SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fourteenth Annual Report



for the Year 1966

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT, 1966

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EDITORIAL NOTES

That the Society has had another successful year is indicated by the maintained level of membership, and good attendance at indoor meetings (if not always at the wettest and windiest field excursions!) But at the end of the year, Mrs. June Smith indicated that, owing to pressure of domestic commitments, she would be unable to continue her work as Hon. Gen. Secretary, and in recording the appreciation of members for her invaluable work over the last three years on our behalf, it must also be stressed that the continuation of the Society relies on volunteers coming forward to fill the vital offices as they become vacant.

From the point of view of rarities 1966 has not been particularly noteworthy, since there was no very severe weather to bring in the more uncommon species. But the Little Bittern at Steyning and a Rough-legged Buzzard at Coombes were birds to be remarked in any year. Some gaps in our sea-watching records have been filled by F.J. and B. Forbes who regularly watch the western end of our area and beyond.

Most of the reports and articles follow the tradition of previous years, but Mr. Tony Marr's notes from Selsey Bill are replaced by his records from Beachy Head, where he now watches regularly. He has also contributed a mouth-watering account of his visit to Turkey, where Sussex Ornithology was well represented in 1966.

Mr. Eric Goddard has told us of a most rewarding autumn visit to the Norfolk Coast as well as giving us his report on the Devil's Dyke, and Mr. Tom Palmer, despite illness, has made the work of editing this Report the easier for the meticulous records of Birds of the Area he has provided.

Mr. Anscombe's work at "Wingshaven" has involved so many interesting birds that it was thought to be of interest to include an account of his Sanctuary, especially as a former Chairman of the Birds Welfare and Protection Association, Mr. M.J. Dawson, is a member of our Society. Your Committee decided to support the Association by affiliation of the Society as a member.

For the first time for some years, we did not put on an R.S.F.B. film show at Shoreham Town Hall, and this has resulted in a reduction of the credit balance of the Society, but a programme has been arranged for February.

The indoor programme, in arranging which Mr. Rampton and Miss C. Biggs are to be congratulated, was as usual very popular and in particular Mr. Clemetson's demonstrations of three-dimensional colour photography and Mr. England's masterpieces of bird portraiture were warmly acclaimed.

The field excursions, arranged by Mr. Brian Metcalfe with an anxious eye on tide and weather, gave a good deal of pleasure to those who turned out, and in thanking the leaders, particular mention must be made of Mr. L.G. Holloway, who at short notice, took over an October fixture at Pagham Harbour from which the weather kept all but two members away.

Sadly, the year's end sees the continuing erosion of once fruitful sites of bird activity. The tenant farmer at Coney Hill, Brighton, has exercised his right to plough what was a regular breeding haunt of Cirl Bunting, Willow Tit, Whitethroat, and Linnet, while Brooklands Marsh is being drained and asphalted and will no longer support its Winter population of Snipe and Teal.

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As always we should express our appreciation of the willing band of helpers who assist in the duplication and distribution of notices and in the provision of tea and biscuits at our indoor meetings.

Membership was identical with 1965 at 163.

As we go to press we have learned of the death of Mr. C.A. Grigg, member and friend of this Society from its formation and contributor of many notes from the Steyning area. His knowledge and experience will be hard indeed to replace, and we are all the poorer for his passing.

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SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1966

The year was notable for the good Autumn passage which continued into the middle of October.

The Sanctuary was visited more regularly than the previous year and the log book, kept in the hut, was faithfully filled in after each visit. Consequently, a fairly accurate picture of the passage of birds through the copse during the year, and especially during

the Autumn, can be built up.

Thus, as the years go by, it becomes increasingly interesting to look back at the old records and compare them with the present-day ones. The Redpolls have re-appeared after an absence of five years and the Blackbird roost, which seems to have declined in the past few years, has returned to its former numbers with ever 100 using the roost in October and November. It's pleasing to note that the Kestrel is still holding its own and can be seen almost any day hawking ever the bare hillside above the copse. The complete absence of Long-tailed Tits is sad; nevertheless the population of Wrens continued to increase and the Goldcrests and Kingfishers are still with us.

One new species was recorded this year, a Green-shank heard calling above the Sanctuary in thick fog on September 25th, bringing the total to 114.

The following chronological summary is compiled from the entries

made in the daily log kept in the hut.

January and February. Snipe numbers were well up on previous years with a maximum of c40 during a week of hard frost and easterly winds from the 10th - 19th January. Also present during the cold spell were c25 Teal, c35 Mallard and c25 Wigeon on the 16th.

On January 15th, after a night with 14 degrees of frost, a small cold weather movement was noted with c100 Skylark, c40 Redwing and several Fieldfare moving west. With a return to normal weather the Snipe numbers decreased. On February 2nd there were 9 Wigeon and 8 Mallard, and on the 3rd the duck had gone, but 2, possibly 3, Goldcrest were present.

During much of February the Sanctuary was badly flooded, and access was precarious and sometimes even impossible.

Spring. March started off well with a Buzzard reported on the 3rd flying WNW over the copse. The 6th produced the first Chiff/Willow of the Spring, and on the 9th c4 were present with one Chiffchaff singing. From then on they continued to arrive throughout Spring. The rest of March was uneventful, with a Curlew on the 19th and the only Kestrel of the month on the 27th and the 29th.

The rest of the migrants began arriving in the beginning of April. On the 2nd a maximum of c6 Chiff/Willow were present, the first Willow Warbler was heard and a Swallow was seen on the hillside. The 7th produced an assortment of new arrivals with a Whitethroat, a female Blackcap, two House Martins, one Reed Warbler and c6 Chiff/Willows, but the Sedge Warbler was not noted until the 10th. Among later arrivals was a female Ring Ouzel on the 19th, a Nightingale on the 21st, and a Garden Warbler on the 22nd. The numbers of migrants was disappointing with a steady trickle throughout Spring rather than a sudden peak of arrivals during mid-April.

The steady trickle of migrants continued right through May, with the best day on the 14th, when present were a Nightingale, c4 Reed Warbler, c3 Sedge Warbler, 2 Blackcap, c8 Whitethroat, 2 Lesser Whitethroat, 3 Chiff/Willow and one Spotted Flycatcher - quite an assertment of migrants for such a small copse. On the 2nd May, two pairs of Cuckoo made their appearance and stayed for several days. Their raptor-like flight, the strange bubbling call of the female, and the attraction of the males to an imitation call made it worth while spending an hour watching them.

Breeding Season. Moorhens nested again in the main dyke and a nest with 7 eggs was found in the pumping station overflow pend. Reed Warblers nested again - definitely one pair and probably two. A Reed Bunting's nest was found containing 5 eggs on the 13th May and they had all hatched by the 22nd. Sedge Warblers bred, probably 2 or 3 pairs; one nest was found containing 4 eggs.

A great Tit nested in a pipe by the house. A Magpie nested in the tall hawthorn bushes by the Heligoland trap. After a rather uncomfortable journey up to the nest it was found to contain 3 well-fledged young; a few days later they were seen in the vicinity of the nest, having flown. The usual Wrens, Dunnocks, Thrushes and Wood Pigeons nested in the usual numbers. In all, it seemed a good breeding season at the copse.

Autumn. July was quiet, with a Turtle Dove present most days and a Kestrel on the downs. The first influx of migrant was noticed on the 14th August when c8 Reed Warblers, 2 Blackcap, 1 Whitethroat, 1 Lesser Whitethroat, c8 Chiff/Willow, and 2 Spotted Flycatcher arrived. The numbers seemed to decrease again throughout August until September when the migration really began. On the 6th a few Chiff/Willow and Spotted Flycatcher were present while on the 10th a female Redstart, a Green Woodpecker, 2 Blackcap and c8 Chiff/Willow arrived. The numbers of migrants built up to a maximum on the 18th and the 21st, when present were 3 Blackcap, 3 Garden Warbler, c15 Chiff/Willow, c4 Whitethroat, c150 Swallow and c70 House Martin.

On the 25th in thick fog a Greensbank was heard and, after the fog cleared, c400 House Martin and a few Swallow moved south along the hillside. After these peaks the numbers gradually declined with an odd late migrant in October. A Kestrel was seen on the 15th October, a Whitethroat and a Blackcap on the 16th, and a Swallow on the 30th.

Also notable during Autumn was a pair of Kingfisher on the 21st September and 4 Redpoll throughout October and the first Redwing of the winter on the 14th October.

November and December. November was very quiet after the good Autumn. The roost of Thrushes was very good and was joined by a few Redwing at the beginning of November and 2 Fieldfare at the beginning of December. The first Snipe was seen on the 13th November and one or two were present to the end of the year. On November 20th a House Martin was seen over the copse at dusk. There were c10 Tits present throughout the period, with a peak of c20 on the 28th December.

The very mild weather at the end of the year produced very little - there were no Duck, few Snipe and few Finches.

M.J.S.G.

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RINGING REPORT for 1966

This year the ringing activities were increased in comparison with last year, and compared favourably with other years.

The total number of birds ringid was 1462, of 49 species. This was made up of 1451 trapped as adults and 11 ringed as nestlings. This work was done by three ringers, Michael Goddard 1032, David Stone 207, and Dr. A.B. Watson 224. All these birds were ringed in the Shoreham area.

Michael Goddard this year graduated to his B Permit for Ringing and did almost the whole work in the Society's sanctuary.

| | RINGING TOTA | L for 1966 | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| Bird | Total | Bird | Total |
| Great Tit | 26 | Sedge Warbler | 5 |
| Blue Tit | 74 | Reed Warbler | |
| Song Thrush | 82 | Spotted Flycatcher | 4 2 |
| Starling | 146 | Lesser Whitethroat | 2 |
| Robin | 32 | Swallow | 12 |
| Greenfinch | 142 | Sand Martin | 1 |
| Kingfisher | 2 | Corn Bunting | 32 |
| Chaffinch | 77 | Rodwing | 3 |
| Blackbird | 349 | Snipe | 5 |
| Dunnock | 43 | Redstart | 1 |
| House Sparrow | 11 | Garden Warbler | 1 |
| Tree Sparrow | 2 | House Martin | 88 |
| Wren | 18 | Rodpol1 | 4 |
| Yellow Bunting | 8 | Stonechat | 3 |
| Missel Thrush | 3 | Turtle Dove | 1 |
| Goldfinch | 59 | Moorhen | 2 |
| Bullfinch | 60 | Magpie | 2 |
| Goldcrest | 3 | Mute Swan | 60 |
| Chiffchaff | 30 | Barn Owl | 3 |
| Willow Warbler | 4 | Blackheaded Gull | 2 |
| Blackcap | 22 | Wood Pigeon | 2 |
| Linnet | 27 | Jackdaw | 1 |
| Whitethroat | 5 | Fieldfare | 1 |

TOTAL: 1462

RECOVERIES OF RINGED BIRDS

Foreign Recoveries

Blackbird : 1st winter female ringed 20.11.60.

Recovered manner unknown 24.6.65. Bjurtjarn

(Ovebro) SWEDEN J.S.

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Not reported until April 1966. This is the seventh foreign recovery of a Blackbird ringed in Shoreham and the second from Sweden.

Blackbird: Adult female ringed 10.4.66.
Found dying in the road 11.5.66. Yport, Fecamp (Seine Maritime) FRANCE. D.S.

Starling: Full grown. Ringed 29.12.62. Retrapped 2.3.63.
Found dead 15.1.66. Sanvie, Le Havre (Seine
Maritime) FRANCE
D.S.

Chaffinch: Adult female ringed 14.1.60.

Shot 28.8.65. Vaarniemi Kaarina (Turku Pori)

FINLAND

Not reported until March 1966.

This is an exceptional far northward movement for this species.

Recoveries within the British Isles.

There were sixteen birds recovered within five miles of Shoreham. Three Mute Swans were recovered and two showed the usual movement along the coast, and the other inland at Haywards Heath, 14 miles north.

The only distant recover was ...

Song Thrush : Ringed 19.12.65.

Killed by a car 5.6.66. at Wrentham, Suffolk. 130 m. N.E.

Ringers! Initials:

J.S. J. Stafford. D.S. D. Stone.

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NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA, 1966

This feature is based on records sent in by the following observers: Miss C.M. Biggs, Miss M. Bull, Mrs. Farmer, Miss Griffiths, Mrs. Gillett, Mrs. Lucking (per C.A.G.) Mrs. Penny (per J.M.T.) Messrs. R.A. Cary, S.E. Cole, B. Forbes, F.J. Forbes, C.A. Grigg, M.J. Goddard, R.E. Goddard, R. Hamlyn, C.F. Helyer, R.E.F. Peal, J.A. Newnham T. Palmer, G.W. Rampton, F. Severs, J.M. Twort 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.P. - Sussex Pad; T.B. - Toll Bridge; W.W. - Wide Water; Harb. - Shoreham Harbour; Sanct. - Sanctuary; E.W. - East Worthing Beach.

Slavonian Grebe: 10 m. in summer plumage, Harb. Mar. 16th.

Great Crested Grebe: 1 or 2 on sea, Jan. 1st to April 12th. One W.W. Dec. 3rd.

Little Grebe: 6 Steyning Mill Pond, Jan. 19th (Bred) 1 Sanct., April 16th. One W.W. Dec. 3rd.

Leach's Petrel: One found exhausted Saltdean, Oct. 20th.

Fulmar: Up to 3 flying offshore E.W. on five dates Apr. 19th to July 1st.

Gannet: 2 flying west E.W. July 20th, and 3 July 22nd. 7 east there on Aug. 28th. One east at Lancing Oct. 31st.

Heron: 7 Airport, Feb. 9th, Nov. 10th. One behind Lancing College, Nov. 27th and Dec. 11th.

Little Bittern: 1 m. Mill Stream, Steyning, Apr. 30th - May 3rd.

Mallard: Up to 35 Sanct., and up to 30 on sea, Jan. 1 m. 12 imm. Will Pond Steyning, June 10th. 4 f. Lancing College, Sept. 18th. 6 f. 1 m. Widewater, Oct. 27th. 12 on sea, Lancing, Oct. 28th.

Teal: Up to 20 Sanct. Jan. 8th and in Feb. 22 Br. Marsh, Jan. 11th. 6 Airport, Nov. 10th, and 9 Dec. 11th. 1 pair Lancing Coll. Nov. 27th.

Wigeon: Up to 25 Sanct. Jan. and Feb.

Tufted Duck: 4 Br. Jan. 21st. 1 Mill Pond, Steyning, Jan. 26th.

Pochard: 2 Br. Jan. 16th - 18th. 1 Mill Pond Steyning, Jan. 27th.

Common Scoter: 1 - 2 W.W. in Jan. 170 flying east E.W. Apr. 7th. 12 flying east W.W., Apr. 12th, and 57 on Oct. 27th. One east Lancing beach, Oct. 28th.

<u>Eider</u>: 1 - 3 offshore from Jan. 3rd to Mar. 16th on 9 dates. 1 imm. m. on sea W.W. October 27th.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 flying west Lancing Beach, Nov. 24th.

Shelduck: 8 flying west W.W., Feb. 18th, and 5 east on Apr. 12th. 7 west Lancing Beach, Oct. 28th.

Brent Goose: 18 flying west, Jan. 18th. 4 west W.W. Feb. 9th. 22 west, Feb. 11th, 9 east E.W., Aug. 19th, and 7 Oct. 26th.

Goose sp.: 70 flying west Shoreham, Feb. 11th - possibly White-fronts. 9 black geese W.W. Oct. 27th.

Canada Goose: 1 flying north-west E.W. May 7th.

<u>Buzzard</u>: 1 north-west, mobbed by Starlings and Gulls, Airport Mar. 2nd. 1 over Br., gliding in circles. 1 north Broadwater Green, November 21st.

Rough-legged Buzzard: 1 Downs above Steyning, Oct. 30th and 31st.

Sparrowhawk: 1 Coney Hill, Brighton, Oct. 27th. 1 Wiston Pond, f. Dec. 4th. - made a kill on a m. Blackbird in ploughed field.

Hen Harrier: 1 Downs above Coombes, Oct. 30th.

Kestrel: 1 or 2 reported through the year from E.W. in the west to Brighton (Royal Sussex County Hospital) in the east.

Partridge: A few Sanct. Jan. and Feb.

Water Rail: 1 Mill Pond, Steyning, Mar. 10 - 12. 1 Sanct. Apr. 19th 1 north St., Brighton, Nov. 8th.

Corncrake: 1 calling water-meadows near Steyning, July 2nd.

Coot: Up to 80 Br., Jan. and Feb. 10 F.B., Feb. 7th.

Ovstercatcher: 2 E.W. Apr. 17th, and 10 May 21st. 9 east W.W., Aug. 16th, and 2 there Nov. 7th.

Lapwing: 150 Coombes, June 25th.

Ringed Ployer: 8 W.W. Jan. 18th. About 70 Harb., Dec. 60 east Lancing Beach Nov. 8th, and 55 west Nov. 24th.

Grey Plover: 4 F.B., Sept. 7th and 8th. 4 - 6 M.F., Sept. 6th - 9th, 2 east Lancing Beach, Nov. 8th. 1 W.W. Dec. 3rd.

Golden Plover: Seen on Downs above Coombes, Oct. 30th.

Snipe: Up to 15 Airfield in Mar. & Apr. Up to 25 Br. Marsh, Jan. Up to 40 Sanct., Jan. 10 Mill Pond, Steyning, Jan. 19th. First of winter in Sanct., Nov. 13th.

Jack Snive: 1 Sanct. Jan. 13th, 1 Airport Feb. 27th, 1 Sanct. Oct. 20th.

Curlew: 1 Sanct. Jan. 9th. 1 Airport Mar. 13th. Up to 8 E.W. flying west in July. 4 west E.W. Aug. 7th.

Whimbrel: 5 E.W. Apr. 23rd, 2 on Apr. 24th, 3 on May 7th, 2 on June 28th.

Black-tailed Godwit: 1 T.B. Sept. 9th.

Common Sandpiper: 1 E.W. Apr. 17th. 1 Adur Apr. 22nd. 2 C.C. July 17th. 5 E.W. July 21st. 2 F.A. July 27th. 1 Worthing R.D. Aug. 30th, 31st, Sept. 18th, and 4 Sept. 3rd.

Redshank: 175 F.B. and Adur Feb. 7th, 64 there Jan. 11th, and 30/40 in December. 57 F.B. Aug. 12th.

Greenshank: 2 C.C. Sept. 7th. 1 Sanct. Sept. 25th, calling in thick fog.

<u>Dunlin</u>: 400 east over sea, S'ham, Jan. 11th. 500 east W.W. same date, different observers. Haximum 250 Adur Jan. & Feb., 400 Dec. 250 east Lancing Beach Nov. 8th, 350 west, Nov. 24th.

Sanderling: Up to 20 during winter months, E.W.

Arctic Skua: 1 east E.W. May 22nd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 F.B. Jan. 7th - 9th. 14 Adur Mar. 28th, 12 July 17th, 1 Dec. 7th, 13th and 21st.

Black-headed Gull: Up to 2000 Adur mudflats, end of Jan. & in Dec. Probably as many at Brooklands/Worthing R.D.

Kittiwake: 1 west W.W. Mar. 30th.

Black Tern: 2 west E.W. July 22nd, 4 Aug. 7th.

Common/Arctic Tern: 1 E.W. Apr. 7th. Constant passage east E.W. Apr. 9th. 1 (Common) on post W.W. Apr. 18th. 1 west Lancing Beach Oct. 31st.

Knot: 1 E.W. Oct. 21st.

Little Torn: 4 W.W. Apr. 19th. 2 E.W. from May 7th - July 18th.

Sandwich Tern: 1 W.W. Mar. 26th. 8 E.W. Apr. 7th, and 3 Apr. 8th. Constant passage east all morning on Apr. 9th, 17th and May. 1st. 2 E.W. June 19th, 20 on July 20th, 17 on July 22nd.

Guillemot: 1 E.W. Apr. 23rd. 1 W.W. Aug. 16th.

Razorbill: 1 on sea W.W. Oct. 27th. 1 on sea E.W. Nov. 27th.

Turtle Dove: 1 Southwick Hill, Apr. 26th. 1 Sanct. May 1st, and 2 Aug. 7th. 2 Wiston Pond Aug. 11th. 1 Worthing R.D. Sept. 3rd.

Collared Dove: 1 pair nested successfully in garden at Hove. 1 Mill Hill, S'ham Aug. 12th. 21 in garden at Steyning, fed by owner. 4 Coney Hill, B'ton, Oct. 12th.

Cuckoo: 1 calling Coombes Apr. 21st. 3 calling & chasing Mill Hill May 27th. 2 Sanct. 19th - 23rd June. 2 pairs Sanct. June 2nd, all calling.

Barn Owl: 1 Southwick Green Nov. 14/15th, shricking at midnight. 1 Steyning Grammar School, resident.

Little Owl: 1 Lancing July 17th. 1 Lancing College Aug. 9th.

Tawny Owl: 1 Westdene, Brighton Jan. 15th. 1 Southwick Green Feb. 9th, hooting, an early date. Seen at Hove, N. Lancing, Steyning G.S., Sanct., and Coney Hill, Brighton. Breeding & seen throughout the year at Worthing.

Swift: Seen Steyning Apr. 27th & 30th, Shoreham, Apr. 29th. 2 flying south E.W. Oct. 6th.

Kingfisher: 1 pair C.C. throughout summer. Others seen at Airport, Coombes, Steyning, F.A., Lancing College. 1 f. ringed Sanct. Sept. 21st, retrapped Dec. 25th.

Hoopee: 1 at Slonk Hill Farm in June. Up to 3 at Coombes, Apr. 15th. 1 in a Southwick garden Aug. 26th.

Green Woodpecker: Seen at Coombes, Buckingham Park, Steyning G.S. and Sanct.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: 1 Steyning G.S. - a regular visitor.

Wryneck: 1 probable heard at Wiston May. 12th - only record.

Woodlark: 2 Worthing R.D. Aug. 31st, and 3 on Sept. 3rd.

Skylark: Flock of o300 near Sussex Pad, Jan. 17th.

Swallow: 2 Mill Hill, Apr. 2nd. 2 Southwick Hill Apr. 10th. 30 Lancing College Apr. 17th. 2 Steyning Nov. 2nd. Recorded through Oct. 1 E.W. Nov. 28th. Male singing S'ham garden, Sept. 18th (second brood)

House Martin: 2 Sanct. Apr. 7th. 50 Buckingham Park Oct. 21st. Flock with Swallows, Steyning Oct. 31st. 1 Sanct. Nov. 20th. 9 south E.W. Nov. 9th. 1 Worthing Seafront Nov. 19th.

- Sand Martin: 1 Coombes, Apr. 16th, 20 Lancing College, Apr. 17th. 50 Buckingham Park, July 21st this is unusual.
- Jay: 2 Wiston Pond, Dec. 4th. Seen or heard Coney Hill, Brighton, Aug. 29th Oct. 5th, and at Devil's Dyke.
- Coal Tit: 1 Worthing Garden, Apr. 15th. 1 Coney Hill, Brighton, Oct. 5th. 2 Wiston Pond, Aug. 11th.
- Marsh Tit: 1 C.C., Jan. 17th. Regular Steyning Mill Pond, June to Sept.
- Willow Tit: Resident & breeding, Devil's Dyke & Coney Hill, B'ton.
- Long-tailed Tit: 1 Steyning Mill Pond, Mar. 12th. 3 Steyning High Street, Nov. 8th.
- Nuthatch: Regular Steyning G.S.
- Tree-Creeper: Resident Coney Hill, Brighton, garden at Goring, Steyning Mill Pond (2m., 4 juv. seen), 1 Buckingham Park, Feb. 17th. 1 Sanct., Nov. 23rd - Dec. 4th. 1 Lancing College. Dec. 11th.
- Wren: 6 juv. Coney Hill, B'ton, June 10th.
- Fieldfare: Huge passage north, est. 10,000 W.W., all morning Jan. 14th. 24 north Steyning, Oct. 5th. 3 Coney Hill, B'ton, Oct. 21st.
- 45 north E.W., Nov. 9th. 60 Cissbury Ring, Nov. 9th.
- Redwing: 70 north S'ham, Jan. 16th. 15 Steyning Jan. 18th. 12 Southwick Green, Jan. 20th. 12 - 40 Coney Hill, B'ton, from Jan.
- 26th to Mar. 18th (constant sub-song on last date). 3 Sanct., Oct. 14th. 3 Coney Hill. B'ton Oct. 21st.
- Ring Ouzel: 1 Sanct. Apr. 19th. 3 Devil's Dyke Oct. 9th.
- Wheatear: 1 W.W., Mar. 26th. 12 W.W., Apr. 1st. 1 Mill Hill until Sept. 18th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept. 19th. 2 Worthing R.D., Oct. 24th.
- Stonechat: 1 pair W.W., Jan. 10th. 2 Sanct., Mar. 31st, and 1 m. there Dec. 11th. 1 Worthing R.D., Oct. 18th, 1 pair there Oct. 24/26th, and 2 f. Dec. 3rd. 1 m. Airport, Dec. 11th.
- Whinchat: 1 Downs near Lancing, Apr. 23rd. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept. 11th. 2 Worthing R.D., Sept. 15th, 1 f. Oct. 4th, 1 Oct. 18th and 1 f. Oct. 19th.
- Redstart: 1 Coombes, Apr. 16th. 1 pair Lancing College, Apr. 17th. 1 f. Wiston Pond, Aug. 11th. 1 m. Worthing R.D., Sept. 24th, Sept. 30th, Oct. 1st, Oct. 9th. 3 f. there Oct. 4th, and 5 on Oct. 21st.

1 m. E.W., Nov. 8th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept. 28th - Oct. 15th.
1 Devil's Dayke, 9/11th Oct.

Rlack Redstart: 1 N. Lencing Mar. 13th. 2 f. Coney Hill, B'ton, Oc

Black Redstart: 1 N. Lancing Mar. 13th. 2 f. Coney Hill, B'ton, Oct. 21st. 2 Worthing R.D., Oct. 24th.

Nightingale: 1 Sanct. Apr. 21st - May 17th. 1 C.C., Apr. 25th.

1 Lancing College, Apr. 17th. 1 Worthing R.D., Sept. 23rd.

Consequence Worthlan: 1 Airmort Apr. 25th (singing). 3 Devil's

Grasshopper Warbler: 1 Airport, Apr. 25th (singing). 3 Devil's Dyke, Apr. 4th (singing). 1 Worthing R.D., Sept. 24th.

Reed Warbler: 1 Sanct. Apr. 7th, and 4 there Apr. 17th. 1
Airport Apr. 25th, and 7 there May 16th. 8 Coombes, June 25th.
1 Sanct. Sept. 18th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, (400ft. above sea level)
Sept. 16th. 8 C.C., June 25th.

Sedge Warbler: 1 Airport, Apr. 17th, and several there on Apr. 20th. 1 Sanct. Apr. 10th and Apr. 21st. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept. 4th. 2 Worthing R.D., Sept. 18th, and 1 there Sept. 24th. Blackcap: 1 Sanct. Mar. 30th (singing), and 1 there Apr. 7th.

1 Erringham Shaw, July 15th, singing snatches of song. 1
pair Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept. 21st.

Garden Warbler: 1 S.P., Apr. 25th singing. 1 Sanct. May 10th

- July 3rd (3 there on latter date). 2 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept.18th.

Whitethroat: 1 Sanct. Apr. 7th. Several singing near S.P. by Apr.

17th. 1 Lancing College, Sept. 18th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept.21st.

1 Sanct. Oct. 16th.

Lesser Whitethroat: 1 C.C., Apr. 25th (singing) 4 Erringham Shaw, May 17th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Sept. 23rd.

Willow Warbler: 1 Sanct. Apr. 2nd and up to 6 there by Apr. 10th. 2 Steyning Oct. 3rd.

Chiffchaff: 1 Steyning Mar. 5th, and well spread by Mar. 20th.
1 Southwick, Oct. 10th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton Oct. 21st.

Wood Warbler: 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Apr. 30th.

Goldcrest: Many records from Feb. 3rd onwards. Several observers report "almost daily" or "throughout the year" - a great increase from last year, when only 3 records came in.

Spotted Flycatcher: 2 Southwick Hill, Apr. 20th. 6 Lancing College, July 17th and 2 there Sept. 18th, 6 on Aug. 9th. 12 Wiston Pond, Aug. 11th. 1 Coney Hill, B'ton, Oct. 8th.

Pied Flycatcher: 1 m. Devil's Dyke, Apr. 29th. 1 Coney Hill, Brighton, Sept. 28th. -13Rock Pipit: A few near Houseboats, W.W. & Southwick in early months of year, but none at West Breakwater of Harbour, which is unusual. 1 Houseboats & 1 Lancing Beach, Dec. 18th.

Pied/White Wagtail: 1 of White race S'ham R.D. Jan. 19th.

Grey Wagtail: 1 Br. Marsh, Jan. 20th. 1 Sanct. Mar. 26th. 6 E.W. July 20th. 7 Worthing R.D. Oct. 1st, 1 there Nov. 18th, & 2 Dec. 2nd. 1 Br. Lagoon Nov. 13th & Dec. 11th.

Yellow Wagtail: 5 Airport Apr. 19th. 1 Coombes Apr. 21st. At least 2 pairs above T.B. in May & June. Several in Sanct. in July (4 on July 10th) & 1 Aug. 14th. 12 C.C. Sept. 4th.

Waxwing: 5 in garden at Mill Hill, S'ham Jan. 17th. 1 in garden at Goring-by-Sea Mar. 12th. This bird was colour-photographed by a member.

Twite: Up to 30 near F.B. & W.W. in Jan.

Redpoll: Up to 8 Sanet. during Oct. 1 m. Worthing R.D. Oct. 24th.

Crossbill: 7 Southwick Green Sept. 2nd - 5th.

Brambling: 1 in garden at Steyning Jan. 17th. 50 Br. Jan. 23rd. 250 S'ham R.D. Jan. 19th - 21st. 50 S'ham Beach Jan. 23rd. Up to 300 Br. R.D. Jan 16th - 21st. 9 in garden at Steyning Nov. 4th.

Yollow Hammer: 1 in garden at Worthing Jan. 18th. 40 Sompting - Steyning road Feb. 8th. 15 Cissbury Ring Nov. 9th.

Cirl Bunting: 1 Southwick Apr. 24th/26th. 1 Lancing Apr. 26th.

1 Southwick Green May 10th - all singing. 1 pair Coney Hill, B'ton until June 16th, when nesting bushes were grubbed up, then intermittently until Nov. 7th.

Roed Bunting: Nest with 5 eggs Sanct. May 4th. 1 m. 1 f. Worthing R.D. Oct. 19th. 1 m. there Oct. 21st, 3 on Nov. 18th & 5 on Dec.3rd.

Tree Sparrow: 3 Sanct. Jan. 3rd, 2 there Mar. 20/24th & 2 Oct. 26th. 1 Br. R.D. Jan. 23rd. Up to 6 Coney Hill, B'ton from Oct. 21st to end of year. T.P.

SOME NOTES OF BIRDS SEEN AROUND SHOREHAM IN 1966.

The pattern of bird life in Shoroham during the past year has been nuch as usual. The outstanding rarity was the Little Bittern at Steyning Mill Pond of which we received an excellent description from J.A.N., C.A.G. and others.

Steyning Mill Pond has been well covered this year by J.A.N. from Steyning Grammar School whose notes are embodied in the "Notable Birds" feature.

The last record of the Waxwing was from Mr. Cole's garden in March.

There have been more records of Fulmar, Gannet, Eider and Brent, than usual but this may be due to more sea watching, particularly by F.J. & B. Forbes of East Worthing.

The same observers saw up to 25 Red. Br. Mergansers on the sea at Ferring in January and February and 10 Pintail on the 15th January. Ferring is rather outside our somewhat elastic boundaries, but it makes a nice half day outing from Shoreham.

A Rough-Legged Buzzard at Coombes was seen by several people. There were no reports of Quail and Spotted Redshank were not recorded from the Adur for the first time since 1960. Both Goldcrest and Kingfisher are recovering rapidly from the hard winter of 1963.

Rubbish Dumps were as usual good places for birds. Brooklands R.D. had flocks of 500 mixed finches and 300 Bramlings and there

were 250 Bramlings at Shoreham R.D.

We had, as usual, a few reports of high flying Raptors. One thought to be a Sparrow Hawk chasing Martins at Steyning, and one thought to be a Porogrine at E. Worthing. A Buzzard was seen at Brooklands and a female Sparrow Hawk watched making a kill on a Blackbird at Wiston Pond.

T.P.

"WINGSHAVEN"

Readers of the local newspapers over the past three years will have seen numerous references to the work of Mr. Percy Anscombe, of Patchdean, Brighton, in rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing a wide variety of birds. Members may be interested to know something about his sanctuary and its work.

Just over three years ago, recovering from an illness, Mr. Anscombe became interested in wild bird protection, built an aviary in his back garden, and put a sign on his front gate proclaiming a sanctuary for all injured, ciled or neglected birds. Local people were not slow to bring him his first patients, and in due course the "Argus", and later the B.B.C. and I.T.V. brought his activities to the notice of a much wider public.

But the ever increasing cost, borne by himself, of caring for an ever growing number of birds obliged him to seek help, and in August 1965 the "Bird's Welfare and Protection Association" was formed, with an initial membership of 17, now grown to nearly 150.

During the next twelve months 2586 wildings were released after treatment, 372 pet birds were treated, and there were 84 permanent residents - disabled birds and neglected pets, whilst from August 1st to December 11th, 1966, a total of 1528 birds were treated.

Most of the patients are common enough birds - Starling, Song Thrush, Greenfinch, Feral Pigeon, Black-headed Gull, etc., but there are always one or two rarer species, and recent inmates have included a Gannet - stranded in Preston Park, - a Great Skua, found in the unlikely habitat of a girl student's bedroom at Sussex University! - a Leach's Petrel, a Woodcock and a Water Rail, discovered walking in North Street, Brighton.

The writer is fortunate in living fairly close to Patchdean, and Mr. Anscombe is good enough to report the arrival in the Sanctuary of any bird of particular interest. One is thus given the opportunity of close inspection of species that one normally only glimpses at some distance. It has been very instructive to see at arm's length not only the Leach's Petrel, Water Rail, etc., but also two lovely young Kestrels, and to watch the development of fledgling Tawny and Little Owls.

At present conveyance of distressed birds to "Wingshaven" relies on their finder being able to transport them, but as the result of public appeals, jumble sales, etc., the Association is hoping to acquire an "ambulance", available at all times to go out and rescue a reported injured bird. Mr. Anscombe is also devoting some of his considerable energy to bringing the at present independent and unco-ordinated efforts of similar sanctuaries into a national network.

Visitors to No. 9 Patchdean are welcomed and shown the current "patients". Membership of the Association costs 10/6d per annum, but any donations are thankfully accepted. As we go to press the resources of the Sanctuary are being strained by a large influx of oiled Eiders, Guillemots, Grebes, etc., victims of a disastrous release of fuel oil in the Channel.

C.F.H.

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DEVIL'S DYKE AND COPPICE 1966

The Spring seemed to start early this year and the first summer visitor, a chiff-willow appeared in my garden on 8th March.

C.F.H. had 3 Grasshopper Warblers on 3rd April at the Devil's Dyke but my visits there did not start until 10th April when there was a fall of Willow Warblers and one Chiffchaff and a Swallow over my garden the next day. After heavy snow on 14th April, a visit to the Devil's Dyke on 16th April brought 3 Fieldfares and the most unusual sight of a Whitethreat feeding just above a snowdrift. There seemed to be a good influx of birds in the week ended 30th April. Cuckoos, Turtle Doves, Redstarts, Whitethroats, 1 Lesser Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warblers and Phylloscopi were all in evidence and C.F.H. had the good fortune to have a male Pied Flycatcher on the 28th, an uncommon sight in Sussox in the Spring. This was the week when the Little Bittern appeared at Steyning. 2 House Martins were prospecting for a nest site at my house on 2nd May but they did not stay though later a pair built a nest only to be evicted by House Sparrows. On 3rd May 2 Swifts were seen and on 10th Collared Doves spread to Dyke Close. On the 13th May at the Devil's Dyke a vixen was observed at quite close range eating some proy and being mobbed by a Carrion Crow which seemed quite prepared to stand only a couple of feet away from the vixen.

On the 8th August at the Devil's Dyke the only evidence of Autumn passage was rather surprisingly a Whimbrel which flow S.E. calling. Two days later from my gardon I saw heavy black thunder clouds coming in from the North and high up under one of them was a large number of Swifts, estimated at 50+; one party of 26 was counted. The week ended 20th August which was fine and sunny with little wind, was rewarding, the 17th and 18th being the best days. In my three quarters of an hour before breakfast on the 18th I had 15 Swallows, 11 Wheatears, 9 Whitethroats, 4 Rodstarts, 4 Phylloscopi including singing Chiffcheff and Willow Warbler, 2 Pied and 1 Spotted Flycatchers and 1 Lesser Whitothroat. In a similar period in the evening the Coppice provided 4 Yellow Wagtails (new for the Coppice), 5 Phylloscopi, 4 Swallows, 1 Sedge Warbler, 1 Fied and 1/2 Spotted Flycatchers and 2 Lesser Whitethroats. On the 19th August the weather was cooler with some northerly wind and reduced numbers suggested that there had been an exodus overnight. On the 27th August, a Heron flew over the garden.

Observations in September mostly at the Coppice were interesting but produced nothing ususual. C.F.H. had all six thrushes on 9th October at the Devil's Dyke.

One cannot help comparing watching at the Devil's Dyke with areas at the coast and regretting that, possibly due to the extent of the area, the odd rarity is not seen occasionally and also that raptores

do not soem to make use of the route followed by the smaller birds. However, there is ample compensation in the view across the Weald on a perfect Spring morning. R.E.G.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1966

Species

This feature has been compiled from the main body of records received. Abbreviations are as used in Notable Birds of the Area. First Date Locality Last Date Locality

| Species | First Date | District Control of the Control of t | uası. | | DOCELL 64 |
|--------------------|------------|--|-------|------|---------------|
| Whimbrol | 23rd Apr. | | 28th | | E.W. |
| Common Sandpiper | 17th Apr. | E.W. | 18th | | Worthing R.D. |
| Black Tern | | | 7th . | | E.W. |
| Common/Arctic Tern | 7th Apr. | | 31st | Oct. | Lancing. |
| Little Tern | 19th Apr. | W.W. | 18th | July | E.W. |
| Sandwich Tern | 26th Mar. | W.W. | 22nd | July | E.W. |
| Turtle Dove | 26th Apr. | Southwick Hill | 3rd | Sep. | Worthing R.D. |
| Cuckoo | 21st Apr. | Coombes. Steyning | | 2 | |
| Swift | 27th Apr. | G. Sch. | 6th | Oct. | E.W. |
| Swallow | 2nd Apr. | Mill Hill : Shm. | 28th | Nov. | E.W. |
| House Martin | 7th Apr. | Sanct. | 20th | Nov. | Sanct. |
| Sand Martin | 16th Apr, | Coombes | | | |
| Wheatear | 26th Mar. | W.W. | 24th | Oct. | Worthing R.D. |
| Whinchat | 23rd Apr. | Lancing | 19th | Oct. | Worthing R.D. |
| Common Redstart | 16th Apr. | Coombes | 8th | Nov. | E.W. |
| Nightingale | 17th Apr. | Lancing | 23rd | Sep. | Worthing R.D. |
| Reed Warbler | 7th Apr. | Sanct. | 18th | Sep. | Sanct. |
| Sedge Warbler | 10th Apr. | Sanct. | 24th | Sep. | Worthing R.D. |
| Blackcap | 30th Mar. | Sanct. | 21st | Sep. | Coney Hill |
| Garden Warbler | 25th Apr. | S.P. | 18th | Sep. | Coney Hill |
| Common Whitethroat | 7th Apr. | Sanct. | 16th | Oct. | Sanct. |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 25th Apr. | C.C. | 23rd | Sep. | Coney Hill |
| Willow Warbler | 2nd Apr. | Sanct. | 3rd | Oct. | Steyning. |
| Chiffchaff | 5th Mar. | Steyning | 21st | Oct. | Coney Hill. |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 20th May | Southwick Hill | 8th | Oct. | Coney Hill. |
| Pied Flycatcher | 29th Apr. | Devil's D. | 28th | Sep. | Coney Hill. |
| Yellow Wagtail | 19th Apr. | Airport | 4th | Sep. | C.C. T.P. |

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1966

The following members have contributed to these notes:Miss Bull, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. M.Gillett, Dr. Stafford, and Messrs.
S.E. Cole, F.J. and B. Forbes, C.A. Grigg, P. Stafford and J.M.Twort.
Gardens at Hove. Shoreham and Steyning (M.G., M.B., J.S.)

Collared Doves bred at Hove, and very numerous at Steyning.

Only one recorded from Shoreham.

Garden at Southwick (J.M.T.)

Hoopoo in autumn, Redwing Jan. 19th. Blackbird singing Nov. 14th (sub-song) - a late date.

Garden at Coombes (C.A.G.)

Hoopee in Spring, Green Woodpecker. (this garden seems to attract some of our most colourful birds year after year).

Garden at Shoreham (Mrs. F.)

Swallow; two broods hatched, and male still singing Sept. 18th.

Garden at Worthing (F.J.F. & B.F.)

Coal Tit, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Mistle Thrush. The last named nested and hatched, but young died.

Garden at Goring (S.E.C.)

Tree Creeper and Waxwing. The Waxwing was very tame, and Mr. Cole was able to take four coloured photographs at very close range.

Gardens at Steyning (M.B. & C.A.G.)

Bramblings were seen in two Steyning gardens - nine birds in one and one in the other.

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

Willow Warbler April 19th. Redstart 1m. April 20th. Chiffchaff (singing) Oct. 4/5th. T.P.

BEACHY HEAD 1966

As mentioned in the 1965 Report, in the second half of that year the five regular observers who had been watching Selsey Bill so frequently in the past transferred their allegiance to the other principal promontory in the county, Beachy Head. The manpower there was therefore doubled, as about the same number of observers were already operating the Ringing Station, and much emphasis was laid on concentrated sea-watching and studying the visible migration, which had not been fully exploited prior to this. That 1965 was a very successful year there can be seen from the pages of The Sussex Bird Report for that year.

In April 1966 the manpower was depleted when four of these observers departed for sunnier shores, for Richard Porter, Mike Helps,

Alan Kitson and Ian Willis, heavily disguised as the British Ornithological Expedition to Turkey 1966, left for seven months in Asia Minor. The writer remained as a regular "migration watcher" in addition to the ringers operating in Whitebread Hollow, and, naturally, this meant some reduction in the amount of sea-watching and in the records which follow. Nonetheless, there is still obviously much to be learnt about movements over the Headland and at sea there.

Observations commenced in early March, when a female Peregrine seen on the cliffs for two days gave some hope of a renewal of breeding. However, it was not to be, and she was not seen again. Also on the cliff-ledges from that first weekend were up to five pairs of Fulmars, which stayed through the summer again, but did not breed. Lamontably, most of their ledges were carried away in a cliff-fall late in the summer, and there are few places for them to return to in 1967. Migrants in the month were few, single Moditerranean and Iceland Gulls appearing on the same day (19th), and a Firecrest on the 20th. It was not until finer weather occurred in April that migration really got under way, and this was easily the bost month of the spring. Sea-watches were very rewarding early in 'he month, with large up-Channel Scoter movements, as at Selsey lill at the same time, involving also some Velvet Scotor, Mergansers, a Bonxie, and Sandwich Terns, with small numbers of other scabirds and waders. An excitement in the middle of the month occurred on the 17th, as the B.O.E.T.T. 1966 was crossing the Channel on the first stage of its journey; a lovely male Desert Wheatear was found on the beach at Cow Gap, near the Ringing Station, by a member of that other Ornithological Society on an outing. This stayed for several days. Other birds in April included two Ring Ouzels, a Bluothroat, a Wood Warbler, one or two more Firecrests, and two immaculate Pied Flycatchers together. May was quiet after a sea-watch on 1st produced no less than eight Pomarine Skuas, and a Wood Warbler singing all day on 7th was virtually the only other bird of note in the month.

Little was reported in the autumn until August 14th, when a Melodious Warbler was found in the copse at Belle Tout; strangely, this was the first for Beachy Head, although Selsey Bill has recorded the species almost annually in the past few autumns. The end of the menth saw a Wryneck, a flock of 7 Green Sandpipers, and a Tawny Pipit. In early September a Montagh's Harrier appeared, and odd Bluethreats were recorded, but the menth was fairly uneventful. In October Ring Ouzels again reached treble figures -

120 were estimated one day early in the month - and by 15th as many as 10 Black Redstarts were in the earea; a Marsh Harrier was also seen on that day.

A Great Grey Shrike appeared, and spent several weeks in White-bread Hollow, while Rough-legged Buzzards were seen on several days, as many as three together. The late autumn, in fact, was the best time, and in November the second Yellow-browed Warbler in two years was seen in Belle Tout Copse, and a Serin was seen. Visible movements of the commoner passerines, however, were much smaller than in some years. During the year a total of some 1700 birds were ringed at the Ringing Station.

B.A.E.M.

BUZZARDS OVER THE BOSPHORUS

It was eight o'clock on a Wednesday morning in mid-September. The air was still, the sun already beating down from a clear blue sky. High overhead, some little brown dots were wheeling round above us, growing smaller and smaller as they circled. A glance through the glasses showed that they were Buzzards, several dozon of them. Suddenly a flock of smaller birds joined them, and dashing back and forth among the larger birds, went round and round in great wheeling circles until the whole flock, as though sucked into a huge whirlpool, grow smaller and smaller as they drifted up and up and then off eastwards at immense height. Three hundred Levent Sparrowhawks, and half a hundred Buzzards, leaving Europe and passing eastwards over the Bosphorus on towards their wintering areas many hundred miles away.

There were eight of us on the hill. About four miles away the deep blue Bosphorus stretched like a ribbon across our field of view, and behind it, rising vaguely out of the early-morning mist, were the mosques and minarets of Istanbul. Four of the party had spent every day for the previous eight weeks up on the hill, counting and recording the daily passage of birds of prey and storks which came in from the west over the city, rising on the thermals which give them the uplift necessary to cross the two-mile width of the Bosphorus, the twenty mile long waterway running north from the Sea of Marmara to the Black Sea, which separates Europe from Asia Minor; the birds, having gained the height necessary to cross the water, came over our hill, often quite low, before pressing on eastwards.

The other four, which included myself, had arrived the previous evening after a four day drive from England, now 2154 miles away. We had all read about the raptor migration over the Bosphorus, which we had come to witness; how the birds, as at other short sea-crossings such as Gibraltar and Falsterbo in southern Sweden, were peculiarly concentrated in their endeavour to avoid at all costs any lengthy flying over open sea, which, owing to their weight and the absence of the beneficial warm thermal air currents, can result in total exhaustion through the incessant flapping required to keep them aloft; how one could sit on top of the hill at Camlica, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, and watch the birds passing overhead in a constant stream when the weather conditions were right; and how it still remained for a whole autumn's movement to be documented in its entirety. We were to spend the next three weeks at Camlica as part of the British Ornithological Expedition to Turkey 1966, whose four main members had been in the country since April and whose second objective, after studying the breeding birds of an area of lakes in Western Turkey, was to record this migration in toto.

Three more idyllic weeks could scarcely be imagined for a migration enthusiast than those that ensued. Atop our hill from mid-morning, when the first movement could be expected, until late afternoon, when the birds went to roost and movement ceased, we had incessent sunshine all day and almost every day, and sunbathing was combined with counting. About twenty thousand vultures, eagles, burgards, hawks and falcons poured through in this period, with several thousand storks, mainly Black, and a few flocks of Herons and Cranes. The principal raptor species were Spotted Eagle and Buzzard, and on our best day some 2000 of these medium-sized eagles and 3000 Buzzards poured over us; at times even eight watchers were fully occupied in spotting and identifying the birds, and necks were aching by the end of the day.

We were staying during this period in a "house" which the Expedition had rented, a ten minute walk from the hilltop. In this country, it would doubtless have been declared unfit for human habitation, and even bird-watchers might have been turned out of it, but it blended well with the neighbouring habitations and was by no means squalid by Turkish standards. Actually, after the first few days we scarcely noticed the smell, although the hordes of cats and dogs forever scavenging in the garden, the occasional scorpion that appeared in the kitchen, and the rather restricted space as eight people tried to "live" where four normally should, were always with us.

The neighbours were most friendly and hospitable; too much, in fact, as it became a positive embarrassment declining one invitation after another to call in for the evening; we would have had no time to curselves, had we accepted even a few of them. Life

there was incredibly cheap, with fish from the Bosphorus, masses of fresh fruit and vegetables, and meals in restaurants for as little as two shillings or half a crown for a substantial nosh. We paid a few visits to Instanbul itself - a threepenny ferry trip over the Bosphorus - and spent hours rummaging through the Bazaars looking for worthwhile souvenirs to bring home among the rubbish to be found there; with visits to the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, Galata Bridge, and other unique attractions. It is a most beautiful city, teeming with noise, bustle, colour, and atmosphere, and we could have spent much longer there; but we could never really enjoy our sightseeing while all the time we were wondering what the others were seeing on the hill!!

Having come so far, and having the car at our disposal, we tried to see as much of the country as we could during our stay. Several small trips were made, including a very pleasant day spent swimming and sub-bathing by the Black Sea, and a lengthy two-day trip was made to some of the lakes some 200 miles from Istanbul which the main party had visited in the spring. Here we encountered a flock of over 1000 White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Spur-Winged Plovers, Pigmy Cormorants, a lovely male Pallid Harrier, Sea Eagles, a Broad-billed Sandpiper, Little and Temminck's Stints, Ruddy Shelduck and many, many other exciting birds, in some of the wildest and loveliest country one could ever find. We would have enjoyed staying longer, but Camlica was always at the back of our minds - a day away from there could have meant missing thousands of raptors.

Our return journey to England was rather more leisurely than the outward one. Some excellent birding was enjoyed in perfect weather in Greece, itself well worth a visit someday, and soon we were on our way up the whole length of Yugoslavia, into Austria, where we stopped at the top of the Grossglockner Pass to watch the Alpine Choughs, and on through Germany, Belgium and France, to Cap Griz Nez. Here, in sight of the white cliffs of Dover, we spent the last morning of the month's holiday, mulling over what we had seen, where we had been, what we had done. Even then, it was beginning to feel remote; and home, just across the water, far too near and mundane. Now, four months later, it is a far-off memory. But what a memory; a month that will never be forgotten.

B.A.E.M.

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MOCK TURKEY

The "in" place for bird watching holidays in 1966 was Turkey. Being unable to go there, we picked on Norfolk, which has, after all, close associations with turkey. We had to go in October and sadly watched the fine September weather with North East winds go past and on 1st October we started; the rain also started, but when we stopped, the rain did not. It did not stop for 48 hours and there was still plenty left to fall during the fortnight.

Bad weather does not mean bad birding. We found that the North East winds of Sussex had not blown in North Norfolk and they

had had no Easterlies since the end of August.

The first week brought excellent results. Sunday gave us a Ringtail Hen Harrier, which we saw again 4 days later and Brambling in hundreds. Monday took us to Wells to see the Two-barred Crossbill, a beautiful male, much more crimson and slimmer than the Common Crossbill, of which the pines seemed absolutely full, though numbers diminished over the fortnight. We had unforgettable views of Crossbills, seen at eye level at about 15 yards bathing in a puddle on the concrete surround of the look out post; under these conditions it was possible to see that a number have faint wing bars. Having missed 3 Red-breasted Flycatchers on the last visit to Norfolk, we were delighted on Tuesday to find one that had no intention of being missed. It appeared on the railings of the car park at Cley Eye almost in front of the car while we were having lunch, which finished somewhat abruptly. Having apparently just arrived, it was very tame and fed from the railings for about 15 minutes. Wednesday was fine with Easterly wind and a walk up Blakeney Point gave us Short-Eared Owl, Ring Ousel and 2 Great Grey Shrikes while the Sueda bushes were full of Goldcrests and there were Redwing, Song Thrushes and Robins at the Point. Thursday and Friday were memorable for what we missed rather than what we saw. Being in the wrong place cost us a Honey Buzzard, some Grey-lag Geese and a Sabine's Gull though we had Ring Ousels and a Bluethroat for compensation and the Brambling were so numerous that we had about 100 in one single tree and they were flying over in flocks of about 100.

During the second weck, the marshes were occupied by two
Marsh Harriers which were seen almost daily and throughout the
holiday, the beach was always interesting for Lapland and Snow
Buntings, the latter in parties of up to 25, one of which included
a superb male almost in spring plumage. Shore Larks were usually

seen in parties of up to 9.

The sea was interesting and provided Gannets, Auks, Mergansers, Brent Geese, Red Throated Divers, Arctic Skuas and Sandwich Terns. We saw a number of porpoises, one of which leapt clear of the water twice with what appeared to be a Conger Eel holding its tail; we also saw a large Thresher Shark.

We made a trip to Wisbech Sewage farm of which we have fragrant memories. We had been told of a Pectoral Sandpiper, which we had the tremendous good fortune to see at the very first bed that we looked at. We also had Ruffs, Curlew Sandpipers and a Little Stint and so many Dunlin that we dreamed about them.

A second walk to Blakeney Point with mist and a force 3 E.S.E. wind gave us an almost continuous passage in from the sea of Fieldfares, Redwings, Skylarks, Starlings and Brambling and a Short-eared Owl. At the Point, the bushes were full of Goldcrests and Continental Robins with smaller numbers of Common and Black Redstarts and we had excellent views of a Great Grey Shrike.

The Continental Robins were very unhappy on the open beach and frequently several together found cover under motor cars, perhaps not surprisingly as they are not treated as kindly on the Continent as they are here.

We were surprised at the large numbers of Hirundines seen, particularly in the first ten days. There were a few Warblers and Chats left and in all we saw more than 120 species and many interesting ones in the total. The grand finale was a superb view of a very well marked Rough-legged Buzzard over the East Bank.

The very pleasant memories we have of this holiday are due not only to the birds we saw but also to the pleasant acquaintances with kindred spirits made or renewed.

R.E.G.

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SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1966

Saturday January 22nd - Amberley Wild Brooks with Mrs. J.B. Smith. Approximately nine members present; weather was damp, with low field mists which made visibility poor.

On the Wild Brooks were 250 - 300 Wigeon, 12 Pintail, 3 or 4 Shelduck and Shovelers, plus the usual Mallard. We were fortunate enough to see all three species of swan - Mute, Bewick's and Whooper. And on the stroll back to the cars through Rackham Woods the party saw Coal Tits and Tree-Creepers and had a fleeting glimpse of what appeared to be a Willow Tit.

The party moved on to the water-meadows near Greatham Church, and there saw about 50 Canada Geese. We disbanded here at approximately 1.30 p.m., as the rain was now falling heavily, although some of the hardier members went on to Burton Pond.

Sunday February 20th - Sidlesham and Church Norton, with Mr. C.F.

Helver.

Heavy rain up to almost the appointed time of meeting must have discouraged some members, but thirteen gathered at Sidlesham Forry in improving conditions which produced some welcome sunshine in the afternoon.

Immediate interest was provided by a fine drake Red-breasted Merganser almost under our noses, and a short walk S.E. along the shore produced very large numbers of Shelduck, 85 Brent Geese and a solitary Wigeon. Retracing our steps to the Ferry and exploring the fields to the west, more Wigeon were seen, with some Teal and

five Snipe.

The party then went by cars to Church Norton, and after lunch walked north along the shore, the high-lights being a flock of 100 or so Bar-tailed Godwits, a pair of Goldeneye flying south, and a scal, at first thought to be stranded, which later swam out to sea. With the expected common waders seen in excellent light, members dispersed contented enough by 3.30 p.m., although some of us went on to the Gravel Pits to renew acquaintance with the flock of eight or so Boarded Tits (one must learn to say Reedling!) still established in the reed bed.

Saturday April 23rd - Wyckham Wood Horonry with Mr. A. Burstow. The dull wet weather of the morning gave place to pleasant sunshine as the party of fourteen members assembled near the old

Steyning railway station.

Squeezing into the available cars, we drove as far as the bridge over the railway. We had decided against taking the outward journey along the river bank, and this proved wise as, on our return, a short cut across the large field next to the Heronry found us in deep mud of a particularly "gluey" nature.

Wading through the morass was felt to be small inconvenience for the pleasure of seeing Herons on their nests - no young, but several adult birds, both on the wing and on the nest. On our return journey nine others were seen patiently waiting by the brooks, and we used our binoculars with splendid effect in the brilliant clear atmosphere.

We saw and heard a number of warblers, and one Mallard was seen on a swollen stream with a Kestrel hovering almost above, whilst some members had excellent views of an obliging Yellow Wagtail.

The Heronry is situated in pleasant country, and in reasonable weather the journey is very enjoyable. It is a pity that numbers appear to be less - only six or seven nests being visible.

Saturday August 20th - Thornoy Island with Mrs. M. Gillett.

A party of 13 enjoyed a warm, sunny, windless day.

Good views were obtained of fairsized flocks of Black-tailed Godwits, Redshank, and Greenshank. Smaller numbers of individual birds of other kinds seen included Green Sandpipers, Ruffs, Common Sandpipers, Little Terns, Teal, Shelduck, Kestrol and Spotted Flycatcher.

Saturday September 10th - Beachy Head with Mr. B. Motcalfe.

A joint meeting with the Sussex O. Soc. 16 people attended.

A fine warm sunny day throughout which provided the perfect conditions for a pleasant day's birdwatching.

An interesting period was devoted to the trapping area where a few birds were seen caught and observed closely in the hand. An instructive comparison between the Lesser and Common Whitethroats was possible. Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Robin and Goldcrest were also seen in a similar manner.

Other species seen nearly were Redstart, Stonechat and Grasshopper Warbler while a short sea watch produced parties of Common and Sandwich Terns and Curlew flying westwards along the shore.

A visit to the Belle Tout copse ended the day. Two Pied Flycatchers were seen but unfortunately, although it was almost certain that a Firecrest was there somewhere in the foliage, the combined efforts of about 20 people failed to find it.

Saturday October 1st - Pagham Harbour with Mr. L.G. Holloway.

Weather was cold and grey, with heavy rain at midday, clearing in the afternoon with some sunshine. Only three people braved the elements, including the leader.

The walk commenced at Ferry House with a look at the rubbish tip and adjoining pools, where very high numbers of the commoner gulls were seen. From here we made our way along the sea-wall to Church Norton and the beach, and in view of the clearing weather this walk was extended to take in the Severals pools area and reed beds, and also the woodland around Norton Priory. The return walk was along the sea-wall to Ferry House.

Among the 40 or 50 species seen, the following may be mentioned. Duck:- up to 30 Wigeon (early winter arrivals), a drake Shoveler, two female Eider off-shore, and one duck Red-breasted Merganser, in addition to the usual Shelduck and Mallard. Waders:- all the expected common ones, including c30 Grey Plover, c50 Black-tailed and c12 Bar-tailed Godwit, and up to 200 Curlew.

Of the passerines, a few Swallows and House Martins were still about near the Priory, and a rather late female or immature Wheatear along the sea-wall. Two pairs of wintering Stonechats were also seen there, in addition to two small flocks of Redwings and small groups of the usual finches. Probably 5 Kestrels were seen in various localities.

Sunday October 30th - Pilsea Island, Thorney with Mr. B.Metcalfe.
Once again we were blessed with a fine day and although only
rather long views were obtained of the majority of birds, a good
variety were seen.

Distantly were Brent Geese, Wigeon, Mallard, Teal and Shelduck forming large rafts out on the main channel, while huge flocks of Dunlin, Grey Plover, etc. were packed in dense masses along the shore.

It was a fascinating spectacle to see these Waders rise in a great mass.

An estimate of numbers might be put at 10,000 birds, Bar- and Black-Tailed Godwit were also seen and excellent views were had of Golden Plover on the plough furrows, together with two late migrant Wheatears. A very enjoyable outing.

Saturday November 26th - East Head with Dr. M. Hollings.

Over two dozen souls braved the unpromising weather forecast,
but despite low cloud and a cold wind the rain held off until
after lunch, and visibility might have been much worse.

We met near the harbour, where a male Stonechat perched in the gorse and about 40 Redshanks were feeding on the muddy pools; a few Golden Plover flew overhead from time to time.

Out in the Chichester channel, a flock of 14 Eider swam sedately along until put to flight by a overtaking yacht. Five Great Crested Grebe flew by close inshore, and a big flock some 600 strong of Brent Geese flew westwards low over the water. Another group of some 200 Brents was feeding near Rookwood Farm. As we picnicked in the lee of the sand dunes, the Brents flew in close, alighting to feed some 200 yards away, and offering excellent views.

Wittering is not what it was for waders, and only a handful of Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Oystercatchers, Curlew, Ringed Plover and Dunlin were seen. A score of Sheld-duck flew overhead, with a single Ruddy Sheld-duck among them, having a wing pattern like the ordinary Sheld, but conspicuous in its cinnamon pink instead of white. This bird has been in the area for several weeks, and is very probably an escape.

A Black-headed Gull in full summer "hood" flew by, and after a walk along the north-east shore to have a closer look at the feeding Brents, the rain became more insistant, and the winter light was already fading as we returned to the car park and dispersed.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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| RECEIPTS AND | EXPENDITURE | ACCOUNT FO | R THE | YEAR | ENDED | 31st | DECEMBER 1966 |
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| Receipts | £. | S. | d. | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|----|--------------------------------|
| al. in hand 1.1.1966 | 82. | 19. | 6 | Subscription British |
| ubscriptions | | | | Birds 5. 6. 0 |
| 146 @ 7/6 | | | | Binding 19. 6 |
| 10 @ 5/- | | | | Affiliation Fees |
| 6 @ 5/- (part) | 58. | 15. | 0 | B.T.O. 2. O. O |
| eetings. Donations | 1. | | | P.S.P.B. 1.11. 6 |
| nnual Reports sale | | | 0 | |
| anctuary sale of keys | | | | |
| ea receipts | 1. | 4. | 6 | B.E.N.A. 10. 0 |
| iscellaneous receipts | | 1. | | Shoreham |
| | | | | Com. Centre 5. 0 5.16. 6 |
| | | | | Donation to B.T.O. 2. 2. 0 |
| | | | | Sanct. Expenses rent 1. 0 |
| | | | | Lectures Fees & exps. 20.18. 6 |
| | | | | Hire of Hall 6 mtgs. 4.19. 0 |
| | | | | Misc. Expenses 10. 0 |
| | | | | Printing Annual |
| | | | | report 200 20. 0. 7 |
| | | | | Printing 11.18. 3 |
| | | | | Stationery 6. 7. 2 |
| | | | | Postage & Telephone 18. 8. 1 |
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| £ | 147. | 1. | б | £147. 1. 6 |
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Audited and found correct C.F. Helyer (signed)

G.W. Rampton Hon. Treasurer.

LIST OF LECTURES 1966

Films, "Forest of the Falcon" and "Pesticides". Jan. 26th:

Members' Evening, Slides and Recordings -Feb. 18th:

Dr. J. Stafford and Mr. R.E. Goddard.

A.G.M. - Colour cine film - Dr. M. Hollings. Mar. 12th:

"Colour in Depth" - Mr. G. Clemetson. Oct. 22nd: "Birds of Portugal" - Mr. M.D. England. Nov. 19th: "Birds of the Cotswolds" - Mrs. S. Cowdy. Dec. 10th:

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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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