolk Bridge 20th and 25th November. One Adur 28th November.

Jack Snipe. Two at the Sanctuary 2nd February. One there on 31st March. Three at Shoreham 20th and 27th March. Three near Cuckoo Corner 17th November. One near the Rubbish



Dump 22nd November. One near Ricardo's Works 22nd October.  
Two near The Dump 24th November. One at the Sanctuary  
3rd December.

Whimbrel. Twenty-six in flight Shoreham 25th April.  
Nine on Adur on 11th May, Seven on 12th May, Thirteen on  
21st May. Three on 4th August and two there on the 5th and  
the 23rd (all Adur).

Black-tailed Godwit. One Widewater 31st August. One  
at Rubbish Dump Shoreham 3rd - 19th September. Two at Toll  
Bridge 10th September.

Bar-tailed Godwit. Two Shoreham 27th April. Three  
there on 21st September. Three Shoreham 3rd May.

Green Sandpiper. One near Coombes 13th March. One  
Stagnant Pool 26th August. One flushed from a ditch in  
Shoreham 28th August. One at Sanctuary 29th and 31st  
August.

Common Sandpiper. One in a ditch near Cuckoo Corner,  
Lancing 24th April.

Wood Sandpiper. One Stagnant Pool 25th August to  
13th September.

Spotted Redshank. One Shoreham 25th September.

Greenshank. Single birds seen and or heard during  
late August early September. Shoreham.

Little Stint. Three Stagnant Pool 9th August.

Curlew Sandpiper. One Widewater 31st August -  
3rd September.

Knot. One in almost complete Summer plumage  
Footbridge Shoreham 29th August. Few records in Autumn  
and winter.

Avocet. One Shoreham 10th April and two there on  
22nd - 28th July inclusive. Then once again 7th August  
One had left foot missing.

Grey Phalarope. One off Shoreham Beach 22nd October,  
and one just East of the Lighthouse at Southwick 9th &  
13th November.

Stone Curlew. One heard calling above Lancing 24th April.  
C 50 there on 10th and 11th October and C 53 on 12th October.  
It is reported that the flock increased to over 100.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. One Shoreham 5th February and one on Hove Lagoon 8th February; Thirty seen at Shoreham on 23rd May  
One at Flood Arch 22nd November. One at Flood Arch December.  
C 115 at Toll Bridge on 28th September.

Glaucous Gull. All white bird first seen last year in December. Still present at Shoreham January, 1956.

Black-headed Gull. One in Summer plumage Shoreham 26th January. One in summer plumage Southwick 19th January.

Common Arctic Tern. Twenty in flight off Widewater (2 definite Arctic) on 25th April. Two Arctic near the Footbridge 17th September. Two Common Arctic near Flood Arch 18th August.

Sandwich Tern. Ninety-one in flight off Widewater Arm 25th April. Two over the sea near Shoreham 18th August.

Little Tern. Thirty-five in flight off Widewater 25th April.

Razorbill. One on October 8th. Two on 22nd October.  
One on 28th October and one on 1st November, all off Shoreham.

Little Auk. A bird probably of this species flew along Shoreham Beach on 29th October.

Wood Pigeon. About five hundred seen flying North-East between 9 and 10.30 a.m. on 13th November at Shoreham.

Greater Spotted Woodpecker. One near the Rubbish Dump at Shoreham 13th April. One in garden Shoreham 25th March.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. One at the Sanctuary 29th and 31st May. One pair in a Southwick garden on 13th September.

Woodlark. Three on Southwick Green on 20th and 21st January

Swallow. One flying South-East across Beach Road, Shoreham on 20th November.

Rook. Bird with a big white patch across secondaries on both wings and a patch of white on each side of root of tail. Shoreham 24th November.



Fieldfare. Considerable coastal movement East-North-East viewed from Southwick and Shoreham on 20th and 21st February. Two at Sanctuary on 24th April.

Redwing. Considerable number mostly flying due West at Southwick on 20th and 21st February. One at the Sanctuary 27th April.

Black Redstart. One at the Sanctuary 28th March.

Grasshopper Warbler. Many seen and heard at the Sanctuary during the Spring. Maximum four on 29th April.

Chiffchaff. One at the Sanctuary 16th March.

Goldcrest. Several seen and heard calling and singing in March and April at the Sanctuary and elsewhere. Maximum five at Sanctuary 6th April. Few seen and heard during the Autumn passage. Two at Sanctuary 22nd November.

Firecrest. One at Sanctuary 31st March - 3rd April. One in a Southwick garden 1st - 3rd April.

Pied Flycatcher. One female Lancing Clump 7th May. One female or immature in garden Shoreham 1st - 3rd September.

Rock Pipit. Several seen during the Autumn at Shoreham and Widewater. Four on Southwick Beach 20th November.

White Wagtail. One at the Rubbish Dump Shoreham 19th September.

Red-backed Shrike. Pair nested near the Sussex Pad, Lancing 16th July.

Brambling. One male at Sanctuary 13th and 14th March.

Tree Sparrow. One near the Airport 20th March.

#### OMMISSIONS FROM THE 1954 REPORT

Velvet Scoter. Adult male picked up dead at Southwick Beach on 15th February.

Gull. Almost completely white, probably Albino, Black Headed, Southwick 7th February.

Slavonian Grebe. One Southwick 1st February.

Red-breasted Merganser. Two females on Southwick Canal  
7th February.

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#### MOVEMENT OF BIRDS AT OR NEAR COAST

On occasions during the year several members have observed large numbers of Redwings, Fieldfares, Starlings and finches flying near the coast.

This coastal movement was especially noted on 20th, 21st and 22nd February. During a watch on 20th February one member counted 1342 Redwings passing westward over Southwick between 7.40 a.m. and 9.55 a.m. On 21st February some 254 Fieldfares were counted between 12.35 and 4.5 p.m. over Southwick flying in a N.E. direction. This movement continued all day until about 3.30 after which only occasional birds were seen.

A lesser movement in a N.E. direction was noted on 27th March but the birds observed were mostly starlings and Finches.

On 13th November between 9 and 10.30 a.m. some 500 wood pigeons flew in from the S.W. at Shoreham, one group consisting of 100 birds.

During November and December great numbers of Lapwings have on occasions been observed at Shoreham flying from the S or S.W. but on one occasion flying from east to west. Some of these flocks were estimated at over 500 birds.

J.M.T.

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#### BIRDS IN MEMBERS GARDENS

Pied Flycatcher (1) Female or immature 1st to 3rd September  
Dr. Stafford.

Bullfinch. A party of 5 from 23rd January to end of February  
3 last seen 12th March  
Dr. Stafford.

Reed Bunting. One male on 4th March and another on 21st  
March.  
Dr. Stafford.

Jay. One flew over 14th April. Unusual so near the sea.  
Dr. Stafford.



Coal Tit. Up to 3 in Mrs. Jenking's garden from 11th January through the spring and again in the autumn. One bird fed from her hand on a number of occasions. One also in B.A.E.Marr's garden and ringed by him.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. A pair on 13th September  
Mrs. Jenking.

Firecrest. One on 1st April and 3rd April  
(also seen on 3rd April by Mr. Twort)

Common Redstart. One 25th August. (ringed)  
One also seen in Mrs. Jenking's garden

Mr. Rampton  
Cirl Buntings. Two (male) 1st August  
Miss Biggs.

F.S.

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#### ARRIVALS and DEPARTURES (records from members)

The first chiff chaff was seen at the Sanctuary on 16th March. One was heard singing on Southwick on 7th October.

Wheatear was seen on the beach on 23rd March and they appeared in considerable numbers the following day. One was last seen on 26th October.

Swallows were first seen at the Sanctuary on 16th April and one was last seen on 20th November.

A cuckoo was first heard on 22nd April.

Redshanks left the estuary to breed about 25th March.

If members will inform area recorders of their dates for these and other birds, it will enable a fuller report to be made in future years.

F.S.

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#### SEA WATCHING OFF SHOREHAM BEACH DURING 1955

The sea at Widewater was watched by R. Ruston and myself on various occasions throughout the year and many interesting birds seen. The best periods were found to

be February and March, the Spring passage of Terns and Whimbrel in April, and the autumn from the beginning of October to the beginning of November. Generally duck, grebes and divers were seen, but there was a heavy tern passage to the East on 25th April.

During October and early November passerines were seen coming in from the sea, including Skylarks, Starlings, Chaffinches, and Meadow pipits. At this time there was an interesting passage to the east of oyster catchers, 17 were seen altogether, between 26th October and 6th November.

Many birds however, remained unidentified, due mainly to long distances but also due to bad light and fleeting glimpses. A fleeting glimpse was obtained on 29th October of a small auk which was very probably a Little Auk, but unfortunately it flew on before we could see it properly. A possible Merlin was seen flying to the West on 22nd October about five hundred yards off shore. Waders were seen on a few occasions, including a grey Phalarope. A full list of birds seen is to be found at the end of this article.

The Glaucous Gull was seen on the sea on a few occasions. Auks were represented by Razorbills and Guillemots. The former were seen on most sea watches during October and November but only one of the latter species was seen.

22nd October which followed strong gales, was probably the most successful sea-watching day.

Here is a list of birds seen from Widewater during the year:-

Red Throated Diver. Seen on many occasions at both ends of the year.

Great Crested Grebe. Much as Red-throated diver.

Slavonian Grebe. One swimming to the west on 29th October.

Gannet. Up to three seen together during the late autumn, adults and immature.

Heron. One on 22nd October, after circling about 100 yards out flew off to the west and when last seen was about half a mile off Worthing Beach at a considerable height.



Mallard. Commonly seen.

Widgeon. Small parties during March.

Tufted Duck. 5 on 29th October.

Goldeneye. 5 on 23rd January.

Velvet Scoter. One male on 6th November.

Common Scoter. Up to 30 seen during the winter months.

Red Breasted Merganser. Many during March. First in the autumn on 22nd October, was a female, and thereafter odd birds, although 9 females and immature males on 1st November.

Shelduck. One to the west on 23rd November.

Geese. A party of c.26 on 23rd January were a long way off and into the sun and could not be identified.

Brent Goose. Five to the west on 8th October.

Merlin. A "possible" was seen flying to the west about 500 yards offshore on 22nd October.

Oystercatcher. 17 birds passed to the East during October and early November.

Lapwing. 7 flew in from the sea on 22nd October.

Grey Plover. 4 flew past to the west on 16th October.

Turnstone. 8 flew past to the east on 1st November.

Curlew. 2 flew in from the sea on 22nd October.

Whimbrel. An easterly movement involving 26 birds on 25th April.

Grey Phalarope. One on the sea on 22nd October.

Glaucous Gull. Was seen on the sea on 17th September, 22nd October, 6th and 23rd November.

Kittiwake. Two to the west on 22nd October.

Common/Arctic Tern. A heavy passage to the east on 25th April of Terns 20 of these species in the morning. 2 definite Arctic.

- Little Tern. 35 flew past in a scattered flock on 25th April to the E.
- Sandwich Tern. During the morning of 25th April 91 flew past to the E.
- Razorbill. Up to 10 on the sea during October, first seen on 8th October.
- Little Auk. A "probable" flew past to the West on 29th October
- Guillemot. An oiled bird on the sea on 18th December.
- Skylark. Many coming in on various occasions during October and early November. The peak was on 22nd October, when 428 came in during one hour.
- Meadow Pipit. A few came in during October.
- Starling. Observed coming in, in parties of up to 15 during October and early November.
- Chaffinch. Six flew in on 22nd October.

B.A.E.Marr.

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#### A HOLIDAY IN ICELAND

On 24th July we sailed from Leith on the "Gullfoss". After enjoying twenty-four hours sunshine we endured mist and rain so that bird-watching was not as pleasant as had been hoped. The following species were seen en route - kittiwakes, terns, manx shearwaters, gannets, and one sooty shearwater seen by another bird-watcher.

On the fourth day we disembarked in Reykjavik in misty weather and spent three interesting days with a Danish-Icelandic family.

We then travelled North to Akureyri on a four hundred and fifty mile night bus journey, which normally takes twelve hours, on rough level roads winding up and down beautiful fjords

So short were the hours of darkness that it was possible to stop and birdwatch at 11 p.m. on one of the lakes.

After one night in Akureyri we continued our journey to Myvatn, the famous crater lake, where we spent three days. We



had long days of bright sunshine, and on the lake saw several species of duck in eclipse plumage:- Golden eye, tufted, scaup, gadwall and Whooper swans.

We explored the sinister volcanic area of Namascaro where the mountains were scarred by evil looking patches of yellow-green sulphur. Here also tall jets of sulphur steam gushed from the earth at about 2,000 H.P. Experiments are in progress to convert this steam into sulphur to be used commercially. In this region we also saw boiling mud volcanoes and bathed in warm and hot springs which had been used by man for hundreds of years.

We climbed the dormant volcano Krafla, and from its summit had a magnificent view of the Arctic Ocean, the ice-cap Natnajokull, and deep blue green water in ancient craters. All was very barren and no living creatures stirred save the snow buntings which haunt these desolate regions.

Enjoyable picnics were had in a Nature reserve named Dimmuborgir where the lava has solidified into fantastic shapes suggesting valkyries, witches and mythical animals. Many orchids grow here, and we saw ptarmigan, golden plover, redwing and redpolls, and possibly a gyrfalcon.

We returned to Akureyri to stay in a good temporary Youth Hostel, from which views of a deep blue fjord and high snow covered mountains could be enjoyed. A colourful walk along a deep glacial valley did not end in our touching the glacier, but several wild and inquisitive Icelandic ponies and Alpine plants added to the interest of the day.

Good bird-watching could be had along Akureyri harbour where arctic terns, skuas, eider, whimbrel, redshanks, dunlin, and grey phalarope were observed; it was interesting to see the outdoor wooden racks for drying salted cod.

Finally we returned to Reykjavik. From here we visited Geysir, the hot water spring which gave its name to all geysers and which rises 200 feet high into the air, Gullfoss, the golden waterfall, and Thingvellir the site of the oldest Parliament in the world. Near Geysir we saw a flight of geese probably Greylag or Pinkfoot.

An interesting three hours was spent at the Hafnarfjörður Whaling Station. The air was permeated with the sweet fishy scent of whale oil, and between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. five 43 foot whales were landed and disposed of.

A stormy night was spent in a cabin outside Reykjavik in a desolate laval area offering good winter ski-ing.

Krisvik the important volcanic area in the south was explored with a guide and there, a great jet of steam gushed noisily from the ground at 4,000 H.P.

The highlight of the holiday was the attempt to climb Mt. Hekla which last erupted in 1947. Transport was difficult, but a charming German couple were willing to share a jeep. For three nights we stayed at an isolated farm near the foot of the mountain, and we set out at 7.30 a.m. on a fine sunny morning. By noon we smelt the familiar sulphur fumes and by one o'clock we started the uphill climb, but soon had to turn back as gales made further progress impossible. The homeward journey was difficult. Plastic macintoshes were torn in half and blew away in a gale, and we saw a red sandstorm moving across the valley below.

On 27th August we reluctantly sailed for home on the "Gullfoss". On the voyage we saw great and many shearwaters. This ended an eventful holiday in a unique country which is a paradise for the angler, geologist and ornithologist, and where any holiday maker can meet some of the most charming and cultured people of Europe.

J.E.Johnston and M.V.Whorlow.

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#### BIRD PROTECTION REPORT

Early in 1955 our Society was invited by the West Sussex County Council to nominate a representative to serve on their Protection of Birds Committee. Mr. N.C.Smith was appointed as our representative and he attended a meeting of this Committee on 25th March, 1955.

The most interesting item on the agenda was a letter dated 5th March from the Home Office stating that the Secretary of State proposed to make an order to the effect that the eggs of the following birds will not be protected:-



Blackbird	Dunnoek	Chaffinch	Linnet	Mistle Thrush
Coot	Moorhen	Wren	Robin	Song Thrush
Greenfinch	Skylark	Black-headed	Gull	

together with a letter dated the 16th March, 1955 from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a letter addressed to the Chairman of the County Council by Miss Nancy Price. It was resolved, unanimously, that the Secretary of State be informed that the County Council object to the making of the order for the reasons set out in the letter from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Most of the other County Councils have taken the same action, but in spite of overwhelming evidence that it is against public opinion the Secretary of State has refused to change the Order. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is continuing the fight and deserves the support of all our members. Full particulars of this Society and other matters affecting Bird Protection can be obtained from Mr. N.C.Smith, 60, Park Avenue, Shoreham (telephone 3113).

We are very glad to note that our President, Dr.J.Stafford, was elected to the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at their annual meeting in 1955.

NCS.

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#### PUBLICATIONS

British Birds, Bird Notes and the Sussex Bird Report are passed round among the Senior members. Junior members can see any of these on application to the Secretary.

#### West Sussex County Library - Shoreham-by-Sea Branch

In the reference Library can be seen -

- (1) "The Popular Handbook of British Birds" edited by P.A.D.Hollom.
- (2) "A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain & Europe" by R.Peterson and others.
- (3) "A History of Sussex Birds" (3 vols.) by John Walpole-Bond.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Receipts & Expenditure Account - Year Ended 31st December, 1955

<u>Receipts</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>		
Cash in hand 1.1.55	9	1	5	Annual Report	3 18 0
Subscriptions	11	7	6	Sanctuary Expenses	2 13 1
Donations	5	4	4	Subscriptions British	
Sale of Annual Report	3	1	0	Birds, etc.	1 15 0
Sanctuary receipts				Lecturers (5) Expenses	9 8 6
keys	1	4	0	Printing, postage etc.	3 19 1
					21 13 8
				Cash in hand 31.12 55	8 4 7
					£29 18 3
					£29 18 3

(Signed) G.W.Rampton

1st January, 1956.

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICERS FOR 1955

President - Dr. J.Stafford

Hon. Secretary - Miss C.M.Biggs. Hon. Treasurer - Mr.G.W.Rampton

Council

Miss J.Barclay. Mr. F.Severs. Mr.J.M.Twort.

Official Recorder - Mr. J.M.Twort

Editor - Mr. F.Severs

Representative on the "Protection of Birds" Committee of  
the West Sussex County Council - Mr. N.C.Smith.

AREA RECORDERS

The Downs	Miss C.M.Biggs	Wydewater	Miss J.Barclay
Buckingham Park	Mrs. E.Farmer	The Harbour	Mr. G.Rampton

SUMMARY OF FIELD DAYS AND MEETINGS IN 1955

29th January Annual General Meeting  
Films shown by Members of the Steyning Grammar  
School.

12th March Three R.S.P.B. Films.

26th March Cine Films of Birds - Mr. D.L.Dunkin



23rd April    Field Day at Pagham  
 14th May     Field Day for Bird Song.  
 16th November Lecture by Mr. S. Bayliss Smith.  
                  'Photographic Adventures Among Sussex Birds'.  
 7th December Colour Film 'Jersey and its Birds' Miss Barclay  
                  Colour Transparencies of Skokholm Miss Keats  
                  Talk on a Holiday in South Spain Mr. English.

#### DUCK COUNTS 1955

At Amberley Wildbrooks on:-

23rd January    20th February    20th March    18th September  
 16th October    13th November    11th December

These Counts are led by Dr. Stafford, who kindly takes 3 or 4 Members with him in his car.

#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

5/- for Senior Members.    2/6 for Junior Members (under 18 yrs.)

#### LIST OF MEMBERS 1955

Mrs. B.D. Baker	216 Goring Way, Goring-by-Sea.
Miss J. Barclay	44a Ventnor Villas, Hove, 3.
Capt. & the Misses Biggs	7 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mr. G.R. Brand	Lancing College, Lancing
Mr. & Mrs. Brooker	17 Kensington Place, Brighton, 1.
Mr. C.F. Brown	17 St. Aubyns Road, Portslade
Rev. J.D. Brown	10 Gannon Road, Worthing.
John Burstow	27 Erringham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mrs. Clackett	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.
Mrs. O.M. Chapman	42 Downland Drive, Hove, 4.
Mr & Mrs S.E. Cole	84, Sea Lane, Goring
Miss B. Crook	West House, Southover, Lewes.
Miss Dubois	326 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. G. Eager	Mill House, Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. A.E. English	The Cambridge Hotel, Portland Place, Brighton
Mr. & Mrs. Farmer	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mrs. V.A. Gillham	140 Salmons Lane, Whyteleafe Surrey.
Miss L. Hunt	51 London Road, Horsham
Mr. Mrs. & Miss Jenking,	29 Oldfield Crescent, Southwick.

Miss J. Johnston	61 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon.
Miss P. Keats	St. John's Vicarage, Carlton Hill, Brighton, 7.
Mr. T. L. Kermod	Lancing College, Lancing.
Mr. F. W. Kilvington	22 Grange Road, Southwick.
Mr. A. J. Luker	The Grammar School, Steyning.
Mr. B. A. E. Marr	59 The Green, Southwick.
Mr. W. D. McKecknie	73 Connaught Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. A. E. Perry	9a, Downland Crescent, Hove, 4.
Mr. & Mrs. Rampton	34 Croft Avenue, Southwick. (Shoreham.
Miss Rogers	157 Greenways Crescent, Upper Shoreham Road,
Miss G. Rouse	17 The Link, West Green, Crawley.
Rev. J. M. H. Rowdon	11 Balcome Avenue, Worthing.
Mr. & Mrs. Ruscoe	14 Ring Road, North Lancing.
Mr. Roger Ruston	45 Barfield Park, North Lancing.
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.
Mr. H. Sturman	11 Midhurst Walk, Hove, 4.
Mrs. Sutherland	5 Highcroft Villas, Brighton.
Mr. G. Tilbury	6 West Side, Wood-dale, Billingshurst.
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Twort,	63 The Green, Southwick.
Dr. F. Varley	Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. & Mrs. Weatherhead,	Mill Hill Pumping Station, Shoreham.
Miss M. Whorlow	31 Palmeira Avenue, Hove, 3.
Miss W. M. Woodruffe	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.

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