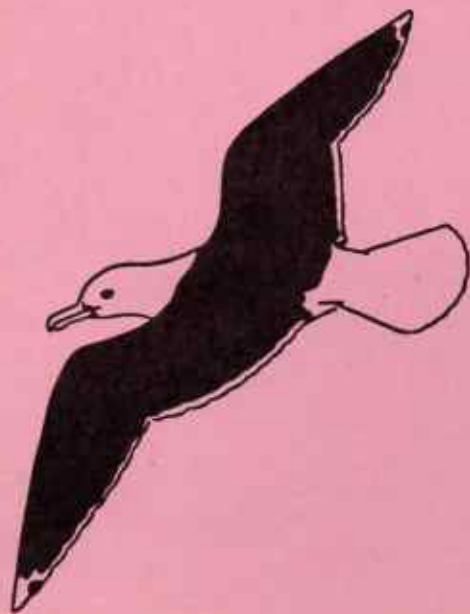


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Seventeenth Annual Report



for the Year 1969

PRICE: TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1969

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EDITORIAL NOTES

In assembling material for the Annual Report, one finds oneself drawing up a balance sheet which goes far beyond the finances of the Society - happily in a healthy state, thanks to Mr. Rampton's able stewardship.

On the credit side we have been very fortunate - indeed, saved from extinction! - by the timely emergence of a volunteer to take on the vital post of Secretary, and we are all indebted to Mrs. E. Farmer for shouldering the burden with such good effect at a crucial moment. We have been fortunate, too, in the volume of records being sent in, although the centre of gravity remains to the west of Shoreham, thanks to regular and productive watching by Messrs. Veysey, F. J. Forbes and Messer.

Dr. Barrie Watson has maintained continuity in the Sanctuary by encouraging and training recruits for the vacancies which Michael Goddard & John Newnham must soon leave after a most

industrious and fruitful partnership - their University careers are coming to an end, and at least one will be going abroad. And the level of membership has been maintained at around 160, which is probably about right for the scope of the Society.

On the debit side must be set the further encroachment of urbanisation into our cherished bird-watching haunts. The impact of the new Adur bridge on the Sanctuary has perhaps been less than the more pessimistic might have expected, although the lack of Redwings and Fieldfares at the end of the year may be due to the nearby upheaval. At Brooklands, the marsh adjoining the railway sidings has shrunk to a vestigial reed-bed hemmed in by bricks & mortar, and devoid of the Snipe & Teal of yesteryear. And on Coney Hill, Brighton, the final result of ruthless ploughing up of downland and hedge has been the disappearance of a once fruitful dew-pond, which attracted passage waders, an occasional duck or Heron, and even, once, a little Ringed Plover. Aldrington Basin, with all the building and tidying-up of recent years seems unlikely to see the divers and grebes which were once an occasional pleasure.

So we must look the harder at the surviving haunts; and just how rewarding this can be is demonstrated by Mr. Veysey's identification of an immature Great Black-headed Gull - certainly our "Bird of the Year", although at the time of going to press formal acceptance by the "British Birds" Rarities Committee is awaited. The notes received on this bird were a model of meticulous detail which younger members might emulate. Gull-watching can be a formidable exercise in patience and perseverance, but the prizes are to be had - as witness Mr. Forbes' possible Ivory Gull.

Our indoor meetings covered a wide range of subjects from Miss Maxse's cine film of her visit to Antarctica with the Peter Scott expedition, to an absorbing blackboard & easel exposition of bird flight by Mr. Alan Mitchell. And Mr. Walter Murray, as always, gave us a lot of pleasure with his colour slides of "Birds and their Homes". Out of doors, attendances were sparser, but the weather was not always kind, and the hardy few are always privately glad not to find themselves amongst the jostling many!

Mr. Burstow, as usual, deserves our warm thanks for organising our excursions, as do Miss Catherine Briggs, defying the years, and Mr. Rampton for the excellent arrangements

for our meetings and for the well-supported RSPB film programme at Shoreham Town Hall.

No report would be complete without an account of Mr. Tony Marr's latest expedition, and he has once more spared some of his hard-pressed time to give us news from Eastern Turkey. And Mr. Eric Goddard has given us the results of his research into the love-life of the Robin.

We express once more our thanks to the helpers at our meetings, and to all who assist with our printing and sending out of notices. And the Editor records his personal thanks to Mr. Tom Palmer, whose careful and legible records make this Report possible.

SANCTUARY REPORT 1969

1969 will undoubtedly be remembered for its late, cold spring followed by an exceedingly long, warm, and dry summer. This weather could possibly account for the very late and sparse arrival of the summer visitors, in particular the 'trans-Saharan' migrants like the Whitethroat and the Sedge Warbler, and could also contribute to the remarkable success the sanctuary's breeding birds had during the summer months.

The nearby bridge construction continued for a second year, and it is pleasing to report that the noise and disturbance associated with the building seemed to have no effect on the number of birds in the sanctuary and its immediate vicinity. Late in the year S.E.E. Board cut down many of the tall hawthorns to clear the overhead electricity cables. This has unfortunately left a gaping pathway through the centre of the copse and has removed many of the trees previously used by the thrushes for their winter roost.

The sanctuary was visited on 74 days during the year and the following is a chronological analysis based on the entries made in the daily census log which is kept in the hut.

WINTER:

The size of the thrush roost decreased at the beginning of the year from the very large roost at the end of 1968, but by Jan. 11th. it had built up to a moderate size of over 200 birds comprising of c100 Redwing, c70 Blackbirds, and c40 Song Thrushes. The roost, as usual, faded away in February but c60 Redwing remained in the surrounding fields until Mar. 31st. and an odd one or two stayed until Apr. 11th. Fieldfare were not so numerous, c15 on

Mar.26th. being the largest number recorded, however, like the Redwing, they stayed later than previous years with the last one being seen on Apr.9th. The marsh-land birds reached their 'peak' on Feb.15th. when there were 5 Mallard, 11 Teal, and 20 Snipe in the dykes but there was a notable absence of Lapwing and Redshank from the marsh except on Mar.18th. there were a dozen Redshank. An unusual bird at the sanctuary during the winter months is a Goldfinch, one of which was present on Jan.10th., and on the next day a Tree Sparrow, a species which has been very scarce at the copse since the hard '63 winter, turned up in a mist-net.

SPRING:

The first summer migrants to arrive, 3 Chiff-chaff, were present on Mar.18th. and then reached their maximum of 17 on Mar.25th. Willow Warblers were more scarce this Spring than before; they didn't arrive until Apr.7th. and then reached their 'peak' of only 3 birds the following day. At the same time as the phylloscopus species are arriving there is usually a small passage of 'crests'. This year 1 or 2 Goldcrests were present between Mar.21st and Apr.14th., and on Mar.8th. a male Firecrest was trapped. During the last half of March and the first week of April a pair of Garganey was in the dukes and a Water Rail was skulking about in the overgrown ditches in the copse.

The first Sedge Warbler was seen and caught on Apr.8th. but then no more arrived until Apr.23rd. This day also produced a Redstart, a female Whinchat, and the first Blackcap, Swallow, and Turtle Dove. Nothing else arrived until May 3rd. when favourable south-east winds brought in 10 Sedge Warblers, 2 Reed Warblers, 2 Whitethroats, 2 'Flava Sp.', a Cuckoo, a Spotted Flycatcher, and another Turtle Dove. The warblers continued to arrive, in small numbers of up to 6 throughout May, and on May 22nd. 2 Whinchats were seen and the first Lesser Whitethroat and Swift were present.

BREEDING SEASON:

Whilst many of the migrants were still urgently flying northward the resident birds were fervently nest-building. A pair of Mistle Thrushes had a nest with 4 eggs on Apr.4th. and many Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Dunnocks, Robins, and finches were using the copse and hillside shrubs for their nest-site. The buntings had a successful season with 4 pairs of Reed Bunting nesting on the marsh, at least 3 pairs of Yellow Bunting and numerous Corn Buntings nesting on the hillside. The local pair of

kestrels were seen feeding 2 young birds on July 12th, these probably bred in the tall trees by Erringham Shaw rather than in the sanctuary area. Of the migratory birds, 6 pairs of Reed Warblers nested in the phragmites beds, 4 pairs of Common and 2 pairs of Lesser Whitethroats bred in the shrubs, and 1 pair of Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler, Chiff-chaff, and Turtle Dove nested in the copse. Throughout June, July and August a Grass-hopper Warbler was seen and heard reeling on the hillside but unfortunately it was never proved whether it bred or not.

AUTUMN:

The beginning of July produced two unusual birds at the sanctuary; on the first a Sparrow Hawk was seen on the top of the hill over the badgers set and on the 5th a Nightingale was trapped. Throughout the month there was evidence of a small passage of Willow Warblers but no large movement occurred until August. On Aug.16th there were 16 Willow Warblers present; five days later this number had increased to 25; on the 23rd. there were 30; a peak of 40 occurred on Aug.28th.; and then c15 passed through each day until the second week in September. Chiff-chaffs in smaller numbers joined the Willow Warblers on Aug.24th. and were last recorded on Sept.29th. Between 8 and 12 Reed Warblers were in the copse during Aug. and the first week in Sept. but there were very few Sedge Warblers, Garden Warblers, Whitethroats, Blackcaps and Lesser Whitethroats passing through during this period compared with past few years. Another Nightingale was trapped in the hillside shrubs on Aug.16th, the only autumn Redstart was present on the 30th. and a Stock Dove, an unusual bird at the sanctuary, was seen on Aug.13th.

Unfortunately September and October, usually the best months of the autumn migration, were very poorly covered with only 6 visits recorded for the two months. However, during these days there were some interesting birds about. On Sept.1st. 4 Swifts were still present over the hill and on the marsh a Greenshank and Curlew were feeding. These waders were present on all the visits, during the two months, in small numbers and with them, a flock of Lapwing, which had increased from 20-30 throughout August to 80 birds by the 28th. and 29th. of Sept. As usual the buntings and finches were abundant at the end of September with 120 Corn Buntings, 50 Linnets, 50 Goldfinches, and 20 Greenfinches on the hillside. A Sedge Warbler, a Whitethroat, and a Whinchat were still present on Sept.29th., a female Blackcap, a male

Stonechat and a Tree Pipit, the first for many years, were seen on Oct.12th. and a Wheatear present as late as Nov.1st.

WINTER:

This year November and December were very disappointing months. There were no large flocks of Redwing or Fieldfare in the fields, no invasions of winter gatherings of Greenfinches or Chaffinches, and very few Snipe and duck. The Lapwing flock on the marsh had increased further to 120 on Dec.20th. and the only duck, 6 Teal, were also present that day. The thrush roost was moderate throughout November but during December no more than 50 thrushes used the roost; whether this was merely a reflection of the absence of Redwing or because many of the hawthorns had been cut down is difficult to tell. A Stonechat and a Goldcrest were present through December to the end of the year.

List of contributors: Messrs. B. & P. Clay, Messrs. B. & F.J. Forbes, M. Goddard, C.F.Helyer, J. Lewis, C. Messer, J.Newnham, T.Palmer, Dr. A. B. Watson.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1969

A total of 1167 birds of 43 species were ringed in the Shoreham area this year, 15 of which were pullus. This is somewhat down on previous years and can be explained by an exceptionally poor Spring migration and the complete absence of coverage at the Society's Bird Sanctuary during September.

Dr. A. B. Watson again helped with the ringing programme in Shoreham and ringed 322 birds, mainly in his garden and at the Sanctuary. John Newnham and myself accounted for 834 birds during our ever decreasing time spent in Shoreham, and Dr. J. Stafford rounded off the total with 9 pullus Swallows (from the nest in his garage), and 2 pullus Blackbirds.

During the year Philip Belman left us to spend a year in warmer and sunnier lands at the Biological Research station, Coto Donana. Dick Granshaw continues his training, and Brian Short, a Brighton Member of the Society, was trained to C permit standard by Dr. Barrie Watson. I myself am training Colin Messer, from Sompting, and Brian Clay, from Steyning;, both of them should gain their C permits in the coming year if they keep up the present level of keenness.

A glance at the ringing totals list will show that the lack of coverage in the most productive month (September) at the Sanctuary is most reflected in the totals of such migrants as Black-cap, Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler. However, regular visits to the copse in August produced a healthy total of 113 Willow Warblers, besides a sprinkling of more interesting species like Redstart, Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail and Nightingale.

We again supported the British Trust for Ornithology's Acrocephalus Enquiry by ringing 44 Reed Warblers at the Sanctuary. We are beginning to accumulate some useful information for this enquiry, and a preliminary glance at our results shows that we handled 53 different Reed Warblers during the year. 44 of these were new birds, 4 had been ringed at the Sanctuary last year (1968) and 5 ringed there the year before (1967).

RINGING TOTAL FOR 1969

<u>BIRD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>BIRD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Mute Swan	11	Whitethroat	6
Common Gull	1	Lesser Whitethroat	27
Black-headed Gull	6	Willow Warbler	122
Wood Pigeon	5	Chiffchaff	52
Tawny Owl	2	Spotted Flycatcher	8
Skylark	1	Dunnock	44
Swallow	43	Pied Wagtail	3
Great Tit	47	Yellow Wagtail	3
Blue Tit	69	Starling	68
Wren	33	Greenfinch	90
Mistle Thrush	4	Goldfinch	70
Song Thrush	41	Linnet	4
Redwing	3	Redpoll	1
Blackbird	171	Bullfinch	44
Wheatear	1	Chaffinch	32
Redstart	1	Yellowhammer	11
Nightingale	2	Corn Bunting	3
Robin	44	Reed Bunting	3
Reed Warbler	49	House Sparrow	1
Sedge Warbler	8	Tree Sparrow	2
Blackcap	14	Collared Dove	5
Garden Warbler	10		

RECOVERIES OF RINGED BIRDS

FOREIGN RECOVERIES

Fieldfare
CV99. 334

There is only one this year.

Post juvenile ringed 7.12.66.
Shot at Vong, Hamar, NORWAY. 29.10.69.

A.B.W.

RECOVERIES WITHIN THE BRITISH ISLES

<u>Blackbird</u>	First winter male ringed. 3. 2. 63. Found dead at Horsham. 16 Mls.N. 11.3.69	M.G.
<u>Blackbird</u>	First year male ringed. 9. 2. 69. Recovered at Bognor Regis. 18 Mls.W. 4. 4. 69	A.B.W.
<u>Starling</u>	Juvenile ringed. 11. 6. 69. Killed by cat, Gosport, Hants. 37 Mls.W. 15. 8. 69.	M.G. & J.N.
<u>Corn Bunting</u>	Full grown ringed, 1. 9. 64 at Sanctuary. Killed against window 26. 6. 69 at Mile Oak, Portslade.	M.G.

This tends to confirm our theory that the Corn Buntings at the Sanctuary are not sedentary birds, but roost over at Mile Oak and come to the Sanctuary during the day to feed and drink. Observations also agree with this theory.

<u>Greenfinch</u>	Post juvenile ringed. 30. 12.67. Controlled 2. 8. 69 at Rye Meads.Herts. 65 Mls.N.	M.G.
<u>Goldfinch</u>	First year female ringed, 28.10.68 at Patcham. Found dead at Orford, Suffolk. 28. 4. 69.	P.J.B.
<u>Blackcap</u>	Adult male ringed. 12. 5. 65. Killed by cat at St.Leonards-on-Sea 19.9.69. 37 Mls.E.	M.G.
<u>Mute Swan</u>	Adult ringed. 11.12.68. Recovered Steyning. 16. 1. 69.	A.B.W.

The above are just a selection of the more interesting recoveries. There are several others showing movements of up to 10 miles.

RINGERS INITIALS

P.J.B.	...	P. J. Belman
M.G.	...	M.J.S.Goddard
M.G. & J.N.	...	Goddard & Newnham (Partnership)
J.N.	...	J.A.Newnham
A.B.W.	...	Dr.A. B. Watson.
		M.J.S.G.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1969

This feature is based on records sent in by the following observers: Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Ray, Miss M. Bull, Dr. Stafford, Messrs. C.F. Helyer, R. Ives, T. Palmer, F. Severs, C.E. Messer, J.M. Twort, C.M. Veysey, A. Burstow, F.J. Forbes, B. Forbes, J. Newnham, B. Metcalfe, Dr. A. B. Watson, R. E. F. Peal, H. W. Hiscoke.

Abbreviations: m - male; f - female; imm. - immature;
Br. - Brooklands C.C. - Cuckoo Corner; C.H. - Coney Hill, Brighton;
C.W. - Cement Works; F.A. - Flood Arch; F.B. - Foot Bridge;
E.W.B. - East Worthing Beach; Harb. - Shoreham Harbour;
O.S.R. - Old Steyning Railway; R.B. - Rail Bridge;
Sh.R.D. - Shoreham Rubbish Dump; Sanct. - Sanctuary;
S.P. - Sussex Pad; T.B. - Toll Bridge; W.R.D. - Worthing
Rubbish Dump; W.W. - Widewater.

The numbers in the left-hand margin are those of the B.T.O. Check List.

1. Black-throated Diver: 1 off-shore W.W. at 20 yds. Dec. 22.
4. Red-throated Diver: 1 pr. Br. Lagoon, Jan. 4 - Apr. 16. 1 off-shore Shm., Dec. 1. 1 off-shore Lancing, Apr. 16.
5. Great Crested Grebe: 1 Canal, Southwick, Jan. 4. 1 offshore Worthing, Oct. 10.
7. Slavonian Grebe: 1 Br. Lagoon, Feb. 22 & 23.
8. Black-necked Grebe: 1 offshore Lancing, Apr. 4 - 15.
1 W.W., Nov. 18.
9. Little Grebe: 1 Southwick Canal, Jan. 4. Up to 5 F.A., in Jan. 1 R. Adur, Beeding, Apr. 7 & 3 there Nov. 29. 1 or 2 Br. Lagoon, throughout year. 2 F.A. Nov. 18. 3 Harb. Dec. 16.
26. Fulmar: up to 5 seen from boat 1 mile off Lancing, on 9 dates between Apr. & Sept.
27. Gannet: 1 Worthing, Jan. 16 (afterwards died). 2 offshore Worthing, June 29. 1 off Lancing, July 15, 2 Sept. 11, & 2 Oct. 6 - all seen from boat 1 mile out.
28. Cormorant: 1 flying N., C.H., May 18. Max. at Lancing 18, Dec. 1. Throughout year Airport - max. 11.
30. Heron: 1 Br. R.D., Jan. 9. 2 F.A., Nov. 30. 2 Sanct., Apr. 11 & 20, and 1 there on many other days.

45. Mallard: 50 O.S.R., Nov.29. 5 Sanct.,Feb.15 & Apr.23.
Throughout year Airport - max.60. Partial albino m. with
normal f., Adur, Dec.
46. Teal: 11 Sanct., Feb.15 & 6 there Dec.20. 1 pr.O.S.R.,Apr.19.
& 40 there Nov.29. 20 Adur, Beeding, Apr.7. Throughout year
at Airport - max.40.
47. Garganey: 1 pr. Sanct.(later flew to Airport), Mar.15.
1 pr. O.S.R., Apr.19.
50. Wigeon: 17 Adur above Steyning, Nov.29.
53. Shoveler: 1 f. W.R.D., Aug.24.
55. Scaup: 1 Br.Lagoon,
56. Tufted Duck: up to 10, Br.Lagoon, Jan. - Mar.15.
57. Pochard: up to 14 Br.Lagoon, Feb. to Mar.
60. Goldeneve: 1 in flight S.P., Feb.15. Up to 3 Br.Lagoon,Jan.
& Feb.
62. Velvet Scooter: 1 pr. offshore E.Brighton, May 1.
64. Common Scoter: 7 offshore Lancing, Mar.3. 1 flying E.,
Hove Mar.23. 100 flying E., offshore Br., Oct.27.
16 flying W. offshore Worthing, Dec.7. 30 flying E. offshore
Lancing, Apr.3. and 20 E. on Oct. 7.
67. Eider: 1 offshore Sh., Jan.21. 1m. & 1f. E.Worthing, Dec.23.
1m.Lancing, Dec.27. 1f. offshore W.W., Nov.9. 1m. E.W.,
Dec.16 - 22 and 1m., 2f., & 2 imm.there Dec.23.
69. Red-breasted Merganser: 1 W.W., Feb.23, 1 there Mar.8, & 1
offshore there Nov.8. 1 flying E. offshore Lancing, Nov.11
& 12. 1m. flying E. East Worthing Beach, Aug.21. 1 on sea,
W.W., Nov.18. 2 between T.B. & R.B. Dec.16. 3 flying W.,
E.W.B., Dec.16.
73. Shelduck: up to 3 W.W. & Br.Lagoon various dates. 21 flying
E. offshore W.W.Dec.22. Up to 7 there in Dec. 3 flying W.,
E.W.B., Dec.16, 2 on Dec.22., & 20 on Dec.23. 3 W.W.Dec.23.
& 6 there Dec.31.
78. Pink-footed Goose: 1 Airport, Feb.16.

80. Brent Goose: 22 flying W.offshore Ferring, Jan.9. 4 flying W. offshore Sh., Dec.22. 15 flying W. offshore Lancing, Dec.16. 11 E.W.B. Nov.18. 33 flying W., E.W.B. Dec.15., 60 flying W. there Dec.31.
Goose sp.: 50-60 flying S.offshore Sh.Harb., Mar.4 (harbour workers, per F.S.)
82. Canada Goose: 1 flying NW E.Worthing, May 7.
91. Buzzard: 1 Lychpole Hill, Sept.28.
93. Sparrow Hawk: 1 Sanct., July 7. 1f. seen to fly in from sea Worthing, July 24. 1f. Lychpole Hill, Aug.28. 1 pr.Norfolk Bridge, Aug.30. 1 Steyning Round Hill, Jan.26. 1m.Ladywells, Coombes, Mar.26.
104. Hobby: 1 flying over Lancing, June 2 & 1 there June 22.
110. Kestrel: 20 reports concerning 26 birds.max. 4 in Mill Hill area during Aug.& Sept. (obviously a family party). Bred again at Royal Sussex County Hospital. Very well distributed in the area.
115. Red-legged Partridge: 4 Sompting Brooks, May 3. Up to 5 W.R.D., throughout year. Not often recorded, but may be overlooked.
117. Quail: 1 calling Patcham Downs, July 15 & 24.
118. Pheasant: 6 W.R.D., Jan.6.
120. Water Rail: 1 Sanct., Mar.25-Apr.4, and 1 there Dec.28. 1 Steyning, Oct.11.
126. Moorhen: bred in Sanct. 1 ad. & 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -grown imm.Br.Lagoon,Sept.4.
127. Coot: up to 30 Br.Lagoon, during Jan.& Feb. Up to 4 R.Adur, in Dec. Up to 4 Br.Lagoon in Dec.
131. Oystercatcher: up to 4 flying offshore W.W.area on six dates from Feb. to Dec.
133. Lapwing: 300 Airport, Feb.2. "Large flock" O.S.R., Nov.29. (estimated numbers would have been helpful!) 100 flying W Lancing Beach, July 24. 78 Sanct.,Sept.29.,and all summer up to 50 on fields.
134. Ringed Plover: possible attempted breeding Portslade Beach, Apr.3-27. (see separate note by Mr.Veysey). 2 Br.Beach,Dec.1. 200 Adur, Feb.1, & up to 30 there on five dates from Aug.to Nov. Up to 60 F.A., Nov.16-Dec.31. 2 juv.with adult,Portslade Beach July 4-25.

- ~~135. Little Ringed Plover: 1 C.H., Apr.13.~~
139. Grey Plover: 30 Ferring, Jan.4, & 1 there Jan.9. 1 W.W., off-shore, Nov.8.
140. Golden Plover: 20 O.S.R., Apr.19. 60 Adur, Beeding, Apr.7.
145. Snipe: up to 10 Sompting Brooks, 8 Sussex Pad, 1 C.H., & 1 W.W., all in first three months of year. 20 Sanct., Feb.15, & up to 8 until Apr.12. Drumming heard O.S.R., Apr.4, & pairs obviously formed. Seen again there Nov.29., & up to 7 in Dec. at Steyning R.D.
147. Jack Snipe: 3 Sompting Brooks, Jan.1. 1 Sanct., Jan.2.
148. Woodcock: 3 Sompting Brooks, Jan.15.
150. Curlew: 1 flying W., E.Worthing, June 24. 1 Adur Saltings, Aug.19. 1 Mill Hill, Sh., Sept.13 - 15, & 2 there mid-Dec. 2 Lychpole Hill, Sept.28. 1 to 6 Sanct. between Sept.1 & Oct.12. 1 E.Worthing, Dec.1.
151. Whimbrel: 1 flying N., calling, Southwick, May 8. 1 C.C., July 9 & 10, and 1 there July 22. 3 flying W offshore E.Worthing Beach, July 24. 6 there Apr.19, & up to 7 on five dates there in July, total 19.
154. Black-tailed Godwit: 1 Adur mudflats, Aug.23 & 24.
155. Bar-tailed Godwit: 2 Ferring Beach, Jan.9. 1 imm.E.Worthing, Sept.1.
156. Green Sandpiper: up to 3 W.R.D., on four dates from Aug.16 to Sept.2. 1 O.S.R., Nov.29 - a late date, but has been known to over-winter in the area before.
157. Wood Sandpiper: 1 W.R.D.; seen on Aug.16,18,19 & 20. First noticed by Richard Ives, whose identification was confirmed by C.E.Nesser, although R.I. was confident of his own observation. It is always wise to get a second opinion on rarer birds, and most helpful to the Recorder. F.Severs saw the bird on the last two dates. This species was last recorded by the Society in Aug.1959 at the stagnant pool, now, alas, filled in.
159. Common Sandpiper: 1 F.A., Feb.1 - obviously wintering. Up to 4 on five dates in Aug. at F.A. & W.R.D. 1 Br.Lagoon, Oct.18 & 23. 2 W.R.D., Sept.1.

161. Redshank: up to 100 Adur mudflats, in Jan. & Feb. 6 prs. O.S.R. May 19 & 20 individuals there Nov. 29. 40 Adur, Dec. 3, 60 there Dec. 18 & 100 on Dec. 19. 20 Sanct., July 28. 60-100 F.A., Nov. 16 - Dec. 31.
162. Spotted Redshank: 1 F.A., Feb. 1 and at intervals in Sept. & Oct. and on Dec. 16.
165. Greenshank: 1 Sanct., Oct. 12, & 1 there Aug. 30, Sept. 1, 12 & 28. 1 W.R.D., Aug. 21 & 28. 2 F.A. Sept. 7, & 1 there Sept. 12.
169. Knot: 2 T.B., Sept. 6.
170. Purple Sandpiper: 1 E.W. Pipe, Dec. 18-23.
171. Little Stint: 1 Adur near Houseboats, Sept. 7.
178. Dunlin: 150 Ferring, Jan. 4. 700 Adur, Jan. 1 & 300 there on Dec. 3 & 18. 600-800 there later in Dec.
179. Curlew Sandpiper: 1 W.R.D., Aug. 31, Sept. 2, 3 & 9. 14 Adur & 9 T.B., Sept. 7. 1 West Worthing Beach, Sept. 7.
181. Sanderling: 300 Ferring, Jan. 4, 12 there Jan. 9, & 20 Jan. 19.
184. Ruff: 2f. E. Worthing Beach, Dec. 20-27.
194. Great Skua: 1 flying West E. Worthing, May 15.
198. Great Black-backed Gull: 150 Adur, in Jan.; 100 there Dec. 3. During severe S. gale on Jan. 7 C.M.V. estimated 700 there. 200 there on Dec. 21.
199. Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Adur, Jan. to Mar. 3 on ten dates from July to Dec. 2 C.C., July 20. Up to 10 at Worthing during summer. 1 Adur, in Dec.
200. Herring Gull: up to 50 Adur, Jan. & Feb., and again in Dec.
201. Common Gull: 30 Adur, Dec. 3.
202. Glaucous Gull: 1 1st. or 2nd. year Hove Lagoon on 6 dates from Mar. 3 to Apr. 3. 1 (a different bird) Aldrington Basin & Portslade area, Apr. 2. 1 Lancing, Apr. 30. 1 juv. E. Worthing, Dec. 1-16.
204. Great Black-headed Gull: one 1st or 2nd winter bird Br. Lagoon, Nov. 6. This record has been submitted to the Rarities Committee of "British Birds" by C.M. Veysey. If accepted, it will be the 3rd. for Sussex and the 9th. for Britain. We have received a very detailed account of the plumage & behaviour

of this bird from Mr. Veysey. (and see separate article on Gulls).

205. Mediterranean Gull: 1 Hove Beach, Feb.28 & Mar.1.
207. Little Gull: 1 flying inland, Lancing, June 30. 1 juv.Br., Oct.19. 1 ad. 1 juv. off Worthing Pier, Sept.22. 1 juv. Br.Lagoon, Oct.18.
208. Black-headed Gull: up to 300 Adur in Jan.& Feb. C.M.Veysey noted 6000-7000 on Jan.7 sheltering from severe S.gale. These huge concentrations of gulls have been noted many times before on the Adur mud-flats, amongst others by F.Severs and the local policeman.
211. Kittiwake: 1 W.R.D., Oct.4. 2 juv., 1 badly oiled, Worthing Beach, Dec.1 - 13. "This bird was fed daily by Mr.F. Bashford, who keeps a stall on the beach, on a diet of cod's liver & 'special' pieces of fish, and looks much better and is certainly much stronger. It was still turning up most days up to Jan.6, 1970" - C.M.V.
212. Black Tern: 2 Br.Lagoon, Apr.21. 2 W.W., Oct.7. 3 E.W.B., Oct.16.
- 217/8. Common/Arctic Tern: 6 flying E., E.W.B., May 3; 23 E. there May 20 - June 13; & 6 W. on same day.
222. Little Tern: 1 offshore, Shoreham, Sept.9. 4 E.W.B. flying E., May 2, & 5 W. on Aug.21.
223. Sandwich Tern: a total of 122 birds reported during the year - first date May 15 & last date Oct.4. They present the usual puzzle of these birds on migration; so many seem to be flying in the wrong direction. Of the May/June records of C.M.V., for instance, 24 flew E. on 6 dates, 23 flew W. on 9 dates, & 14 were feeding on 4 dates. And from July 24 to Oct.4, 5 flew E. on 3 dates & 28 W. on 6 dates.
224. Razorbill: 1 badly oiled Hove Beach, Mar.9. 1 offshore Worthing, June 26, & 3 there July 17.
227. Guillemot: 1 oiled bird Sh.Beach, Jan. 9-31. 1 on beach near Br., Jan.14. 1 Harb., July 3. 2 offshore Worthing, July 23, have been accepted by Sussex O.S. as of Northern race (*Uria aalge aalge*). 2 offshore Lancing, Oct.6 & 1 there Oct.28 & 29.

232. Stock Dove: nested in Southwick garden. 3 Lychpole Hill, Apr.7. 1 C.H., Aug.7. 2 Sanct. July 5 & 19, and 1 there Aug.16 & Sept.13.
235. Turtle Dove: 1 C.H., May 13, 1 ad. & 2 imm. there July 31, & 3 there Oct.7. Bred Sanct., between Apr.23 & Sept.1.
Collared Dove: well spread over the district, now. 1 pr. bred Buckingham Park, & 2 prs. in fir at bottom of garden, Broadwater. 100 C.H., Oct.7.
237. Cuckoo: 1 Airport, June 3. 2 W.R.D., Aug.19 - Sept.3, & 2 juv. there Sept.1. On July 17 F.J. Forbes was fishing from a boat about 1 mile off W.W. when a Cuckoo flew inshore S.-N.
241. Barn Owl: 1 pr. Sompting Brooks, Apr.9, & 1 there June 10. 1 Lancing, Mar.8. 1 Wiston, Feb.8.
246. Little Owl: 1 Lancing, Mar.28. 1 Lychpole, Apr.7, & 1 pr. there Aug.10. 1 Sompting Brooks, June 10. 1 Coombes, May 25. 1 W.R.D., Sept.26.
247. Tawny Owl: 1 Lancing, Jan.28. 2 C.H., Apr.1 & 1 there from Mar.26 to Apr.15. 2 singing Old Shoreham, Jan.1 - May 14. 1 calling Westdene, Brighton, Aug.-Nov. 1 calling Shoreham, Sept.24. Heard calling throughout year at Newham Lane, Steyning. 1 pr. nested in a Southwick garden and brought off 3 young. (J.H.T.) 1 pr. nested successfully at Crockhurst Hill, Worthing. One adult scratched the face of a man who handled a nestling which had fallen from the nest. (J.H.T.) 1 pr. bred at Lancing College. Four young left the nest, but one found dead 2 or 3 days later.
249. Short-eared Owl: 1 W.R.D. Nov.23. An owl chased by a Carrion Crow over the Adur saltings was almost certainly this species.
252. Nightjar: 1 Lychpole area, May 18. 1 juv., weak in flight, Downs, Steyning, Aug.16.
255. Swift: 1 Hove, Apr.28. 4 Sanct. Sept.1. 1 Worthing, Oct.9.
258. Kingfisher: 7 recorded on 5 dates from Mar. to Dec. from F.A. (max.3), O.S.R., & Airport. 1 Sanct. Aug.28. 1 Harb. Oct.28.
262. Green Woodpecker: 1 garden at Steyning, Jan.29, & 1 juv. there June 21. 2 O.S.R., Apr.19. 1 pr. Ladywells, Coombes, May 26.
263. Great Spotted Woodpecker: 1 Lancing Manor, Sept.4.
274. Swallow: 2 O.S.R. Apr.19. 1 pure white bird among a flock of 200 hirundines, Oct.11/13, Mill Hill, Shm. 1 C.H., Oct.20.

276. House Martin: 4 Westdene, Brighton, Nov.7.
277. Sand Martin: 1 O.S.R., Apr.19.
280. Carrion Crow: 1 partial albino (white head), Beeding, July 23.
284. Magpie: up to 3, Sanct., regularly.
286. Jay: 1 C.H., July 19.
290. Coal Tit: 1 or 2 noted in Mar. & Aug., C.H. 1 Broadwater, Jan.1.
292. Marsh Tit: 1 seen C.H., on four dates Nov. & Dec.
293. Willow Tit: regular & presumed breeding, C.H. & Devil's Dyke.
294. Long-tailed Tit: 2 Downs near Steyning, Nov.29. 1 C.H., Oct.17.
6 there Nov.30, and 4 on Dec.28.
296. Nuthatch: 1 Wiston, July 6. 1 Bramber, Dec.23.
298. Tree Creeper: 1 Lancing Clump, Jan.4. 1 Steyning, Jan.26.
1 C.H., Feb.2, Mar.6 & Oct.17.
299. Wren: abundant in Sanct.
301. Mistle Thrush: nest with 4 eggs April 4., Sanct.
302. Fieldfare: 15 Sanct., Mar.26, & 1 there Apr.9. Small flock
Old Erringham, Mar.23. 1 Sompting Brooks, Apr.9. 15 O.S.R.,
Apr.19. Small flock Steyning R.D., in Dec. 1 or 2 C.H.,
Feb/Mar.
303. Song Thrush: c40 roosting Sanct., Jan.11.
304. Redwing: 200 Buckingham Park, Sh., Feb.8. 26 Southwick,
Mar.2, & 10 there Mar.10. 100 roosting Sanct., Jan.11
& up to 60 there in fields, Jan., Feb. & Mar. 4 Ladywells,
Coombes, Mar.26. 6 C.H., Oct.16. 6 Airport, Nov.8.
307. Ring Ouzel: 1 Mill Hill, Sh., (Dr. Stafford's garden),
Mar.25, & 1 on slopes of Mill Hill, Mar.27. 3 C.H.,
Oct.19.
308. Blackbird: 70 roosting Sanct., Jan.11. 50 roosting
Broadwater, in trees on A27 roadside.
311. Wheatear: odd birds noted passing through in Mar., returning
from Aug. to Oct., with a max. of 20 at W.R.D. on Sept.19.
Up to 2 daily Sanct. Aug.
317. Stonechat: odd birds noted throughout year at W.W., Sanct.
Harb., W.R.D. & Sh. Beach. 4 W.R.D. Nov/Dec. 2 E.W.B. Dec.1-31.

318. Whinchat: 1 Sanct., Apr. 23 & May 29 and 2 there May 22.
Up to 3 birds reported from various locations between June
& Sept. 6 W.R.D., Sept. 12 & 4 there Sept. 28. 1 North side of
Sh. Aerodrome, Aug. 31.
320. Redstart: 1 W.W., Mar. 21. 1m. Mill Hill, Sh., Apr. 12-19 in two
gardens - may be the same bird. 1 Sompting Brooks, Apr. 27. GH,
up to 3 birds Sept. 9 to Oct. 24. 1 W.R.D., Sept. 12 & 28.
1 Sanct., Apr. 23., & 1m. there Aug. 30.
321. Black Redstart: 2 Sh. Harb. & Beach, Feb. 1 and 1 or 2 there on
many dates till end of Mar. 1 Devil's Dyke, Apr. 7. 1 W.R.D.,
Mar. 17, & 2 there Mar. 28. 3 Southwich Beach, Aug. 15.
322. Nightingale: 1 Mill Hill, Sh., Apr. 19. 1 Shaves Wood, June 8.
1 Sanct. July 5 & a different bird on Aug. 16.
325. Robin: 1 Westdene, Brighton, singing 0045hrs.-0115hrs.
327. Grasshopper Warbler: 1 heard reeling Mill Hill, Sh., Apr. 17,
then seen & heard there on May 2, 3 & 7, and again on July 23.
3 heard reeling Steyning Round Hill, May 3. 1 Lancing Clump,
May. 18. 1 Sanct. June 11, July 12 & Aug. 2 - possibly the
same bird & may have bred on hillside. Several reeling
Devil's Dyke June 12.
333. Reed Warbler: 1 Sanct. May 15 & 2 there June 1. 2 prs. Sompting
Brooks, June 2. 2 W.R.D. June 4. 1 Sanct. Aug. 17. & 5 prs. there
July 4; 12 there Aug. 9. 1 C.H. Aug. 18. 2 Airport, Sept. 28.
337. Sedge Warbler: 1 Sompting Brooks, Apr. 9 & 3 there Apr. 27.
1 W.R.D., May 8 & 4 there Sept. 28. 1 Sanct. Apr. 8 & Sept. 29,
and 10 there May 3; 2 on June 1. 1 Coombs, Apr. 27. Several
seen with young, Airport, June 2. 1 C.H. Aug. 26 to Oct. 6.
343. Blackcap: bred C.H. 8 Downs, Steyning, May 3. 1 W.R.D. Sept. 6.
Small autumn passage, Sanct. 1m. Lancing, in garden, Dec. 27.
may be wintering.
346. Garden Warbler: 1 C.H. May 18, & 2 there July 31. 2 Devil's
Dyke, May 25. 2 W.R.D., Sept. 12. Max. 4 Sanct. end of Aug.
347. Whitethroat: 2 Sompting Brooks, Apr. 26. 2 Sanct. May 3, & up
to 6 for rest of May. Much scarcer than usual.
348. Lesser Whitethroat: 1 Sompting Brooks, Apr. 27. 1 Sanct. May 13
& 2 prs. bred there. Small autumn passage. Bred C.H. 2 Devil's
Dyke, May 25.

354. Willow Warbler: 1 Devil's Dyke, Apr.7. "A good many", Lancing to Coombes, Apr.27. 1 bathing in garden, Steyning, Oct.3. 2 Sanct., Apr.20, 3 there Apr.7⁷ & large autumn passage (c40 on Aug.26.)
356. Chiffchaff: 2 W.R.D., Mar.15 & 1 there Sept.13. 1 Worthing, Mar.28. 6 heard Lychpole, Apr.7. 1 Devil's Dyke, Apr.7. 2 Beach House Park, Worthing, Oct.14. 3 Sanct., Mar.18, & 17 there Mar.25. No large numbers there in autumn.
357. Wood Warbler: 1 C.H., Aug.5 & 11 and Sept.8.
364. Goldcrest: 1 garden at Westdene, Brighton, Apr.6. 1 Beach House Park, Worthing, Oct.14. 2 Sanct. Mar.21 & 1 there Mar.24/25. 2 in Dec. Odd birds seen or heard C.H. in Mar./Apr. & Sept/Oct.
365. Firecrest: 1 Sanct., Jan.26 - this bird was ringed by M.J.G. in Dec.'68 (PV 1.528). 1 there Feb.9, but not possible to see if it was a ringed bird. 1 there Mar.8.
366. Spotted Flycatcher: 1 pr. Homefield Park, Worthing, seen with young for 3rd. year. 1 Sanct., May 31. 1 C.H., various dates between Aug.7 & Sept.30, with 3 on Aug.24 & 4 on Sept.23. 4 there May 18. Up to 2 regularly in Sanct., May 4 to Sept.13.
368. Pied Flycatcher: 1 Lancing, Aug.13. 2 Homefield Park, Worthing, Sept.8. 2 W.R.D., Sept.12. 1 C.H. Sept.15.
375. Tawny Pipit: 1 W.R.D. Aug.25 & 28, seen by C.E.M. (who knows the bird well, having seen it often in the Camargue) & F.J.F.
376. Tree Pipit: 1 Shaves Wood, June 8. 1 C.H. Sept.5.
379. Rock Pipit: up to 10 W.W., Harb., & Houseboats through winter months.
380. Pied Wagtail: 5 Sanct., Aug.9. 1 of Alba race Br., Oct.31 & Nov.23.
381. Grey Wagtail: up to 4 Br. Lagoon throughout year. 1 pr. Steyning R.D., Jan.30 & 1 there throughout Dec. 1 C.H., Sept.26. 1 Sanct., Oct.12.
382. Yellow Wagtail: 1 pr. C.C. June 26 - probably nesting. 5 Sanct., 1 juv. being fed by adult - Aug.17. 4 juv. C.C. Aug.20. 6 W.R.D., Aug.21, & 4 there Sept.2. 10 Airport, Aug.27. 7 Sanct., Aug.22.
384. Great Grey Shrike: 1 W.R.D., seen on 6 dates from Jan.29 to Mar.28 by at least 6 observers.

- Finch species: Greenfinch, Goldfinch & Chaffinch feeding on wych elm seeds on Southwick Green, June 21 - about 30 birds.
389. Starling: c200 (mainly juvs.) Sanct., June 6, & c200 there on Aug.22. Many in the fields, esp.pre-roosting,Sept.,Oct.,& Nov.
391. Hawfinch: 1m. feeding on a lawn below Dr.Watson's surgery window in centre of Shoreham, Nov.24. He reports: "It was about 10 yds.from the house, & when disturbed flew just to the other side of the lawn & continued to feed. Because of this atypical behaviour I enquired at the pet shops. I was told that the Hawfinch is kept in captivity, but neither shop knew of any in the district. It was in very beautiful fresh plumage, and was not ringed. It was also seen by Dr.Stafford."This bird is not often recorded in the area.
393. Goldfinch: 1 Sanct.,Jan.10 - an unusual bird there in Jan.
395. Linnet: 500 Worthing Sewage Farm. Aug.24. 50 Sanct.,Sept.
396. Twite: 8 Norfolk Bridge, Sh.,Feb.2. 6 - 8 Adur, with Linnets, Feb.15.
397. Redpoll: 1 C.H., Oct.24. 1 trapped in Sanct.,Oct.8.
401. Bullfinch: 15 Sanct.,Aug.29.
408. Brambling: 30 Downs,Steyning,Jan.26, & 15 there Dec.15. 11 W.R.D., Feb.11. Up to 5 C.H. on 3 dates in Oct.
409. Yellowhammer: 2 prs. bred Sanct.
410. Corn Bunting: 3m. singing C.H.,July 4. c120 Sanct.,Sept.29 & c100 there Nov.1.
415. Girl Bunting: 1m.N.E.of Cissbury, Oct.4. 1 Newham Lane, Steyning for 9th year in succession, but has moved territory further from B.M.'s house.
421. Reed.Bunting: 4 prs.bred.Sanct., June.
423. Snow Bunting: 1 Sompting Brooks, Jan.9.
425. Tree Sparrow: 50 W.R.D., Jan.9. & 200 there Feb.15. 10 C.H., Sept.30 & regular after this date. 3 NE of Cissbury, Oct.4. 1 trapped Sanct., Nov.8. 1 there Jan.11.

BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1969

In this feature last year we looked briefly at rare and unusual birds in the district.

A cursory glance at the article on Garden Birds in the reports for the last few years produced an amazing number of uncommon occurrences.

All three of our Woodpeckers, Wryneck in at least 2 different gardens about 4 miles apart. A Hawfinch in the middle of Shoreham feeding on the lawn about 10 yards from the house. This bird is, as far as we know, only the second of this species to be recorded in Shoreham.

It is of course a very secretive bird but not at all shy when green peas are just ready. It has a most exasperating habit of stripping the rows the day before the more or less patient husbandman decides to gather these for himself. It has been known to nest about 100 feet from the ground in a Prunus tree 20 feet away from a small bathing pool used by 6 extremely noisy children who were forever playing round the foot of the tree. There were plenty of tall trees in which this particular pair of birds could have nested and they must have chosen the noisiest spot for a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or so around.

To go on with the birds in members gardens, Redstart, Ring Ousel, Siskin, Nightjar, Waxwing, (which allowed itself to be photographed), Firecrest, Cirl Bunting, Pied Flycatcher, Water Rail, Hoopoe and most astonishing of all a Corncrake.

A good many of these birds have been recorded from quite small gardens and although some have occurred in members' gardens well outside Shoreham most of them have been noted in and around the town.

What an astonishing collection of comparatively rare and beautiful birds have been seen by our members, and how very well worth while it is to note them down and put them in some sort of permanent record.

T.P.

MEMBERS' RECORDS

It would be a great help to the Recorder if members would send in their records twice a year, with the second batch in December, leaving the last few records to the first week in January.

Please send in lists by species. If more than a few entries are involved, it would be helpful if they were sent in the Wetmore Order, which is that used in the Field Guide.

The Society's records are set out as shown:-

<u>B.O.U.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Recorder's</u> <u>Initials</u>
321	1.1.67	Black Redstart	Sanct.	2	A.B.

It would be much appreciated if members sending in long lists would keep to this system where practicable. Rarities should have a full description sent in with particular emphasis on field marks etc.

THE PERMISSIVE BIRD SOCIETY

For all the title might suggest, this is not an account of another Ornithological Society, holding swinging indoor meetings, wife swapping and all the other modern trimmings. Wife swapping there is but only by Robins. This is no more than an account of some of the visible aspects of the lives of several Robins inhabiting my garden. The observations were carried out without the help of colour ringing and are based on visual recognition of individual birds.

The main character in the drama was Rube, an outstandingly tame bird. He occupied a fairly large territory at the Eastern end of the garden. The bird table was included and also the dining room window sill on which he was sometimes fed. From April he had become so tame that he would readily take food from the hand or from the mouth. In case anyone fears this involved meal worms, it did not. Rube was happy to take currants.

During early April, a female appeared on Rube's territory and it was noticed Rube was flying to and fro to a patch of Rhododendrons and feeding her in response to food cries; usually she was given the first three currants and Rube ate the last one himself.

Soon a nest was started on the top of the back wall inside the garage, but on 19th April, the hen flew against the french window of the lounge and knocked herself out. She was revived by being placed in warm material in a box and in three quarters of an hour she had recovered. She was taken outside in the hand where Rube joined her and they flew off together.

The next day, the hen was not well and was not only being ignored by Rube but he was flying around with and feeding a second female. The first female would not feed and refused all food given to her. She would hold a small worm in her bill but would not swallow it and in the afternoon she died.

The second female took the place of the first, completed the nest and five eggs were laid.

On May 19th, a Robin occupying a territory including the North West part of the garden (N.W.Robin) started to come to the dining room window sill for currants. This was much resented by Rube if he was there at the same time and there were frequent threat displays by him which N.W.Robin ignored. On the following day, N.W.Robin took a currant from the hand on his own territory.

On May 24th, it was realised that Rube was no longer present. The second hen was still sitting on her eggs and two strange Robins were seen in the Spinney in Rube's territory.

On 25th May, the second female acquired a new mate and continued to sit on the nest started by her predecessor. The new mate was not N.W.Robin who was still on his own territory but was possibly one of the strange Robins seen in the Spinney. He was not in the least tame and was unused to being fed on currants as these were left out for him and were ignored.

The great surprise was on 29th May when the male of the pair flew straight to the hand and took two currants and on 1st June took a currant from the mouth. From his subsequent behaviour, including a trick of opening his bill once or twice when waiting to be fed it seemed certain that this was Rube back again.

The five young flew successfully from the nest.

Though the limitations of observations without colour ringing are accepted, it is thought that the identification of individual birds by appearance and behaviour was accurate.

The reader will appreciate that all good ornithologists throw up their hands at the mere mention of anthropomorphism and anyone who thinks he can see an analogy between the behaviour of these Robins and present day human behaviour patterns is merely clutching at straws!

R.E.G.

GULLS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA

The situation of Shoreham at the mouth of the River Adur with extensive mud flats exposed between tides, breakwaters at the Harbour Mouth and a succession of wharves inside, is obviously an attractive one to Gulls. For the purpose of this article I am treating the Shoreham area as extending for about four miles to east and west of the town centre. This is well within the distance which a gull might be likely to travel in its daily movements, other than on passage, and takes in Southwick and Hove, but not Brighton, to the east and Worthing to the West.

On this side the freshwater lagoon at Brooklands is attractive in providing a place where they can bathe and rest. The short grass of the miniature golf course is another type of

habitat on which gulls are fond of collecting and the nearby rubbish dump is of course an ideal scavenging ground. Such then are the varied features of the area.

In attempting to summarise the records of the area, I have consulted, besides the Shoreham Ornithological Society's Annual Reports, the Sussex Bird reports (1948-61), and the Sussex O.S. Bird reports from 1962 onwards. It is inevitable that the latter should include some records within our area from observers who are not members of the Shoreham Society.

It would be impossible to estimate with any accuracy the number of the commoner species, especially outside the breeding season, which the extended area holds, but it is evident that all are increasing. In 1961 des Forges and Harber stated in their 'Guide to the Birds of Sussex', that, from Autumn to Spring, over 200 Great Black-backed Gulls were sometimes seen together. That number could now be safely trebled in the Shoreham area.

Lesser Black-backs are still seen in relatively small numbers along the coast but wintering birds have been recorded more regularly at Shoreham than elsewhere in Sussex. These include birds of both the Scandinavian and British races. The number of Herring, Common and Black-headed Gulls seen outside the breeding season is so great that one could wish they were less when searching for some rarer species! However on Dec.28th 1958, I found at Southwick a Herring Gull of one of the yellow-legged races, either the Mediterranean or Eastern Scandinavian form; probably the latter.

"White" gulls have occurred with surprising frequency in the Shoreham area and have sometimes, once at least, provided problems of identification that have defied solution. This was a bird first seen at Shoreham on Dec.19th 1954. Its body size and, in flight, the depth of wing and slow wing-beats at once suggested a 2nd year Glaucous Gull for it was one which had the very white plumage sometimes (? but not always) acquired at this age. Its head and bill, however, were decidedly small for that species, so much so that when first seen, on a rubbish dump, it was identified as an Iceland Gull. A celebrated ornithologist who saw it later considered it to be a dilute (albinistic) Herring Gull, but there were many observers who dared to disagree. It stayed in the area, with increasingly frequent breaks, until Jan.4th 1958. In just over three years little or no change in appearance had taken place which, of course, suggested albinism or else that it was a hybrid. A typical juvenile Glaucous Gull which was present on Dec.27th 1954, provided direct comparison with the white gull when both birds were observed just below the Toll Bridge.

Young Glaucous Gulls tend to travel further south than adults and there has been no record of a fully adult bird in this area since one was seen at Southwick on March 21st 1948. Immature birds have often remained in the same area for several weeks, and when this happens more than once in a year it is not possible to say, from dates alone, whether one or more were involved. In 1959 one was seen at Shoreham between Feb.23rd and Mar.22nd and in 1961 one stayed in the Shoreham-Brooklands area, for a month from March 12th. In 1967 one frequented the Hove Lagoon area from July 5th to the end of the year, and one was recorded at Worthing on Dec.4th and 5th. There were records from the Hove Lagoon area again in 1968 of one from Feb.18th to 22nd, and from Aug.17th to Oct.11th, with possibly a different bird on Sept.18th. Finally there was the one with bright pink legs which I saw at Shoreham Harbour on Nov.27th.

The bird seen by C.F.Helyer near Hove Lagoon on March 3rd this year, and by me between March 18th and April 3rd may well have been the Shoreham bird as its legs at first were a deeper pink than usual, but had become pale pink by April. If so it had, in the meantime, acquired a grey mantle and all white tail. A typical juvenile was seen in the same area on April 2nd. On Dec.1st I found another juvenile at Worthing which stayed until the 16th.

Iceland Gulls have been recorded less frequently, starting with two apparently different immatures at Shoreham on Apr.23rd. and 28th, 1956. On Jan.24th 1958, a 2nd winter bird was found at Hove and stayed in the Hove-Shoreham area until June 17th. This bird had an injured leg producing a limp by which it could be recognised. It returned to Shoreham on Sept.24th, staying until the end of the year. It was seen frequently in 1959 and occasionally in 1960. It's last appearance was on Jan.22nd 1961, when it was in fully adult plumage but still with a limp. Since then the only record has been an immature at Shoreham on Dec.31/61.

An immature Sabine's Gull was recorded at Shoreham on Sept.2nd 1956, a very rare visitor to the Sussex coast, this being only the thirteenth. Incidentally the second Sussex record was one shot at Shoreham on October 16th 1856.

An adult Mediterranean Gull on Sept.24th,1950, was the first in the Shoreham area. The next was not until 1957, when one was present from March 10th to 14th, and two on the 15th. Since then there have been records on eight out of twelve years,probably involving about fourteen birds. Most have been adults and not more than two have been seen together.

Little Gulls have been recorded in every year except two since 1954, totalling about thirty six birds. The most seen together is five at Hove on Nov.5th 1957.

There have been records of what were presumed to be albinistic Black-headed Gulls, - the other problem white gulls referred to earlier. There was one at Southwick in 1957 and three at Shoreham in 1959. The only marking was faint yellowish-brown on grey small areas on scapulars, nape or side of head. In size and structure they appeared to correspond entirely with normal Black-headed Gulls.

The occurrence of Kittiwakes off this part of the Sussex coast is most likely to be after severe gales or when they have become victims of oiling. All records have been of single birds except five adults off Hove on July 19th 1968 and two immature birds at Worthing on Dec.2nd this year. Most sightings were in 1957 on six dates. The others were two dates in 1958 and once in 1964, '66 and '67.

Finally there is the record of an immature Great Black-headed Gull which I saw on Brooklands Lagoon on Nov.6th of this year.

From the features seen, I, personally have no doubt about the identification but I must stress that this is a very rare visitor to Britain and as such requires acceptance by the Rarities Committee of "British Birds" to whom the details have been sent. It's normal range extends in Winter to the Levant. Breeding occurs in S.Russia from the Sea of Azov to the Steppes and over a large part of Asia. If accepted it will be the third record for Sussex and ninth for Britain.

C.M.V.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1969

This feature has been compiled from the main body of records sent in by members.

Abbreviations as in "Notable Birds of the Area".

<u>Species</u>	<u>First</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Last</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Whimbrel	8th May	Southwick	24th July	Worthing
Common Sandpiper			23rd Oct.	Br.Lagoon
Black Tern	21st Apr.	Br.Lagoon	16th Oct.	E.Worthing Beach
Little Tern	2nd May	E.W.B.	9th Sept.	Shm.
Turtle Dove	13th May	Coney Hill	7th Oct.	Coney Hill
Cuckoo	3rd June	Airport	3rd Sept.	W.R.D.
Swift	28th Apr.	Hove	9th Oct.	Worthing
Swallow	19th Apr.	Steyning	20th Oct.	Coney Hill
House Martin			7th Nov.	Westdene,Btn.
Sand Martin	19th Apr.	Steyning		

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Last Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Fieldfare			19th Apr.	Steyning
Redwing	16th Oct.	Coney Hill	10th Mar.	Southwick
Wheatear	12th Mar.	Shm. Beach	21st Oct.	Br.
Whinchat	10th June	Sompting Brooks	4th Sept.	Worthing R.D.
Common Redstart	21st Mar.	W.W.	28th Oct.	W.R.D.
Grasshopper Warbler	17th Apr.	Mill Hill	23rd July	Mill Hill
Reed Warbler	15th May	Sanct.	28th Sept.	Airport
Sedge Warbler	9th Apr.	Sompting Brooks	9th Oct.	Coney Hill
Blackcap	8th May	Steyning	27th Dec.	Lancing (Wintering)
Garden Warbler	18th May	Coney Hill	12th Sept.	W.R.D.
Common Whitethroat	29th Apr.	Sompting Brooks		
Lesser Whitethroat	27th Apr.	Sompting Brooks	19th June	Coney Hill
Willow Warbler	7th Apr.	Devils Dyke	3rd Oct.	Steyning
Chiffchaff	15th Mar.	Worthing	14th Oct.	Worthing
Spotted Flycatcher	18th May	Coney Hill	30th Sept.	Coney Hill
Yellow Wagtail	26th June	C.C.	2nd Sept.	W.R.D.

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1969

The following members have contributed these notes :-

Mrs. Ray, Miss M. Bull, and Messrs. J.M. Twort, C.F. Helyer, A.E. Holman, H.E. Cooper, Dr. Stafford, Richard Ives, C.E. Messer.

Garden at Mill Hill (Mrs. Ray)

Birds usually seen throughout the year. Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Robin, Wren, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, 1 pair of Bullfinches, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon, Kestrel and most unusual a male Common Redstart stayed for a week in April.

Garden at Steyning (Miss M. Bull)

Green Woodpecker feeding and drinking from bird bath in January. A young Green Woodpecker feeding in garden in June and a Willow Warbler bathing in bird bath on October 3rd.

Garden at Hassocks: (Mr.H.E.Cooper)

A pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers visited this garden on 24th September. They were in an oak tree quite close to a busy road and undisturbed by heavy traffic. Mr. & Mrs. Cooper had very good and close vies of these birds, indeed they had no need to use field glasses. They have been seen several times. This is the 56th species to visit this garden in 26 years. All actually in the garden.

Garden at West Chiltington: (Mr.A.E.Holman)

For 7 days running a Great Spotted Woodpecker visited this garden to feed upon burnt toast. Oddly enough it seemed uninterested in unburnt scraps put out for other birds. It seemed strange that the first piece of burnt toast put out should attract this bird, the first Woodpecker to visit this garden. Blackened toast is now made specially for this visitor which will come as near as 5 yards to the kitchen window.

Garden at Mill Hill: (Dr.Stafford).

Male Ring Ousel 25th March, Common Redstart, 19th April, Nightingale 19th April.

Garden at Southwick: (J.M.Twort).

Whimbrel flying N. calling, May 8th. Stock Dove, at least 3 singing near house April 7th. almost certainly nested next door. Partial Albino Blackbird still about garden this year, and partial Albino Starling nested nearby again. Dunnock nest in Hydrangea bush outside back door. Laid 3 eggs but deserted. Goldfinch, Chaffinch and female Bullfinch June 19th.

Garden at Westdene, Brighton: (C.F.Helyer)

Goldcrest April 6th., House Martin, 4 November 7th., Wheatear 1, September 11th.

Garden at Lancing:(Richard Ives).

A male Blackcap on 27th December watched from window at about 6ft.distance.

Garden, Cokeham Lane, Lancing: (C.E.Messer)

Pied Flycatcher 1, 13th August.

BY LANDROVER TO TURKEY

I wrote in the 1968 Report about a visit to Turkey in the Autumn of that year, and described the sight of the vast migration of soaring birds across the Bosphorus at Istanbul, and the myriads of waders, duck, and pelicans to be found on some of the lakes in the west of the country. The visit was so successful that I was keen to go again, but this time to try a springtime visit, when I was likely to gain more new "ticks" - about twenty or so, if I were lucky.

Richard Porter, who is a professional ornithologist, is seconded to an international conservation organisation, who have bought him a LandRover for visiting Turkey on several occasions each year to study the birdlife, and to attempt to establish nature reserves on the lovely lakes and marshes of the country. This is vital before development overtakes them, as is happening or has happened so quickly in most European countries. Prior to 1969 his visits had concentrated on western Turkey, being the most populated part, and subject to the greatest pressures and exploitation from development and the expansion of the tourist industry, but he wanted to travel eastwards across the country, towards Lake Van, an enormous mineral lake in the far east, to study the terrain and wildlife of that area.

He planned to go in May 1969, for five weeks, and by elking out all my leave into one period, I was able to go with him. The third member of the party was his wife; as they had married only the previous month, they were treating this as their honeymoon. As a bachelor, this was my first honeymoon; but I suppose one has to start sometime. And what a honeymoon for Richard's wife; driving 2000 miles to Istanbul, then several thousand miles bumping round Turkey over dusty roads in a Landrover - and with another man, too! Greater love hath no woman, indeed....

We left England on a Friday evening in early May on the night-ferry to Ostend, which we reached about 4 a.m., and from there Richard and I decided to try to beat our own record to Istanbul, of four days' hard driving. We took turns at the wheel, and pressed on all through Saturday, reaching Salzburg that evening. From there we crossed the mountains of Austria in darkness - a great pity, as we love the scenery - but we now had the bit firmly between our teeth and didn't want to hang about - and by Sunday's dawn were heading down an empty Autoput towards Belgrade. The long, boring, thousand-mile drag through Yugoslavia, to us always the most tedious part of the journey, was punctuated only by stops for petrol and by the sight of wrecked vehicles

lying at the side of the road, where they are usually left after an accident. By late that evening, we reached the Bulgarian Customs, which took an hour to clear, and then on towards Sofia in torrential rain. We drove on through our second night, and reached the Turkish Customs at 2 a.m. on Monday morning. We had travelled 1800 miles from Ostend in just 46 hours, beating our old record by two days.

We were in no immediate hurry to reach Istanbul, but by the time you all came in to work on that Monday morning (and I was thinking of you!) we were leisurely cruising down the long, straight road that leads to the city.

Our first week was spent in the lake area of western Turkey, in perfect hot, sunny weather, which was to be with us for all our five weeks. The spring was, however, a late one, and we found that many species of bird had yet to arrive. I managed to start my list of new species with several that had eluded me on my earlier autumn visit as they had left early; birds like the Glossy Ibis, Blackheaded Bunting, and Rufous Bush Chat. But there were very few warblers in - a few Olivaceous, the odd Barred - not many waders at all, and scarcely any raptors; extraordinary for mid-May. After a successful visit to the mountainous area of Uludag, near the city of Bursa, where we found Lammergeier, Shorelarks, Rock Thrushes, and numerous other mountain species, we headed eastwards towards Ankara and the Central Plateau in weather which was now getting hotter all the time.

Ankara is, of course, a modern city, unlike Istanbul with its centuries of history, and here we spent a couple of days at the flat of a friend in the F.O. before again turning ever eastwards. We spent two days on the vast expanses of Lake Tuz, a gigantic salt-lake (Tuz being the Turkish word for salt) in central Turkey, renowned for its Flamingoes; we estimated there to be no less than 14,000 present, an amazing sight. Then we paused at Goreme, to see the rock-dwellings carved out of the rock by early Christian settlers, and where several of the caves, used as chapels, still contain the original wall-paintings of the fifth and sixth centuries, carefully preserved. A further burst of hard driving, through increasingly barren and uninviting countryside, and we reached Lake Van, by the Saturday evening, just two weeks and 3000 miles from home.

Many people consider this to be the loveliest part of Turkey, and we had to agree. I was struck immediately by an uncanny resemblance to an area I had visited a year earlier, but a few miles away - Varanger Fjord, in northernmost Norway. An unlikely comparison, perhaps, but with the clear blue sky above, the blue waters of the

lake below, and snow-capped mountains as a backdrop, I could just as easily have been at Varanger. Rather warmer at Van, and different birdlife, but scenically virtually identical.

The lake is about one hundred miles long, and some twenty to thirty miles wide, and it took most of two days at a steady "birding" speed to drive round its northern shore. In the town of Van, we abandoned camping for a few days, and stayed in the Hotel Grot; a cheap doss-house, no meals provided, but a convenient centre for our activities in the area. We were joined by two friends who flew out from London to stay with us for a week or so, and had some marvellous trips around the Van area, including a pioneering trip up into the mountains where Richard and I climbed a 10,000 foot peak. At times we were within fifty miles of Russia, thirty miles off Iran, and thirty miles off Iraq, but although we had been warned of Eurdish bandits, we had no trouble on that score.

The birding was first class, and we just didn't have adequate time to visit all the areas we were hoping to. I saw several species which were unexpected - such as Upcher's Warbler, Grey-necked Bunting, and Black-winged Pratincole - in addition to some which I had anticipated, like the Red-fronted Serin, Radde's Accentor, and Black vulture. Some of these were in the mountains, scarcely if ever visited by ornithologists before, but by the Lake, and in the adjoining marshes, there was a profusion of birdlife: flocks of pelican and duck including such exotics as the White-headed Duck, plenty of waders including occasional Terek Sandpipes on passage, White-winged Black Terns, and always the characteristic Turkish birds such as Hoopoes, Bee-eaters, Shrikes and Rollers which we had found right across the country from west to east.

The only trouble we did have was self-inflicted, from our own driving. One of us nearly put the Landrover over the edge of a fierce precipice in a ravine near the Iraq border - not once, but twice in five miles when hurtling round corners too quickly on a single-track road, we met another vehicle head-on. He (Note-not I) managed to judder and slither to a halt in the dust a foot away from a mighty truck on the first occasion, but on the second there was just enough room for another Landrover, laden with shouting, gesticulating Turks, to shoot past on our nearside with its wheels inches from the edge of the drop.

But the most dramatic piece of driving was undoubtedly when the writer, who wishes he could remain anonymous, landed us in the bed of a very fast-moving river. Owing to a slight

navigational error which resulted in his turning to the left instead of going straight on, he missed the shallow part of the ford which we had already crossed going the other way, and we sank like a stone to the bottom, in about three feet of very swift torrent, which was soon flowing in one door and out of the other at great speed. A long and embarrassing episode is cut short by the news that ultimately we suffered the humiliation and indignity of being towed out by an American Willys Jeep. Fortunately, and to the great credit of British engineering and workmanship, we suffered no damage at all, despite nearly an hour's immersion.

We soon had to leave Van, as Richard had a meeting to attend in Ankara. Another all-night drive was needed to get back in time - 800 miles straight through over bad Turkish roads in twenty-four hours. From Ankara we travelled along the fast and very dangerous highway to Istanbul - being the busiest road in the country, it is liberally sprinkled with smashed-up vehicles, and in our six-hour drive we saw one ghastly crash involving a long-distance coach, and many near misses. The Turks are not the world's most careful drivers.

We had a mere half day in Istanbul before the long drive home began. We decided to cover the ground quickly again, and got back in about two days. But the story doesn't quite end there; three weeks after my return, when I was just settling back into Land Registration again, I was struck down in my prime by Infective Hepatitis, a liver infection brought on by unclean fruit and vegetables and impure water. I was in Isolation Hospital for six weeks, and away for three months in all: how my office must have regretted giving me all that leave at once!

B.A.E.M.

FROM OUR MEMBERS' NOTEBOOKS

In a Garden at Shoreham

There had been a long dry spell of weather when, on Sept. 18th at about 16.00 hours, a shower of rain came down. And what a commotion it caused! First four Blackbirds and a Song Thrush tried to have a bath in some plants of Oxalis and Crosswort, each bird trying to keep the others off. Then more Blackbirds arrived and still more until there were 12 bathing all over the wet lawn, in the Oxalis and the Crosswort, and in a very small puddle on the paving and one even tried to bath in a huge plant of Hosta where it quite disappeared among the leaves. Even a Bluetit joined in the orgy trying to bath on the wet leaves of a rose hush. Then the shower stopped and it was all over, most of the birds flying away.

E.F.

Behaviour Note - Blackbird bathing in wet grass:

On April 10th 1969, a female Blackbird was seen to bathe several times in succession by leaning its breast against a grass bank covered in dew and at the same time flapping its wings. The breast feathers were held loosely and the action produced a form of water bathing. (This was seen at Hazelcroft, Shoreham on bank bordering the lawn.)

C.M.V.

Mimicry by Starling:

On September 28th 1969 one was twice heard (at Northcourt Hotel, Shelley Road, Worthing) giving an excellent imitation of the yaffle or laughing 'QUEEE, QUEEE, QUEEE' notes of a Green Woodpecker.

C.M.V.

Common/Arctic Tern:

3 flying E. December 22nd. My reference books show nothing of comparable date. Living right opposite the sea as I do I make a regular practice of sweeping the sea with my glasses several times a day. I did this on December 22nd at 16.00 hours, visibility good, binocs 12 x 60. Far in the west, I saw a bird which struck me immediately by its light and buoyant flight as different from the gulls whose flight seemed cumbersome in comparison. I kept my glasses on the bird and soon saw that there were two others following it, at distances of perhaps 30 to 40 yards. They passed me going east. I could not see bill colour but narrow wings, dark head and flight characteristics, swooping down to the surface of the sea etc. left me in no doubt that they were Terns. I hope that others believe! Nearest distance out at sea 300 to 400 yards.

F.S.

Kestrel Killing Starling:

On February 25th at Mill Hill, a female Kestrel swooped down into a small flock of Starlings in the corner of a field then flew off with one for about 100 yards to a bank at the edge of the field where she started to eat it. When she had had a good feed I disturbed her to see what she would do. She flew off with the remains for about another 100 yards into the water-meadows where her mate came to her. She voiced her annoyance to him then started to eat her fill again so I left them.

E.F.

"Wally" :

A Water Rail, which we christened "Wally", arrived in our (Hove) garden in the first week of January and did not leave until March 19/20. We had had one for a few days last winter, and like to think it was the same one!

Like the ones in the gardens of Mr. Holman and Mrs. Sylvester, "Wally" became distinctly tame, and came regularly for 'Swoop' He loved the pond and we caught him pulling a large goldfish out by the tail, but it proved too heavy and he dropped it on the partially iced surface. However he was determined to have his catch, and had to be chased off before a rather shocked goldfish could be restored to the water.

He had a narrow escape from a cat which emerged suddenly from some bamboos, but managed to fly over a high fence, returning undeterred after about 20 minutes. On one unforgettable afternoon after a fall of snow he came on to the lounge window sill and I hardly dared to breathe for 12 minutes.

The extensive shrubs and bamboos near the pond undoubtedly contributed to the length of his stay.

M.C.

White Gull at Widewater:

On November 13th afternoon a white gull about the size of the Black-headed Gull, with blackish head, but not all over, and black bill and black legs was seen feeding. The wings had black spots but no black marks on the tail. Could this have been an immature Ivory Gull?

F.J.F.

Great Black-backed Gull with a crab in its bill:

An immature gull which by size was judged to be this species was seen resting on the sea opposite the locks at Southwick on Jan. 9th, 1969. A fresh SE wind was blowing and the sea was quite rough. Most gulls present were making short flights but this bird was noticeable for its rigid 'fixed' appearance and through binoculars was seen to have something in its bill. It was about 50 yards offshore and as I got level with it I could see that the object in its bill was a medium sized crab. One claw, which projected upwards, was larger than the bird's bill. Unfortunately, almost at once, it was forced to fly by another gull flying down towards it. As it flew towards Portslade a small leg was seen projecting on the same side as the claw and two legs projected on the other side. The curious stiff-necked appearance suggested that the other claw might be down the bird's throat. It flew a considerable distance towards Portslade or beyond and I was not able to see it again.

C.M.V.

Egyptian Vulture at Patcham:

News that an Egyptian Vulture had been seen sitting around on Patcham rooftops in early November caused a sceptical eyebrow to be raised, but although a first visit failed to find it, a helpful

phone call from Mr. Mike Dawson proved more fruitful and the bird was observed down to 20 yards, when all the details of its bright yellow face and bill framed in a ruff of elevated feathers, flesh coloured legs, and dingy white plumage with black primaries, were readily seen. It obliged by breaking into flight when the black wing tips and wedge-tail were better seen. It attracted quite a lot of attention during its stay, (although the landlord of a pub on which it sometimes perched was fearful for the safety of his small dog!) and its increasingly dejected appearance, when chill rain set in, caused well-wishers to plot its capture, which was finally achieved by means of a tempting spread of 'Kit-e-Kat'!

The bird was found to be, as expected, an escapee, on examination by Mr. David Lang, who took it by car to an aviary near Chichester, where it was last heard to be doing well.

C.F.H.

Starling Roost:

A vast roost of Starlings in the Lancing College/ Applesham farm area early in the year. I have no idea of the size - countless thousands. Flock after flock could be seen streaming over the ridge of Mill Hill and the Sanctuary towards the roost from the direction of Brighton each evening. It really was most impressive.

A.B.W.

Possible Breeding of Ringed Plover at Portslade:

Three birds seen "somewhere on Portslade Beach", April 3, two behaving as pair on breeding territory. 'Male' ran about 20 yards and then stood motionless in a conspicuous place on top of the shingle. 'Female' then crept, crouching low, in a series of short runs and settled down in a depression near the top of a finer shingle ridge, the head just visible. It remained there when I left about 15 minutes later. Bearings were noted and place where I stood marked. On April 4 bird present in the same depression (scrape?) when I arrived and 'male' again stood in conspicuous position. When disturbed by people walking on beach, I examined the depression, which was empty. Another pair were found about 50 yards away. On April 27 three birds in same area were all adults. The depression had gone, presumably as a result of a high tide.

C.M.V.

NOTE: On the same, or an adjoining beach on July 4, Mr. H. W. Hiscoke saw an adult pair with two young running, and on July 25 all four were seen on the wing. This would seem to confirm breeding. (Ed.)

ALBINISM

Several instances of Albinism were observed during the year.

Jackdaw: Buckingham Park area. Large whitish area on the side of the head below the eye. Back of neck and wing coverts off-white, under tail-coverts mainly off-white. White spot on front of neck. A very attractive bird.

Blackbird: four birds are described, of which the most conspicuous was as follows :- adult male in Beach House, Worthing. To the naked eye it could easily be thought to be all white. Through binoculars it showed a black spot in the centre of the lower breast, black centre tail feathers, and some grey spots on the mantle. Otherwise its plumage was about the cleanest white I have ever seen. The bill was bright yellow and the eye dark.

Starling: Flood Arch area, Sept. 15. A very conspicuous bird, having an all-white tail and under tailcoverts. The rest of the plumage was pale slate grey speckled with white. Two more birds were seen at Worthing with much less white on them.

House Sparrow: Worthing, July 15. Back, rump & upper tail coverts were all 'soft dove grey'. The centre tail feathers were pale grey, and the other tail feathers became progressively paler until the outer pair, which were almost pure white except for the outer webs which showed a narrow black line. Two more birds of this species were seen with much less white on them.

(The above condensed from very full notes by C.M.V.)

Swallow: this bird was pure white, and was seen by Mrs. Farmer in a flock of about 200 Swallows and a few House Martins flying along the west side of Mill Hill. Two pure white Swallows were seen by the late C. H. Grigg at Steyning several years ago, and two were seen by the writer at Cowfold about three years ago.

Carrion Crow: bird with white head seen at Beeding.

Mallard: f. with broad white band round neck and broad white

patches on side seen by Mr. F. Severs.

Mr. Twort is still visited by partial albino Blackbird and Starling.

T.P.

SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1969

Saturday, January 11th:

Ferring Beach with Mr. F.J. Forbes.

Torrential rain caused this to be abandoned, only Mr. Bristow turning up at the meeting-place.

Saturday February 15th:

East Head with Mr. R. E. Goddard.

During a cold spell about 30 members of the Shoreham and Sussex Ornithological Societies visited East Head. At the start, there was a remarkably close view of a Golden Plover on the sand dunes and the walk out to the Head provided views of the usual waders including the Sanderling, a winter speciality of the area.

In Chichester Harbour there were 11 Goldeneye, including 3 males, 2 male Red-breasted Mergansers, 9 Eider, including 2 males, 4 Great Crested Grebes and about 300 Brent Geese.

Sunday, March 2nd :

Pagham East Side with Dr. J. Stafford.

On March 2nd, a party of some twenty of our members met at Pagham. It was a cold grey day with few birds to be seen. However good views were had of several common birds at close range; the best of the day was a flight view of two White-fronted Geese.

For beginners the close views of Tufted Duck, Coot and Little Grebe were helpful as also were similar views of Grey Plover, Dunlin and Rock and Meadow Pipits.

A search of the reedbed failed to locate a reported Bearded Tit.

Saturday, August 23rd:

Thorney Island with Mr. T. Palmer and Mr. C.F. Helyer

A distinctly cold start, with NNW wind and a traffic jam conspiring to discourage or delay attendance. Nevertheless, 21

members came under starter's orders, and it was pleasant to see six young faces amongst the more mature ones. Initially, we proceeded to the NE shore, where, on a lowish tide and in clear light, good views were obtained of Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Oystercatcher, etc. Crossing the fields to the Little Deep, 3 or 4 Green Sandpipers were put up, and a Snipe and Ruff were also seen. Several Wheatear, a Kestrel and two Whinchat were noted en route. Returning to the cars, lunch was eaten in a sunny interlude, and then the party moved to the NW area where a female Garganey was identified on the Deep, several Little Tern watched catching small fish, and a Lesser Whitethroat observed in the bushes near the shore.

Sunday, September 14th:

Shoreham Sanctuary with Dr. B. A. Watson assisted by Brian Short.

The weather was cold but fine, and about a dozen members attended. Mist-netting was demonstrated and a good and varied catch of 25 birds of 13 species resulted, comprising:

Great Tit	1	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Blue Tit	3	Blackcap	1
Wren	2	Chiffchaff	3
Song Thrush	3	Dunnock	1
Blackbird	5	Bullfinch	1
Robin	2	Yellow Hammer	1
Reed Warbler	1		

The birds were weighed and measured (the Wrens weighed 12.4 and 11.0 grammes and the Chiffchaffs 9.1, 6.8 and 7.3 grammes, distinctly less than the Wrens.) Many birds were moulting, and details were recorded for the B.T.O. Molt Enquiry.

Saturday, October 11th:

Steyning Old Railway with Mr. C. E. Messer.

Sixteen members turned up for the walk along the old railway tracks to the river. Though rather misty at first, it began to clear by midday.

Goldfinch and Linnet flocks were seen all along the track, and Meadow pipits were also very numerous. There were about six Herons and four Snipe present on the marsh and one Water Rail running along the side of a ditch. No Mallard or Redshank were seen owing to the very dry condition of the marsh. Down by the river we saw a resident pair of Kestrels and a Grey Wagtail. A

couple of the members just caught a glimpse of a Green Woodpecker and on the return journey one or two Jays were heard. All were agreed it was a very pleasant morning's walk.

Sunday, November 16th:

Chichester Gravel-pits with Mr.B.Metcalf.

Eight people attended during a morning of continuous rain. Patience and fortitude brought due reward and by early afternoon the weather cleared sufficiently to enable a round of the pits to be made.

At the Whyke Pits there was good viewing of Great Crested Grebes, Herons, Mallard, Gadwall, Tufted Duck and Pochard, while for a bonus a drake Wigeon and a Long-tailed Duck were seen.

A quick look at the Portfield Pit resulted in distant Shoveler and Teal, with close views of Green Sandpipers when a further downpour drove all to cover and terminated the outing.

Small birds of interest were less in evidence, but Bullfinches, Reed Buntings and briefly a Chiffchaff were noted.

LIST OF LECTURES 1969

Jan.25th	"Birds of the Rost Group" (Lofoten Isles)	...	... Mr.S.Cerely
Feb.22nd	"Operation Osprey" "After the Torrey Canyon" "The Snowy Owls of Shetland" "Sea Swallows"	...	... R.S.P.B.Films
Mar.29th	A.G.M."Some aspects of Conservation" "Ornithology in Sussex"	...	...Mr.R.L.C. Williamson
Sept.24th	"The Mechanics of Bird Flight"	...	...Mr.Alan Mitchell
Oct.29th	"I visited Antarctica" (with Peter Scott)	...	...Miss V.Maxse
Nov.26th	"Birds and Their Homes"	...	...Walter J.C. Murray

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Receipts and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December 1969

Receipts:	£. s. d.	Expenditure:	£. s. d.
Bal. in hand 1.1.69	32. 1. 3.	Subscription. British Birds	6. 10. 0.
Subscriptions		Binding	1. 1. 6.
143 @ 10/-		Affiliation Fees: R.S.P.B.	
16 @ 5/-		B.T.O.	4. 11. 6.
5 @ 7/6d part.		Sanctuary Expenses. Rent	1. 0.
Donations	77. 7. 6.	Lecture Fees and Expenses	26. 1. 0.
Annual Reports..sale	5. 5. 0.	Hire of Hall..5 meetings	5. 0. 0.
Sanctuary sale of keys.	2. 6.	Miscellaneous Expenses	2. 9. 9.
Tea Receipts	10. 6.	Printing Annual Reports	33. 11. 6.
Film Show Receipts	15. 5.	Duplicating	4. 5. 9.
Interest	23. 6. 3.	Stationery	5. 0. 10.
	2. 3. 4.	Postage and Telephone	15. 3. 10.
		Balance in hand 31.12.1969	37. 15. 1.
			<hr/>
	£141. 11. 9.		£141. 11. 9.

Audited and found correct.
(Signed) C.F. Helyer

G. W. Rampton
Hon. Treasurer.

OFFICERS ETC.

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Dr. J. Stafford

Council Members:

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. E. Farmer

Hon. Prog. Secretary: Mr. A. Burstow

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. W. Rampton

Hon. Recorder: Mr. T. Palmer

Report Editor: Mr. C. F. Helyer

plus: Miss C. P. S. Griffiths, Messrs. H. Hiscoke and
Miss C. M. Biggs B.A.E. Marr

Field Committee: Miss C. P. S. Griffiths
Messrs. A. Burstow and R. E. McKechnie
and T. Palmer.

Sanctuary Committee: Messrs. A. Burstow, D. McKechnie,
T. Palmer, F. J. Forbes

Member kindly responsible for distribution of "British Birds" etc.

Mr. T. Palmer

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP LIST 1969

Mrs. M. Anderson	38 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mr. P. Barber	6 Chancton View Road, W.Worthing
Miss Barr	17 Roman Road, Steyning
Miss H. Bartlett	"Chancton" The Street, Old Shoreham
Mr. P. J. Belman	48, Overhill Gardens, Brighton, 6
Mr. J. Berlin	280 Hangleton Way, Hove, 4
Capt. J. & the Misses C.M. & J. Biggs	7 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mr. K. Bolingbroke	24 Cornwall Gardens, Brighton 6
Mrs. M. F. Brown	4 Mill Hill Gardens, Shoreham
Mr. G. Brown	15 Roman Road, Steyning
Miss M. Bull	44 King's Stone Avenue, Steyning
Mr. A. Burstow	27 Erringham Road, Shoreham
Mr. P. Carey	44 Greenways, Shoreham
Miss J. E. Cater	73 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham
Mrs. M. E. Chandler	"Four Winds" Church Close, N. Lancing
Mrs. O. M. Chapman	42 Downland Drive, Hove 4
Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Childs	Cobbers, 6 Bennett Avenue, Hove 4

Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Clark	26 Dawn Crescent, Beeding, Steypning
Mr. B. R. Clay	11 Roman Road, Steypning
Mr. P. J. Clay	11 Roman Road, Steypning
Mr. & Mrs. Cole	Barn End, 27 Amberley Drive Goring-on-Sea.
Miss E. M. Coombs	11 St. James Avenue, N. Lancing
Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Cooper	38 Hurst Road, Hassocks
Mrs. R. P. Cordero	Rohan Lodge, Wadhurst Park, Wadhurst, Sussex
Mr. N. J. Cox	64 Poultern Lane, Worthing
Miss B. Crook	West House, Southover, Nr. Lewes
Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Davison	18 Buci Crescent, Southwick BN4 6LB
Mr. M. J. Dawson	6 Upper Winfield Avenue, Brighton 6
Messrs. G. D. P. & J. Dixon	Lloyds Bank Flat, 8 Shore Rd. West Wittering
Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Dumbrell	6 Southdown Ave. Brighton 6
Mrs. E. Edwards	87 Upper Brighton Road, Worthing
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Evans	19 Penlands Way, Steypning BN4 3PN
Mrs. E. Farmer	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham

Lady Hazel Fish	Hurst Lodge, Sandgate Lane, Storrington
Miss O' Forbes	13 Roman Road, Steyning
Mr. F. J. Forbes	16 Chesswood Road, Worthing
Mr. B. Forbes	16 Chesswood Road, Worthing
Dr. D. Gibson	Restynge, Hillside Walk, Heath Common, Storrington
Mrs. M. Gillett	10 Tongdean Avenue, Hove 4
Miss P. Gillett	95 Windfield, Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey
Messrs. A. & M.J. Goddard	34 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Goddard	Birch Spinney, Hazelwood Close, Storrington
Mrs. D. L. Glibbery	2 Clyde Terrace, Steyning, BN4 3YN
Mr. R. Granshaw	Tenants' Hill Farm, 14 Longlands, Worthing
Miss C. P. S. Griffiths	9 Llandaff Court, Downview Rd. Worthing
Mrs. R. D. Griffiths	36 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mr. & Mrs. C. Hale	"Lamont" 23 Offington Drive, Worthing
Mr. R. Hamlyn	Stumblefield, Folders Lane, Burgess Hill
Miss V. Hay-Gammell	Restynge, Hillside Walk, Heath Common, Storrington.
Miss M. Heath	152 Orchard Street, Chichester
Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Helyer	55 Bramble Rise, Westdene, Brighton, BN1 5GE

Mr. H. Hiscoke	34 Manor Hall Road, Southwick
Dr. M. Hollings	20 Hillside Avenue, Worthing
Mr. A. E. Holman	Oakmere, Mill Road, West Chiltington
Miss S. Honeker	114 Dominion Road, Worthing
Mrs. M. A. Hopkins	55 Lindum Road, Worthing
Miss P. Hughes	12 Hawkins Close, Shoreham
Mrs. O. M. Hunt	24a Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham- by-Sea.
Mrs. R. J. Hunt	2 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea
Mr. R. Ives	9, Field Close, N. Lancing
Mr. & Mrs. Jenking	Ashcroft, Maudlyn Park Way, Steyning
Mrs. R. W. P. Johnson	23 Hurst Road, Hassocks
The Misses Joseph	Under Round Hill, Lains Rd. Steyning
Mr. R. Kelly	35 Stapley Road, Hove 4
Mr. C. Knight	The Kennels, Clappers Lane, Fulking, Sussex
Mr. & Mrs. Lacey	75 Coombe Road, Steyning
Miss H. Landman	Nurses Home, St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.
Mr. J. Lewis	21 Erringham Road, Shoreham
Miss N. Lewarne	Flat 7 Riverside House, High Street, Shoreham
Mr. C. Lowmass	1 Sherborne Road, Hove BV3 8BA

Miss V. Lyon	Hurstpierpoint College Junior School, Hassocks.
Mr. J. R. Mainstone	147 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham
Mr. B. A. E. Marr	59 The Green, Southwick
Mr. D. & Miss M. McKechnie	73 Connaught Avenue, Shoreham
Messrs. R.P. & M.I.J. Meadows,	Ashtrees, Aldingbourne, Chichester
Mr. C. E. Messer	125 Cokeham Lane, Lancing
Mr. B. Metcalfe	18 Newham Lane, Steyning
Miss T. J. Mockett (J)	45 Bramble Rise, Brighton BN1 5GE
Miss J. Monks	Nurses Home, St. Richard's Hosp. Chichester
Mrs. Morrison-Scott	4 Castle Way, Steyning
Mr. J. Newnham	The Limes, 116 Upper Brighton Rd. Worthing
Miss M. Ormerod	53 Terrines Avenue, Worthing
Mrs. E. Ottley	33 Middleton Avenue, Hove
Mr. V. Paris	Bartons, Little Drove, Steyning
Mr. T. Palmer	11 Whitelot Way, Southwick BN4 4YF
Miss M. A. Pankhurst	6, Church Close, N. Lancing
Miss S. Pargeter	34 Old Shoreham Road, Hove
Miss J. Parry	35 Woodlands Drive, Hove 4

Miss J. Partridge	Riverways, Riverside Road, Shoreham
Mr. R. E. Peal	24 Creighton Avenue, London, N.10
Mr. A. W. Perrett	8 Kelso Close, West Worthing
Mr. R. Phillips	19 Chester Avenue, Wellan Park, Lancing
Mrs. B. Philpot	6 Park Road, Shoreham
Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Rampton	34 Croft Avenue, Southwick BN4 4AB
Mr. & Mrs. Ray	Marlows, Mill Hill, Shoreham
Miss F. J. Reed	Nurses Home, St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester
Mrs. B. Reeve	Hoelain, Hoe Court, North Lancing
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Reeves	85, Roedean Road, Worthing
Mr. H. Richardson	35 Mill Lane, Shoreham
Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Rees	"Garth" 25 West Drive, Ferring, Worthing
Mrs. Roe	3 The Avenue, Shoreham
Miss Rogers	157 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham
Mr. & Mrs. Ruscoe	Annington Old Farmhouse, Botolphs, Steyning
Mr. D. Sadler	27 Stapley Road, Hove, 4
Mr. L. E. Savage	65 Cranmer Avenue, Hove 4
Mr. F. Severs	5 Beach Road, Shoreham Beach
Mr. B. J. Short	28 Brangwyn Crescent, Brighton BN1 8XJ

Mr. H. C. P. Smail	6, Lansdowne Close, W. Worthing
Mrs. J. B. Smith	3 Longcroft, Southdown Road, Shoreham
Mrs. N. Smith	3 St. Mary's Close, Shoreham
Dr. & Mrs. J. Stafford	Uplands, Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mr. D. Stone	69 The Drive, Shoreham
Mrs. & Miss Stringfellow	7 Queensway, Horsham
Mr. A. Todd	Rosen Cottage, Cuckfield, Hayward's Heath
Miss E. Theobald	1 Saxon Road, Steyning
Miss M. Theobald	1 Saxon Road, Steyning
Messrs. J. E. S. & P. J. Thompson	77 Nutley Crescent, Goring-on-Sea.
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Twort	63 The Green, Southwick
Dr. Francis Varley	222 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham
Mr. & Mrs. Vegrass	64 Benfield Way, Portslade
Mr. C. M. Veysey	Hazlecroft, The Avenue, Shoreham
Mr. S. Wakeham	52, Blacksmith Crescent, Sompting
Dr. & Mrs. B. Watson	83 Buckingham Road, Shoreham
Miss G. Watts	15 Oxford Road, Worthing
Mr. & Mrs. Weatherhead	135 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham
Mr. S. R. G. Whetham	56 Crescent Road, Burgess Hill
Miss V. S. White	30 Havelock Road, Brighton 6
Mr. & Mrs. G. N. Wildish	Westminster Bank House, Market Square, Petworth
Mr. & Mrs. Williams	Hazelhurst Farm, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst
Mr. P. S. Wilmshurst	12 Ashcroft Close, Shoreham
Miss W. M. Woodroffe	17 Hailsham Road, Worthing
Mr. N. W. S. Yonge	Homefields Farm, Bull's Lane, Cowfold
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 1969 = 164	

GENERAL INFORMATION

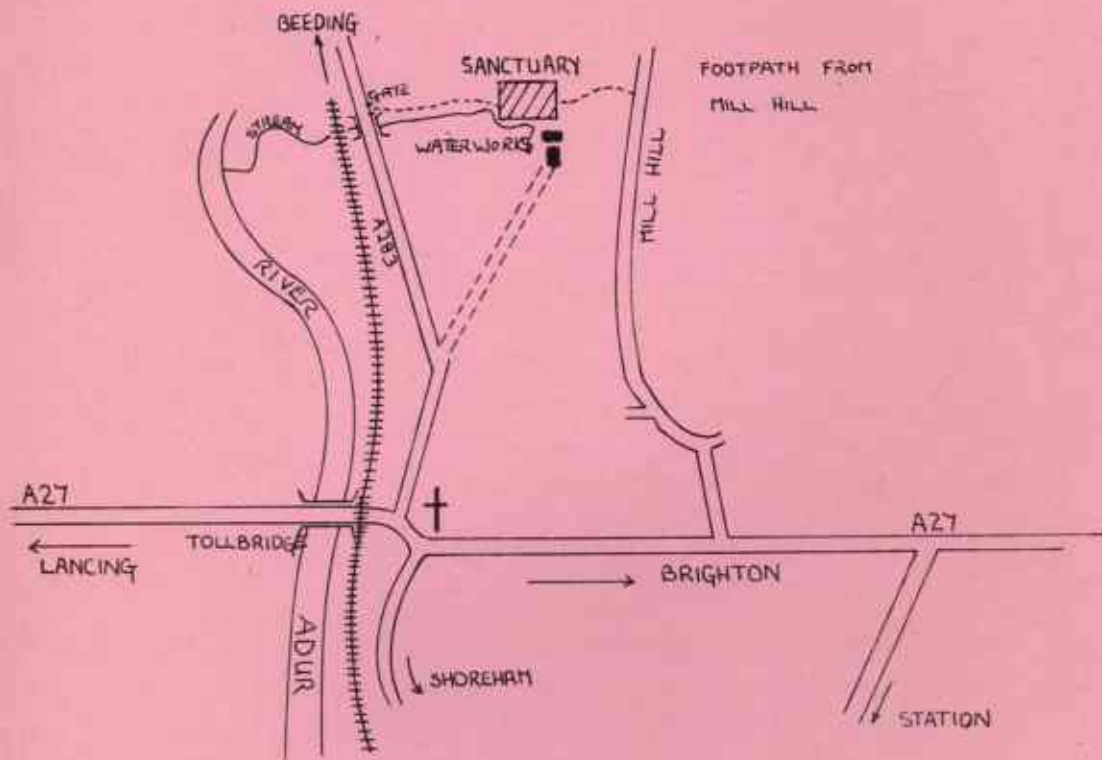
The Shoreham Ornithological Society is affiliated to or is a member of the following bodies :

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and
British Trust for Ornithology.

The membership fee is ten shillings 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.

Extra copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary at Three Shillings each.

SHOREHAM SANCTUARY



Access to the Sanctuary is only through the gate on the Beeding Road, or steeply down from Mill Hill. There is NO access by the Waterworks Road.