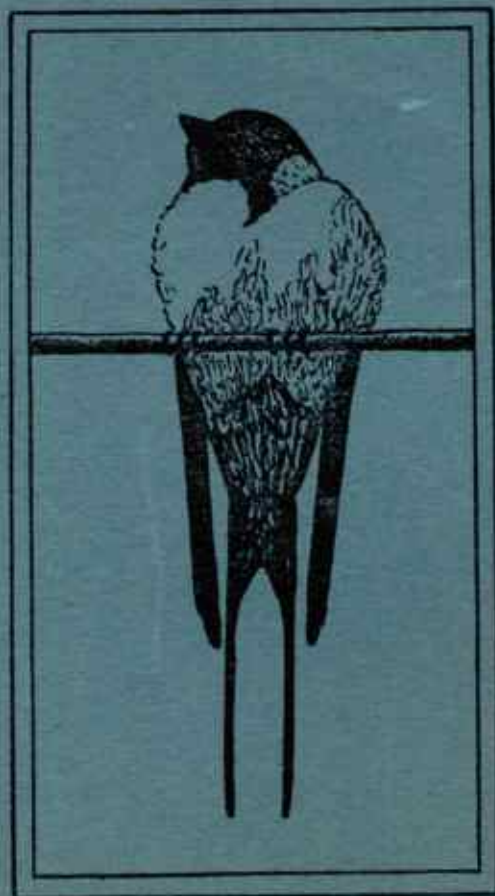


SHOREHAM
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sixth Annual Report



For the Year 1958

(Price : TWO SHILLINGS and SIXPENCE)

C O N T E N T S

Editorial Notes by F.S.
Sanctuary Report for 1958 by J.S.
Ringing Report for 1958 by J.S.
Duck Counts by J.S.
Swan Ringing by B.A.E.M.
Wader Netting by B.A.E.M.
Notable Birds of the Area by J.M.T.
Spring Visitors for 1958 by J.M.T.
Arrivals and Departures of Migrants by F.S.
Garden Birds for 1958 by F.S.
Visible Migration in 1958, by B.A.E.M.
Sea Watching during 1958, by B.A.E.M.
Woodchat Shrike at Portslade, by B.A.E.M.
The Iceland Full by B.A.E.M.
Bluethroat at Shoreham Rubbish Dump, by M.H.Port
A Trip to Finland by J.S.
Late Autumn in the Scillies by J and R.P.Cordero.
Protection of Birds Committee, West Sussex C.C., by G.W.R.
Miscellaneous Notes by F.S.
Receipts and Expenditure Account 1958
Summary of Meetings etc.
List of Officers etc.
List of Members

* * * * *

EDITORIAL NOTES

The year 1958 has been another interesting and successful one for the Society. The winter lectures on a variety of aspects of birdwatching maintained their previous high standard of interest and the outdoor meetings were also popular and well attended. The membership at the close of the year was 92.

The winter months were again comparatively mild. Some of the visiting Twite seen at the end of 1957 were still in the area in early 1958 but none has been seen in the latter part of the year. The spring migration period brought some interesting visitors including 3 Pied Flycatchers in one week but the autumn migration was, on the whole, less productive than usual

in the Shoreham area. Perhaps the most interesting visitors otherwise were the Wryneck seen on 11 April, several Quail seen and heard on the Downs, the Bluethroat seen at the rubbish dump on 11th and 12th September and the Iceland Gull which was in the area in the spring, appeared again in the autumn, and was still about at the end of the year. Unfortunately the Bluethroat was not seen by any member of the Society and we are indebted to Mr.Port, a well known Hove birdwatcher, for an account of the bird which appears in these pages.

The year has seen a further shrinkage in the size of the pool at the Shoreham Rubbish Dump. As our senior members know, only a few years ago it was an excellent spot for waders and some fairly uncommon birds were seen there on occasions, e.g. Wood Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper and Blacktailed Godwit. As its filling in has gradually continued the number of waders visiting the pool has become less and less and before long we shall have completely lost what was an interesting area for observing birds in this group.

Our energetic President was fortunate enough to visit Finland for the 12th International Ornithological Congress. Many members were present at his fascinating talk on 8th October on the birds seen during this visit and we are glad that he has found time to give us a brief account of the trip for inclusion in this Report. We are pleased also to include, apart from the usual features, another report by Mr.Marr on sea-watching and an article by Mr. and Mrs.Cordero on their birdwatching in the Scillies.

Congratulations are due to our bird-ringers for the great increase in numbers of ringing records over those of earlier years. Details are given in the Report under the heading "Ringing Report for 1958".

With the growth of the Society the secretarial work of sending out notices, circulating magazines, arranging lectures etc. has greatly increased and we are greatly indebted to Miss Biggs for all her work as Honorary Secretary. She wishes to thank Mr.Rampton for his help including the circulation of British Birds, and to thank Mr.Grigg and Mrs.Berry for other assistance.

F.S.

SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1958

The Sanctuary once again has been well watched this year. The Woodcock which was seen during a snowfall on January 24th, and a Barn Owl which was several times seen to be hunting over the copse about Mid-April, added 2 new species for the year. Other than these two species which increased the list seen from 105 to 107 species since records have been kept, the status of the birds remains very much as in previous years, and as will be found laid out in the 1957 Report in detail.

It was, however, a very good year for Firecrests, more being seen in the spring than I personally have ever remembered. Pied Flycatchers were seen in the spring both males and females.

The autumn migration was disappointing, due possibly to unfavourable winds but the numbers of migrants going through the sanctuary were unusually small, and no notable birds whatsoever occurred.

Breeding species were much the same as in previous years. Two pairs of Nightingales certainly bred and also a pair of Bullfinches.

J.S.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1958

There was this year an enormous increase in the number of birds ringed in comparison with last year, showing an increase of 1342.

The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly, we had a full year's use of a Heligoland Trap catching round about 500 birds during the year, and also mist netting was got to a fine art, trapping at least 300 birds in the sanctuary area. Secondly, B.E.A.Marr started his first year as an authorized ringer, during which time he has ringed 778 birds in the area; a very creditable performance.

A total of 2300 birds were ringed of 57 species this year and were made up as follows:-

Great Tit	...	130.	Nightingale	...	2.
Nuthatch	...	1.	Corn Bunting	...	2.
Blue Tit	...	301.	Cuckoo	...	1.
Song Thrush	...	124.	Magpie	...	3.
Robin	...	65.	Redwing	...	2.
Greenfinch	...	262.	Snipe	...	1.
Water Rail	...	1.	Sedge Warbler	...	6.
Chaffinch	...	57.	Reed Warbler	...	12.
Blackbird	...	322.	Spotted Flycatcher	...	8.
House Sparrow	...	246.	Pied Flycatcher...	...	2.
Tree Creeper	...	1.	Swallow	...	9.
Brambling	...	1.	Sand Martin	...	51.
Gt. Spotter Woodpecker	...	2.	House Martin	...	15.
Wren	...	27.	Swift	...	1.
Reed Bunting	...	4.	Green Woodpecker	...	2.
Long-tailed Tit..	...	3.	Mute Swan	...	19.
Yellow Bunting...	...	10.	Lapwing	...	4.
Marsh Tit	...	1.	Ringed Plover	...	1.
Mistle Thrush	...	4.	Redshank	...	10.
Goldfinch	...	20.	Dunlin	...	7.
Bullfinch	...	13.	Black-headed Gull	...	1.
Goldcrest	...	3.	Woodpigeon	...	1.
Chiffchaff	...	67.	Rook	...	3.
Willow Warbler...	...	118.	Jackdaw	...	2.
Blackcap	...	5.	Common Redstart...	...	3.
Firecrest	...	2.	Black Redstart	...	1.
Linnet	...	5.	Dunnock	...	102.
Whitethroat	...	44.	Starling	...	173.
Lesser Whitethroat	...	5.			

Snipe, Magpie, Brambling, Long-tailed Tit, Bullfinch, Firecrest, Sand Martin, Mute Swan, Dunlin and Swift were all ringed for the first time this year.

RECOVERIES OF INTEREST (from B.E.A.Marr)

- Mute Swan Ad. m. ringed at Shoreham on 5/9/58 caught and released at Eastbourne, 24 m. E. on 22/9/58.
- Rook Juv. ringed at N.Lancing on 16/5/58 found dying at Worthing 2 m. W. on 19/8/58.

- Mute Swan Ad. ringed at Shoreham also on 5/9/58 found dead at Horsham 16. m. N. on 30/10/58.
- Blue Tit Ad. ringed at Southwick 16/11/57 (and retrapped there 2/3/58) killed striking a window at Polegate, 20 m. E. ca. 28/5/58.
- Greenfinch Ad. F. ringed at Southwick 21/2/58 (and retrapped there 8/3/58) "killed accidentally" at Henfield, 5 m. NNW on 23/8/58.

RECOVERIES OF INTEREST (from Dr.J.Stafford)

An adult Sand Martin bearing a French ring was trapped and released at Pulborough. This had been ringed as an adult in the Camargue in the south of France on the 17th of April 1958 and was retrapped on 23/6/58.

Blue Tit ringed on 1/9/58. was killed by a car near Petersfield, 31 miles W.N.W. on the 19th October, 1958.

Greenfinch, adult male, ringed on the 25th of January, 1958 was found at Worthing, 4 miles W.S.W. on the 5th April 1958.

Greenfinch, male, ringed 25/3/56 was trapped and later released at Worthing 4 miles W.S.W. on 30/7/58.

Greenfinch, first winter male, trapped at Shoreham on 13/2/58 was found dead at Colchester in Essex on 23/4/58, 85 miles N.E.

Starling ringed as a full grown bird 26/3/55 was recovered at Vilnius, Latvian USSR in the spring of 1957. This information was supplied by the Moscow Ringing Bureau in 1958.

Great Tit, adult male ringed 19/2/58 trapped and released at Annington near Steyning 4 miles N.N.W. on 22/2/58.

Reed Bunting, female, found dying at Shoreham 17/2/58 had been ringed at Dungeness Bird Observatory 14/9/57, 53 miles W.

Other recoveries were of local movements only and not of any particular interest.

J.S.

DUCK COUNTS

Amberley Wildbrooks was again counted throughout the year for the national Wildfowl Enquiry. There was nothing very notable except in the spring during the floods when up to 200 White-fronted Geese were seen at a time, and one Red-breasted Goose was seen, although not by myself, amongst them.

J.S.

SWAN RINGING

This new venture, was first carried out on September 5, this year, when 14 Mute Swans were caught and ringed at Widewater and by the Adur at Shoreham. Later 5 more were similarly treated. The method of catching was fairly straightforward: one person threw pieces of bread towards a chosen swan, while the other crept up behind it. When near enough, the latter leapt forward on to the bird's back, grasping the neck in his left hand and putting his right arm under the belly, squatting over the swan to prevent it moving its wings. At this point, the bread-thrower closed in and placed the ring in position, finishing the job off with the pliers. Up to the time of writing (Jan.2.1959) two of the 19 swans we have ringed in the area have been recovered - one at Eastbourne and one at Horsham: a high recovery rate.

B.A.E.M.

WADER NETTING

Another new venture this year was the use on the mud at Shoreham by the writer of a strong type of mist-net designed expressly for trapping waders, gulls and other large birds, known as a wader-net. Two of these sixty feet long and six feet high nets were used at night (they are too visible during daylight hours) on the mud-bank by the houseboats during October and November, with moderate success. Naturally, as with an ordinary mist-net, windless conditions are important: but there must be calmer conditions for a wader-net than for a mist-net as the former is out on open mudflats, with no shelter or windbreak at all. Eight wader-netting outings to

Shoreham, a total of 40 hours at night, resulted in the ringing of a Ringed Plover, 10 Redshank, 7 Dunlin and a Black-headed Gull - all birds which can rarely be caught by other methods. Apart from the inconvenience and actual discomfort of slopping about through soft mud all night long at times, and of course missing one's beauty sleep, wader-netting can be an exciting sport and (occasionally) a rewarding one.

B.A.E.M.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1958

The following records of birds in the Shoreham area are of interest as either the species is not seen annually in numbers or the dates of the occurrences are unusual.

The following observers have contributed records:-

Miss C.M. Biggs, C.F. Brown, A. & J. Burstow, C.A. Grigg, M.A. Jennings, B.A.E. Marr, T. Palmer, M.H. Port, F. Severs, J. Stafford, D.A. Stone, G.A. Sutton, J.M. Twort, & R.J. Wilmshurst.
-- Abbreviations:- m = male f = female I-W = 1st winter.

Black-throated Diver One, badly oiled, dead on Southwick Beach Jan. 30. One in Southwick Canal Jan. 26 - Feb. 9. Two on sea off Lancing on Apr. 14.

Red-throated Diver One in Southwick Canal Feb. 8-17. One flew N over Canal Mar. 9. One in Harbour Entrance Mar. 15-16. One above Shoreham Toll Bridge Mar. 15-22. Several at sea (See Sea-Watching article).

Red-necked Grebe One on sea nr. Hove Lagoon Nov. 15.

Slavonian Grebe Four in summer plumage on sea nr. Hove Lagoon Apr. 4th. Two in s.p. off Shoreham E. Breakwater Apr. 7. One off Lancing Apr. 13-14 and one there Oct. 18-20; one off Shoreham 16 Decr.

Fulmar One flew E off Hove on Jun. 3.

Gannet An adult (oiled) on Shoreham Beach on Sep. 30 treated by R.S.P.C.A. Inspector, later flew out to sea. Strong gale at the time. Many seen out to sea.

Shag Up to 5 in Southwick Canal-Harbour area Jan.26-Apr.18.
They roosted at the base of the Power Station chimneys. One off
Widewater Feb.26.

Spoonbill Three Flying W along the coast Sep.18.

Mallard Pair nr. Southwick Locks Jan.31. Pair nr.Shoreham
Airfield Mar.2-Apr.27. Pair at Sanctuary Apr.11.
and May 3. A few from the sea.

Teal Five at W side of Airfield Feb.14-Mar.20.

Cape Teal One, presumably an escape, on Hove Lagoon at end of
Feb.

Garganey 3 (2 m,1 f) on Adur above Toll Bridge May 1.

Wigeon Pair above Rail Bridge Jan.24. Four flew S over Adur
Feb. 23. A few seen at sea.

Shoveler 5 E-W off Lancing Apr.1.

Scaup See Sea Watching article.

Pochard Four on sea off Shoreham Jan.17.

Goldeneye 3 fs off Shoreham E Breakwater Apr.6.

C.Scoter Up to c.100 off Southwick Beach Mar.26-Apr.10.
Up to 24 off Shoreham during April and up to 12
during Oct. Nov. and Dec.

Eider A f. off Shoreham E. Breakwater Nov.15.

Red-breasted Merganser Several from the sea. One on flooded
field at Shoreham Dec.14.

Shelduck On Adur: two on Jan.8, one on 13th and 27th; one
on Mar.23 and May 15 and 16, and 5 on Oct.10.
Several from the sea.

Brent Goose Off E. Breakwater - four on Apr.7 and 9 E-W on 9th
Off Lancing Beach - 40-45 flew in from E and then
back on Apr.5. Nine in from E on 9th (doubtless those seen off
E. Breakwater) landed on beach before flying back to E.

Canada Goose Three on Apr.7 flew in from W off Lancing Beach,
rested on sea before flying back to W.

Mute Swan Nineteen ringed at Shoreham during September. One
recovered at Eastbourne and one at Horsham by end of
year.

Buzzard One flying N over Lancing Mar.11.

Sparrowhawk at Sanctuary one July 3 and 2 Nov.10

Hen/Montagu's Harrier A f. on Downs nr. Steyning Aug.16

Hobby An ad. flew low E-W over N. Lancing Sep.8.

Peregrine One flew W over Southwick Harbour Mar.26 and one flew
E there Apr.2. One flew W over Lancing Clump Jun.24.

Merlin One on Downs behind Portslade at end of November.

Quail One seen and heard Beeding Hill Jun.18 and seven nr.
Lychpole Farm Jun.29. One seen and heard near Old
Portslade. Jun. 20-28.

Water Rail Two at Shoreham Feb 1st. One in ditch nr. Airfield
Feb.27. One nr. Houseboats Feb.27-Mar.18. One in
Sanctuary Mar.13.

Moorhen One on Widewater Oct.18 presumably a migrant, as
species not previously recorded there.

Oystercatcher Two on mud at Shoreham Apr.12 and one on Sep.9.

Lapwing Many records inc. several hundred on Adur Jan.23,
during cold spell c.500 on Airfield Sep.10 and c.1500
on Dec.28.

Grey Plover Two in summer plumage on Adur at Shoreham May 12, one there Oct.12 to 26th. One E-W off Lancing Apr.5.

Golden Plover c.300 N of Bramber Feb.28. Five on Airfield Nov.9.

Turnstone Two by Widewater Mar.3rd. On mud at Shoreham one on May 1. One Aug.27, three Sep.4 and two 11 Dec.

Jack Snipe One at Sanctuary Oct.22.

Woodcock One at Sanctuary Jan.25. One in from sea at Shoreham on Nov.27 flew inland.

Curlew Four flew NE over Sanctuary Apr.19. Three flying s at Cuckoo Corner Aug.28. Several from the sea.

Whimbrel Up to 13 on Adur Apr.20-May 12. (Previously a number heard calling Apr.16) Two on Sep.2 and one on 9th.

Black-tailed Godwit On Adur one on May 1-2 and two on 9th.

Bar-tailed Godwit On Adur one on May 1 and four on 2nd.

Green Sandpiper One at Cuckoo Corner on

Common Sandpiper Two on Adur May 2. Numbers as usual in autumn inc. 9 at Cuckoo Corner Sep.10 (first on July 15).

Spotted Redshank On Adur at Shoreham one Jan.8-Feb.23. One in summer plumage at Cuckoo Corner on One from Sep.2. to Dec.6.

Greenshank On Adur at Shoreham: two on May 2 and 6, and one on 9th. In autumn up to 4, Aug.26-Sep.1. One Sep.11-16. Two on Oct.16 and 25 and one on 26th.

Knot Three on mud at Shoreham Mar.7-8, and several in autumn. On Aug.16 one found dead nr.Lancing College.

Purple Sandpiper On Mar.7 a bird from description given presumably of this species nr. Houseboats at Shoreham.

Little Stint The bird at Shoreham Flood Arch in December 1957 was seen at Widewater on Feb.18. One on mud at Shoreham Oct.22-28.

Sanderling One on Shoreham Beach Sep.14

Ruff One above Bramber Feb.28. One nr. Toll Bridge Aug.28.

Grey Phalarope One flew W over Harbour Mouth Oct.2. One in Harbour Mouth from Nov.14 to Dec.5th - an unusually long stay.

Stone Curlew One pair raised one young bird, and in addition at least two other pairs present during breeding season, on Downs between Lancing and Steyning.

Lesser Black backed Gull One (British) Flood Arch, Shoreham, Jan.15-27, and three there Feb.1st. First signs of spring passage were four on Mar.16 and c.30 by 28th. Still 1-2 present at end of year.

The White Gull This bird, found on Dec.19th 1954, was finally seen at Shoreham on Jan.4th. No reports of it have been received since.

Iceland Gull A 2nd-W. bird found on Hove Lagoon on Jan.24. remained in Southwick-Shoreham-Lancing area until Jun.17. It reappeared at Shoreham on Sep.24, and was seen repeatedly there and at Southwick until the end of the year (See special article).

Mediterranean Gull An ad. in winter plumage near Southwick Power Station on Feb.5 and 20, by Shoreham Footbridge Feb.9, and off Hove Lagoon Feb.13. Doubtless the same bird in each case.

Black-headed Gull C.3800 on flooded Airfield on Sep.24.

Kittiwake Single badly oiled birds by Southwick Locks (Feb.23)
and on W.Breakwater (Apr.1). A I-W bird dead on
Lancing Beach on Apr.1.

Black Tern One by Southwick Locks Oct.7.

Common/Arctic Tern One by Toll Bridge Aug.20th. Several from
sea.

Little Tern Several from the sea.

Sandwich Tern

Razorbill One dead on Shoreham Beach Feb.27. Several at sea.

Guillemot One in summer plumage off Lancing Apr.14. One off
Shoreham W. Pier Dec.2-6.

Turtle Dove One at Sanctuary Apr.23. Three flying N over
Shoreham May 9.

Cuckoo One at Sanctuary Apr.20 - first record.

Barn Owl One Sanctuary in March.

Short-eared Owl One flew in from the sea S-N at Widewater Oct.
21, and flew inland up the Adur Valley. One
on Rubbish Dump Nov.21.

Nightjar A few pairs present throughout summer in suitable
spot for breeding on Downs behind Lancing. An imm.
found dead at Erringham Shaw at end of September.

Swift Considerable W/SW movement over Shoreham May 19.

Bee-eater An adult seen at close range in a N.Lancing garden
on Sep.19. (The observer concerned saw the birds
at Streat in 1955).

Hoopoe One on Mill Hill on Apr.27 and one there from Aug.23
to Sep. 3. One in a Southwick garden Aug.18.

Great-spotted Woodpecker At Sanctuary - one on Jan.13 (caught and ringed) at least two on 22nd. One Apr.28 and two Jul.10. One Dec.9. One in a Shoreham garden Mar.17.

Lesser-spotted Woodpecker No records received this year.

Wryneck One on river bank by Shoreham Rail Bridge on Apr.10. was seen by several observers.

Woodlark Up to 10 in a N.Lancing field Mar.10-22. One on lawns on Lancing Beach Mar.29

House Martin Two flew S over Mill Hill, Shoreham, Nov.3.

Jay One at Sanctuary Apr.23 and 24. One in Erringham Shaw Shoreham, Jun.4. At N. Lancing one on Apr.27 and 3 on May 8, and two at Cissbury Apr.27.

Marsh Tit A pair bred at Lancing Clump - an unusual occurrence.

Willow Tit Two at Lancing Clump Mar.27.

Long-tailed Tit A number of records including 7 at Sanctuary on Mar.5 and 14 there on 14th.

Fieldfare See Visible Migration account.

Redwing Owing to hard weather well into April, a number of fairly late birds and movements recorded. c.100 at Lancing Clump Apr.5 and c.40 on 9th. See Visible Migration account.

Ring Ouzel A m. present all day at Lancing Clump May 1.

Wheatear One Buckingham Park Mar.3. 6 Shoreham Beach Mar.26. c.40 on Southwick Beach Mar.27. One on Shoreham W Pier Nov.1. (late date).

Whinchat A pair nr. Cuckoo Corner Aug.26-28. Three at Sanctuary Sep.13. A few other records for Shoreham in Sep.

Redstart A f on Southwick Beach Apr.10. A m at Sanctuary Apr.21
A f in a Shoreham garden Oct.1-10.

Black Redstart Unusually numerous in early part of year and
spring. An ad. m. nr. Southwick Power Station
Feb.1. and a pair there Feb.17-Mar.26 (m. singing on last date).
A f. on Lancing Beach Mar.29. A m. by Widewater Apr.1-2. At
Lancing Clump a f. on Mar.27-29 and Apr.11, and a m. Apr.25-26
(caught and ringed). In autumn one recorded in Middle Rd.
Shoreham, Oct.19th and a f. nr. Old Fort Nov.14-17.

Nightingale First record - one at Sanctuary Apr. 21.

Bluethroat An immature on Shoreham Rubbish Dump Sep.11-12.
(See special article for full details).

Grasshopper Warbler No records received.

Reed Warbler At Sanctuary one on Apr.25 and 3 May 7. A few
other records for Shoreham.

Blackcap One in a Shoreham garden Apr.3-10. One at Sanctuary
Apr.10. Several other records for Shoreham and
Lancing Clump.

Garden Warbler. One singing N.Lancing Apr.29. One nr.Toll
Bridge Sep.1.

Whitethroat One in a Portslade garden Oct.9.

Lesser Whitethroat One singing in Sanctuary May 1. One at
Cuckoo Corner May 2. Several others heard
singing around Shoreham and Lancing during May.

Willow Warbler Several late-March records inc.2 at Sanctuary
29th.

Chiffchaff 5 at Sanctuary Mar.26; 4 there Oct.9 and one in a
Shoreham garden Oct.15.

Goldcrest Unusually numerous in spring, with 6 at Sanctuary on Mar. 30, and very large nos. at Lancing Clump (max. at least 100 on Apr. 20). Apart from 2 at Southwick Oct. 21, virtually no autumn records.

Firecrest Also commoner than usual. In Sanctuary one on Mar. 29 and two on 30th. In a Shoreham garden 3 different birds Apr. 8, 9 and 10 (two trapped). At Lancing Clump one on Apr. 2 and 10, and 3-4 on 18th. One in a N. Lancing garden Apr. 4th.

Spotted Flycatcher Several at Sanctuary May 3 and 5 on Sep. 6.

Pied Flycatcher A f. nr. Toll Bridge Apr. 20. A m. at Sanctuary 22nd. A f. at Lancing Clump 30th. One trapped and ringed in a N. Lancing garden Aug. 26 was seen again two days later. At Old Portslade one on Aug. 30 and Sep. 22-23, and two Sep. 16.

Rock Pipit More than usual in Shoreham Area during autumn.

White Wagtail One in a Shoreham garden April 9-19. Three separate birds on Lancing Beach Mar. 30 - Apr. 14. One Southwick Beach Apr. 10.

Woodchat Shrike A 1st-W bird in a Portslade garden Oct. 7-9. See special article for full details.

Hawfinch A f. nr. Sussex Pad Hotel Apr. 7.

Twite A number of the 1957 Shoreham birds stayed on into 1958, and the following were recorded: 7 on Jan. 12. Two with Linnets on Oyster Island on 13th. Up to 35 by river Feb. 5-Mar. 2.

Redpoll Two at N. Lancing Mar. 10. See 'Visible Migration'.

Bullfinch Seen many times in Sanctuary, inc. 3 on Jan. 19.

Brambling One in a garden in Brighton Rd. Shoreham, Mar. 23 and 4 there Oct. 26th. Up to c. 30 in a field at N. Lancing Mar. 9-12.

Snow Bunting More than 50 in fields near Coombes Mar. 18.

Cirl Bunting A number of records inc. one singing on Mill Hill, Feb.23, and up to c.40 in a N.Lancing field from Mar.9 to early April, when they dispersed for breeding. A m. at Sanctuary Apr.24th.

Tree Sparrow Up to c.55 in a N. Lancing field Mar.9-Apr.20th. A party of 8 roosted in Sanctuary Oct.19 and subsequently. Up to c.30 at Mile Oak during November.

J. M.Twort.

SPRING VISITORS FOR 1958

Just as the autumn of 1957 was noteworthy for the numbers of unusual birds seen in the Shoreham area so was the spring of 1958. The 1957 birds were however mostly finches including Twite and Redpolls whereas the spring visitors were more varied in species. During the last week of March and the first weeks of April a veritable flood of Goldcrests appeared at Lancing Clump, probably over 100. Its near relative, the Firecrest, was also seen in record numbers, at least three being seen in a member's garden at Shoreham. Exceptional numbers of Black Redstarts were also observed between late February and April and these included two adult males. Towards the end of April and during early May at least three Pied Flycatchers appeared in the area, including a pair at the Sanctuary. Finally a Wryneck seen by several members near the Railway Bridge over the river at Shoreham, was our first record for the area.

J.M.T.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1958

The following table has been compiled from records of members. The following have contributed:- J. Burstow, S.H.Chalke P.Kadwell, A.E.Perry, C.Grigg, B.A.E.Marr, F.Severs, J.M.Twort, and R. Wilmshurst.

<u>Species</u>	<u>First date and locality</u>	<u>Last date and locality</u>
Whimbrel	Apl.16 off Shoreham	
Common/Arctic Tern "	1 off Lancing	Oct.21 off Shoreham.
Little Tern	May 4 off Lancing	
Sandwich Tern	Apl.1 off Lancing	Sep.26 off Shoreham.

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Date and locality</u>	<u>Last date and locality</u>
Turtle Dove	Apl. 23, 1 at Sanctuary	
Swift	Apr. 28 near Steyning	Sep. 21, Shoreham.
Cuckoo	Apr. 20 at Shoreham	
Swallow	Mch. 31, on Shoreham Bch.	Nov. 8, 3 Juv. at Ferring
House Martin	Apl. 6 at Wiston	Nov. 3, 3 flying S. Mill Hill.
Sand Martin	Mch. 30, 3 flew in from sea.	Oct. 9, 1 flying E. W off Hbr.
Wheatear	Mch. 3, Buckingham Park	Rubbish Dump 20 Oct.
Redstart	Apl. 10, 1 Southwick Bch.	Oct. 10, 1 in Shoreham Garden.
Redwing	Oct. 2 at Sanctuary	Apr. 11, many at Coombe.
Nightingale	Apl. 21 at Sanctuary	
Sedge Warbler	Apl. 23 3-4 at Sanctuary	
Garden Warbler	Apl. 29 at N. Lancing	
Blackcap	Apl. 19 Sanctuary.	
Whitethroat	Apl. 10 Sanctuary	Oct. 9, a Portslade Garden.
Lesser Whitethroat	Apl. 21, Sanctuary.	
Willow Warbler	Mch. 29, 2 at Sanctuary	
Chiffchaff	Mch. 26, Sanctuary	
Spotted Flycatcher		Sep. 29, Sanctuary.
Pied Flycatcher	Apl. 20, Sanctuary	
Tree Pipit	Apl. 10, one flew in at S'ham E. Breakwater	
Rock Pipit	Sep. 30, 1 at Shoreham	
White Wagtail	Apl. 2, 1 flew in from sea at S'ham E. Breakwater.	

F.S.

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1958

These notes have been compiled from members' records. The following have contributed:- Mr. and Mrs. Farmer, Dr. J. Stafford and Messrs. C.A. Grigg, F. Severs, D.A. Stone and J.M. Twort.

Stone House, Windlesham Gardens

Great Spotted Woodpecker One on 17 Mch.

Chiffchaff 25th and 26th Mch and 15 Oct. (last of year).

Goldcrest One f. on 26 and 27 Mch.

Firecrest On 8, 9 and 10 Apl. all different birds.

Blackcap A m. seen on 3, 7 and 10 Apl.

Whitethroat One m. on 23 Apl.

Hoopoe One flew over 28 Apl.

Willow Warbler One on 24 July (return migration earliest record for several years).

Pied Flycatcher One immature on 17 Aug.

Garden in Brighton Road

Brambling One on 22 Mch, 4 on 26 Oct.

Garden in Mill Hill

Hoopoe One almost daily Aug.23 to Sep.3.

Garden in Buckingham Road

Hoopoe One on 22 Aug.

Garden at Southwick

Hoopoe One on 18 Aug.

78 Park Ave.

Goldcrest One 9 Mch to 27 Mch.

Firecrest One 27 Mch.

Spotted Flycatcher One 15 Sep. and 21 Sep.

Chiffchaff One singing 17 Sep.

69 The Drive

Redstart Two (m. and f.) on 22 Apl. On on Oct.1, 2 and 10 (f.)

Long-tailed Tit One on 6 Dec.

Garden at Southwick

Marsh Tit One on 6 Apl.

Garden at Steyning

Black Redstart One (f) 16 Apl.

Swallow One pure white bird picked up dead 11 July.

(Note:- a pair of pure white swallows seen in a nest about 200 yards away 24 June.) A third brood of young swallows left nest in shed Oct.12.

Garden on Shoreham Beach

White Wagtail One most days 9 to 19 Apl.

F.S.

VISIBLE MIGRATION IN 1958

by B.A.E.MARR

1958 was a fairly good year for visible migration in the Shoreham area, especially in the first half of the year. A good cold spell, lasting on and off into early April, produced some big movements, mainly of passerines, the peak day being January 24. During early April the usual easterly movement of Starlings and Chaffinches, with a few allied species was noted over Lancing Beach; normally in early March, it was probably later this year on account of the unusually protracted cold spell, which also resulted in numbers of those two winter thrushes, the Fieldfare and the Redwing, until well into April. The autumn was very disappointing, and both coasting movements and arrival of passerines from over the sea were much below par. However, on several nights turdidae were heard calling as they passed over Shoreham in the darkness.

The cold spell which commenced in late January was the influencing factor in the passerine coasting movements at this time. As is usual in cold weather, the tendency was for a westerly passage, birds no doubt expecting and seeking warmer weather in the west of the country. January 24 was the day on which such movement was most in evidence, and in the morning hours many thousands of Starlings and Redwings, with smaller numbers of Skylarks, Fieldfares, Greenfinches and Linnets, poured westwards over Fishergate, Southwick, Shoreham and Lancing. Many of these birds halted in our area, and flocks of up to c.300 Skylarks were recorded on Shoreham Dump and up the Adur Valley as far as Beeding. Redwings and Starlings also increased in numbers, and c.20 of the former species appeared on Southwick Green. The Iceland Gull also appeared during this bitterly cold weather. During the next few weeks the birds were to be seen, in much smaller numbers, returning on an easterly course, but it was not until early April that substantial numbers were seen passing over.

Then, during a daily early morning watch in the first two weeks of the month at both Shoreham E Breakwater (BAEM) and Lancing Beach (RJW), Starlings, Chaffinches and other finches passed E in large numbers: the peak day was 2nd, when c.3850 Starlings, c.1550 Chaffinches and 15 Linnets coasted E. During this fortnight many birds were seen moving, including a Heron coasting W, two Kestrels flying in from the

sea and one coasting E, Rocks and Woodpigeons coasting E, a few Terns (Sandwich and Comic) passing, two White Wagtails and a Tree Pipit flying in from the sea, as well as Meadow Pipits, Linnets and other species on the move.

On May 9th a good Swift passage was observed over Shoreham, with an average of c.300 an hour moving to SW until well into the afternoon. September 11, 12 and 13, saw a considerable E or NE Swallow passage over Shoreham.

As previously stated the October and early November migration was very disappointing this year. Despite frequent watching, few Skylarks and for the first time since regular watching began, four years ago, no Starlings, were seen arriving from the sea. Hirundines were watched both flying out to sea and in from the sea in early October, with a few finches, wagtails and pipits doing likewise. Lesser Redpolls were seen on a few occasions, including two coasting E over Shoreham E Breakwater, three over Southwick, and a flock of c.12 flying NE over Shoreham Dump. Two Lapwing and 3 Dunlin flew in from S over the sea on Oct.18, as did 5 Jackdaws - the latter an unusual occurrence. The best bird yet seen arriving from over the sea was the fine Shorteared Owl on October 21, which, after being mobbed by several gulls, flew off upriver.

Despite this paucity of diurnal movement, nocturnal migration was more in evidence than usual, and on several nights in late October and early November birds were heard calling over Shoreham: Curlew (one on night of Oct.17-18); Snipe (one on Oct. 18-19); Fieldfare (three on Nov.4-5); Redwing (max.c.120 on Nov.4-5); Blackbird (max c.6 on Oct.18-19); and Song Thrush (max 5 on Nov.4-5). These nocturnal movements can be heard on most clear, calm nights in early spring and late autumn, and it is exciting to distinguish and identify the various calls.

SEA-WATCHING DURING 1958

by B.A.E.MARR

1958 was not a highly successful year for sea-watching in the area, partly because the autumn, normally so good, was very disappointing for movements, and partly because of educational commitments on the part of the two most regular observers, the

writer and R.J.Wilmshurst. However, we again succeeded in adding a few new species to our sea-watching list: this year Little Grebe Fulmar, Spoonbill, Canada Goose, Moorhen, Woodcock, Mediterranean Gull and Short-eared Owl were seen for the first time. The sea was watched for a total of 85 hours: a special feature was a daily early-morning watch in the first fortnight or so of April at both Shoreham East Breakwater (BAEM) and Lancing Beach (RJW). The comparison of results is most interesting, and in some cases birds were timed passing from the one point to the other; in this way we estimated the speed of a flock of Scaup to be about 40 mph, but we attribute to a discrepancy in the synchronisation of our watches the record of a Curlew which apparently covered the three miles at an average speed of 120 mph.

Watching this year was from Hove Lagoon (HL), Southwick Beach (SoB), Shoreham East Breakwater (SEB), Shoreham Beach (SB), or Lancing Beach (LB) Abbreviations s.p. = summer plumage. w.p. = winter plumage.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Black-throated Diver Two off LB on April 14.

Red-throated Diver Very scarce. A few, passing mainly E. in April. Only two in autumn (Nov.9 and Dec.17).

Great-crested Grebe Much as usual. Last bird May 5, first Oct.29

Slavonian Grebe Two in s.p. off SEB Apr.7. One off LB Apr.13-14. One off SB Dec.16. One off LB Oct.18-20.

Little Grebe One in Harbour Mouth Apr.4.

Fulmar One flew E off HL on Jun.3.

Gannet First record one off SoB Mar.9. Rather scarcer than usual.

Shag One off LB Feb.26.

Heron One coasting W over SoB on Apr.4 turned and went high inland to NW.

Spoonbill Three flying W along the coast Sep.18.

Mallard A few recorded in spring.

Teal Two off LB Apr.5 and two off SEB on 7th.

Wigeon 10 W-E off SEB Apr.8. Six off LB Oct.18.

Shoveler Five (2 ms.) E-W off LB on Apr.1.

Scaup Off SEB - 5 (1 m) W-E on Apr.6 (also seen off LB) and four (1 m) on 10th.

Goldeneye On Apr.6 three fs. off SEB flew off E.

C. Scoter Small E movement as usual in spring. Several in autumn and early winter.

Bider A f. off SEB on Nov.15.

Red-breasted Merganser Up to 10 in spring, last on May 5 when three flew E (fairly late). First seen again on Oct.18.

Shelduck Eight E-W and 3 W-E in April. Nine imms W-E off LB Sep.3.

Brent Goose Many more than usual in spring. Off HL c.105 flew E between Mar.16 and Apr.5. On Apr.5 c.42 off LB. A few others off SEB and LB in April.

Canada Goose Three on Apr.7 off LB flew in from W, and rested on sea before flying back to W.

Peregrine One E-W over SEB Mar.26 and one W-E Apr.2.

Kestrel On Apr.3 a f. flew in from sea S-N at SEB and one did the same at LB - an interesting tie-up. One coasted W-E on 7th.

Moorhen One on Widewater on Oct.18 was doubtless a migrant, as species not previously recorded there.

Oystercatcher A few recorded.

Lapwing Two flew in off sea S-N at LB on Oct.18.

Grey Plover Two E-W off SEB on Apr.8 and one E-W off LB on 5th.

Woodcock One in from sea S-N at SEB on Nov.27.

Curlew Much as usual, including 12 E-W over SEB on Oct.24.

Whimbrel A few records.

Redshank Two on S-N and one W-E at LB on Apr.1.

Dunlin A few in April. On Oct.18 138 coasted E-W and three flew in from S at LB. A few other records in autumn.

Grey Phalarope One E-W over SEB on Oct.6 and one in Harbour Mouth from Nov.14 to Dec.5.

Skua sp. One, too far away to be identified, off SEB Nov.1.

Common Gull Easterly coasting movement in early April with max. of c.290 (61 ads) on 6th. A large E-W movement off LB on Oct.18.

Mediterranean Gull An ad in w.p. flew E-W off Southwick Feb.5.

Black-headed Gull Off SEB an easterly coasting movement in early April, max. c.305 (only 8 ads) on 8th. Westerly movements on several days in autumn.

Kittiwake On Apr.1. one on SEB and a different one W-E.

Common-Arctic Tern Off LB one W-E on Apr.1 and two on 3rd. On May 4 c.160 W-E in 2½ hrs.

Little Tern Off LB c.37 W-E on May 4.

Sandwich Tern One W-E off SEB on Apr.1. On May 4 c.100 W-E in 2½ hrs.off LB, and 35 W-E in 30 mins on 5th.

Razorbill One in Harbour Entrance Jan.13. A few in autumn after Oct.17.

Guillemot One in s.p. off LB on Apr.14.

Woodpigeon Four coasted W-E over SEB on Apr.2 and two on 3rd. At LB four flew in from sea S-N and six coasted W-E on Apr.12 and 12 coasted W-E on 3rd.

Short-eared Owl One flew in from sea from S at LB on Oct.21 and after being mobbed by gulls flew high up Adur Valley to N.

Skylark At SEB one in off sea S-N on Apr.8, and three out to S out of sight on 10th. In autumn fewer than usual; best day was Oct.18 when c 165 flew in from sea

Swallow At SEB 18 flew in from sea on Sep.26, 5 on Oct.6, 29 on 7th, and two on 14th. At LB four flew in from sea on 18th. At same time small nos. coasting and flying out to sea.

House Martin On Oct.7 29 flew in from sea at SEB and on 18th two in from sea at LB.

Rook One coasted W-E over SEB on Apr.8.

Jackdaw Four coasted W-E over SEB on Apr.2. On Oct.18 five flew in from S at LB, of which four flew W and one flew E.

Great Tit Four coasted W-E over SEB on Apr.7.

Blue Tit Two coasted W-E over SEB on Apr.3. One on SEB on 8th.

Song Thrush One flew in from sea S-N at SEB on Apr.1.

Redwing 8 flew in S-N at LB on Apr.1.

Wheatear A few seen to arrive from sea in early April.

Black Redstart An ad f. on LB Mar.29, and one on SB Nov.14-17.

A male by Widewater Apr.1-2.

Meadow Pipit Much as usual, although much less numerous than in 1957.

Tree Pipit One flew in from sea S-N at SEB on Apr.10.

Rock Pipit One flew in from sea S-N at SEB on Oct.24.

Pied Wagtail Small nos. coasting or flying in from sea in October.

White Wagtail One in from sea at SEB on Apr.2. and one on 10th. One on Southwick Beach Apr.10 and on Lancing Beach different birds on Mar.30. Apr.10 and 14. In autumn two E-W over SEB on Oct.6 and one there on 29th.

Grey Wagtail On Oct.9 two flew out to sea to S at SEB.

Yellow Wagtail On Sep.3 47 coasted W-E over LB.

Starling Large easterly movement in early April with max. of c. 3850.

Goldfinch Two in off sea at SoB on Apr.3. At SEB c.70 W-E on Oct.9, 7 in off sea on 28th, and 8 W-E on 29th.

Linnet At SEB small nos. coasting and coming in from sea in early April and October.

Lesser Redpoll At SEB one W-E on Oct.30 and one on Nov.4.

Chaffinch Large easterly coasting movement in early April with max. of c.1550 on 2nd and c. 1450 on 7th.

Yellowhammer On Oct.9 one coasted W-E over SEB.

Reed Bunting At LB three E-W and one W-E on Apr.9.

Tree Sparrow Four W-E over LB on Apr.7.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE AT PORTSLADE

On October 7th G.A.Sutton found a first-winter Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*) in a large garden at Southern Cross, Portslade. The bird was seen by several observers until 9th, after which it disappeared. A typical shrike with stout bill, longish tail, stocky build, and habit of perching on prominent vantage points from which it frequently sallied forth after insects, it was of a mainly greyish-brown colouration, closer views disclosing a small white patch at the base of the primaries an off-white rump, and a whitish patch on the scapulars (the last feature, however, was frequently obscured by other feathers). Very close views were obtained, the bird being very tame, and a feather-by-feather description taken, too detailed to be recorded here. In plumage it was almost identical to the first of the two Woodchat Shrikes seen at Shoreham on September 12 1956 - vide p.20 of 1956 Annual Report. During the hours it was under observation the bird was noted taking a mouse (not previously recorded as a prey), wasps, bees, beetles and other insects. It was heard to call, a loud rapid chattering. (It is of interest that an immature Woodchat arrived at Portland Bill, Dorset, also on October 7).

B.A.E.M.

THE ICELAND GULL

As most members are by now aware, an Iceland Gull spent most of 1958 in our area. The bird in question was a 2nd-winter bird which the writer found on January 24, swimming on Hove Lagoon, at the beginning of the cold spell. The following day it was found by Southwick Locks, and thereafter it was to be found almost

daily in the Southwick-Shoreham area. On several days in early June it was seen resting with other gulls in fields on the Downs behind Lancing, and on 17th it was seen at Southwick, the last date on which it was seen in the first half of the year. It reappeared at Shoreham on September 24th, and was again in its usual haunts from then until the end of the year. It could be easily identified as being the same bird by a bad limp in the left leg, which caused it to spend much of its time sitting down, and it frequently appeared fatigued.

In size it approximates to a Herring Gull, although the bill is sligher than a Herring Gull's. The whitish primaries are the most important feature in separating the Iceland Gull from the Herring Gull; the plumage of this bird is uniformly whitish and a close view shows fine brownish barring on the wings and tail. The general effect at a distance is of a pure white gull.

B.A.E.M.

BLUETHROAT AT SHOREHAM RUBBISH DUMP

An immature Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) was present at Shoreham Rubbish Dump on 11th and 12th September, being seen by M.H.Port on the evening of the 11th, by G.A.Sutton early on the 12th and by R.J.Sandison and M.H.P. in the evening of the same day. A litter of hay, rubbish and twiggy branches which had been tumbled down the north bank of the pool on the western side of the dump, had for some days been providing a good foraging place for small migrants, and it was this area that the bird frequented.

The Robin-like form, dark greyish-brown upperparts, striking pale cream stripe over the eye and streaked breast immediately attracted attention. The bird showed some nervousness under scrutiny but moved quietly from side to side of the feeding area. It frequently cocked its tail high or flirted it up and down, revealing rufous-tinged under-tail coverts. From the side a thin rufous line could be seen at the base of the outer tail feathers, but it was only when the bird made short flights that the diagnostic chestnut patches at the base of the spread tail could be seen.

We noted the following further characteristics:- darkish brown ear coverts; pale buff throat; a blackish wedge on each side of the upper breast, connected by a circlet of fine streaks;

a faint chestnut band dividing the streaked area from the pale buff lower breast and belly. No trace of blue on the breast or of any coloured throat-spot. Call a short "tac" or "tuc".

M. H. Port.

A TRIP TO FINLAND

A trip to Finland to look at birds sounds exciting, and it was. Finland however does not offer to the bird watcher a profusion of birds such as an English woodland, for in the spring an English woodland has much more numerous and varied birds than the forests of Finland. This is largely because of the different habitat; in Finland, a country of more than sixty thousand lakes, mile after mile of virgin pine forests, little or no undergrowth, quite a different bird life is seen. Birds are few and far between, it is a land of Owls and Woodpeckers, Crossbills and Siskins in the Forest, whilst Red and Black-throated Divers and various Grebes breed on the numerous lakes. In the far north beyond the Arctic circle during the brief summer the rarer waders like the Broad-billed sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper and also Shore Larks and Blue Throats.

Approaching Finland by the sea across the Baltic one sees when reaching the shore the large Caspian Tern. It is the size of a Herring Gull with a red bill as conspicuous as a carrot. Velvet and Common Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks flew over the wave tops, whilst on the beach Turnstone and Redshank were the main waders. The vast lakes and marshes were alive with birds, matching in numbers anything in this country. The beautiful Grey-headed Wagtails and White Wagtails were perhaps among the most numerous of birds, with an occasional Blue-headed Wagtail amongst them. Sedge Warblers were common but the Reed Warbler much less so. Amongst the ubiquitous Black-headed Gull, nested a small colony, eleven at the most, of Little Gulls. Birds of prey were silent and secretive, as is their wont during the breeding season, however I did see Goshawk, Hobby, Honey Buzzard, Common Buzzard and Marsh Harrier, with an occasional Kestrel. No lake was without its Osprey. Birds I was surprised to see were Golden Orioles and Icterine Warblers - these I had associated with warmer climates such as the south of France. Redwings sang in the hedgerows, whilst most

clumps of trees had their nesting colony of Fieldfares.

Unusual birds were Song Thrushes, Blackbirds whilst the Robin and the Wren were rather secretive and real forest birds. The nests of the Missel Thrush and the Dunnock were shown to us as rarities.

It is inevitable in a trip such as this that certain incidents should stand out in my memory, whether it be a visit by boat to the western archipelago of Finland to see the nests of the Turnstones and the colonies of Caspian Terns on the rocks of the islands once occupied by Russia as naval bases, or a long drive through the west of Finland along unmade up roads with little or no traffic in a search for the breeding grounds of the Crane and finding them, and to sit, bitten by mosquitoes but enthralled by the sight of Cranes displaying on the marshes, giving their wonderful call and to see the heads of the birds sticking up through the reeds as they sat upon their nests safe and secure out on the unapproachable marshes. Also on that trip we went still further over roads which grew worse and worse until we reached in the extreme south-west of Finland the breeding place of the Barred Warbler. There we were lucky enough to see and hear the Barred Warbler, hearing its alarm note, its song, and even more to see its nest in a tree. We were close enough to this bird to see the white ring around the eye, and the barring on its chest.

Another place, in the middle of Finland, which I shall always remember was once an area of woodland, consisting of old and fallen trees and was a paradise for Woodpeckers. There we saw the Yellow headed Arctic Woodpecker, the Black Woodpecker, the Grey headed Woodpecker and our Greater Spotted Woodpecker, all within a matter of some 200 yards. Also nesting around there were Red-backed Shrikes, Ospreys, Blackcock, Nightjars, Crossbills, Siskin and an occasional Woodcock.

I look back in memory of Finland as a land of lakes and forest, where birds were few and far between and had to be searched for, but each was well worth seeing. The water birds of course were common since it was a land of lakes and rivers; Grebes, Divers, Gulls and waders. The inhabitants of the forest were much as one might expect to see in the Spey Valley in northern Scotland with the exception of a few outstanding birds, one of these being the Scarlet Grosbeak that nested in the alder bushes around the lakes near Helsinki. I was disappointed

in the appearance of this bird as despite its name it was rather an insignificant little bird but with a very characteristic call.

Just before leaving Finland I was fortunate enough to join the elite on a trip to a marsh just outside Helsinki one night and was lucky enough to hear the call of Blythe's Reed Warbler, a wanderer from Asia which on very few occasions has appeared in Finland and is thought to have bred there. The song not dissimilar at first from that of a Marsh Warbler was very sweet and very characteristic.

With such memories as these I left Finland and can only plan to return, hoping to see those birds that I had not the time to find such as many of the Owls and the birds of the far north - it is a place to be revisited.

LATE AUTUMN IN THE SCILLIES

During the period between the departure of a Northern Water-thrush from St. Agnes and the arrival of an American Gallinule on St. Marys (both first records for Britain), we spent a week at the bird observatory on St. Agnes. There, we were privileged to see the beach which had been frequented by the Northern Water-thrush and even (possibly!) the seaweed from which it had plucked insects.

Yet without rare birds St. Agnes is still a delightful island, even late in October. There is the 17th century light-house dominating the scene; the rocky bays and fine beaches; the high shelters of Pittosporum, Euonymus, Escallonia and Tamarisk which protect the bulb fields from the wind; and, almost wherever the eye rests, are the sea and islands and rocks. To the south-west are the ragged topped lines of the Western Rocks, at low water on a calm grey day looking like some gaunt moonscape, but during a high wind, almost hidden as they tear the sea into spray. Beyond, stands the bold, solid finger of the Bishop Lighthouse.

For the first few days of our visit the wind was mainly from the south-east. On October 26th a Great Snipe was flushed from the pool during the early morning (but not seen by us), but otherwise there was little of unusual interest. There were Black Redstarts on many of the beaches, and during the week the number rose to about 15, thereafter declining until by the time we left they had all disappeared. Fieldfares and Redwings were seen only

in small numbers --- nothing to compare with the spectacular movement earlier in the month. There was little birdlife at sea, either; on some days a few Gannets or an occasional auk, but no vestige remained of the earlier skua movement.

Yet only on one day did we not add another species to the weekly list, some of them rare birds by the island's standards --- a Blue Tit, for instance, which is a very unusual visitor.

The morning round of the island, as at most observatories, savoured of high adventure. Hopes ran high that the night had brought in some exciting bird. One day we flushed a Short-eared Owl and had wonderful views of it against a background of rocks and sea. On another occasion we put up a Merlin which had just begun to pluck a Song Thrush. We found the remains of a number of Song Thrushes, and it appeared that this species was a favourite prey of the Merlins that came to the island. One delightful early morning sight was of five Golden Plover, not on pasture or moor, but standing quietly on sand and weed-covered rocks by the water's edge.

Chiffchaffs and Willow-warblers were still passing through, and sometimes could be heard singing. There were a number of Goldcrests and Firecrests on some days, an odd Blackcap or so, and Sand and House Martins and Swallows.

The shore was a good place for Turnstones --- some 150 or more could be counted, with rather more Oystercatchers. The biggest flock of the latter was 136. There were a few Curlew --- up to 20 in one flock --- but the big winter concentration of Purple Sandpipers into flocks of 100 and over had not begun, only four birds or so being seen at a time. There were also Ringed Plover in good numbers.

On October 31st we saw a bird which we had really hoped to find on St. Agnes, as it seems to occur regularly in the autumn. Two nights previously the wind had gone round from the south-east to the NNW, bringing strong wind and rain. On the next night the wind shifted to WNW, and the following morning was bright, with big white clouds and a stiffish breeze. I was sitting in my hide on Priglis beach, feeling the tug of the wind and waiting for the ominous rip of canvas, when there was a thump of boots on the sand and a cry of "Red-breasted Flycatcher"! I came out of the hide,

gave instructions for saving it from the incoming tide, and covered two or three hundred yards of broken ground in what I consider was a world record time. Needless to say, the bird was shy at first, and I thought that once again I had missed a rarity; then it emerged to show itself briefly. Later it was rather less shy, and we had splendid views. It was not, unfortunately, an adult male, so lacked the red breast, but for all that it was a dapper little bird, and it was interesting to see behaving more like a phylloscopus warbler than a flycatcher --- skulking among the foliage and feeding there rather than flying out to catch insects in mid-air. It made a few sallies, however, once near the ground, narrowly missing the mist net we had set for it. In its short flights the white on the sides of the tail showed clearly, and the Wren-like cocking of the tail was very noticeable.

The following morning the flycatcher was not to be seen, but as we had an early morning cup of tea we saw a Water Rail feeding in the lane outside the observatory. We were to go soon after midday, so after the usual morning round, we took a last look at Priglis beach. The sun was shining and the water of the bay sparkled. The beach was alive with waders and gulls... the ubiquitous Turnstones; Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers; two Purple Sandpipers stood, portly and dignified, while two Sanderlings, the first we had seen that week, twinkled across the sand. Starlings were feeding as usual on the rotting seaweed left from the spring tides, and overhead on this, the first day of November, a Swallow hawked for insects.

J. and R.P.Cordero.

PROTECTION OF BIRDS COMMITTEE - WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

At a meeting held at Chichester on December 19th 1958 the Committee discussed:-

- (a) The desirability of asking the West Sussex River Board (as owners) to enter into an agreement with the Council establishing Pagham Harbour as a Nature Reserve.
- (b) The desirability of extending the area in which egg collecting is prohibited in Pagham Harbour. The area

involved adjoins and lies at the S.E. corner of the River Board's property; it embraces the lagoon and is privately owned.

The Committee decided to ask the West Sussex River Board to establish Pagham Harbour as a Nature Reserve and to ask the owner of the adjoining area to co-operate in the preservation of wild life.

The Society's representative expresses his opinion on (a) that the River Board is unlikely to accede to the request at the present time and on (b) that any co-operation is likely to be of token value only; and that any move to preserve the natural amenities of Pagham Harbour must come at National level with the active co-operation of local Societies.

G.W.R.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

White Gull The white Gull, which was first seen at Shoreham in December 1954, and which has been the subject of discussion in several previous Annual Reports, was seen for the last time on 4 January 1958. Either it has moved out of the area or has met an untimely death, and therefore we shall never know with certainty to what species it belonged.

Swans at Shoreham A pair of Mute Swans again nested at Wide Water. There were originally four cygnets, but two died at a very early age. The two survivors were still flourishing at the end of the year. Another pair started nest-building near the Houseboats, but no nest was completed.

Sirius Crane A Bird of this species, no doubt an escape, was seen at Northover on March 2nd and stayed in the area for a few weeks.

R.S.P.B. Ornithological Prize We are pleased to record that Mr. Tony Marr won the Salzman Prize of the Junior Bird Recorders Club (Junior section of the R.S.P.B.) for the third year running.

The age limit of the club has been raised to 21 which gives Mr. Marr three more years in which he is eligible to compete. We wish him further success - in the 1957 competition, the results of which may be published in the near future, and also for future years.

F.S.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Receipts and Expenditure Account. Year ended 31. Dec. 1958

<u>Receipts</u>	£. s. d.	<u>Payments</u>	£. s. d.
Balance in hand		Subscriptions and	
1.1.1958	13. 4. 10.	Affiliation Fees	7. 2. 0.
Subscriptions	30. 4. 6.	Printing	12. 12. 7.
Annual Report..sale	1. 15. 0.	Lectures..Expenses	10. 11. 0.
Donations	9. 18. 6.	Sanctuary..Expenses	5. 5. 0.
Miscellaneous Receipts	2. 17. 8.	Postage, etc.	6. 16. 8.
Ex Heligoland Trap a/c.	3. 3.	Bal. in hand 31.12.58	15. 16. 6.
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£58. 3. 9.		£58. 3. 9.
	=====		=====

HELIGOLAND TRAP ACCOUNT

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Individual Donations	10. 10. 6.	Total cost..Material	26. 16. 0.
Ex Society's Funds		Balance transferred	
1957	10. 0. 0.	to General A/c.	3. 3.
Proceeds of Meeting			
18.1.58.	4. 11. 0.		
Proceeds of Raffle	1. 17. 9.		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£26. 19. 3.		£26. 19. 3.
	=====		=====

Audited and found correct
(signed) F. Severs.

(signed) G.W. Rampton,
Hon. Treasurer.

SUMMARY OF LECTURES, MEETINGS, AND FIELD EXPEDITIONS

IN 1958

Lectures

January 18th.	Some Aspects of Pagham Harbour.	Miss D.French. Mr.Venables.
February 12th.	Annual General Meeting. Bird Ringing	Dr.J.Stafford.
March 12th.	Photographic Adventures in Search of Birds	Mr.Bayliss-Smith. Mr.Chalke.
April 9th.	Some Ecological Methods	Dr.J.Stafford.
October 8th.	Birds in Finland	Miss P.Bond.
November 12th.	Spare-time Bird Watching.	

Field Meetings and Expeditions

January 25th	Pagham
February 22nd	Marehill to Amberley
March 23rd	(Chichester Gravel Pits Sidlesham, and Church Norton.
April 26th	Steyning Heronry, and the Water Meadows.
May 5,12,19	Meeting to watch Bird Ringing in Mill Hill Bird Sanctuary
August 11th	Bird Ringing in the Bird Sanctuary.
September 21st	Sidlesham Ferry, and Church Norton.
October 18th	(Sea Watching from Beach near Wydewater Walk along the river.
November 30th	East Head and West Wittering.

OFFICERS FOR 1958

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

Council Mrs. R. Cordero. Mr. F. Severs. Mr. J.M. Twort.

Field Committee Mr. A. Burstow. Miss P. Keates. Mr. B.A.E. Marr.

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. Rampton.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Senior Members — 7/6. Junior Members (under 18 years) — 5/-

Both subscriptions include a copy of the Annual Report.

LIST OF MEMBERS 1958

Mr. J. Ayres	14 West Way, Lancing
Mrs. B. Baker	18 Selsey Avenue, Bognor Regis.
Mr. R. H. Barnard	2 Littledown Cottages, Brighton Rd., Lewes.
Mrs. & Miss S.E. Berry	347 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham- by-Sea.
Mr. S. H. Best	2 Old Swan Cottages, Church St., Shoreham-by-Sea.
Capt. & The Misses Biggs	7 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss G. Bignold	7 Kings Barn Lane, Steyning.
Mr. C. P. Brown	17 St. Aubyns Road, Portslade.
Messrs. A. & J. Burstow	27 Erringham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss A. Cerely	22 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. S. H. Chalke	Grenofen, Henty Road, Ferring
Mrs. O. M. Chapman	42 Downland Drive, Hove 4.
Mr. & Mrs. Childs	Cobbers, Bennett Ave., Hove 4.
Mrs. Clackett	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.
Mr. & Mrs. Cole	84 Sea Lane, Goring-by-Sea.
Mr. A. Cooper	Flat 15, Beverly House, Penhill Rd., Lancing
Mr. & Mrs. Cordero	Stonewell, Oak Way, Reigate, Surrey.
Miss B. Crook	West House, Southover, Lewes.
Mr. F. O. Edwards	39 Hollingbury Gardens, Findon Valley
Mr. & Mrs. Farmer	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Miss Forbes	13 Roman Road, Steyning.
Mr. R. E. Goddard,	7 Dyke Close, Hove 4.
Miss P. Griffiths	81 Cranleigh Road, Worthing.
Mr. & Mrs. Grigg	100 High Street, Steyning.
Mr. M. Guy	18 Glebe Close, Southwick.
Mr. & Mrs. Hall	19 Coombe Road, Steyning.
Miss M. Hill	Flat 3, 42 Preston Park Ave., Brighton
Mr. H. V. Hitch	23 Kings Walk, Beach Road, Shoreham- by-Sea.
Miss P. Hughes	12 Hawkins Close, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. J. Jackson	32 Kings Road, Lancing.
Mr., Mrs. & Miss Jenkins	29 Oldfield Crescent, Southwick.
Mr. M. A. Jennings	8 Broadwater Road, Worthing.
The Misses Joseph	Under Round Hill, Laines Rd. Steyning.
Miss P. Keats	39 Russell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

Mr. F. W. Kilvington
Mr. R. Leaney
Capt. Leslie
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Luker

Mr. B. A. E. Marr
Mr. W. D. McKechnie,
Miss M. N. McKinney
Mrs. Morrison Scott
Mrs. E. Ottley
Mr. T. Palmer

Miss S. Pargeter
Mr. A. E. Perry
Mr. R. Pescott
Mr. R. Phillips
Miss B. T. Pride
Miss E. M. Rabone
Mr. & Mrs. Rampton
Mr. C. Ray
Mr. A. Robinson and Club
Mrs. Roe
Miss Rogers

Mr. & Mrs. Ruscoe
Mr. F. Severs
Mr. A. B. Sheldon
Mr. R. W. Skerrett
Mrs. N. Smith
Dr. & Mrs. J. Stafford

Mr. D. Stone
Miss D. Stringfellow
Mr. H. Struman
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Twort
Dr. F. Varley
Miss G. M. Watts
Mr. & Mrs. Weatherhead
Miss S. West
Mr. R. J. Whitbourn
Mr. R. J. Wilmhurst
Miss M. Whorlow
Miss W. M. Woodroffe

22 Grange Road, Southwick.
7 Nutley Close, Goring-on-Sea.
Old Brewery House, Steyning.
Kings Barn House Flat, Kings Barn
Lane, Steyning.
59 The Green, Southwick.
73 Connaught Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea
50a Bath Road, Worthing.
4 Castle Way, Steyning.
33 Middleton Avenue, Hove.
18 St. Aubyns Road, Fishergate,
Portslade.
34 Old Shoreham Road, Hove.
9a Downland Crescent, Hove.
47 Alfreton Road, Worthing.
19 Chester Ave., Wellan Park, Lancing
347 Upper Shoreham Rd. Shoreham-by-Sea
2 Roman Road, Steyning.
34 Crost Ave., Southwick.
40 Brighton Road, Kingston-by-Sea.
24 Melrose Ave., Portslade.
3 The Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.
157 Greenways Cres. Upper Shoreham
Rd., Shoreham-by-Sea.
14 Ring Road, North Lancing.
Sea Winds, Beach Rd., Shoreham-by-Sea
82 Woodland Drive, Hove 4.
3 Poulterers Lane, Broadwater, Worthing
60 Park Ave., Shoreham-by-Sea.
Stone House, Windlesham Gardens.
Shoreham-by-Sea.
69 The Drive, Shoreham-by-Sea.
4 Tower Road, Worthing.
11 Midhurst Walk, Hove 4.
63 The Green, Southwick.
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea
15 Oxford Road, Worthing.
Mill Hill Pumping Station, "
131 Greenways Cresc. Upper Shoreham Rd.
6 Mill Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea. (S. by S.
Harebells, Ring Rd. North Lancing.
Flat 2, 59 Palmeira Ave., Hove 3.
17 Hailsham Road, Worthing.