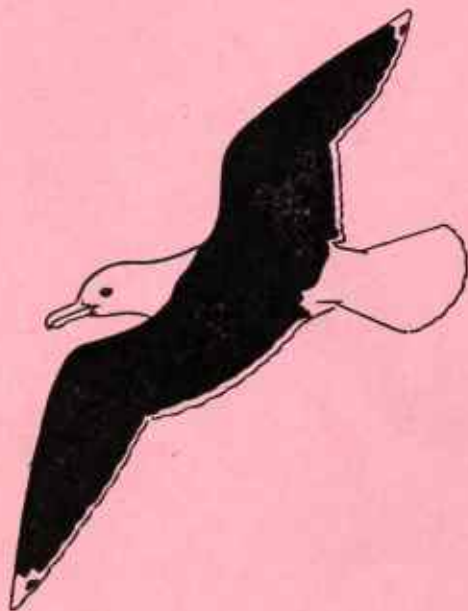


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thirteenth Annual Report



for the Year 1965

PRICE: TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT, 1965

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The continuing success of this small Society has been very largely due to its being so excellently and enthusiastically served by its officers, and it was with something approaching dismay that members learned last year that the Editor and the Recorder felt obliged to relinquish their posts, which they had held almost from the formation of the Society. Fortunately, Mr. Tom Palmer was at hand to take over from Mr. Twort, and this vital job is still in capable hands. The Editorship, however, in default of a more suitable volunteer, has fallen into less skilled and less local hands, and an apology is offered in advance for the inevitable shortcomings.

One immediate result is the disappearance of the report on Sea-watching, which Mr. Severs, from his vantage point on Shoreham Beach, was able to make an almost daily practice, supplemented by

some intensive watching by some of the younger members, whose studies have now curtailed their activities in this field. This is therefore, perhaps, an appropriate place to appeal for anyone resident in Shoreham and able to do some regular sea-watching, to send in their records in detail.

The other regular features of the Report follow the pattern set by Mr. Severs. 1965 has proved to be one of the quieter years, like 1964, with no very severe weather to bring in the rarities of 1963. But the present winter has brought a Waxwing invasion, and as Shoreham had its small but well-observed share of these attractive birds, a special article was felt to be appropriate.

Mr. Marr's notes on Selsey Bill are regretfully the last regular report from that area, which has suffered so sadly from the encroachments of the speculative builder, but he has kindly contributed an account of his travels abroad in 1965 in search of birds.

Mr. Eric Goddard has given us his report on the Devil's Dyke area, where fire in the early part of the year reduced the available nesting sites, and has reminded us, in another article, what pleasures can be had from the more familiar garden birds as individuals.

The programme of indoor meetings was, as always, well attended, and much enjoyed, and the membership is indebted to the joint Secretaries for shouldering the by no means light task of arranging and notifying both these and the field outings, brief reports of which are included.

The Ringing Report shows that 269 birds were ringed during the year, virtually all by David Stone and Michael Goddard, whose work at the Sanctuary, although reduced by the demands of their studies, maintains the more scientific side of the Society. Recovery from the 1963 freeze is still not complete - Long-tailed Tits, for instance, being still not recorded there and raptors, even the once-common Kestrel, are regretfully scarce.

Attendance at Shoreham Town Hall for the two showings of the R.S.P.B. films, "The Birds of Strathspey" and "A Place for Birds", were back to the 1963 level, the high quality of these films ensuring continuing local interest.

The Society showed its appreciation of the years of untiring service given by Mr. Severs and Mr. Twort by the presentation to them of "Birds of the World" and a travelling clock, respectively. And the gift of an electric fire was also

made to Mr. and Mrs. Weatherhead, our good friends from the Mill Hill Pumping Station, on their retirement, in recognition of their unfailing kindness to the Society.

We are once more indebted to the willing volunteers who have helped in the duplication and distribution of notices, in serving tea and biscuits at the indoor meetings, and in stewarding the Town Hall film show.

Membership showed an increase of eight, bringing the total at the end of 1965 to 163.

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SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1965

The number of visits made to the Sanctuary during 1965 was down on previous years owing to educational commitments on my behalf during the first half of the year. Consequently the copse was visited on a total of only 60 days. Nevertheless a fairly extensive picture can be made of the Sanctuary's bird population and movements. No new species were added to the list which now stands at 113.

The following is a chronological report based on the daily recordings from the log kept in the Sanctuary hut:-

Jan. and Feb. The only duck present were four Mallard at the beginning of Jan. and 10 Teal on Feb. 6th. A Heron was present in the dykes most days throughout Jan. and Feb. and six Snipe, increasing to 10 on Feb. 6th., frequented the rough pasture. The Water Rail was notable for its absence this year but c15 Redshank stayed for a couple of days at the beginning of Jan. A Chiffchaff was seen on Jan. 1st and 24th., and one was trapped on Feb. 6th. Other notable records during the period were Goldcrests at the beginning of Jan., a Kingfisher on Feb. 6th and about 2000 Starling pre-roosting on Feb. 10th. Finches numbers were normal for the time of year. No Kestrels were noted.

Spring Two Partridge, a pair of Mallard and a Pheasant were present throughout the Spring. A Kestrel was seen on April 3rd, 16th and 25th and on May 15th. Two Wheatears arrived on April 3rd. The first Willow Warbler was noted on April 10th. The numbers of Phylloscopus sp. remained low throughout Spring. Spring arrivals were generally late, with a Sedge Warbler on April 22nd and the rest of the migrants not until the beginning of May.

On May 5th there was an influx of migrants, including a Nightingale, two Reed Warblers, two Sedge Warblers, a Blackcap, two Whitethroats, a Lesser Whitethroat, c5 Chiff/Willows, and several Hirundines.

Breeding Season. A Meadow Pipit's nest, found on May 5th with 5 eggs which had all hatched by the 12th, was discovered crushed on the 15th, presumably by the cows. Other Meadow Pipits probably nested in the field together with Skylarks, but no other nests were found. The usual Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Dunnocks and probably two pairs of Robins nested. At least one pair of Wrens nested, and several young Moorhens were seen in the dykes in late June. Two pairs of Reed Warblers again nested.

Autumn Autumn was generally a quiet month for the migrants with only small numbers passing through the Sanctuary. July was notable for the two juvenile Tree Creepers, trapped on the 13th and three Curlew on the 16th which flew in from the Downs. Also present in July was a Kestrel on the 9th and a Turtle Dove, which was in the Vicinity for most of the month. August was extremely quiet and it was not until the end of the month that a small increase in the migrants occurred. On August 30th there was a maximum of c12 Chiff/Willows, 3 Reed Warblers, a Sedge Warbler, two Blackcap, a Whitethroat, two Lesser Whitethroat and two Yellow Wagtails. One Curlew was also noted on the 30th.

The migration continued on into the beginning of Sept., and on the 2nd a female Redstart was trapped. October saw the return of two Pheasants on the 19th and an increase in the numbers of finches, Corn Buntings and Starlings with a maximum of c200 Starlings and c70 Corn Buntings on the 19th. Nov. and Dec. Five Partridges arrived towards the end of November and on the 28th c25 Redshanks were mixed with the Lapwings on the marsh. Also during November the number of House Sparrows increased to c200 by the 28th.

A Goldcrest visited the Sanctuary for a short time at the beginning of December, the Partridges increased to seven on the 4th and the Pheasants left us soon after the 1st. A few Redshanks still visited the marsh and on the 1st two Kestrels flew over, travelling west. The absence of any prolonged cold weather kept the number of finches down, and there were no

Snipe present except during a short cold snap on the 28th when 15 were present.

M.J.S.G.

RINGING REPORT for 1965

The total ringed, 469, of which all were trapped as adults except for three nestlings, and comprising 33 species in all, reflects the lack of ringing activity in the Society in comparison with other years.

Lack of time on my own part, and, for the other ringers, the demands of studies and pending examinations, explain these low figures. Perhaps we shall have better results in 1966.

The birds were ringed by Michael Goddard, 199; David Stone, 269; and I accounted for the extra one.

The recoveries were also down. They were all ringed at Shoreham unless otherwise stated.

RINGING TOTAL FOR 1965

<u>Bird</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bird</u>	<u>Total</u>
Great Tit	10	Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	1
Blue Tit	36	Wren	2
Song Thrush	46	Reed Bunting	1
Starling	24	Yellow Bunting	3
Robin	12	Missel Thrush	3
Greenfinch	56	Goldfinch	9
Chaffinch	39	Bullfinch	10
Blackbird	124	Goldcrest	1
Duncock	8	Chiffchaff	13
House Sparrow	1	Willow Warbler	7
Tree Creeper	3	Blackcap	11
Linnet	2	Redwing	3
Whitethroat	1	Garden Warbler	2
Sedge Warbler	4	Redstart	3
Reed Warbler	1	Wood Pigeon	1
Lesser Whitethroat	4	Mute Swan	23
Swallow	3		

TOTAL: 469

RECOVERIES

Foreign Recoveries

- Starling : Full-grown, ringed 5.1.63. Killed Bassrelde (E.Flanders) by a birdcatcher. D.S.
- Goldfinch : Juv., ringed 1.8.63. Killed Sestor (Viscaya) Spain 27.4.64 - reported 1965. D.S.
- Chiffchaff : Full-grown, ringed 8.9.64. Found Zaraq (Guipuzcoa) Spain, 26.10.65. D.S.

Recoveries in the British Isles

- Sand Martin : Juv., ringed 19.7.61 Washington, Nr.Steyning, Sussex (colony). Recovered Prudhoe-on-Tyne, (colony, 285 miles North) 30.7.64. J.S.
- Chaffinch : Full-grown male, ringed 28.12.64. Found dead Crowborough (Sussex) 25 miles N.E. 2.5.65. M.G.
- Mute Swan : Birds ringed by D.S. showed movement only along the coast between Emsworth, 30 miles W., and Rye, 45 miles E.

Ringers' Initials:

J.S. - J. Stafford
D.S. - David Stone
M.G. - Michael Goddard

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NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA. 1965

This feature is based on records sent in by the following observers: Miss C.M. Biggs, Mrs. O.M. Chapman, Mrs. M. Gillett, Miss C.P.S. Griffiths, Miss E.E. Menzies, Mrs. J.B. Smith, Messrs. A.W.S. Burstow, F.J. Forbes, B.F. Forbes, R.E. Goddard, M.J. Goddard, C.A. Grigg, C.F. Helyer, F. Severs, J.M. Twort, P.S. Wilmshurst, T. Palmer, J. Burstow, B. Metcalfe, G.A. Sutton, and Dr. J. Stafford.

Abbreviations: - m. - male; f. - female; imm. - immature; Br. - Brooklands; C.C. - Cuckoo's Corner; C.W. - Cement Works; F.A. - Flood Arch; F.B. - Foot Bridge; R.B. - Railway Bridge; R.D. - Rubbish Dump; S.H. - Southwick Hill; S.P. - Sussex Pad; T.B. - Toll Bridge; W.W. - Wide Water.

Red Throated Diver: Two off-shore, Shoreham, Feb. 6th - 18th.
One off-shore, Worthing, April 11th.

Diver Species: 36 flew E. off Widewater, March 6th. Two off-shore, Worthing, May 1st.

Slavonian Grebe: One in Harbour, Jan. 5th.

Great Crested Grebe: Up to four off-shore during Feb. & March.

Little Grebe: Ones and twos reported from Sept. to Dec. Still far from being back to normal numbers after the severe winter of 1962/3.

Gannet: One flying W. off W.W., July 18th.

Mallard: 21 off-shore W.W., March 3rd. Six Sanctuary, Feb. 7th.
Up to 15 Br. Lagoon in winter.

Teal: 15 Br. Lagoon, Jan. 21st. Ten Sanctuary, Feb. 4th. 23 Br. Lagoon, Feb. 25th. Six C.C., Feb. 2nd. 45 Airfield, Dec. 16th.

Wigeon: 16 Airfield, Jan. 3rd. Nine off-shore, W.W., Jan. 6th.
Nine flying E., W.W., Dec. 8th.

Shoveler: Up to five Br. Lagoon, Jan. 28 W.W., Jan. 6th.
Four off-shore W.W., May 1st.

Tufted Duck: Two Br. Lagoon, Jan. to March. One Br. Lagoon,
Nov. - Dec.

Pochard: Two Br. Lagoon, March 6th.

Long-tailed Duck: One f. or imm., Hove Lagoon, Nov. 7th - 27th.

Common Scoter: 16 off-shore Shoreham, Jan. 6th. 15 off-shore
Shoreham, Dec. 2nd. 60 flying E. off-shore W.W. April 15th.
45 off-shore Br., Dec. 8th.

Eider: One f. off-shore Lancing, Dec. 13th.

Red-breasted Merganser: Three off-shore Lancing, Feb. 24th.
Two off-shore W.W., March 6th.

Shelduck: Two Airfield, Jan. 1st. Two W.W., Jan. 13th.
Seven Br. Lagoon, Feb. 22nd. Two off-shore Lancing, Aug. 14th.
14 W.W., Nov. 3rd.

Brent Goose: Eleven off-shore Shoreham, flying E., Dec. 8th.

Hen Harrier: One Steyning Round Hill, Nov. 14th.

Montagu's Harrier: One Steyning Round Hill, May 29th.
One Cissbury, July 5th.

Hobby: One S.E., Sept. 26th.

Kestrel: Single birds reported throughout the year from S.H. to Br. One pair Sanctuary, Aug. 30th. See special article for Kestrels at Lancing.

Quail: Birds reported calling from June 27th. to Aug. 31st. from Patcham in the East to Beeding Hill in the West. Far more reported than usual, especially from Mill Hill, Shoreham.

Water Rail: One Br., Jan. 21st. One Airfield, Dec. 12th.

Coot: Five F.B., Jan. 6th. Nine Br. Lagoon in Jan. and Feb.

Oyster Catcher: Up to ten off-shore W.W. throughout the year. One juvenile F.B. in Aug.

Lapwing: 500 Airfield, Dec. 16th.

Ringed Plover: 70 Adur, Feb. 28th. 35 Br. on beach, Nov. 24th.

Snipe: Up to 14 Sanctuary, Jan. & Feb. Four near Lancing College during Jan. Six Br. Marsh, in Jan., and 60 on March 21. Six Sanctuary, Oct. 25., and two on Nov. 4th.

Jack Snipe: One Br. Marsh, March 6th.

Curlew: Three flying E. off-shore W.W., March 8th., and three on May 1st. Three Sanctuary Field, June 16th., and up to four in September. One flying N.W. over Corey Hill, Westdene, Aug. 29th.

Whimbrel: Two flying W. off-shore W.W., April 17th., and three flying E., May 1st. Four T.B., May 10th., and one on Aug. 22nd. Five flying W. off-shore W.W. Aug. 31st. One F.A., Sept. 3rd.

Black-tailed Godwit: 14 flying W., Hove, Aug. 20th. Two T.B., Aug. 29th.

Bar-tailed Godwit: 92 counted in 1½ hours flying E. Hove, and 55 counted at W.W., May 1st. Four flying W. Wide Water, July 30th.

Common Sandpiper: Six F.A., July 19th. One W.W., July 30th.
Up to four Adur, Aug. One F.A., Sept. 5th.

Redshank: Four pairs near C.W., April 10th. Twelve Sanctuary
Dec. 7th. 50 on Airfield, Dec. 10th.

Spotted Redshank: One F.A., Jan. 1st. to March 3rd. One F.A.,
Aug. 3rd.

Greenshank: Two Adur. Sept. 9th.

Little Stint: One Toll Bridge, Sept. 9th.

Dunlin: About 400 Adur, Jan. 6th., and about 600 on Feb. 28th.
Maximum of 80 in Dec.

Sanderling: Two flying West, W.W., April 17th. Three in partial
summer plumage, T.B., Aug. 9th. 50 flying E. off-shore, Br.,
Nov. 6th.

Knot: One or two, Adur, Jan. 4th. to March 5th. One W.W.,
March 6th.

Stone Curlew: One pair Downs area, May 25th. A farmer reported
having seen a number on several occasions in spring on the Downs
north of Shoreham.

Ruff: Two m., one f. near Lancing College, Feb. 2nd. One T.B.,
March 5th. One Br. Lagoon, Jan. 3rd. to March 6th.

Skua species: One flying E. off-shore W.W., Aug. 14th. One
chasing a Herring Gull off-shore, Hove, March 30th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: One Adur, Jan. & Feb., 25 on Aug. 8th.,
and six in autumn. One F.B. Dec.

Little Gull: One imm. off-shore, Southwick, Sept. 25th.

Black Tern: One flying W. off-shore W.W., Sept. 5th., and one on
Sept. 11th.

Common/Arctic Tern: Constant flow E. from April 15th to May 2nd.,
particularly on the last date. One Southwick Locks, Sept. 9th.
Six off-shore, Sept. 14th.

Little Tern: One flying E. off-shore W.W., May 1st. Eight flying
W. off-shore W.W., July 30th.

Sandwich Tern: Three flying E. off-shore Hove, March 31st. One flying E. off-shore W.W., April 15th., and 20 on May 1st. Constant flow E. there on May 2nd. One Shoreham Harbour, Sept. 4th.

Razorbill: One on sea, W.W., Feb. 6th.

Guillemot: One W.W., Nov. 28th.

Turtle Dove: One Devil's Dyke, April 30th. One to two Westdene, May 10th. to June 27th. Three S.H., Sept. 21st. One Hove, Oct. 1st. In Sanctuary throughout June & July.

Collared Dove: Up to three, incl. one imm., at Steyning. Several wintered there. One pair in a Hove garden in May were still there at the end of the year. Twelve, Steyning, Dec. 12th.

Cuckoo: One seen Devil's Dyke, April 14th., and two on May 6th. One Westdene, May 18th & 19th.

Barn Owl: Heard calling often in Southwick.

Little Owl: One calling Southwick Green, Oct. 24th.

Tawny Owl: One Southwick, March 18th. - 24th. One Beeding, June 20th. Heard calling often in Southwick.

Swift: Seen Steyning, May 2nd., Westdene May 6th., Devil's Dyke, May 10th.

Kingfisher: One F.A., Jan. 12th. One Sanctuary, Feb. 6th. One Airfield, July 18th. One Sanctuary, Nov. 1st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: One drumming on telegraph-pole, Westdene, March 28th. - April 21st. One Wiston Pond, Sept. 12th.

Swallow: Two at Wiston, March 30th. One Shoreham, April 18th.

House Martin: No spring records. One Hove, Oct. 20th. Two Shoreham, Dec. 11th. - a very late date.

Willow Tit: Nest with eggs, Westdene, May 6th.

Nuthatch: One Wiston Pond, April 8th.

Tree Creeper: One Wiston Pond, Sept. 12th. At least one Coney Hill, Westdene, Oct. - Nov.

Wren: Several pairs resident Westdene.

Fieldfare: Nine Airfield, March 5th., one Br., March 6th., and 12 on Dec. 11th. Up to three Westdene, Oct. 7th to Dec. 1st.

Redwing: Small numbers reported Jan. - March included 10 Airfield March 5th., and up to 15 Southwick Green in Feb. Autumn records included 30-40 Westdene, Nov. 3rd., 20 there on Nov. 14th., and 10 Airfield, Dec. 1st. Up to 8 Sanctuary, Dec.

Ring Ousel: One or two Hove, from Oct. 1st - 17th. Two Devil's Dyke, Oct. 5th., and one on Oct. 17th.

Wheatear: Four W.W., March 23rd., and one singing there March 26th. Three Sanctuary, April 3rd. Up to ten S.H., Aug. 13th. - Sept. 29th.

Stonechat: One pair S.H., Sept. 19th - Oct. 6th. One W.W., March 6th.

Whinchat: One Devil's Dyke May 11th. - the only spring record. One R.D. Shoreham, Sept. 12th. Up to nine S.H., Sept. 20th. - Oct. 3rd. Up to 10 Mill Hill, Shoreham, in Aug. Six Br., Sept. 11th.

Common Redstart: One March 23rd. Shoreham Beach. One Coombes, May 2nd., and family party of four there Sept. 7th. - 13th. Up to three S.H., Sept. 19th - 27th. One Hove Aug. 16th. - Sept. 15th. One f. Westdene, Sept. 27th.

Black Redstart: One f. W.W., March 22nd. One f. Southwick, March 30th.

Nightingale: One Sanctuary, singing, May 6th. - 30th. Two Hove May 11th, and one there May 26th.

Grasshopper Warbler: One Devil's Dyke, April 1st.

Reed Warbler: One singing Sanctuary, May 6th, Ten C.C., July 1st. Six Airfield, July 7th. Six S.P., July 6th. - 26th. Ten Lancing, Aug. 8th.

Sedge Warbler: One S.P., April 21st. Six Airfield, April 22nd. Two singing C.C., Aug. 8th.

Blackcap: One Erringham Shaw, April 25th. One Sanctuary, May 14th. One R.D., Sept. 12th. One pair Westdene, Oct. 12th.

Garden Warbler: One Westdene, May 6th. One Shoreham, May 7th. Two Sanctuary, May 12th. One Lancing, May 13th.

Common Whitethroat: One Hove, May 3rd. Four Airfield, Sept. 18th. One S.H. Sept. 29th.

Lesser Whitethroat: One Hove, May 2nd. Two Lancing, May 5th. One Westdene, May 6th. One S.H., Sept. 20th. One Westdene, Oct. 7th.

Willow Warbler: Two Hove, April 3rd. One Sanctuary, April 7th. One singing Erringham Shaw, Sept. 23rd.

Chiffchaff: One Sanctuary, Jan. 1st & 9th. One ringed Sanctuary Feb. 6th. One Wiston, March 22nd. One Sanctuary, March 24th. One Hove, March 28th. Two S.H., and two Sanctuary, Sept. 19th. Birds singing on Coney Hill, Westdene, up to Oct. 14th.

Wood Warbler: One singing Westdene, May 6th. - 16th. One Erringham Shaw, May 12th. One Hove, May 10th. and 26th.

Goldcrest: One Westdene, Oct. 17th., and one Dec. 1st. Six Devil's Dyke, Oct. 31st.

Firecrest: One Mill Hill, Shoreham, March 5th.

Spotted Flycatcher: One Hove, April 12th. One C.C., July 1st. Two Sanctuary, Sept. 4th. One or two S.H., 19th. - 27th Sept. At least six Westdene, Sept. 12th., and one on Sept. 26th.

Pied Flycatcher: One Coombes, May 10th. One Mile Oak, Aug. 17th. and Aug. 25th. One East Hill Park, Portslade, Sept. 11th. and 15th. One S.H., Sept. 17th. One Hove, Sept. 21st and 22nd. One there Oct. 4th.

Rock Pipit: Up to seven near Houseboats, Feb. & March. Two W.W., Nov. 24th.

Water Pipit: A bird showing characteristics of this race, W.W., April 8th.

Grey Wagtail: One Br., Jan. 3rd. One Sanctuary, Feb. 22nd. One Sanctuary, July 15th.

Yellow Wagtail: One Bramber, April 20th. Two Sanctuary, June 19th. Six C.C., July 1st. One Sanctuary, Sept. 12th. One S.H., Sept. 21st - 22nd. One Erringham Shaw, Sept. 23rd. At least two successful nests at Coombes.

Blue-headed Wagtail: One m. Bramber, May 7th.

Waxwing: Up to six near T.B., Nov. 26th. - Dec. 12th. (see special article)

Starling: A flock estimated at more than 10,000 flew West at a height of 75 feet at Lancing, Nov. 8th. It took $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes to pass.

Siskir: Two Wiston, March 22nd.

Twite: Three Airfield, Jan. 1st. Eleven F.B., March 3rd. Eleven W.W., March 3rd., six there on March 6th., and 17 on March 8th.

Redpoll: One f. Wiston Pond, March 6th.

Brambling: Two R.D., Jan. 28th. One Worthing garden, March 4th. One n. Br., March 6th. One n. Mill Hill, March 6th. One Steyning garden, March 6th. Twelve Southwick Harbour, March 7th.

Corn Bunting: Twelve S.H., Sept. 22nd. - 29th. At least 50 Sanctuary, Oct. 25th.

Girl Bunting: Birds reported at Steyning and Westdene throughout the year.

Snow Bunting: One S.P., Dec. 19th.

Tree Sparrow: Ten Westdene, Jan. 3rd., one on March 5th., and up to six there between Oct. 14th. and Dec. 1st.

T.P.

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BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1965

The past year has been normal for birds in and around Shoreham. Some species have not yet recovered from the cold winter of '62 '63, notably Little Grebe and Cormorant. Why two such hardy birds should take so long to recover is a mystery but it is undoubtedly so.

Bird watchers in Shoreham are very lucky in having sea, marsh, river and downland all on their doorstep, with the great advantage of varied habitat encouraging many species of birds. The Channel migrations are full of interest for those with good eyesight. In spring, up-channel, the flight is fast and purposeful as if on pressing business.

In autumn, down-channel it is much more leisurely, even apparently hesitant, with little parties sometimes staying for a few days. Waders may even hang about for 2 or 3 weeks.

The migration of passerines also follows this pattern. Fast in spring, leisurely in autumn. Some, of course, stay in our area

to breed, although there is not enough woodland or scrub for some species. Cuckoos were only reported twice, for instance. It is quite noticeable that certain birds can be met with at Erringham Shaw. Wood Warblers are a case in point, which are not often reported elsewhere.

The Downs often provide plenty of migrants. There seems to be an eastward movement in autumn of such birds as Redstarts, Whinchats, Wheatears, Swallows, Sand and House Martins, Common and Lesser Whitethroats, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers and even Yellow Wagtails.

A flock of 60 Goldfinches which hung around for several days amply repaid the effort of the climb.

It is well to go out early in the morning. The pony riders and dog walkers will be there soon after 9 a.m. and both tend to drive the birds to cover. The wire fences are well worth looking over. A field of kale provides food and shelter for many small birds, and the fences around it may often be used as perching places. Barley fields may hold Quail.

The river and the marsh are a never-ending source of interest. Almost all the marsh is private land used for farming and in general inaccessible to the public. This very fact, however, provides a place of rest and safety for the birds, and flocks of Gulls, Waders and Duck can be very large.

In spite of increased building and the spread of industrial development, which is inevitable, it is pleasing to know that three kinds of Owl still haunt Southwick, that Curlew, Whimbrel and Greenshank can still be seen on the mudflats, that Snipe, Redshank, Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler and Reed Warbler still nest in the Valley, that Stone Curlew and Harriers are still to be seen on the Downs and that Blackbirds will soon be singing again.

T.P.

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

A Demoiselle Crane seen on Mill Hill, a Sarus Crane near the Cement Works and perhaps the same bird seen over Worthing and Lancing of which we received an excellent description from F.J.F. were obviously escapes, but a large white bird with a flattened bill seen momentarily by P.S.W. over the Locks at Southwick sounds more like a Spoonbill than anything else. Unfortunately he feels unable to be certain, as he didn't notice the long legs.

Reports like these, where identification is perhaps a little uncertain, are always worth sending in. They may fit in with another set of observations.

In all cases make notes of what you see.

We have also had 4 reports of unidentified raptors flying overhead.

T.P.

WAXWINGS AT SHOREHAM

About once in ten years - or less frequently - and due to either an unusual shortage of food in its Scandinavian or Russian breeding grounds, or to an abnormally successful breeding season, Britain sees an 'invasion' of Waxwings, and it was with pleasant anticipation that one learned, in late October, that 1965/6 promised to be one of those winters.

Reports of sightings have been fairly numerous in England in late November and December, but it was on 26th. November that Mr. A.W.S. Burstow reported seeing two near the Shoreham Toll Bridge. This news was soon relayed over the efficient and kindly 'grape vine', and on the Sunday watchers heavily outnumbered the five birds that were by then on view.

These most obliging birds were moving about a conveniently small area of the northern edge of the Airfield, between Toll Bridge and 'Sussex Pad', spending long periods preening in a small leafless tree, and occasionally foraging for haws and other berries in the hedge adjoining the busy main road.

In good light, their prominent pointed crest, basically pinkish-brown colouring with white and yellow markings on black primaries, pale grey rump, yellow-edged tail, and fierce black eye stripe and bib made them striking birds which were every bit as handsome as the handbooks picture.

One of the five was a full adult male, with a bolder yellow tail-edge, complete V-shaped markings on the primaries, and more prominent crimson waxy tips to the secondaries. These were well seen at the 20 feet range down to which the birds allowed viewing, as were also the deep chestnut under-coverts, extending to the edge of the upper coverts, and the chestnut forehead. In flight, the pale grey rump was conspicuous, even at a distance, and an upward glide to perch was well seen. And the pleasant, soft trill which appeared to announce an intention to fly completed a most satisfying hour of perfect bird-watching.

Reference to the 'Field Guide' set one pondering on the variety of names of this agreeable visitor. The Dutch call it the Plague Bird, the French Tree-Chatterer, the Germans and Swedes the Silk-Tail. Gilbert White refers to it as the German Silk-Tail, and this is echoed both in Welsh and in the Latin generic name. The fine silky plumage is an obvious enough reason for this, but the specific 'Garrulus' seems a little hard on what in this country, at least, appears a relatively silent bird. Incidentally, Temminck labelled it 'Bonbycivora', implying 'silk-worm eater', a name only conceivably applicable to the Japanese Waxwing, a separate species.

The Victorians, who attempted to cage all kinds of birds, found them silent and dull in captivity, but both Seebohm and Lord Lilford commented on their voracious appetite. And at least two watchers of the Shoreham birds were impressed with their great capacity for converting haws into guano!

The last record of the 1965 visitors was a single bird seen on Dec. 12th., and their maximum number appears to have been six. The only previous records for Shoreham are to be found in Knox's 'Ornithological Rambles in Sussex', in which, writing in 1849, he says, "A Chatterer was killed near Shoreham by a person of the name of Dyer a few years since. There is also a specimen in the Chichester Museum which was shot in that neighbourhood".

T.P. & C.F.H.

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ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1965

The following table has been compiled from notes sent in by these observers.

Mrs. Chapman, Miss Menzies, Mrs. J.B. Smith.

Messrs A.W.S. Burstow, B.F. Forbes, R.E. Goddard, M.J. Goddard, C.A. Grigg, C.F. Helyer, F. Severs, J.M. Twort, T. Palmer.

<u>Species</u>	<u>First date & Locality</u>		<u>Last date & Locality</u>	
Whimbrel	17th Apr.	W.W.	3rd Sept.	F.A.
Bar Tailed Godwit	1st May	W.W.	30th July	W.W.
Common Sandpiper			5th Sept.	F.A.
Comm/Arc Tern	15th Apr.	W.W.	14th Sept.	Shoreham.
Little Tern	1st May	W.W.	30th July	W.W.
Sandwich Tern	15th Apr.	W.W.	4th Sept.	Shoreham Harb.
Turtle Dove	30th Apr.	Devil's Dyke	1st Oct.	Hove

<u>Species</u>	<u>First date & Locality</u>	<u>Last date & Locality</u>
Cuckoo	14th April Devils' Dyke	
Swift	2nd May Steyning	
Swallow	30th March Wiston	
House Martin		11th Dec. Shoreham (2)
Wheatear	23rd March W.W.	29th Sept. Sthwck. Hill
Whinchat	11th May Devils' Dyke	3rd Oct. " "
Common Redstart	28th March Shoreham Beach	27th Sept. " "
Nightingale	6th May Sanctuary	
Reed Warbler	6th May "	8th Aug. Lancing
Seige Warbler	21st Apr. S.P.	8th Aug. C.C.
Blackcap	25th Apr. Erringham Shaw	12th Oct. Westdene
Garden Warbler	6th May Westdene	
Common Whitethroat	3rd May Hove	29th Sept. Sthwck. Hill
Lesser Whitethroat	5th May Lancing	7th Oct. Westdene
Willow Warbler	3rd Apr. Hove	23rd Sept. Erringham Shaw.
Chiffchaff	1st Jan. Sanct. (Wintering Bird)	14th Oct. Westdene.
Spotted Flycatcher	12th April Hove	27th Sept. Sthwck. Hill
Pied Flycatcher	10th May Coombes	4th Oct. Hove.
Yellow Wagtail	20th Apr. Bramber	23rd Sept. Erringham Shaw. T.P.

Note: Abbreviations are as used in the article "Notable Birds of the Area."

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GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1965

These notes have been compiled from members' records. The following have contributed:- Mrs. O.M. Chapman, Mrs. M. Gillett, Miss E.E. Menzies, Mrs. M. Ray, Mrs. J.B. Smith. Messrs B.F. Forbes, C.A. Grigg, C.F. Helyer, B. Metcalfe, P.S. Wilnshurst.

Garden at Shoreham (P.S.W.)

Two broods of Swallows reared in Cycle Shed for second year running.

Garden at Hove (M.G.)

2 Collared Doves, 18th April to the end of the year.

Garden at Worthing (E.E.M.)

2 Redwings and a Brambling feeding on birdseed, currants etc. on the 4th March.

Garden at Steyning (B.M.)

Brambling March 6th. Lesser Whitethroat in September.

Garden at Steyning (C.A.G.)

Nesting birds include the following: Great Tit, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Swallow, Goldfinch, Mistie Thrush, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Starling, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Linnet; and a pair of Collared Doves in April were seen with 1 young on 1st May.

Garden at Worthing (B.F.F.)

2 Common Whitethroats 6th May.

Garden at Shoreham Beach (J.B.S.)

Common Redstart, 28th March.

Garden at Coombes (per C.A.G.)

Family party of 4 Redstarts for about a week.

2 Broods of Yellow Wagtails were successfully hatched and were to be seen feeding on the lawn for some time.

(This must have been a delightful experience. - T.P.)

Garden at Hove (O.M.C.)

Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Robin, Wren, Meadow Pipit, Dunnock, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Swallow, House Martin, Common Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler.

Garden at Mill Hill, Shoreham (M.R.)

Green Woodpecker, Redwing, Firecrest, Meadow Pipit, Wren (after two years' absence) Bullfinch, Brambling (I.M.)

Garden at Westdene Brighton (C.F.H.)

Redstart (f), Willow Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Tree Sparrow.

T.P.

KESTRELS AT LANCING

Very early in spring application for permission to continue the 1964 routine was cordially granted.

A visit to the nest site showed that someone had climbed the tree, pulled away much of the bark that had sheltered nest and birds and ruined the chance of Kestrels returning. No adult birds were seen in the locality for a month. Then a pair were seen on the Downs to the west.

Observations during the summer located the nest, inaccessible fortunately, and at least one juvenile was seen flying.

THE DEVIL'S DYKE AREA 1965

During the early part of 1965, fortunately before the nesting season, a large area of bushes was burnt and as the season progressed it became clear that all the bushes in this area were quite dead.

The first summer visitor to appear was a Chiffchaff on 30th March, followed by a Willow Warbler on 9th April and a second Chiffchaff on 10th April. On 14th April there was a heavy fall of Willow Warblers and the earliest Cuckoo recorded in the area. Cold North Westerly winds then kept everything quiet until 23rd April when another Cuckoo and Chiffchaff appeared. The real influx of "firsts" arrived on 30th April with a N.E. wind of force 1 which produced 1 Wheatear, 1 Swallow, 1 Turtle Dove, 1 Cuckoo, 3 Willow Warblers and 1 Grasshopper Warbler. Possibly due to the burning of the area of bushes, this was the only Grasshopper Warbler heard in the Spring. The wind changed to South East that evening and the following day was the most exciting of the Spring, but who could stay away from Selsey in those conditions?

A change of wind to South West reaching gale force again put on the brakes, but on 6th May, there was a fall of Common Whitethroats and Willow Warblers accompanied by a Lesser Whitethroat and 2 Cuckoos. On 10th May 2 Swifts appeared with other migrants and on the following day. 1 Whinchat and 2 Nightingales appeared for the first time. A Sedge Warbler, a new bird for the area, was recorded on 12th May, and the first Spotted Flycatcher the day after. The fire cost the area at least 1 breeding pair of Nightingales.

In the Autumn, the Three Cornered Coppice, Hove, was watched in the evenings, and although this area does not produce anything spectacular it is surprising how much is seen there, considering the number of people who use it, mostly for exercising dogs. During September and the first week in October, it provided 5 sightings of Redstarts, 1 Lesser Whitethroat, 1 Common Whitethroat, 2 Whinchats, 3 sightings of Spotted Flycatchers, 3 sightings of Pied Flycatchers (which turn up every autumn), 1 Blackcap, 1 Turtle Dove on 1st October and a Ring Ousel, on the same day.

2 Ring Ousels were seen at the Devil's Dyke on 5th October and a beautifully marked bird was feeding on the ground on 17th October.

Regretting the passing of the migration watches, a few early mornings were spent at the Devil's Dyke in October. These provided

the usual finch movements, a Heron flying N.W., a Redstart on 24th October and six Goldcrests on 31st October. Fieldfare numbers built up during October, and on 14th November about 50 were seen, but very few Redwings were present.

Again this year, there was no outstanding bird but it was a compensation almost always to see and hear Willow Tits at any time of the year. These engaging and tame little birds go noisily about their business and are seen anywhere in the area.

R.E.G.

SELSEY BILL 1965

All good things must come to an end - and in 1965 the small band of observers who have been doing most of the regular watching at Selsey Bill were forced to cease their weekend and occasional midweek observations at the Bill. They were forced by the never-ceasing pressure of building and holidaymaking at Selsey, which since watching started in 1959 has relentlessly nibbled away at the extensive areas of open land on the Bill-tip by the extension of holiday camps and caravan sites, and the development of large housing estates. The depressing picture which faced them was of an almost complete lack of open areas in which to find and watch birds, and of a constantly increasing summer population which made the Bill-tip as crowded as Brighton beach, and watching from May to September almost unbearable; and so rather than try and tolerate more of this, they decided to move away and watch in less spoilt areas of Sussex.

Watching was maintained until the end of the spring, which ironically proved to be perhaps the best on record, for many interesting birds and movements were recorded despite, for the first time ever, a complete absence of midweek coverage in April or May. March produced several Black Redstarts and more Firecrests than before, although April was rather quiet owing to prolonged north-westerly winds and cold weather; a Black Guillemot was probably the most unusual bird in the month. May started very well, with a huge up-Channel movement on 1st involving 32600 Common/Arctic Terns, 140 Sandwich Terns, no less than 350 Black Terns, a Roseate Tern,

3 Pomarine and 8 Arctic Skuas, 3 Little Gulls, and many other species. A Wryneck on 1st and 2nd was a new bird for the Bill. A Serin was watched on 15th at the Bill-tip, several Gull-billed Terns were reported in the month, a Hooded Crow was seen on the very late date of May 30th, a Wood Warbler was another first record for the Observatory, and a Great Reed Warbler occurred on 6th June near the hut.

In the autumn further observations were maintained by other observers on most weekends, and several interesting birds recorded. A Melodious Warbler stayed for three days in September, when the Bill's first Osprey and Red-backed Shrike were recorded. By then the 'Selsey Group' had transferred its affections to Beachy Head, where they have had considerable success; the change to an unspoilt area where one can walk for miles to find one's birds is very pleasant, although the sea-watching and visible migration are in many ways poorer.

Selsey Bill, however, we are glad to say, is not being entirely neglected and good records are still occurring; long may they continue to do so.

B.A.E.M.

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WHITE GULL AT WORTHING

We have received the following report from F.J.F.

"1 Possible Ivory Gull upon concrete wall of a sewage tank
19th January.

Description

Gull was smaller than Black-Headed Gull.

Pure white plumage. No markings on wings or tail.

Legs and feet black.

Bill: yellow with black tip.

The bird did not swim but crouched upon the wall puffing out its feathers".

This bird was also seen by a non-member, who said in February that he had seen it in January.

We would like to hear if any other member saw this bird.

* * * * *

BY ROAD, SEA AND AIR.....

1965 has been notable for me as being a year of travel in search of birds; by road to Spain in the spring, by sea to Sweden in the autumn, and finally by air to Ireland at Christmas. These three foreign trips have been as varied as they have been exciting, as refreshing as they have been rewarding; and they have confirmed my initial impressions of holidays abroad as having so much more to offer than those in this overcrowded little island of ours.

One very wet morning in April, a heavily laden Minivan left 59, The Green for Lydd Airfield; a few hours later it descended at Le Touquet in France, and by midnight that night was to be found 500 miles south-westwards near Bordeaux, where its four cramped and tired occupants crawled out and erected tents to snatch a few hours' sleep before pressing on into Spain. As we headed ever southwards, the weather got warmer and drier, the birds more and more exotic and prolific; and by the time our destination of Cadiz was reached, we had each chalked up a long list of new species in only a few days.

This was only a foretaste. The next ten days, spent in Andalucia, the southermost province of Spain, revealed what an astonishing area this is for birds, considered by many the best in the whole of Europe. Anyone who has read Guy Mountfort's fascinating 'Portrait of a Wilderness' can appreciate this, but to actually go there as we did is an unequalled experience. In perfect hot sunny weather we drove around and about the province; watching Egyptian Vultures soaring about below us as we sipped cool drinks on the terrace of a cafe; listening to the chattering cries of flocks of Lesser Kestrels catching insects in the warm evening air over the rooftops of the towns; seeing Fan-tailed Warblers circling high over the cornfields, almost invisible to the naked eye, but easily traced from their loud incessant 'zip-zip-zip' calls. We saw flocks of Flamingoes heading northwards up the coast towards the marismas; we had the astonishing sight of a field of view of our binoculars filled at one time by a mixed party of three Montagu's Harriers, 30 Black-winged Stilts, 12 Purple Herons, 12 Night Herons, and an egret, all arriving from the sea together; Hoopoes, Short-toed Larks and Serins were ten a penny; every marsh and pool seethed with birdlife, from Great Reed Warblers to Purple Herons; every mountain ridge seemed to have its Griffon Vultures

and its eagles; every patch of trees or bushes its Sardinian Warblers or its Woodchat Shrikes.

All too soon, the time came for the 1400-mile return trip, the Min was loaded up again, and the four suntanned occupants faced 75 hours of almost continuous driving, broken only by sleep and occasional stops for birds. It gradually got colder again as we left Spain, it rained the whole length of France as it had done on the journey down, and when we reached England we were told that it had been the worst Easter for many years, with rain, hail, thunder and even snow. What was more, no-one had seen any birds, so we were more than doubly satisfied!

After a Spanish spring, I had to endure an English summer before leaving for Sweden by boat on September 28th. Four of us spent a relaxing two days afloat en route to Malmo in southern Sweden, whence a train took us down the coast of the south-western tip of the country to the famous bird-observatory at Falsterbo. This is renowned for its bird-of-prey migration, which we had come to see, for many of the raptors breeding in the far north of Scandinavia pass over the peninsula on their way southwards to their wintering quarters in south-western Europe; owing to its geographical position, they are peculiarly concentrated, and huge numbers pass over daily over a narrow front in autumn.

The bird observatory is the most luxurious in which I have stayed, with comfortable beds, excellent heating, and good cooking facilities. The local observers are keen ringers, and were up at 4.30 each morning to ensure that their nets were up by first light. We managed to be down at Nabben, the tip of the peninsula, by dawn on each of the eleven mornings of our stay, which coincided with lovely, sunny warm weather for most of the time. Migration was heavy on the first three mornings, then there was a lull owing to foggy and calm conditions for a few days, and the last few days proved to be the best.

The sight of great flocks of Buzzards wheeling and circling overhead is a stirring one, and we saw as many as 600 of these in the air at once, looking like crows or Jackdaws do in this country. They flew out to sea in steady streams, as many as 1200 leaving in a morning, and accompanied by small numbers of Rough-legged Buzzards, Ospreys, harriers, and various other birds of prey. Sparrowhawks were the second most numerous raptor, and as many as 75 left in a morning - how different from England, where nowadays I expect to see only half a dozen in a whole year.

The eagles were one of our main objectives, and at the end of our stay we had an eagle a day to keep boredom at bay; a Sea Eagle on Friday, a Spotted Eagle on Saturday, and a Golden Eagle on Sunday. The Sea Eagle was the most spectacular bird I have ever seen - enormous, like a huge flying plank. In addition to the birds of prey, Black Woodpeckers and Nutcrackers were on the move. Waxwings and Whooper Swans were seen, Great Grey Shrikes and Red-throated Pipits. Inland visits rewarded us with over 1000 Bean Geese and a flock of Cranes.

The end came again all too quickly, and we were soon cruising westwards across the North Sea homewards, our notebooks filled, films used up, and with many happy memories of bird-watching again at its very best.

And so to Eire at Christmas - five days of winter birding to round off 1965, a wild goose chase in reality. Five species including 5000 Greenland Whitefronts, 100 Barnacles, 850 pale-bellied Brents, 5 Pinkfeet, and two small Canada Geese of one of the American races, probably the one known as the Lesser Canada which is about the size of a Whitefront. Hen Harriers and Merlins, Whooper and Bewick's Swans, a flock of 2000 Scaup, 650 Black-tailed Godwits, and many other interesting species brought to an end the best year yet in the thirteen years during which I have pursued this crazy hobby.

And so on to 1966 - a month in Turkey is planned for the autumn. It could be an interesting trip.....

B.A.E.M.

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RUBE

At the time of writing, this story is fortunately unfinished. Rube is a robin, in fact, our robin. His predecessor we recognised by a patch of white near his right wing. He collected food from the window sill and was friendly but not intimate. In the autumn of 1964, he did not appear and in his place there was Rube.

Rube was a young robin and had all the confidence of youth. He was fed on the window sill for the winter which he survived and remained in the spring. He found a mate and they

nested in the garden of our next door neighbour. During this time he became progressively more tame and if one sat on the ground he would gingerly come across and take a currant from the hand. This was, however, only the beginning. He quickly learned to come into the kitchen and collect currants from the table, from the hand by picking them out from between the finger and thumb by hovering and would also take a currant from the mouth. Normally his ration was three currants after which he would fly, always by the same route, over the fence to his nest.

When the young hatched, some meal worms were provided and it was interesting that at first Rube chose currants in preference to meal worms. His visits were frequent when the young were in the nest, and he called for attention by singing on a drainpipe outside the kitchen window. When the young were fledged he brought them, or at any rate three of them, to see us. They would pick up currants thrown to them but never came to the window sill.

There was another robin from our neighbour's garden on the other side who fed in our garden but always on natural food. He and Rube engaged in some very entertaining threat displays but they seemed to work things out among themselves, although I believe Rube used to trespass on his territory.

The first mishap that befell Rube was the loss of his tail just before the moult. It must have been a very near thing for him. We missed him for a short while and he then reappeared moulted into a very sorry sight so that one of his eyes looked twice the size of the other. He soon became very dapper indeed, but shortly he acquired some injury behind his right eye. However, this was fully repaired in just over a week.

If anyone has read this far, they will perhaps think that they have read something similar before, and indeed they have, as some individual robins are undoubtedly very tame. It is, however, still surprising when it happens to you, personally. Rube is the one bird that flies towards us, follows us around the garden if we move with the red tin in which his currants are kept, and if we are working in the garden, regularly sits on a bush, tree or fork handle and sings (or sub-sings) practically the whole time.

Two things which at any rate I have not read of are perhaps peculiar to Rube. The other day, when my wife was going out, Rube decided he did not wish her to leave his territory and flew across very close in front of her and then stood on the pavement as if to prevent her from going on.

On another occasion, when I was busy in the garden and did not want to have to drop what I was doing to get the tin of currants, I did not take any notice of Rube. His answer was to hover in front of my face, two inches from my nose and needless to say, it worked.

So now, Rube greets us when we go out, sings to us, not necessarily for currants, and treats us as trusted friends. Unfortunately, his life expectation is only eighteen months, but we all hope that his life story may long remain unfinished.

R.E.G.

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SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1965

Sunday January 10th - Amberley Wild Brooks with Mrs. J.B. Smith.
Weather: Heavy rain early a.m. with showers throughout the day.
Approximately eight members present.

The amount of flood water due to extensive dredging operations, was negligible, and what wild fowl there was, was nervous and difficult to observe.

Seen: Mallard, Wigeon, some Pin-Tail and a few Shoveler, Mute Swans, no Geese seen at all. Meadow Pipits, Skylarks etc.

The outing met at 10.20 a.m. and dispersed at approximately 2 p.m. as heavy rain threatened and it was very cold.

Sunday February 14th Pagham Harbour with Mr. B.A.E. Marr.

The party met at Church Norton on a fine dry sunny day, quite warm when out of a chilly northerly wind. A walk down towards the sea surprised us with a pair of Bearded Tits in reeds just behind the sea-wall, and most people had quite good views of these unusual little birds before they disappeared. Further up in the Harbour we found about 40 Curlew, 12 Grey Plover, 6 Bar-tailed and 3 Black-tailed Godwits, while excellent views were had by all of a flock of 95 Brent Geese which came in over the Harbour mouth and settled on the mid-flats quite close to us.

Saturday April 17th - Beachy Head with Mr. B. Metcalfe.

A bitter wind was blowing hard to the discomfort of all present. All credit, therefore, to the hardy souls, some twelve in number, who braved the elements. There was little reward, however, as very few migrants were present, and no trapping was attempted.

One or two Chiffchaffs, a Willow Warbler, Stonechats, and a fleeting glimpse of newly-arrived Grasshopper Warblers, which also treated us to a brief reel or two from the cover of the bramble scrub, provided the only highlights.

Saturday May 22nd - Slindon and Eartham with Mr. R.P. Meadows.

About fifteen members found their way to Slindon for this short amble through the woods. At one time we appeared to be surrounded by singing Warblers, Blackcaps probably in the majority, but Whitethroats, Garden & Willow Warblers were present. A Lesser Whitethroat was heard and seen and Turtle Doves, Spotted Flycatchers, Mistle Thrushes, feeding young, and a family of four young Lapwings in the chalky fields were all seen enjoying their varying amenities.

Lunch on a sunny bank overlooking Eartham Forest was perhaps too leisurely - great difficulty was experienced in waking one lady member from her post-prandial nap!

Cole Tits and Green Woodpeckers were heard but not seen, and a pleasant day gave good opportunities for identifying birds by song.

Saturday, August 14th - Thorney Island, with Mr. T. Palmer.

A good party in pleasant weather.

The marshy field where we usually find Green and Wood Sandpipers was very dry underfoot and only 1 Green Sandpiper was seen.

However 8 Black Tailed Godwit, (a few years ago we saw 500 there) 4 Whimbrel, 50 Curlew, 5 Greenshank, (as many as 55 have been seen there on previous occasions) and 400 Redshank helped to keep the interest going.

Old friends and new faces helped to make a very happy day.

Saturday September 18th Beachy Head Ringing Station with Mr. B.A.E. Marr.

A force 8 SW gale started the day unpromisingly, but eight members braved this and were rewarded by an interesting day. The

highlight was a Sparrowhawk, and up to 10 Ring Ouzels were seen. Several migrants were trapped, and the technique of weighing and measuring the birds after ringing them was demonstrated. The local Cirl Bunting pair was also seen.

Sunday October 10th - Pagham with Dr. Stafford.

A party of seventeen members met on the West Shore of Pagham Harbour on a fine autumn day.

The birds were scarce, but many common species were seen under ideal conditions of light and setting. There were Golden Plovers in the marsh, and Curlews flying against a blue sky, calling as they went, Grey Plovers on the mud and, a rare sight in Sussex, 25 Curlew Sandpipers flying together over the water in sunlight, which more than made the day worthwhile.

Saturday November 13th - East Head with Mr. R.E. Goddard.

Fourteen members enjoyed East Head at its best with sunshine, perfect light and coldish north-easterly wind. About 100 Brent Geese flying N., and nine Mergansers flying S. were seen at the very start, and later a party of 14 Mergansers settled on the water at quite close range. We saw 13 wader species, including a sizeable flock of Golden Plover in the fields near the car park. 130 Mallard were resting on the sea, and a party of c.50 duck flying N. at extreme range were thought to be Wigeon.

Sunday December 12th - Thorney & Pilsa Islands with Mr. B. Metcalfe.

The morning started with heavy rain, but despite this deterrent about a dozen members attended and were rewarded with an interesting walk along the shore of the estuary. A very good variety of birds was seen - Mergansers up to 30, Goldeneye up to 9, and some 5 pintail. In addition, Teal, Wigeon, Mallard, Shelduck and Brent Geese were noted. Hordes of waders present included a hundred or so Black-tailed Godwits, several hundred Bar-tails, and thousands of Dunlins.

A brief look at a gravel pit at Chichester on the return journey was rewarded with five Gadwall and a Goosander. Tufted Duck, Pochard and Shoveler were also noted to bring the total number of duck species for the day to 12.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965

A B R I D G E D

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>
Balance in hand 1.1.65.	92. 2. 9.	Subscriptions	5. 6. 0.
Subscriptions..163	59. 5. 0.	Affiliation Fees	5. 6. 0.
Meetings...		Lectures	35.12. 6.
Donations	3.17. 6.	Sanctuary Expenses	3.19. 0.
Tea receipts	17. 3.	Miscellaneous Expenses	5.16. 6.
Miscellaneous receipts	13. 4. 0.	Printing..Annual Report	18. 4. 9.
Receipts from Film Show	24.17.10.	Printing and Stationery	21.16. 7.
		Postage and Telephone	15. 3. 6.
		Balance in hand 31.12.1965	82.19. 6.
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£194. 4. 4.		£194. 4. 4.

Audited and found correct.

C.F. Helyer,
Hon. Auditor

G.W. Rampton,
Hon. Treasurer

LIST OF LECTURES 1965

Jan. 27th	Film, "London's Birds"	Mr.R.P.Cordero
Feb. 20th	Colour cine films of Birds	Mr.M.Hollings
March 20th	"The Myth of the Phoenix"	Dr.Maurice Burton
Oct. 16th	"Birds of Cliffs and Isles"	Mr.W.J.C.Murray
Nov. 20th	"The Birds of Strathspey" and "A Place for Birds"	R.S.P.B. Films
Dec. 11th	"Birds of Spain and Portugal"	Dr.A.N.H.Peach

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OFFICERS, ETC.

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Council Members: Hon. Gen. Secy: Mrs. J.B. Smith
" Asst.Secy: Miss C.M.Biggs
" Prog.Secy: B.Metcalf
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Oakmere, Mill Rd., W.Chiltington
55, Lindum Rd., Worthing
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24a, Windlesham Gdns., Shoreham
2, Mill Hill, Shoreham

63, The Grove, Chesswood Rd.,
Worthing

Ashcroft, Maudlyn Pk. Way,
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Under Round Hill, Laines Rd.,
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3, Longcroft, Southdown Rd.,
Shoreham

4, New Rd., Shoreham
3, St.Mary's Cl., Shoreham
Stone House, Windlesham Gdns.,
Shoreham

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69, The Drive, Shoreham
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7, Queensway, Horsham

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77, Nutley Cresc., Goring-on-Sea
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135, Greenways Crescent, Shoreham
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Sx.

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30, Havelock Rd., Brighton 6
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12, Ashcroft Cl., Shoreham
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Total Membership Dec. 1965 - 163

New Members for 1966:

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Mr. & Mrs. Carey,

44, King's Stone Ave., Steyning
18, Roman Road, Steyning

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Shoreham Ornithological Society is affiliated to or is a member of the following bodies:- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, British Trust for Ornithology, British Naturalists Association, The Council for Nature and the Shoreham Community Association. The Society's President, Dr. John Stafford, is a member of the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The membership fee is seven shillings and sixpence a year, inclusive of a copy of the Annual Report. Junior members must be over thirteen and under eighteen years of age. The fee for these is five shillings a year, also inclusive of the Report.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained by non-members at two shillings and sixpence each.

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