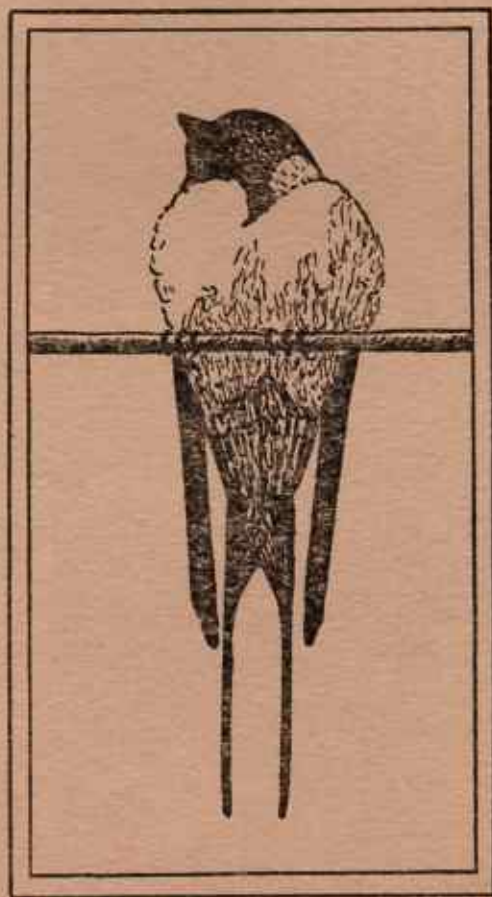


SHOREHAM  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*Fifth Annual Report*  
1958



*For the Year 1957*

(Price : TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE)

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

The Society has had another successful year. The membership has increased to about 90 and once more the good attendance at the outdoor expeditions and at the interesting series of talks during the winter months has showed the appreciation and keenness of members.

In the absence of a severe spell of weather like that of early 1956, the interesting visits we then had of a number of species of Geese and Duck were not repeated in 1957. However this was compensated for to some extent by some rather unusual Autumn visitors. In particular, the appearance of Twite in quite considerable numbers during the last months of the year (some were still about at the end of December) was an event of some ornithological importance for Sussex, where the species

has been regarded hitherto as only a rather rare visitor.

The trapping undertaken by Dr.Stafford with a nylon mist net at the Sanctuary and the recent installation of a Heligoland Trap with the aid of an initial generous donation from an anonymous member and of willing help from a number of others have contributed to a large increase in the number of birds ringed as compared with earlier years. The Heligoland Trap should provide considerable opportunities for members who have recently become authorised ringers and no doubt 1958 will see a further increase in numbers ringed.

A considerable amount of space in this Report is taken up by the article by B.A.E.Marr on the Sea Watch conducted by a few members, with particular concentration on the Autumn migration period. This gives, as far as is known, the first systematic record of the movement of birds on this particular section of coast during substantially a full migration season. The variety of species and the numbers of which movements are recorded are of much interest.

For reasons of space it has regretfully not been possible to include this year a note on birds in members' gardens although contributions of interest have been received from a number of members.

The Honorary Secretary would again like to thank Mrs.Berry, Miss Keats and Mr.Grigg for the assistance they have given her during the year.

F.S.



## THE SANCTUARY 1957

This year the Society's Sanctuary has been more closely watched than in any of its previous five years. The number of species positively identified within its boundaries has now reached 105.

This calls, I feel, for a review of the previous method of recording the birds in the Sanctuary, which is both unscientific and unsatisfactory when referring back to earlier years. Therefore the following list has been compiled in the Wentmore order of the status of each species seen there since observation first began in 1953.

The hide has now been in position for a year.

As in past years Mr. and Mrs. Weatherhead have given us their greatly appreciated and friendly co-operation.

Cormorant Occasionally flies over.

Heron Occasionally feeds in the stream.

Mallard Occasional birds in the winter.

Teal Has occurred in winter.

Wigeon Two on February 11, 1954.

Shoveler A pair in January, 1953.

Mute Swan A pair in March 1956.

Bizzard Two records March 30 and April 10, 1956.

Sparrow Hawk One record in 1953.

Hobby One female on June 20, 1957.

Kestrel One or more seen most days.

Red-legged Partridge One on April 26, 1955.

Partridge Occasional in Autumn and Winter.

Pheasant Has been recorded once or twice.

Water Rail A few present from early November to March.  
Late date April 26, 1955.

Moorhen Breeds. Only occasional birds out of breeding season.

Lapwing Occasional birds usually present. Large flocks in Spring and Autumn.

Ringed Plover One in September, 1957.

Snipe Regular. Does not breed. Quite numerous when ground flooded or in severe winter.

Jack Snipe One or two birds from November to March most years.

Curlew An occasional bird in Spring and Autumn.

Green Sandpiper One August 29, 1955.  
Common Sandpiper Two Sept. 6, 1955 and one August 29, 1955 and 1956.  
Redshank Single birds Spring and Autumn most years.  
Herring Gull Rests and feeds in severe weather.  
Common Gull Single birds during severe weather with occasional large increases.  
Black-headed Gull Common especially during severe weather.  
Stock Dove Occasional.  
Wood Pigeon Common. Has bred.  
Turtle-Dove One or two pairs during summer. Has bred near copse.  
Cuckoo One usually during summer. Some on passage in Autumn.  
Little Owl One usually from October to April.  
Tawny Owl One spent winter in 1955. Otherwise occasional.  
Nightjar One immature, September 1957.  
Swift Commonly feeds overhead May to end August. Early date 26 April, 1954.  
Kingfisher Odd birds on spring and autumn passage.  
Hoopoe One on August 19, 1956.  
Green Woodpecker One or two birds usually present except during breeding season.  
Greater Spotted Woodpecker Less Common than Green but one or two usually seen most months except during breeding season.  
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Two Spring and one Autumn record.  
Skylark Common resident.  
Swallow Common resident.  
House Martin Occasional birds during summer.  
Sand Martin Regular on passage, chiefly in Autumn.  
Carrion Crow Common in the area.  
Rook Common in the area.  
Jackdaw Common in the area.  
Magpie Has bred. One pair usually present.  
Jay One record in September 1957 and again on October 27, 1957.  
Great Tit Common. Breeds.

Blue Tit Common. Breeds.  
Coal Tit Few records. One Spring and two Autumn 1957.  
Marsh Tit One record June 13, 1954.  
Long-tailed Tit Parties occur in Autumn and Winter.  
Tree Creeper One record September, 1957.  
Wren Common resident. Breeds.  
Mistle Thrush Breeds. One or two birds usually about.  
Fieldfare Regular in cold weather in Winter months.  
Song Thrush Common. Breeds.  
Redwing Common in cold weather in Winter months.  
Ring Ouzel One October 28, 1954.  
Blackbird Common. Breeds. Numbers increase during Autumn and Winter months.  
Wheatear A few at both migrations.  
Stonechat One or two pairs at both migrations.  
Whinchat Several pairs at Spring and Autumn migrations.  
Redstart Occasionally on both migrations. Numbers vary greatly.  
Black Redstart One on March 28, 1955. One f. on March 24, 1956.  
Nightingale Two to four pairs breed each year.  
Robin Common. Breeds.  
Grasshopper Warbler Heard each Spring on occasion from April to mid-July. Up to five together. Bred 1954 in lane. No Autumn record.  
Reed Warbler One or two pairs breed.  
Sedge Warbler Several pairs breed.  
Blackcap Occasionally on both migrations.  
Garden Warbler Very occasionally on passage.  
Whitethroat Common on both migration. Also breeds.  
Lesser Whitethroat Occasionally on both migrations.  
Commoner in Autumn. One pair bred in 1955.  
Willow Warbler Common on both migrations. One pair breeds each year.  
Chiffchaff Common on both migrations. One pair breeds each year.  
Wood Warbler Seven in the Spring of 1954. One in Autumn 1957.  
Goldcrest Common on Spring and Autumn passage. A few in other months.  
Firecrest One April 6, 1953, one 31st. March to April 3, 1955, one March 3, 1956, two March 17, 1956.



Spotted Flycatcher Seen on both migrations.  
Pied Flycatcher A pair on April 30, 1954. One immature in September, 1957  
Dunnock Common resident. Breeds.  
Meadow Pipit Common resident. A pair bred in 1957. Number increases in Winter.  
Tree Pipit A few in Spring and Autumn.  
Pied Wagtail Common. Has bred.  
Grey Wagtail Occurs in both Spring and Autumn. One wintered in 1954 and possibly 1956/7.  
Yellow Wagtail Common on both migrations. Bred 1954.  
Great Grey Shrike One October 24 to 26, 1953.  
Woodchat Shrike One immature on September 12, 1956.  
Starling Common resident. Breeds. Numbers increase during Winter.  
Greenfinch Common resident. Breeds.  
Goldfinch Common resident. Breeds.  
Linnet Breeds. A few birds usually present.  
Lesser Redpoll Flock up to 30 in October, 1957 for ten days. One on November 16, 1957.  
Bullfinch A pair present October to May most years. Possibly bred in 1953. Also occasional records of single birds in other months.  
Chaffinch Resident. Breeds. Numbers increase during winter months.  
Brambling A few birds seen most winters.  
Yellow Hammer Resident. One or two pairs breed.  
Corn Bunting Breeds. Numbers increase during winter.  
Girl Bunting Three records. For May 1954 and March and October, 1957.  
Reed Bunting Resident. Breeds.  
House Sparrow Common resident.  
Tree Sparrow One pair bred in 1954. Attempted to breed 1955. Small parties present during Winter months.

J.S.

#### BIRD RINGING REPORT FOR 1957

This was a most successful year. Two more members became authorised ringers towards the end of the year, and when they get going the results should be apparent in an increase in the numbers of birds ringed next year.

A nylon mist net was used in the Sanctuary from August onwards. This trapped nearly 200 birds including species like Woodpecker, Kingfisher and Swallow, which are otherwise very difficult to catch.

The highlight of the year is the building in the Sanctuary of a Heligoland Trap in November, which although not quite finished caught 44 birds including a Fieldfare before the end of the year.

In all 942 birds were trapped and 16 nestlings ringed of 37 species. The number trapped is the highest ever and an increase of 537 on last year. The total was made up as follows:-

Fieldfare	1	Mistle Thrush	6	Green Woodpecker	2
Willow Warbler	43	Reed Warbler	1	Lesser Spotted	
Coal Tit	11	Chiffchaff	36	Woodpecker	1
Blue Tit	226	Whitethroat	37	Great Spotted	
Chaffinch	14	House Martin	1	Woodpecker	3
Song Thrush	50	Turtle Dove	1	Water Rail	1
Starling	54	Nightjar	3	Kingfisher	1
Great Tit	64	Swallow	24	Lesser Redpoll	4
Goldcrest	3	Wood Pigeon	2	Tree Sparrow	1
Blackbird	124	Redstart	1	Marsh Tit	4
Duncock	31	House Sparrow	96	Nightingale	4
Wren	13	Goldfinch	9	Yellow Bunting	2
Robin	55	Pied Flycatcher	1	Greenfinch	28

Total trapped .....958

B.A.E.Marr trapped 269 of the total in about three months in the Shoreham area.

Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Redpoll, Marsh Tit and Fieldfare were ringed for the first time. All the British Woodpeckers were ringed this year.

The large number of Blue Tits ringed is accounted for by the great Autumn passage of birds along the south coast.

J.S.



## RECOVERIES OF INTEREST IN 1957

Greenfinch (male) Ringed as an adult in Shoreham on 2.2.56  
Found dead at Folkestone, Kent, 63 m ENE  
8.8.57.

Pied Wagtail (male) Ringed as a nestling on 27. 5.56. Killed  
by car Upper Beeding 3 m.NNW. 11.6.57.

Six other recoveries were only of local movements in Shoreham.

### DUCK COUNTS

Amberley Wild Brooks was counted again this year. As in past years there were very few duck and geese present until the turn of the year. The Autumn drew a blank except for Mute Swans, when herds of over fifty were counted.

On flood waters in February there were several hundred Mallard, Wigeon and Teal with smaller parties of Shoveler, Pintail and Tufted Duck. A few Coot were also seen. These are very occasional at Amberley.

In the absence of severe frosts Wild Swans were very few this year.

J.S.

### NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1957

These records of birds seen in Shoreham and district are of interest, either because the species is not seen annually in numbers, or because the dates of the occurrences are unusual.

The following have contributed records:- Miss C.Biggs, A & J.Burstow, C.F.Brown, C.A.Grigg, P.Farbridge, C.M.James, B.A.E.Marr, Dr.J.Stafford, F.Severs, G.A.Sutton, J.M.Twort, R.J.Wilmshurst.

Red-throated Diver A few from the sea.

Great Crested Grebe A few from the sea.

Red-necked Grebe One on sea, Shoreham 27 December.

Slavonian Grebe One on sea S.Lancing January 14.

Gannet Many sea records.

Cormorant Large E.to W.passage over sea in Autumn but there was also movement in opposite direction.

Spoonbill A bird apparently of this species was seen at Cuckoo's Corner and well described by a non-member on Sep.6.

Mallard Pair at the Sanotuary March 15; one male near Toll Bridge May 29; a few from the sea.

Teal Six in flight near Cuckoo's Corner July 13.

Wigeon Some from the sea including 25 on November 10.

Pintail Four flew S. over Railway Bridge, Shoreham 29 (one male and three female).

Tufted Duck Nine flew E. to W. over sea November 10.

Pochard Two, Creek, Shoreham, January 1. and Widewater January 2 and 3.

Long-tailed Duck Two females, one adult and one immature flying W. to E. Shoreham E.pier November 21.

Velvet Scoter One male Hove Lagoon Jan 8 and 9. Three on sea November 17.

Eider One off beach S.Lancing June 9 and Shoreham June 20. Previous to 1956 there were no Sussex records of Eider in June.

Merganser One female or immature nr.Toll Bridge, November 23; up to 15 from the sea.

Shelduck Two, Cuckoo's Corner May 6 to 18 and five on Adur November 4 during S.W.gales; several from the sea.

Grey Goose Eleven seen flying W. in V formation, Coombes February 3.

White-fronted Goose Two near Coombes January 15.

Hen Harrier A bird (female) of this species seen and identified near Steyning January 11, may have been the same bird seen above Sanctuary in Autumn but not positively identified. One (f) near Mile Oak, December 1.

Hobby One at Sanotuary June 20.

Peregrine One male flew N.E. from sea Shoreham November 17.

Pheasant One f. flushed from Adur Bank nr. Toll Br. Oct. 27.

Water Rail One seen and heard nr. Waterworks Road November 6 and later seen and heard in Sanctuary until December; one

Flood Arch October 13 and one December 15.

Oyster Catcher One mudflats Shoreham January 5 to February 13 and one seen and heard there in late July. Many sea records.

Lapwing C.50 flew in from S.E. and landed on field S. of Airport where 158 were counted on ground March 3. On Novr. 17 at least 400 on Airfield.

Golden Plover Seven flew from N. out to Sea.S.Lancing Nov. 24.

Turnstone Three near Toll Bridge May 23; Two Widewater August 18; one at Shoreham September 15.

Common Snipe Very few records this year.

Jack Snipe One record mid November.

Curlew One March 6 and 7; one September 28; two August 3; one October 28. All Adur at Shoreham.

Whimbrel One April 19; two on 24th; 25 flying over sea April 27 and 14 flying E. August 4; one to four, Adur, August 26 to September 24. One near Cuckoo's Corner September 11. Up to 10 Shoreham Estuary May 2 to 23. One at Flood Arch Oct.5.

Bar-tailed Godwit One mudflats August 6 to Sept.6; one Flood Arch October 1 and 2.

Green Sandpiper One near Cuckoo's Corner September 11.

Common Sandpiper One Adur May 7; one Dump Pool May 31; one Flood Arch October 13 and two there on 14th.

Greenshank Single birds Flood Arch and elsewhere between August 3 and September 10.

Spotted Redshank One Creek Sept.10 and after many times till October 13; one Flood Arch Novr.13. Was still present on December 31.

Knot One Creek January 1 to 13; up to four nr.Norfolk Bridge between September 2 and October 8; one Adur November 6.

Little Stint One Flood Arch Dec.1 stayed only a short time, was only partial winter plumage and looked relatively very dark.

Curlew Sandpiper One, mudflats Shoreham September 14.

Sanderling Passage W. of c.250 S.Lancing. Two on shore June



1. One nr. Flood Arch Sept.3 and three on shore Oct.27.

Ruff One Flood Arch September 3 and 4 (brown legs); one Reeve Flood Arch Sept. 4 (green legs); 1 Reeve feeding mostly with starlings in grass near Flood Arch (grey legs) Oct.1. and later seen there many times until Oct.18. One Ruff flying W-E S.Lancing Oct.4.

Grey Phalarope One S.Lancing Oct.30.flying E-W and one ditto Novr.6; one picked up badly injured near House Boats, Shoreham, Nov.5. died shortly afterwards, probably a first winter male.

Stone Curlew Two on Downs Lancing April 13.

Pomarine Skua One adult (light phase) flew E-W over beach during force 8 S.W. gale on Nov.3.

Gulls Lesser Blacked. Spring passage first noted (6) March 9 and thereafter much as usual; one near Footbridge Jan.10 and two there Feb.10 and March 10; two May 5; one May 19; four on June 18; 15 on June 19 and six on June 21; five on July 2 and six on July 4. Not seen before in such numbers during June. Three on July 11. A Scandinavian near Flood Arch on October 31 to end of December.

Little Gull One adult in winter plumage flew E-W over Widewater Oct.17; one adult Shoreham November 3 and off Lancing Beach same day. One immature there November 6 and one adult flying up river same date.

Mediterranean Gull One below Toll Bridge, Shoreham, March 10 to 14; two there March 15, both adults.

Kittiwake One picked up injured and one in flight, Southwick, January 9. One dead S.Lancing Feb.12. One adult Southwick Canal and one Hove Lagoon Feb.27. One Southwick Beach July 13 and a few seen over the sea.

Common or Arctic Tern Two on Adur, Shoreham July 20; two on mudflats and two Widewater Sept.5; four on mudflats Sept. 8; one Harbour Mouth Oct. 22; one near Rlway Bridge, Shoreham Oct 26; one Southwick Canal opposite Power Station Nov. 1; two there Nov.3. Many sea records including one May 29 and c.50 on Aug.30. Latest record one on November 7.

Guillemot Three on sea Shoreham Beach, January 25 and two S.Lancing January 26.

Razorbill One picked up on Beach Dec.18 and released on 19th.

Puffin One Aug.29. Presumably one of this species picked up dead on the beach by a lad who gave a description of the bird.

Turtle Dove Three on Shoreham Beach on July 18.

Cuckoo One flew over Southwick on August 5.

Nightjar One at Sanctuary which was first seen and flushed on the Downs above Sanctuary on September 7.

Woodpecker, Great Spotted Unusual number of records. One Sanctuary July 22 and later two seen there on several occasions. One calling and flying E. at S.Lancing nr.sea Oct.3. One seen about a mile N. of Sanctuary in August. Two flew S. from Sanctuary Oct.20 One caught and ringed in Shoreham garden Nov.17, may have been of northern race. One in a garden at Mill Hill during December.

Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted One August 18 Sanctuary.

Swallow One Lancing November 11.

Jay One Sanctuary in September.

Blue Tit Many records including a flock of 18 flying E. over Dump, Shoreham and six flying E. with Goldfinches on Oct.2. A pair nested in petrol tin near Sanctuary during April.

Long-tailed Tit Several seen in Sanctuary in Autumn and six in bushes opposite Sanctuary gate on November 17.

Fieldfare Two at Sanctuary January 18.

Redwing One at Sanctuary October 4.

Wheatear Two Widewater March 13 and one there October 23 were first and last records.

Greenland Wheatear One May 6; two May 19; one September 21, all Widewater.

Whinchat Pair in Sanctuary July 15; a female on rubbish Dump October 13, was last recorded.

Redstart One first winter male in Lancing garden on Oct. 27 was a very late date.



Black Redstart One Widewater March 12 and 13 and one first winter male there Oct.15 and an adult female same place Nov.10. One Mill Hill October 24.

Grasshopper Warbler Few records but one seen and heard reeling in Sanctuary on April 18 was an early date.

Reed Warbler One singing near Sanotuary on May 6 was first record. Maximum number was on May 23 when two were heard singing nr.Rlway Bridge and three nr.Sanctuary. One picked up injured or exhausted on Rlway Bridge on Oct.20 was apparently the third latest record for Britain.

Blackcap One singing Sanctuary April 18.

Garden Warbler One singing just W. of Norfolk Bridge May 5.

Common Whitethroat One which incorporated the 'rattle' of the Lesser Whitethroat is dealt with in separate article.

Lesser Whitethroat Rather more numerous in Spring than usual. Maximum four on May 5 when one heard singing inside and outside the Sanctuary.

Chiffchaff One singing Sanctuary March 15.

Willow Warbler One seen singing near Sanctuary March 25.

Wood Warbler One Sanctuary August 26 and 30.

Goldcrest One Sanctuary March 10, five in hedge near Toll Bridge March 22 and six with Blue Tits in a conifer at Roman Crescent, Southwick December 5, were largest numbers seen together.

Firecrest A bird presumably of this species was seen in a tamarisk bush for a short time at S.Lancing on Oct.17.

Spotted Flycatcher One Sanctuary on May 17 was first record and one there on October 8 was last record.

Pied Flycatcher One in Shoreham garden on August 3 was an immature or female; one Sanctuary August 26.

Twite Four Widewater Oct.17, five there Oct.24 and five near there Nov.28 Circ.15 nr.Toll Bridge feeding on Sea Aster and up to 40 there between then and Nov.27 when "chwink" note was heard from several birds. The pinkish



rump of adult males was seen on only four birds. On Dec. 15 four birds were seen and on Dec.28 a flock of about 20 mixed twite and linnets, mainly twite.

Redpoll, Lesser Four Sanctuary Sep.28 and eight there and three flying N. October 8. Numbers feeding on Willow Herb (E.Hirsutum) on side road leading to Pumping Station including 25 on Oct.7 and C.50 Oct.8 and c.30 on Oct.13. Several caught and ringed in Sanctuary. Three flew out to sea at S.Lancing on Oct.13 at 7.55 a.m.

Bullfinch Two calling Sanctuary March 2 and later but no proof of nesting.

Brambling A flock near Cuckoo's Corner on January 18 is only record.

Chir Bunting One singing near Sanctuary March 2 and several heard singing in Shoreham area during Spring and Autumn.

Snow Bunting A pair on beach S.Lancing November 7 to 9.

Tree Sparrow One in Woodman's garden opposite Sanctuary on April 8 was chased by male House Sparrow. One perched on post Sanctuary October 8. One caught and ringed Nov. Party of five in Sanctuary November 9 to 15.

#### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS, 1957

(compiled from records of members)

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>FIRST DATE AND LOCALITY</u>	<u>LAST DATE AND LOCALITY</u>
<u>Redthroated</u>	October 20 off Lancing	May 5 off Lancing
<u>Diver</u>	Beach.	Beach.
<u>Great-Crested</u>	October 27 off Lancing	April 3 off Lancing
<u>Grebe</u>	Beach.	Beach.
<u>Whimbrel</u>	April 19 one in flight, Shoreham.	October 5 Flood Arch.
<u>Stone Curlew</u>	April 13 Two on Downs, Lancing.	
<u>Lesser B.B.</u>	First Spring migrants were	
<u>Gull</u>	c.six, R.Adur March 9.	
<u>Common Arctic</u>	May 5 One W-E off Lancing	Nov 7 one W-E off
<u>Tern</u>	Beach.	Lancing Beach.
<u>Little Tern</u>	May 5. 18 W-E off Lancing Beach.	

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>FIRST DATE AND LOCALITY</u>	<u>LAST DATE AND LOCALITY</u>
<u>Sandwich Tern</u>	May 5 four off Lancing Beach.	Sept.30 five W-E off Lancing Beach.
<u>Turtle Dove</u>	May 10 one near Cement Works.	
<u>Swift</u>	April 30 one flew E. over Southwick.	Sep.28. one over Widewater.
<u>Cuckoo</u>	April 15 one at Beeding	
<u>House Martin</u>	May 3 two at Steyning	Nov.10 one W-E over Lancing Beach
<u>Sand Martin</u>	March 31 Three at Sanctuary.	Oct.3 One over Widewater.
<u>Swallow</u>	April 4 two at Steyning.	
<u>Fieldfare</u>	Nov.11 one flew E. over Southwick.	
<u>Redwing</u>	Oct.4 one at Sanctuary.	
<u>Whinchat</u>		Dec.11 two reported seen by a member nr. Mill Hill.
<u>Wheatear</u>	March 12 Shoreham Boh.	Oct 23 One Shoreham Boh
<u>Redstart</u>	April 17 one at Lancing.	Oct 27 a first winter male in a Lancing garden, a late date.
<u>Nightingale</u>	April 18 Sanctuary.	
<u>Reed Warbler</u>	May 6 Sanctuary.	Oct 20 one by Rlway Br.Shoreham, a late date.
<u>Sedge Warbler</u>	April 17 nr Sussex Pad.	
<u>Blackcap</u>	April 18 Sanctuary.	
<u>Whitethroat</u>	April 16 one at Lancing.	
<u>Willow Warbler</u>	March 25 one at Sanctuary.	
<u>Chiffchaff</u>	March 15 Sanctuary.	
<u>Grasshopper</u>		
<u>Warbler</u>	April 18 one at Sanctuary.	
<u>Spotted Fly-catcher</u>	May 17 one at Sanctuary.	
<u>Rock Pipit</u>	Sep. 21 one by new dump.	
<u>Yellow Wagtail</u>	April 16 two at Lancing.	



## VISIBLE MIGRATION IN 1957

by B.A.E.MARR

1957 was a very interesting year for visible migration, and much movement, as usual mainly of passerines, was recorded. The absence of a cold spell meant that there were no hard-weather movements in the early part of the year, but for the second year running an easterly coasting movement of Chaffinches, with smaller numbers of other species, was noted in the mornings at the beginning of March at Widewater. The Autumn was, however, by far the most interesting period for migration, and the movements recorded in the Shoreham area correspond to similar movements throughout south-eastern England at the same time. The reason for the unusually large numbers of such species as Jay, Blue Tit and many finches is thought to be the combination of a mild winter in 1956/7 and a highly successful breeding season following, causing a considerable over-population of some areas and the necessity for the birds to forage further afield for food. There is evidence, too, from trapping of several continental sub-species (including several in the Shoreham area) that there also occurred an influx from Europe.

As stated above, there were no hard-weather movements at the beginning of the year, but the easterly Chaffinch movement was again noted at Widewater in early March: for example c 50 on 3rd, c.700 in 90 minutes on 11th and c.680 in one hour on 13th. Also on 13th in one hour c.820 Starlings, c.10 Greenfinches, and c.30 Linnets coasted W-E. Of interest is a record of two Curlew flying SW. over the centre of Southwick in the early morning of July 7, rather an odd locality.

The majority of the Autumn movements were recorded at Widewater during the concentrated watching there by BAEM and RJW. from September 18 to November 17 (daily in the early mornings between September 28 and November 13), although migration was also noted at Lancing, Steyning and Southwick. The following is a summary of movements for each species recorded migrating.

Two HERONS were seen at Widewater beach: one coasting W on Sept.30 and one on Novr. 7 which appeared to fly in from SW. Several interesting PIGEON movements were noted at the beach (for details see Sea-Watching account). WOOD PIGEONS were seen moving W. over the Sanctuary on November 17 (c.270) and over



Southwick on November 23 (c.20). Arrival from the Sea of SKYLARKS and STARLINGS was very small compared with 1956, although coasting was more in evidence.

A GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER coasted W-E at Widewater on October 3 and one on the 20th. Several were at the Sanctuary at this time. Two CORVINE species were seen on the move, four MAGPIES passed S-N high over Steyning at 0830 hours on November 9 and several JAYS were seen over Steyning, Lancing and Shoreham, most going W. with a maximum of 8, passing SW over Steyning at 0730 hours on September 23. Two were recorded at Sanctuary in the Autumn. A few great TITS were seen coasting mainly E-W over the beach in September and October. BLUE TIT numbers were quite staggering, at Widewater 132 moved W-E and 83 E-W between September 18 and November 17 and others were seen moving at Shoreham and Southwick. There was a general increase in numbers in the whole district at this time, and several of the continental sub-species were trapped. At Widewater several MISTLE and SONG THRUSHES, BLACKBIRDS and two REDWINGS were seen coasting or coming in from the sea. Two DUNNOCKS coasted E-W there on October 5. Also there large numbers of MEADOW PIPITS coasted W. with smaller numbers going W-E and coming in from the sea or going out. PIED WAGTAILS were moving similarly although in smaller numbers.

Extremely large numbers of finches coasted over Widewater. GREENFINCHES were mainly going E. with a maximum of C.350 on October 12. GOLDFINCHES were also going mainly E. and between September 18 and November 17 c.5800 passed in this direction. On October 4 a SISKIN was heard calling from among a flock of Goldfinches flying E. LINNETS were moving in good numbers at Widewater with a maximum of c.490 W-E on October 9, a few came in from the sea. On October 17 four TWITE were seen by Widewater and on the 24th five more, all flew off W. Elsewhere in this report will be found details of up to c.40 seen by the river from late October onwards. Many LESSER REDPOLLS were recorded at Widewater, coasting, coming in from the sea or going out. At Southwick several were seen moving (mainly E.) and there were many at the Sanctuary during early October. CHAFFINCH movements at Widewater were small and the species was much scarcer than in 1956. BUNTINGS coasting at Widewater were

Yellow (13) Corn (37) and Reed (many, mostly going E). Several HOUSE SPARROWS were seen coasting over Widewater (migrants, not local birds).

And, lastly, some records of "invisible" migration (i.e. birds passing over at night) c.20 (numbers estimated from their calls) WIGEON flew N. over Downs behind Lancing after dark on April 13; a flock of WHIMBREL, calling loudly passed SW over Southwick at 2155 hours (GMT) on August 1; a REDWING called over Southwick at 1935 hours (GMT) on March 14 and one did likewise at 1800 hours (GMT) on November 13.

### SEA-WATCHING DURING 1957

by B.A.E.MARR

1957 was the best year yet for sea-watching off the beach at Widewater. Despite the absence of a cold spell and the subsequent scarcity or even absence of such species as Scaup, Goldeneye, Goosander, etc., we added many new species to our ever-growing list of birds seen in the sea-watching area: this list now stands at something over 115. New birds in 1957 included Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, Ruff, Pomarine Skua, Cuckoo, Siskin, Twite, Lesser Redpoll and Corn Bunting. The sea was watched for a total of about 110 hours on 66 days; a special feature of this year's watching was a concentrated watch in the Autumn - a daily early morning watch by R.J.Wilmshurst and the writer kept up without a break, in all weather, between September 28 and November 13, each doing three weekdays and going together on Sundays. The results of this daily watch were most interesting and large movements of such species as tits, finches and buntings which we recorded fit in very agreeably with the general pattern of a widespread movement recorded throughout southern England at the same time. Other observers included R.J.F. Child, P.Farbridge, C.M.James, P.J.Kadwell, R.Ruston, F.Severs and J.M.Twort

### SYSTEMATIC LIST

Red-Throated Diver Seen as usual in winter months though scarcer than last year. Last bird May 5. First one on October 20.



SYSTEMATIC LIST (Contd:)

Great-Crested Grebe Up to c.6 in winter. Last seen April 3. First Autumn bird October 27, thereafter much as usual.

Slavonian Grebe One on sea January 14.

Gannet An. adult E-W on January 12 - exceptional date. After that none till May 19 (one adult E-W) and between then and October 29 much as usual - max. 79 (33 adults) E-W on September 29.

Cormorant An interesting E-W movement in the Autumn with up to 46 in the early mornings. Altogether over 700 moved E-W between September 28 and November 13.

Heron August 4 - two coasted W-E far out. On November 7 one seemed to fly in from SW landed on a groyne as if exhausted, then flew off E.

Mallard A few, as usual; one on sea May 19. Up to 11 in Autumn.

Teal Three in the Autumn.

Wigeon A few in Autumn, max. 22 on November 10.

Tufted Duck Nine E-W on November 10.

Velvet Scoter Three on sea flew E - November 17. Two W-E on January 14.

Common Scoter Usual W-E movement in Spring (max. 22 on May 19). Up to 10 in Autumn, most going E-W.

Eider A duck on sea on June 9 and June 20. Up till 1956 there were no Sussex records for June.

Red-Breasted Merganser Up to 15 in Winter. Last seen March 9. First Autumn birds on October 26 (two females E-W). In 1956 the first Autumn birds were seen on October 27.

Shelduck Spring - two W-E on May 5. Autumn - three W-E on October 19. Two E-W on October 28. One W-E on November 7. One on sea November 8. Two on sea and two E-W on November 9.



Sparrowhawk November 9 - one E-W more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile off shore.

Peregrine November 17 - a male in from sea from S. flew off NE.

Kestrel September 18 one flew out to sea to SW. September 15 one E-W more than half mile off shore.

Oystercatcher Movement was much as in previous years, with more going W-E than in the opposite direction. During the year 48 passed W-E but only 14 E-W.

Lapwing Three by Widewater in thick fog on October 12 later flew off N. They may well have come in from the sea as they are not usually seen there.

Ringed Plover Small movements in Spring with three in off sea S-N. on May 19. Small coasting movements, mainly E-W in Autumn.

Grey Plover Two W-E on May 5. One on beach on October 1 and one W-E on 13th (much scarcer than usual).

Golden Plover Seven came in from the N. and flew SE. out to sea on October 13.

Turnstone Four W-E on June 2 - the only record.

Curlew One W-E on May 5. One or two coasting on six days in the Autumn.

Whimbrel 25 W-E on April 27, 19 W-E on May 5, one on June 2 and one E-W on June 9, one E-W and one W-E on July 30.

Bar-Tailed Godwit C.26 on May 5 W-E - many other 'possibles' too far out for identification to be certain.

Common Sandpiper A few on the beach in Spring and Autumn.

Redshank One June 2 one in from sea SW-NE. On October 10 one came in from sea high from S. and landed on Widewater.

Knot On May 5 four E-W off the beach.

Dunlin Interesting movements in Spring with four in from sea S-N on May 19. In Autumn much coasting, mainly E-W. On November 7 nine flew in from sea from S (8) or SE (1). On November 10 c.120 came in from W. and flew upriver.

Sanderling C.250 E-W on January 14., the largest number we have recorded. On May 19 ten W-E and two E-W. Two on beach June 1. Two feeding on the beach with Dunlin on October 27 and one on November 10 in from W. which flew upriver.

Ruff A male W-E on October 4.

Grey Phalarope One flew E-W on October 30 and one on November 6.

Pomarine Skua An adult of the light phase flew E-W right over the beach during the force 8 SW gale on November 3.

Little Gull One (adult, winter plumage) E-W on October 17, one ditto on November 3 and a first winter bird E-W on November 6.

Black-headed Gull 178 W-E (adults and immatures) in four hours on May 5. On May 19, W-E 19, E-W 34, and 16 from SW which flew E. On June 2, 14 W-E.

Kittiwake One adult W-E on January 12. One immature W-E on May 5. A first winter bird offshore on May 19. In Autumn one (first-winter) E-W on October 28, and three (first-winter) E-W and one W-E (first-winter) on November 3.

Conic Tern A few in Spring and in June, July and August. In Autumn c.50 E-W and fishing on August 30. 70 E-W in one hour on September 21., 11 W-E on the 30th. One or two offshore on four days in October (latest on 27th) An immature flew W-E on November 7 - a late date.

Little Tern 18 W-E on May 5. Four W-E on June 2.

Sandwich Tern A few in May. Two W-E on June 2. One W-E on July 30. Five W-E on September 30.

Razorbill One badly oiled offshore on January 3. In Autumn up to ten between October 2 and November 10.

Guillemot One badly oiled offshore on July 30. Three on sea on January 25.

Stock Dove Interesting movements in late Autumn; four in off sea on November 7 SE-NW and 5 in S-N. On 8th one in from S. landed on water's edge as if exhausted, after ten



minutes continued N. On 10th one flew in S-W and on 17th one in SW-NE with Woodpigeons.

Woodpigeon On October 14 c.70 W-E. On 22nd c.100 appeared over beach, perhaps having come in, and continued E. On November 1 800-900 in one flock E-W. On November 7 c.275 W-E and three in from sea. On 10th 70 W-E. On 17th c.40 flew in from SW - of these 30 continued NE and 10 continued NW.

Cuckoo One in from sea SW-NE in thick fog on June 2.

Swift Small numbers coasting and coming in from sea in May. On July 30 a flock of c.40 insecting high over beach flew off NE. One over Widewater on September 28 - a very late date.

Great-Spotted Woodpecker One coasted W-E on October 20.

Skylark Two in S-N on May 19. One out to sea to SSW on June 2. In Autumn much coasting - up to 57 W-E and 42 E-W. At the same time immigration from sea was noted with a max. of 258 in four hours on November 7. Birds were also seen going out to sea (max.8 on October 10).

Swallow Small numbers coasting and coming in from sea in May. In Autumn many small coasting movements and some going out to sea. Birds coming in off sea were 11 in SE-NW on September 29; two in S-N on October 1; two in SW-NE on 6th; one in S-N on 20th and two in S-N on 27th. The latest was on November 10 flying W-E.

House Martin No Spring records. In Autumn c.75 E-W on September 29. Two W-E on October 1. 31 in from sea S-NW on September 30. c.55 W-E on October 4. Two W-E on October 7 and one W-E on November 10.

Sand Martin A few in Autumn, the latest on October 3.

Jay On October 20 two appeared from W. and flew NE up the Adur Valley at c.300-400 ft.

Great Tit Coasting as follows: E-W Two on September 18, and one on October 9. W-E one on October 14 and one on 19th.

Blue Tit During late September, October and early November most amazing coasting movements were recorded over the beach. Some were seen almost every day in October, with a



maximum of 64 passing W-E on October 14 in 75 mins. It is interesting to note how the direction of movement varied - at first it was E-W, then from October 5 to 17 it was entirely W-E, then E-W with fewer W-E. Between September 18 and November 17 a total of 132 moved W-E and 83 moved E-W.

Mistle Thrush Coasting movements: Two W-E on October 7, seven E-W on 9th, six W-E on 8th, 16 W-E on 10th and three W-E on 14th.

Song Thrush Two E-W on September 18. In October three E-W on 9th. One in from sea from S. on 12th. One E-W on 17th and one W-E on 22nd.

Redwing Two coasted W-E on October 7.

Blackbird Several records: Two W-E on October 8. One W-E and one E-W on 9th. Two W-E on 15th. One in from sea S-N on November 8, and three W-E on November 11.

Greenland Heatear By Widewater: One on May 5 and two on 19th. One on September 21.

Black Redstart On beach: One on March 13. A first winter male between October 17 and 19. A female on November 10.

Willow Warbler One in from sea S-N on May 5. A "Willow-chaff" moving W. along the beach on October 8.

Spotted Flycatcher One on beach 0800 hours on May 19 may have come in from sea.

Duncock Two coasted E-W on October 5.

Meadow Pipit Big E-W coasting movements in Autumn: maxima 202 in one hour on September 18 and c.590 in 2½ hours on 28th. Smaller numbers going W-E and coming in from sea or going out.

Rock Pipit A few on beach or coasting E-W in October and November.

Pied Wagtail Large coasting movements in Autumn with a few coming in from sea or going out. Maxima 74 E-W on Sept. 28, 54 E-W on 30th, 57 W-E on October 4, 48 E-W on 5th. Rather more passed E-W than W-E (between September 18 and November 13 324 went E-W as opposed to 253 in opposite

direction.

Grey Wagtail Up to four coasting, mainly W-E in late September and October.

Yellow Wagtail Two in S-N on May 5, four E-W on September 18.

Starling C.820 W-E in one hour on March 13. Small E-W coasting movements in October and November with max. of c.370 on November 10. Very poor arrival from sea, all records of this were: two in S-N on October 1, c.370 in from S. or SE on November 7 and three in from S. or SE. on 8th.

Greenfinch C.10 W-E on March 13. In Autumn large coasting movements, mainly W-E: Max.c.350 W-E on October 12, c.130 W-E on October 13, c.310 on 14th, c.115 on 15th and c.155 on 17th. These numbers, of course, were made up of many small flocks.

Goldfinch Colossal numbers coasting W-E in Autumn, with very small numbers going in opposite direction. Max. W-E as follows: c.200 on October 1, c.820 on 2nd, c.1320 on 4th., c.680 on 6th., c.835 on 7th., c.250 on 8th., c.325 on 9th., c.410 on 10th, etc. etc. A few recorded flying in from sea or going out. Altogether c.5800 passed W-E between September 18 and November 13.

Siskin One called from a flock of Goldfinches going W-E on October 4 - there may have been more with them but only the one called.

Linnet Much coasting in Autumn, as much E-W as in opposite direction. Max. c.140 E-W on October 2., c.290 W-E on 7th., c.490 W-E on 9th. etc. A few came in from sea.

Twite Four by Widewater on October 17 flew off 7. Five there on 24th did likewise.

Lesser Redpoll Much interesting movement in Autumn with coasting and arrival and departure. Max.numbers were as follows: E-W seven (November 10) W-E 25(October 2). In from sea : 22 September 30. Out to sea: three October 13.

Chaffinch W-E coasting in March with max. 680 (13th) and 700 (11th). Very small coasting and arrival and departure movements in Autumn. (Much scarcer than in 1956.)



Yellow Bunting Coasting in Autumn: Two E-W on October 5, four W-E on 6th, three W-E on 7th and four W-E on 9th. (Note proximity of dates.)

Corn Bunting 37 coasted W-E in one flock on October 25.

Reed Bunting Much coasting in Autumn. Max. were 14 W-E (October 6) 13 W-E (October 9) 24 W-E (13th), 21 W-E (15th), 24 W-E (17th) etc.

Snow Bunting Two (an adult male and female) on beach, feeding along high water mark in seaweed November 7-9.

House Sparrow Records of birds in Autumn either flying very high and direct or flying in company with other finches which were certainly not resident birds, as follows: Seven E-W on October 2, eight W-E and one E-W on 5th, two W-E on 9th, c.30 W-E on 14th, 33 W-E on 15th, 18 E-W on 20th and one W-E on November 10.

#### COMMON WHITETHROAT - UNUSUAL VARIANT IN SONG

A Common Whitethroat which was heard singing near the Railway Bridge at Shoreham on May 9 introduced into its song the 'rattle' of the Lesser Whitethroat. This 'rattle' is described in the Handbook of British Birds as a rare variant of the song of the Common Whitethroat.

The rattle was heard a number of times, sometimes preceding the normal song and sometimes terminating it. On occasions only a few notes of the 'rattle' were uttered and like the song of the Lesser Whitethroat were preceded at times by a few squeaky warbling notes. Ferguson Lees informs me that he himself has heard this variant uttered by a Common Whitethroat on one or two occasions and thinks it may not be so uncommon as the Handbook suggests.

Earl Grey in his book "The Charm of Birds" mentions having heard the Lesser Whitethroat utter the song of the Common Whitethroat. Both song variants seem to indicate the close relationship of the two species and are evidence pointing to a common ancestry.

J.M.T.



### TWITE AT SHOREHAM

Late October and early November 1957 saw an unusual number of Twite recorded in the Shoreham area. The first were found by the writer by Widewater on October 17, four in number, and they flew off W. Exactly a week later, on October 24, F.S. and J.M.T. found five which also flew off W. in the same place. On October 26 the writer found a flock of about 15, with some Linnets, feeding on sea-aster near the Toll Bridge, and between then and the end of December, Twite were seen in this area in numbers up to about 40. The species has probably never been recorded in Sussex in such numbers before and the fact that it was a "new" species for at least three notable Sussex Ornithologists speaks for itself as regards the rarity of the occurrence. It is interesting that the occurrence of these Twite coincided with unusual numbers of such species as Goldfinch and Lesser Redpoll, to mention just two allied species, on the south coast at the time.

When distinguishing the Twite from the Linnet the most useful features to look out for are the yellow bill and the loud nasal "chweet" note of the former species. It is also a buffer bird with an unstreaked chin, and most Twite have not so much white in the wing as the Linnet. There are several other points of difference which can only be seen with an excellent view of the birds.

B.A.E.M.

### POMARINE SKUA OFF LANCING BEACH

At 0755 hours on November 3 during a Force 8 South Westerly gale, R.J. Wilmshurst and the writer saw an adult POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) of the light phase fly E-W just over the beach at Widewater. It was just above the heads of the observers, who despite the strong wind and heavy rain, were able to get a good enough view to distinguish the important features of this skua which determine it from the much commoner Arctic Skua. It was a larger and

heftier skua than an Arctic, with more white at the base of the primaries and with the central tail feathers longer and very thick. (They are said to be peculiarly twisted, although the view obtained on this occasion was not sufficient to show this). The upper parts were dark brown, the underparts creamy with a brown pectoral band. The species is rare in Sussex, perhaps at the most one or two being recorded each year in the east of the county. We believe this to be the first record for West Sussex. It had obviously been blown in by the gale.

B.A.E.M.

#### LATE REED WARBLER AT SHOREHAM

At about 0910 hours on October 20 R.J.F.Child, R.J. Wilmshurst, and the writer found a Reed Warbler by the Railway Bridge at Shoreham and succeeded in catching it. It was apparently temporarily unable to fly, possibly owing to the very cold morning or to fatigue, although when released a few hours later it flew quite strongly c.100 yards into cover. It was a first-winter bird.

This is an exceptionally late bird, for "The Handbook of British Birds" gives only one later date: October 27, 1909, in Norfolk. I know of only one later one: one at the Smith's Knoll Lightship, in the North Sea, on November 4, 1953.

B.A.E.M.

#### A BIRD WATCHING HOLIDAY IN SPAIN

On Monday evening, April 15, a small party left London Airport for Gibraltar, on a bird watching trip to Southern Spain. We arrived about 3 o'clock the following morning and after a very cold wait at the airport we caught the first ferry across Algeciras Bay. At last we were in Spain.

Our first trip was to a cork forest near Algeciras where we saw Griffin and Egyptian Vultures, Short-toed



Eagles, Coal Tits, Nightingales, Red and Black Kites and Bee-eaters which were flying everywhere, their brilliant colours glistening in the sun.

The next day we went some miles along the coast to see Cattle Egrets' nests on the cliffs. These birds are seen everywhere cattle graze. Other common birds were the Woodchat Shrike, the Spotless Starling, and the Skops Owl, although the latter was heard more often than seen.

Another interesting trip took us along the Cadiz road to Tariffa, an old Arab town which is the most southerly point of Europe. Near here we saw many waders including both Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers, also Black-winged Stilts and a Tawny Pipit.

We travelled round the area in a large bus, with a most obliging driver who, regardless of traffic, would stop to let us out immediately someone shouted "para" (stop). We saw a number of interesting birds from the bus, Rollers, Hoopoes, Storks and numerous Warblers.

Easter weekend was spent in Seville where we were very lucky to have a Spanish ornithologist as a guide. He showed us Great and Little Bustard and on a large estate where bulls are bred we saw a Squacco Heron, Purple Gallinule and Baillone Crake. Seville is a most beautiful city but unfortunately our time for sight-seeing was limited. However, we did manage to see the Alcazar, an old Moorish palace with its gardens and to look at the Cathedral.

Our next two days were spent at Huelva, an old Phoenician port. It was near here that Christopher Columbus set sail for America, the exact spot being marked with an enormous statue. Eucalyptus trees were everywhere and on one estate a very primitive distillery in a clearing in the trees produced eucalyptus oil, while charcoal was made from the branches. Here we saw Azure-winged Magpies and Golden Orioles.

The next day we moved on to Ronda, an old town high in the Mountains north of Gibraltar. It is split in two by a deep gorge spanned by three bridges, one dating back to Roman times.



The gorge was filled with birds, Lesser Kestrels, Crag Martins, Chough and near here in the mountains we saw Black-eared Wheatears.

The last few days we spent near Gibraltar and on April 27/29 members of the party who were on top of the Rock, saw a large migration of Honey Buzzard.

Altogether 169 species of birds were seen and over 100 plants collected, this being but a small selection. This is an ideal country for the botanist as well as the bird watcher. Spain is indeed a fascinating country, its people, architecture, flora and bird life all of great interest. We had only one complaint - our holiday was far too short.

P.K.

#### AUGUST IN THE CAIRNGORMS

No doubt the finest time to visit the Cairngorms is in the Spring, when such delightful birds as the rare Dotterel and the Greenshank are nesting, but later the area still has much to offer, even though the weather may well prove to be typically Scottish and the Lairig Ghru is almost as busy as a London street.

There are many habitats in the area: high hills with plateaux of over 3,000 and even 4,000 feet; the old Rothiemurchus forest; newer conifer plantations; lochs, streams and heather moorland, all yielding, even at the close of summer, a good variety of birds. Naturally one goes to these lovely Inverness-shire hills for certain species, but it is surprising how often these elude even the ardent searcher.

By late August the Dotterel has left its high breeding grounds and the Greenshank too has gone, but Golden Plover are still to be seen, or heard whistling if the mist is down, on the hills. It is a long and arduous haul to the 4,000 ft. plateau, but we were fortunate enough to

have been recommended to a smaller hill away from the main Cairngorm massif. Even so a couple of hours climb was needed to reach the top, but flagging energies were revived when a large bird sailed into sight over a shoulder of the hill, swung past us about a quarter of a mile away and glided, without a wing beat, out of view. We were lucky to see the Golden Eagle so close, although we could see no detail in the poor light, for often it is observed only as a speck in the distance. On the plateau we were looking for Ptarmigan and were standing amid a mass of stones debating whether to beat the area or sit out of the cold wind behind a rock and scan the area carefully, when five of the "stones" began to walk gently away from us. We had almost trodden on our first Ptarmigan. Later we found a flock of about 20 more, not so tame, but allowing good views both on the ground and in flight against the background of the hills. Wheatear and Meadow Pipit were the only other birds there, although on our way up we had seen a "possible" Merlin.

In the ancient Rothiemurchus forest we hunted diligently for the Crested Tit for hours before we finally saw one, but thereafter saw them in numerous places on many occasions. On some mornings the forest was alive with small birds making their way through the trees, feeding and calling. There were countless Goldcrests and many Blue Tits, Crested Tits, Long-tailed Tits, Coal Tits, as well as Treecreepers and Siskins. Crossbills were to be seen sometimes, flying over giving their metallic Greenfinch-like call, or feeding at the tops of conifers. It was pleasant to sit beneath a tree in the quiet wood listening to the Crossbills at work above and the sound of cones bumping their way down through the branches.

On the swift-flowing streams Dippers are to be found, but strangely, despite constant searching, we saw none. Even more singular was the fact that we failed to find a Capercaille, although everyone else in the hotel saw them daily. On the moors were Red and Black Grouse, and we saw the former in good numbers on a moor on the Inverness road.

There are certainly disadvantages in visiting the Cairngorms in August apart from the loss of some breeding birds -



the weather is not always of the best, and if the sun shines it tends to be rather warm for the considerable effort needed to find one's birds. Of course, too, a week is a short time, but we brought back many memories of the Cairngorms. Some we would rather forget, such as the swarms of carnivorous midges and the lashing rain on an exposed hillside, although at least the clegg, dreaded name, had passed. But there were also the quiet of the forest; the hills capped in cloud or blue and clear in the evening sun; the mirror calm of Loch Morlich broken only by the wake of swimming Goosanders; the colour of the heather; the view of Glen Feshie and the Grampians from the high tops; beautiful scenery enhanced and enlivened by rare and interesting birds. We shall go again.

J. and R.P.C.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

White Gull The White Gull, which was first seen at Shoreham in December 1954, and whose identity was discussed in a note by Mr. James Fisher reproduced in the last Annual Report of the Society, was still about in the Shoreham area at the end of the year. The colour on the upper wing appears to have accentuated somewhat since Mr. Fisher's note, but at a casual glance, the bird still appears practically pure white in colour. At the end of January the bird was observed to be badly oiled underneath, but in the course of the next month the patch gradually got fainter and eventually disappeared. No permanent ill effect seems to have been caused.

Swans at Shoreham The pair of Mute Swans at Widewater again nested in the same area, but at a late stage the eggs were stolen and there was no living offspring. The pair which nested in the creek by the House Boats did not nest in the area in 1957.

Possible Eastern Skylark Considerable interest has been aroused by a bird seen feeding with Skylarks on the Rubbish Dump and on the Adur Recreation Ground in the last

days of the year. The characteristics noticeable compared with the Skylark are slightly greater size and length of leg, paler underparts, more contrasted colouring of upper parts and slightly stouter bill. The bird was first seen by Mr.C.M.Vesey on December 24 and has since been seen by a number of other bird watchers including Mr.P.A.D.Hollom. At the end of the year it had not been positively identified but was thought to be an Eastern Skylark (*Alauda arvensis intermedia*) a very rare visitor to this country.

Library A small Library of books about birds has been formed. The books have been kindly lent by a few members and are available on loan to those interested. Particulars may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary.

F.S.

# SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Receipts and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st. December, 1957.

<u>Receipts</u>	£. s. d.	<u>Expenditure</u>	£. s. d.
Cash in hand 1.1.57	10. 6. 1	Subscriptions and	
Subscriptions	29.17. 0	Affiliation Fees	5. 8. 0
Annual Report Sale	2. 0. 0.	Printing	10. 4. 9
Donations	10. 6. 9	Lectures.. Expenses	10. 4. 0
Tea Receipts	2. 7. 9	Sanctuary .Expenses	1.16. 7
Miscellaneous		Heligoland Trap	
Receipts	1. 3. 6	(part cost)	10. 0. 0
		Postage, etc.	5. 2.11
		Cash in hand	
		31.12.1957.	13. 4.10
	<u>£56. 1. 1.</u>		<u>£56. 1. 1</u>

(Signed) G.W.Rampton  
Hon. Treasurer.  
31.12.1957.



## OFFICERS for 1957

President and Chairman -	Dr. Stafford
Hon. Secretary - Miss C.M. Biggs	Hon. Treasurer -
	Mr. G.W. Rampton

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Mrs. R. Cordero	Mr. F. Severs	Mr. J.M. Twort
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### Field Committee

Mr. A. Burstow	Miss P. Keats	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
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Official Recorder -	Mr. J.M. Twort
Editor -	Mr. F. Severs
Representative on the "Protection of Birds" Committee of the West Sussex County Council -	Mr. G.W. Rampton

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## SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS IN 1957

### Meetings and Lectures

January 5.	Cine-film of Birds of Skomer	Mr. H.A. Thompson
February 13.	Annual General Meeting	
	"Nightjars"	Dr. Stafford
March 13	Birds and their Nests	Mr. C. Grigg
April 17	Records of Bird Song and Quiz Panel	Dr. Stafford
October 12	Birds of Shetland	Mr. W.J.C. Murray
November 9	Skokholm Birds and Others (Colour Cine-Films)	Mr. R. Cordero

### Field Days

January 19	At Manhood End and Dell Quay
February 9	At Newhaven

### Field Days (Contd.)

March 9	At Pagham Beach
April 13	At Frenchlands
April 27	Bird Song in the Sanctuary
May 11	Bird Song at Coldwaltham
September 8	At Widewater and River Estuary
October 26	Sea-Watching and River Estuary
November 24	At East Head
December 28	At Newhaven

Sea-Watching with Mr.B.A.E.Marr every Sunday from October 6 to November 10 from 6.30 a.m. to mid-day.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Senior Members - - 7/6d. Junior Members (under 18 years) - 5/-  
Both to include a copy of the Annual Report.

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### LIST OF MEMBERS 1957

Mr.John Ayers	14 West Way, Lancing.
Mrs.B.Baker	57 Palmer Road, Angmering.
Mrs.& Miss S.E. Berry	347 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.S.H.Best	2 Old Swan Cottages, Church Street, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Capt. & The Misses Biggs	7 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss G.Bignell	7 Kings Barn Lane, Steyning.
Mr.Tom Blundell	15 Adur Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.C.F.Brown	17 St.Aubyns Road, Portslade.
The Rev.J.D.Brown	Church House, Chichester Road, North Bersted, Bognor Regis.
Messrs.A.& J. Burstow	27 Erringham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss A.Cerely	22 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mrs.O.M.Chapman	42 Downland Drive, Hove, 4.
Mr.& Mrs.Childs	Cobbers, Bennett Avenue, Hove, 4.
Mrs.Clackett	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.



Mrs.R.Cordero	84 Sea Lane, Goring-by-Sea.
Mr.& Mrs.Cole	West House, Southover, Lewes.
Miss B.Crook	326 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss Dubois	Mill House, Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.Graham Eager	39 Hollingbury Gardens, Findon Valley.
Mr.F.O.Edwards	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.& Mrs.Farmer	13 Roman Road, Steyning.
Miss Forbes	Flat 10, Gable End, 6 Mill Road, Worthing.
Miss P.Griffiths	100 High Street, Steyning.
Mr.& Mrs.Grigg	18 Glebe Close, Southwick.
Mr.Malcolm Guy	19 Coombe Road, Steyning.
Mr.& Mrs.Hall	Penang, Kings Walk, Beach Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.H.V.Hitch	12 Hawkins Close, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss P.Hughes	29 Oldfield Crescent, Southwick.
Mr.Mrs & Miss	Under Round Hill, Laines Road, Steyning.
Jenking	Flat 2, 58 Worcester Villas, Hove.
The Misses Joseph	St.John's Vicarage, Carlton Hill, Brighton.
Mr.P.J.Kadwell	22 Grange Road, Southwick.
Miss P.Keats	7 Nutley Close, Goring-by-Sea.
Mr.F.W.Kilvington	Old Brewery House, Steyning.
Mr.Robert Leaney	The Grammar School, Steyning.
Capt.Leslie	59 The Green, Southwick.
Mr.A.J.Luker	73 Connaught Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.B.A.E.Marr	4 Castle Way, Steyning.
Mr.W.D.McKecknie	7 Cromwell Road, Hove.
Mrs.Morrison Scott	33 Middleton Avenue, Hove.
Mr.& Mrs.Nobbs	18 St.Aubyns Road, Fishersgate, Portslade.
Mrs.E.Ottley	32 Highdown Road, Hove.
Mr.T.Palmer	9a Downland Crescent, Hove.
Miss S.Pargeter	47 Alfreston Road, Worthing.
Mr.A.E.Perry	19 Chester Avenue, Wellan Park, Lancing.
Mr.Richard Pescott	347 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.R.Phillips	2 Roman Road, Steyning.
Miss B.T.Pride	34 Croft Avenue, Southwick.
Miss E.M.Rabone	40 Brighton Road, Kingston-by-Sea,
Mr.& Mrs.Rampton	Shoreham.
Mr.C.Ray	

Mr.A.Robinson and Club	Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton.
Mrs.Roe	3 The Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss Rogers	157 Greenways Crescent, Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss G.Rouse	17 The Link, West Green, Crawley.
Miss J.Royle	347 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.& Mrs.Ruscoe	14 Ring Road, North Lancing.
Mr.Severs	Sea Winds, Beach Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mrs.N.Smith	60 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Dr.& Mrs.Stafford	Stonehouse, Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham- by-Sea.
Mrs.T.Strafford	The Clappers, Fulking, Near Henfield.
Miss D.Stringfellow	4 Tower Road, Worthing.
Mr.H.Sturman	11 Midhurst Walk, Hove, 4.
Mr.Robin Storkey	Fair Winds, Goring Road, Goring.
Mrs.Sutherland	5 Highcroft Villas, Brighton.
Mr.& Mrs.J.M.Twort	63 The Green, Southwick.
Dr.F.Varley	Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss G.M.Watts	15 Oxford Road, Worthing.
Mr.& Mrs.Weatherhead	Mill Hill Pumping Station, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss S.West	131 Greenways Crescent, Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr.R.J.Wilmshurst	Harebells, Ring Road, North Lancing.
Miss M.Whorlow	Flat 2, 59 Palmeira Avenue, Hove, 3.
Miss W.M.Woodroffe	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.