

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Eighth Annual Report



for the Year 1960

PRICE : TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Once again the Society has had a successful year with an interesting series of meetings both indoors and out. The outdoor meetings included a visit to Selsea by coach at first light on 22nd October to watch migration movements under the guidance of Mr. Marr; this was, unfortunately, less successful than it might have been owing to heavy rain, nevertheless some interesting birds were seen. Of the indoor meetings a special feature was the talk given to us by Mrs. Allen, Research Associate in Ornithology at Cornell University, on the work of Sapsucker Woods Research Laboratory and its birds. For the third time the Society took the Town Hall to show a film produced by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, this time "Sea Bird Summer". The hall was again crowded to capacity. This membership has again increased, totalling 130 at the end of the year.

Interesting species seen during the year include Golden Oriole, Osprey, Great Northern Diver, Snow Bunting, Twite, Black Tern, Little

Stint, and Curlew Sandpiper. Unusual dates were recorded also for some of our regular visitors—for example January and February Chiffchaffs, a February and a November Blackcap and a late November Wheatear. Unfortunately, the rubbish dump pool, which produced so many interesting birds last year, was very disappointing in 1960, the continued shrinkage of the area owing to filling, and the wet summer, which brought the level of water much higher, being no doubt responsible.

Apart from our regular features on Notable Birds of the Year, Sanctuary and Bird-ringing Reports and the usual summaries of members' records on special aspects of the year's bird-watching, we are pleased to include articles by our President on his experiences with other British bird-watchers in Bulgaria, by Mr. Grigg on his life-time of bird-watching in the Steyning area, by Mr. Marr on the results of the watching by his group at Selsea during the year and by Mr. Goddard on the Severn Wild Fowl Trust. Articles are also included on some of the unusual birds seen in the course of the year.

A substantial profit on the showing of "Sea Bird Summer" has enabled the Society to buy a hut for instalment at the Sanctuary to take the place of the old and rather dilapidated and makeshift affair now there. It is hoped that this hut will be installed by the time this report is in the hands of members. The Society also bought a projector screen during the year.

The Society has now become a subscriber to the Council for Nature and receives the Monthly Bulletins issued by that Body. Any members who wish to have the Bulletins circulated to them should notify the Secretary.

We are glad to note that a few more members than usual have sent in records of birds seen in their gardens and we hope still more members will in future let us have any observations of interest under this heading for incorporation in this item of the Report. This item is not limited to birds seen in the Shoreham area and we shall be glad to include records from members who live outside the district.

The Secretary and Council would like to thank Mr. R.E. Goddard for getting all our notices duplicated, and Mr. & Mrs. Grigg, Mr. Twort and others who help to distribute them: also to thank Miss J. Biggs and those who help her to provide tea and biscuits at our Lecture Meetings, and Mr. & Mrs. Rampton for all their help in so many ways.

May we remind members that postage is now an expensive item, and ask them to remember when writing to the Secretary for a copy of the Annual Report for example, to enclose a stamp for reply?

SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1960

The Sanctuary is visited fairly regularly but nevertheless much must pass through it unobserved. The extensive flooding in the last three months of the year has made anything but very distant watching impossible.

However, a new species was added on the 23rd of March when two drakes and one duck Garganey appeared on the stream and were about for the whole day. This brings the total of species recorded in the Sanctuary to 109.

In January and February we, like many places on the south coast, had an unusual number of Chiffchaffs, details of which appear elsewhere; also a Blackcap female on the 27th of February. These were all presumably wintering birds. The Redwing and Fieldfare flocks were much as usual. Great Spotted Woodpeckers visited in the first months of the year with a few Tree Sparrows and Lesser Redpolls. All these three species we must now look upon as regular although infrequent passage migrants through the Sanctuary.

Long-tailed Tits were numerous, particularly in the latter months of the year when a party of ten were still present at the end of December. Although occasional birds were seen during March and April there was no proof of breeding. Otherwise the status of birds is much as last year.

It is gratifying to notice that the Kestrel is still present as it is thought to be becoming much less common in southern England.

The main arrival of Chiffchaffs was on 20th/21st of March and on the whole the spring migration was good, with a fair sprinkling of "Chiff-Willows" and Goldcrests, followed later by Whitethroats, Sedge Warblers and Reed Warblers but all in rather less numbers than in 1959.

The Nightingale was first heard singing on the 24th of April and the usual three pairs were present during the breeding season. It was not a particularly good breeding season, possibly due to the inclement weather. No Lesser Whitethroats bred and the numbers of both White-throat and Sedge Warbler were down on past years.

The autumn migration was small in volume and continued as a trickle until the end. This was due no doubt to winds not favourable for our particular part of the coast and also to a poor breeding season. There were no unusual or notable birds although, as in 1959, there was an increase in the number of Blackcaps on autumn passage.

Once again in the region of 300 Blackbirds were ringed during the year in the Sanctuary.

The last three months of the year with its floods and interminable rain made watching difficult. Little is recorded for these months of the year except for the Long-tailed Tits and a Barn Owl, and one or two Goldcrests which arrived early in December.

J.S.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1960

In many ways a very successful year although the total ringed for the year was down on 1959's total.

The reduction is accounted for chiefly by the great number of days when ringing, and especially mist netting, was made impossible due to bad weather and for the last two months of the year the Heligoland trap was unusable owing to severe flooding which carried away the bridges leading across the stream.

The total of 1660 of fifty species ringed was made up as follows:

1653 trapped. 7 nestlings.

Tony Marr ringed 26 in his garden and in the Shoreham area, whilst David Stone contributed a total of 267 ringed in his garden and the Shoreham area. The full details of species ringed are shown in the appended table.

Ringed for the first time this year were a Snow Bunting which I trapped on the Rubbish Dump, and a Grey Wagtail caught in the Heligoland trap by David Stone.

Numbers of certain species were down compared with last year. Kingfishers only one. Wrens down from forty-seven to fourteen, and a drop in Willow Warblers, Sedge Warblers and Chiffchaffs and White-throats, probably due to the poor migrations.

Perhaps the greatest interest this year lies in the ringing recoveries, and illustrates well the long-term policy of ringing.

TABLE OF BIRDS RINGED IN 1960

No.	Bird	Adult	Pull	Total
1.	Great Tit	67	7	74
2.	Nuthatch	3		3
3.	Cole Tit	5		5
4.	Blue Tit	136		136
5.	Song Thrush	140		140
6.	Starling	105		105
7.	Robin	51		51
8.	Greenfinch	218		218
9.	Turtle Dove	1		1
10.	Chaffinch	54		54
11.	Blackbird	298		298
12.	Duncock	59		59
13.	House Sparrow	209		209
14.	Redpoll	1		1
15.	Kingfisher	1		1
16.	Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	2		2
17.	Wren	14		14
18.	Reed Bunting	8		8
19.	Long-tailed Tit	6		6
20.	Yellow Bunting	6		6
21.	Marsh Tit	5		5
22.	Missel Thrush	7		7
23.	Goldfinch	15		15
24.	Snow Bunting	1		1
25.	Garden Warbler	2		2
26.	Pied Wagtail	1		1
27.	Tree Pipit	1		1
28.	Bullfinch	25		25
29.	Goldcrest	6		6
30.	Chiffchaff	17		17
31.	Willow Warbler	40		40
32.	Blackcap	10		10
33.	Meadow Pipit	2		2
34.	Linnet	10		10
35.	Whitethroat	20		20
36.	Nightingale	2		2
37.	Sedge Warbler	3		3
38.	Reed Warbler	13		13
39.	Spotted Flycatcher	4		4
40.	Lesser Whitethroat	3		3
41.	Swallow	21		21

No.	Adult	Pull	Total
42. Sand Martin	40		40
43. Wood Pigeon	3		3
44. Corn Bunting	2		2
45. Kestrel	1		1
46. Grey Wagtail	1		1
47. Tree Sparrow	1		1
48. Pied Flycatcher	1		1
49. Redwing	7		7
50. Redstart	5		5
	<u>1653</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1660</u>

LOCAL RINGING RECOVERIES

Nightingale adult. Ringed in the Sanctuary as an adult for the first time on 21.4.58 has been retrapped in 1959 and again in 1960 in the Sanctuary. This, a male bird, must be at least four years old.

Sedge Warbler. Two adult birds ringed on the 19th of April and 11th of May (1959) in the Sanctuary were retrapped there again on the 5th and the 14th of May 1960.

Swallow adult. First ringed on 11.5.58 at the Sanctuary was retrapped there on the 31.8.1959, and again on 30.7.60.

These recoveries illustrate well the long term policy of ringing and shows how information continues to come in. All these birds have successfully accomplished their migratory journeys several times, and the Nightingale for at least four years.

RECOVERIES IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Blue Tit Ringed as a juvenile 22.8.59 at Shoreham
Found dead at Wisborough Green, Sussex 16 miles N.W. on 16.3.60.

Blue Tit Ringed as an adult 28.12.59 at Shoreham.
Found dead at Sutton Valence near Maidstone, Kent, 45 miles E.N.E. on 10.2.60.

Greenfinch Ringed as a full-grown bird at Shoreham 17.1.60
Found dead at Stevenage, Herts, 73 miles N. on 15.4.60.

- Greenfinch Adult male ringed at Shoreham on 4.2.60.
Found dead at Ipswich, Suffolk 100 miles N.E. on
17.4.60.
- Song Thrush Adult ringed at Shoreham on 22.11.59.
Found dead at Aylsham, Norfolk 150 miles N.N.E. on 6.5.60
- Swallow Ringed as a juvenile at Shoreham on 17.8.57.
Found dead at Havant, Hants 32 miles W. on 1.8.60.
three years after ringing.
- Wren Fully grown bird ringed at Shoreham on 23.10.59
Found dead at Great Bookham, Surrey 30 miles N. on
31.1.60.

These recoveries like those in past years show that birds which are in this area during late autumn and winter tend to move northwards in the spring. They are all, except for the Swallow, residents with us.

RECOVERIES ABROAD

- Blackbird Ringed as an adult female at Shoreham, Sussex on 30.1.60.
Found dying at Moordorf near Oldenburg, Germany on 6.4.60
- Redstart Ringed as an adult female at Shoreham, Sussex, on 19.9.59.
Shot at Neuborn, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany on 11.5.60.
- Great Tit Ringed as a full grown bird at Shoreham, Sussex on
12.3.60.
Found dead at Bremerhaven, Germany on 7.7.60.
- Willow Warbler Ringed as a first winter bird at Shoreham, Sussex on
5.9.60.
Caught and killed in Northern Spain at Berango on 12.9.60
- Song Thrush Ringed as a juvenile at Shoreham, Sussex on 25.5.60.
Found dead at St. Pierre Eglise (Manche) France on 6.11.60.

All these birds which were recovered abroad with the exception of the Blackbird were trapped and ringed by David Stone.

Besides these recoveries eighteen birds were recovered locally. None of these were of especial interest, except for an adult male Blackbird that had been ringed over six years previously.

This year the total of Blackbirds ringed has passed 1000.

The ringing programme continues. David Stone is now almost fully trained and will be able to apply for his Permit to ring when he reaches the required age. In the meantime Michael Goddard has started his apprenticeship, which is long and somewhat arduous, to become competent in ringing and bird identification, and in mist netting.

J.S.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1960

The following records of birds seen in the Shoreham area in 1960 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:- Mrs. O.M. Chapman, Mrs. V. Gilham, Mr. & Mrs. James, Messrs. D. Ball, R.E. Goddard, C.A. Grigg, D.M. George, M. Helps, C.L. Jackson, R. Lyon, T. Palmer, R. Prescott, R. Phillips, H. Parsons, G. Rampton, F. Severs, D. Stone, G. Sutton, J. Tatum, J. Twort, J. Watson and P. Wilson, and Drs. J. Lockett and J. Stafford.

Abbreviations:- m. =male, f. =female, W.W. =Widewater, T.B. = Toll Bridge, C.C. =Cuckoo's Corner, F.A. =Flood Arch, F.B. =Foot-bridge, S.P. =Sussex Pad.

Black-throated Diver. One picked up dead, Southwick Bch., May 14;
one Brookland Pool, Dec: 20.

Red-throated Diver. One on sea, Shoreham, April 6; two flying E. Apl.
3.

Great Northern Diver. One on Adur. Jan. 24.

Great Crested Grebe. Several seen on sea in Feb:, Mar: and Dec:,
three Adur Jan: 26, and Feb: 26.

Cormorant. One with head and neck almost white, Adur, Mar: 1.

Shag. One Jan: 17 nr. F.B., one S'wick Locks Feb: 3, four there Feb:
20 and three Feb: 28; Four W.Breakwater Feb: 24 & 25 and two
Mar: 12 & 13; One S'wick Canal Dec: 9 & 26; One off Hove
Feb: 27.

Heron. Many records but seven at Lancing Dyke fields, July was most.

Mallard. Many records. Three pairs nested in ditches near C.C. and
one pair at W.W.

Teal. Many records including twenty-one near Cement Works, Feb: 1, ten Sanc. Feb: 27, twenty Airport Nov: 12, sixteen Lancing Nov: 20, ten there Sep: 22 and nine there Dec: 8.

Gadwall. Two W.W. Sep: 30.

Wigeon. Pair Adur Jan: 1, two m. there Oct: 9, six pool nr. S.P. Jan: 30.

Shoveler. Four including two m. near T.B. April 19.

Garganey. Three at Sanc. (two m. & one F.) Mar: 23; two C.C. Mar: 26.

Pochard. One near T.B. Jan: 8 to 12; one immature m. there Nov: 27; two W.W. Jan: 10 & 11 and three there Jan: 12.

Eider. One off Hove, April 30.

Scoter. Five on sea W.W. April 25; one Dump Pool Aug: 18.

Shelduck. Two on sea W.W., April 18.

Cape Shelduck. Three west of Wiston, Sep: 19 were probably escapes.

Grey Lag Goose. Seven flying E. opposite Power Stn. S'wick, Feb: 26.

Buzzard. One flying over Shoreham, Oct: 15.

Merlin. One adult m., Shoreham, Feb: 8.

Osprey. From description of several observers one of this species was seen between Rly. Br. and F.B. on Sep: 11.

Quail. Heard calling from cultivated fields below Steep Down on May 30 and June 17.

Corncrake. One heard calling at dawn below Chanctonbury, May 15.

Oystercatcher. Five flying N.E., W.W. Sep: 30, and one Sep: 12.

Grey Plover: Numbers seen S'ham late summer and autumn including four Adur Oct: 4, three Oct: 22 and two Oct: 23, all at Shoreham.

Turnstone. One Jan: 3 and Feb: 28; several in late summer and autumn including three Nov: 13, all at Shoreham.

Snipe. Nest with four eggs Coombes on April 15 was early nesting date. Forty-seven from one ditch, Lancing, Nov: 22 was largest number recorded.

Jack Snipe. One near C.C. Feb: 29; one Sanc. Mar: 26.

Curlew. Eleven flying S., Jan: 1; One calling above Sanc. April 1; seven near Cement Works Feb: 18; Seven C.C. Feb: 27; nineteen C.C. Feb: 29.

Whimbrel. One flying E. over sea April 24; twelve Adur May 3; one in flight S'ham Bch. July 24 & five Sep: 7; two Adur Oct: 2. Three near Rly. Br. Oct: 25 was latest record.

Bar-tailed Godwit. One mudflats S'ham April 30; up to three there from late August to late Sep:

Purple Sandpiper. One on beach near W. Breakwater Dec: 15 to 31; two there on Dec: 18.

Common Sandpiper. One F.A. April 28 was first record and one Dump Pool Oct: 9 was last. A very dark Sandpiper seen with several Common at Shoreham on July 31 may have been a melanistic form of Common.

Spotted Redshank. One creek S'ham Jan: 6 to Mar: 8; one near Rly. Br. Aug: 15 & 17; one Airfield Sep: 25; one in flight Adur Oct: 2; one in creek Dec: 11.

Greenshank. Four Adur, flew E. over S'ham calling Aug: 17; one mudflats Sep: 27; one S'ham Bch. Oct: 21.

Knot. Four or five seen on mud nr. F.B. or Rly. Br. from mid Aug: to end Sep:; one Shoreham, Dec: 4.

Little Stint. Three W.W. and one Adur Sep: 22, one to three W.W. up to Sep: 28; one Rubbish dump Oct: 9.

Curlew Sandpiper. Three W.W. Sep: 22; four there Sep: 24 & one Oct: 2; one Adur Sep: 22; one creek, Oct: 9.

Sanderling. One near C.C. May 20; up to three S'ham Bch. Sep: 7 to 24.

Ruff/Reeve. One flying (soft 'tu-whit' call heard) Aug: 17; characteristic tail pattern was seen.

Avocet. Nine flying E. off Hove, April 2.

Stone Curlew. Nest with two eggs above Lancing May 31. Two more nests above Steyning.

Grey Phalarope. One W.W. Sep: 28 & 29; five there Oct: 8 & four there Oct: 9; one Dump Pool Oct: 9 to 11; one Hove Lagoon Nov: 15.

Arctic Skua. Fifteen off Hove in three groups flying E. May 9; one flying W. Oct. 1.

Longtailed Skua. A bird apparently of this species was described by a resident as seen flying over the footbridge on Oct: 16.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. One F.A. Jan: 18 to Feb: 24; up to fifteen T.B. Mar: 4; One F.A. Nov: 28 onwards; two S'ham Dec: (one Scandinavian).

Little Gull. One immature Airport Nov: 5.

Iceland Gull. The January 1958 bird was seen on occasions in the area in 1960; last seen Dec: 11.

Black Tern. At least one near Hbr. mouth Sep: 21; three offshore, W.W. Sep: 21; ten W.W. Sep: 23, two on 24th & 25th; five offshore S'ham Sep: 25.

Common/Artic Tern. Circ. a hundred, fifty flying E. & fifty on beach, S'wick, May 12; twelve flying E., W.W. Aug: 18 and thirty W.W. mostly flying W. or feeding Sep: 21; circ. twelve Hbr. 25 & 26 Sep:; fifteen flying over F.A. Sep: 2; two in flight near T.B. April 6 and one W.W. Oct: 9 were first and last records.

Little Tern. One on beach Southwick May 12; four flying E. over sea April 26.

Sandwich Tern. Two flying E. S'ham, April 16 and eight Apl: 26; a few flying E. with Common and six on beach S'wick, May 12; Two on beach there Sep: 25 and four Sep: 30; two over sea S'ham July 14 and two Sep: 29.

Turtle Dove. One Lancing College Oct: 8.

Razor Bill. One picked up dead, Southwick Jan: 24.

Guillemot. One off W.W. Sep: 21; one Hbr. Nov: 7. During rough weather in Jan: the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector dealt with twenty oiled birds (mostly Guillemots and Razorbills) in one weekend.

Swift. One flying N.N.W. from sea, April 24.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Male and female caught and ringed at Sanc. late Jan:; one in flight Sanc. Mar: 22,

House Martin. One nr. Wiston Lake, Mar: 27 was first record; four Lancing Coll. Nov: 16, and one Sanc. Nov: 19; one flying low over a member's garden at Lancing was last (Dec. 2)

Swallow. Several Wiston Mar: 30, and one Sanc. Apl: 1, were first records. One Lancing, Nov: 7 & 16 and single birds in flight S'ham Nov: 4, 19, & 29; one Lancing Coll. Dec: 2 was last.

- Golden Oriole. One tall trees Lancing, May 28. Only the second for Sussex since the war (see special article).
- Hooded Crow. One flying over Sanc. May 5; one rubbish dump Oct: 28 to 30.
- Long-tailed Tit. Records in Mar: & from Sep: 13 on at Sanc; also recorded at Lancing.
- Fieldfare. Large movements in Jan: four Lancing Dec: 13.
- Redwing. Large movements W. Jan: 12 to 14 along coast; many S'wick Green during cold spell Jan: 4 to 27; circ. 1000 flying W., S'ham Nov: 7.
- Wheatear. Two nr. Rly Br. Mar: 25 was first record; several records for Nov: including one W.W., Nov: 5; one by riverside N. of Rly. Br. Nov: 13 & 19 and one Rubbish Dump Nov: 14 to 19 may have been same bird. This last record is a very late date for Sussex.
- Stonechat. Pair Sanc. Feb: 26. Many records for S'ham including circ. 20 at Rubbish Dump area Oct: 9.
- Whinechat. One rubbish dump May 2, and one there May 10; one m. at Lancing May 5. Autumn records fewer than usual.
- Redstart. A number of records; a pair at Coombes April 10 stayed all summer and were seen Aug: 31 feeding young. One in garden Portslade, Oct: 2, one in garden Mill Hill, Sep: 28 and several in Hove garden from Aug: 24 to Oct: 5. Earliest records were one in a S'ham garden and one at Sanc. April 8; two seen flying E. on coast, Sep: 5, may have been Black Redstarts.
- Black Redstart. One Hbr. Dec: 13 onwards; two (one f. & one immature m.) Power Stn. Dec: 18 onwards; one adult m. S'wick 21 Dec: onwards.
- Nightingale. One singing Sanc. April 24 was first record.
- Grasshopper Warbler. One heard reeling above Lancing, July 31, only record.
- Reed Warbler. Late to arrive this year; one Sanc. May 7; one nr. S.P. May 10; five caught and ringed Sanc. during summer; one singing dump pool Sep: 10.
- Sedge Warbler. One Sanc. April 7, was first recorded.
- Blackcap. One f. caught and ringed S'ham garden, Feb: 27, another at Sanc. same date; one in a bush at Rubbish dump Nov: 22 flew S.

Garden Warbler. One trapped in Sanc. April 24 and one trapped there Oct: 6 were first and last records for Shoreham area.

Lesser Whitethroat. Two singing (one Sanc. and one T.B.) May 1; four heard singing in or near Sanc. May 4.

Willow Warbler. First seen at Sanc. Mar: 30; one ringed there Apl: 17.

Chiffchaff. Many unusual dates including one C.C. Jan: 29; One Jan: 29 & 30; one Feb: 29 & Mar: 1; one Nov: 4, all at Stone House; one Jan: 31; one Feb: 7 and several nr. the end of Feb: at Sanc. One St. Mary's Churchyard, Feb: 12; one Portslade Jan: 12; one Hove, Nov: 21; One Rubbish Dump Nov: 21, was latest date.

Goldcrest. One Jan: 3 and one Mar: 5, Sanc.; one singing nr. C.C. Jan: 29; Four Mile Oak, Feb: 14; Four or five Sanc. Mar: 20 and at least six there April 1. Few records in autumn include one Sanc. Aug: 11 and two S'wick, Nov: 14.

Firecrest. One Sanc. Mar. 20 was only record.

Spotted Flycatcher. Few records including one ringed Sanc. May 15.

Pied Flycatcher. Pair at Coombes, Apl: 16; one f. Sanc. May 3; one picked up dead S'ham Sep. 18; one in S'ham garden Sep: 18.

Tree Pipit. One Sanc. July 14.

Rock Pipit. A number of records, up to six during Dec: at Old Fort.

Water Pipit. One S.W. of Flood Arch, Feb: 29 and Mar: 1.

Great Grey Shrike. The 1959 bird was seen again at Mile Oak, Jan: 29.

Starling. See under "Movements of Birds".

Twite. Ten nr. Rly.Br. Jan: 10 and two there Jan:12; five F.A., Jan:14.

Redpoll. Only a few records including one E. of Airport Jan:17; one Rubbish Dump Jan: 20 and one f. Sanc. Jan: 21.

Brambling. One in garden Mill Hill Jan: 12; circ. fifteen Rubb.dump, Jan: 10 and numbers there daily to Jan: 18 (maximum possibly fifty Jan: 17); one Sanc. Feb: 14.

Cirl Bunting. One in Hove garden, Jan: 13; pair Erringham Shaw, Feb:27; Four Lancing Clump, April 21; one C.C. July 1.

Snow Bunting. A 1st winter bird, Rubb: Dump, Jan: 20-24, trapped and ringed Jan.22.

Tree Sparrow. Five to six Sanc. May 3 & Nov:19; one garden Mill Hill March 7.

Red Crested Cardinal. One Coombes, April 4 (presumably an escape as the bird is a native of America).

J.M.T.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS 1960

The following table has been compiled from records of members. The following have contributed:- Messrs. C.A. Grigg, R.E. Goddard, D. Stone, F. Severs, J.M. Twort and Dr. J. Stafford.

<u>Species.</u>	<u>First date & locality</u>	<u>Last date & locality</u>
Whimbrel	Apl. 24 off Shoreham	Oct. 25, Adur.
Common Sandpiper	Apl. 28 Flood Arch	Oct. 9, Dump Pool
Common/Arctic Tern	Apl. 6 Toll. Br.	Oct. 9, Widewater
Turtle Dove		Oct. 8, Lancing Coll.
Swift	Apl. 24 from sea	
Cuckoo	Apl. 7 (first heard)	
Swallow	Mar. 30 Wiston	Dec. 2, Lancing Coll.
House Martin	Mar. 27 Wiston	Dec. 2, Lancing Coll.
Sand Martin	Mar. 27 Wiston	
Wheatear	Mar. 25 Rly. Br.	Nov. 19, Rubb. Dump
Redstart	Apl. 8 Sanc.	Oct. 10, Hove
Nightingale	Apl. 24 Sanc.	
Sedge Warbler	Apl. 7 Sanc.	
Reed Warbler	May 7 Sanc.	
Garden Warbler	Apl. 24 Sanc	Oct. 6, Sanc.
Blackcap	Feb. 27 Shoreham	Nov. 22, Rly. Br.
Whitethroat	Apl. 11 Sanc.	
Lesser Whitethroat	May 1 Sanc.	
Willow Warbler	Mar. 30 Sanc.	
Chiffchaff	Jan. 29 several places	Nov. 21, Rubb. Dump
Pied Flycatcher	Apl. 16 Coombes	Sep. 18, Shoreham

F.S.

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1960

These notes have been compiled from members' records. The following have contributed:- Mrs. O.M. Chapman and Mrs. E. Jenking, Messrs. R.E. Goddard, R. Lyon, R. Phillips, F. Severs, D. Stone, J. Stafford and J.M. Twort.

Garden at Lancing.

Blue Tit. Nestlings in Nestbox Dec: 12 (later disappeared)

Garden at Hove.

Cirl Bunting Feb: 15.

Garden at Hove.

Cirl Bunting Jan: 3; Bullfinch Jan: 3; Goldcrest April 1; Green Woodpecker Aug: 14; Redstart Sep: 29 to Oct: 5; Lesser Whitethroat Aug: 24.

Garden at Mill Hill.

Redstart (f) Sep. 28. Tree Sparrow (m.) Mar: 3; Bullfinch Feb:13.

Stone House, Mill Hill.

Blackcap (ad. f.) Feb: 27; Chiffchaff 29-30 Jan: and Feb: 29; Chiffwillow Nov: 19.

Garden on Shoreham Beach.

Wheatears at various dates in the spring; Redwing 15 and 18 Jan:

Garden at Steyning.

Many species at various dates from August to December including Long-tailed Tits, Coal Tits, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Bullfinch, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat, Green Woodpecker.

Garden at Southwick Green.

Redwing Jan: 14.

Garden at The Drive.

Redstart (1 ad. m. April 8, 1 ad. f. Oct: 1); Pied Flycatcher (1 ad. m. Sep: 18); Lesser Whitethroat (1 ad. m. Aug: 26).

F.S.

NOTEWORTHY VISITORS TO SHOREHAM AREA DURING 1960

The year under review was a relatively lean one compared with 1959, and this applies not only to rarities but also to the more unusual waders and passerines.

At the beginning of the year we had, in addition to the Chiffchaffs mentioned in a special article, several birds of note. The Great Grey Shrike seen at Mile Oak late in 1959 was recorded again there in January. During this month there was a Great Northern Diver on the Adur and also a Snow Bunting on the rubbish dump, up to ten Twite near the Airfield and a Spotted Redshank in the creek. During February we had several Chiffchaffs, a Water Pipit, two Blackcaps and up to four shags.

Spring records included a Golden Oriole (see special article),

Garganey Duck at the Sanctuary and elsewhere, a pair of Pied Flycatchers at Coombes and a female of the same species and a Firecrest at the Sanctuary. A Red Crested Cardinal (presumably an escape), and a pair of Redstarts which were later seen feeding young were also seen at Coombes. During a "Dawn Chorus" expedition a Corncrake was heard calling below Chanctonbury Ring. Quail were heard calling on The Downs on several days at the end of May.

The autumn also produced some good records, namely Gadwall; at least six Grey Phalaropes; ten Black Terns and a number of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers at Widewater. Elsewhere Little Stint, a Curlew Sandpiper, an Osprey and a Hooded Crow - the first for several years - and a Buzzard were seen. We might mention also late Wheatears including one on November 19th, a male Blackcap on November 22nd., and four Chiffchaffs during November, the latest on November 21st., a Little Gull seen on the Airport on November 3rd., and four Black Redstarts in late December. The Iceland Gull, which came to our area in January 1958, continues to be seen occasionally at Shoreham and Southwick and was last recorded on December 11th.

In conclusion we might note that Chiffchaffs have been recorded in every month of the year except December and for this and exceptional dates for some other species we must, I think, thank a relatively mild winter and autumn.

J.M.T.

VISIBLE MIGRATION AND MOVEMENTS OF BIRDS IN 1960

There was no systematic sea-watching in 1960 and records of such observations of birds over or on the sea as have been received from members have been included in the article on Birds of the Area. The following article summaries the records of members which may be considered to reflect migration or other regular movements of birds during the year.

During the cold spell in January large movements westward of finches, thrushes (Redwings and Fieldfares) and Starlings were observed in Shoreham, the movement being particularly heavy on 14th January, when many thousands of birds (in the case of Starlings, tens of thousands) were concerned. It is interesting to note that members who were at Hove and Steyning to the east and at Ferring and Pagham to the west, of Shoreham during the period observed the same movements. At the same time there was immigration of Bramblings into the Shoreham area, and a number could be seen daily on the rubbish dump for over a

week, the maximum seen being fifty or more on 17 January. This was the largest number recorded at Shoreham since the Society came into being.

The spring migration was represented by a number of movements recorded in March and April. Coastal movement eastward of Starlings and finches was recorded on several days in March although the numbers involved were at no time so great as have been observed in previous years. Movements of terns over the sea (mostly Common/Arctic but with a few Sandwich and on one occasion four Little Terns) in an easterly direction were observed from the 16th April to about the middle of May.

In the autumn, movements of terns in a westerly direction were noticed in late August and September. Large numbers of Swallows (sometimes with House Martins and Sand Martins) were as usual seen flying eastwards or south-eastwards during September and October. Little movement of Finches was recorded by members at this period, the only records brought to notice being a number of flocks of Greenfinches flying east along the coast on 4th and 5th September. An interesting record was a movement westward of Redwings on November 7th (flocks totalling about a thousand were seen in half an hour). Probably the largest movement recorded was that of a large concentration of Starlings ("tens if not hundreds of thousands") flying over the Downs on 13th. December at Lancing.

Shoreham residents are familiar with the sight of Swifts circling St. Mary's Church during the summer. In 1960 the last day they were seen so doing was August 8th, although individual birds were of course seen in the area after that date. Reference may also be made to our regular winter waders, Redshank, Dunlin and Ringed Plover. As usual these left the estuarial waters towards the end of March, although small groups and individual birds were seen long after this, no doubt stopping at Shoreham for a time whilst on their way to their nesting grounds further north. The Redshanks which nest close by the river a little to the north of Shoreham are probably not our winter birds but others which have wintered further south. Unfortunately Ringed Plover which nested on the beach at Shoreham a few years ago no longer do so, the beach areas they used being now largely covered with buildings.

Another observation, by a member, of a movement well outside our area is worth recording. He reports an enormous mass migration of House Martins and a few Swallows flying south over the deep valley between the chalk quarry at Saddlescombe and the Devil's Dyke on 7 October. He states that it was impossible to estimate the numbers but that it was a most impressive sight, beating anything he had seen at Spurn or other observatories.

The foregoing article on Visible Migration & Movements of Birds in 1960, incorporates records received from D.M. George, T. Palmer, R. Phillips, F. Severs and J.M. Twort.
F.S.

CHIFFCHAFFS IN THE SHOREHAM AREA DURING 1960

A remarkable feature of 1960 was the influx of Chiffchaffs to our area during the early and late months of the year. On January 29th. two were recorded, one near Cuckoo's Corner and one at Stone House; on the same date a bird almost certainly of this species was seen in a member's garden at Southwick. On January 31st there was one in the Society's bird sanctuary. Previous to either of these dates a well-known Sussex recorder told me that he had seen one at Hove and he later told me of another there in February. During February five birds at least were recorded to me of which one in the Sanctuary on February 7th and one in a churchyard at Shoreham on February 12th were the earliest. Of the others two were in or near the Sanctuary and the other at Stone House.

It is of interest that the Sussex Annual Bird Reports for the period 1949 to 1959 inclusive list only twenty-one records of Chiffchaffs seen in Sussex during the months of December, January and February. Of these twenty-one records eight were listed in the 1959 Report and four of these were for December. During the period 1949 to 1959 there was only one record for November and this was seen at Shoreham on November 16th to 19th inclusive. It is indeed remarkable that four have been seen this year during November in Shoreham alone, the last on November 21st. In normal years we expect our first Chiffchaff about the end of the third week of March but this year there were by this time at least five in the Sanctuary alone.

It is possible that the birds seen in late February and early March were immigrants just arrived from the continent but it is likely that those recorded in early February and late January were potential emigrants which had wintered in this country. Be that as it may, we shall expect to see many unusual dates for Chiffchaffs in Sussex when the 1960 Bird Report for that county is issued next spring.

J.M.T.

A GOLDEN ORIOLE IN THE SHOREHAM AREA

On the morning of the 28th of May 1960 Mr. Severs and Mr. Twort identified a male Golden Oriole in the grounds of Lancing Manor. Mr. Severs also had a glimpse of the bird, seeing its distinctive black and yellow plumage and notices its characteristic way of swooping up

into the leaf canopy of the high trees. I heard the bird and had brief glimpses of it in the afternoon with them and sufficient evidence was obtained to exclude with certainty the possibility that it was a Starling imitating an Oriole.

The bird was not seen or heard again after the 28th of May and was obviously going through on passage.

In the twelve years I have watched the birds of Shoreham this is the first occurrence of a Golden Oriole to come to my notice. In view of this I felt it worthwhile looking into the past occurrences in Sussex and for Shoreham in particular.

The Golden Oriole occurs as a passage migrant chiefly in the spring, rarely in the autumn, and has possibly bred on more than one occasion in the county, although Bannerman in his Birds of the British Isles 1853 does not include Sussex in the counties in which it has bred. In The History of the Birds of Sussex, J. Walpole Bond gives about ninety records up to 1938 although only one record for Shoreham on April 19th 1872.

There is a gap in the records during the war and up to 1948 to the publishing of the first Sussex Bird Report. In these reports from 1948 to the present day there is only one report of a Golden Oriole for Sussex, in Wadhurst on 20th May 1956.

The Golden Oriole adult male is a conspicuous bird with its black and yellow plumage and its call, far-carrying and distinctive. Yet despite this, and the increase in bird watchers in the area, this is only the second occurrence in the Shoreham area since records have been kept.

This may be accounted for by the fact that the habitat is not particularly suitable or attractive, for Golden Orioles like the leafy cover of tall trees, and although it is possible that they pass through unseen in the early mornings they cannot be considered other than of rare occurrence in this area and in Sussex generally.

J.S.

HALF A CENTURY OF BIRD WATCHING IN AND AROUND STEYNING

One wet and gloomy day last November I amused myself by looking through some of the rough notes I had made from time to time of my Bird Watching experiences in and around the town of Steyning.

In a very short while the dullness of the day was forgotten and my memory was bringing to life the many happy hours which my jottings were conjuring up out of the past. 19.

During the period covered by my notes, and using them as a check list, I found that I had definitely identified no less than 96 species of birds which have actually nested less than six miles from Steyning Church and there is possibly no area of equal size in the British Isles which offers sanctuary and breeding territory to such a wide variety.

Downlands and meadows, woodlands and orchards, tidal river and marshes, hedgerows and rough grazing ground, lakes, ponds and gently flowing streams offer in wide diversity a choice of nesting sites.

That the varying types of territory available serve to attract many different sorts of birds is amply borne out by the following list of some of the species which have nested in this area during the past 50 years:-

Stone Curlew	Yellow Wagtail,	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker,
Wryneck,	Heron,	Tufted Duck,
Hawfinch,	Wood Lark,	Grasshopper Warbler,
Girl Bunting,	Quail,	Long Eared Owl,
Corncrake,	Woodcock,	Red Backed Shrike,
Crossbill,	Nightjar,	Great Spotted Woodpecker,
Water Rail,	Kingfisher,	Hobby,
Wood Warbler,	Grey Wagtail,	Little Grebe.

Several of the birds mentioned in this list no longer nest in the district around Steyning, but I think it is safe to say, from my own observations, that between 80 and 90 species still nest with us fairly regularly, although in greatly decreased numbers in many instances.

During the past fifty years many rare and uncommon birds have come to my notice in this same area and in a small Town, where my activities as a Bird Watcher are well known, it is inevitable that strange birds, both alive and dead - some of them very dead - should be brought to me for identification and the birds I have recorded include several interesting visitors:-

Black Redstart,	Firecrest,	Green Sandpiper
Puffin,	Bewick's Swan,	Montagu's Harrier,
Great Skua,	Squacco Heron,	Snow Bunting,
Spotted Crake,	Smew,	Bean-Goose,
Whimbrel,	Golden Plover	Cape Sheld-duck
Sirius Crane,	Hen Harrier,	Night Heron
Waxwing,	Hooded Crow,	White-fronted Goose,
Short Eared Owl,	Common Scoter,	Little Tern,
Buzzard,	Brambling,	Peregrine Falcon,
Great Crested Grebe,	Siskin,	Knot,
Pied Flycatcher,	Hoopoe,	Curlew.

Chough. One was seen in 1952 and in 1954 a pair built a nest in an old barn. Seven eggs were laid but the nest was unfortunately destroyed.

Some of the birds included in this list were undoubtedly 'Escapes'. But it is difficult to explain the appearance of a Great Skua, a Puffin, and a Little Tern, all of which were, at different times, found dead less than half a mile from Steyning and all in the same locality.

Whilst going through my records to sort out the material for these notes I found the following few lines which were jotted down several years ago, prompted, I remember, by the questions I had been asked by two young naturalists who had been with me on one of my cross-country rambles.

LOOKING BACK

On a country walk one day I strayed
Through an unfrequented wood,
When, in a well remembered glade
I paused - and as I stood
I glimpsed a Lad beneath the trees
Where moss and bracken grew,
His hair was ruffled by the breeze,
His clothes were far from new.

There seemed so much for his surprise
Within that shady wood,
But I was hidden from his eyes
On the vantage where I stood
And envied him, and wished that I
With his young eyes could see
The wonders of the earth and sky
Like the Lad - who once was me.

C.A.G.

MORE NEWS FROM SELSEA BILL

In last year's Report I described the results of what had commenced in 1959 purely as an experiment - watching visible migration at Selsea Bill in West Sussex. The results were so encouraging that fuller coverage was arranged in 1960, and it is now obvious from the year's sum total of observations that consistent watching in the future will be well worthwhile.

The greatest single contributing factor to the success of our work at Selsea in 1960 was without doubt the acquisition of a permanent headquarters in the form of a small hut on a plot of ground at the extreme tip of the Bill. After a lengthy wrangle as to the ownership of the plot, we were eventually granted conditional permission to use the land and to renovate a few planks of wood which were all that remained of the hut. This was duly done, and by the beginning of April, just in time for the Spring migration, we had a lavishly equipped, although rather cramped, base from which to 'direct operations'. And what a boon it proved to be for the rest of the year: no more rising at 3 a.m. to drive down to the Bill, for we could drive down the previous evening and sleep in the tent which we bought and which, in conjunction with the hut, provided accommodation and cooking facilities, together with comfort and shelter from the elements, for a small number of stalwarts.

Five weeks of daily observation were arranged in the spring, from 9th April to 16th May, and this, combined with regular week-end visits both before and after this period, enabled us to gather a good deal of information on a typical spring migration at Selsea. The most interesting feature was the up-channel tern movement, which had been remarked upon in 1959, when several of the more uncommon species had been recorded. In 1960 terns were moving from early April to late May, reaching a tremendous peak in the second week of May when thousands poured through daily: on the biggest day some 2150 Common or Arctic Terns, 110 Black, 102 Little and 22 Sandwich Terns flew eastwards. The rarer species again appeared; no fewer than six Gull-billed Terns in the spring, which we think establishes the bird, previously considered a vagrant, as a definite passage migrant; a Caspian Tern, the first definite record for Sussex; a White-winged Black Tern in April for the second year running; and several Roseates. Other birds were not neglected, naturally - a Great Reed Warbler was one of the most exciting, but we recorded again Mediterranean Gulls (two), and among others, two Manx Shearwaters, over fifty Arctic Skuas including a remarkable party of twenty, two Great Skuas, Fulmars almost daily, and numerous other species both at sea and on the land.

This spurred us on to even greater heights in the autumn, when we were fortunate enough to arrange some six weeks of daily watching (late September to early November) in addition to the regular week-end visits throughout the whole autumn. So much was seen that only the highlights can be touched upon here: such as the total of about fifty thousand passengers that left the Bill towards the continent during the autumn; or the three Tawny Pipits which were watched early one Sunday morning feeding with Wagtails on the lawns of the Holiday Camp:

the Collared Doves which successfully reared two young, one of the first breeding records for the county; the Bluethroat which was seen skulking in a foreshore garden one September morning; or the superb Marsh Harrier flying out high over the Bill, or the Kite which was watched circling overhead; the Desert Wheatear, the first for the county and only the thirteenth in the British Isles which stayed for ten days in the late autumn and was seen by over 120 people; the total of eight Merlins, the Hobby, the Great Grey Shrike which flew in from the sea, the Storm Petrel ———but one could really go on for pages.

So much for the practical and ornithological side of the work at Selsea. What of the administrative, which creates quite a problem in itself? Watchers have to be arranged, good relations maintained with residents, records collected and collated, reports published and so on. A fund has been established to pay back the cost of our big tent, to provide for improvements to our headquarters and to finance our reports: in addition to the money raised by the ten shillings a week accommodation fee agreed upon, we have had some very generous donations from friends to whom we are very grateful. All Selsea records of interest are regularly submitted to the 'Recent Reports and News' section of British Birds, and records of rare birds promptly sent to the Rarities Committee of that Journal; a summary of each spring and autumn's migration is published in 'Bird Migration'; two representatives of Selsea attend the Bird Observatories Conference in January; the more interesting records are published in the Sussex Bird Report; and we produce our own Report which sets out in detail all migrational records and reports on each migration season. The latter can be obtained from me, price two shillings and sixpence; that covering the autumn of 1960 should be published in early February.

Finally a word about the future. Many people have said to us, 'Why don't you start a proper Bird Observatory here?' I don't really think we can, for Selsea is unfortunately so built up that large numbers of people roaming about in search of birds are certain to annoy local residents, which would jeopardise future operations. In such a place a small group is probably more useful than numbers of people watching; different from, say, Dungeness or Portland where 'the more the merrier' is often the way to turn up the most birds. There is no selfish motive in this whatsoever, as nothing would please us more than to see our efforts culminate in the establishment of an Observatory, but, on the other hand, we feel that we are virtually one now, for the Bill is watched thoroughly and regularly, with results that compare favourably with those of the established observatories, and all results are published fully and widely.

THE WILDFOWL TRUST, SLIMBRIDGE

In case any of our Members are contemplating a visit to Slimbridge, the following notes, based on information gained in three visits during the year ended 14th October, 1960 might be helpful.

Slimbridge is about 150 miles from Shoreham and can be reached quite pleasantly by car in about 4½ hours. It is situated just off the Bristol - Gloucester Road near and to the North East of Berkeley and is in fact leased from the Berkeley Estates. These estates were once so extensive that it was said that one could ride from Berkeley in Gloucester to Berkeley Square, London without leaving the Berkeley estates. Berkeley Castle is open to the public.

The Wildfowl Trust is approached through the village of Slimbridge and lies between the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal and the River Severn. There is a car park which is more than adequate during the winter.

According to the paper handed out on admission there are "some fifteen hundred birds of 160 different species and races" at Slimbridge representing "the largest and most varied collection of ducks, geese, and swans in the world." The entrance fee is 3/6d. but this does not entitle visitors to go outside to the hides to see the wild geese. This entails membership and it costs 10/- to become an Associate Member for a year. This, of course, covers all entrance fees for the year. It is possible to obtain a distant view of the wild geese from the Acrow Tower in the South American pen.

Some of the enclosures are best described by their names:- North American Pen, South American Pen, Australian Pen, African Pen, Hybrid Pen, European Pen and Asiatic Pen. There are smaller pens containing named species and mixed pens such as the Big Pen and the Rushy Pen. The latter has a pool outside the Director's house and such is the noise that it is hardly surprising that he makes fairly frequent trips abroad!

There is necessarily an atmosphere of "Zoo" about the enclosures but the surroundings are very pleasant. It is interesting to see at a few feet range birds that are normally very small dots in the field of a binocular and many others that never even reach that position. It is also fascinating to see Hawaiian Geese wandering about the Big Pen like chicken in a farmyard. This bird, which was nearing extinction, must have been saved by the Wildfowl Trust.

A wooden tower gives a view of the Decoy and there is a map on the walls giving details of ringing recoveries.

No doubt the wild geese will be of the greatest interest to our Members. It has been said that Slimbridge is the finest wintering ground for White Fronted Geese in Europe and it is this species that one can be certain to see in Winter. The Wardens suggest January and February as the best months to visit.

On 18th October 1959, there were about 750 White Fronts and these were on the Dumbles between the Wildfowl Trust and the River Severn. There is a concrete pill box hide with a large mounted binocular but Members should take their own binoculars with them (also their Wellingtons). There are three escorted trips to the hides each day. There are gulls and waders to be seen on the mud beyond the Dumbles but as they are not wildfowl they are ignored by the Wardens.

As the Winter proceeds the geese get tamer and move further inland. On 23rd February, 1960 the number of White Fronts had risen to 3000 and they were feeding in the fields by the roadside between the Canal and the Wildfowl Trust. They were even feeding in the field, part of which forms the car park.

On 14th October 1960 it was stated that there were about 300 White Fronts and 130 Pink Feet. Unfortunately they had been disturbed at lunch time and were a long way from the Pill Box hide. A fairly good view was obtained from No.13 hide, one of a series of wooden hides set in a bank overlooking the Dumbles. Only 2 Pink Feet were discovered among the White Fronts, though a fairly large number of Wigeon were also in view beyond the geese. The Member is taken to the most suitable hide by the Warden and left there. On this occasion, there was considerable movement among the geese in the air and on the ground and much closer views were obtained during a stay of about 1½ hours. Other geese seen at Slimbridge from time to time include Greenland White Fronts, Lesser White-fronts, Bean, Brent and on one occasion a Red Breasted Goose. Needless to say, it requires a great deal of time and patience to separate other species from the thousands of White Fronts though the Warden said that the Red Breasted Goose was so aggressive that there was always an empty space around it when it was feeding.

Generally, the White Fronts are present from October to March while the Pink Feet arrive at the same time and stay until December. If one has time to spare in the area, it is worthwhile visiting the Reservoir at Chew Magna, about 10 miles south west of Bristol. Excellent views can be obtained from the roadside at several points. In October of this year there was a large collection of duck of various species and close views of a Black Tern and a Grey Phalarope.

R.E.G.

BIRDS AT A SPANISH SEASIDE RESORT

During the last few years most members have read and heard much about bird-watching in Spain. One need only mention the R.S.P.B. film "Wild Spain" with its account of the fabulous birds of the Cota Donana, or more recently Dr. Stafford's talk to members about "Birds of a Spanish Valley" and his article in the Society's Report last year on "Some Spanish Raptors". The following is much more modest in scope, being merely an account of birds seen in the course of family holidays taken

in May in four successive years at a small seaside resort in south-east Spain. No special bird-watching trips were undertaken, and in walks and car rides round about the area binoculars were carried sometimes but not always. Briefly the topography of the district is as follows: Torremolinos itself is on a more or less flat shelf at the foot of mountains rising to perhaps 1,000 feet immediately and several thousand feet further inland. On the shelf, apart from buildings, are a good many trees (fir, eucalyptus, palm and some deciduous) and other vegetation including cultivated fields. Between the town and the sea are some broken cliffs about 150 feet high and the beach below is a flat expanse of sand, perhaps about 300 yards wide with the parts furthest from the sea cultivated as market gardens. There are - at least in the spring - a good many small streams running down from the mountains to the sea.

The general impression is that the bird population is much lower, and particularly that there is much less bird song, than in England. No Song Thrushes, Robins, Wrens, Rooks, Jackdaws, Magpies or Starlings were seen and very few of some of the other common English species such as Blackbirds. The House Sparrow was fairly common but wilder than at home. There were however very large numbers of Swallows, House Martins and Swifts and it was interesting of an evening to sit outside one of the cafes in the main square and see (and hear) these birds continually circling round and occasionally visiting their nests in the buildings. Goldfinches were common and Greenfinches less so. Skylarks were seen occasionally over the fields, but more common (although less musical) were Crested Larks. Nesting in the cliffs not very far from the hotel in two separate sites were Bee-eaters, although one of these sites had disappeared in the last year owing to building operations. Woodchat Shrikes were seen frequently; one year in particular, one could be seen every morning on telegraph wires about 50 yards from the terrace of the hotel when breakfast was being taken. Unfamiliar warblers were seen occasionally and identification of these was found very difficult. However, apart from common species it was possible to pick out the Melodious, Olivaceous, Fantailed and Savi's Warblers at different times. Another bird seen more than once was the Kite. Owls were heard at night, but other than the Tawny none was seen.

In the course of car journeys through the countryside, which included crossing mountains by passes over 3,500 feet high, birds seen included the Blackeared Wheatear, Rock Thrush, Blue Rock Thrush, Bee-eater, Crag Martin, Hoopoe, Buzzard and Griffon Vulture. In the gardens of the Alhambra at Granada, which are well watered with streams from an old Moorish system of irrigation and are full of luxuriant vegetation and large trees of various kinds there were many Nightingales and other familiar species such as Tits, Wrens, Chaffinches and Blackbirds. In the deep gorge at Ronda, a very old town high in the

mountains with Roman and Moorish remains, many different species of birds could be seen including Lesser Kestrels and Alpine Swifts. Lesser Kestrels were also seen circling the Cathedral at Malaga.

Sea Birds were disappointingly few. Although several hours were spent daily on the beach (basking in hot sunshine!) some days passed, particularly towards the end of May, when none was seen at all. On most days a certain number of Great Blackbacked Gulls in immature plumage flew by out at sea, but the most common bird was the Black Tern numbers of which scavenged the beach regularly for the small fish left on the sand by the local fishermen when emptying their nets; this species was nesting at the mouth of a larger stream some miles away. Common Terns were seen fairly often although they were fewer than the Black. On one occasion a Long-tailed Skua was seen at the edge of the sea, unmistakable when it flew owing to its long central tail feathers, and on another an Osprey fishing out at sea.

Most of the common British Waders were to be seen, no doubt at this time of year passing through to their breeding grounds. The most common was the Sanderling, flocks of which could be seen most days advancing and retreating with the waves. Also seen were Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Turnstone and Oystercatcher. The most interesting wader was however, the Kentish Plover little colonies of which were nesting at intervals of a few hundred yards or so along the beach, outside the populated area.

Caged birds were frequently seen outside houses, particularly Goldfinches. Some of these must have suffered when exposed without shelter from the hot sun for long periods. Public opinion in Spain is evidently far behind that in this country in the matter of keeping wild birds in captivity.

F.S.

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE BIRDS OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

To a bird watcher any change in terrain is of interest so after a flight of some fifteen hundred miles south-east from Britain I looked around me on landing at Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, with more than usual anticipation and interest. The larks on the Airfield were crested and the sparrows *Passer montanus*. We were then whisked through the streets of Sofia by car and had glimpses of Collared Doves feeding, almost as tame as our feral pigeons, in the cobbled streets. Later we were to become familiar with their call as they were common birds in all Bulgarian towns and parks. Overhead flew the inevitable House Martins, nesting on the public buildings as they do in so many of Europe's cities. As a species they must have increased greatly because of these man-made nesting sites, which are much more plentiful than the caves and sea cliffs, their natural habitat, as we saw them nesting on the Black Sea and as they nest also in north Sootland.

A further flight 300 miles south to the Black Sea coast linked us

up with the rest of the party, to whom the sight of flocks of Rosy Pastors had become common-place but this did not detract from the enjoyment of our first view of them. Flying in flocks they appeared at a distance to be identical with similar flocks of Starlings yet there was an indefinable "something" about the Rosy Pastor flocks which enabled us to pick them out long before we could see the pink of their backs. Perhaps the commonest bird was the Red-backed Shrike; this was everywhere, all along the Black Sea coast. On the wires the Lesser Grey Shrike was common with the colourful Roller, and the drab Corn Bunting often beside it.

On the littoral bushes the delightful Black-headed Bunting sang incessantly, its song was as bright and colourful as its plumage. Overhead soared Spotted Eagles and Black Kites with an occasional Goshawk all nesting nearby, whilst in the background we heard the calls of the Bee Eater, Hoopoe, Golden Oriole and the harsh song of the Great Reed Warbler, and behind these many other songs and calls of frogs and toads and birds and other sounds we could not identify.

Exploring further afield we discovered the nesting place of the Pied Wheatear in the crumbling fossil cliffs of the Black Sea coast, a wild area haunted by the Eagle Owl, a huge owl that watched us from high up on a cliff face but would not allow a near approach. Here were birds in abundance; the ornithology of the area was unknown and we were breaking fresh ground, each day bringing new discoveries.

It is of course not possible to mention all the two hundred and more species we identified. Some of them were outstanding in interest and many were notable by their absence. We never saw a Collared Flycatcher although it was thought to occur in this region. There was a strange absence of rails and crakes despite large areas of reed beds and marshes.

Driving back through Bulgaria to Sofia we covered much ground, seeing little Egrets, and White Storks in the rice fields, Red-footed Falcons, by the Balkan Mountains and then on higher ground at between 4000-5000 feet we met more familiar birds such as Chiffchaffs, Bullfinches and Chaffinches, the latter a much darker bird than the one that frequents our woodlands and gardens in England. The reason for the change in species with altitude is of course that the habitat is similar at 5000 feet so far south-east to that at sea level in England. Climbing higher, although finding fewer birds, we saw Nutcrackers flying from fir tree to fir tree and above the snow line at the region of 7000 feet found the nest and saw the beautiful Wallcreeper, whilst, in complete contrast, we found not the expected Water Pipit but Rock Pipits, birds associated with sea shores in the north of England; and so we left a land of infinite ornithological possibilities all too soon.

J.S.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Swans at Shoreham. Again three pairs of Mute Swans nested at Widewater. In only one of these cases were there live cygnets and these only survived for a few days. A pair nested successfully at New Salts Farm and of five cygnets three were alive and flourishing at the end of 1960. Another successful nesting took place near Cuckoo's Corner with two surviving cygnets and yet another at Brookland pool on the west border of Lancing where five cygnets could still be seen at the end of the year.

Wyckham Heronry. Mr. Grigg reports that there were only six nests at the Heronry in the spring of 1960 and that when he inspected the nests in April they had apparently been robbed by Carrion Crows.

Essay Competition: As members are aware the Society ran an Essay Competition for Junior Members during the year. The Council were disappointed at the poor response but a good essay on "Birds of the Seashore" was received from Richard Prescott to whom a prize of a Book Token to the value of £1 has been awarded.

Illustration on Cover. This year it will be seen that we are using a design of a Kingfisher on the cover. Members may like to know that this is printed from a line block of a drawing by Mr. R. Lyon. The Council are very grateful to Mr. Lyon for the loan of the block, which has enabled this excellent drawing to be reproduced on the cover.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Receipts and Expenditure Account. Year ended 31 Dec: 1960.

(Abridged)

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>
Balance in hand 1.1.1960	34.19. 4	Subscriptions	5. 6. 0
Subscriptions	41.16. 0	Affiliation Fees	2.16. 0
Meetings. Donations	10. 6. 3	Lecture Expenses	11.11. 0
Annual Reports; sales	3. 8. 6	Sanctuary; rent, repairs	1.10. 4
Tea Receipts	1.13. 4	Purchase of Hide	17.13. 3
Receipts from Film Show	19. 2. 0	Cost of Projector	10. 0. 0
Misc. Receipts	1.14. 6	Screen	
		Printing, postage etc.	28. 1. 5
		Misc. expenses	2. 2. 0
		Bal. at Bank 31.12.1960	33.19.11
	<u>£112.19.11</u>		<u>£112.19.11</u>

Audited and found correct
(signed) F. Severs,
Hon. Auditor.

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

SUMMARY of LECTURES, MEETINGS, and FIELD EXPEDITIONS in 1960

Lectures

January	23rd.	"Bird Watching & Wanderings"	Mr. Bayliss-Smith
February	8th.	"A Bird in the Hand"	Dr. Stafford
"	24th.	Annual General Meeting	
		Talk on Owl "Pelletts"	Mr. Phillips
March	25th.	"Island Interlude"	Mr. S. Cerey
April	20th.	"Bird Song"	Dr. Stafford
October	1st.	Sapsucker Wood Research Station	Mrs. Allan
"	19th.	"Birds behind the Iron Curtain"	Dr. Stafford
November	19th.	"Selsey Bill"	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
December	10th.	"Sea-Bird Summer"	R.S.P.B. Film.

Field Expeditions

January	16th.	Pagham Harbour	Mr. & Mrs. Cordero
February	7th.	Amberley	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
March	12th.	Steyning Heronry	Mr. Burstow
April	3rd.	Burling Gap to Cuckmere	Mr. Severs
May	15th.	Dawn Chorus	Mr. Burstow and Miss Griffiths
July	9th.	By Coach to High Beeches & Nymans	
September	5th.	Bird Sanctuary	Dr. Stafford
"	11th.	Thorney Island	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
October	22nd.	Selsey, Siddlesham & Manhood End	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
November	12th.	The Saltings and River	Mr. Severs & Mr. Twort
December	4th.	Manhood End (cancelled due to bad storm)	Mr. Hollings
"	31st.	East Head	Mr. & Mrs. Cordero

For Juniors only Field Expeditions Visits to the Bird Sanctuary

Mr. Burstow
Dr. Stafford.

OFFICERS FOR 1960

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

<u>Council</u>	Mrs. F. Cordero. Mr. F. Severs	Mr. J.M. Twort
<u>Field Committee</u>	Mr. A. Burstow (Chairman) Mr. B.A.E. Marr	Miss P. Griffiths
<u>Official Recorder</u>	Mr. J.M. Twort	

Editor

Mr. F. Severs

Representative on the Protection of Birds' Committee of the West Sussex
County Council Mr. G. Rampton.

Bird Sanctuary Upkeep. Messrs. A. Burstow; W. McKechnie and T. Palmer.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Both subscriptions include a copy of the Annual Report, and are payable in January.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1960

J. Mr. R. Allison	45 St.Leonards Rd., Hove
J. Mr. J. Ayers	14 West Way, Lancing
Miss H. Bartlett	Chancton, The Street, Old Shoreham
Mrs. B. Baker	18 Selsey Avenue, Bognor Regis
J. Mr. D. Ball	28 Adur Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea
Miss Barr	17 Roman Road, Steyning
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
J. Messrs. A. & J. Burstow	27 Erringham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea
Mr. D. Calver	86A Poynings Drive, Hove 4.
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Mrs. Dibbell	The Firs, Hillside Walk, Heath Common, Storrington.
Mr. F.C. Edwards	6 Wykeham Court, Wykeham Rd., Worthing
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Mr. & Mrs. Farmer	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea
Miss Forbes	13 Roman Road, Steyning

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Dr. D. Gibson

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Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Goddard

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Mr. R. Hamlyn

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J. Mr. M. Helps

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Mr. R.V. Hitch

Mr. M. Hollings

Mrs. Houseman

Miss P. Hughes

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The Misses Joseph

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J. Mr. R. Leaney

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Mr. B.A.E. Marr

Mr. & Miss McKechnie

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Mrs. Morrison Scott

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Mrs. E. Ottley

Mr. T. Palmer

Miss S. Pargeter

Miss J. Parry

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Heath.

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Storrington

10 Tongdean Ave., Hove 4.

26 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea

7 Dyke Close, Hove 4.

20 Court Farm Road, Hove 4.

81 Cranleigh Road, Worthing

100 High Street, Steyning

283 Eastern Road, Brighton 7.

Stumblefield, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill

Restynge, Hillside Walk, Heath Common,
Storrington.

23 Highfield Crescent, Brighton 6.

8 Frith Road, Hove 4.

23 Kings Walk, Beach Rd., Shoreham-by-

20 Hillside Ave., Worthing. (Sea.

2 Kings Walk, Shoreham-by-Sea

12 Hawkins Close, Shoreham-by-Sea

Branlyns, Radmersham Green, Nr. Sitting-
bourne, Kent.

Ashcroft, Maudlyn Park Way, Steyning

Under Round Hill, Laines Rd., Steyning

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41 Hillside Ave., Worthing

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Maytrees, 3 Church Rd., Tarring,
Worthing.

Littlebank, Castle Hill, Steyning

4 Mill Hill Gardens, Shoreham-by-Sea

35 Croft Avenue, Southwick

8 Church Road, Rustington

59 The Green, Southwick

73 Connaught Ave., Shoreham-by-Sea

50a Bath Road, Worthing.

6 Queen's Mansions, Wordsworth Road,
Worthing.

4 Castle Way, Steyning

136 Kings Road, Lancing

33 Middleton Avenue, Hove

18 St. Aubyns Rd., Fishergate, Portslade

34 Old Shoreham Road, Hove

35 Woodland Drive, Hove 4.

- Mr. R. Pescott
Mr. R. Phillips
Mrs. Price
Miss D. Purdy
J. Mr. M. Parrott
Miss E.M. Rabone
Mr. & Mrs. Rampton
Mr. & Mrs. Ray
Mr. H. Richardson
Mr. A. Robinson & Club
The Misses Roberts
Mrs. Roe
Miss Rogers,
- Mr. & Mrs. Ruscoe
Mr. F. Severs
Mr. A.B. Sheldon
Mr. R.W. Skerritt
Mrs. N. Smith
Dr. & Mrs. J. Stafford
Mr. & Mrs. Stephens
J. Mr. D. Stone
Miss D. Stringfellow
Mrs. Treadwell
Mr. & Mrs. Twort
Dr. F. Varley
Mr. & Mrs. Vegrass
Miss G.M. Watts
Mr. J. Watson
Mr. & Mrs. Weatherhead
Mr. B.L. Wenham
- J. Miss S. West
Mr. L. Whitbourn
Miss M. Whorlow
Mr. R. Williams
Miss W.M. Woodroffe
- Lately joined:-
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Mr. G.P. Dixon
Mr. John Dixon
Miss M.D. Marsh
- 47 Alfreton Rd., Worthing
19 Chester Ave., Wellan Park, Lancing
Wykeham Dale Cottages, Steyning
17 Combes Road, Steyning
40 Princes Road, Brighton, 7
2 Roman Road, Steyning
34 Croft Avenue, Southwick
Marlows, Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea
35 Mill Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea
24 Melrose Avenue, Portslade
117 Parklands Rd., Chichester
3 The Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea
157 Greenways Crescent, Upper Shoreham Rd.,
Shoreham
Annington Old Farm House, Botolphs, Steyning
9 Beach Road, Shoreham-by-Sea
82 Woodland Drive, Hove 4
3 Poultern Lane, Broadwater, Worthing
60 Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea
Stone House, Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham
89 Kings Stone Ave., Steyning
69 The Drive, Shoreham-by-Sea
7 Queensway, Horsham
8 Rosslyn Road, Shoreham-by-Sea
63 The Green, Southwick
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea
33 Portland Gate, Portland Rd., Hove
15 Oxford Road, Worthing
15 Riverbank, Shoreham-by-Sea
Mill Hill Pumping Station, Shoreham-by-Sea
140 Heath Hill Ave., Lower Bevendean,
Brighton
131 Greenways Cres., Upper Shoreham Rd.,
6 Mill Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea. (Shoreham
61 Blenheim Park Rd., South Croydon
Hazelhurst Farm, Wisborough Green,
17 Hailsham Rd., Worthing (Billingshurst.
93 High St., Steyning
3 Tennyson Rd., Worthing
3 do do
52 Crescent Drive Sth., Brighton, 7.