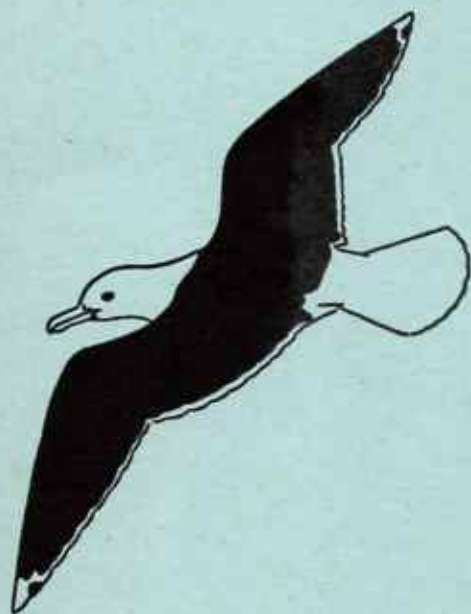


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Eighteenth Annual Report



for the Year 1970

PRICE:

TWENTY PENCE

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1970

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Editorial Notes by C.F.H.	1
Sanctuary Report for 1970 by J.A.N.	3
Ringing Report and Recoveries by J.A.N.	6
Notable Birds of the Area by T.P.	8
Birds around Shoreham by T.P.	20
Members' Records - Notice	21
Ringed Plovers at Portslade by H.W.H.	21
Arrivals and Departures of Migrants by T.P.	23
Bird-watching for the Disabled by R.E.G.	25
Garden Birds for 1970	27
Adventures with Owls by B.A.E.M.	28
House Martins breeding at West Chiltonington by A.E.H. & Mrs.H.	32
From our Members' Notebooks	34
Visit to Cap Gris Nez by B.F.	37
Summaries of Field Outings 1970	39
Receipts & Expenditure Account 1970	41
List of Lectures 1970	42
Officers in 1970	43
List of Members 1970	44
General Information	52

=====

EDITORIAL NOTES

Thanks to the postal strike, this year's Report will reach our members some weeks after the Annual General Meeting, when we normally hope to start distribution - the main hold-up being the finalisation of the year's records and of the Sanctuary and Ringing Reports, which Mr John Newnham has been wrestling with in far-off Edinburgh.

Fortunately there have been no signs of strikes or workings-to-rule amongst the birds (although individual species like Hawfinch and Long-eared Owl continue to boycott the Editorial binoculars!) The year's records themselves include no real rarities, but it was pleasant to include Bewick's Swan, Grey Phalarope and Pomarine Skua after some years' absence. The well-observed breeding success of the Ringed Plover at the local power station, and the further occurrence of the Water Rail as a garden winter visitor are of particular interest, while the increased sightings of Kingfishers,

Woodpeckers and Long-tailed Tits are encouraging evidence of the final recovery of these species from their low numbers consequent to the severe winter of 1962/3.

Our membership continues at much the same level as the past few years, and with last year's officers continuing at their posts, the only Committee change has been the replacement of Mr Tony Marr, heavily committed elsewhere, by Mr Colin Messer, a regular contributor to our records.

This year's account of his travels by Mr Marr takes us to Finland, where those exciting birds the owls of the northern forests had to be strenuously sought for, whilst by contrast Mr Eric Goddard shows that even when one's activities are restricted by illness, there are still many rewards to be gained closer at home and with the minimum of exercise. Mr Bernard Forbes' chronicle of his visit to Cap Gris Nez may well serve to focus attention on the nearest part of the Continent instead of the Danube or Guadalquivir - he and his father certainly had a very successful four days.

At home, Mr and Mrs Holman's patient observations of their nesting House Martins illustrate the pleasure to be had from the birds of one's own garden, and the feature "From our Members' Notebooks", introduced last year, picks out some of the more interesting records submitted by members and their friends.

For our indoor entertainment, Miss Catherine Biggs and Mr Rampton once again provided a good variety of lectures and films, ranging from the sea-bird islands of Skokholm and Grassholm to a Surrey oakwood. The R.S.P.B. films attracted their usual full and appreciative house at Shoreham Town Hall - one could just hope that the black-out arrangements might one day be improved, especially as we invariably pick a sunny afternoon for this event!

The weather was rather better this year for our field outings, once more in the capable hands of Mr Burstow, and only the Sanctuary meeting of April 12th was abandoned through rain.

The Society is indebted to Mrs Farmer for continuing to shoulder the task of Secretary - the key post in any society - and we record our grateful thanks to the officers already

mentioned for their work on our behalf; to Mr Tom Palmer for his continuing patient compilation of the records which are the main justification for this Report; and to the Field and Sanctuary Committees for their unsung efforts, as also to the faithful band of helpers with refreshments at Huntingdon Hall and with the duplicating and distribution of notices.

SANCTUARY REPORT 1970

The spring of 1970 saw the completion and opening of the new Adur bridge with its network of slip roads running close to the sanctuary. Although this has completely changed the surrounding landscape and is responsible for a continual drone of traffic, it is obviously having very little effect on the bird life of the copse. In the summer the sanctuary committee gave the ringing hut a new lease of life by strengthening the floor and repairing the side flap. Later in the year building of the new waterworks pumping station began on the lawn adjacent to the willow and reed beds but caused little disturbance to the birds in the copse.

Throughout the year the sanctuary was visited on 93 occasions and the following is a chronological account of the bird life taken from entries in the daily log.

WINTER

A cold spell at the beginning of the year was responsible for the presence of up to 14 Snipe on the main stream. However very little else was about until the weather became milder at the beginning of February when on the 2nd 3 Goldcrests were seen in the copse. Apart from the Goldcrests, which remained until April, the copse harboured only a few passerines with no visiting flocks of Finches or parties of Tits, whereas in the fields, birds were more numerous. Also on Feb. 2nd 4 male Stonechats were seen and the first record of winter thrushes and duck in the fields. The Redwings had increased to 40+ by the 18th Feb. and slowly decreased until they eventually disappeared on Mar. 18th whilst the Fieldfares only reached a total of 8 on 21st Feb. and weren't seen after Mar. 1st Ducks were always present in the dykes during these winter months with a max. of 9 Mallard and 8 Teal on 18th Feb. Other birds using the meadows as either roosting or feeding grounds included c60 Lapwing, c100 Black-headed Gulls, 10 Common Gulls and c100 Wood Pigeons.

SPRING

The first Chiff-chaff was seen on Mar. 1st this was a very early date and highly suggestive that this bird had wintered in the area. The next chiffs to be recorded were, one on Mar. 18th, two on the 22nd, and then daily with a max. of c12 on April 8th. On this day the first Willow Warbler was heard; they continued to arrive in small numbers until Apr. 18th when c20 were present increasing to 60+ by the 20th. A male Blackcap was also seen on this date. Unfortunately there was a gap in the records between April 20th and May 23rd, so the best part of the Spring was missed and the passage of the other migrants was not observed.

Other interesting birds seen in the copse during the early part of the Spring included Kingfishers on 21-31st Mar. and on the 10th April, a Coal Tit on 14th April, and a male Firecrest on 27-28th March.

SUMMER

As usual the Mistle Thrush was the first to start nesting; one pair was already incubating 3 eggs on Mar. 31st and by Apr. 8th two pairs both had 4 eggs. The other resident birds of the copse soon followed and had a successful season. A variety of summer visitors also nested; these included 5 pairs of Reed Warblers, and at least one pair of Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Chiff-chaff, Swallow, and Turtle Dove. In the fields several larks and pipits bred, whilst in the dykes 4 pairs of Sedge Warblers, 3 of Reed Buntings, 2 of Moorhens and a pair of Yellow Wagtails raised young. On the hillside buntings, finches and a pair of Whitethroat nested. Two Grasshopper Warblers were reeling throughout June and a female Stonechat was seen carrying food, so both these species may also have bred in the vicinity.

AUTUMN

The first sign of migration occurred on July 23rd when the number of Willow Warblers increased from half a dozen to 15, and the first Whinchat was seen. The Willow Warblers continued to pass through in reasonable numbers in August with a max. of c25 on the 15th Aug., then diminishing in September with the last one eventually being recorded on Sept. 21st. Chiff-chaffs didn't start passing through until 29th Aug. with the bulk of the passage occurring in the last week of Sept. and the first week of Oct. By the end of Aug. the breeding Reed and Sedge Warblers had departed and were replaced by up to 4 passage birds daily until the last

Sedge was seen on 25th September and the last Reed on the 3rd Oct. Several "Sylvia" warblers usually pass through the copse in the autumn and feed on the large elderberry crop; 1970 was no exception with 20 Garden Warblers and 26 Lesser Whitethroats trapped between 15th Aug. and 19th Sept. and 45 Blackcaps trapped in Sept. Chats were more numerous than usual, the first Whinchat present on 23rd July, one on the 2nd Aug. and then up to 6 daily between 27th Aug - 3rd Oct., likewise Redstarts were present on at least 8 days in September. The massive movement of hirundines this autumn began on 29th Aug. when a minimum of 200 Swallows and 700 House Martins passed over. Small numbers passed through at the beginning of September, but on the 19th, when the winds changed from the westerly quarter to south easterlies, many thousands of House Martins and Swallows, with a few Sand Martins, passed eastwards. This passage continued on a much smaller scale and with a predominance of House Martins through until 10th Oct. During the summer the main dyke was dredged and the mud left on the side attracted several waders; one or two Common Sandpipers and Redshank were present daily between 23rd July and 29th Aug.; a Snipe was seen on 13th Aug.; and some Curlew and Greenshank were recorded on a few days in September.

Several birds of interest were recorded during this period; Kingfishers on most days in Sept., a Pied Flycatcher on 5th Sept. a Ring Ouzel and Grasshopper Warbler on 13th Sept. a few Tree Pipits on the 19th, a late Swift on 21st Sept., and a Buzzard on the 29th Sept.

WINTER

Unfortunately the sanctuary was only visited on 3 occasions between Oct. 10th and the end of the year, however, one of these days was noteworthy, this being the 22nd Dec. On this day amongst the many birds present were, a Water Rail, a Jack Snipe, a Tawny Owl at the roost, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, c.30 Long-tailed Tits, a Tree Creeper and a Stonechat; quite an interesting selection for the sanctuary.

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

J.A.N.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1970

1970 was a good year for ringing in this area with 2034 birds of 48 species ringed. Nearly three quarters of the total were trapped in the society's bird sanctuary during the summer and autumn months by Michael Goddard and myself. Dr. A.B. Watson and Phillip Belman, also ringing in the sanctuary, accounted for 79 and 54 respectively, Brian Short totalled 452 and Dr. J. Stafford made up the grand total with 3 blackbirds.

During the year two ringers left the area: in August Michael Goddard embarked upon a V.S.O. course in Africa, and Phillip Belman, having recently returned from Spain, moved to Hampshire. However our quota is well maintained by Brian Short's increase in activity at Patcham, by Dick Granshaw starting at Worthing and by Colin Messer's and Brian Clay's continued enthusiasm at the sanctuary.

There were three species added to our ever growing list of ringed birds, a Common Sandpiper, a Tree Pipit and a Grasshopper Warbler, all trapped at the Sanctuary during the autumn migration.

We continued gathering data for the B.T.O's Acrocephalus Enquiry at the sanctuary: 71 Reed Warblers were handled of which four were ringed back in 1967.

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

Common Sandpiper.....	1	Spotted Flycatcher.....	2
Black HD. Gull.....	1	Whinchat.....	1
Collared Dove.....	1	Redstart.....	3
Turtle Dove.....	2	Robin.....	37
Cuckoo.....	1	Blackbird.....	101
Tawny Owl.....	1	Song Thrush.....	51
Kingfisher.....	2	Mistle Thrush.....	1
Sand Martin.....	1	Willow Tit.....	3
Swallow.....	57	Coal Tit.....	4
House Martin.....	218	Blue Tit.....	154
Tree Pipit.....	1	Great Tit.....	76
Wren.....	43	Corn Bunting.....	33
Duncock.....	75	Yellow Bunting.....	29
Grasshopper Warbler.....	1	Reed Bunting.....	1
Sedge Warbler.....	22	Chaffinch.....	30
Reed Warbler.....	65	Greenfinch.....	187

Garden Warbler.....	25	Goldfinch.....	166
Blackcap.....	53	Linnet.....	53
Whitethroat.....	20	Bullfinch.....	38
Lesser Whitethroat.....	40	House Sparrow.....	1
Willow Warbler.....	122	Tree Sparrow.....	3
Chiffchaff.....	82	Starling.....	160
Goldcrest.....	12	+ assortment of 54 P.J.B.)	
Pied Flycatcher.....	1	including Long tailed Tit	
		and Tree Creeper	

FOREIGN RECOVERIES

Reed Warbler.....	Ringed 1st Winter.....	3-7-63	M.G.
	Recaptured Bilbao Spain....	12-10-69	
Goldfinch.....	Ringed juvenile.....	28-8-69	M.G. & J.N.
	Dead. Champagnac Jonzac France.	15-2-70	

These show normal wintering quarters for these species -
the Reed Warbler was 6 years old, too.

BRITISH RECOVERIES

Blue Tit.....	Ringed 1st year. Patcham.....	20-12-69	B.S.
	Dead. Tunbridge Wells - 23 miles N.E.		
Starling.....	Ringed 1st year. fem.....	15-2-70	A.B.W.
	Dead. Battle...32 miles E.N.E.....	3-4-70	
Willow Warbler..	Ringed full grown.....	31-8-68	MG & JN
	Control..Frampton-on-Severn 110ml.N.W.	17-4-70	
Willow Warbler..	Ringed..juv. Hyde Cheshire.....	9-8-70	
	Control..Shoreham..200ml.S.S.E.....	15-8-70	MG & JN
Sedge Warbler...	Ringed...juv. Chichester.....	23-7-69	A.B.W.
	Control..Shoreham 23 ml. E.....	23-6-70	MG & JN

+ Many others showing local movements.

Ringers initials:	A.B.W.	Dr.A.B.Watson
	M.G.	Michael Goddard
	J.N.	John Newnham
	B.S.	Brian Short

J.A.N.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1970

This feature is based on records sent in by the following observers:- Miss M.Bull, Mrs.E.M.Edwards, Mrs.E.Farmer, Mrs.M.Ray, Mrs.B.R.Reeve, Messrs. Ian Bestwick, W.G.Brown, per H.W.E., G.Brown, Brian R.Clay, Philip J. Clay, C.F. Helyer, H.W.Hiscoke, A.E.Holman, Richard Ives, D.McKechnie, C.E.Messer, T.Palmer, F.Severs, H.Sturman, J.M.Twort, C.M.Veysey, Dr.J.Stafford, Dr.A.B.Watson, Mr.S.E.Cole and Mr and Mrs. Cyster per Mr.H.C.P.Smail, J.A.Newham, R.E.F.Peal.

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

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

2. Great Northern Diver: 1 offshore Worthing flying E. seen at 20 yds. by R.I. & his father in Jan. 1 flying E. off W.W., Dec. 27.
4. Red-throated Diver: 1 offshore W.W., Oct. 29 and 1 offshore Shm., Dec. 22. 1 oiled, W.W., Dec.29.
Diver Sp.: 3 flying W. offshore Worthing, Dec. 19
5. Great Crested Grebe: up to 3 offshore Worthing on 8 dates in Feb. & March, and 1 there Dec. 28. 1 T.B., Aug.12 & 28. 3 W.W., Dec.29.
6. Red-necked Grebe: 3 T.B., Jan. 1. 1 swimming E. offshore W.W., Jan. 5. 2 offshore Shm. Mar.3, and 1 there Mar.15. 1 offshore Worthing, Mar. 8 in changing plumage.
8. Black-necked Grebe: 1 Br., Sept. 12.

9. Little Grebe: up to 3 Adur on 4 dates throughout year.
1 offshore Shm., Mar.15. 2 Steyning Mill Pond regularly.
2 T.B., Nov.12.
26. Fulmar: 1 flying W. at E.W.B., May 14. 1 pr. Portobello
Sewage Outfall. July 1.
27. Gannet: 2 ad. offshore Worthing, diving, May 15. On six dates
in Oct. 16 more were seen flying W., max 6 on Oct. 15.
28. Cormorant: 1 to 4 Steyning Marshes, Jan. - May. Up to 18
E.W.B. throughout year. 6 O.S.R., Dec. 5.
30. Heron: breeds Wyckham Wood. Up to 7 Airport, Feb. & Mar.
Up to 4 regular, sanc.
45. Mallard: 250 O.S.R., Jan. 11. 1 partial albino Adur, Jan. &
Feb. 60 Airport, Nov. 26., and 100 there Dec. 27.
46. Teal: 600 O.S.R., Jan. 11, 200 there Nov. 24, and up to 60
in Dec. 2 Br.Lagoon, Dec. 27. 5 Sompting Brooks, Dec. 24.
7 Sanct. Mar. 18.
50. Wigeon: 400 O.S.R., Jan. 11, 20 there Nov. 5, 14 on Nov.24
and 15 Dec. 5.
52. Pintail: 1m., 1f. Steyning Marshes, Jan. 31. 6 O.S.R.
Nov. 24. 1 W.W., Dec. 30 & 31. 2 offshore Br., Dec. 26. 1
possibly hybrid, W.W., Dec. 29.
53. Shoveler: 12 O.S.R., Jan. 11.
55. Scaup: 2 Br.Lagoon, Oct. 27., and 1 there Oct. 24.
56. Tufted Duck: 1 W.W., Jan. 14 & 15. 5 Br.Lagoon, Dec. 27.
57. Pochard: 3 Br.Lagoon, Jan. 10. 7 T.B., Dec. 27. 1m., 1f.
Br.Lagoon, Oct. 24.
60. Goldeneye: 1 F.A., Jan. 7. 1 W.W. Jan.13, 14 & 24. 4. T.B.,
Feb. 15, and 3 there Mar. 1. 3 Br. Lagoon, Oct. 28, 3 there
Nov. 9, 13, 24 and 30. 2 imm. Br.Lagoon, Oct. 24.

62. Velvet Scoter: 2 flying E. at W.W., Jan. 1.
64. Common Scoter: up to 7 offshore Worthing flying E., four dates in Mar. 32 offshore E.W.B. flying W., Sept. 21.
60 offshore W.W. flying W., Oct. 15.
67. Eider: 1m. 1f. flying W. seen by R.I. & his father, Jan. 1f. offshore W.W., Nov. 17.
69. Red-breasted Merganser: 3 offshore, Worthing, Jan. 5. 2 prs. there Mar. 22 and 1 pr. flying W. there Apr. 21.
2 W.W., Feb. 25. 5 offshore flying W. Ferring, Nov. 10.
and 3 flying E. there Nov. 16. 3 flying E. at W.W. Dec. 27.
12 offshore Worthing, Dec. 28.
Goose: 2 W.W., flying W., Nov. 17.
73. Shelduck: 2 O.S.R., Jan. 11. Up to 8 W.W. or offshore Jan. to Mar., and 17 offshore there Dec. 27. 1 imm. Worthing flying W., Aug. 16 and 2 ad. & 2 imm. flying W. there Aug. 24. 26 offshore Lancing flying E., Aug. 27.
13 offshore Goring flying W., Nov. 10.
75. Grey Lag Goose: 4 O.S.R., Jan. 11.
76. White-fronted Goose: 1 Goring Seafront, Nov. 5 - very tame, seen at 10 yards.
80. Brent Goose: 30 offshore Ferring flying W., Oct. 16., and 8 there Nov. 8. 16 offshore W.W., flying E., Dec. 27.
82. Canada Goose: 1 E. Worthing flying N.W., May 7.
86. Bewick's Swan: 6 O.S.R. reported by B.R.C. & P.J.C., Dec. 30.
91. Buzzard: 1 Lychpole Hill, Sept. 19. and 1 there Oct. 3.
1 W-E Sanct., Sept. 29.
93. Sparrow Hawk: 1 No Man's Land, Sompting, Dec. 5.

110. Kestrel: 25 reports concerning 28 birds - max- 6 Lychpole Hill, Sept. 19. 1 ad.f. mobbed by a Black-headed Gull persistently, and finally trailed by a single Starling Oct.29.
115. Red-legged Partridge: 6 No Man's Land, Sompting, Jan. 31. and 4 prs. there May 4. 1 Steyning Round Hill, Apr. 11. 40 Lychpole area, Sept. 11 and 100 there Nov. 8.
116. Partridge: 80 Lychpole Hill, Sept. 26, and 120 there Nov. 8.
120. Water Rail: 1 garden at Worthing, seen almost daily by many people from Jan. 1 to Mar. 23. (see special article). This is the fourth report we have had of this species spending prolonged spells in built-up areas in winter. 1 Sompting Brooks, Jan. 5. 1 Coombes, Jan. 13. 1 R.B. Feb. 14. 1 Sanct. Mar., Apr., Dec.
127. Coot: a few Br.Lagoon and Adur, Jan. to Mar.
131. Oystercatcher: 3 offshore Sh. flying E., Jan. 1. 2 offshore Worthing flying E., Jan. 17. 1 beach W.W., Oct. 18, and 1 or 2 offshore there in Dec. Up to 20 Ferring Beach, Oct to Dec.
133. Lapwing: 300 W.W. flying W., Mar. 5. 150 O.S.R., Nov. 23, and 300 there Dec. 5.
134. Ringed Plover: 4 nests, 3 with eggs, Southwick Beach (see special article). Up to 30 Ferring Beach, end of year. Maximum of 100 Adur, Aug. 12. 4 West Worthing Beach Mar.27.
139. Grey Plover: 1 juv. Adur, Sept. 26. 1 Harb., Oct. 18. 3 F.A., Nov. 26. 1 Br.Lagoon, Dec. 27. Up to 7 Ferring Beach, end of year. 4 West Worthing Beach Mar. 27.
140. Golden Plover: 10 O.S.R., Feb. 16., 30 there Feb. 22, some in changing plumage, 50 there on Dec. 5 and 30 on Dec. 23. 30 W.W., flying W., Mar. 5.
143. Turnstone: maximum of 10 Goring & Ferring beaches Oct. to Dec.
145. Snipe: 1 drumming O.S.R., Apr. 7 and 1 drumming there May 16. 60 there Nov. 24. 20 Airport, Nov. 25. 18 Sanct; Dec.29.

147. Jack Snipe: 1 Br.Lagoon Dec. 6, and 2 there Dec. 31 - very tame birds, watched at 40 yds for many minutes.
148. Woodcock: 1 Upper Shoreham Road flying S., Mar. 13. 1 Lancing Ring, flying W., Dec. 28.
150. Curlew: 2 Br.Lagoon Dec. 26. 1 W.W. flying E., Dec.27. 1 Sanct. Mar. 16-25.
151. Whimbrel: 7 offshore Worthing flying W., Apr. 18. 2 there on Apr. 19. 1 flying W., Apr. 27, and 2 there flying E. and calling, May 22. 1 T.B., Aug. 12. 3 C.C. Sept. 12.
155. Bar-tailed Godwit: 11 Goring Beach, Sept. 11. 14 Ferring Beach, Oct. 1. 60 offshore E.Worthing, Nov. 8. 1 with injured leg Br.Lagoon, Dec. 27. 2 Adur, Oct. 29 - reported as very noisy with a "call like maniacal laughter - 'Keh-keh-keh'." 2 West Worthing Beach, July 25.
159. Common Sandpiper: 1 Br.Lagoon, Apr. 18. 3 Adur, Steyning, May 5. 1 W.W. May 10. 1 Br.Lagoon, May 14. 6 C.C., Sept. 19, and 1 there Dec. 21. Up to 4 Br.R.D., in Sept. 1 or 2 F.A., in late Aug. and Sept. 2 Sanct. July 19 - Sept. 29.
161. Redshank: 80 Adur, Jan. 2. 6 Br.Lagoon, Jan. 3. Up to 20 O.S.R., winter months. Up to 100 Adur. Jan-Feb. 4 W.W. all year.
162. Spotted Redshank: 1 Adur, Jan. 2. 2 F.A., Sept. 26. 1 Airport, Sept. & Oct. 1 Hbts. Nov. 25.
165. Greenshank: 1 Sanct. Sept. 8-13.
169. Knot: up to 3 Adur on 5 dates in Aug. & Sept. 4 there on Oct. 14, and 2 on Oct. 29. 1 in summer plumage W.W.Aug.12. 5 Worthing flying W., Oct. 25.
170. Purple Sandpiper: 7 Ferring Beach, Apr. 1. 2 there Oct. 8, 12 on Nov. 8 and 3 on Dec. 20. Up to 5 Harb., in Nov.
171. Little Stint: 1 in autumn plumage Shoreham, Sept. 26,27 & 28. 1 E.W.B. Sept. 24.

176. Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Adur below T.B., Sept. 26. This bird did not stay long but was well seen by C.M.V., who is very familiar with the species.
178. Dunlin: 400 Adur. Jan. 2, 450 there Nov. 28, and 500 on Dec. 24. Maximum of 200 Goring & Ferring Beaches in Nov.
179. Curlew Sandpiper: 1 ad. Adur, Aug. 31. 3 juv. there Sept. 26, 10 there Sept. 27, 4 on Sept. 28 and 1 on Oct. 1.
181. Sanderling: 6 Ferring Beach, May 1 and up to 200 there and on Goring Beach during Nov. & Dec. 89 West Worthing Beach, Mar. 27
184. Ruff: 10 Adur, Steyning Apr. 19. Up to 5 Br. Lagoon, Dec. 26 to 29. and still there on Dec. 31.
187. Grey Phalarope: 1 Br. Lagoon, Nov. 22 to 25, feeding, bathing and preening very thoroughly at high speed; on Nov. 25. it was even more active, swimming out to the middle of the Lagoon, and flew right away at 12.30 pm. 1 offshore W.W. Oct. 30.
195. Pomarine Skua: 1 (dark phase) offshore Goring, Mar. 10.
198. Great Black-backed Gull: 100 Adur, Dec. 18 and 180 there Dec. 31.
199. Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 (British race) Adur, Jan. 10. 1 F.B., Feb. 3. 2 Adur, Aug & Sept. and 1 there Dec.
207. Little Gull: 1 or 2 imm. Br. Lagoon, Sept. 13, 16 & 17. 1 imm. W.W. Sept. 12.
208. Black-headed Gull: maximum of 500 Adur in Dec.
211. Kittiwake: 1 juv. Worthing, Jan. 31, and 1 ad. & 1 imm. there offshore, May 15. 2 ad. & 1 imm. offshore W.W. Oct. 30, 5 there Nov. 20, and 1 there Dec. 27. 1 W.R.D., Mar. 18.
212. Black Tern: 3 offshore Br. flying E., May 14. 2 Br. Lagoon Sept. 11. 3 there Sept. 12 and 1 there Sept. 16. 3 Harb. Oct. 7.
- 217/8 Common/Arctic Tern: 1 Worthing, Apr. 25. Usual spring movement E. during Apr. offshore Worthing. 1 offshore Southwick flying W., July 1 and 4 W. on Aug. 8.

222. Little Tern: 1 Br.Lagoon May 21. 1 Southwick June 25. 2 Adur. Aug. 31. 1 Worthing Sept. 23. 1 West Worthing Beach July 25.
223. Sandwich Tern: usual spring movement E. offshore Worthing during May - 45 flew past in 75 minutes, May 13. Return movement July to Sept.
224. Razorbill: 1 badly oiled Harb., Jan. 21. 2 oiled Worthing, Jan. 24. 1 Harb., Oct. 10.
227. Guillemot: 3 found dead, oiled, Worthing, Jan. 11. 3 on sea oiled Harb., Jan. 14. 1 oiled Worthing, Jan. 11. 1 offshore Lancing, Sept. 22, 1 there Sept. 28 and 4 on Oct. 15. 1 offshore Worthing, very badly oiled, driven off by gulls. Dec. 14.
232. Stock Dove: heard calling in garden at Southwick throughout year. 2 Airport May 21. 2 Whitehawk Hill, Brighton, Mar. 5. 8 Lychpole Hill, Sept. 26. 1 C.H. Aug. 10, 12 & 14.
235. Turtle Dove: 1 Airport, Apr. 26. 2 Lancing, Apr. 28. 1 Bramber Castle, May 5. 1 on shingle, Southwick May 14. 2 C.H., during July. 3 max. Sanct., May 23 - Sept. 27.
- Collared Dove: resident Southwick (calling in Jan.), Steyning, and Patcham.
237. Cuckoo: 1 Sompting Brooks, seen and heard, Apr. 18. 2 Steyning Round Hill, Apr. 18. 1 Sanct. May 3. 1 imm. C.H. Aug. 3. 1 Sanct. Aug. 2 & 16 - Sept. 19.
241. Barn Owl: 1 Sompting Apr. 29. 1 heard calling Southwick on 3 dates in Sept. 1 Sompting Aug. 18.
246. Little Owl: 1 Lychpole Hill, June 2.
247. Tawny Owl: resident Southwick and Homefield Park, Worthing, 1 Ladywells, Coombes, Aug. 22. 1 Westdene, Brighton, July 31 and 1 there Sept. 2. 1 Sanct. Dec. 21.
249. Short-eared Owl: 1 Goring Beach, Nov. 9. 2 No Man's Land Sompting, Dec. 5.
255. Swift: 1 Lancing, May 3. 1 Steyning May 5. 1 Worthing Aug. 19. 1 W.W.Aug. 16. 150 Sanct. July 11 & 1 there Sept. 21.

258. Kingfisher: single birds recorded on 15 dates throughout the year in the usual places. 1 Sanct. Mar. 1. and in Aug/Sept.
262. Green Woodpecker: 1 garden at Steyning, Feb. 22. 1 in another garden in Steyning, Mar. 6, and 1 there Nov. 20. 1 Shaves Wood May 3. 1 O.S.R., May 16. 1 Lychpole Hill, Sept. 19.
263. Great Spotted Woodpecker: 1 Steyning Grammar School, Jan. 18. 1 Wiston Pond, June 14. 1 Sanct. Dec. 22.
264. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: 1 seen, another heard, Wiston May 3.
272. Skylark: 40 flying W. in small flocks Shoreham Mar. 5. 0500 Sanct. Dec. 29.
274. Swallow: 1 garden at Steyning, Mar. 26. 2 Sompting, Apr. 16. 20 Steyning Apr. 17. 1 W.R.D., Apr. 18. 5 flying in from sea, Southwick, May 12. c100 with House Martins, Ferring Rife, Oct. 24. 2 Sompting Nov. 10. 2 Coombes, Nov. 12.
276. House Martin: 1 Steyning, Apr. 3. 1 Sompting, Apr. 16. 1 W.R.D. Apr. 18. 10 Adur, Steyning Apr. 22. 250 Br.Lagoon, Sept. 15. 1 Steyning Nov. 8. 7 Sompting Nov. 10. and 1 there Nov. 27
277. Sand Martin: 5 Adur, Steyning, Apr. 18. 200 Br.Lagoon Sept. 12
Hirundine Sp: massive movement E. at Sanct. Sept. 19.
286. Jay: 2 Steyning, Apr. 2. 1 C.H. during Aug. & Sept. 1 O.S.R., Dec. 23 and 1 there Dec. 30.
290. Coal Tit: 1 or 2 at Steyning in spring. 6 C.H. May 4, and odd birds seen there on several dates from July to Oct. 1 Sanct., Apr. 14.
292. Marsh Tit: 2 Sompting, Apr. 2. 1 C.H. Jan. to Mar. 2 there on Aug. 15, and 1 on Oct. 13.
293. Willow Tit: breeding C.H. and Devil's Dyke.
294. Long-tailed Tit: 4 O.S.R., Jan. 31. 2 Wyckham Wood, Mar. 25. 3 Wiston Pond, June 14. 5 garden at Worthing, July 3 and 6 there Oct. 6. 3 Steyning Mar. 12. 2 garden at Lancing, Dec. 13. contd...

294. Contd. (Long-tailed Tit:)
Up to 6 frequent at Homefield Park, Worthing. Up to 10
C.H. on several dates July to Oct. c30 Sanct. Dec. 22.
296. Nuthatch: 1 pr. Wiston, May 3.
298. Tree Creeper: 2 Bramber Castle, Feb. 8. 1 Wyckham Farm,
Mar. 25. 1 garden at Worthing, Aug. 8. 1 O.S.R. Dec. 30.
1 Sanct. Dec. 21 & 22.
301. Mistle Thrush: nested in garden at Worthing.
302. Fieldfare: 3 R.B., Jan. 14. 1 garden at Steyning, Jan. 6.
feeding and bathing. Up to 30 O.S.R. during winter months,
up to Mar. 25. and 20 there Apr. 2.
304. Redwing: 1 garden at Worthing, Jan. 2. 100 in field at
Southwick, Feb. 9. Numerous in early months Southwick &
Shoreham. Up to 60 O.S.R. through winter. 10 garden at
Sompting, Oct. 21. Present C.H. from Oct. 10.
307. Ring Ouzel: 1 m. 1 f. garden at Mill Hill, Shoreham,
Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. 1 Sanct., Sept. 13
308. Blackbird: nest with eggs in garden at W. Chiltonington, Mar.
10. Partial albino still at Southwick, and another at
Storrington.
311. Wheatear: spring passage from Mar. 22, with a maximum of
10 at any one time. 1 m seen at Southwick during June and
July, but no f. seen. Autumn passage from Aug. 2. maximum
20. Last report Harbour Wall, Shoreham Nov. 24.
317. Stonechat: birds noted, often in pairs, throughout year at
F.B. Harb., W.W., Sanct., W.R.D., and Ferring Rife.
318. Whinchat: 1 m. Sompting Brookes, Apr. 25. 2 Steyning Mill
Pond, May 3. 1 Bramber Castle May 5. 12 W.R.D., Aug. 12.
6 there Aug. 16. and 4 on Sept. 1. 1 C.H. Aug. 24. 2 Sanct.
Sept. 13. 1 f. Adur, Sept. 25. 2 Ferring Beach, Oct. 1.
320. Redstart: 1 m. Mill Hill, Shoreham, Mar. 21. 1 Southwick
Power Station, Apr. 17. 1 m. Sompting Brooks, Apr. 18. 2 C.H.
Aug. 27. 1 m. Sanct. Sept. 13. 1 f. W.R.D., Sept. 26.

321. Black Redstart: 1 W.R.D. Mar. 22. 1 first year m. Worthing, Apr. 17 & 18. 1 f. 1 juv. Kemp Town, Brighton June 24 (breeding confirmed). 1 Sompting R.D., Oct. 10. 2 C.H. Oct. 13. 2 Whitehawk Hill, Brighton, Oct. 14.
322. Nightingale: 3 singing Shaves Wood, May 3.
327. Grasshopper Warbler: 1 Sompting Brooks, Apr. 22. 1 Devil's Dyke, Apr. 30. 1 Mill Hill, Shoreham, May 2 & 10, 2 there May 12, several reeling June 15, and 1 seen and heard Aug. 7. 1 pr. Shaves Wood May 3. 1 O.S.R., May 5. Heard Thundersbarrow Hill July 9. 1 Patcham Hill, July 9. 2 Singing Sanct., June and 1 there Sept. 13-23.
333. Reed Warbler: 1 Steyning Apr. 10. 3 Airport, May 2. C.E.M. counted 30 on Sompting Brooks, May 18. 1 C.H., Aug. 18. 1 Sanct. Sept. 29.
337. Sedge Warbler: 2 Sompting Brooks, Apr. 25. 1 Wyckham Wood, Apr. 30. 1 Adur, Steyning, May 1. 10 Sompting Brooks (counted by C.E.M.) May 18. 2 C.H., Aug. 7.
343. Blackcap: 1 Lancing, Jan. 1 & 3. 1 C.H. Apr. 24. 1 Wiston, May 3. 1 m. 1 f. garden at Steyning July 30. Present C.H. July 1 - Oct. 6.
346. Garden Warbler: 1 Lancing, Apr. 23. 1 Sanct. Apr. 26. 1 Wiston, May 3. 3 Shaves Wood, June 7. 3 Newtimber Hill, June 12. 1 garden at Worthing (under hosepipe) July 3. 1 Worthing Town Centre, Oct. 6. Present C.H., through Aug.
347. Common Whitethroat: 1 m. Sompting Brooks, Apr. 25. 2 W.R.D., Apr. 29. 5 O.S.R., May 5 and 2 there May 17. 1 Power Station, Southwick, Apr. 30. 1 Devil's Dyke, Aug. 11. Single birds, C.H., Aug. 3. to Sept. 18.
348. Lesser Whitethroat: 3 O.S.R. May 5. 1 Sompting, Sept. 26. Up to 4 C.H. July 30 to Sept. 16.
354. Willow Warbler: 1 garden at Southwick (singing) Apr. 5. 1 O.S.R., Apr. 10. 1 Lancing, Apr. 16. 1 Wyckham Wood Apr. 19. 1 Sompting Apr. 22. 10 Singing Chanctonbury Ring, May 17. 1 Sanct. Apr. 8 - Sept. 21, and c25 there Aug. 15.

356. Chiffchaff: 1 garden at Southwick (very tame) Jan. 4 & 8. 1 Chiff/Willow Southwick, Jan. 4. 1 Chiff/Willow W.W., Jan. 15. 1 Sanct. (singing) Mar. 21, and 1 there Apr. 5. 1 Steyning, Sept. 26. 5 Chanctonbury Ring, May 17. 2 Sompting Dec. 6. 1 Sanct., Mar. 18 - Oct. 10.
357. Wood Warbler: 1 Lancing, Apr. 19, and 1 there Sept. 26. 2 Sanct. Apr. 26. (seen and heard). 1 C.H. May 4, and 1 there Aug. 13.
364. Goldcrest: 2 Steyning Jan. 6. 1 Worthing, Feb. 12. 1 Mill Hill, Shoreham, Apr. 11. 1 Steyning, Sept. 26. 1 Shoreham Dec. 9. Seen or heard C.H. from Aug. 14 to end of year. 6 Sanct., Oct. 10.
365. Firecrest: 1m. Sanct. Mar. 27.
366. Spotted Flycatcher: 2 Sompting, May 14. 1 Sompting Brooks, May 16. Pr. with 2 young Homefield Park, June and July. 14 Lychpole Hill, Sept. 19, and 30 Ladywells, Coombes, Aug. 28, both reported by C.E.M. 1 to 3 present C.H., July to Oct.
368. Pied Flycatcher: 1 m. Adur, Steyning, Apr. 19. 1 Sompting Aug. 4. 2 Ladywells, Coombes, Sept. 10. 1 Sanct., Sept. 5.
373. Meadow Pipit: 10 Adur, Mar. 2.
375. Tawny Pipit: 2 Tenant's Hill, Worthing, Aug. 27.
376. Tree Pipit: 1 m. Shaves Wood, May 3. 1 Adur, Steyning, May 5. 1 Lancing Clump, June 3. 2 flying C.H., Aug. 18.
379. Rock Pipit: odd birds frequent W.W., F.A., Hsbts., Adur, Harb.
381. Grey Wagtail: 1 Br. Lagoon, Sept. 18 and 1 there Dec. 31.
382. Yellow Wagtail: 1 Wyckham Wood, Apr. 19. 1 m. Steyning, Apr. 9. 1 Adur, Steyning, May 5. 1 Sanct. May 25. 3 Br. Aug. 30. 8 there Sept. 16 and 6 there Sept. 18. 250 seen by C.E.M. at W.R.D., Sept. 17. 30 W.R.D. over a period in late Aug. 1 C.H. Aug. 20. 12 Sanct. Aug. 29.

- 382 Contd. (Yellow Wagtail)
20 or more feeding round horses and cattle Mill Hill,
Shoreham, Sept. 5. Similar numbers reported by a farmer at
Applesham at that date, suggesting a passage.
384. Great Grey Shrike: 1 W.R.D., Nov. 13. 1 ad. 1 imm. there
Nov. 24, 1 imm. Nov. 17, and 1 ad. Nov. 19.
388. Red-backed Shrike: 1 imm. W.R.D., Aug. 16.
389. Starling: up to 2000 O.S.R., Oct. 18.
393. Goldfinch: appr. 100 around Dominion Road, Worthing for first
two weeks in March. Nested in garden at Worthing and raised
3 young.
397. Redpoll: 3 O.S.R. Nov. 14, reported by 2 junior members.
408. Brambling: 30 W.R.D., Mar. 14. 1 C.H., Mar. 28 to Apr. 1
and 1 there Oct. 20.
410. Corn Bunting: regular Sanct. and Devil's Dyke G.C. 1 C.H.,
July 21. 100 O.S.R., Nov. 23. c350 Sanct., Sept. 25.
415. Girl Bunting: 1 throughout year Newham Lane, Steyning, for
the 9th successive year. 1 m. singing from May to Sept.
garden at Lancing, and on 4 dates from Nov. 23.
421. Reed Bunting: 1 m. and 1 f. garden at Steyning, winter and
spring. 1 m. garden at Shoreham for several weeks from early
March. c.15 Sanct. Dec. 29.
425. Tree Sparrow: wintering at W.R.D., with maximum of 250
Mar. 14. 6 Sanct. Mar. 1. 10 C.H., Jan. to Mar., 1 there
Sept. 3 and 10 on Oct. 6. 50 Goring, Dec. 5.

BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1970

The past year has produced a great mass of reports from our Members. The Adur mudflats, Brooklands and the water meadows near the old Steyning Railway have been very well covered by enthusiastic watchers. In these circumstances, it is possible to build up the general picture of bird life in these areas with more confidence than previously.

A glance at the maximum numbers of gulls, duck and waders in the list of "Notable Birds of the Area", will reveal that wintering water birds can be seen in considerable numbers within five miles or so of Shoreham by those able to get about a bit.

As we have noted before, a cross check of the numbers sent in by members show a remarkable agreement. It is heartening to see that junior members improve their accuracy every year when compared with more experienced watchers. In the past, it has not been unknown for over-enthusiastic juniors to become good, reliable observers in two or three years.

The first thing we all have to learn is to be our own most severe critic. The second is to write down what we see as soon as possible. Only then can we begin to identify species with the degree of accuracy backed up by evidence which will make instant appeal to any recorder.

Red-necked Grebes have been noted more often than in any year since the Society started - eight birds on five dates, compared with one bird in '57, '58 and '68.

Red-legged Partridge is another bird which seems to have flourished. Up to 100 were seen in the Lychpole area compared with four or five in '69. This may be due to more and better watching, or perhaps birds have been bred for sporting purposes, but for my part I put it down to regular coverage of the area by C.E.M. & F.J.F. It will be interesting to see if the numbers keep up in the future.

Another remarkable occurrence was the 250 Yellow Wagtails seen by C.E.M. at Worthing Rubbish Dump. Older members may remember a note by Mr.R.Phillips, now alas no longer with us, in our 1962 Report, who watched a wave of these birds a mile wide for two hours near Pevensy. He would not estimate numbers, but said that movement was continuous. This must represent thousands. The writer also remembers seeing 50 of these birds on some

barbed wire at the western end of Norfolk Bridge in 1946. A day like this makes up for any number of blank days.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Miss B. Crook, who has been a member of our Society since its formation; of Mr. R. Phillips, who was active in the field until quite recently; and of Miss O. Forbes, of Steyning.

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.

RINGED PLOVERS AT PORTSLADE

As members will doubtless be aware, the Ringed Plover is subjected to intense pressures in this day and age, both from development and an increasingly mobile population that is able to visit the more inaccessible beaches.

It was, therefore, an unexpected pleasure to observe a pair of these birds prospecting for a nesting site within the precincts of Brighton Power Station. On the south side of 'B' Station, there is a considerable expanse of fenced-in shingle, intersected

by pathways, and it was on this shingle, not more than 30 feet from the Stores, that they settled down to incubate four eggs.

Three eggs hatched on May 14th, the fourth egg remaining infertile) and within a few hours of emerging, it was noticeable that the chicks were quite capable of feeding themselves. It should also be mentioned that as the breeding area is surrounded by a raised wall and fence, they were unable to leave until airborne, although there was an unlikely possibility that when nearly fledged, they might be compelled to descend several steps in the vicinity, which would enable them to negotiate the area.

In the days that followed, the fortunes of the three chicks were watched with keen interest by many employees at the Station, who were often made aware of their presence by the piping calls of the parents as they controlled the young searching for insect food.

There was, however, an unknown hazard even within the apparent security of the Station, which had not been foreseen. On May 20th only two chicks were noted, and on June 3rd, a further one had disappeared, leaving only one survivor. This safely reached maturity and was ultimately seen in flight. One can only assume that the two chicks which disappeared were taken by a predator - in all probability a gull or Carrion Crow.

The main disadvantage of the breeding area seems to have been the pathways between the shingle; the cryptic colouration of the chicks was obviously ineffective when they were on the paving stones, and they could easily be spotted by a passing predator.

In spite of this danger, a second brood was hatched on July 11th, and this time two chicks survived out of three, the fourth egg again remaining infertile. They would appear to have 'taken wing' on Aug. 9th.

Mr.V.C.Lewis, a professional bird-recordist, was given permission to visit the Station at short notice on Aug. 4th in order to take advantage of the recording potential of the Ringed Plovers within their unusual breeding territory. The recordings he made were very satisfactory and it is hoped that they have been accepted by the B.B.C. for their Sound Library. This visit was kindly arranged by Mr. C.M.Veysey of Worthing, who has taken an active interest in the Ringed Plovers of the area.

The important aspect of this nesting behaviour has, of course, been the need for these birds to seek less disturbance within the sanctuary of the Power Station, and it now remains to be seen whether this will become an annual event.

H.W.H.

The following notes on other breeding pairs in the area were sent by C.M.V.

At least 3 and possibly 4 or 5 pairs bred between 700 and 1000 yards further E., opposite 'A' Power Station. One of these was double-brooded and may have been responsible for a late clutch as well. It was not possible to say how many juvs. survived, with rats, a pair of Carrion Crows and very large numbers of gulls using the area as a resting place at high tide! In three clutches of 4, one egg failed to hatch.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1970

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 Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Last Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Whimbrel	April 18	Worthing	Sept.12	C.C.
Common Sandpiper	April 18	Br.	Dec.21	C.C.
Black Tern	May 14	Br.	Sept.16	Br.
Little Tern	May 21	Br.	Sept.23	Worthing
Turtle Dove	April 26	Airport		
Cuckoo	April 18	Sompting & Steyning	Sept.2	Sompting
Swift	May 3	Lancing	Aug.19	Worthing

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Last Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Swallow	Mar.26	Steyning	Nov.12	Coombes
House Martin	April 3	Steyning	Nov.27	Sompting
Sand Martin	April 18	Steyning	Sept.12	Br.Lagoon
Wheatear	Mar.13	W.W.	Nov.24.	Harb.
Whinchat	April 25	Sompting	Oct. 1	Ferring
Redstart	Mar.21.	Mill Hill, Sh.	Sept. 26	W.R.D.
Grasshopper Warbler	April 22	Sompting	July 9	Patcham
Reed Warbler	April 10	Steyning	Aug.18	C.H.
Sedge Warbler	April 25	Sompting	Aug. 7	C.H.
Blackcap	April 24	C.H.	Oct. 6	C.H.
Garden Warbler	April 23	Lancing	Oct. 6	Worthing
Whitethroat	April 25	Sompting	Sept.18	C.H.
Lesser Whitethroat	May 5	O.S.R.	Sept.16	C.H.
*Willow Warbler	April 5	Southwick		
*Chiffchaff	Mar.21	Sanct.	Sept.26	Steyning
Spotted Flycatcher	April 14	Sompting	Oct. 1	C.H.
Yellow Wagtail	April 9	Steyning	Sept.18	Br.

* December and January records omitted in these two species as these birds may be trying to winter.

T.P.

BIRD WATCHING FOR THE DISABLED

It has long been our custom to spend two weeks in Norfolk in October but in 1970, due to having had an illness, my mobility was restricted. From past experience, it seemed that much could be done in Norfolk even if the walk up Blakeney Point which always feels like 5 miles there and 10 miles back over the shingle was not feasible. There is always the boat to the Point but in the event, we did not use it due to the tides being wrong the first week and a gale the second week. During the gale, we indulged in "drive-in" bird watching at Weybourne and Salthouse and watched from the car. When the wind is very strong, by this means, it is possible to hold the binoculars steady and avoid the bugbear of salt on the lenses. Our walking never exceeded about 3 miles in a day mostly over good ground and in fact some of this walking was not really necessary as our trips to Wells were not very productive this year, though it had been very interesting in past years.

We left Storrington on 11th October and took up residence in a very delightful cottage just outside Blakeney. It was extremely convenient and comfortable, the only drawback being the stairs which resembled a ship's ladder.

During the first 5 days the weather conditions were not ideal, though we did see Bearded Tits, a Little Bittern, a Hen Harrier and a Ring Ousel at Cley East Bank and a Snow Bunting, 2 Shore Larks and a large flock of Twite at Salthouse. Our total species reached 91 in these 5 days.

We next visited Snettisham Gravel Pits where every year there seems to be 1 Red-necked Grebe and 1970 was no exception; we also had a Short-eared Owl. On the way we had stopped at Hunstanton and had seen the very exciting passage of Oystercatchers and Knot, with smaller numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits, Redshank and Sanderling from their high tide roosts in the Holme - Titchwell area to their feeding grounds in the Wash. Large flocks of birds stream by and the sheer numbers make this an unforgettable sight.

The following day we went to Weybourne to look for an adult Glaucous Gull which was waiting for us on the beach. This seems to be a regular each year. We had excellent views at rest and in flight.

On the eighth day the gale started to blow, initially from the West, so it was off to Weybourne for sea watching. We had 3 Black-throated Divers, 1 Brent Goose, some Kittiwakes, 1 'Comic' Tern, 1 Little Gull, 1 Arctic Skua, 2 Pintails and 2 Red-breasted Mergansers. We also thought that there were Manx Shearwaters but they were very far out at sea.

The next day the wind went round to North West, traditionally the best quarter for sea watching but it was strangely unrewarding. We did however see a flock of 13 Barnacle Geese on the marsh near the East Bank.

On the following day the gale blew from the North with a slight easterly touch. Finding a sea watch not very rewarding we went to Salthouse and parked facing seaward about 100 yards up the Beach Road on each side of which were large shallow pools of sea water which had presumably seeped through the shingle ridge. We then discovered that the birds were passing to the West inside the shingle ridge. We saw while parked there 6 Skuas, 1 Bonxie, 3 Pomarine and 2 Arctic. One Pomarine Skua was a superb light phase adult complete with twisted tail. It endeavoured to drown a Black-headed Gull which was resting on the water not many yards from the car but failed. It then preened on the bank at the roadside. Parties of Kittiwakes, adult and immature were passing West and many rested on the water at the roadside; we saw at least 120. We finished the day with excellent views of a ringtail Hen Harrier at the East Bank, 9 Barnacle Geese at Salthouse and 6 more Arctic Skuas and many Kittiwakes at Weybourne.

The wind abated somewhat the next day and a sea watch at Weybourne gave us one more Arctic Skua, 3 Little Gulls and two parties of Brent Goose. A Barred Warbler was caught and ringed on the Walsey Hills at Cley. At Cley there was a party of Grey Geese flying, unfortunately not identified and another party of 16 Barnacle Geese which brought our total for this species to 38.

The gale had blown itself out on the following day and it seemed as though the birds that had been bottled up by the gale were now all passing to the West. The major passage was of Brent Geese in parties of 15 to 50 or more continually passing by at sea. There were also Shelduck and Common Scoter in smaller numbers and 1 party of 2 adult and 2

immature Whooper Swans and later in the day we had 5 more calling as they flew. A second Barred Warbler was seen at the Walsey Hills and a Merlin flew over there. We had another Short-eared Owl at Salthouse.

Having had a report of Waxwings at Hunstanton we made our way home that way. Near the golf course we saw more than 100 including 35 sitting on one television aerial!

Our total tally of species for the holiday was 120 and this included very few summer visitors, most of which had already gone before we reached Norfolk.

The object of this article is to show that, given the right weather conditions, North Norfolk can offer exciting bird watching to those who are not quite so active as they would like to be.

R.E.G.

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1970

The following members have contributed to these notes :-
Mrs. Ray, Miss Bull, Mrs. Edwards, Messrs. C.J.P. & B.R. Clay, Helyer, Holman, Twort and Richard Ives.

Garden at Mill Hill (Mrs Ray)

Goldcrest. Ring Ousel 1m. & 1f. for two days (Sept. 30 and Oct. 1).

Garden at Steyning (Miss M. Bull)

Fieldfare feeding on a rotten apple and bathing; seen for several days in Jan. Green Woodpecker on lawn March 6 and Nov. 20.

Garden at Worthing (Mrs E.M. Edwards)

Redwing, Goldcrest, Tree Creeper, Mistle Thrush, Wren, Goldfinch, (the last three nesting successfully). Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, and Garden Warbler.

Garden at Westdene (C.F. Helyer)

Kestrel, Tawny Owl, Redwing, Skylark, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull which came whilst snow was on the ground.

Garden at Southwick (Mr Twort)

Stock Dove, calling throughout year, Tawny Owl, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, albino Blackbird, and a partial-albino Starling.

Garden at West Chiltonington (Mr A.E.Holman)

Blackbird's nest with eggs March 10.

Garden at Lancing (Richard Ives)

Male Blackcap seen on Dec. 29 1969, and still there on Jan. 1 & 3.

Garden at Steyning (P.J. & B.R.Clay)

Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting, Chiff/Willow, Linnet, Blackcap, Fieldfare, Bullfinch up to 8 in March. Kestrel, Snipe and Redshank seen flying over.

ADVENTURES WITH OWLS

If one likes one's birding made easy, then Finland is not the country to visit. With such a uniform habitat, mile after mile of deep coniferous forest stretching apparently endlessly into the distance, the birds are thinly scattered, and several hours of hard walking and thorough searching will, on average, produce only about one interesting bird per hour - more interesting, that is, than the irritatingly wheezing Brambling or chattering Redwing with which the forests abound.

But there is no denying that, when located, the birds are well worth the effort, and one's hourly encounter is very likely to be exciting: a soaring Goshawk, or a displaying Honey Buzzard, perhaps a pair of feeding Waxwings, or a party of Cranes. And of course, there are always the owls!

These fascinating nocturnal birds were the principal reason for a return visit to Finland which three friends and I made in 1970. Finland has been described as the last unspoilt country in Europe, and the huge forests contain more owls than any other European country. But first find your owl!

The numbers of some of the owls in northern Scandinavia fluctuate on a four-year cycle which is directly related to the rise and fall in the population of Lemmings, those strange little furry creatures which commit mass suicide in their regular irruptions and mad cross-country migrations. The larger owls feed principally upon these and other voles and rodents whose populations reach a peak in numbers every fourth year or so. The result of this regular massive rise in the population is that there is insufficient food available to support all the animals, and they have to spread further afield to find more; the predators which live upon them, finding a ready food source, can raise larger broods, and themselves spread into areas where they are not usually found. As the Lemmings and voles breed early in the year, their numbers are swollen by the time the owls are nesting, and the owls consequently have a successful breeding season which often results in larger numbers being present through the following winter to the ensuing spring. But by then the vole and Lemming population has dwindled, the owls raise small broods, and the population shrinks again until the next phase of the cycle.

On our first visit to Finland in 1968, we encountered few owls, and it was obviously not a vole or Lemming year. Our correspondents in Finland told us that 1970 was the next peak year in the four-year cycle, and that if the pattern was to repeat itself, this should be a good season for owls. So we arranged our trip to take place in May, to coincide with the time when owls would be feeding young, and should thus be more conspicuous. By early 1970 we were receiving letters saying "the forests are alive with voles", and we seemed all set for a rewarding visit.

Northern owls are notoriously difficult to find. This is not so much because they are mainly nocturnal, like most of our own owls; after all, in the far north the midnight sun ensures that there is no darkness to hide them. It is because the forests are so huge and so dense that the proverbial needle would be just as easy to find - except that needles do not normally call, and the calling of the owls is the way of locating them. The best period for hearing them is in the early spring, say March or April, and a friend of ours went to Sweden at that time in 1970 where he had considerable success in listening to the calls of Ural and Tengmalm's Owls; but in so doing he nearly froze to death in his sleeping bag, as of course the country was still snowbound. We preferred to go later and try to find our owls in less rigorous conditions.

We arrived in Finland in mid-May and worked our way gradually northwards by road. We had arranged to meet some Finnish friends a few days after our arrival, and in their company we spent a rewarding day looking at owl nesting-boxes which they had put up in the forests, and some of which were occupied. The first we came to was being used by a Tengmalm's Owl, and a Finn shinned up the tree and brought the female out of the box in his hand. We were amazed - surely she would desert? But on being released, she merely flew to a nearby tree and kept an eye on proceedings. The six young in the box were all brought out and ringed, and the weight of each recorded; as with all owls, where the female starts to brood the first egg as soon as it is laid, there is a wide range in size, and the weights of this brood varied from the smallest at 45 grammes to the heaviest at about three times that weight. The female bird was all this time watching from an adjoining tree only 15 feet away with apparent interest and certainly no anguish; a docile owl about as large as our own Little Owl, with a large head, vivid yellow eyes, grey-brown in colour and with large white spots on the upper parts.

A few miles further on we were led off the road down a track into the forest and up to another nesting-box. Our hosts cautioned us to be very quiet, and to remain out of sight of the box; and to our astonishment, one of them donned a crash-helmet and proceeded to climb the tree. The occupant, we were told, was a very ferocious Ural Owl, which attacked intruders of any size; the bird was soon alarmed by the sounds of the climber, and as he reached the box appeared in the entrance - an enormous grey owl with small, menacing, dark eyes. As the box was intended for the diminutive Tengmalm's Owl, the bird could scarcely squeeze in and out, and had been known to get stuck completely when ruffling up its feathers in excitement. When released, this magnificent bird flew off into distant trees, not prepared to take on seven bird-watchers at once; but it soon returned and barked loudly at us from the tops until we left.

The next thrill was another boxful of baby Tengmalm's Owls. Mum was away shopping, so all five young were taken out of the box and brought down to ground level. They were utterly adorable - bundles of blackish fur from which stared piercing yellow eyes in an unflinching gaze; they must surely have been the original models for woolly gonks! They sat about meekly while they were ringed, weighed, photographed and generally enthused over.

Our next encounter with owls was some three hundred miles further north, where we camped for ten days in a forest area known to be frequented by several owl species. On our first evening in the area, we had set up camp just off the road and had a good fire going; two of us were off owling deep in the forest, when the other two had a remarkable stroke of luck - a magnificent Great Grey Owl floated out from the late evening gloom, sat up in a nearby tree, and stared down at these intruders in his forest! A few moments later he silently slipped away into the dusk.

This was only the first of many adventures with the owls in this area. A pair of Great Grey Owls had a nest a couple of miles from our camp, and occasional trips over there were very exciting. This is another utterly fearless owl, and attacks humans who dare to go near the nest with great ferocity; a pair in this area removed one bird-watcher's eye a few years previously when he tried to climb the nest tree. They are enormous birds, and, being owls, come and go through the trees in complete and frightening silence. Their vivid yellow eyes are so penetrating that they seem to stare right through you - I had a worrying hour's watch near the nest late one night with the male bird eyeing my every move from a nearby tree. There was something very thrilling about being in the proximity of birds which appear in this area only once every four years, and which probably spend the intervening years far to the east, in the remote and endless forests of northern Russia.

Eagle Owls were present in this particular forest, but were very elusive; I missed an evening performance which two birds put on, the forest echoing with their loud and deep barking as they called at each other in the frosty, still evening air. The show ended with the two gigantic owls, which were likened to flying beer barrels, coming out of the trees and flying across a ride in front of the observers.

We left Finland with many happy memories of these exciting owls of the northern forests; they are so very difficult to find that we were still seeing new ones after being in the area for ten days, and in fact had an uncanny piece of good fortune on our last evening there, when a Hawk Owl, perhaps the most dashing and attractive owl of all, flew across a clearing in front of us. From the tiny Tengmalm's Owl to the gigantic Eagle Owl, there can nowhere be a more exciting group of species. You have to really work hard to find them, but seeing and hearing them is reward enough.

B.A.E.M.

HOUSE MARTINS BREEDING AT WEST CHILTINGTON

It was six years ago that House Martins last nested on our bungalow at West Chiltington. Their old nests were then destroyed during external decorations, and it was always our hope that these birds would return to nest again and rear their young.

This spring, in order to give them some encouragement, an artificial nest was erected under the back porch. To our joy, in April a pair of Martins prospected the ready-made nest and entered it many times, but apparently did not find it to their liking. So they built their own nest adjoining the ready-made one, and young were eventually hatched and reared. As this site was only six feet from our back door, we were able to sit in comfort in all weathers at no more than this distance, and valuable observations and records were easy to obtain. Efforts were made to record the daily working conditions of this pair of Martins; many hours were spent and on many days observations started at 04.00 hrs. and continued until after dark. In this short report it is interesting to record a few outstanding observations.

These Martins were late risers - Wrens, Robins and Black-birds all being out and about in the garden $\frac{3}{4}$ hour before the Martins began to "show a leg". However, they eventually raised four young which left the nest safely. When they had flown, a large feather, which for some time had protruded from the nest, interested us. To our horror, on pulling this out the nest completely collapsed. But we were not too worried, as the young had been on the wing for two or three days, and this gave us an opportunity of examining in detail the construction of the nest.

Following the accidental destruction of this nest, to our great surprise and delight the complete brood - 4 young and 2 adults - took over the artificial nest. But after a few days and much squabbling at the nest entrance, the adults succeeded in preventing the young birds from taking up their abode there, and it was obvious that they intended to have a second brood. This they did, and it was not long before three young of the second brood were hatched. Now here comes a surprising development - when the second brood were a few days old, the original brood returned again and were allowed access to this second nest.

For four nights no fewer than nine birds occupied the nest - 4 of the original brood, 2 adults and 3 of the second brood; a "full house" to be sure!

When the second brood eventually left the nest, one young remained behind for several days and was fed very spasmodically by the adults. Then a further interesting observation was made. It was evident from the behaviour of the Martins in the district that migration was in the air. On Oct. 16th with a young bird still in the artificial nest, our back porch was filled with anything up to 150 House Martins, weaving in and out all the morning, flying up to the nest containing the young one but never entering it. Finally, about mid-day, the sole survivor of the second brood left the nest and joined the birds that had spent the morning obviously telling him that it was time to go! And as from mid-day on Oct. 16th not another Martin has been seen within watching distance of our garden - gone, but we hope only to return in 1971.

This pair of House Martins became almost a part of the family, being so docile and allowing us a free hand in making such close observations as type of food brought in, method of disposal of excreta, and details of mud collection and nest building. They even allowed us to listen to them when on the nest and "talking" to their young brood.

We have been well rewarded for the wait of six years for the return of the House Martins to West Chiltonington.

A.E.H. & Mrs.H.

FROM OUR MEMBERS' NOTEBOOKS

Pectoral Sandpiper at Shoreham

This bird was seen on Sept. 26 about 150 yards below the Toll Bridge. It was on the E. bank close to the purslane (i.e. a few yards out from it) with the tide out. It was watched from the W. bank using x 10 binoculars and a x 30 telescope in good sunlight. It showed a dark grey-brown streaked head, darkest on the crown, and also neck and breast, with a sharp line of demarcation between this and white underparts at the lower breast. There was a conspicuous area of white on the throat, and a whitish superciliary stripe. The rest of the upper parts had a 'browner' appearance, the feathers of the mantle and folded wing showed dark centres but brownish-buff edges. The bird had a long-bodied appearance due to the relatively short yellow legs as compared with those of a Redshank.

C.M.V.

An Unusual Goldfinch

On Sept. 16 at the gravel pit nearest to Oving, what appeared to be a pure white sparrow-sized bird was seen on rough ground near to the edge of the water. Fortunately it was possible to approach the bird quite closely, and it was recognised as a Goldfinch. The call was correct, and it was subsequently seen in a flock of other normal Goldfinches where it was feeding on thistle heads.

It was a bird of considerable beauty, being completely white except that it had retained the gold on the wings. The bill was pinkish-grey. It was apparently a member of a passing flock as it was not seen again on subsequent visits.

R.E.G.

Pomarine Skua at Goring-by-Sea

A dark-phased adult was seen flying W., approximately 75-100 yards offshore at Goring on Mar.10 shortly after high water and proceeding in a very leisurely fashion when it overtook the observer.

It appeared to resemble a dark plumaged gull, but with a rather small, hooked bill and a conspicuously long tail which had a curiously 'bunched' appearance. This was due to the

twisted centre feathers, blunt ended and giving the bird a 'tail-heavy' effect. The light areas by the carpal joint were not a conspicuous feature in the against-the-light views. When about 150 yards past, it suddenly came to life and flew at high speed after a gull which had risen from the water towards S.Ferring.

(M.Shrubbs, in a letter, commented 'the tail, heavy appearance and leisurely, almost languid flight are curiously distinctive'. It is our first satisfactory March record, as far as he could tell).

C.M.V.

Girl Bunting at Lancing

A male Girl Bunting appeared in a Lancing garden on May 11, 12 and 13. It disappeared until May 17, from which date it was resident until September. It started singing on May 18 and thereafter was heard regularly three times a day, often wakening the observer around 4.30 a.m. and its evening song would start any time from 7.30 and last for half an hour or longer.

Its song was tape-recorded early in May, and when played back to the bird provoked an extremely aggressive response. Its singing posts were very definite, presumably marking its territory, as it flew from one to the other. Unfortunately, neither a nest nor a female were observed, but the male could be seen regularly through to September. It was heard again singing in a neighbouring garden on Nov 23, and was seen subsequently on three other days.

B.R.R.

Auks Affected by Oil at Southwick

Two oiled Razorbills were found on Southwick/Fishergate Beach and taken to the Reception Centre on Jan. 12 & 22. One was similarly found on Lancing Beach on Feb. 3. Two were found dead (heavily oiled) on Southwick/Fishergate Beach, on Jan. 14 and Feb. 5.

Fifteen oiled Guillemots from Southwick/Fishergate Beach on Jan. 12 (17), 13 (2), 14 (1), 15 (1), & 22 (3) and on Mar. 3 (1). Eight were found dead (heavily oiled) on Jan. 12 (7) and Feb. 2 (1).

H.W.H.

Tawny Pipit at Worthing

Two birds were seen together on Aug.27 at Tenant's Hill, on the lower part of the hill close to the bridle path leading to Cissbury Ring. They were watched on a fenced-off area of turf where a number of sheep were grazing. In places the turf did not cover the soil, which appeared dark greyish. The association of Yellow Wagtails with cattle and sheep is, of course, well known and this was in mind when noting details of these birds.

Apart from size, the feature which at once caught the eye was their very pale general colouring, the upper parts being light sandy-grey, slightly browner on the head, not showing any streaking. There was a distinct near-white supercilium and a much less distinct moustachial streak. The median coverts showed black 'squares' bordered with buff, as were the feathers of the folded wing generally. The outer tail feathers showed white, especially when alighting. Under parts were also very pale, being off-white to buff on the breast, unstreaked. Of particular note was the colour of the legs, which appeared buffish to pale yellowish-brown, a conspicuous feature against the green and dark grey of the ground.

The above is a slightly condensed version of the description sent to the Rarities Committee.

C.M.V.

Water Rail in a Worthing Garden

Following records in 1968 & 1969 of Water Rails occurring in residential gardens in Portslade, West Chilmington and Hove, we have received a very detailed and meticulous account of another Water Rail watched in a Worthing garden between Jan.18. and Mar.22.

After its first appearance on Jan. 18 it was seen in several adjoining gardens before taking up residence in that of 14, Charmandean Road on Feb. 9. Daily notes were kept of the bird's behaviour, of which the following is a necessarily very brief extract.

It made use of a pan of water placed on the lawn, took bread regularly in competition with Starlings, which treated it with considerable respect, but in turn the Water Rail deferred to gulls and Jackdaws. By early March it was appearing in response to a call to food, when bread was put out. It climbed to heights of up to 6 feet in laurustinus and privet, usually roosting in the latter. No less than 50 people were able to see and at times photograph the bird during the period of its stay.

VISIT TO CAP GRIS NEZ

Cap Gris Nez is the nearest point on Continental Europe to the British Isles. It lies midway between Calais and Boulogne. At this point the coastline turns through approximately 120 degrees due south, and is ideally situated for observing sea bird migration. Rough weather in the Autumn is likely to produce large and varied down Channel movements; also at the point the movement of birds leaving the North Sea and Channel can be observed.

Given suitable conditions the powerful lighthouse attracts large numbers of night migrants.

With this in mind my father and I set out from London by train, boat and bus and arrived at the Observatory late on the afternoon of 21st October 1970.

The first thing we saw were flocks of Fieldfares in the fields and a small flock of 25 Bramblings. As it was late in the day we decided that we would sea-watch for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. and this produced a new bird for both of us, a Storm Petrel, of which we had wonderful short range views. Kittiwakes were moving down the Channel all the time; other birds seen were Little Gulls, Gannets, small parties of Velvet Scoters and two Short-eared Owls flying in from England who confused us for a few moments as we thought we had our first odd predator. These were a taste of what was to come.

The morning of the 22nd we were at the lighthouse at dawn; it was cold and blowing a gale from the north. There was a fascinating migration of Thrushes and Finches, and in 3 hours we saw 6,000 Fieldfares, 500 Redwings, 10,000 Starlings, 250 Siskins, 3,000 Chaffinches and 15,000 Bramblings heading for England; also amongst these there were Hooded Crows, Blackbirds, Greenfinches and Redpolls. Rarer birds were also present. 20 Waxwings were observed feeding on the blackberry bushes around and 3 Great Grey Shrikes could be seen in the area. More Hooded Crows and 2 Common Buzzards flew over our heads.

Sea watching can be done at any time and to total up all that we saw would take up too much space. The list of what was seen during a 3 hours watch is as follows: Divers 2, Great Northern Divers 2, Velvet Scoters 350, Common Scoters 1,300, Brent Goose 68, Sparrow Hawk 1, Merlin 5, Kestrel 1, Avocet 1, Arctic Skuas and Great and Pomarine Skuas, 260 Little Gulls, 500 Kittiwakes and Auks.

Again on the 23rd the usual migration of small birds was

fantastic taken at an hourly rate: Bramblings 3,000, Starlings and Chaffinches 20,000, Fieldfares 4,000, Redwings 650, Waxwings 35.

The 23rd was the day for unusual species. 2 Serins were seen at the Cap, these are very rare in England but are seen on nearly every visit here by English watchers. Predators were numerous and the following were also seen: 3 Sparrow Hawks, 2 Hen Harriers, 2 Peregrines, 3 Merlins, 5 Kestrels, 2 Short-eared Owls, 1 Montagu's Harrier. The sea watch was much about the same, 1 Grey Phalarope was seen on the water during this day. The other English watchers also saw a Crested Lark in sand dune area east of the Cap and an increase in Hooded Crows, 50+.

The 24th brought a change in the weather. There was a wind change and it was blowing south-west force 8. Visible migration was smaller, only a few hundred fieldfares and Redwings. Starlings were well up - 100,000, Chaffinches, 20,000, Bramblings 1,000. Sea movement fell off too, only the odd Skua Divers and Auks were seen moving down the Channel.

Our stay was coming to an end so on the 25th, as we had about 3 hours to spare in the morning we had a sea watch. 1 Manx Shearwater, 3 Golden-eye, 1 long tailed Duck, Scoters, Common/Arctic Terns, 5 Merlins, 2 Sp.Hawks and 1 Purple Sandpiper (which was shot at by the local hunter - he missed!).

This ended our 4 days, which as you can see were very varied and interesting. This observatory needs support and regular watchers.

If this has been of any interest, we would be pleased to pass on any details, or one can write to the Secretary of Cap Gris Nez Bird Observatory:-

P.J. Oliver,
53 Esher Farm Way,
East Molesey,
Surrey

The Observatory publishes an Annual Report and if anyone wishes to borrow the 1968/1969 one we would be very willing to lend our copy.

B.F.

SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1970

Saturday, January 3rd:

Ferring Beach with Mr.F.J.Forbes.

There was a turn-out of 14 members on a dry, cold day with a little sun.

We walked along the beach to the cafe and Ferring Rife, seeing the usual waders - some 200 - 300 Dunlin & Sanderling, several Grey Plover, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and one Curlew. Large numbers of gulls - Black-headed, with some Common, Herring & Great Black-backed. Passerines included Stonechat (4), Meadow Pipit and Rock Pipit. There were 6 Shelduck on the sea, and 30 flew W., as did several flights of from 12 - 30 Brent Geese.

One party of up to 40 geese flying E. landed on the sea, just too far out for positive identification. They were dark geese with light underparts showing on landing, and flying rather slower than Brents. But among them were two (one independent report said 5) white geese with black wing markings, which appeared slightly smaller. The contrasting appearance of these two geese suggested a majority of Barnacle Geese with several Snow Geese, and it would be interesting to know if there were any accepted records of these two birds in the Channel at this time.

In a short walk up the Rife 3 Grey Wagtails, 3 Stonechats and 2 Collared Doves were seen, with several Redwings and Fieldfares. Several Redwings were seen on the beach, and a party of 20 - 30 Fieldfares flew N.

Sunday March 8th:

Pagham Harbour with Dr.J.Stafford

On a bright sunny day a number of members and their friends met at the eastern side of Pagham Harbour. We all had good views of many common birds in good light and some quite close. There was nothing unusual but it was a pleasant day during which we saw waders, gulls, duck and some common small passerines well enough to please everyone.

Sunday April 12th:

Shoreham Sanctuary with Mr.A.Burstow and the Sanctuary Committee.

Six members waited from 10 am. until 11.15 hoping that the

heavy rain would cease, but in vain! And the meeting was abandoned with several squawking Blackbirds as the only birds seen.

Saturday May 2nd:

Kingley Vale with Mrs.M.Gillett

Owing to illness, Mr R.P.Meadows was unable to lead this outing, and Mrs Gillett very kindly took his place, helped by Mr Harding Rees.

About twenty members attended in warm and sunny weather, and the party, splitting into two groups, proceeded to the top of the hill where they joined forces again and compared notes.

Birds seen and/or heard included Willow Warbler, Chiff-chaff, Whitethroat, Nightingale, Yellow Hammer, Dunnock, Meadow Pipit, Lapwing, Skylark, Swallow, Sand Martin, Cuckoo, Kestrel, Jay, Green Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Blue Tit and Pheasant, but the highspot of the day was undoubtedly a Buzzard, flying near to two Kestrels.

Sunday November 1st:

Thorney and Pilsey Islands with Mr B.Metcalf.

Some twenty members assembled at the Thorney turning off the A 27 on a fine, breezy morning. Room was found in the cars for the train travellers, and the cavalcade drove straight to the carpark at the south end of the island; thence on foot along the shore to the point opposite Pilsey Island, already cut off by the rising tide.

This proved a rewarding viewpoint from which the party was not tempted to stray far. Most of the expected waders were well seen - Turnstone, Curlew, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Grey Plover. But most impressive, both swirling in the air and on the ground, was a vast flock (estimates ranged up to 10,000 birds) of mixed Dunlin, Sanderling and Ringed Plover. Only one rather dubious Brent Goose was seen, but Cormorants numbered 22, and two Kestrels hovered over Pilsey.

On the walk back to the cars about 70 Golden Plover were seen on the airfield with many Lapwing, and a flight of about 12 Greenshank was a last-minute bonus. Of small passerines, a fine male Stonechat was seen, and several Reed Buntings.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Receipts and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st Dec. 1970

Receipts	£	s	d
Bal. in hand 1.1.70	37	15	1
Subscriptions:			
147 @ 10/-			
13 @ 5/-			
3 @ 7/6			
Donations			
Annual Reports..sale	19	0	0
Sanctuary keys..sale	13	0	0
Tea receipts	1	3	0
Film Show receipts	16	13	0

£135 9 1

Expenditure	£	s	d
Subscriptions. British Birds Binding	5	8	4
Affiliation fees..R.S.P.B. B.T.O.	1	2	6
Sanctuary..Rent 1.0	4	1	6
Mainten.2.8.8			
Purch.of Keys 1.1.0	3	10	8
Lecture Fees & Expenses	12	6	0
Hire of Projector	10	4	0
Hire of Hall..5 meetings	5	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	1	12	6
Printing, Annual Report	37	19	6
Membership Cards	5	6	5
Duplication	5	12	6
Stationery	2	3	11
Postage & Telephone	12	9	11
Balance in Hand 31.12.70	28	11	4

£135 9 1

Audited and found correct

(signed) C.F.Helyer

G.W.Rampton

Hon. Treasurer

LIST OF LECTURES 1970

Jan. 24th.

"Skokholm & Grassholm, Sea-bird Islands"
Mr. S. Bayliss-Smith

Feb. 14th.

"Puffins come Home"
"Sea Eagles for Fair Isle"
"Where the Curlew Calls"
R.S.P.B. Films

Mar. 21st.

A.G.M.
"Birds of Prey trained for Hawking"
Mr. M. J. Dawson

Sept. 23rd.

"Bird Population Changes in a Surrey Oakwood over
20 years"
Dr. G. Bevan

Oct. 28th.

"The Living Pattern"
Mr. W. D. Park

Nov. 25th.

"Birds and Animals"
Shoreham Travel Agency Films.

OFFICERS ETC.

President and Chairman:

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, & Mr. H. Hiscoke
Miss C.M. Biggs Mr. C.E. Messer

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 1970

Mrs. M. Anderson	38 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Mrs. B. Arnold	1 The Crescent, S.Lancing
Miss Barr	17 Roman Road, Steyning
Miss H. Bartlett	"Chancton" The Street, Old Shoreham
Mr. P.J.Belman	48 Overhill Gardens, Brighton 6
Mr. I. Beswick	20 Ambleside Road, Sompting
Capt. J & the Misses C.M. & J. Biggs	7 Mill Hill, Shoreham
Miss V.V.Blake	35 Hollingbury Gardens, Worthing
Mr. K. Bolingbroke	24 Cornwall Gardens, Brighton 6
Mr. G. Brown	15 Roman Road, Steyning
Miss M. Bull	44 King's Stone Avenue, Steyning
Mr. A. Burstow	27 Erringham Road, Shoreham
Mr. S.J. Carter	111 Ophir Road, Worthing
Mrs. Carey	44 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham
Mr. P. Carey	44 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham
Miss J. E. Cater	73 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham
Mrs. M. E. Chandler	"Four Winds" Church Close, N.Lancing
Mr & Mrs. A.E.Childs	Cobbers, 6 Bennet Avenue, Hove 4

Mr & Mrs. L. T. Clark	26 Dawn Crescent, Beeding, Steyning
Mr. B. R. Clay	11 Roman Road, Steyning
Mr. P. J. Clay	11 Roman Road, Steyning
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
Miss D. Culver	42 Cotswold Road, Worthing
Miss B. Crook	West House, Southover, Nr.Lewes
Mr & Mrs. A. B. Davison	18 Buci Crescent, Southwick BN4 6LB
Mr. M. J. Dawson	99 Eldred Avenue, Brighton BN1 5EL
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, Steyning 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
Mr. A. F. George	107 King Edward Ave. Worthing
Dr. D. Gibson	Restynge, Hillside Walk, Heath Common, Storrington
Mr & Mrs. P. H. Giles	313 Brighton Road, Worthing
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 B N4 3 YN
Miss C. P. S. Griffiths	9 Llandaff Court, Downview Road, 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.
Mrs S. B. Hards	12 New Road, Shoreham
Miss V. Hay-Gannell	Restynge, Hillside Walk, Heath Common, Storrington
Miss E. M. Heasman	Thistledown, Church Lane, Upper Beeding

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
Mrs. M. A. Hopkins	55 Lindum Road, Worthing
Mrs. A.M. Hough	"Oaklands" De Braose Way, Steyning
Miss P. Hughes	12 Hawkins Close, Shoreham
Mrs O. M. Hunt	24a Windlosham 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
Miss H. Landman	Nurses Home, St.Richard's Hospital, Chichester
Miss J. N. Lass	40 Pound Farm Road, Chichester
Mr J. Lewis	21 Erringham Road, Shoreham

Miss N. Lowarne	Flat 7 Riverside House, High Street, Shoreham
Mr C. Lowmass	1 Sherborne Road, Hove BN3 8BA
Miss V. Lyon	Great Ballard, Eartham, Nr Chichester.
Mr J. R. Mainstone	147 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham
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 Hospital, Chichester
Miss M. Morgan	11 Sheridan Road, Worthing
Mrs Morrison-Scott	4 Castle Way, Steyning
Mrs J. M. Newman	444 Upper Shoreham Rd. Shoreham
Mr J. Newnham	The Lines, 116 Upper Brighton Rd. Worthing.
Mr B. J. O'Neil	36A, South St. Tarring, Worthing
Miss M. Ormerod	53 Terrines Avenue, Worthing
Mrs E. Ottley	33 Middleton Avenue, Hove
Mr V. Paris	22 Penbury Road, Worthing
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 Woodland Drive, Hove 4
Miss J. Partridge	Riverways, Riverside Rd. Shoreham
Mr R. E. Peal	24 Creighton Avenue, London N.10
Mr R. Phillips	19 Chester Avenue, Wellan Park, Lancing
Mr N. Plumb	9 Mill Hill Gardens, 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 H. Richardson	35 Mill Lane, Shoreham
Mr & Mrs. H. R. Rees	"Garth" 25 West Drive, Ferring, Worthing
Messrs F.W. & G.A. Robins	114 Old Shoreham Road, Southwick
Mrs Roe	3 The Avenue, Shoreham
Miss Rogers	157 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham
Mr & Mrs. Ruscoe	Annington Old Farmhouse, Botolphs, Steyning
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
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	Northcourt Hotel, 20 Shelley Rd. Worthing
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. R. 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

Honefields Farm, Bull's Lane,
Cowfold

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 1970, = 163

GENERAL INFORMATION

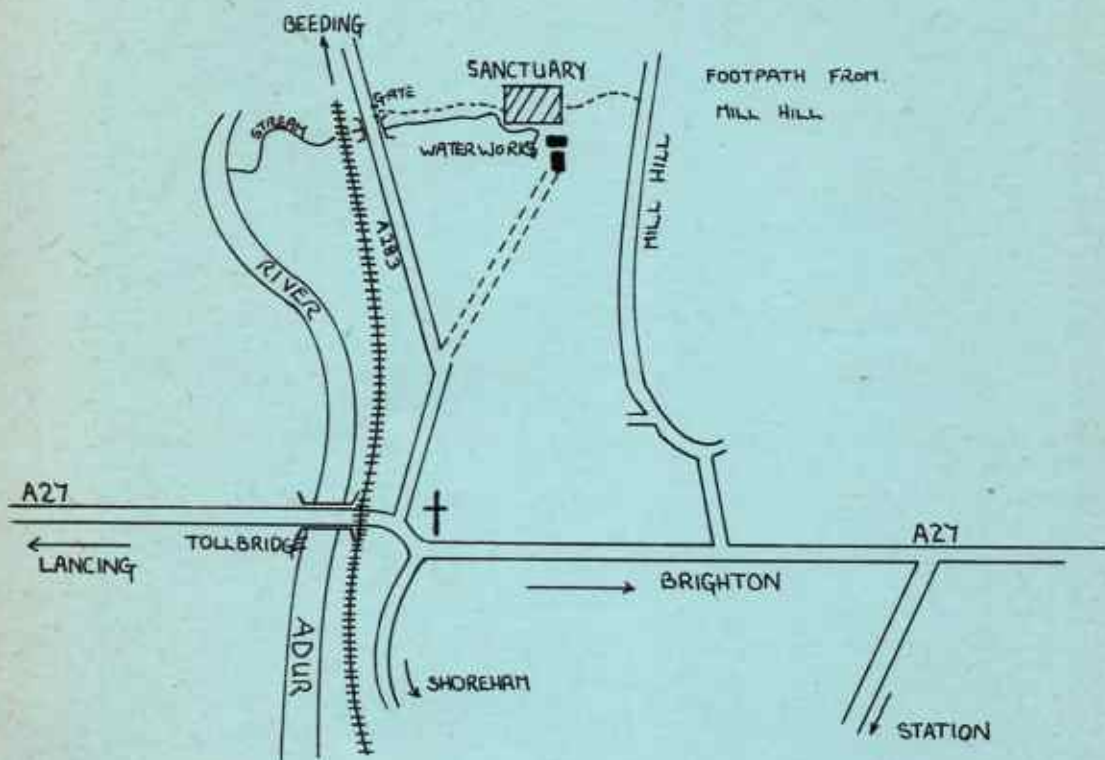
The Shoreham Ornithological Society is affiliated to or is a member of the following bodies:-

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 20p 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.

Note: The new Adur Bridge and its approaches are omitted from this map for the sake of clarity.