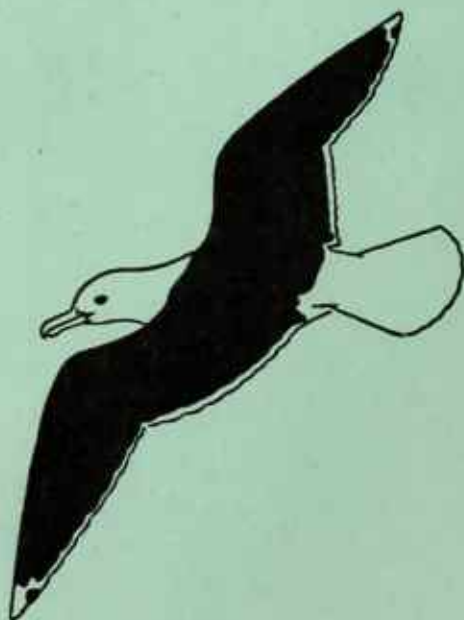


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Nineteenth Annual Report



for the Year 1971

PRICE:

TWENTY PENCE

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1971

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Another year has gone by with no extremes of weather, and no extreme rarities to celebrate in our area. But, as "Notable Birds of the Area" shows, observation of the more familiar species continues to emphasise the very rich variety of bird life within our rather ill-defined boundaries.

There were some pleasant surprises - a Bittern at the Airport (first since 1963) and a Spoonbill at Worthing (last recorded in 1958) were uncommon visitors; Garganey and Goldeneye were up in numbers; Corncrakes evoked memories of a more abundant past; and Roseate Terns do not seem to have appeared in our records since the Report began - this may reflect closer and more informed watching.

More regular watching may also account for the reports of raptors from the Cissbury-Chanctonbury-Steyning area, with a Red

Kite, perhaps, as 'Bird of the Year', whilst two reports of presumably the same Osprey break a ten-years absence.

Membership has risen to 180, and with attendances at Huntington Hall now taxing its seating capacity, your Council has decided that the present level should be held as a maximum.

Sadly, the year has seen the death of Miss Catherine Biggs - an appreciation of whose devotion to the Society she almost brought into being follows below - and of Mrs. Twort, who for so long helped at our indoor meetings. We also record with regret the death of Mrs. Roe, for some years a member of the Society.

Mrs. Farmer, a founder member herself, has continued in the vital post of Secretary and has not only arranged the usual excellent programme of lectures but provided a fixture card for the year's events. Owing to a projector failure, Dr. Hollings was unable to show us his film of the wild life of the East African National Park, but after a quick dash back to Worthing he gave us an absorbing programme of slides on the same subject. We hope to see his film on another occasion.

For this Report Mr. Martin Meadows has sent us an account from Zambia, where he is in the forestry service, of familiar Sussex birds seen in unfamiliar surroundings. And Miss Pamela Goddard, as locum tenens for her father, has contributed an entertaining picture of a birding trip in Canada. No Report would be complete without an article from Mr. Tony Marr (there is an article in the 1953 issue by "T. Marr - aged 13" - if he will forgive this disclosure of his advancing years!) This year he puts us sybarites to shame by his account of a real bird-watcher's Christmas. We also include a poem, dictated to his successor, by our former Recorder, Mr. Twort who, despite failing sight and his recent bereavement, still takes a lively interest in the world of birds.

What we have come to expect as the Steyning Grammar School Succession continues at the Sanctuary, where Brian and Phillip Clay have helped with some of the ringing and Brian has this year compiled the Sanctuary Report. And Mr. John Newnham has interrupted his medical studies to write the Ringing Report once again, having spent much of his vacations there.

We record our thanks, as always, to Mr. Rampton, our most capable Chancellor of the Exchequer; to Mr. Burstow for arranging (all on fine days!) and the leaders for conducting the field

outings; to Mr. Tom Palmer, whose meticulous records and clear handwriting make much of the Editor's work a formality; and, not least, to Dr. Stafford for sparing the time to chair our meetings, both general and Council, and for all he has done for the Society over the years.

CATHERINE BIGGS - AN APPRECIATION

When the society was formed in January, 1953, it was Miss Biggs' energy and enthusiasm in the support she gave to Dr. Stafford that ensured its firm foundation and endurance, and over the years that followed, right up to the time of her death on November 1st. last, she continued to work untiringly for the Society. She was its first Hon. Secretary from 1953 until March 1961, when she persuaded Tony Marr to take over, continuing then as Asst. Sec. to him and then successively to Mrs. J. B. Smith and Miss H. Bartlett. In 1967 she resumed the secretaryship, although by then in her eighties, and held it until Mrs. Farmer took over in 1969, remaining on the Council.

It was her enterprise and persistence which obtained a lease (for a peppercorn rent) of the Sanctuary, where so much of the scientific work of the Society has been done. It was her enthusiasm which encouraged so many young bird-watchers to persevere with their interest. And ultimately it was her devotion to our small Society which played no small part, if indirectly, in the formation of the Sussex Society, which recruited four of its five officers from our members.

Miss Biggs had that happy gift of remembering names and faces, and newcomers were soon made to feel welcome and at home in the Society. Traditionally, the Council met at the house she shared with her brother and sister, who regularly accompanied her to and helped with the meetings at Huntington Hall. We offer them our warmest sympathy and our thanks.

Up to her final brief illness, she did not allow the passage of years to daunt her spirit or dull her interest, and we can all take heed of her example.

Everyone who has derived pleasure from the activities of our Society is in her debt, and we are all the poorer for her passing.

C.F.H.

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SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1971

Once again the Sanctuary has been subject to a certain amount of disturbance throughout the year. This time it was from inside the copse. Work on the new pumping station which began last year, continued, and involved the clearing of one part of the Sanctuary for use as a spoil heap. The spoil was later removed and the ground levelled, much to the relief of regular Sanctuary visitors. The work has resulted in a decline in certain species of the number of breeding birds, especially those using the scrub and reed beds, adjacent to the works. As work is nearing completion, however, it is hoped that next year will see a return to normal breeding populations.

As mentioned, the 1971 breeding season was poor, but the spring and autumn passages were well up to previous standards, and even exceeded by certain species. The winter coverage was again low, and the number of visits during the year was considerably down, 58 visits as compared with the 1970 total of 93. However spring and autumn, the best seasons at the Sanctuary were well covered.

The following analysis is based on the entries in the daily log, which is kept in the Sanctuary hut :

WINTER As the winter was generally mild no great numbers of duck or waders were recorded. 2 Teal were present on the 1st Jan., rising to 8 on the 27th Feb. their peak. There was a pair of Mallard present in the brooks throughout the winter, and a visit on the 9th Jan. was rewarded by the sighting of 3 Pintail, a possible first for the Sanctuary. 1 Shoveler was present on the 27th Feb. when c 100 Lapwing were feeding in the fields. Snipe were seen regularly throughout January and February with a maximum of 12 on the 9th Jan. Redwing and Fieldfare were recorded on five dates during the winter with a maximum of c 20 for both species. Fieldfare were last seen on the 27th Feb. when c 20 were in the fields and Redwing stayed until 6th April when c 15 were recorded. Goldcrest numbers remained constant with up to 5 to be watched on most days up to March 23. The only notable flocks seen were of 500 Skylarks on Jan.1st and 50 Linnets on 27th Feb. A solitary Goldfinch repeated last year's visit on the 1st Jan.

SPRING The Goldcrests remained in the Sanctuary during April in smaller numbers, but this was made up for by the appearance of a Firecrest on the 16th April. The first regular summer

migrants to pass through the copse were 3 Chiffchaffs, seen on the 6th April. They were followed by a single Willow Warbler on the 15th April. The spring maximum for the two species, c 10 occurred on two dates, the 17th April and 8th May. The peak arrival date was the 17th April when as well as the Chiff/Willows, the first Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warblers and House Martins were seen, and the Swallows first seen on the 12th, now totalled 6. May 8th welcomed Turtle Doves, Swifts, Blackcaps and Whitethroats. Reed Warblers were not recorded until May 20th, but were probably overlooked. Yellow Wagtails passed through early, 6 individual birds being seen on the 10th and 15th April. Other interesting birds paying a visit during April and May were 2 Spotted Flycatchers on the 16th April and 8th May, a Tree Sparrow, an occasional visitor at all seasons, on 10th April, and a Black Redstart on the 12th April.

SUMMER Although breeding records for the Sanctuary itself were low, birds bred in their usual numbers on the hillside and in the fields and brooks. Birds particularly affected were the Reed Warblers, and to a lesser extent the Sedge Warbler which is more a bird of the extensive reed beds in the brooks.

Resident birds had a fairly successful season, although three of the Sanctuary's nesting boxes, all containing Blue Tit nests, were destroyed by intruders. As many young Blue Tits were present toward the end of the season, however, it would appear that they were more successful at their second attempt. Grasshopper Warblers were again present on the hillside and may have bred, and three pairs of Whitethroats, pipits, larks, finches and buntings all bred on the hill. In the fields and dykes at least four pairs of Reed Bunting and two of Sedge Warbler reared young. Three pairs of Willow Warbler and two of Chiffchaff bred in or near the copse itself, with two pairs of Blackcap. The Mistle Thrush was again breeding early; one pair was recorded nesting on the 27th March.

Summer visitors to the Sanctuary were Herons, Common Sandpipers and Partridges, the last being strangers in recent years. A Green Woodpecker and a Tree Sparrow appeared in the copse itself.

AUTUMN The first signs of Autumn passage were noted in increased numbers of the more abundant warblers, such as Willow, Reed and Sedge Warblers.

The Willow Warbler passage begins first, and, true to form, their numbers of 4 on July 17th had risen to c 30 by August 8th, their peak. They continued to pass through, numbering c 12 each

day until the end of August. The last Willow Warbler was recorded on Sept. 29th. Chiffchaff numbers did not build up until the last week of August when 5 were recorded. They reached their peak passage between 14th and 19th Sept. when c 20 were passing through each day, the maximum passage being about two weeks earlier than last year. The last bird had left by Oct. 8th.

Passage of the Reed and Sedge Warblers is never so spectacular, but they passed through the Sanctuary steadily between August 20 and September 25. the last Reed Warbler present was on the 25th, whereas Sedge Warbler remained in very small numbers until Oct 8th.

Fewer Whitethroats passed through this year, the total recorded between 15th Aug and 19th Sept. amounting to c 16 birds, as compared with c 30 between the same dates last year. Garden Warblers were down too, and the number of Blackcaps recorded passing through during September was down from last year's total of c 45 to c 32; the number of Sanctuary visits in September for the two years being identical. It was not a bad year for all the 'Sylvia' warblers, however, as the phenomenal number of Lesser Whitethroats moving through between mid August and mid September shows; c 60 birds passing through compared with 26 last year.

There was no spectacular 'hirundine' movement this year, but birds were seen passing over the hill steadily between Aug. 20 and Oct. 8th, the last date noted for both Swallows and House Martins. Peak movements of Swallows occurred on the 4th and 11th Sept. when c 150 passed over on each date; c 300 House Martins headed south on the 22nd Aug. and a further 300 followed on the 31st. As usual, small numbers of other migrants passed through, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, Redstarts and Whinchats were seen and 2 Wheatears appeared in the fields on the 22 Aug.

Long-Tailed Tits have made a welcome re-appearance at the Sanctuary this year with large flocks present during Sept. and Oct. A Stonechat appeared on the 8th Oct. and a Barn Owl, a Tawny Owl, and a Cuckoo all made single appearances. Kestrels sometimes numbering up to 3 were always to be watched over the hill. Common Sandpipers were present in the brooks through most of August, Kingfishers taking their place in Sept. and Oct. Snipe returned to the brooks on 19th Sept. and a Water Rail was netted on the 22nd. Goldcrests returned after their summer vacation on Sept. 16th and slowly built up winter numbers.

Further evidence of the shortening days was the usual presence of finch flocks in the fields feeding on mast, toward the end of Sept.

WINTER The last week of Sept. and the first few weeks of Oct. also sees a marked increase in the numbers of thrushes preparing for the winter roosts. The Blackbirds and Song Thrushes were joined on the 29th Oct. by c 5 Redwing, the first winter record for the Sanctuary this year, but Fieldfare were not seen until Dec. 23rd. Other winter visitors to the copse were Redpolls on the 29th Sept. and the 5th and 29th October. Also seen on the 29th was a Water Rail. The 23rd of December brought a Tree Creeper and on the 26th a Great Spotted Woodpecker was trapped in the mist nets.

With the bulk of the work on the pumping station completed, it is hoped that 1972 will see a return of normal breeding populations, encouraged by the provision of some new nesting boxes.

List of Contributors: B and P Clay, B and F Forbes,
 C.F.Helyer, C.Hiscoke, C.Messer,
 J.Newnham, T.Palmer & Dr.A.B.Watson

B.R.C.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1971

During the year, a total of 1614 birds were ringed of 49 different species: 1588 were ringed as full-grown birds, and 26 as pulli.

Dr.A.B.Watson ringed 283 in various localities, Brian Short totalled 175 at Patcham, Dr.J.Stafford ringed 19 and John Newnham caught 1137 new birds, all at the Sanctuary.

A full table of the birds ringed is shown overleaf.....

RINGING REPORT contd...

Kestrel	1	Spotted Flycatcher	7
Water Rail	1	Stonechat	2
Wood Pigeon	4	Redstart	3
Collared Dove	1	Robin	31
Turtle Dove	2	Blackbird	110
Cuckoo	1	Song Thrush	44
Kingfisher	2	Long-tailed Tit	20
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	Willow Tit	1
Skylark	8	Coal Tit	16
Swallow	43	Blue Tit	197
House Martin	9	Great Tit	72
Meadow Pipit	2	Tree Creeper	2
Yellow Wagtail	1	Corn Bunting	20
Wren	35	Yellow Hammer	42
Dunnoch	72	Reed Bunting	7
Sedge Warbler	25	Chaffinch	33
Reed Warbler	42	Greenfinch	199
Garden Warbler	12	Goldfinch	88
Blackcap	61	Linnet	25
Whitethroat	12	Bullfinch	36
Lesser Whitethroat	50	House Sparrow	1
Willow Warbler	106	Tree Sparrow	7
Chiffchaff	78	Starling	54
Goldcrest	16	Rook	1
Firecrest	1		

Total: 1614

The more unusual birds trapped during the year included three Great Spotted Woodpeckers at Lancing College and Steyning, a Firecrest on Dr. Watson's lawn, and at the Sanctuary a Kestrel, two Kingfishers, two Stonechats, a Cuckoo and a Water Rail.

The Reed Warbler study continued at the Sanctuary, and during the season 42 new Reed Warblers, 38 of which were juveniles, were ringed. Once again 6 adult Reed Warblers caught in previous years, one at least four years old, returned to the copse to breed.

The number of Lesser Whitethroats ringed during the summer increased yet again, whilst the number of Whitethroats fell again; is this a reflection of the gradually changing habitat at the Sanctuary in favour of the Lesser Whitethroat?

Throughout the year Colin Messer, Brian and Phillip Clay continued to help with the netting and ringing, and in so doing obtained valuable experience in handling birds.

FOREIGN RECOVERIES

There was only one foreign recovery in 1971:

Reed Warbler.....Ringed full-grown..... 12-7-67
Trapped and released Inezgane, Ait Melloal,
Morocco..... 26-3-71

This is the first African recovery for many years.

BRITISH RECOVERIES

Sedge Warbler.....Ringed juvenile..... 29-7-70
Killed by car, Shrivenham, Berks. 24-6-71
125Km. N.W.

Chiffchaff.....Ringed full-grown..... 5-10-71
Control: mid-Atlantic..... mid-Nov.

Blackbird.....Ringed juvenile..... 21-9-60
Control: Shoreham..... 14-9-71

Mute Swan.....Ringed adult..... 22-12-68
Control: Newhaven 22Km.E.S.E..... 23-6-71

Mute Swan.....Ringed adult..... 11-12-68
Control: Newhaven, 22Km.E.S.E..... 24-4-71

Mute Swan.....Ringed full-grown..... 19-11-61
Control: Leatherhead, Surrey..... undated
50Km. N.

The Blackbird was 11 years old. The Chiffchaff alighted on a trans-Atlantic liner, but exactly where and when is not known.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1971

This feature is on reports sent in by the following:

Mrs.B.M.Buckler, Mrs.E.Farmer, Mrs.E.Edwards,
Miss E.M.B.Rogers, Miss M.Bull, Miss L.A.Pusey per B.J.Short.
Messrs. C.E.Messer, P.S.Wilmshurst, F.J.Forbes, B.Forbes,
H.Hiscoke, B.J.Short, R.S.Kelly, F.Severs, C.F.Helyer,
T.Palmer, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, Dr.J.S.Stafford, R.Ives,
R.E.F.Peal, M.A.Jennings, C.M.Veysey, Dr.A.B.Watson.

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; S.P. - Sussex Pad;
Sh. R.D. - Shoreham Rubbish Dump; 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. Gt.Northern Diver: 1 offshore Worthing flying E.
May 6.
4. Red-Throated Diver: 1 W.W. Dec. 5.
Diver Sp. 1 offshore Worthing flying W; Apr.14.
1 Ferring flying E. Dec.12.
5. Great Crested Grebe: seen offshore in small numbers
throughout year. Maximum at any one time - 7.
6. Red-necked Grebe: 1 offshore Worthing. (C.M.Veysey had
good views with telescope and binoculars) Nov.23.
7. Slavonian Grebe: 1 offshore Worthing, in winter plumage.
Mar.2.
9. Little Grebe: 6 reports concerning 16 birds in usual
haunts. 8 maximum in any one place.
26. Fulmar: offshore Worthing. Up to 3 seen on many dates.
27. Gannet: offshore Worthing. 5 reports concerning 10
birds from 2nd Mar. (1 ad.) to 20th Aug.

28. Cormorant: 6 reports from coast concerning 62 birds, max.
26 at E.W.Pipe.
4 reports of 23 birds on marshes around Steyning.
29. Shag: 2 offshore Worthing, Dec. 6th - 1 ad; 1 first winter.
30. Heron: 2 on nests, 7 in field Wyckham Wood, Apr. 12.
Occasional bird on Airfield during Feb.
8, O.S.R. Mar.13.
Offshore Worthing 1 flying W., Aug. 17
38. Bittern: 1 Airport, Jan.2.
42. Spoonbill: 1 ad. Worthing, feeding in shallow water, Sept.2.
45. Mallard: 100, O.S.R., Jan.26. 35 near S.P., Feb.2.
3 pairs with young, Airfield, June 4. 7 Br.Lagoon during Jan.
when lake was drained. 10 there, incl. 1 hybrid drake, Oct.7.
46. Teal: regular in Winter O.S.R., max. 200. 1 m. Airfield,
June 4. 1 m. Br.Lagoon, Jan.5. 5 Adur, Nov.24.
47. Garganey: 10 O.S.R., Mar.13.
50. Wigeon: 350 O.S.R., Jan.26. 4 Adur. Steyning, Jan.1.
52. Pintail: 1 m. Adur. 14 - 15 Jan. 28 O.S.R., Jan.26.
1 W.W., Jan. 1, 8 and 10.
53. Shoveler: 3 O.S.R., Jan. 26.
56. Tufted Duck: Br.Lagoon up to 2 pairs in Jan. 1 f. there, Oct.7.
57. Pochard: Br.Lagoon, on 5 dates in 1st week of Jan. (Lake
drained) max. 56. (41 males). On another day 24 males out of
30 birds. 3 Hove Lagoon, Nov.13.
60. Goldeneye: 13 Adur, Jan.1; 6 there Jan.2. Up to 3 at W.W.
on 4 dates in Jan. 1 pair Worthing, Mar.1. 1 Hove Lagoon,
Nov.13 and 20. 1 Ferring, Dec.19.
64. Common Scotor: 8 offshore Shoreham, Jan.2. 12 offshore
Worthing, Apr. 4. Mar. to Nov. on 6 dates there, flying E.
Max. 7. 1 m. there May 19. 1 Harb., Dec.18.
67. Eider: 1 Ferring, Dec.30. (The only record).
69. Red-breasted Merganser: unusual numbers recorded. Offshore
from Ferring to Wide Water on 31 dates from Jan. to June, then
during Nov. and Dec. Maximum numbers on separate dates, 60 -
30 - 40 - 20 - 18. Impossible to assess total numbers of
birds involved.

73. Shelduck: 1 W.W. Jan.1. 12 Br.Lagoon, Jan. 5. T.B. on many dates during Jan. and Feb, max. 22. 72 offshore Ferring, flying W., Dec. 9, and 10 flying W. there on Dec.10.
80. Brent Goose: 1 offshore W.W.Jan.31. 1 offshore Worthing, Apr. 15 and Apr. 16. 23 Flying N., E.Worthing, Aug. 8. 72 flying W., E.W.B., Nov. 12. 37 flying W. Ferring, Dec. 9. 3 there Dec.10. 1 Hove Lagoon, Nov.13.
85. Whooper Swan: 5 flying W. Ferring (4 ad. 1 imm.) Dec.9.
86. Bewick's Swan: 8 O.S.R., Jan.10.
91. Buzzard: 1 north of Steyning, June 24. 1 Portslade, Sept.9. On 6 dates in last 3 months of the year, up to 3 reported from Downs N. of Worthing.
93. Sparrowhawk: seen Downs N. of Worthing on 21 dates throughout year, in ones and twos, by many observers.
95. Red Kite: 1 Chanctonbury area, 27 Nov. (Well seen by M.A.Jennings, an old member of the Society, just back from Australia).
100. Hen Harrier: Seen on 16 dates by many observers on the Downs N. of Worthing, Jan. and Feb. then Oct. to end of year, max. on any one date 3. (2 ringtails and 1 m).
103. Osprey: 1 Ferring beach. Seen for 10 minutes, Apr.27. 1 observed in heavy rain over Brighton "A" Power Station, Fishergate, Apr. 26, during morning.
110. Kestrel: well spread over the whole area, max. at any one time 8.
115. Red-legged Partridge: numerous on Downs N. of Worthing. Max. on any one date 150. Game keeper reported 2,000 reared last year.
116. Partridge: 8 No Man's Land, May 20; 3 there May 25. Nest with 13 eggs Upper Beeding, June 21. 30 No Man's Land, Oct.10; 50 there Sept. 8, and 60 there in Nov.
117. Quail: heard and sometimes seen 4 dates in May and June, No Man's Land (2 or 3 birds involved). 1 calling on Southwick Hill, July 7. 1 or more heard Steep Down, Aug.19.
120. Water Rail: 1 Sanct. Oct. 29. 1 Wiston Oct.30 (heard) 2 O.S.R. Dec.11. 1 W.R.D. Dec.13.

125. Corncrake: 1 Cissbury Ring area, July 1; and 1 there July 7. (F.S.) 1 picked up dead by farm worker and sent to Game Conservancy per C.E.M.
127. Coot: Jan. to Mar. Adur. max. 19. W.W. max. 9. Br.Lagoon, Oct. max.6.
131. Oystercatcher: small numbers reported offshore and in Adur on 12 dates. 20 at Ferring, Feb.12. 14 there Mar.7. and 25 flying W. offshore, Worthing, Apr.19.
133. Lapwing: 60 O.S.R. Jan 7; 200 there Mar.13; and 200 there Oct.17. 2 with young N. of Wiston Lake, Apr.29.
134. Ringed Plover: breeding at Southwick, Apr. to Aug; up to 5 pairs. 60 T.B., Aug.16. 100 F.B., Sept. 9. 20 offshore Worthing, Oct.28. 60 E.W.B. flying E., Nov.13. 89 Adur, Oct.12; 130 Adur and Airport, Dec.19. Up to 60, Ferring, Dec.
139. Grey Plover: up to 11 Ferring Beach during first 3 months of year. Up to 40 there in Dec. 2 T.B. Feb.9. 1 there Oct.10.
140. Golden Plover: 8 O.S.R., Jan.26. 8 there Mar.7. 2 Devil's Dyke, Apr.17. 1 Lychpole Hill, Oct.25. 1 found dead on beach, Fishergate, Mar.10.
143. Turnstone: 15, Ferring, Mar.3. 2 Worthing in summer plumage, swimming, Apr.20. 1 E.W.B., Aug.26. 9 Ferring, Dec.9; 5 there Dec.10.
145. Snipe: Br.Lagoon, max. 7 during 1st week of Jan. O.S.R., up to 30 in Mar; 3 pairs there Apr.12; up to 200 there Oct. to Dec. 60 Adur, Nov.24.
147. Jack Snipe: 5 Br.Lagoon first week in Jan. Very tame.
148. Woodcock: 1 W.R.D., Jan. 5. 4 Ashurst, May 30, roding. (somewhat outside our area)
150. Gurlew: 3 Adur, Apr. 28. 15 No Man's Land, Oct. 30. 4 offshore E.W.B., May 19. 1 F.A., Sept. 6. 1 Ferring, Dec.11.
151. Whimbrel: 15 records concerning 230 birds flying up channel on spring migration from Apr. 12 to May 9; max. on any one date 120. 1 T.B., 19 - 22 Aug.
154. Black-tailed Godwit: 1 offshore E.W.B., flying E., Aug.13. 1 offshore Shoreham, May 3.

155. Bar-tailed Godwit: 8 records concerning 266 birds on spring passage from Apr.26 to May 7; max. on any one date 83. 1 T.B., Aug.16, 18 and 19.
156. Green Sandpipers: 1 O.S.R., Mar.13; 2 there Oct.31, and 1 there Nov.4. 1 Adur, Nov.24.
157. Wood Sandpiper: 1 W.R.D., Sept. 28.
159. Common Sandpiper: 11 records concerning 28 birds, max. 6 on any one date, from the usual places, Sanct., F.A., T.B.: Adur, Br.Lagoon, W.R.D. Spring passage Apr. to June; autumn passage Aug. to Sept.
161. Redshank: up to 100 Adur, Jan. and Feb. Up to 8 O.S.R. Apr. 80 F.A., Sept. 1. 20 T.B., Aug.16 and 50 there Aug. 18. 87 Adur, Oct.12. 12 Br.Lagoon (drained) first week in Jan. 15 E.Worthing, Aug.17, flying E.
169. Knot: 2 T.B., Jan.15; 3 there Sept. 22 - 23 - 24. 30 on seaweed thrown up by storm W. Worthing, Dec. 1. This is an unusually large number for our district.
170. Purple Sandpiper: 2 Harb. Mar.1. 3 Ferring, Mar.11. 17 there Mar.17; and up to 15 there on 5 dates in Nov. and Dec. 1 Harb., May 24.
171. Little Stint: 1 in changing plumage Ferring Beach, May 4; the only record.
178. Dunlin: 800 max. Adur in Jan. 1 there in changing plumage Apr.28. 1,150 Adur and Airport count by C.E.M., Dec.19, but on Oct.12, C.M.V. could only find 3. Max. at Ferring in Dec., 700. 40 W.W., Nov.13. Max. 90 Br.Lagoon 1st week in Jan. when Lagoon was drained. Not usually recorded there.
181. Sanderling: 400 Ferring Beach, Mar.1; 80 there during Dec.; 12 there in May. 3 or 4 W.Worthing in Apr.; and 6 there in Oct.
184. Ruff: 5 Br.Lagoon, first week in Jan. 1 f. F.A., Jan. 19; 1 f. C.C., Aug.18.
194. Great Skua: 1 offshore Worthing flying E., May 3.
195. Pomarine Skua: 1 offshore Worthing flying E., May 17.
Skua sp. 1 offshore Worthing flying W., Aug.16 - 18.

198. Great Black-backed Gull: 250 max., Adur, during Jan.- Feb. 3 O.S.R., Apr.3.
199. Lesser Black-backed Gull: up to 8 T.B. during Aug.; 1 there on 3 dates in Dec.
202. Glaucous Gull: 1 Hove Lagoon on 6 dates during Mar. - Apr. 1 there on 9 dates during Nov. - Dec. 1 E.W.B., Nov.16 - thought to be the same bird - and 1 there Dec. 12 thought to be a different bird (1st or 2nd Winter).
205. Mediterranean Gull: 1 Hove Lagoon on 4 dates in Feb. 1 there 10th - 12th Dec.
207. Little Gull: 1 E.W.B., flying E., May 7. 1 Ferring flying W., Oct.20.
208. Black-headed Gull: Sompting Brooks. A flock feeding on hawthorn berries, Oct.16.
211. Kittiwake: 1 imm. offshore Worthing flying W., Aug.31. 2 E.W.B. flying W., Oct.20.
212. Black Tern: 1 Br. flying E., Apr. 30. 3 Southwick, May 14; 6 Worthing flying W., Aug.12. and 19 there flying W., Aug. 12 - 31.
- 217-8 Common/Arctic Tern: 13 offshore Hove, Apr.30 and May 12. Easterly passage was very large this year. 600 were noted in 21 hours watching by F.J.F., B.F., and C.E.M., and 375 by C.M.V., in 22 hours watching on 31 dates. Peak number in 1 hour's watching - 140. All these reports are for late May and early June. Return passage on 5 dates in Aug. came to 118; max. on any one day 50 (F.J.F; B.F.) otherwise only a trickle noted.
219. Roseate Tern: 4 offshore W.W. flying E., May 14. 1 or 2 seen on 8 dates in May and June on E.Worthing sewage out-fall at distances down to 15 yds; 2 there July.2; a most exhaustive description of these birds by F.J.F. and B.F. 1 seen there Apr. 26 by C.M.V.
222. Little Tern: Easterly passage during May and June E.W.B., 185 during 19 hours watch on 6 dates (F.J.F., B.F.) 91 there on 17 dates, C.M.V. Return passage 80 during Aug. at E.W.B., Adur., W.W., and T.B.

223. Sandwich Tern: Spring passage during Apr., May and June. E.W.B. and Ferring 630 during 19 hours watch by F.J.F., B.F. and C.E.M., and 466 during 30 hours watch by C.M.V. Return passage on 8 dates in Aug., E.W.B. 605; max. on any one date 148, (F.J.F., B.F.)
224. Razorbill: 1 offshore W.W., May 14. 1 from boat E.W.B. June 10; 1 there Oct.30; and 1 imm and 1 ad there Oct.20.
227. Guillemot: 1 offshore Ferring flying E., Feb.12. 1 Harb., and W.W., Dec.18. One oiled bird Southwick, May 12; One also seen end of Brighton "B" Power Station outfall, same date.
232. Stock Dove: nest and eggs, Annington Hill, May 28. 2 C.H. throughout year on scattered dates. 3 O.S.R., Sept. 6. 25 Steyning Round Hill, Oct.30; and 250 there in 3 flocks, Dec.24.
234. Wood Pigeon: 250 Sanct. Field, Mar.21st.
235. Turtle Dove: 4 Upper Beeding, Apr.24. 1 Lychpole Hill, May 2. 1 Sompting, May 10. 1 C.H., Sept.2. 2 O.S.R., Sept. 6.
- Collared Dove: Bred in garden Chesswood Rd. Worthing. 60 C.H., Oct.23. 17 Wiston, Oct.30.
237. Cuckoo: odd birds reported from Devil's Dyke., C.H., W.R.D., Wyckham, Ladywells and Sompting. The C.H. birds seem to have stayed from Apr. to July.
241. Barn Owl: 1 Woods Mill, Apr.16. Heard occasionally Southwick Green. Breeding reported by B.R.C., Steyning Round Hill.
246. Little Owl: odd birds Lychpole Hill, Coombes, No Man's Land. Bred at Wiston. Heard calling at night during Sept. and Oct. at Worthing.
247. Tawny Owl: 2 pairs Homefield Park, Worthing, in breeding season. Heard regularly at Patcham. Not known to breed there. 1 roosting Lancing Clump, Mar.1. 1 O.S.R., Nov. 28. Heard calling at night during Sept. and Oct., Worthing.
249. Short-eared Owl: up to 4 on many dates in Oct. and Nov., Chanctonbury area.

255. Swift: well spread over area from Apr. to Sept.
100 Br.Lagoon, June 25. Steady movement E. noted all day
Aug.18.
253. Kingfisher: 12 reports of single birds from the usual
places throughout year.
259. Bee-eater: on Aug.17 B.J.S. had a very brief view of a
bird which he thought was of this species. A very good rear
sketch was sent in. This is one of those maddening incidents
we all know so well. Mrs Farmer reported seeing and hearing
1 flying S., at Mill Hill, Shm., Oct.24.
262. Green Woodpecker: 9 reports concerning 11 birds in country
districts. 1 stayed 30 minutes in Miss Bull's garden at
Steyning.
263. Great Spotted Woodpecker: 8 reports of single birds well
scattered over the area (more than usual).
264. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: 1 pr. Warren Hill, Washington,
Apr.22. 1 feeding in Garden at Steyning, Sept.14.
271. Woodlark: 1 W.R.D., May 20.
281. Hooded Crow: 1 Chanctonbury area Nov.6, and 1 there Nov.11.
284. Magpie: 10 Steyning Sewage Farm. Sept.26.
286. Jay: 1 O.S.R. Jan.1. 1 Newtimber, Jan.22. 1 fledgling,
Findon Park, July 28; 3 there Oct.23. 2 O.S.R., Nov.28.
2 Chanctonbury, Nov.13.
290. Coal Tit: resident C.H. throughout year, max. 6. 1 W.R.D.,
Oct.6. 2 Steyning, Sept.6. 11 trapped and ringed Shoreham,
and 4 Lancing College, Feb-Dec. Song through breeding
season, Shoreham.
292. Marsh Tit: 1 C.H. on 4 dates in Apr., Sept., and Oct.
4 (one with food in bill) Findon Park, July 28.
3 Chanctonbury, Nov.13.
293. Willow Tit: 6 No Man's Land, June 18. Bred C.H.
294. Long Tailed Tit: well scattered over the district through-
out year. Bred C.H. - max. there 15.
296. Nuthatch: 1 Stanmer Park, June 24. Up to 5 Chanctonbury
area, Nov.11.

298. Tree Creeper: 1 pr. Coney Hill. Breeding proved, Apr.14.
2 Steyning, Dec.1. 1 trapped garden Shoreham, Dec.2.
301. Mistle Thrush: nested in garden at Worthing.
302. Fieldfare: 500 O.S.R., Jan.26. 1 C.H., Apr. 7. 20
Truleigh Hill, Apr. 6. 300 O.S.R., Oct.31, 50 there
Nov.4. 15 No Man's Land, Oct.31.
304. Redwing: very small numbers recorded. 8 Southwick, Jan.
10, the highest at beginning of year and 7 O.S.R. Oct.14
at end. Total 26 on 7 dates.
307. Ring Ouzel: 2 f. C.H., Apr. 30. 1 Chanctonbury, Oct.27.
311. Wheatear: 23 records concerning 76 birds, mostly from
Downs, max. on any one date 10. 2 prs. were seen holding
territory, 1 bird carrying food May 10, Steyning Round Hill
area. 1 Greenland and 2 Common were seen by C.M.V. on
W.R.D. Oct.21.
317. Stonechat: odd birds in the usual haunts, Jan. and Feb;
and again in Sept., Oct., and Nov.
318. Whinchat: only 3 birds recorded on Spring migration, but
88 noted on 14 dates on Autumn migration. Max. on any
one date 30 No Man's Land, Sept.1.
320. Common Redstart: 1 Westdene, Apr.16. 2 Sompting Brooks,
Apr.24. 1 W.R.D., Sept. 5, and 1 there Sept.6. 1 Findon
Park, Oct.7.
321. Black Redstart: 1 Harb, Jan.13. 1 No Man's Land, Mar.28;
2 O.S.R, Apr.3. 1 near Sanct., Apr.12; 1 Harb., Dec.1.
Bred Kemp Town; 2 young fledged; 2nd clutch 5 eggs
deserted. 1 Southwick beach, Mar.12.
322. Nightingale: 4 records during May and June, north of
Downs, all of singing males.
324. Bluethroat: 1 in garden near Hove Cemetery, May 27. A
very good sketch and description was supplied by R.S.K.
327. Grasshopper Warbler: 1 Mill Hill, reeling, Apr.17. 1
Lancing Clump, Apr.21. 5 Devil's Dyke, reeling, Apr.31.
1 No Man's Land, Aug.13-15. 2 C.H. Aug.29.
Several reeling at dusk, Southwick Hill, June 22, and at
Steyning Round Hill, July 26.
333. Reed Warbler: 1 Upper Boeding May 1. 4 Airfield June 4.
2 C.H. Aug.16. 2 Br., Oct.7

337. Sedge Warbler: 3 O.S.R., Apr.25. 4 Airfield, June 4.
2 C.H. Aug.16.
343. Blackcap: resident Patchan - breeding presumed. Odd birds reported over the area during Apr. and Oct.
346. Garden Warbler: 1 pr. resident Patchan, breeding presumed.
3 singing Stanmer Park, June 30. 1 singing Worthing June 28.
1 C.H. Aug - Sept. 1 No Man's Land July 3. 1 Warren Hill
Washington, Apr.22.
347. Common Whitethroat: No Man's Land, est. 20 pairs breeding;
4 singing males, May & June. Present C.H., Aug. and Sept.
6 O.S.R., Sept. 6. 1 garden at Steyning, Nov.10.
348. Lesser Whitethroat: 1 C.H. July to Sept. 2 Patchan Downs
in June. 1 Mill Hill, May 2. 1 Steyning, Sept. 8.
354. Willow Warbler: 1 Sanct., Apr.13. 1 Devil's Dyke same date.
1 O.S.R., Apr. 7.
356. Chiffchaff: well scattered throughout area during Apr.
357. Wood Warbler: 1 C.H., Apr. 30, singing; 1 there Aug.12 -
20 - 24. 1 Ashurst, May 30.
364. Goldcrest: up to 5 throughout year C.H. Bred Upper Brighton
Rd.Worthing - 5 or 6 young seen. Singing during breeding
season Homefields Park and No Man's Land. 1 at Steyning,
Jan.6; 1 there Mar.25. 2 Hove, Mar.21. 2 Shoreham, Oct.25;
1 Cissbury, Oct.25. Bred Shoreham.
365. Firecrest: 1 f. ringed in garden, Shoreham, Dec.11.
1 Sanct. Apr.16.
366. Spotted Flycatcher: well spread over area. 1 seen carrying
food Airfield, June 4. 20 seen W.R.D., Sept.16.
368. Pied Flycatcher: 1 Westdene Aug.24. 1 C.H., Sept.4.
5 Findon Park, Sept.9. 2 Homefield Park, Sept.17.
376. Tree Pipit: 2 singing Shaves Wood, June 13. 1 C.H. Sept.13.
379. Rock Pipit: odd birds seen along shore in Winter.
380. Pied Wagtail: up to 10 W.W., Jan - Feb. 15 E.W.B., Nov.15.
381. Grey Wagtail: 2 W.R.D., Aug.13. 1 Br., Oct. 6; 6 there
Oct.12.

382. Yellow Wagtail: 14 records concerning 75 birds well spread over district. Max.30 W.R.D. 15 Ferring in Sept.
384. Great Grey Shrike: 1 W.R.D., Jan.5, Feb.22 and Mar.9.
389. Starling: over 2,000 roosting No Man's Land, May 20.
392. Greenfinch: mixed flocks of up to 500 No Man's Land, Oct. - Nov. 27 flew in from sea, Worthing, Apr.27.
395. Linnet: flocks of up to 800 No Man's Land, Aug. to Nov.
397. Redpoll: 1 Sanct. feeding on willow seeds. Oct.29.
408. Brambling: recorded in small numbers from Patcham, Lancing, Steyning and Chanctonbury. Max.6.
410. Corn Bunting: regular W. Hove G. Course. 100 O.S.R., Apr.25; 150 there Dec.3. Present C.H., Nov. - Dec.
415. Cirl Bunting: 1 pr. feeding young, Lancing Manor, Sept.9.
421. Reed Bunting: 5 Chanctonbury, Nov.20. 1 Steyning, Dec.1. and Dec.31.
425. Tree Sparrow: 100 No Man's Land, Jan.24; 200 there Apr.3. 100 Applesham, Apr.14. 1 No Man's Land, July 3, carrying food for young. Up to 12 C.H. in Apr., and regular there from Sept. to Dec., max.100. 1 Sanct. Feb.4.

BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1971

The outstanding feature of the last year has been the great number of reports of raptors from the Downs between Worthing and Steyning. Buzzards, Sparrowhawks, Hen Harriers and Short Eared Owls were seen repeatedly by many people at both ends of the year.

This may be connected with the fact that 2,000 Red Legged Partridges were reared for sporting purposes. The high light of the year however was a Red Kite seen on Nov.27, by M.A.Jennings on his return from Australia. A man who can go round the World, then come home to Sussex and find a rarity like this, almost on his doorstep, so to speak, has more than the average amount of luck!

During the first week in January Brooklands Lagoon was partially drained. This gave the opportunity for many of our

members to study such birds as Snipe, Jack Snipe and Ruff at closer quarters than is usually the case. Jack Snipe for instance are not very often seen feeding at short range. It is astonishing to see how soon even a temporary change in the habitat will attract different species of birds. In this case no doubt draining the water off exposed stores of food previously unattainable.

The Editor and Recorder wish to compliment members who send in records on their promptitude this year. This is an enormous help. When it is realised that although records are entered on sheets as they arrive and no attempt at tabulating them for the Annual Report can be made until the last ones are in, members will understand the importance of sending in their last records to arrive during the first week in January. The amount of writing and typing involved is quite considerable.

It is particularly important to give the Editor as much time as possible to put the Annual Report into its final shape.

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.

NOSTALGIA

By Betchworth Clump below the Surrey Downs,
Where once I heard so many different sounds,
Where Nightingales poured forth their happy lay,
And Blackbirds sang throughout the livelong day;
When autumn tints betrayed the coming fall
And Barn Owl shrieked its weird and eerie call;
Then winter came when all the trees were bare,
And I recall Redwing and grey Fieldfare;
And spring once more when all the grass was green,
When Bee and green Man Orchid might be seen;
And in the woods the butterfly would go
Where once the tiny fly would scarcely show;
So if again such sights you wish to see
Come back to Betchworth Clump, just you and me!

J.M.T.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1971

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	Apr.12	E.Worthing	Aug.22.	T.B.
Common Sandpiper	Apr.16.	E.Worthing	Aug.26.	E.W.B.
Black Tern	Apr.30	Br.	Aug.31.	E.W.B.
Little Tern	Apr.23.	Br.	Aug.27.	Goring
Turtle Dove	Apr.24.	Upper Beeding	Sept.6.	O.S.R.
Cuckoo	Apr.16.	Devil's Dyke	Aug.22.	W.R.D.
Swift	Apr.24.	Upper Beeding	Sept.20	Westdene
Swallow	Apr.3.	O.S.R.	Nov.2.	Chancton-bury

<u>Species</u>	<u>First Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Last Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>
House Martin	Apr.12	Lancing	Nov.9.	Goring
Sand Martin	Apr.18	Wyckham Wood	Sept.22.	Mill Hill
Wheatear	Apr.1.	W.R.D.	Nov.2.	Chanctonbury
Whinchat	Apr.24.	Sompting Brooks	Oct.16.	C.H.
Redstart	Apr.16.	Westdene	Oct.7.	Findon Park
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr.17	Mill Hill	Aug.29.	C.H.
Reed Warbler	May 1.	Upper Beeding	Oct.7.	Br.
Sedge Warbler	Apr.25.	O.S.R.	Aug.16.	C.H.
Blackcap	Apr.13.	Sanct.	Oct.23.	Findon Park
Garden Warbler	Apr.22.	Washington	Sept.27.	C.H.
Whitethroat	Apr.27.	Sanct.	Nov.10.	Steyning
Lesser Whitethroat	May 2.	Mill Hill	Sept.23.	C.H.
Willow Warbler	Apr.7.	O.S.R.	Sept.3.	C.H.
Chiffchaff	Apr.1.	Westdene and W.R.D.	Oct.13.	C.H.
Spotted Flycatcher	May 13.	Lancing Clump	Sept.30.	C.H.
Yellow Wagtail	Apr.15.	Sanct.	Oct.20.	Br.
*Chiff/Willow	Feb.6.	R.B.	Dec.22.	Chanctonbury

* these birds may be trying to winter

THE SAW-WHET SAGA

Perhaps to 'set the scene' for my rather bizarre account I should say a few words about TORONTO - or rather the Toronto region - considered to be about 30 miles in diameter and centred at the Museum 'downtown'. As Toronto is on the northern shore of Lake Ontario this includes 80 miles of lake frontage - fruitful for an ornithologist.

So it is reported that the Toronto region whilst being Canada's most popular area is also the most intensively birded area in Canada.

There are many parks, gardens and ravines which particularly in May, October and November are alive with migrant birds. The principal qualification for seeing these is to be an early riser and arrive before the weekend boatmen, hikers, fishermen and picnickers not to mention alsatians and labradors - but then this is true of many places in Sussex.

Having acquired a pair of binoculars and discovered that a novice such as I can achieve only so much alone, I decided to join the Toronto Field Naturalists Society and participate with the more expert and experienced ornithologists. I was sorry to hear of the death of Jim Baillie who was considered to be the father of ornithology in Toronto and judging by the number of people gathered for my first outing had provoked much interest in bird watching. Roughly fifty people were gathered at the Toronto Ferry docks representing many species of the human race and equipped with the usual gear - bar one with a rifle who only joined us for the ferry trip. Needless to say our destination was Toronto Island and the best description I feel comes from Peter Iden's booklet Toronto Birdfinding Guide and I quote:-

"Actually a chain of islands separated by numerous channels and small bays, the 'Island' is one of the best all-round birding places in the Region. The open lake, the Toronto bay, and the small sheltered lagoons offer excellent waterfowl birding both during migrations and in the winter months. Long sandy beaches, particularly along the western shore of the Island are attractive to many species of shore birds in migrations. In addition to these attractions, which are quite worth considering on their own merits in a densely populated area such as Toronto, there is a fifty acre section of comparative wilderness aspect, well supplied with trees, dense

underbrush, marshy patches and open areas. During the peak of spring migration (Mid-May) it is possible to list close to, and probably even over 100 species in a single birding day. Fall migration is also spectacular at times and includes many hawks moving west along the lakeshore. But the most outstanding feature and one which has put Toronto 'on the map' as far as ornithological specialities are concerned, is the fall migration of Saw-Whet Owls. As many as 45 of these birds have been seen by one birder in a single October day, and up to 125 are banded each year."

So my main interest naturally was in the Saw-Whet Owls. Owls themselves always hold an irresistible attraction for me and these proved to be no exception. A psychiatrist might consider it to be an unconscious desire for wisdom but that is a matter for speculation.

It was a mild day, just pleasant for walking and ideal for bird watching. I soon discovered that there was much to be seen and secondly that one couldn't hope to see it all. With so large a party the format seemed to be walk in a gaggle behind the leaders, who when something was spotted raised their binoculars to their eyes and all followed suit. The people directly behind had a good chance (a) of seeing the bird and (b) of being informed of its identity if unaware. The middle section of the party usually achieved both by the 'pass it on' technique and those at the end took a chance - i.e. "you have just missed a". Having carefully reviewed the situation and finding nearly all the birds new I decided that the best policy was to keep up with the leaders wherever possible and when left behind watching some species to put in a quick sprint to reinstate me in my former position. This method worked quite satisfactorily and I know that as a novice bird watcher I saw and learned far more than I would have done spotting solo.

My first cop (forgive the train spotting lingo) was a Slate Coloured Junco, quite common I understand but none the less exciting to me. A few Sharp-Shinned Hawks soared above us although I confess that I would have had much difficulty in distinguishing them from the Cooper's Hawk we were to see later.

The Belted Kingfisher proved to be less of a flash in the pan than the European variety and remained in a tree for excellent inspection and then flew in front of us like a model displaying the latest creation from Christian Dior's autumn

collection. Then having watched a Downy Woodpecker for a while and some delightful Kinglets we turned into the sanctuary ostensibly to search for Saw-Whet Owls.

Within 30 minutes or so one was seen sitting low in the centre of a clump of bushes - word quickly went round, the party having become somewhat dispersed by this time, and then the owl was surrounded. In its claws was a small dead bird at first unidentifiable - meanwhile the gang moved in nearer to within a few feet of the owl when binoculars became useless and unnecessary. Cameras appeared, clicked and flashed whilst the little creature sat there undaunted. He sat quite still taking notice blinking and turning his head occasionally and if I hadn't known better I would say that he was vaguely amused at the interest he was provoking. The field guide says 'absurdly tame' and one can add little to that except to say that this particular bird and the one we were to see later which was an adult, hence having rather distinguished white eyebrows, must have been all of 7 inches in height (without shoes). The bird was then caught, banded, measured and released, but didn't venture far. It flew to the branches of a tree and still remained within 4 feet of us and continued to peruse the ornithologists as they watched him. He was no longer interested in his prey, a White-throated Sparrow, having decapitated it and presumably savoured the grey matter. As I mentioned before, we encountered another Saw-Whet Owl later which was also banded and recorded.

On our way back to the ferry docks we followed the shore line and saw a Black Duck, Merganser, Scaup and Red-Throated Diver on Lake Ontario. The shore birds too proved interesting with 2 Sanderling, some Dunlin and about 50 Black-Bellied Plover. I became most enthusiastic over the Meadowlarks - vibrant yellow breasts and really most handsome - especially as the only North American Meadowlark I have seen before plays for the Harlem Globetrotters.

So then the ferry back feeling somewhat exhausted but very satisfied knowing that I had chalked up a few 'ticks' and learned much. It surprised me that in a city the size of Toronto there is great opportunity for the ornithologist, something I had not realised. I do hope that readers will perhaps pardon my untechnical approach to ornithology but as they say over here 'do your own thing' and this is the way that birdwatching appeals to me.

P.A.G.

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1971

Garden at Hove (R.S.Kelly)

Bluethroat (see "From our Members' Notebooks").
Whitethroat.

Garden at Lancing (R.Ives)

Brambling 1m. Sandwich Tern 4 flew over, calling.

Garden at Shoreham (Mrs.E.Farmer)

Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher

Garden at Shoreham (Miss E.M.B.Rogers)

Spotted Flycatcher

Garden at Southwick Green (J.M.Twort)

Crossbill 2 flying over.

Garden at Steyning (Miss M.Bull)

Green Woodpecker (stayed half an hour). Goldcrest

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

Green Woodpecker (feeding), Tree Sparrow, Reed Bunting,
Chiff/Willow, Bullfinch, Magpie, Coal Tit, Kestrel (swooped
at Blue Tit on bird table), Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat,
Goldfinch (nested, but eggs taken, probably by Jackdaws)
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (feeding).

Garden at Westdene (C.F.Helyer)

Chiffchaff (singing), Pied Flycatcher, Bullfinch, Goldcrest,
Coal Tit, Skylark, Fieldfare, Stock Dove.

Garden at E.Worthing (F.J.Forbes)

Collared Dove, Garden Warbler.

Garden at Worthing (Mrs.E.Edwards)

Mistle Thrush nested

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A CHRISTMAS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Traditionally Christmas to most people is a time for the family gathering; a time for exchanging presents, eating and drinking, slumping in front of the television for the Walt Disney extracts and the Billy Smart's Circus; a time to stay indoors and forget about the weather.

There are a few, however, to whom this is sheer anathema, and I am one of them. Not in anyway a killjoy, I can see no pleasure in enforced, over-indulgence in food and drink. For me, Christmas is a time to get out and enjoy the almost empty countryside, to appreciate a few days of sometimes traffic-free roads, and to take advantage of the four or five days of holiday to get further afield than normal winter weekends permit.

So last Christmas found David Flumm and myself battling up the M6 on the Thursday evening en route for Penrith, near where we were staying on a farm which was to be a jumping off point for excursions into Scotland to look for birds. Our hosts were very tolerant, permitting us complete freedom to come and go as we wished and to join them for meals just as best fitted our plans. So early the next morning found us off up the motorway to Carlisle and Gretna whence we turned westwards to Dumfries and the Solway Firth.

We spent the Friday and Saturday around the Solway and saw some excellent wildfowl and wader flocks. The regular wintering flock of Barnacle Geese on the Carlaverock Nature Reserve was up to 3000 strong, and odd flocks of Pinkfeet, Whitefronts and hundreds of Grey Lags gave us good views. Duck included over 300 Scaup at Carsethorn, where 2000 Knot were encountered and a fine party of 43 Whooper Swans were watched in fields at Islesteps, where they now regularly winter. At Southerness Point we counted 49 Purple Sandpipers at high tide and, as always, one came upon small numbers of Goldeneye, Goosander, Pintail, Shoveler, and other duck on suitable rivers and lochs. It is a marvellous area for wildfowl.

On Sunday morning we had arranged to meet a friend in Glasgow for a day to be spent on the Firth of Forth between Edinburgh and Aberlady Bay, famed for its immense flocks of wintering diving duck. But on our joining him he offered us an entertaining diversion; a drake King Eider which had

appeared only a few days previously at Irvine, about 20 miles S.W. of Glasgow. So down to the harbour we drove, in pouring rain, and from the dryness and comfort of the car, parked out on the quay at the harbour entrance, we watched a fine drake King Eider swimming and diving among a flock of some 150 "Common" Eider. We then returned through Glasgow and due eastwards to Edinburgh, where as so often happens the rain stopped and the sun came out, and down to Leith and Musselburgh. Here on a perfectly calm sea (or Firth) a remarkable sight met us - an endless raft of duck, stretching for literally miles along the shore. We got out telescopes and binoculars, and started to identify and to count the birds. The totals were staggering, but not, we were told, at all unusual for this stretch of coast; 17,000 Scaup, 800 Eider, 1600 Goldeneye, nearly 70 Long-tailed Duck, 1000 Scoter, and numerous divers and grebes in just a few miles. A memorable day's bird-watching.

Our fourth and final day in the field was spent around the R.S.P.B. Reserve at Vane Farm, near Loch Leven, a few miles to the north of the Forth Road Bridge. Our luck held again, and we had another first-class day. We located the fine adult Snow Goose which was wintering for the second year running; we picked out 4 Bean Geese from a flock of Grey Lags which also included several Pinkfeet and two Canada Geese of one of the smaller (North American) races; a Great Grey Shrike and a Merlin provided raptorial interest; and on Loch Leven itself we counted 70 Goosander of which no less than 63 were full drakes.

We turned back southwards on our fifth day with a very satisfying feeling of having some very good birds under our belts; not the usual turkey or chicken which one might expect at Christmas, but to enthusiasts like ourselves, ones which were aesthetically, if not gastronomically, far more pleasurable. To us, a bird in the bush was worth two in the tun.

B.A.E.M.

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FROM OUR MEMBERS' NOTEBOOKS

Bluethroat in Hove Garden

The bird was seen in a back garden adjoining Hove Cemetery, skulking below raspberry bushes and amongst undergrowth. The first feature observed was the distinct white eye-stripe, and it was seen to be about the size and shape of a Robin, with a dark brown U-shaped necklace. Its behaviour was shy and extremely nervous when out in the open. It flew occasionally for short distances, during which time the chestnut-red colour could be seen on its tail. It flicked its tail up frequently and moved in hops and short runs. There were no traces of blue on the throat as some female Bluethroats possess. Date of record, May 27th.

R.K.

Unusual Number of Gulls at West Worthing

On Oct.29th an unusual large number of gulls were seen by several members. A sample count showed a density of at least five gulls per yard of frontage. This density extended from Marine Gardens, West Worthing to Sea Lane, Goring. They were apparently associated with a mass of seaweed on the sands. They were mostly Black-headed, with a fair number of Great Black-backs and Herring Gulls and fewer Common Gulls.

R.E.F.P.

Swallows in a Bedroom

Between 5.30 and 7 am. on Aug.15th Swallows came into my bedroom eight times, flying round and out again. Every morning they clustered on my greenhouse cable and window ledges, sang very loudly and woke me. I lay very quietly watching them sitting on my open window ledge looking in. They were much more boisterous when the sun was shining early.

Mrs.E.F.

Bee-eater at Brighton

On Aug.17th seen flying overhead from bathroom window at Patcham, calling repeatedly "Prooup!" Looking out I saw the bird (sketch supplied) following Swallow and House-martins,

and looking much larger. It flew east into early morning sun, still calling. I got very little idea of colour against the light. Dark wings, light belly, long curved bill and tail shape with long thin curved wings held rather stiffly. The bird seemed to slip along on very shallow wing-beats, quite fast, and did not glide.

B.J.S.

Raptors at No Man's Land

A Short-eared Owl was attacked by a Kestrel as it was skimming low over the ground hunting, on Nov. 1st. Then a female Hen Harrier flew up from behind a hill and began to quarter the field. Superb views were obtained of both owl and harrier - every bar on the latter's tail could be seen and the white rump shone in the afternoon sun.

R.I.

Ringed Plover at Southwick

As last year, one pair bred inside the compound at 'B' Power Station. One egg in a clutch of four was infertile but two of the three chicks reached the free-flying stage. At least three pairs bred further east on the beach (clutches of 4, 4 and 3 eggs), and one pair had a second clutch. In addition one or more pairs were breeding opposite 'A' Power Station, but no serious attempt was made to locate the nest scrapes to avoid disturbance. Though several chicks were seen, the ultimate success of these broods on the beach is not known.

C.M.V.

Jack Snipe at Brooklands

During the first week in January there were up to five of these birds on the partially drained Lagoon. They were quite indifferent to observation at distances down to 20 feet or less. When feeding near cover they usually froze for a minute or two and then resumed feeding. They often fed right away from cover at the edge of an extensive sheet of ice, where they were very obvious. Birds often flew the whole length of the Lagoon. Flight was noticeably slow and direct without any jinking or plunging into cover as typically observed.

C.M.V.

Roseate Terns at Widewater

On May 14th four of these birds were seen off-shore. In size they resembled Common/Arctic Terns with much paler wings and overall plumage lighter in colour. The tail streamers were noticeably much longer. The black bill gave the terns a heavy facial expression. Although viewed at 15 metres, the red base of the bill could not be seen. Even at ranges of 200 - 300 metres the Roseates could be picked out by whiter wings and longer tail feathers.

B.F.

Jackdaws at Shoreham

When the cherries on the trees next door were 'bird-eatable', they attracted many Jackdaws with their young from Southlands Hospital up here on a cherry-picking sortie, the same being accompanied by much squabbling, noise and badgering of the parents by the youngsters for a share of the goodies.

One Youngster, however, got no support so it flew down into my garden, attracted doubtless by the water bowls. There are normally two of these - a very large terracotta one for bathing, and a 3" plastic one for drinking water (this one being too small for bathing in and consequently less likely to get fouled). The bird may have been nervous of the amount of water in the large one, so it chose the 3" one, as it appeared that a bathe was its intention.

First it tried to get a quite large foot into it, but it wouldn't work, so it tried the other foot and that was no good either. It then put a foot each side of the saucer and tried to squat in the water, (looking like a mother bird settling down on her eggs) but again without success. Then it decided to see if it would work facing in a different direction, even trying to reach its beak down between its legs to the half-inch of water so as to splash its back, but nothing would come right, so, with what looked very like a fit of temper, it picked the saucer up and threw it, then followed this up with another throw.

After this it had a drink and quick splash in the large saucer before joining up with the 'cherry-bashers'.

Miss. E.M.B.R.

SUSSEX BIRDS IN ZAMBIA

Since my arrival in Zambia in March 1971 I have seen many completely new species but there are a sprinkling of birds which many of our members would recognise, and this article about those species may be of interest.

Most of my stay in Zambia has been just north of the Zambesi in the South West Province. A good idea of the Palaearctic immigrants can be gained by a visit to a pool about two hundred yards across and a mile long just below my house, with mud banks as the water has fallen throughout eight months of the dry season.

In mid-December these banks harbour many Ruff and Reeves, Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Little Stint and Common Sandpiper in descending order of frequency (about fifty Ruff/Reeves) besides a few Yellow Wagtails. The Little Stint and Wood Sandpiper often use the floating reed mats as a substitute for mud, which is in short supply after the rains - imagine one high tide a year when the floods pour down the valley to the Zambesi!

Above the water fly many European Swallows (my first on 15th September), a few Sandmartins and many European Bee Eaters with White-winged Black Terns swooping down to the surface. About three hundred of these in January give the pool a maritime air.

The high-shrubbed, cow-grazed slope down to the pool harbours several Red-backed Shrikes - one ringed in Zambia was caught at the nest in Czechoslovakia last year. Other species here are Willow Warblers, the occasional Whitethroat, Tree Pipits and European Hobby (seen twice only). Common Swifts, often with a few House Martins only occasionally appear before storm clouds and I have seen only one Night-jar.

Cosmopolitan species present both in Zambia and Britain include the Peregrine, Stonechat (a rather more colourful race here), Little Grebe, Moorhen. A Barn Owl recently dropped down my chimney! One perhaps could include here the House Sparrow of which the Indian race was introduced into Durban and is

rapidly moving north; a pair passed through my garden about thirty miles from Sesheki which now has a colony of about twenty-five.

Species occasionally seen in Britain which I have seen here include the Whiskered Tern (not infrequent on the Zambesi) European Black Kite, Black-winged Stilt, Purple Heron, Cattle Egret, Squacco Heron, White Stork, Lesser Grey Shrike and Richard's Pipit.

This article gives a rough idea of where the species go to, come from and their distribution. The ones mentioned are only those actually seen by me and I expect other 'Sussex' birds to turn up.

A few Zambian gems to make your mouth water - a smallish bittern species having to yield a small perch to a twenty inch long giant Kingfisher. Seven swoops of the African Black Kite and I've lost seven newly hatched chicks - despite my feelings, a flier a delight to watch.

A flock of over three hundred Pelicans soaring about over the Zambesi where it leaves the Barotsi Plain - here it is breathtaking country, full of serenity, peacefulness and beauty, wide river, green islands, quite unlike the grandeur and magnificence of the mountainous regions.

M.I.M.

SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1971

Sunday January 10th

Steyning Railway with the Field Committee.

About 35 members attended the walk to Streatham Bridge by way of the old Steyning railway line. The weather was mild and sunny.

As we walked along the track, flocks of Snipe began to rise from the marshes; there must have been about 300 of them. The number of duck counted was c50 Mallard, c100 Teal and 10 Shelduck. Bewick's Swans made a surprise appearance, 12 of them being seen flying west, and about 6 Mute Swans were also present in the area. Cormorants seemed quite numerous - 10 birds were counted on a pylon drying their wings in the sun. No Redshank were present on the marsh, and only one Heron could be seen. Reed Buntings and Meadow Pipits were seen along the river, and a few members saw a Little Grebe diving further up-stream.

As we began the journey back, mist started to gather on the marshes, and visibility became poor, but nevertheless we all had a good morning's bird-watching.

Saturday February 20th

Amberley Wild Brooks with Mr F.Forbes

Attendance was 23 on a dull, cold but dry day. The walk began from Amberley Castle side, and with the water level in the fields very low, very little was observed. Messrs.B.Forbes and C.Messer then walked out over the fields and put up a considerable number of duck which flew over and around the party. Wigeon were heard calling and Pintail, Shoveler, Teal, Mallard and one drake Goldeneye were seen. Numbers seen were 2000 Wigeon, 1500 Teal, 100 Mallard, 4 Pintail, 4 Shoveler and 1 Goldeneye.

In a subsequent walk round Rackham Woods, little was seen but a few Great and Blue Tits, Goldcrests, a party of 20 Long-tailed Tits, two Coal Tits, 40 Fieldfares and a Kestrel.

Saturday March 27th.

Church Norton with Mr. B.A.E. Marr

Twelve members enjoyed a sunny and pleasant morning's walk from the church to the beach, where a Slavonian Grebe and 4 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on the sea, and then on to the Severals which had 4 Shovelers. After lunch back at the cars, the party walked north towards Sidlesham on a falling tide, and had good views of c30 Black-tailed Godwits, 20 Grey Plover, c600 Shelduck, c250 Curlew, c150 Redshank and 6 Pintails. On dispersing, those who paused at the Ferry were rewarded with views of two Avocets.

Sunday May 2nd

St.Leonards Forest with Dr.J.Stafford

A wonderful sunny May day and a large party of members and their friends met to walk through the woodland.

Perhaps we were too early in the year for the birds to sing for they were strangely silent, but for the Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Chaffinch and Linnet.

A Tree Pipit performed its wonderful display flight and song for us several times, three Marsh Tits fed in silence in a nearby oak. Occasional birds flitted past; there were odd sounds and snatches of song.

A disappointing day for bird song but lovely to be out in the Sussex woodlands.

Saturday September 4th

Thorney Island with Mr.R.P.Meadows

About fifteen members enjoyed the fine weather which turned out hotter than expected. The low-lying meadow was explored first giving the usual Green and Common Sandpipers, the latter flickering over the not too clean water, three or

four Snipe, a Kestrel and a flock of thirty to forty Redshank. Many of these were this year's juveniles, with their yellow legs and lighter colouring pin-pointing the difficulty of identifying single juvenile birds.

A few suspected Godwit, half hidden by grass were proved non-existent as The Red Arrows saluted our party, and landed for lunch. What we didn't put up, they did and that wasn't much.

Along the wall two lesser Whitethroats picked a dead bush to show themselves. Amongst the scrub were Common Whitethroats, a Spotted Flycatcher and a male Redstart much doddier than in his Spring get-up.

Three members who started an hour earlier watched an Osprey catch his eleventh and fly eastwards. We had to be content with a Cormorant doing battle with an energetic eel. His lunch was a moving experience!

After that, acres and acres of mud - and nothing.

Sunday October 3rd

Beachy Head with Mr.R.Hamlyn

This was a joint meeting with the Sussex Ornithological Society. At the time of going to press no account had been received of what was seen.

Saturday November 6th

Ferring Beach with Mr.F.Forbes

Some thirty members attended in fine weather conditions, and walked from the Ilex Avenue to Ferring Cafe. Very few birds were seen as the tide was in, but all had an enjoyable walk as it was warm and sunny. The only waders seen were in the field north of the beach, where there were 30 Ringed Plover and 6 Redshank.

contd...

Saturday November 6th contd.....

(By contrast, on Jan 2nd. 1972, the wader count was much more rewarding - 10 Purple Sandpipers, c600 Sanderling, c800 Dunlin, 30 Oystercatchers, 12 Redshank, 23 Grey Plover, 2 Turnstones, and c60 Ringed Plover! It would seem that December - February and a falling tide are best for waders in this area).

* * * * *

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DEC. 1971

RECEIPTS

Bal. in hand 1.1.71
 Subscriptions: 149 @ 50p
 16 @ 25p
 4 @ 30p(Part)

 Donations
 Annual Reports ... Sale
 Sanctuary ... Sale of keys
 Tea Receipts
 Film Show Receipts

£.p.
 28.56

 79.70

 1.00
 1.11
 0.60
 0.60
 12.60

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions: British Birds
 Binding
 Affiliation fees: RSPB 2.00
 ETO 2.50

 Sanctuary: Rent & Maintenance
 Lecture fees and expenses
 Hire of Hall - 4 meetings
 Miscellaneous expenses
 Printing: Annual Report
 Printing and Stationery
 Postage and Telephone
 Balance in Hand 31.12.1971

£.p.
 9.00
 1.67

 4.50

 4.08
 18.30
 4.00
 1.24
 41.48
 7.15
 13.81
 18.94

£124.17

£124.17

Audited and found correct

(Signed) C.F. HELYER

G.W. RAMPTON

Hon. Treasurer.

LIST OF LECTURES 1971

January 23rd	"Gulls"	Mr. M. Rayner
February 13th	"The Winged Aristocrats" and "Birds of the Grey Wind"	Two R.S.P.B. Films at Shoreham Town Hall
March 20th	A.G.M. and Colour Sides of Birds and Animals of the East African National Park.	Dr. M. Hollings
October 27th	"Portrait of a Wilderness"	Mr. Brian Hawkes
November 24th	"Bird Song"	Mr. Alan Mitchell

* * * * *

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Mr. T. Palmer

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Will members please advise Secretary of any
alterations of name and/or address.

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

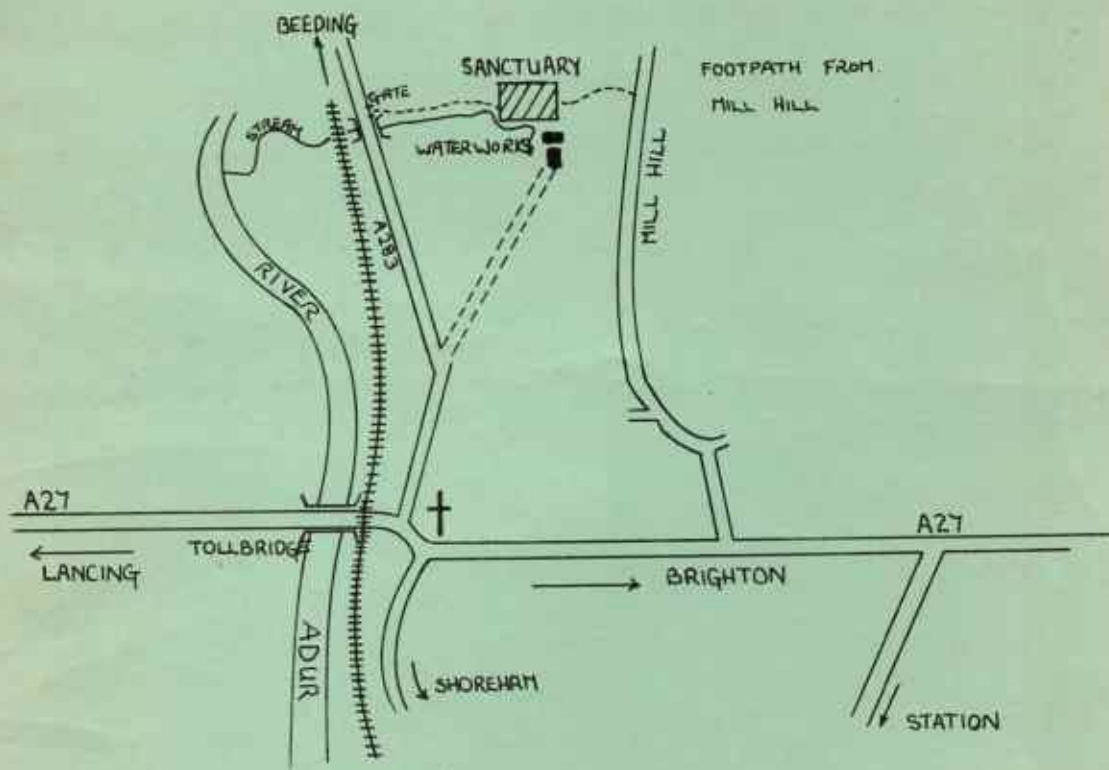
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
and
British Trust for Ornithology

The membership fee is 50p 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 25p a year, also inclusive of the Report.

NOTICE: With the membership standing at 180 at the
time of going to press, it is Council's
decision to limit membership to this figure to avoid over-
crowded meetings. New applicants for membership will
accordingly be invited to join a waiting list from which
vacancies will be filled in order of application.

Extra Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from
the Secretary at 25p 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.