# SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# Tenth Annual Report



for the Year 1962

PRICE: TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

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# EDITORIAL NOTES

The Shoreham Ornithological Society was formed in 1952, and in 1962, therefore, the Society completed the first ten years of its history. A special article by our President, Dr. John Stafford, in this, the tenth Annual Report, tells the story of the progress of the Society during this period. The record of the steady increase in membership to its present figure of 173, of the obvious popularity of the meetings both indoor and out as shown by attendances of the impressive figures of bird-ringing undertaken by Dr. Stafford and his assistants and of the large number of species observed, including a considerable number of rarities, must be a source of gratification to all members and particularly to those who had a part in the formation of the Society. Not to be forgotten, also, is the healthy state of

of its finances under the able Treasurership of Mr. Rampton, the valuable work of Mr. J.M. Twort as Recorder and the energetic labours of the Sanctuary Committee whose work in refencing the Sanctuary area just completed has involved the expenditure of much time and work. Especially this opportunity must be taken to express appreciation on behalf of all members to Dr. Stafford for all he has contributed to the Society in so many ways - as President and Chairman of meetings, as experienced bird-ringer and ormithologist, as Lecturer and as helpful tutor to less knowlegeable bird-watchers. To supplement Dr. Stafford's survey of "The First Ten Years" a tabular statement of the rarer species observed over the period is appended.

The year did not produce many outstanding records. Wintering Chiffchaffs seem to have become a regular feature, so also does the appearance of white gulls. The extraordinary number of Tree Sparrows, which, adding the numbers at the several places where they were seen, must have totalled about a thousand, was a special feature of the early part of the year. Mention must also be made of the Cattle Egret seen at Lancing, the Avocet, and the possible Orphean Warbler seen by Mrs. Farmer.

The report includes for the first time, a summary of the accounts by the respective leaders of the monthly Field Outings of the Society. Many of the areas visited are really richer ornithologically than (although not so regularly watched as) our own area, and as will be observed from the accounts a number of interesting species were seen. In addition, the usual articles on Notable Birds of the Year, Sanctuary Report (this time written by D. Stone), Ringing Reports, Garden Birds etc. are included. Again Mr. Tony Marr, notwithstanding his other activities — such as Honorary Secretary of the Sussex Ornithological Society as well as of our own Society, not to speak of working for a living, has found time to contribute a summary of the results of the observations of the Selsey group, as well as an article on the Cattle Egret, and Mr. R.E. Goddard has provided an account of his observations at The Devil's Dyke.

Once again the Society took the Town Hall for two showings of a film produced by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, on this occasion "Garden Birds." The widespread interest in birds was again shown by the attendance, which totalled about 330. The showing of these films is, incidentally, profitable to the Society as will be seen by a perusal of the financial accounts, a summary of which is included.

The Society is indebted to Mr. R.E. Goddard and Mr. A.B. Sheldon for their help in duplicating Notices; Mr. and Mrs. Grigg, Mr. Twort, and others who helped to distribute them; all who gave a hand at serving tea and biscuits at meetings; the stewards at the Town Hall Film Show; Mr. and Mrs. Farmer who have been so generous with their slide-projector; and Mr. and Mrs. Rampton for all their help.

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F.S.

#### THE FIRST TEN YEARS

In 1952 a handful of people interested in birds gathered together in Shoreham and the Shoreham Society was formed. The object of the Society was to promote an interest in the birds of the neighbourhood.

Let us look back over the years and see what the Society has achieved, in this way. If, for example, in 1952 I had been asked to give an account of the birds of Shoreham I should have been at a loss where to begin and where to look for such information. I should have had to rely on my own limited observations together with mentions of Shoreham in books on Sussex birds. The last one was published as long ago as 1936. Now if faced with the same task I should have available to me the reports of the Society going back ten years and increasing in detail and accuracy each year. About 200 species have been identified in the area covered by the Society since its formation; many of these would, I am sure, have passed unrecorded otherwise. Birds that were quite unsuspected in Shoreham before, we now know as regular visitors.

Such species as Hoopoe, Shag, Grasshopper Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Firecrest and Jack Snipe, to name only a few, occur almost annually. While much rarer species such as the Woodchat Shrike, Great Grey Shrike, and Bluethroats have been recorded more than once. A "first" for Sussex was a Barred Warbler, trapped at the Shoreham Water Works on 31st August, 1939, the previous sight record in 1902 at St. Leonard's no longer being accepted. It must be remembered in viewing these records that the habitat has changed rapidly in the past ten years. Gone are many of the marshes, pools, woods and open fields of pre-war days and in the last ten years much of what was left has been built over or drained. Therefore the areas left to attract birds become less and less. Perhaps because of this, many species are recorded from members gardens, more often than they were.

Chiffchaffs have been seen in every month of the year except

December, Blackcaps have been noticed several times in the winter months. The winter gull population rises to many thousands, amongst these gulls have been seen from time to time an unusual number of white gulls. There have been Iceland and Glaucous, both adult and immature, but several others have been albinos or partial albinos whilst others have not been satisfactorily identified before they disappeared.

The acquisition of the Shoreham Waterworks copse as a bird sanctuary and ringing station has been a great asset, to the society. It has preserved a little part of Shoreham for the birds, also giving us a place where they may be studied without too much disturbance. The whole area consists of less than two acres, but contains a variety of habitats including a small copse, a stream and rough grassland. Here fairly regular observations have been made, often over 200 visits are made in a year and written records are kept, these have each year increased in detail and accuracy. A total of 112 species have been recorded in the Sanctuary since observation began. Here regular bird trapping and ringing is carried out and a Heligoland trap has been built there, though much of the trapping is now done with the more versatile mist net.

Records are kept of all birds trapped. They are weighed and measured and any interesting plumage details noted at the same time. A special study is being made of the Blackbirds that roost there in the autumn and winter months.

The average number of birds ringed in a year is about 2,000. To date recoveries from abroad number eleven, from as far away as a Swallow in Cape Town and a Starling in Estonia, reported through the Moscow ringing bureau. Recoveries in the British Isles show that birds that come south in winter have come from the north east of England and possibly also from Scandinavia as shown by recoveries from Shoreham in those countries. Ringing has also shown that many migrant birds that return to this area to breed do so year after year and are often the same individuals each year. One Nightingale returned for five consecutive years to the sanctuary to breed.

The Society has trained ringers to sufficient proficiency as is required for them to become certified ringers and so to branch out on their own. This certificate is used by the B.T.O. only to fully competent persons. These trained ringers enable the ringing programme of the Society to flourish with the great enthusiasm they show for the work.

In this copse, in an average year, a number of species of birds, mostly common ones nest, including in some years Nightingale (almost annually), Lesser Whitethroat, Tree Sparrow (sveral times) and Goldcrest once. On the debit side some birds are now less common than they were ten years ago. The Red back Shrike has gone from the area, Grasshopper Warblers once bred and were common spring migrants but are only seen as passage migrants. Also the Cirl Bunting is not so common on the Downs as it was. The Sparrow Hawk hunts no more over the meadows and around the copse.

Each season has a programme of lectures and field outings spread out over the year to cater for all tastes of members of the Society. For the past five years a very successful film show has been given in the Town Hall and been open to members of the public, showing one of the new R.S.P.B. films.

The Society now with a membership of 173 is run by a small Council all of whom have been helpful and constant in their duties and without whose help the work of the Society could not have been carried on. We were particularly fortunate in having Miss C.M. Biggs as our secretary until 1961. With her charm of manner and great energy she did so much for the Society during her term of office. B.A.E. Marr who seems to be able to cope with an endless amount of work has stepped very ably into her place, whilst he is also a most able ornithologist. In G.W. Rampton a member of the Council we have a representative on the Bird Protection Committee of the West Sussex County Council.

The local Library has been most helpful in keeping bird books in its reference section, for the use of our members and the public.

The Shoreham Ornithological Society is an active society, as is shown by the good attendance of members at lectures and field outings. The Society has I am sure filled a want in Shoreham. From those who have learnt to note the finer points of ornithology to others who just enjoy looking at birds, there has been something in which they can take part. There are also people who I am sure have been helped to an enjoyment of birds by the Society and got pleasure by just getting to know about birds at their own level.

There has been I hope, something for everone whilst at the same time we have gained a knowledge of the ornithology of the area.

J.S.

# LIST OF RARER BIRDS SEEN IN SHOREHAM AREA, 1953-1962

Species	Number	Years
Great Northern Diver	3	1954, 1960, 1961.
Red-Necked Grebe	3	1956, 1957, 1958
Bittern	2	1954, 1961
Spoonbill	6	1956, 1957, 1958
Cattle Egret	1	1962
Garganey	13	1953, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962
Gadwall	- 2	1960
Long-tailed Duck	5	1956, 1957, 1961, 1962
Whooper Swan	18	1956
Osprey	2	1954, 1960
Avocet	4	1955, 1961, 1962
Great Skua	1	1959
Pomarine Skua	1	1957
Marsh Harrier	1	1956
Corncrake	1	1956
Iceland Gull	3 - 4	1956, 1958, 1961
Glaucous Gull	3	1954, 1956, 1961
Sabine's Gull	1	1956
Little Auk	2	1955, 1959
Mediterranean Gull	4	1957, 1958, 1961
Ноорое	7	1954, 1956, 1958
Wryneck	1	1958
Bee-Eater	1	1958
Golden Oriole	1	1960
Bluethroat	3	1958, 1959
Marsh Warbler	2	1959, 1961
Barred Warbler	1	1959
Water Pipit	3	1956, 1961
Great Grey Shrike	2	1953, 1959, 1960
Woodchat Shrike	3	1956, 1958

In addition about eight wintering Chiffchaffs and about six wintering Blackcaps were seen during the period.

J.M.T.

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# SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1962

In 1962 the Sanctuary although watched regularly, added no new species to the total of 112 recorded up to 1961. The year, nevertheless, was interesting, since certain species showed a tendency to change in status. Reed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher were recorded more frequently while Nightingale, Sedge Warbler and Blackcap showed a decrease in numbers.

The following records are from entries in the Daily Log kept in the hut:-

Jan. and Feb. No notable birds were recorded except for a single Chiffchaff on Feb. 9th, 10th and 24th, and two on the 17th and 20th. Winter records of this bird in the Sanctuary have now been reported for three successive years.

Spring. Arrival of early migrants was somewhat late owing to adverse wind conditions. Many of the later species, however, were on time.

On March 17th a Barn Owl appeared and also two Chiffchaffs. Two of the latter species were also present on the 21st, when a pair of Garganey also arrived, to stay until the 25th.

From March 25th to April 13th, winds were in a favourable S.W. direction and during this period small influxes of Chiff/Willows occurred, with a maximum of about 30 on April 11th. On this day also, a Wheatear and a cock Stone chat were present. For the next four days however, when the wind was N.E. Chiff/Willows decreased in number, and it was not until it changed to S.E. on the night of April 16/17th that their numbers again increased and the first Sedge Warbler arrived. The first Swallow was seen on the 20th and the first Whitethroats and a Garden Warbler with another Sedge Warbler on the 22nd. The remainder of April saw N.E. winds which brought only a trickle of Chiff/Willows, Swallows and Whitethroats. A lesser Whitethroat and a Blackcap, however, arrived on the 25th, while on the following day two Blackcaps and Lesser Whitethroats were present with the first Reed Warbler. Nightingale was heard on the 27th and on the 29th, another Reed and a Sedge Warbler with two Lesser Wnitethroats and the first Swifts (three in number). Two Sand Martins were seen on the 26th.

May saw the continued arrival of the above species and also a Turtle Dove and male Blackcap on the 2nd. The first House Martin was present on the 9th with a Spotted Flycatcher, two of which had arrived by the 10th and four by the 12th. Breed ng Season. Nesting activities were similar to previous years. Most interesting were a pair of Carrion Crows which raised four young, and a pair of Blue Tits which utilised a nest-box in rearing eight young. Lesser Whitethroats were suspected of breeding but this was never proved. Unfortunately this year no Nightingale nested.

Autumn. Early July saw little movement through the Sanctuary except for about 250 Swifts which passed overhead on the 4th. Willow Warblers, Whitethroats and Reed Warblers, were present only in small numbers. Migration appeared to start with an influx of Robins on the 14th and a passage of Swifts and Hirundines on this date and the 15th when three Sedge Warblers also arrived. In late July, passage of Swifts and Hirundines continued with on the 29th a Cuckoo and Spotted Flycatcher. The latter species increased to five on the next day, but by the 31st only one remained.

Winds in August were mainly S.W. causing passage of Swifts,
Hirundines, Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers to be small. Interesting birds occurring during the month were Turtle Dove on 2nd, 5th
and 19th; Kingfisher on 2nd; two Garden Warblers on 8th and one on
20th; cock Redstart on 20th; and female Blackcap on 29th. Wheatears
and Whinchats began passing on the 12th with maxima of 12 and 6
respectively on the 29th.

September winds were variable, with movements similar to those of August. The first autumn Chiffchaff was trapped on 2nd. Only three Blackcaps were recorded, all females, on the 8th, 15th and 16th. A Pied Flycatcher was trapped on the 7th, while the last Spotted Flycatcher occurred on the 22nd. Hirundines continued passing, with a maximum of 200 Swallows on the 20th. Kestrels increased to four on 22nd, and three on 26th. Wheatear and Whinchat passage continued, with the last Whinchat on the 30th.

October saw not only the continued trickle of summer visitors, with the last House Martins (4) on the 15th, Swallow on 17th, Chiff/Willows on 19th and Wheatear on 28th, but also the arrival of winter residents, odd Stonechats, Goldcrests and a Redwing on the 23rd.

November and December. These months were uneventful with normal Redwing & Fieldfare flocks, a Kingfisher on November 18th up to nine Longtailed Tits and a Barn Owl.

D.S.

# RINGING REPORT FOR 1962

This has been our best year yet with a total of 2,570 birds ringed, of 57 species. Sifts and Canada Goose were ringed for the first time.

The frost and snow at the beginning and end of the year which caused a large weather movement of birds was taken advantage of by trapping in a local Kale field. This proved interesting and 500 birds were ringed in two weeks. This number included 117 Tree Sparrows, 26 Skylarks, 3 Brambling and one Fieldfare.

The rest of the year was much as usual with average migrations in Spring and Autumn.

David Stone became a fully qualified ringer this Spring and since has ringed 631 birds of 38 species. Michael Goddard is still in training and has reached a high degree of competence and contributed greatly to his ringing results with his enthusiasm. Other young members are also interested in ringing and help under supervision from time to time.

RINGING TOTAL FOR 1962

Yellow Bunting

Road Warhler

6

A detailed list of the ringing results is shown below:-

Great Tit

Dunnack

#### Meadow Pipit 4 Missel Thrush Coel Tit Goldfinch 27 Blue Tit 143 Bullfinch 35 Song Thrush 198 Goldcrest 7 Starling 235 Chiffchaff 69 Robin 47 Willow Warbler 90 Greenfinch 231 Blackcap Canada Goose 1 Linnet: 17 Chaffinch 92 Whitethroat 13 Blackbird 362 Sedge Warbler

		TIGOR HOLDER	6.7
House Sparrow	312	Spotted Flycatcher	17
Tree Sparrow	120	Lesser Whitethroat	10
Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	1	Swallow	41
Wren	17	Sand Martin	8
Reed Bunting	10	Turtle Dove	1
Long Tailed Tit	7	Redwing	- 7

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Snipe	1	Carron Crow	4
Redstart	1	Swift	6
Wheatear	3	Yellow Wagtail	1
Wood Pigeon	6	Brambling	3
Pied Wagtail	1	Magpio	1
Redpoll	2	House Martin	11
Fieldfare	1	Pied Flycatcher	1
Skylark	27	Jackdaw	1
Mute Swan	65	TOTAL	2570
Gardon Warbler	2	TOTAL	2570
Whinchat	2		-
Stonechat	2		
Moorhen	2		
	* * * *	* * ***	

# RECOVERIES

All these were of birds ringed at Shoreham-by-Sea.

Foreign Recoveries

Blackbird Adult male ringed Dec. 6th 1961; found dead.	
Denmark (Jutland) April 18th 1962	J.S.
Willow Warbler. Adult ringed Sept.1st 1962, caught at Monforte de Lemos (Lugo) Spain.	D.S.
Recoveries in the British Isles	
Blackbird ringed as first winter female Nov. 10th 1959, Retrapped and released Isle of May (Fife) 375 miles N. Dec. 27th, 1962	J.S.
Blue Tit adult ringed Dec. 12th 1957, caught and released	
Crowborough, Sussex Feb. 27th 1962, 24 miles N.E.	J.S.
Reed Warbler First winter bird ringed Aug. 18th 1962.	
Trapped and released Selsey, Sussex, Sept. 2nd 1962,	
25 miles W.	J.S.
Starling First winter bird ringed Dec. 28th 1961. Shot	
Gosport, Hants, March 31st 1962, 36 miles W.	J.S.
Greenfinch. Ringed as juvenile Aug. 12th 1961.	
Trapped and released Hoddesdon, Herts, 8th July 1962.	220700
64 miles N.	J.S.
Willow Warbler Ringed as adult April 29th 1961.	
Released at same place, April 20th 1962	J.S.
Mute Swan Recoveries. See separate note by D. Stone	
Note by Editor In addition a Common Gull ringed in Fir	nland Jne2 1961

was found dead at Coombes on 2nd Feb. 1962.

Record keeping and weighing continued at the Sanctuary where a useful collection of information is being gathered.

J.S.

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# RINGING AND RECOVERY OF MUTE SWANS

This year a total of 65 mute Swans were ringed in the Shoreham area by the writer and A.N. Gagg. In addition to the B.T.O. rings, orange-coloured spiral rings were added to the left leg. The colour rings enable other ringers to easily spot our birds should they move to a distant land.

A high recovery rate exists for Mute Swans and this year we had six local recoveries (under 6 miles) and five at a distance). The recoveries include birds ringed by us and birds we have re-trapped, having been ringed elsewhere by others.

(1) Adult ringed at Hove, Feb.4th, 1962, retrapped at Bosham, 29 miles W. on July 15th, 1962.

(2) First winter bird ringed Hove March 14th, 1960, retrapped at Lewes 9 miles E.N.E. on March 21st 1961, and again retrapped at Shoreham, 13 miles W.S.W. on Nov. 11th, 1962.

(3) First winter bird ringed at Pagham April 1st, 1962, retrapped

at Shorehem, 21 miles E. on Nov. 25th 1962.

(4) First winter bird ringed Hove Dec. 28th, 1960, retrapped at Steyning, 7 miles N.W. and again retrapped at Hove on Nov. 25th, 1962.

(5) Full grown bird ringed at Newhaven, Aug.lst 1962, retrapped at Hove 10 miles W. on Nov.25th, 1962.

D.S.

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# NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1962

The following observers have contributed records which have been embodied in this feature:-, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Tredwell, Dr. J. Stafford, Messrs. G. Allison, C.F. Brown, D.W. Cox, J. Dixon, P. Elston, B. Forbes, A.W. Gagg, M.J. Goddard, R.E. Goddard, C.A. Grigg, C.F. Helyer, C. Hitchman, B. Jefferies, T. Palmer, R. Philllips, F. Severs, A.B. Sheldon, D. Stone, H.I. Taylor, J.M. Twort, A. Vegrass, J.B. Tatum, D.W. Warner, A.J. Watson, R. Wilmshurst.

Abbreviations:- m = male; f = female; W.W. = Widewater; T.B. = Toll Bridge; C.C. = Cuckoos Corner; F.A. = Flood Arch;

F.B. = Foot Bridge; S.P. = Sussex Pad; Br. = Brooklands; C.W. = Cement Works. R.B. = Railway Bridge.

Black-throated Diver. One oiled from sea, Southwick, brought to me for identification and later released on Canal, Feb. 22nd.

Red-throated Diver One Br. Pool Feb. 22nd; up to three on sea Shoreham Mar. 3rd to 12th; one Adur, Shoreham, March 25th.

Great Crested Grebe Cne Br. Pool Jan. 2nd and one Mar. 1st to 16th; five on sea Feb. 10th, four Mar. 13th and one Canal, Fishersgate Jan. 4th: Three on sea W.W. Dec. 25th.

Black-necked Grebe. One found dead W.W. Jan. 1st and was presumably same bird seen alive there the previous day.

Slavonian Grebe One in summer plumage Hove, April 26th; one recorded on Br. Pool, Mar. 22nd.

Gennet. One flying to E. on two dates in April and one June 9th, all adults. Two off Hove, July 25th. Two at sea W.W. Sept.14th; an immature on post at sea opposite Br. Pool Oct.21st.

Cormorant One or two showing features of P.C. Sinensis at W.W. and at Shoreham Hbr. in February.

Shag One found dead W.W. Feb. 11th; two Canal, Southwick, Feb. 19th and probably same two seen in Harbour Mar. 14th to 28th; one there Apr. 8th.

Heron. Mr. Grigg reported six nests occupied Wyckham.

Cattle Egret or Buff-backed Heron One Lancing April 28th probably one of those seen at Pagham earlier.

Mallard A few seen at Sanc. near C.C. and near Airfield in early part of year; pair Sanc. April 28th; one with young C.C. May 31st and three nests found in marsky fields nearby. A number nr. C.C. in Dec.

Teal Numerous records, max. 70 nr. C.C. Jan.13th, c. 22 Sanc. Feb. to Mar. and 50 to 60 nr. Br.Pool in Dec.

Garganey. Pair Sanc. Mar. 21st, 22nd and 24th

<u>Wigeon</u> One Hove Lagoon Jan.lst; Two Br.Pool Jan. 5th and three on 8th. One Hove Lagoon, Jan.lst; two Br.Pool Jan.5th and three 8th; seven on sea W.W. April 18th; two Hove Lagoon Dec.30th.

Scaup Seven Br. Pool Jan. 5th; Several there later to Feb. 18th: A duck there Oct. 14th and 15th.

<u>Fufted Duck</u> Up to nine Br. Pool, Jan.5th to 19th and five there in December.

Pochard One Drake at Br. Pool Jan. 5th was still there in December; a pair there on Nov. 10th; a few there in December (Max. 16 on Dec. 2nd)

Goldeneye One Hove Lagoon Jan. 3rd and a pair there Dec. 30th.

Long-tailed Duck. Two Br. Rool Jan. 3rd first recorded Nov. 5th, '61.

Common Scoter Fifteen drifting E. at W.W. in Jan. & c. 1,000 recorded flying E. there April 17th: fifty-five flew W. Nov. 8th and 30 Nov. 29th: Nineteen flew E. Dec. 6th; 18 on sea Dec. 22nd - all off W.W. four on sea at Shoreham, Dec. 25th.

Eider An injured duck on beach nr. Br. Pool Jan. 4th; eleven recorded in flight off W.W. Jan. 1st and seven (5 drakes) April 19th; one on sea nr. Br. Pool Jan. 14th and one on the Pool Feb. 24th to March 27th. One taken off the beach at Lancing was said to have been a household pet. Five off Hove. Sept.25th.

Red-breasted Merganser Up to three on sea on various dates, Jan. to April: twenty-five flew E. off Brooklands, Sept. 5th.

Goosander A female or imm. close in off shore, Hove. Dec. 30th. one nr. Lencing Coll. Dec. 7th.

Shelduck Up to five in flight W.W. in Jan. and one on sea there April 2nd; one nr. C.C. May 12th; one with young in garden at Coombes, June 1st; an imm. nr. F.B. in Aug; three off W.W. flying W. Nov. 22nd.

Brent Goose One (dark-breasted) W.W., Jan., 16th to 18th. Twenty-five flying E. at Shoreham, March 4th.

White-fronted Goose Four nr. Lencing Coll., Dec.25th, twenty Airfield, Dec.31st.

Goese Unidentified. Three over W.W. in mist, Jan. 6th and five flying E. Shoreham, March 4th. Nine, probably White-fronts, flying E at W.W. and probably the same nine flying W. off S'ham later, Dec. 28th.

Buzzard One above Chanctonbury Oct. 19th.

Partridge, Red-legged Two feeding in barley field nr. T.B. May 12th.

Water Rail One in small pool nr. Br., Jan. 6th: one in Hove garden during the cold spell in Feb. one F.A. March 26th; one Sanc. April 13th & Oct. 23rd and one or two there during winter; one with two young, Coombes, Aug. 18th and one there Dec. 9th; one nr. Lancing Coll. Dec. 7th, 21st and 25th; Two nr., Brooklands Dec. 14th and three there Dec. 23rd.

Coot Up to twelve nr. F.B., C.C. & Br. Pool, Jan. & Feb. One picked up dead in Kingston Lane, S'wick, Feb. 19th.

Oystercatcher Mostly single birds in flight W.W. Jan. to April 27th three on last date: one Adur Aug. 17th and one mudflats Aug.19th to 28th; up to five S. Lancing during Nov. to late Dec. seventeen flying W. at S'wick and soon after at W.W. Dec.16th.

Lapwing. Flock of c. 200 Coombes June 13th, an early flocking date; c 600 flying S. very high nr. T.B. Dec. 6th.

Grey Plover One nr. T.B. Oct. 7th: one nr. C.C. Oct. 14th

Golden Plover Five nr. Lancing Coll. Dec. 7th and 4 Dec. 21st

Turnstone A few seen on various dates Aug. to end Sept. most seen seven W.W. Sept. 28th

Snipe C. 50 nr. T.B. Oct. 7th; nests found nr. Coombes; many in fields nr. S'ham and Lancing and on mud flats exposed by tide during cold spell at end of year.

Jack Snipe One Sanc. Feb. 5th and one there March 21st & 24th. one Ham field Mar. 2nd & 3rd and one or two nr. Brooklands flushed several times in Dec.

Woodcock One with damaged bill picked up dead, S'wick Green, Fb. 11th; one flew over S'ham, Jan.3rd; two Coombes in Dec.

Curlew Four nr C.C. Jan.26th; up to three in flight, W.W. in April and seven on April 18th; small flock Coombes, Apr.29th; Two flying N. over S'wick, March 15th; one over Hill Hill and one over Park Av. Mar. 31st; one Adur, Sept.9th and six feeding with gulls Oct. 28th; six nr. C.C. Oct. 14th.

Whimbrel Three flew N. from sea, S. Lencing, April 30th and thirteen flew E. there; one seen and heard in flight July 7th.

Par-tailed Godwit Big movement at sea off W.W. April 27 & 28th to E; twenty in flight there, May 2nd.

Green Sandpiper One nr. Br. Pool, Jan. 13th.

Common Sandpiper One F.A. Jan. 28th to Mar. 28th; one F.A. July 23rd was first summer record; six there Aug. 19th; one through Oct. to Nov. 5th.

Spotted Redshank One F.A. Feb. 2nd to March 27th; one mudflats, Aug. 21st and seen many times up to Dec. 31st.

Greenshank One calling in flight over S'ham, Aug. 2nd.

Ruff Two with Orange-yellow legs F.A. Dec. 29th, larger than Redshanks.

Knot Most seen were nine to ten on mudflats & Adur. Sept.7th four on the 9th and eleven Sept.19th.

Little Stint One F.A. March 22nd to 26th; one in ditch nr. F.A. Sept. 7th; Three Br. Pool Sept. 23rd and one still there Oct. 2nd.

Curlew Sandpiper. One W.W. May 7th only record.

Avocet One on mud T.B. March 25th (description given)

Stone Curlew One heard calling at Park Brown, May 3rd

Lesser Black-backed Gull One S'ham, Jan. to March; two S'ham Nov.
14th to end Dec.

Claucoue Gull One immature, S'ham Dec. 31st 1961 was recorded too late for 1961 Report.

Little Gull One Southwick Canal Jan. 21st & Feb. 11th.

Common/Arctic Tern No large numbers recorded in autumn, considerably fewer than lastlyear. Twelve moving to W. at W.W. Apr. 7th were first records.

Little Tern Two flew from W. to E. and one E. to W. Apr. 20th.

Sandwich Tern Max. ninety-five flying off W.W. April 19th; smaller numbers on various dates on spring passage. Three flew E. Hbr. July 8th and four W. Aug. 28th.

Razorbill. One badly oiled, S'wick, May 28th

Guillemot One dead nr. C.W. March 11th; One oiled Hbr. April 4th one oiled Br. Pool March 7th died next day; one S. Lancing Nov. 27th; one S'wick Bch. Nov. 28th.

<u>Puffin</u> One recorded by Shoreham resident familiar with the species. One picked up alive nr. Sompting by a shepherd on Dec. 5th, died next day was an immature.

Turtle Dove Single birds at Sanc. and elsewhere in May, June & Aug.

Cuckoo First heard April 15th; one Sanc. April 23rd and a juvenile there July 25th: four together Erringham Shaw Aug.12th.

Barn Owl Single birds at Sanc. in March, May & Oct.

Little Owl One Buckingham Park April 10th; one nr. Rly. Br. Oct. 30th was seen on various dates up to end Dec; one Downs above Lancing Oct.28th.

Tawny Owl Three (two m. & 1 f.) in Gardens at S'wick Green including the writer's, were most recorded; one Sanc. Oct. 22nd & 23rd.

Short-eared Owl One nr. T.B. Dec. 19th.

Nightjar One on Downs above Shoreham, June 15th & 27th

Swift: One flying from sea nr. Br. Pool, April 23rd; two over T.B. on same day.

Hoopoe One at Devil's Dyke, April 25th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker One eating bread in garden, Kingston Lane, Jan. 6th; pair in garden, Steyning eating suet, Feb. 23rd; One Sanc. Mar. 1st & 16th and females \*rapped there on April 10th & 17th; One drumming, Lancing on March 8th.

Lesser Spotted Woodbecker One in garden, Steyning, Feb. 26th.

Skylark C. 100 S'ham Rec. Ground Jan. 1st (see "Movements of Birds")

Swallow Birds"). Latest date one nr. Br. Pool, Nov.9th (see "Movement of

House Martin Four Sanc. April 15th (see "Movement of Birds")

Sand Martin See "Movement of Birds"

Golden Oriole From description a pair of these birds were seen several times by Mrs. Bowman during frosty weather in her garden at N. Lancing; last seen March 17th; presumably escaped from an aviary.

Jay One Sanc. Jan. 10th and one Erringham Shaw May 24th.

Long-tailed Tits Seen in Sanc. most months and up to nine there in autumn and winter.

Fieldfare One in garden Park Av. Jan. 4th; small flocks in Sanc. during early months; last seen there March 24th; first autumn bird Oct. 14th.

Redwing C. 50 S'wick Green Jan. 9th; large passage to W. Jan. 1st (see "Movement of birds")

Ring Ouzel One W.W. April 11th and one in a member's garden, West-dene, April 27th; both males.

Wheatear One S'ham March 29th; pair nested at W.W., nest found May 25th; one W.W. Oct. 27th and one Sanc. Oct. 28th.

Stonechat One seen feeding young W.W. July 30th.

Whinchat From Aug. 12th to Sept. 29th up to six in Sanc. four there Sept. 9th & two Brocklands, Oct. 12th.

Redstart Male, Lancing Clump, April 27th; male trapped Sanc. Aug. 20th; one and possibly two there Oct. 4th; two in S'wick garden early autumn.

Black Redstart One S'ham Hbr. Jan. 3rd to March 19th and one Southwick, Jan. 7th to March, both adult males.

<u>Mightingale</u> One Sanc. Apr. 27th remained a few days was the only one recorded.

Grasshopper Warbler One reeling above Sanc. July 15th.

Reed Warbler Nore than usual this year, including at least seven, five of which were singing in reedy ditch mr. C.C. in early June. Four singing in Sanc. in early July, where nest found. Last one seen there Sept.29th.

Sedge Warbler Numbers small compared with previous years. One, Sanc., April 17th was first record.

Blackcap One S'ham Beach 13th Jan. Several at Sanc. during spring and autumn and a few elsewhere in spring.

Garden Warbler Two at Sanc. April 25th and two there Aug. 8th. One Lancing Clum, May 2nd. One in garden, Park Avenue, Aug. 7th to 10th. A very late bird was one seen by our editor nr. R.B. S'ham on Oct. 30th.

Lesser Whitethroat One at Sanc. Apr.25th; One at T.B. Apr.29th; one at Sanc. and one at Erringham Shaw, Apr.30th; Two above, Sanc. on May 23rd and three on 24th. Two in garden Park Av., Aug.19th and one Sanc. Sept.15th.

Warbler sp. On 30th July Mrs. Farmer saw a large warbler in her garden in Park Av., S'ham, which she was sure was not a Blackcap. It was seen through her window at three to four yards range for about 30 seconds. Her description was:- Head dull black merging into grey of neck. Black of head came down to just below eye. Whole bird had a very drab appearance. Did not fly but worked its way through the tree away from her. She thought it was an Orphean.

Chiffchaff One seen singing at Sanc. Feb. 9th, same date and approximately where one was singing last year; one Feb. 10th, two on 17th, one singing and two or three on 20th and one Feb. 24th, two there March 9th and 17th; Many there April 11th and one in the writer's garden feeding on insects from Hydrangea bush; several in Garden at Park Ave, during Aug. and Sept.

Wood Warbler One Erringham Shaw, June 17th.

Goldcrest One singing Sanc. March 9th and 27th; several there in April during winter; two Lancing Clump, Apr. 4th and one in garden Park Av, during Jan. and Feb.

Firecrest One Sanc. March 28th.

Spotted Flycatcher Several Sanc. in spring, five max. in July and last one recorded there Sept. 22nd.

<u>Pied Flycatcher</u> One trapped Sanc., Sept. 7th and one Stone House, Sept.23rd and 26th.

Meadow Pipit C. fifty at W.W. Dec. 31st was most recorded.

Rock Pipit A few seen in our area during autumn & Winter, but most at Harbour.

Pied Wagtail Twenty in Sanc. during Oct. (see "Movements of Birds")

White Wagtail One S'ham Hbr. March 15th; one in gerden, S'ham Beach, Nov.14th.

Grey Wagtail Seen in various places, often in pairs.

Yellow Wagtail Many recorded along the whole stretch of beach in Sept. apparently slowly working their way west. Eight Sanc. Sept. 9th and two there Sept. 29th.

Starling See under "Movement of Birds"

Twite Two at Rubbish Dump, S'ham, Jan. 18th.

Redpoll Three at Lancing Clump, April 19th and a male at Coombes June 17th.

Bullfinch More than usual at S'ham during early months; up to eight on Rubb. Dump in Jan. two pairs in garden, Park Ave, Jan. 2nd.

Brambling Large flock Lancing Jan. 1st and smaller flocks at Brooklands and Shoreham Rubb. Dump. in Jan.

Cirl Bunting Only a few records; one singing N. Lancing, March 20th and April 9th; one singing on Downs above Southwick, Aug.17th.

Snow Bunting. One male W.W. Nov. 11th

Tree Sparrow Very many records in early months including four to five hundred at Shoreham during hard weather in Jan; c. 300 Lencing Jan. 1st; c. 40 Brocklands Jan. 14th; two to three hundred N. of Sanc. March 12th onwards reduced to c. 100 on April 1st and a few still there May 3rd; 30 or 40 Rubbish Dump, S'ham, in Jan. four on F.B. Oct. 23rd.

House Sparrow One with white head nested in garden, W.W. One, entirely white except for a little brown on one wing, seen frequently in the gardens of Hill Hill houses during the last three months of 1962.

\* \* \* \* J.M.T.

# ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS, 1962

The following table of the first and last dates on which migrating birds have been reported are taken from records contributed by the following members: - Messrs. B. Forbes, C.A. Grigg, C. Helyer, N. . Goddard, R. Phillips, T. Palmer, F. Severs, D. Stone and J.M. Twort; and Dr. J. Stafford and Mrs. O.M. Chapman.

Species	First date & locality	Lhs	t dat	e & locality
Whimbrel	Apr/7th off Lancing. 3			
*Common Sandpiper Common/Arctic Tern Sandwich Tern Swift	July 23rd, Flood Arch April 7th, off Widewater. April 11th, off Widewater. April 23rd, E. Worthing and Shoreham	Nov.	5th,	Flood Arch.
Swallow House Martin	April 10th, E. Worthing. April 9th, Sanc.			E. Worthing Hove.

First date & locality	Last Date & Locality
April 26th, Sanc. March 29th, Shoreham	Oct. 28th, Sanc.
April 11th, Lencing	
April 27th, Sanc.	
April 26th, Sanc.	Sept.27th, Sanc.
April 16th, Sanc.	
April 24th, Steyning	
	Oct.30th, Rly. Br. Adur.
	VENAL W. SALEREY SPECIFIC
	Sept.26th, S'ham
	1 2 1 2 2 2 1 2 1 T T T T T T T T T T T
er May 9th, Sanc.	Oct.22nd, Sanc.
	April 26th, Sanc. March 29th, Shoreham April 11th, Lancing April 27th, Sanc. April 26th, Sanc. April 16th, Sanc.

\*Excluding, in the cases so marked (Sandpiper, Blackcap and Chiffchaff), wintering birds.

F.S.

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# SEA WATCHING AND MOVEMENT OF BIRDS IN 1962

The following article summarises the records received from members which come under this heading. As in 1961 the seawatching records are largely those of a few junior members, viz: David Stone, Michael Goddard and Colin Hitchman, who carried out regular watching in the early mornings during their Easter holidays when spring migration was going on, and to a much smaller extent during part of their summer holidays, whilst autumn migration was in progress. Movements recorded by other members throughout the year are also included. It must be emphasised, as last year, that the picture presented cannot be claimed as complete, and that considerable movements may have been missed owing to no observer being in a position to observe them at the time.

The year 1961 closed with a very cold spell which continued into January 1962 and during the first of that month a large scale movement of Redwings, Fieldfares, Skylarks and finches lasting many hours was recorded at Shoreham. On the same day a Hove observer recorded a movement west particularly of Skylarks, whilst a Lancing member reported a movement in the same direction, especially of Redwings, estimated at 5,000 an hour and lasting for three hours. Of interest also in the early part of the year was the gradually increasing numbers of Tree Sparrows, which eventually over the

the whole of our area, must have totalled almost a thousand during March but which dispersed rapidly in April. During the first three months of the year no notable movementmof finches was seen. Sea watching produced nothing of note except three Red-throated Divers off Widewater on March 3rd and occasional Great-crested Grebes.

April saw the usual easterly movement of Terms continuing into May. Numbers seemed to be fewer than usual, but the figure of 95 Sandwich Terms on April 19th is worth mentioning. Whimbrel were seen on a number of occasions mostly going east, as many as 54 being noted on April 30th. As regards waders a total of 1,000 Bar-tailed Godwits approximately on 27th April and 185 on the 28th, moving east. is specially noteworthy. Common Scoter, which were seen in small flocks on the sea on a number of occasions early in the year, showed a large easterly movement in the second half of April, as many as c. 1,000 being recorded on the 17th and 585 on 19th April. movements of Mallard, Teal, Eider, Wigeon and Red-breasted Merganser were also recorded. It is of interest that Cannet, of which a substantial autumn movement was recorded in 1961, were almost absent, a single bird on each of three days only being recorded. estuary and on the mudflats of the Adur, it was noticeable that our winter residing waders, no doubt owing to weather conditions, were a week or two later moving to their breeding grounds than in 1961.

Little movement was recorded in July except for the passage above the Sanctuary on the 4th of .c.250 Swifts. From about the middle of the month, a small influx observed at the Sanctuary of Robins, Himundines etc. indicated the beginning of the autumn migration.

The usual autumn easterly movement of Swallows during August and September and the first part of October was recorded by a number of members, House Martins and a few Sand Martins also taking part in the movement. On the 3rd of October a large scale easterly movement along the coast of finches (Gold, Green and Linnets) which continued for some hours was seen; a similar, but smaller movement - this time of Goldfinches, Chaffinches and Linnets - took place on 10th October, and a smaller movement (mainly of Goldfinches) on the 11th of the month. Redwings to the number of about 200 were seen flying west along the coast at Lancing on 30th October. From then until the end of the year flocks of Redwings and Fieldfares could be seen fairly regularly near the Sanctuary and elsewhere, although at no time were their numbers as large as in some previous years. 500 Lapwings, flying very high due south, were observed at the Toll Bridge on Dec. 6th.

As a matter of interest, a regular count of the numbers of gulls and waders visible between the footbridge and the Toll Bridge, either on the river or in adjacant land and fields, was undertaken. The count was taken about twenty times, usually at about half tide, during the last three months of the year. It was noticeable that the most favourable time for the count was in the late afternoon towards sunset. At other times gulls might be ranging far over the sea and country. Another factor which tended to lessen the value of results on occasions was the possibility of birds having left the area just before the count owing to human activities such as bait digging, motorboats, etc. The broad conclusions drawn from the counts were that at the beginning of October the gulls numbered about 400, including about 100 Great Black-backed and a rather larger number each of Black-headed and Herring, with a few Common and Lesser Black-backed. The Lesser Blackbacked rose to about 50 by the middle of the month and then declined, only four being seen on October 30th. During November one and occasionally two were seen and towards the end of the year only one was left. This agrees with the experience of previous years which is that we have a considerable passage through during the autumn of this species, but that only one or sometimes two, stay as winter The numbers of the other gull species steadily rose. until by the end of the year it was calculated that we had about 400 Great Black-backed and about 5,000 others of which the Blackheaded formed the majority although Herring were also numerous and there were still a few Common. The common species of waders also increased, an average of about 50 Redshank, 30 Ring Plover and 6 Dunlin from three counts in the first half of October mounting to about 150, 100 and 250 respectively by the end of December.

A large Starling roost was reported at Applesham Farm, and towards dusk big flocks could be seen regularly making their way towards it.

Finally, although not affecting our area, we include, because of its great interest, an extract from a note by Mr. R. Phillips on migration of Yellow Wagtails:-

"August 27th, 1962 - Yellow Wagtails, Motacilla Flava.

settling on the road between Pevensey and Wartling. Wind force 6 to 7 blowing to the east. Birds appeared to rest and pick grit, sheltered by Arundo Phragmites fringing the roadside ditches. Birds of both sexes and some apparently birds of the year. As the road runs north, the birds could be seen clearly and were observed from the car for about two hours. Impossible to estimate numbers, but movement was continuous, mostly near ground. Numbers settled to feed near the cattle on the marsh. Driving north and then back to Fevensey, one would say the movement extended over a band more than a mile wide, none on the higher land at Wartling Hill. Extensive use of binoculars did not reveal any other variety of wagtail."

Contributors of records: Messrs. C.A. Grigg, M. Goddard, C. Hitchman, R.E. Goddard, T. Palmer, R. Phillips, F. Severs, D. Stone, and J.M. Twort.

F.S.

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# GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1962

These notes have been compiled from members' records. The following have contributed: Mrs. O.M. Chapman, Mrs. E. Farmer, Mossrs. M.J. Goddard, C.A. Grigg, C. Helyer, R.V. Hitch, F. Severs and J.M. Twort, and Dr. John Stafford.

Garden at Hove (O.M.C.)

Many different species throughout the year, including Bullfinches, Stonechats, Green Woodpeckers, Blackcaps, Wood Warblers, Tree Sparrows, Goldcrests, Cirl Buntings, Wheatears etc.

Garden at Park Avenue. (E.F.)

Many different species, including Bullfinches, Chiffchaffs, Garden and Willow Warblers, Common and Lesser Whitehroats, etc., the most interesting of all was an unusual warbler on 30th July, which from the characteristics observed, appeared to be an Orphean Warbler.

Garden at Hill Hill (M.J.G.)

A House Sparrow, entirely white except for a little brown on one wing seen frequently in this and adjacent gardens during the last three months of 1962.

Garden at Stevning (C.A.G.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (pair) Feb. 23rd; Mistle Thrush nest

with five eggs, March 26th; late Swallow, Oct. 28th.

Garden at Coombes

Woodcock, late December.

Garden at Brighton (C.H.)

Five Wheatears, April 11th; Ring Ouzel, April 27th: Cirl Buntings several times during spring; Spotted Flycatcher, May 12th and later.

Garden on Shoreham Beach (R.H.V.H.)
White Wagtail, Nov.14th.

Garden on Shoreham Beach (F.S.)

Reed Buntings (pair) frequently between Feb. 10th and March 29th) Wheatears a number of times in spring and autumn.

Garden at Southwick Green (J.M.T.)

Chiffchaff, April 11th; three Tawny Owls, March 29th.

Garden at Windlesham Gardens (J.S.)

Pied Flycatcher, 23rd to 26th Sept.

Garden at Southwick

Two Redstarts in early autumn

Garden at Hove

Water Rail during cold spell in February.

The last two items are from non-members.

F.S.

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# SOME NOTES ON BIRDS SEEN IN THE SHOREHAM AREA. 1962

Unlike the previous years, the arrival of warblers in the spring was markedly delayed. For example the first Willow Warbler was not recorded until April 8th and the first Sedge Warbler on the 17th of that month. Previous to this we did have one Blackcap in January and several Chiffchaffs in February, but these were probably wintering birds.

The early months gave us large numbers of Tree Sparrows, some of the flocks running into hundreds. Bullfinches also were more

numerous than usual.

The two Long-tailed duck first seen at Brooklands on Nov. 5th last year remained there until January 18th. Also during cold weather in the early months a pair of Golden Oricles were recorded in a garden in North Lancing: these were probably escapes. From January to March an adult male Black Redstart was seen at the Harbour mouth and at the same time there was one at Scuthwick. J.S. saw a Blackcap on Shoreham Beach on January 1st. Also in January there were many Eider seen in flight at Widewater, the maximum being eleven on January 1st and on the same date a dead Blacknecked Grebe was picked up there. Two Twite were seen at Shoreham on January 28th and there was a Common Sandpiper at Flood Arch on the same date and a Little Gull at Southwick on January 1st.

During February there was a Black-throated Diver at Southwick, two Shag in Southwick Canal and one dead one at Widewater on February 11th. A Brent Goose was at Widewater on January 16th to 18th and twenty-five flying to the east at Shoreham on March 4th. A Slavonian Grebe were seen at Hove and Brocklands during March; Woodcock picked up dead on Southwick Green on February 11th and another seen flying over Shoreham on January 3rd.

On March 25th an Avocet was seen near the Toll Bridge. A pair of Garganey were at the Sanctuary from March 21st to 24th, a Little Stint was seen at the Flood Arch 22nd and several others elsewhere during the autumn. Also we might mention a Firecrest in the Sanctuary on March 28th and a White Wagtail at Shoreham on March 13th. There was a Cattle Egret at Lancing on April 28th. This latter was the first for our area.

Three Redpolls were seen at Lancing Clump on April 19th and a male of this species at Coombes on June 17th. There was a male Ring-Ouzel at Shoreham on April 11th and another in a member's garden at Westdene on April 27th. A Nightjar was seen on the Downs above Shoreham on several occasions in early June and a single Curlew Sandpiper at Widewater on May 7th. A possible Orphean Warbler appeared in Mrs. Farmer's Garden on July 30th.

The autumn produced a Buzzard over Chanctonbury on October 19th and a very late Garden Warbler seen by F.S. at Shoreham on October 30th. On December 5th a dying immature Puffin was picked up by a shepherd at Sompting and another was recorded by a Shoreham resident earlier in the year. Two Spotted Redshanks were seen

at Shoreham during the year - one in February and one in August to the end of the year.

Two Ruffs were seen at the Flood Arch on December 29th, and a female Goosander off Hove on the 30th.

Finally we might mention an immature Glauceus Gull seen by A.B.S. at Shoreham on December 31st, which record was received too late for inclusion in our 1961 Report.

J.M.T.

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# CATTLE EGRET AT LANCING

On April 28th, Mr. Peter Elston of New Monks Farm, Lencing, saw an odd white bird feeding among the cattle on his farm. It appeared pure white in the distance, but closer inspection through binoculars showed it had buffish feathers on the crown and mantle, a long dark bill and reddish-brown ledgs. He informed Mr. C.A. Grigg of Steyning, who was unfortunately unable to go down to see the bird, which had gone by the following day, but from the description, Mr. Grigg realised that the bird was no less than a Cattle Egret.

This occurrence is no doubt related to the visit by four birds on April 27th to a farm at Lagness, near Pagham Harbour, one of which was again seen on 29th although on 28th, the day this Lancing bird was seen, none were seen at Lagness. It is in fact quite likely that this bird was one of the original four.

The writer watched the single bird at Lagness on 29th, and found it a most fascinating creature to watch. It spent most of its time feeding around the feet of sheep and cattle, although on one or two occasions it was seen to actually alight on an animal's back and search for food. It was a striking bird on the ground and even more so in flight, when it resembled a large Barn Owl.

These birds were far out of their normal range, which is well to the south of Europe, and were the first recorded in this country since 1917. There have been only two previous British records, neither of them in Sussex.

B.A.E.M.

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# OBSERVATIONS AT THE DEVIL'S DYKE IN 1962

The observations started in 1961 were continued in 1962, the visits normally being made at 0700 to 0750 actual time G.M.T. or B.S.T. and started on 16th March. Seven wisits were made in March, 17 in April, 5 in May and others at odd times during the year. It had been hoped that the Spring migration records for 1961 could be compared with 1962, but the latter unfortunately proved to be a very odd year when arrival dates got all mixed up.

In mid March Lapwing were seen flying N.E., a few Redwing went N. the last being seen on 28th March. Wood Pigeons were seen flying N.E., the largest party, one of 70, on 16th March. Fielfares were present in varying numbers up to 50 and remained until what seemed a late date, 18th April. The Common Gulls, which are very plentiful during the winter, all left on April 2nd which compared with April 1st the previous year. 5 Tree Sparrows were seen on 27th March, a new bird for the area.

The first summer visitor seen was a Whoatear on 28th March, an early date for 1962. Chiffchaffs followed on 7th April, when a Goldcrest also appeared and Willow Warblers turned up on the following day. A Grasshopper Warbler was first heard reeling with very short bursts on April 12th but was not actually seen until April 17th. A female Stonechat was seen on 13th April and a male 10 days later, but there was no evidence of breeding. On 15th April, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were passing over flying N.E.

The next arrival dates were Swallow 19th April, Whitethroat, Nightingale and Turtle Dove 23rd April.

25th April was the most interesting day when a Hoopee was seen feeding on the very short turf. It was first seen against the sun but it was possible to make a detour and excellent views were obtained of the bird feeding, at rest, and in flight. When disturbed it flow to a small tree about 20 feet high but a Blackbird drove it off and it went to a small bush about 3' 6" high and perched just above the ground, sharing the bush with a Meadow Pipit. It flow again to the S.E. and was not seen afterwards, although I asked the green-keeper to look out for it.

A Lesser Whitethroat and a Redstart were seen on April 26th and they were the last summer arrivals noted. The summer migrants which stayed and presumably bred were Turtle Dove, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Grasshopper Warbler, Whitethroat and and Nightingale, the latter rather surprisingly singing a few notes on July 8th.

It is interesting to note that a pair of Willow Tits has been seen throughout the year.

The area was not watched regularly in the autumn. In early July Garden Warblers were singing; they had not been seen or heard earlier. On 30th August, migrants were everywhere, 7 Spotted Flycatchers, 12 Wheatears, 5 Chiff-willows, 2 Redstarts, 2 Whitethroats and 2 Lesser Whitethroats, but fewer Wheatears and no Spotted Flycatchers were present the following day though 4 Whinchats were seen. On October 2nd with a slight S.E. wind, parties of Swallows, House Martins, Goldfinches, Linnets and Pipits were coming in from the Weald obviously on migration but there was no sign of this on 4th October, when a Blackcap was seen.

On the afternoon of Christmas Day, Chaffinches in parties of 3 to 7 were flying over very regularly from S. to N. at the rate of 100 or so to the hour and there was a probable Brambling seen. There was no sign of this movement on Boxing Day morning.

Apart from the migration, there is usually something to look at. There are plenty of Bullfinches, Tits, some Jays, Magpies, Pheasants, Partridges and other common birds to keep the interest alive on quiet days.

From the observations of two years, it appears that the Devil's Dyke area is an interesting place at which to watch migration and I would commend it to any other observers. I must miss a great deal by devoting so little time to it. The only snag is that at weekends and in the summer the area tends to be overpopulated with picnickers, players of football, cricket and other sports, and it is necessary to be there fairly early in the morning in order to obtain results.

R.E.G.

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# ACCOUNTS OF 1962 FIELD OUTINGS

# East Head, West Wittering, Sunday Jan. 21st with Mr. & Mrs. R.P. Cordero.

It never stopped raining. And the wind was Force 6. And there weren't many birds around ...... so we all went home ......

# 2. Amberley Wildbrooks, Sunday Feb. 18th with Mr. Michael Hollings

After four Outings ruined by the weather, we at last struck it just right. The sun shone from a fairly clear sky and the weather was remarkably mild for the time of year. Some 25 members assembled at Amberley Post Office and thence cut on to the Brooks. The flood-waters had dropped considerably in the preceding week, and the Bewick's Swans of the previous Sunday were not to be seen, but the small flock of Ruffs present since January had increased to 11 and several thousand duck, principally Wigeon and Teal but including several Pintail, Shoveler and even a Shelduck, were feeding in the marshier parts. A pleasant picnic lunch was enjoyed by all (except two, who had left theirs in a car at Greathem, expecting to end up there) out near the old barn in the middle, the sky overhead full of duck. In the afternoon a brief visit was paid to Chichester Gravel Pits where more duck, including over 250 Tufted Duck, were watched.

# 3. Pagham Harbour, Sunday March 11th, with Dr. J. Stafford

About thirty members had a pleasant day at Pagham, the weather and light being good despite a cold wind. Snow Bunting, Eider and Brent Geese were among the thirty-six species of birds scen. The search for the Bearded Tits in the reed-bed behind the Harbour was unsuccessful, the call-note being heard but the birds not seen.

# 4. Parham Park Honronry. Saturday April 7th, with Mr. B.A.E. Marr

The weather was rather unpleasant, cold with a very strong westerly wind, but about twenty members turned out and were met at the gate by the Round House by a Keeper. He led us round the Heronry, and explained that there were only some 14 occupied nests, compared with the usual 40 or so. Afterwards a short visit was made to Rackham Woods, but the cold and wind apparently deterred mest birds from much activity and there was not a great deal to be seen.

5. Dawn Chorus Outing, Sunday May 13th, with Miss C.P.S. Griffiths and Mr. A. Burstow.

A bleak, dull morning greeted the fourteen members who visited the Sanctuary for the Society's third Dawn Chorus Outing held in Mid-May. Several were "met by the dawn" en route due to a timing miscalculation, but twitterings in the distance gave clear indication that the birds themselves were well to time.

No rare or unusual songs were heard, but a pleasant halfhour was spent in the shelter of the Sanctuary listening to the
more common species including Sedge and Reed Warblers. After
crossing the road and railway, the party wandered along the riverbank and saw meadow and riverside birds including a Common Sandpiper, before recrossing the road to Erringham Shaw. Here a
sheltered viewpoint was a pleasant spot to stop for breakfast. A
Green Woodpecker, Whitehtroat and Chiffchaff amongs others were
heard, and a Spotted Flycatcher seen. More summer migrants were
seen or heard on the way back to the Sanctuary along the eastern
ridge of the Downs.

# 6. New Forest Coach Outing, Saturday June 2nd with Mr. B.A.E. Marr

A perfect sunny warm day was enjoyed by some 25 members who came on this outing. Despite the leader oversleeping and missing the coach, and arriving late, plenty of birds were seen and a fairly lengthy trek produced such excitements as a pair of Nightjars flushed at very close quarters and a Hobby flying over, with several Buzzards, Woodlarks, Redstarts and other forest species. A good one to bear in mind for future outings, it was felt.

# 7. Thorney Island, Sunday August 19th, with Mr. T. Palmer.

The outing took place in genial, sunny weather, and about 30 people attended including several new members whom we were all pleased to see.

Waders were in great abundance and seen well by all. The highlights of a most interesting day were over 500 Black-tailed Godwits, 50 Greenshank, 2 Spotted Redshank, 2 Ruff, 5 Green Sandpipers and over a hundred Curlew.

# 8. Selsey Bill, Saturday 29th September, with Mr. B.A.E. Marr

Third time lucky it was! After two previous outings here which were complete wash-outs thanks to gales, we had a perfect calm, clear sunny morning. An interesting early-morning passerine movement included several Reed Buntings, hirundines and wagtails,

although there was little at sea. A walk round the Bill-tip later, was most rewarding, with an obliging Pied Flycatcher and Whinchat near the beach, and a Collared Dove seen well in flight and at rest. While looking for two Firecrests in a garden, we were told of a Barred Warbler nearby, and all had splendid views of this fine bird, the Bill's first, before we had to leave.

# 9. Pagham Harbour, Sunday October 14th, with Dr. J. Stafford

On a wonderfuly sunny, autumn day about forty members of the Society met at Pagham and walked round the eastern and northern boundaries of the Harbour. Birds were not numerous, but good views were had of the commoner species. Returning to the beach for lunch and sea-watching, we were rewarded with good views of a Great Skua first seen far out and later flying in, and allowing very close approach. Unfortunately it was oiled.

# 10. River Adur & The Sanctuary, Saturday November 3rd, with Mr. F. Severs and Mr. J.M. Twort.

Owing to prolonged periods of heavy rain right up to the time arranged for meeting, the outing was very poorly attended. The fact also that the time for starting practically coincided with high tide meent that there was no opportunity to see waders on the mud-flats which were not exposed until some time later. However, although the sky was threatening, there were no further outbreaks of rain, and the small party enjoyed a pleasant walk. Nothing sensational in the way of bird-life was seen, the most unusual bird being a Little Owl, on one of the bushes on the south side of the railway embankment, west of the Rail Bridge over the Adur.

# 11. East Head, West Wittering, Saturday December 29th, with Mr. R.E. Goddard.

In view of the snow and ice, it was very creditable that a party of 12 turned up at East Head. There were several hundred Brent Geese seen in the distance, a Snow Bunting which looked very cold and a Ruff which looked even colder. After lunch, most of the party went round to Pagham, where the highlight was a drake Smew on the lagoon.

# SELSEY BILL - 1962

1962 saw the completion of four years of consistent watching at Selsey Bill, the first observations having commenced in March 1959. In common with several other Observatories around our coasts, we found 1962 a somewhat odd year, with movements of many species much below par and sea-birds particularly scarce.

Our hut lasted out the year, and is still in remarkably fine form considering its use and misuse. In the late autumn we found a visitor had taken up permanent residence and took some moving - a ferret, not very popular in the district as he had been considered responsible for the deaths of six chickens nearby. As yet nothing has been built on the plot of land, and we have managed to obtain a short lease of an adjoining strip which is at least a handhold on the Bill-tip.

The spring, with the cold weather continuing right up to the end of May, was of course a late one, and many migrants were a good deal later than normal. A Black Redstart on March 10th was the first migrant, no Wheatears arriving until 29th. A Woodcock arrived from the sei on 11th, and on 17th we had an early Sandwich Term which beat the 1961 earliest by a day, and four Garganey. Other records included c400 Brent Geese moving east on 25th and a Glaucous Gull on 31st.

April started quietly, but migration gathered impetus and climaxed in a heavy up-Channel movement of sea-birds in mid-month. Up to 4 Slavonian Grebes were offshore early in the month, and a Great Grey Shrike and Firecrest seen near the Bill on 8th. Small numbers of passerine migrants trickled through daily between then and 19th, when a good sea-passage included C1800 Common Scoter, 503 Common/Arctic Terms, 303 Sandwich Terms, 38 Eider, 83 Red-breasted Mergansers, 33 Brent Geese, 12 Velvet Scoter, 26 Divers, 5 Arctic and two Great Shuas, and an Avocet. The 20th and 21st continued in this vein, with more Bonxies, duck, waders and terms, movement then slackening for four or five days although Ring Ouzels, Grasshopper Warbler, Peregrine, Collared Dove, Great Northern Diver and Little Ringed Plover were seen.

On 27th April came the first big Bar-tailed Godwit day - c3200 of these fine waders, many in the colourful red summer plumage, passing eastwards in one flock after another. The following day produced a further 2800, with smaller numbers on subsequent days; a really exciting movement. By the end of the month migration had died away considerably, this lull continuing into May which was the quietest we have yet had. Apart from two Pomarine Skuas (6th), Little Ringed Plover(9th), a Mealy Redpoll (25th) and a Nightjar arriving from the sea (26th) there was very little to be seen, and at sea the lack of movement was very disappointing.

The autumn resembled the spring in that on the whole it was rather dull, with the movements now expected annually much below par, although there was one exciting period, in late September. At sea all movement was sub-standard from July right through until late late November; overhead the coasting, arrivals and departures of passerines, with the exception of hirundines, were very small. The redeeming period was after south-east winds on September 26th, when a drift movement brought down a probable Greenish Warbler, a Barred Warbler which was seen by the members of an Outing of this Society to Selsey on September 29th, at least two Melodious Warblers, up to 4 Firecrests, and several Pied Flycatchers and similar drift species, many of which were in the Bill-tip area for several days.

Other occurrences in the course of the autumn included another Melodious Warbler (Aug. 26th), an Ortolan Bunting (Aug. 9th), several Crossbills and Collared Doves, a Serin (Aug. 30th), and a Sooty Shearwater (Sept. 20th), But despite these excitements, the autumn of 1962 must go down on record as the quietest we have had at Selsey in our four years' watching.

Our future still remains uncertain. We may have to leave our present plot in 1963, which will leave us with our small leased strip, barely adequate for a headquarters, but we shall, as always, just have to cross our fingers and hope for the best. Our enquiries and searching for a suitable area at the Bill-tip meanwhile continue.

B.A.E.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

# WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PROTECTION OF BIRDS' COMMITTEE

The subject of Pagham Harbour was again discussed at a Meeting of this Committee at Chichester on 30th November, 1962.

The West Sussex River Board, as owners, in general oppose the establishment of Pagham Harbour as a Nature Reserve pointing out ...

- (a) many legal problems are posed as the surrounding land is largely separately owned with separate legal rights.
- (b) they are already controlling the Harbour and in evidence showed they had gated the eastern end of the Shingle bank and had erected the notice boards prohibiting boating.

(c) that there is public access to the Harbour.

It was pointed out however, that boats are still being moored and motor boat-ski-ing still takes place inside the harbour.

A report on Pagham Harbour prepared by the Sussex Naturalists! Trust and their action in leasing the Lagoon for the winter drew very favourable comment from the Chairman and most of the Committee, and a sub-committee was formed to confer with the West Sussex River Board and consider ways and means of forming a Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.

Major W.W.A. Phillips was deputed to act on behalf of the Ornithological Societies represented on the Committee.

Looked at objectively ... While it would be nice to have Pagham neatly parcelled up as a Nature Reserve controlled by byelaws laid down by the Ministry of Nature Reserves, one can appreciate the West Sussex River Board are not anxious to have their hands tied unduly nor do the Wild Fowlers' Assoc, want their sport curtailed. It is essential however the mooring of boats be prohibited and motor boat ski-ing and all other forms of hooliganism in the Harbour stamped out. Which is the best way to preserve Pagham Harbour for the enjoyment of those who appreciate Nature? Bye-laws will not stop vandalism unless they are backed by a close system of Wardening. Can this be done voluntarily, if not it could be a costly business.

G.W.R.

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#### SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1962 ABRIDGED

RECEIPTS	£	8	ď	EXPENDITURE £ s d
Bal. in hand 1.1.62.	62	8	9	Subscriptions 4 16 0
Subscriptions - 171	60	3	6	Affiliation Fees 2 16 0
Meetings - Donations	10	1	3	Lectures 11 8 0
Tea Receipts	1	14	2	Sanctuary Expenses 26 7 10
Miscellaneous Receipts	4	1	0	Miscellaneous Expenses 4 9 9
Film Receipts "Garden				Printing: Duplicating 27 0 2
Birds"	28	11	8	Postage: Tel: Stat. 15 12 1
Audited & found _				Balance in hand 31.12. 74 10 6
correct, (sgd) F. SEVERS,	167	0	4	G.W.RAMPION £167 0 4

# SUITHARY OF MEETINGS & FIELD OUTINGS IN 1962

Meetings		
Jan. 20th	"Cape Clear Bird Observatory,	Mr. A.B. Sheldon
	Ireland"	
Feb. 28th	"Spurn Head, Yorkshire"	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
Mar. 28th	"Studies of some British Breeding	
	Species"	Mr. M. Hollings
Apr. 18th	"Bird Song"	Dr. J. Stafford
Oct. 27th	"Iceland and its Birds"	Mr. Walter Murray
Nov. 24th	"Garden Birds"	R.S.P.B. Films
Dec. 1st	"Holiday bird photos in Scotland	West Color Vision
	and Lapland"	Mr. Roland Williams
OUTINGS		
Jan. 21st	East Head, West Wittering	Mr. & Mrs. Cordero
Feb. 18th	Amberley Wildbrooks	Mr. M. Hollings
Mar. 11th	Pagham Harbour	Dr. J. Stafford
Apr. 7th	Parham Park Heronry	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
May 13th	Dawn Chorus at the Sanctuary	Miss Griffiths & Mr. Burstow
June 2nd	The New Forest	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
Aug. 19th	Thorney Island	Mr. T. Palmer
Sept.29th	Selsey Bill	Mr. B.A.E. Marr
Oct. 14th	Pagham Harbour	Dr. J. Stafford
Nov. 3rd	River Adur & The Sanctuary	Messrs. Severs &
Dec. 29th	East Head, West Wittering	Mr. R.E. Goddard

# OFFICERS in 1962

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Ass. Secretary: Miss C.M. Biggs Field Sec: Miss C.P.S. Griffiths Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G.W. Rampton Official Recorder: Mr. J.M. Twort

Report Editor: Mr. F. Severs

The Council is comprised of the Officers plus Mr. R.E. Goddard

The Field Commiggee: Miss C.P.S. Griffiths, Messrs. A. Burstow, R.E. Goddard & B.A.E. Marr.

Representative on the Protection of Eirds Committee of the West Sussex County Council: Mr. G.W. Rampton

The Sanctuary Committee: Messrs. A. Burstow, W. McKechnie and T. Palmer.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

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28 Adur Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.

17 Roman Road, Steyning

Chancton, The Street, Old Shoreham.

7 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.

7 Kings Barn Lone, Steyning.

24 Cornwall Gardens, Brighton, 6.

27 Roman Road, Hove, 3.

17 St. Aubyns Rd, Portslade.

166 Old Shoreham Road, Portslade.

27 Erringham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.

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30 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea.
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Chambers, Coring Road, Goring-by-Sea.
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35 Woodland Drive, Hove, 4.

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19 Chester Avenue, Wellan Park, Lancing.

67 Hillside Avenue, Worthing.

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98 Queens Road, Brighton. 17 Coombes Road, Steyning.

44 Seamill Park Crescent, Worthing.

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3 The Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea.

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# Total Membership at 31st December 1962 - 171

# Recently Joined (for 1963)

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