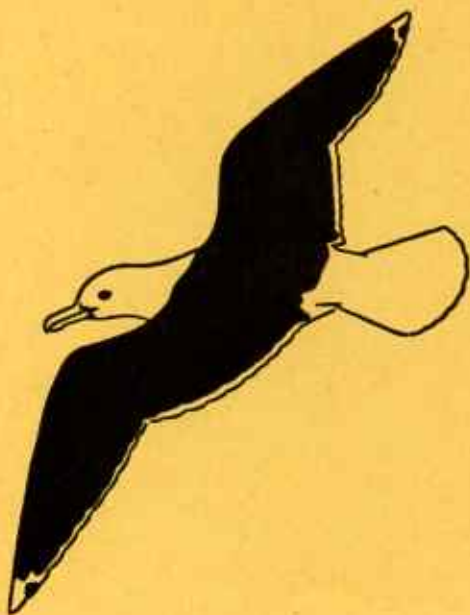


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Twentieth Annual Report



for the Year 1972

PRICE: TWENTY FIVE PENCE

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1972

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Judged from the viewpoint of rarities recorded, 1972 has been no more notable a year than 1971, and once again this reflects the absence of any serious extremes of weather.

Nevertheless many interesting observations have been recorded, and the picture of bird life in the Shoreham area is being constantly enlarged. Nowhere is this more applicable than in the Cissbury-Chanctonbury-Steyning area, where the return to residence in Worthing of Mr. Bernard Forbes has strengthened the already very effective cover provided by Messrs. Frank Forbes, Colin Messer and other regular watchers. Their efforts produced our "Bird of the Year" - the magnificent Gyr Falcon of mid-March - and have further emphasised the importance of this area as a wintering ground for raptors. Two other exciting birds were also recorded there - Stone Curlew and Long-eared Owl; the former last reported in 1965, but regularly recorded by the late C.A. Grigg up to that time; and the latter not previously reported in these pages.

Keen and careful sea-watching has produced some impressive figures - in particular for Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser and Black-headed Gull. Mr. Veysey's notes in this context are as usual a model of precise observation. And it is pleasant to record Twite once again - last reported in 1969.

Pressure of other commitments has prevented Mr. Tony Marr from entertaining us with a contribution to this year's Report, and, sadly, the death of Mr. Goddard, noted elsewhere, has robbed us of another. On more familiar topics Mr. Holman offers us his observations on the very widespread Collared Dove.

If Mr. Burstow was not able to arrange quite such good weather for the outings this year, he was nevertheless able to ring some changes on previous venues, and Mr. Walter Murray deserves our thanks for leading the ill-fated Arlington excursion, as well as for his illustrated talk on the development of the reservoir. This latter and the other indoor meetings were well attended and nicely varied. Dr. Hollings, at the second attempt, was able to show us his fascinating film of East Africa, and the new venture of an "Any Questions?" panel proved very popular. The R.S.P.B. Film Show was as usual well attended.

The officers have again done a good job on behalf of the members, and we record our thanks to Mrs. Farmer for her sterling work as Secretary, to Mr. Rampton for handling our finances, to Mr. Stafford for continuing to spare precious time to chair our meetings, to the Field and Sanctuary Committees, and to Mr. Palmer for his cheerful industry as Recorder.

Our thanks are also due to Messrs. John Newnham and Brian Clay respectively for the Ringing Report and the Sanctuary Report: and to Dr. Barrie Watson for his help and encouragement in the ringing programme.

Members may like to know that the late Miss Annie Shaw, of Florence Road, Brighton, left in her will "the sum of £100 for a local bird sanctuary", and her Executor selected this Society as her beneficiary - a bequest which we gratefully acknowledge. With a revised lease agreement for the Sanctuary calling for a more realistic rent, and other expenses increasing, this has come at a most opportune moment in the Society's finances.

Finally we regret to record the death of two members of long standing - Mrs. Morrison-Scott, who joined the Society soon after its formation; and Mrs. Ray, who gave valuable help with our posters.

R. E. GODDARD

Although Eric Goddard's principal contribution to local ornithology has been as Hon. Treasurer of the Sussex Society from its formation until a few months before his tragic and untimely death in July last, this Society has good reason to remember him with gratitude and affection as a member of Council for six years, a regular and entertaining contributor to these pages with reports of bird life in his garden, at Devil's Dyke and in the area of North Norfolk where he so delighted to spend his holidays; and as a companion in the field, where his sharp but critical eye and his keen sense of humour combined to heighten the pleasure of birds seen in his company.

His last article for us, in the 1970 Report, made light of the progressive illness which restricted his activities, and even in the last difficult weeks he retained his interest in and enthusiasm for the hobby which had given him so much pleasure.

SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1972

1972 has hopefully seen the last of the disturbance at the Sanctuary which has affected bird populations there for a number of years. The men working on the new pumping station left after first re-seeding the part of the Sanctuary they had used as a spoil heap. This has now made quite a respectable lawn. Although the summer was particularly dry, the alterations to the pumping station seem to have resulted in less water flowing through the Sanctuary. This has had a detrimental effect on the numbers of aquatic species, such as Reed and Sedge Warblers.

With the absence of its moat, which dried up this year, the Sanctuary suffered from invasions of cows throughout the late summer. To protect from intruders of a more human kind, the Sanctuary committee carried out further repairs to the hut, which included replacing the old lock with a newer and sturdier one. The committee have also been working on a new agreement with the Water Works Board which should enable us to have more freedom of access to the Sanctuary.

On the 1st of June the Sanctuary was host to an ornithological party of the Worthing W.E.A. They were led by Dr. A. B. Watson who gave a demonstration of bird ringing assisted by Philip Clay. The party had the opportunity of seeing Spotted Flycatcher, Blackcap and Turtle Dove as well as many of our commoner species in the hand

before rain called a halt to the proceedings.

The number of visits to the Sanctuary during the year was down again, only 38, 20 down on last year. This was mainly due to a lessening of ringing activity as John Newnham was completing his studies in Edinburgh. There were only five visits during the Autumn and this is reflected in a poor coverage of our departing migrants.

WINTER Few Wildfowl were to be seen in the brooks and marsh this winter. The maximum number of Mallard was recorded on the 9th Jan., when 3 ducks and a drake were present, after which only a pair remained until 17th April. No other species were seen. Lapwing were present in the fields throughout the winter although no unusual numbers were present. Snipe remained in ones and twos until 29th March., and a Jack Snipe appeared on the 25th. Water Rail were to be heard or seen until Mar.31st. Although Redwing were present throughout the winter until Mar.1st., and probably participated in the roost, Fieldfare were only recorded on one date Feb.5th, when c 30 were present. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen regularly during January attracted by fat put out for that purpose. Unusual birds were a wintering female Blackcap trapped on 3rd Jan., and a male Brambling on 1st Feb., when 6 Tree Sparrows were also present.

SPRING The Phylloscopus species arrived earlier this year at the Sanctuary. Chiffchaffs were heard on March 25th and by March 29th there were c 8 of both Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers. Blackcaps were the next to arrive; one was seen on April 9th. Reed and Sedge Warblers were not actually recorded until June 1st and July 8th respectively, but it would seem that this was more a case of absent recorders rather than absent birds! The same is unfortunately true of the hirundine species, the Swallows and House Martins; they were not recorded until such time as many others already have their first broods well under way. The Cuckoo was heard but not seen on May 18th, and the Turtle Dove trapped on June 1st. Other species worthy of note were 4 Spotted Flycatchers on May 18th and a Cormorant flying over on April 9th.

SUMMER Although no systematic breeding survey was carried out, a look at the number of birds recorded as present during the breeding season indicates that most of our regulars had a fairly successful season.

Three of the Sanctuary's nesting boxes were used. In one a pair of Great Tits reared five youngsters successfully. They were all ringed by A.B.W. who later retrapped one of them on Nov.14th at Lancing College, obviously eager to leave. Another was retrapped by

J.N. and myself on 5/1/73. The two other boxes contained Blue Tits, one pair fledged 6 chicks and the other 9. These youngsters were also ringed and it will be interesting to see if they return to breed in following years.

The Mistle Thrushes were again our first recorded breeding pair and had a nest constructed by March 29th. A family of Carrion Crows were reared inside the Sanctuary and these youngsters were also ringed. There was no record of a Grasshopper Warbler on Mill Hill this year, but the resident Buntings and Finches appeared to have a good year. As mentioned, Reed and Sedge Warblers seemed to be down in numbers again this year, but it is hoped that with some management we can encourage the growth of our reed beds which these species favour, and a start was made this year. Several pairs of Blackbirds had nests inside the Sanctuary and a Song Thrush's nest with 4 eggs was discovered on April 5th.

Parties of young Moorhens and Spotted Flycatchers later in the year suggested that they too had nested close to the Sanctuary.

AUTUMN There were no great movements of Warblers noticed passing through the Sanctuary this year. The numbers of breeding birds began to be multiplied towards the middle of July by the addition of those already on the move. Reed Warblers, Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and then Willow Warblers all showed considerable increases.

About this time the Swallows and House Martin numbers begin to increase and as the days grow shorter, larger and larger parties can be seen hawking the hillside and ditches during the day, before moving off in the evening to roost. Numbers of c 20 of both Swallows and Martins increased until by September flocks of c 200 were gathered over the hill side.

Although they are usually away by the end of August, Swifts, too, exhibit this build-up of numbers before departing. Groups of 8 in early July had increased until at the end of the month and during the first week of August parties of 50 and more were present over the hill. Other migrants recorded this year were a female Redstart on July 25th and 4 Spotted Flycatchers on July 30th, 3 of them still in juvenile plumage. Bird of the year was undoubtedly a Hobby seen on July 22nd flying low over the Sanctuary by J.N., I think his only regret was that it was not low enough to be caught in his mist nets! Kestrels were again present over the hill, but never more than one at a time and probably did not breed in the vicinity.

Other interesting records were the presence of one or two Redshank and one Snipe on July 28th and Sept. 4th respectively. 30 Long Tailed Tits were seen on Sept. 14th., one Treecreeper was present on Aug. 5th and one Pied Wagtail appeared on July 22nd and Sept. 14th.

WINTER There were no visits to the Sanctuary between Sept. 14th. and the third week in December, and although bird watchers are never very evident at the Sanctuary during this time of year, numbers were distinctly down. However even by the middle of September flocks of finches were twittering in the field and c 50 Greenfinches, c 50 Goldfinches, c 80 Linnets and c 100 Corn Buntings were counted. The roost was again building up during December comprised mainly of Blackbirds, but with the occasional Song Thrush or Redwing. Fieldfares were never seen to be present. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen on the last day of the year.

This report is based on entries in the daily B.R.C. log which is kept in the Sanctuary hut. Members are requested to enter details of birds seen during their visits, however few or common they may appear to be.

List of Contributors.

B. R. Beasley	B. & P. Clay
F. J. Forbes	C. F. Helyer.
J. A. Newnham	T. Palmer and
	Dr. A. B. Watson.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1972

During 1972 a total of 1401 birds, of 48 species, were ringed by six ringers in the area, 1390 as free-flying birds and 11 as pulli.

John Newnham ringed 507 birds at the Sanctuary; Phillip Clay totalled 412 near Steyning; Brian Short, at Patcham, trapped 250; Dr. A. B. Watson caught 216 in various sites, and the grand total was reached by Philip Belman and Dr. J. Stafford catching 11 and 5 birds respectively.

A full table of the birds ringed is shown below:

Mute Swan	10	Robin	50
Snipe	11	Blackbird	148
Black-headed Gull	1	Redwing	4

Wood Pigeon	1	Song Thrush	40
Collared Dove	2	Mistle thrush	6
Turtle Dove	1	Long-tailed Tit	7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	Marsh Tit	2
Swallow	17	Coal Tit	3
House Martin	28	Blue Tit	240
Grey Wagtail	3	Great Tit	178
Pied Wagtail	1	Tree Creeper	4
Wren	39	Corn Bunting	9
Dunmook	56	Yellow Hammer	23
Sedge Warbler	12	Reed Bunting	8
Reed Warbler	43	Chaffinch	29
Garden Warbler	1	Greenfinch	207
Blackcap	14	Goldfinch	23
Whitethroat	8	Linnet	12
Lesser Whitethroat	4	Redpoll	8
Willow Warbler	32	Bullfinch	44
Chiffchaff	27	House Sparrow	1
Goldcrest	8	Tree Sparrow	4
Spotted Flycatcher	6	Starling	25
Redstart	1	Carrion Crow	4

Although the total is similar to previous years, there is a marked decrease in the proportion of summer visitors ringed, in particular Phylloscopus and Sylvia warblers. This can be partially accounted for by a considerable reduction of netting done at the Sanctuary during the summer and autumn. The year also produced a record total of Blue and Great Tits; is this because more ringing was done in habitats favourable to tits, or because there are more tits surviving the recent mild winters?

Early in the year Phillip Clay graduated to a 'C' permit holder, and has been doing some valuable ringing at a site near the old Steyning railway line. Brian Clay has also been active and has reached a high level of competence in handling birds which should enable him to get a 'C' permit early in 1973.

FOREIGN RECOVERIES

There was only one foreign recovery in 1972

StarlingRinged Shoreham post-juvenile6.1.70
Found dead, Den Hoorn, Delft
Netherlands.....13.3.72

There are, however, three very interesting records for which details were not available for last year's Report.

Black-headed Gull...Ringed pullus nr.Liepaya,
Latvian SSR25.5.65
Controlled Shoreham
(1490Km.WSW).....21.12.70

This bird, I believe, originated more to the east than the usual British-wintering Black-headed Gulls.

Lesser Whitethroat...Ringed juvenile Patcham....10.6.69
Controlled nr.Eilat,Israel
(3870Km.ESE)20.3.70

European Lesser Whitethroats migrate SE via Italy, wintering in NE Africa, and are not infrequently recovered on spring migration on the eastern border of the Mediterranean.

Chiffchaff.....Ringed Shoreham,full grown. 5.10.71
Landed exhausted on trimaran
300 miles SSW Canary Islands
(Ref.BTO News No.50
March 1972).....6.11.71

BRITISH RECOVERIES

There were also several British recoveries of Greenfinch, Blue Tit, Blackbird and Reed Warbler, either locally or with small movements of up to 40Km.

Finally a plea for help. Philip Belman has recently been studying the Mute Swans of South-East England by colour-ringing. I expect many members have noticed these swans, and it is these sight records that are needed. The number of the darvic ring can be read at short range without binoculars. The information required with each sighting is the serial number and colour of the darvic ring, the colour of the celluloid ring(s) on the opposite leg, the date and the locality. Other details (immature, nest, pair, group etc.) are also useful. The ring number should be checked carefully - the final digit falls nearest the lower end of the tarsus. All observations should be sent to Philip at :

107, Grange Road,
Ealing, London, W.5.

Also, if anyone is able and willing to visit the Footbridge daily, or weekly, to record which individuals are present, could they please contact Philip Belman?

J.A.N.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA. 1972

This feature is based on reports sent in by the following:

Mrs. Buckler, Mrs. Reeve, Miss Bull, Messrs. C.M. Veysey, S.E. Cole, C.E. Messer, D.J. Taylor, F.J. Forbes, B. Forbes, F. Severs, R. Ives, J.M. Twort, P.J. Clay, B.R. Clay, Dr. A.B. Watson, J.A. Newnham, C.F. Helyer, B.J. Short, T. Palmer, H. Hiscoke.

Abbreviations: ad. adult; m. male; f. female; imm. immature;

Br. - Brooklands; C.C. - Cuckoo's Corner;

C.H. - Coney Hill, Brighton; F.A. - Flood Arch; F.B. - Footbridge;

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; T.B. - Toll Bridge;

Sh. R.D. - Shoreham Rubbish Dump; W.R.D. - Worthing Rubbish Dump;

W.W. - Wide Water.

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

- 4 Red Throated Diver: 1, offshore Shoreham Jan.5. 1 offshore Worthing Mar. 1. 1 offshore W.W. Mar.21. 2 offshore Ferring Nov.27. 1 offshore W.W. Dec.1.
- 5 Great Crested Grebe: seen offshore W.W. on 5 dates Jan. to Mar., max. 7. 2 offshore Hove Mar.11.
- 7 Slavonian Grebe: 1, 50 yards offshore Goring Jan.21.
- 9 Little Grebe: 6 on Adur near O.S.R. Jan.30. 6 on Adur at Shoreham Oct. to Dec. Odd birds at Br. Lagoon and W.W.
- 26 Fulmar: 1 offshore E. Worthing Apr.9; 2 there May 20.
- 27 Gannet: odd birds seen offshore on 6 dates from May to Oct., max. 3. At least 22 flying E. offshore Worthing Oct.11.
- 28 Cormor 1 continental race seen at Worthing by C.M.V. Mar. 24. 7 at F.B. in Jan., and 7 at T.B. in Nov. 12, O.S.R. Jan.30; 16 there Feb.13 and 20 on pylon Dec.9. 14 off Power Station outfall, Southwick, Nov. 8.
- 30 Heron: 1 in field Cissbury - Chanctonbury area Sept.21. At least 4 occupied nests, Wyckham Wood, Apr.- June.
- 45 Mallard: up to 20 on 4 dates in Jan. and Feb. O.S.R.
- 46 Teal: up to 200 on Adur at O.S.R. in Jan. and Feb. 50 there in Dec. 5 flying over Lancing Jan.30. 4 at W.W. Dec.30.

- 50 Wigeon: 8 Adur, O.S.R. Jan.30.; 10 there Dec.9. 5 W.W. Oct.13 flying E.
- 53 Shoveler: 1 m. 1 f. flying W.W. Mar.26.
- 60 Goldeneye: 3 Adur, O.S.R. Jan.30; 1 f. there Feb.26.
1 offshore Ferring Jan.16. 1 f. Sh.Adur.Mar.15.
- 62 Velvet Scoter: 1 W.W. flying north Jan.30. 5 offshore E.W.B. flying E. Sept.25.
- 64 Common Scoter: 4 offshore W.W. Jan.29; 1,700 flew E. there in 1 hour Mar.17. 5 offshore E.W.B. Apr.23; 9 flying E. there Sept.25. 1 pair offshore Worthing Apr.2; 4 there Apr.30. flying E. 4 W.Worthing offshore Dec.24.
- 67 Eider: 37 offshore W.W. Oct.12; 21 there Oct.21 and 2 there Nov.28 - all seen by F.J.F and B.F. These are very large numbers for this part of the coast. It may indicate a shift in wintering habits of this species or more intense sea watching. 3 f. Harb. Jan.23. 1 f. Sh.Beach. Jan.3.
- 69 Red-breasted Merganser: max. at Ferring 30 in Jan. Feb. Mar. 9 offshore E.W.B. flying W. Jan.8. 9 offshore W.W. Mar.5; 1 m. there 9th - 11th - 12th and 30th Dec. 1 pair flying W. offshore W. Worthing Jan.30; 1 m.flying W. there Apr. 10 and 16. Offshore at Worthing 65 on Jan.1; 23 on Jan.21; 44 on Jan. 25; 20 on Feb. 21; 12 on Apr.11; a pair on Apr.19; then 2 f. on Oct.25; 2 f. on Dec.21.am; 25 pm on the same date; and 5 on Dec.24. (See "Members' Notebook).
1 f. W.W. Feb.20 and Mar.12.
- 73 Shelduck: up to 9 flying offshore E.W.B. on 4 dates in early part of year. 7 on Adur Feb.28; 1 there June 16. 4 W.W. Jan.29; 3 there Feb.20 and Mar.12.
Goose sp: 16 flying W. offshore Brighton Jan.30. 80 flying E. offshore Worthing Mar.23.
- 76 White Fronted Goose: flock calls heard overhead in the evening at Sompting Feb.29.
- 80 Brent Goose: 11 offshore E.W.B. flying W. Jan.8. 1 flying E. over Lancing Jan.12. 4 offshore W.W.flying E. Mar.25.
1 north of Shm-flyover Nov.22. 18 offshore Ferring flying W. Nov.27. 6 Ferring on tide-line Sept.30, coincided with first arrivals E.Anglia (per P.F.Bonham,Ed.British Birds.)
11 offshore Worthing Nov.15.

- 82 Canada Goose: 3, O.S.R. Feb.26. 3 ad. 1 imm. Wiston Pond July 23.
- 86 Bewick's Swan: 8 Worthing flying W. Jan.20, probably 6 ad. 2 juv.
- 91 Buzzard: reported on many dates throughout the year from Downs north of Worthing. Max. 3 in Sept. 1 pale phase Sept.30.
- 93 Sparrowhawk: resident, Downs north of Worthing. Many sightings throughout the year. 1, O.S.R. Oct.21. 1 W.R.D. Sept. 4. 1 over house in Chesswood Rd. Worthing on 3 dates in Dec. 1 f. over Southwick May 7.
- 100 Hen Harrier: seen on many dates on Downs north of Worthing by many observers; max. on any one date 3. 1 odd-looking, very pale Ringtail seen Nov.4.
- 102 Montagu's Harrier: 1 m. Steep Down May 22. 1 imm. No Mans Land (reddish breast very clear) Oct.21 and 22; 1 Harrier sp.there Aug.9 and 12.
- 104 Hobby: 1 Chantry Hill May 7. 1 Sanct. July 22. 1 Cissbury Ring June 13. 1 Downs, Iancing Sept.7.
- 106 Gyr Falcon: 1, pale phase, Cissbury area from Mar.11 to 22. Seen by many members who behaved correctly and by great numbers of strangers many of whom did not.
- 107 Merlin: 1 reported to B.F. by many watchers who had come to see the Gyr Falcon.
- 110 Kestrel: well spread over the whole of our area. At least 30 birds concerned.
- 115 Red Legged Partridge: all reports of these birds during the last few years must be treated with suspicion as it is now known that many Rock Partridges have been introduced. There also seem to be a few Chukars about, and there may be hybrids. However, pure strains of all three may still be seen. The Society has many sharp eyed observers who work the area regularly and it will be interesting to see what next year's reports have to say.
- 117 Quail: 1 Downs north of Brighton June 22: Downs north of Worthing - birds were heard calling on 11 dates during May, June & July. 1st date May 4; last date July 22.

- 120 Water Rail: 1 during the first 3 months of the year in a garden at Goring, intermittently. 1 O.S.R. Jan. 20. 1 W.R.D. Jan.23. 1 Shm R.D. Nov.22. Over-wintering in Sanct. O.S.R. and W.R.D.
- 127 Coot: Adur - up to 7 Feb., and 3 or 4 there in Dec.
- 131 Oyster Catchers: 18 at Ferring Feb.24., 30 there Nov.27., 22 there Dec.9. Heard calling overhead at night on Sept.29 at Patcham.
- 133 Lapwing: 1,500 O.S.R. Jan.15. 2,000 flying south there Jan. 30. 200 Airport Feb.9; 140 flying over Airport Dec.6, and 500 feeding there Dec.19; 700 flying over there Dec.17. 1,200 O.S.R. Dec. 9. 150 C.C. Dec.17.
- 134 Ringed Plover: 30 Adur Jan.15; 50 Ferring Jan.30. 400 Airport Feb.3. 50 Adur Nov.26; 6 there in July; 100 there in Dec.- 130 on Dec.9 max. 40 at Ferring Nov.27; 160 there Dec.9. 4 No Mans Land on 5 dates in June; 1 calling at dusk there Sept.15. Not before recorded from Downland by our Members (see special article under "Members' Notebooks" for breeding at Southwick).
- 139 Grey Plover: 40 at Ferring Jan.30; 30 there Feb.24; 4 there Nov.27., and 25 there Dec.9.
- 140 Golden Plover: Downs north of Worthing, 2 Mar.12., 8 Mar.14., 11 Mar. 18., 2 Oct.3., 1 Dec.9. C.H. 1 flying Sept.5.
- 143 Turnstone: 6, F.B. Jan.16 & Feb.20.
- 145 Snipe: O.S.R. winter months max. 150. Steyning Round Hill, 2 ringed, Sept. 30.: 1 C.H. Sept.6. 7 Sanct. Oct.29.
- 147 Jack Snipe: 2 S.P. Feb.3. 1 or 2 at O.S.R. during Mar.Apr. 1 Steyning Round Hill Sept.30.
- 148 Woodcock: 1, C.H. Mar.19. 1, Ashurst roding during May.
- 150 Curlew: Downs north of Worthing, a few birds seen throughout the year, most on any one date 11 Nov. 1. 1 or 2, O.S.R. Nov.& Dec. 20 flying over C.H. Aug.16. 100 offshore E.W.B. flying W. June 26.:
- 151 Whimbrel: E.W.B. 3, May 1: 40 flying W. there June 26. 2, F.A. July 27. 5, north of T.B. July 28. 1 or 2 Adur during July & Aug. 2 Br. Aug.23. 6, Flying E, E.W.B. Apr.25; 28 flying E. there on Apr. 26; up to 11 flying W. July 9 to Sept.12.

- 155 Bar-tailed Godwit: 3 offshore E.W.B. flying W. July 12.; Adur, during Sept.1 or 2.
- 156 Green Sandpiper: 1, O.S.R. Jan.9.
- 159 Common Sandpiper: 7, offshore W.W. Flying W.Apr.1. 8 north of T.B. July 28. 2, W.R.D. Aug.27. 2, F.A. July 29 and 30.
- 161 Redshank: Adur 65 Jan.15: 40 Feb.22; 1 June 16, building up from 30 to 100 July to Dec. 15, Ferring Dec.9. 1 Cissbury area July 2.
- 165 Greenshank: 1, Adur Sept.13.
- 170 Purple Sandpiper: 8, Ferring Feb.24; 7 there Dec.9. 6, F.B. Feb.20. 1, W.W. Nov.29.
- 178 Dunlin: Adur. 450 Jan.15; 300 there during Feb: 450 there during Dec. 600 there Nov.26. 600 Airport Feb.3. 200 Ferring Nov.27; 750 there Dec.9.
- 181 Sanderling:50, F.B. Feb.20. 60, Ferring Nov.27; 380 there Dec.9.
- 189 Stone Curlew: Downs north of Worthing - 8 records from June to Oct. Max. at one time 2. Downs north of Brighton - seen and heard on June 28 & 29 by B.J.S. and P. Leonard; heard June 15 by C.F.H. Portslade - 1 heard calling at night by B.J.S. Sept.9.
- 193 Arctic Skua: 1, offshore E.W.B. watched chasing Gulls and Terns for 20 min. by B.F. on May 20. 2 ad. Worthing, flying E. Apr.25.
- 202 Glaucous Gull: 1, Hove Lagoon Jan.& Feb. 1 ad. there Oct.19. and 24. Brown streaking on head and neck, lemon iris plainly seen at 100 feet in good light by A.B.W. 1 ad. there Nov.2, 14 & 29., On Nov.13 there was another bird at Worthing which C.M.V. checked and found was not the Hove bird.
- 205 Mediterranean Gull: 1, Hove Lagoon. Feb.5.
- 207 Little Gull: 1 W.W. Mar.4., and 1 there from 1st to 4th Dec. 2, E.W.B. Mar.6.
- 208 Black-headed Gull: Adur. and Airport on Jan.15, after storm, 20,000 estimated by C.E.M. Fewer than usual on Mudflats in Dec., max. 300. On Jan.22 F.S. picked up a dead bird of this species which had been ringed as a pullus in Latvia 4.6.69.

- 211 Kittiwake: 1 badly oiled adult E.W.B. Feb.6; 1 2nd winter bird there also oiled Feb.24. 2 W.W. Mar.4. 1 ad. offshore Portslade Mar.21. 1 Ferring Aug.29.
- 212 Black Tern: 11 offshore Worthing flying E. on May 13 - the only spring record; odd birds drifting W. there during July and Aug, max. 4 on Aug.24; 1 flying E.Sept.15.
- 217- Common/Arctic Tern: 50 flying E. at Ferring Apr. 23. 6 flying
218 E. May 2 and 9 flying E. May 14 at E.W.B. 6 flying E. at Shoreham June 6.
9 flying offshore at 10 yds range Lancing Beach July 31 were close enough for R.I. to see "steel grey underneath and blood red bill" which seems to indicate Arctic Terns.
- 222 Little Tern: 5 flying E. E.W.B. May 1: 11 flying E. there May 2; and 9 flying E. there May 14.
- 223 Sandwich Tern: 2 offshore W.W. flying W Apr.1. 92 flying E. on 6 days E.W.B. in Apr. and May. 5 offshore Brighton May 1.
- 224 Razorbill: 1, E.W.B. Mar.15.
- 227 Guillemot: 1, E.W.B. Jan. 8. 1, W.W. Feb.3. 6 dead, 1 live oiled birds, Worthing Jan.15. 1, Shoreham Beach oiled Dec.3. 6, badly oiled, Worthing and Goring, between Jan.& April. 4 oiled birds. Southwick, Jan.- Mar.
- 232 Stock Dove: 50, Winding Bottom May 22. c 25 C.H. Jan.15.
- 234 Wood Pigeon: O.S.R. roost max. 500
- 235 Turtle Dove: 3 at Devils Dyke on May 4, 1, Ashurst Wood May 21. 4 during summer, No Mans Land.
- 237 Cuckoo: 1 flying over Lancing Apr.1. 2 O.S.R. May 13. 2 in W.R.D. and Br.area from Sept.7 to 26. 1, Patcham Downs June 2.
- 241 Barn Owl: breeding reported from Findon Park and O.S.R. single birds seen Lychpole Farm, Ashurst and No Mans Land during May, June & July.
- 246 Little Owl: breeding reported O.S.R. 2 pairs. Single birds reported from 7 places on Downs north of Worthing. 1, W.R.D. Sept.17. 1 Brighton 'B' Power Station, Southwick, Oct.3.
- 247 Tawny Owl: resident in Ilex trees, Goring - seen, heard and pellets found by S.E.C. 1 pair seen and heard during Apr.at Homefield Park, Worthing. 1 heard at Lychpole June 19. 1, O.S.R. Aug.6. 1, C.H. July 13.

- 248 Long-eared Owl: 1 seen and heard regularly by many observers during July at No Mans Land.
- 249 Short-eared Owl: seen regularly on Downs north of Worthing, Sept. to Oct. - max. 2.
- 252 Nightjar: 1 seen Ashurst Wood May 13 & 25.
- 255 Swift: 1, Sompting Apr. 30. 3 Lancing May 7. 2 Worthing May 1. 50 at Sanct. July 30.
- 258 Kingfisher: odd birds seen at F.A., T.B.; C.C., W.W.; Fishersgate & Harbour from July to Oct., max. 4.
- 262 Green Woodpecker: well scattered in suitable areas from Downs to the coast. Often seen by boys at Lancing College.
- 263 Great Spotted Woodpecker: about 20 sightings during the year. 2 birds ringed at O.S.R. Lancing College, C.H., Sanct., Steyning, Ashurst Wood and garden at Worthing had odd birds.
- 264 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: 1 heard Chanctonbury Ring Mar. 18. 1 or 2 during Mar. O.S.R. 1, West Hove Golf Course Aug. 30. 1 in garden at Steyning June 26.
- 271 Wood Lark: 1 seen at No Mans Land by C.E.M. Aug. 18.
- 274 Swallow: 4, O.S.R. Apr. 30. Large easterly movement at Shoreham Oct. 14. Last bird seen Oct. 28.
- 276 House Martin: 1 Steyning Apr. 17. 1, O.S.R. Apr. 30. c 50 over Waterworks Road. Sh., evening of Sept. 3.
- 280 Carrion Crow: nested in Sanct. (A.B.W.)
- 282 Rook: 38 nests at Buckingham Park (A.B.W.)
- 286 Jay: 1, O.S.R. July 6; 6 sightings there from Sept. to Dec.; 1, C.H. Apr. 3; and 1 there Sept. 11. 2, No Mans Land Sept. 30.
- 290 Coal Tit: 3, C.H. Mar. 5 and 1 there Dec. 31.
- 292 Marsh Tit: 1, O.S.R. Oct. 21. 2 or 3 C.H. and Stanmer Park July to Nov.
- 293 Willow Tit: 1, O.S.R. July 6. Present from July to Oct. C.H. & Stanmer Park.
- 294 Long-Tailed Tit: Family Party of about 17 C.H. May 31.
- 298 Tree Creeper: up to 4 throughout autumn and spring, garden at Goring. 2, Lancing Mar. 30. 1, C.H. Dec. 21.

- 302 Fieldfare: 50, O.S.R. Oct.15. 2, Cissbury area Oct.18.
12, N.Lancing on trees Dec.29. 10 C.H. Jan.20.
- 304 Redwing: 3, Southwick Green Feb.2. 1 C.H. overhead at night
Sept.29. 50 Chanctonbury area Oct.11. 200 O.S.R. Oct.14.
10 C.H. Jan.20.
- 307 Ring Ouzel: 1, No Mans Land Oct. 3; 7 there Oct.7; 1 there
Oct.14.
- 308 Blackbird: 50 roosting in Sanct. June 6.
- 311 Wheatear: 14 reports concerning 113 birds., - max. 30 at W.R.D.
Sept.27. At least 1 pair on Downs during breeding season, but
no definite proof of nesting. First reported Mar.22 No Mans
Land. Last reported Oct.13 at W.W.
- 317 Stonechat: The pattern of sightings was as previously. A few
birds in their usual haunts during Jan.& Feb. and again in
Oct. Nov. & Dec.
- 318 Whinchat: 1, No Mans Land May 3 and 1, Steep Down May 22 - the
only reports of spring migration, but 99 noted on autumn
migration. Max. on any one day 50 in the Cissbury area Sept.21.
Last birds noted were at Coney Hill Oct. 5.
- 320 Common Redstart: 1 m. in garden at Worthing May 2 - the only
spring record. 1 f. Sanct. July 25. 1 f. in garden at Lancing
on 5th, 21st & 22nd Sept. 1 f. Sanct. Sept. 3. 1 f. C.H.
Aug. 28. 1, Airport Sept. 7. 1, Cissbury area Sept.23.
- 321 Black Redstart: 1, Cissbury area Mar.23. 1, Old Fort, Shoreham
Beach Feb.19. 1, W.R.D. Aug.28. 1 Power Station, Southwick
Sept.2. Nested in builder's yard E. Brighton - 2 broods reared.
(C.F.H.)
- 322 Nightingale: 2, singing Ashurst Wood May 12 and 21. 1 in full
song Hampers Lane, Storrington Apr.28. 1, singing Shaves Wood
June 4.
- 327 Grasshopper Warbler: up to 3 reeling Devil's Dyke Apr.30.,
May 1 and 11. 1, Cissbury May 4. 2 Lychpole May 16; 1 there
June 19. 1, No Mans Land July 10 & 22. 1, C.H. Aug.28.
- 333 Reed Warbler: 6 pairs bred O.S.R. from May 9 onwards. 2
singing C.C. May 31. 10 Sanct. July 22. 2, C.H. Aug.21.
10, O.S.R. Sept.10. 1, Westdene Sept.21.

- 337 Sedge Warbler: 1, O.S.R. Apr.30. 1, garden at Steyning May 27.
2, C.H. Aug.15 and 16. 2, Sanct. Sept. 3. 1, O.S.R. Sept.17.
1, Br. Sept.23.
- 343 Blackcap: 1 trapped Sanct. Jan.3, weighed 21.0.g. which J.A.N.
says is equivalent to autumn weight. 1, Sanct. Apr.5.
2 singing Ashurst Wood May 12.
- 346 Garden Warbler: 3, Ashurst Wood May 12. 1, O.S.R. May 9 and
1 there Aug.4. 1, garden at Steyning Aug.6. Present at C.H.
during June-Aug. 1, Shaves Wood June 4.
- 347 Common Whitethroat: 4, Devils Dyke May 4. 8, Lancing Clump
May 7. 1, O.S.R. Sept.16.
- 348 Lesser Whitethroat: 1, No Mans Land June 6. 1, W.R.D. Aug.27.
1, garden at Lancing Sept.10. 1, O.S.R. Sept.10. Present at
C.H. during Aug. and Sept. 1 there Apr.26.
- 354 Willow Warbler: 1 m. trapped at Sanct. Mar.31. 1 at Lancing
and 1 at Sanct. on Apr.2. 1, O.S.R. Apr.12. 1, garden at
Steyning Aug.6.
- 356 Chiffchaff: 1 Chiff/Willow, T.B. Feb.16. 1, O.S.R. Mar.14.
1, garden at Worthing Mar.26. 2, Findon Park Apr.1.
1 Chiff/Willow N. Lancing Oct.28. 1, Chiff/Willow S.P.
Nov. 4. 1 Chiff/Willow Cissbury Dec.16. 1, O.S.R. Oct.11.
- 357 Wood Warbler: 1, C.H. on Aug.14, 18 & 21. 2, Stanmer Park
Wood. June 29.
- 364 Goldcrest: present throughout the year C.H. 1, Shoreham Beach
Nov.11. 1, Coombes Rd. Nov.22.
- 366 Spotted Flycatcher: 1, Lychpole May 9. 3 pairs Lancing June
11. 1, garden at Lancing Sept.9. Present at C.H. during Aug.
and Sept. max. 6
- 368 Pied Flycatcher: 1, C.H. Aug.15. 1, W.R.D. Sept.13.
- 373 Meadow Pipit: 200 offshore W.W. Mar.22.
- 379 Rock Pipit: odd birds seen along the shore during winter.
- 381 Grey Wagtail: 2, W.R.D. Jan.23. 2, S.P. Feb.3. up to 6
O.S.R., rubbish dump during winter. 2, Sanct. Oct.29.
- 382 Yellow Wagtail: 1, Homefield Park, Worthing May 17 - the only
spring record. 1, C.H. Aug.11. 60, W.R.D. Aug.28. 15, Br.
Sept. 23.

- 389 Starling: Shoreham - many thousands flying E.daily Feb.23 to Mar.1., noted by F.S. This is no doubt part of the daily movement flying E. in the morning and W. in the evening, which has been remarked on by several members. It was until a few years ago in the opposite direction.
- 392 Greenfinch: 100, No Mans Land Feb.19. 300, Cissbury area Dec.3.
- 394 Siskin: 1, O.S.R. Feb.20
- 395 Linnet: 200, No Mans Land Feb.19.
- 396 Twite: during Jan. and Feb. a flock was seen near F.B. by many observers on 9 dates. Numbers varied from 50 to 2, both noted by F.S. Another item of interest was that 2 different observers counted 2 and 45 on the same day. This is to be expected from such restless birds. In other years they have been counted at W.W., R.B., and F.B. on the same dates. 7 North of Shoreham flyover, Dec.29.
- 397 Redpoll: 1, Sanct. Jan.6. 8 ringed O.S.R. Oct.8. 6, W.W., Nov.12
- 407 Chaffinch 300, Cissbury Area. Dec.3.
- 408 Brambling: reported from the Downs north of Worthing on 9 dates from Jan. to April. Flocks of 100 and 200 were seen in Mar. 1 m. with small flock of Tree Sparrows in Waterworks Rd. Shoreham Feb.1. 5, Boundstone School Field, Lancing on Feb.2., 12, No Man's Land Nov.26; and 12 there on Dec.3.
- 410 Corn Bunting: during winter months at O.S.R. max.100. 12, C.H. Oct.31.
- 415 Girl Bunting: 2 singing males on 8 dates in Hoe Court, Lancing area, from May 21 to Aug.30. (C.E.M., B.F., R.I.) 1, Lychpole May 20. 3 singing males in Lancing College area July 30.
- 421 Reed Bunting: 6, pairs breeding O.S.R. Singing males at Winding Bottom suggest changing habitat to C.E.M. and B.F.
- 425 Tree Sparrow: 300 No Mans Land Feb.19. 200 there Dec.3. Present at C.H. from Oct.24 to end of year, c200 C.H. Jan. 2. and c 500 there Feb.17.

BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1972

Quite the outstanding feature of our 1972 report is the appearance of the Gyr Falcon on the Downs in January. This bird was well and truly studied by a great number of people from near and far. The party who came from Cornwall seem to have had the longest ride.

Another bird which is not often seen in our district was the Long-eared Owl, which aroused a great deal of interest, and if we may hazard a guess, was the cause of a good many 'ticks' in our members' notebooks.

The Partridges which we now know to be mainly Rock Partridges seem to be surviving our climate and the hazards of sportsmen remarkably well. If their introduction has done no more good, it has caused some extremely good observers to brush up their field work and to beware of taking too much for granted. This we are, I fear, all prone to do.

No prolonged attempt was made to count Terns on passage this year, but a good deal of sea watching was done and large numbers of red-breasted Mergansers were reported by C.M.Veysey, that most meticulous of all observers. (I should hate to be a bird trying to hide from C.M.V.)

The pattern of bird life around the Adur Airport area was very much as usual. Twite in the early part of the year were regularly counted by F.Severs who has the inestimable advantage of living with the sea at his front door and the mud flats at the back. A notable addition to "Garden Birds" is that by J.M.Twort in his retirement at Elmcroft. The loss of one faculty has not damped his energy and keenness in the use of his ears. It will be of interest to us all to see how many more species he can identify on spring migration.

The Editor and Recorder again thank all members who have sent in their records promptly this year.

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.

COLLARED DOVES AT WORTHING 1971

(This article was unavoidably held over from last year's Report)

The following observations concern an area covering a private garden in the Broadwater district. Here, four years ago, only one pair of these doves inhabited this garden, frequenting the lawn and fish-pond for drinking water, and making good use of an avenue of established yew trees in the vicinity. Since that time no fewer than 14 birds have been counted at one time, all sited in the trees in the garden, and at the time of writing (late '71) were still there.

The comparison with Wood Pigeons making use of the garden was interesting. In addition to the distinctive "coo-coooo-coo" was the kind of grunting noise which was difficult to associate with any definite purpose, although it was observed that when disturbed a bird would immediately utter this sound as if in anger at the disturbance. However, this explanation may be far from the truth.

In view of the fact that this dove lays only two eggs in a clutch, it is difficult to understand its rapid expansion. In this particular instance it would appear that an increase from 2 to at

least 14 birds in so short a time may be due to rapid reproduction and successful rearing rather than an influx of birds from other districts. It seems that more than one brood per pair may be the order of the day. My observation regarding two and possibly three broods is supported by the fact that the first nest found in this garden contained half-grown young early in April, which meant that the eggs must have been laid early in March. Repeat nesting by this pair was confirmed (or shall I say suspected - I could not confirm that the same pair of birds was responsible) when a few days after the young already observed had left the nest a further two eggs were laid in the same nest. Unfortunately, both eggs were eventually found broken immediately below the nest.

This nest was situated in the overhanging bough of a conifer, not more than 8 feet from the ground. Compared with that of a Wood Pigeon it was made of much thinner twigs and slightly cup-shaped. Unfortunately other nests in this garden were inaccessibly high in cedars and other conifers. It is suspected that some old-established yews in the area are also used for nesting. The eggs themselves are more round in shape than Wood Pigeon's, white in colour and somewhat glossy. It is noteworthy that in this moderate-sized garden, apart from occasional signs of aggression, Collared Doves and Wood Pigeons feed on tit-bits from the house in harmonious co-existence.

It is interesting to note that Yarrell (1882) and R. Kearton (1900) made no mention of the Collared Dove. More recently, Hollom reports the first English occurrence in Norfolk in 1955, after which its almost explosive spread saw the first Sussex record in 1958 and breeding at Selsey in 1960. Today it is a breeding species in virtually every county of the British Isles, with a strong preference for urban areas, thus offering good opportunities for examination of its nesting and breeding habits.

A.E.H.

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS 1972

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	May 1	E.W.B.	Sept.23	Br.
Common Sandpiper	Apr.1	W.W.	July 30	F.A.
Black Tern	May 13	E.W.B.	Sept.15	E.W.B.
Little Tern	May 1	E.W.B.		
Turtle Dove	May 4	Devils Dyke		
Cuckoo	Apr.1	Lancing	Sept.26	Br.
Swift	Apr.30	Sompting	Aug. 16	C.H.
Swallow	Apr.15	W.Hove G.C.	Oct. 28	Shoreham
House Martin	Apr.17	Steyning	Oct. 23	C.H.
Sand Martin				
Wheatear	Mar.19	Hove Lagoon	Oct. 13	W.W.
Whinchat	May 3	No Mans Land	Oct. 5	C.H.
Redstart	May 2	Worthing	Sept.23	Cissbury
Grasshopper				
Warbler	Apr.27	C.H.	Aug. 28	C.H.
Reed Warbler	May 9	O.S.R.	Sept.21	Westdene
Sedge Warbler	Apr.27	C.H.	Sept.23	Br.
Blackcap	Jan. 1	Sanct.	Nov. 9	Westdene
Garden Warbler	May 2	C.H.	Aug. 6	Steyning
Whitethroat	May 2	C.H.	Sept.16	O.S.R.
Lesser				
Whitethroat	Apr.26	C.H.	Sept.10	Lancing & O.S.R.
Willow Warbler	Mar.31	Sanct.	Aug. 6	Steyning
Chiffchaff	Mar.14	O.S.R.	Oct. 11	O.S.R.
Spotted				
Flycatcher	May 9	Lychpole	Aug. 12	Patcham
Yellow Wagtail	May 17	Worthing	Sept.23	Br.
Chiff/Willow	Feb.16	T.B.	Dec. 16	Cissbury Area.

T.P.

GARDEN BIRDS FOR 1972

Garden at Elmcroft, Southwick (J.M. Twort). Identified by sound.
Wood pigeon, Stock Dove, Collared Dove, Tawny Owl, Barn Owl,
Rook, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Greenfinch, Chaffinch,
Goldfinch, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Starling, Dunnock, Robin,
House Sparrow, Wren, Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Great Tit,
Crossbill. These birds were noted since June 6th. this year.

Garden at Steyning (P.J. Clay).
Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat,
Willow Warbler, Reed Bunting, Green Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted
Woodpecker, Common Whitethroat, Tree Creeper, Kestrel perched
on hedge.

Garden at Goring by Sea (S.E. Cole.)
Water Rail intermittent in Jan. and March. Tree Creeper, up
to 4 during autumn and spring.

Garden at Lancing (Richard Ives)
Wheatear, Redstart 1 f. Spotted Flycatcher, Lesser Whitethroat.

Garden at Chesswood Rd. Worthing (F.J.Forbes, B.Forbes)
Collared Dove bred. Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Garden at Westdene (C.F.Helyer)
Long Tailed Tit, Goldcrest, Reed Warbler, Goldfinch.
m. Blackcap Nov. 9th. At Midnight on Sept.19th a Willow
Warbler repeatedly fluttered against the lounge window,
presumably catching insects.

Garden at Lancing (Mrs.B.R.Reeve)
Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, 2 Long Tailed Tits feeding
with the others and regular visits of a pair of Bullfinches.

Garden at Patcham (B.J.Short) Many of these birds were trapped
and retrapped.
Blue Tit 31, Great Tit 45, (1 pair bred 5 young),
Greenfinch 67, Coal Tit 3, Long Tailed Tit 5, Spotted Fly-
catcher 1, Corn Bunting, Jay, Tree Creeper, Green Woodpecker,
Great Spotted Woodpecker, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw,
Redwing, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler,
Chaffinch, Tree Sparrow, ♂, Wren, Collared Dove, Tawny Owl,
Robin, Starling (bred in nest box).

TURKISH DELIGHT

One of the compensations of having little Turks for grandchildren is that one has the best possible excuse for visiting as often as funds permit a country of undeniable ornithological attraction.

My own four visits have been in the spring of 1967, 1969 and 1971, and in autumn 1972 - confined largely to the Izmir area, and therefore off the main migration route across the Bosphorus; moreover, being largely restricted to public transport during my stays, I was limited to a rather circumscribed area.

Izmir, the third city of Turkey, is beautifully sited on a gulf at about the mid-point of the west (Aegean) coast, ringed by mountains of moderate height, and with reasonably good marshland on the north side of the gulf, and the better known Efes Marshes within about 35 miles.

This far south and east of Britain must inevitably provide a different menu of birds, and on my first visit I counted more than fifty new species amongst many others that we share with Turkey. On subsequent visits it was, of course, much harder to add new birds, and to date, of the 165 species I have satisfactorily identified in Turkey 100 are birds I have also seen in Britain. And the early pleasure of seeing unfamiliar Bee-eaters, Rollers, Black-headed Buntings etc. as a commonplace has given way, as at home, to savouring the bonus of unexpected birds.

We stay at our daughter's apartment in an outer suburb of the city, overlooking the sea, although half a mile from it, and flanked to the west by an olive grove straggling up a rocky hillside and giving way to mixed scrub. Northwestward and down-hill one walks through cultivation of figs, oranges, tobacco, cotton, peppers and artichokes to the man-made lagoon of Kalyan, fringed by a narrow strip of marsh. There is limited access to the breakwater enclosing the lagoon, and to the scrubby hills to the west and south-west.

The nearer olive/scrub area is convenient for a pre-breakfast walk, and I have come to regard it as my "patch". In both spring and autumn one can count on daily sightings of familiar English species like Little Owl, Jackdaw, Magpie, Great Tit, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Cirl Bunting and House Sparrow, with Jay present as the Asia Minor race with a black crown, and Collared Dove never out of sight - not for nothing do the Germans call it "Turkish Dove".

More interestingly, Syrian Woodpecker, Crested Lark, Hooded Crow, Sombre Tit, Cetti's Warbler and Rock Nuthatch can nearly always be seen or heard. Spring and early summer see the arrival of Cuckoo, Swift, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Spotted Flycatcher and Wheatear; and more exotically, Bee-eater, Red-rumped Swallow, Black-eared Wheatear, Olivaceous, Sardinian and Rüppell's Warblers and Cretzschmar's Bunting. Passage Warblers include Chiff/Willow, Wood, Bonelli's, Marsh (singing for 12 days in 1971 before moving on), and more rarely Orphean. Occasional or "once only" sightings on this "patch" have included Golden Eagle, Booted Eagle, and Buzzard; Brown Bush-chat, Masked Shrike, a perfect V of 42 Cranes, a single Firecrest, an elusive pair of Golden Orioles and a Wood-chat at Shrike. And among autumn passage and arrivals have been Red-backed Shrike, (especially immatures and/or females) Robin, Grey Wagtail and Kestrel.

A walk down to the marshy edge of the lagoon can turn up Kingfisher, Water Rail, Little Bittern and Little Egret, and the summer reed-beds hold Reed, Great Reed and Olivaceous Warblers, whilst at no time have I failed to hear the explosive song of Cetti's Warbler. Kentish Plovers frequent the breakwater, joined on passage by occasional other waders more familiar in England than Turkey - Ringed Plover, Turnstone and Greenshank among them. White Wagtail is regular there, joined by Black-headed Wagtail for the summer; on the other hand Black-headed Gull appears to be a winter visitor, joining the Mediterranean Gull and Herring Gull (yellow-legged Mediterranean race). And this autumn two splendid Caspian Terns fished the lagoon for more than a week.

Bird-watchers are themselves still a pretty rare species in Turkey and the lone eccentric is sometimes apt to be misunderstood. With martial law operating for the past two years, consequent upon terrorist activities, I suppose I should not have been surprised at being arrested by the military in 1971 when loitering near Cigli Airport with binoculars cocked. However, the arrival of my passport at the Jandarma some four hours and several drinks later secured my release with protestations of mutual esteem. (There is very little English spoken, but a great willingness to search out someone locally who has some English, French or German). More prudently on our 1972 visit, I concealed my binoculars until well past the Airport on my way to Cigli Marshes. The stream leading down to the marshes produced no less than ten Kingfishers, a Squacco Heron, several Pygmy Cormorants and the inevitable Cetti's Warbler, but

better was to come at the sea edge of the marshes, where four stately Dalmatian Pelicans were swimming, a Great White Egret fished close at hand with a curious prancing movement, and overhead the great broad-winged shape of a White-tailed Eagle was being mobbed by gulls - a splendid sight.

Occasional trips further afield have added some varieties of habitat. The mountain range of Yamunlar north of Izmir supports pinewoods above about 3000 feet, where parties of Serin are noisily evident, as is the small but vocal Krüper's Nuthatch. Woodlarks and Cirl Buntings are plentiful in the clearings, and Raven, Buzzard and an occasional Vulture - Griffon or Egyptian - soar overhead.

Driving eastward to Denizli, or south to Bodrum, in spring and early summer nesting White Storks are seen, sometimes on the domes of small local mosques, or even on top of a Roman pillar; and in some villages parties of Lessers Kestrels are traditional nesters. On the telegraph wires, Rollers, shrikes and buntings are frequent. And, most spectacularly, on the edge of Lake Manyas, some 200 miles to the north, is the famous Kus Cenneti, or paradise of birds, where hundreds upon hundreds of Spoonbills, Little Egrets, Cormorants and Grey, Purple, Squacco and Night Herons nest in a great community among willows growing in the shallows. Visitors able to get to the less accessible and more spectacular lake and mountain areas will undoubtedly see many more exciting birds than those I have mentioned, but the casual holiday-maker with only half an eye on the birds will still get a lot of pleasure from a fascinating country equally rich in botanical and archaeological treasure, and with a tradition of courtesy and hospitality.

The foreign section of the Turkish Ornithological Society (subscription £1.00 per annum. C/O R.S.P.B., Sandy.) publishes a report every second year, and has on sale a check-list published around 1971, price 50p.

FROM OUR MEMBERS' NOTEBOOKS

Long-eared Owl on Downs

In flight appeared same size as Short-eared, although having narrower wings and less plump body. Flight more direct and closer to the ground than Short-eared; very buoyant. Plumage tawny on top of wings, black carpal patches underneath, showing well in flight. Rest of underwing very pale. When perched ear tufts could easily be seen, apparently about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, edged with black. Facial disc varied in size, general colour buff with tinges of orange. White V on disc with inner V of black. Orange eyes easily seen at 30ft. Heavily barred on breast and belly with orange trousers. Bolt upright when perched.

B.F.

Gull Roost after Storm

20,000 birds, mostly Black-headed Gulls, were seen on Jan.15 on Adur and Airport after a storm.

C.E.M.

Red-breasted Mergansers at Worthing

Recorded on 18 dates between Jan.9 and April 19 (no March dates) Largest numbers were generally in area off Wallace Avenue to George V Avenue (West Worthing). The total number seen was 228 approx., or an average of 12 - 13. The highest daily count was 65 on Jan.20, with at least 44 on Jan.25. At the end of the year, 35 were seen on the afternoon of Dec.21.

C.M.V.

Birds of Prey seen in the Cissbury-Chanctonbury Area since 1966

Buzzard	Hobby
Rough-legged Buzzard	Merlin
Sparrow Hawk	Kestrel
Red Kite	Barn Owl
Marsh Harrier	Little Owl
Hen Harrier	Tawny Owl
Montagu's Harrier	Long-eared Owl
Gyr Falcon	Short-eared Owl

During 1972 the sightings of harriers in this area may have been as many as 11 birds.

C.E.M.

Breeding Ringed Plovers at Southwick-Portslade

Fewer visits were made than in 1971 and less time was spent looking over breeding areas because of the persistent cold winds. There did not appear to be as many pairs present this year. Two pairs gave anxiety calls and distraction displays on March 31. and April 22 in the area between 'A' Power Station and the insulator testing-bed. No scrape was found, but on July 10 a pair with two very young chicks was found here, obviously from a second clutch.

A scrape close to the track about half way between 'B' Station and the insulator testing-bed had 4 eggs which apparently hatched on May 20th., but the fledging success is not known.

A pair twice attempted breeding again inside the compound at the west end of 'B' Station, but without success. The first time only one egg was laid, and the second time there were two eggs. None of these hatched, and the suggestion has been made that the female was probably old and infertile.

C.M.V.

Gyr Falcon on the Downs

This, the "celebrity visitor" of 1972 to our area, obliged many of the watchers who came from near and far to see it during its stay (March 11 - 22). The writer saw it at the third attempt in company with Bob Batchelor of the Sussex Society, who managed to get some reasonable snaps.

When first spotted, it was perched on a fence post on the rising ground above Stump Bottom, and allowed approach to within about 80 yards, at which distance it presented an almost totally white (but not Persil white!) appearance, with a dark eye.

After being mobbed for several minutes by a Kestrel, which repeatedly dived at it - looking puny by comparison -, it flew to the ground, soon returning to its post where it had a very upright stance. Eventually it took flight, circling almost overhead before disappearing to the north. In flight the extreme wing-tips were seen to be black, and the trailing wing-edge appeared translucent. The flight appeared languid until compared with that of smaller birds getting hurriedly out of its way. The description "E-type Herring Gull" which one viewer coined was not inappropriate, although "Iceland Gull" would have been more suited to its plumage.

Years ago this would have been labelled unhesitatingly "Greenland" Falcon, but doubt now exists about the assignment of geographical races to the colour phases of this handsome bird. This individual appeared to be one of a small invasion at this time, since nine sightings were recorded from the Scillies to Cheshire, although some of these probably involved the same bird.

C.F.H.

Recorder's Note:

During the stay of the Gyr Falcon many bird-watchers flocked to the Cissbury-Chanctonbury area every day for a fortnight, so they noted many birds which would have otherwise gone unrecorded. These included the following :

A m. & f. Hen Harrier, a Merlin, a Buzzard, two Sparrow Hawks, a Short-eared Owl, 4 Grey Lag Geese and a Black Redstart.

Cormorant of Continental Race (?)

A bird seen perched on the basket-type marker of the outfall at the E. end of 'B' Power Station at Southwick showed excessive white plumage on head and neck suggesting the Continental race, Ph.C.Sinensis. J.Ferguson-Less referred me to a long article by R.Stokoe on 'Spring Plumage of the Cormorant' (B.B.Vol.51, pp.165-176) which showed that the date comes in the period when the second largest number of records of this race has occurred in the south of England. The confirmatory feature of a metallic green gloss instead of the normal blue gloss, however, could not be seen, and the record could therefore not be accepted as proven, although it was quite possibly correct.

C.M.V.

Count of Birds in the Cissbury-Chanctonbury Area, Oct./Nov.

	<u>Oct.28th</u>	<u>Nov.26th</u>
Woodcock	-	1
Kestrel	6	4
Little Owl	1	1
Lapwing	760	230
Black-headed Gull	400	820
Herring Gull	2	2
Great Black-backed Gull	-	-
Common Gull	30	70
Wood Pigeon	1620	1100
Stock Dove	2	4
29.		'continued)

	<u>Oct.28th</u>	<u>Nov.26th</u>
Sky Lark	220	80
Meadow Pipit	8	22
Duncock	36	60
Stonechat	1	-
Wheatear	1	-
Song Thrush	11	10
Blackbird	80	65
Mistle Thrush	3	3
Fieldfare	2	1
Robin	9	12
Wren	16	20
Great Tit	-	-
Blue Tit	14	8
Goldcrest	5	-
Reed Bunting	-	5
Corn Bunting	28	24
Yellowhammer	64	70
Chaffinch	20	40
Brambling	-	12
Greenfinch	80/90	110
Goldfinch	20	10
Linnet	390	130
Redpoll	4	-
Bullfinch	5	14
House Sparrow	190	50
Tree Sparrow	6	6
Starling	540	450
Jay	3	-
Magpie	2	2
Jackdaw	-	-
Rook	4	27
Carrion Crow	6	6
Feral pigeon	150	200

Game birds were not included in the figures, mainly because of the difficulty of separating the three species of introduced partridges added to the problem of counting birds so unwilling to fly.

C.E.M.

SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1972

Sunday, January 9th

Steyning Railway with Mr.C.E.Messer.

About 20 members turned out on a dull but dry day for the walk from Steyning to Streatham Bridge along the disused railway track.

The number of duck counted in the water meadows was rather low for the time of year - only 15 Teal and 4 Mallard; Snipe, too, seemed scarce. One member was just lucky enough to get a quick glimpse of a Jack Snipe before it disappeared into some thick sedges. The other interesting wader of the day was a wintering Green Sandpiper, which was seen near the rubbish tip.

On the return journey we all had superb views of a pair of Stonechats along the railway fence. Cormorants were also seen at their usual pylon lookout posts.

Despite all the upheaval caused by bulldozers piling up mounds of earth and rubbish on the track and a very steep ditch, we managed the walk without any mishaps.

Sunday, March 5th

Pagham with Dr.J.Stafford.

A cold windy day with a threat of rain but about 12 members risked the weather for this outing.

There were few birds about as might be expected after such a mild winter. Some 200 dark-breasted Brent Geese were feeding in small parties, and at times they flew out to sea. Small flocks of Grey Plover were resting at high-tide on the ploughland - perhaps 60 to 80 in a flock. On the lagoon a drake Goldeneye was swimming with two ducks, later to be joined by a female Merganser. Oystercatchers piped overhead and joined the Turnstone on the beach. A few Dunlin with Ringed Plovers in the flocks flew by. Even the finches and pipits on the shoreline were few and far between. Cold and a little disappointed, we went our several ways about 2.30 p.m.

Friday May 12th

Coates Common with Mr.C.F.Helyer.

On a fine clear evening after a day of heavy showers, 28 members assembled at 7.30 p.m. The designated leader was very thankful to hand over to Miss V.Lyon, who has a much better knowledge of the area, and thanks to her we all had an interesting and instructive walk.

The main objective of the outing was bird song, and as we began our circular walk through the open bracken interspersed with woodland that constitutes the common, a number of Willow Warblers were heard - the only warblers we were to hear, - and as we proceeded we heard Yellow Hammer, Wren, Chaffinch, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Song Thrush, and Mistle Thrush. But members were probably most pleased to see a Long-tailed Tit's nest about 12 feet up in a tree, to hear a solitary Nightingale, and to see and hear several Woodcocks roding, as dusk approached.

As a mammalian bonus both Grey Squirrel and Fallow Deer were seen.

Saturday, September 9th

Arlington Reservoir with Mr.Walter C.Murray.

Six members met Mr.Murray at Arlington Reservoir on this wet Saturday morning.

Leaving the main entrance we drove to a more convenient point about half a mile north of Berwick Station. At this western end of the reservoir Mr.Murray had seen a Pectoral Sandpiper, but we were not favoured with a sight of this none-too-common species.

Continuing along the perimeter toward the new diverted course of the Cuckmere River, our attention to a Greenshank led to our failure to notice a really heavy cloud descending upon us. Descend it did, for its watery contents drenched us, and by the time we reached the shelter of our cars we had decided to call it a day, although we had only been there for about an hour - an unfortunate start to the 1972/3 season.

We are very grateful to Mr.Murray, who himself was soaked in the deluge, but we hope to arrange another visit to the reservoir in the spring of 1973.

It is probable that in early September a number of members are holidaying, whilst others have barely had time to assimilate the season's programme, so we look for better support for our next venture - and a fine day in compensation.

A.W.S.B.

Sunday, October 1st.

Cissbury - Chanctonbury with Mr. C.E.Messer.

About 30 members arrived at the Steep Down car park for the walk to Chanctonbury.

Although misty at first it cleared later to give us excellent views of the Kestrels, which were constantly seen along the whole route.

Linnets were very numerous; hundreds could be seen rising from the fields of rape and mustard. Just the sort of thing which attracts many raptors to the area. Unfortunately, according to a birdwatcher we met on the way we had just missed two Buzzards and a Sparrow Hawk by only a few seconds. Nevertheless we did have good views of some of the more common birds, including Wheatear, Stonechat, Magpie and Jay.

Later in the day we went to look for some Short-eared Owls in a valley near the Steep Down car park, but alas with no success, although we did manage to see two Curlews feeding in a meadow.

For real appreciation of this area, it takes more than just one visit; as recent records show it can be very rewarding.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1972

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	p	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	p
Balance in hand 1.1.1972	18.94		Subscriptions - British Birds	9.00	
Subscriptions 153 @ 50p			- Binding	1.55	
10 @ 25p			Affiliation Fees - R.S.P.B.	2.00	
6 @ 30p	80.80		B.T.O.	2.50	
Donations	101.50		Sanctuary - Rent	4.05	
Annual Reports - sale	40		Maintenance	2.95	
Film Show Receipts	13.73		Lecture Fees & Expenses	9.50	
			Hire of Hall	4.00	
			Miscellaneous Expenses	2.69	
			Printing Annual Report	43.96	
			Printing & Stationery	11.93	
			Postage & Telephone	14.10	
			Balance in hand 31.12.1972	<u>107.14</u>	
				<u>£215.37</u>	

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

G.W. RAMPTON,
Hon. Treasurer.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF FILM SHOW HELD ON 29th APRIL, 1972

KITES ARE FLYING
THE LONELY LEVEL

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	p	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	p
Tickets sold	45.95		Rent of Hall	2.25	
			Printing Tickets	1.00	
			Advertisement	2.00	
			Hire of Films and Postage	16.47	
			Hire of Projector	10.00	
			Gratuity	50	
			Balance to General Account	13.73	
				<u>£45.95</u>	

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

G.W. RAMPTON
Hon. Treasurer.

LIST OF LECTURES 1972

January 22nd	"The Lost River"	Mr.Walter J.C.Murray
March 18th	A.G.M. and a Colour Cine Film of Birds and Animals of the East African National Park.	Dr.M.Hollings
April 29th	"Kites are Flying" and "The Lonely Level"	Two R.S.P.B. films at Shoreham Town Hall
October 18th	"Any Questions?"	Panel of Members
November 15th	"Modern Farms and the Survival of Patridges"	Dr.G.R.Potts

* * * * *

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T. Palmer, F. J. Forbes.

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

Mr. T. Palmer

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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 1972178

N O T I C E

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

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 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.

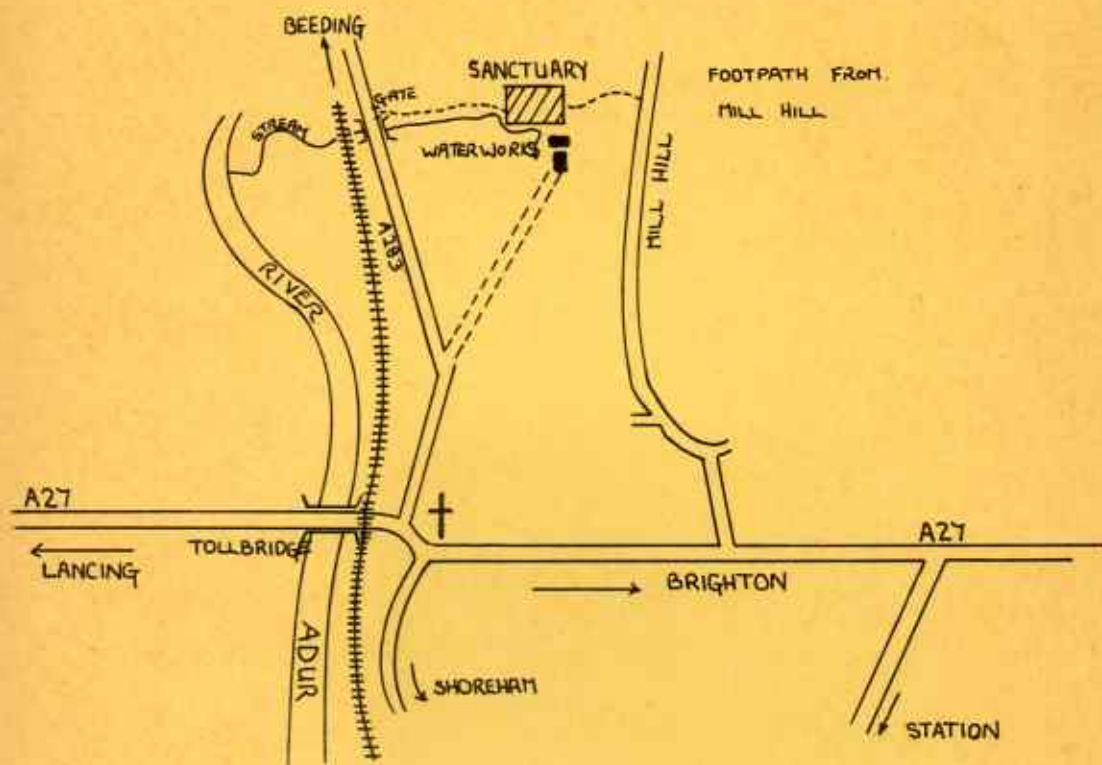
From January 1st 1973, the subscription will be: 75p and 40p respectively.

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



The Sanctuary is now held on a new agreement. *Pedestrian* access is now by the Waterworks Road, at the end of which take a pathway to the left skirting the Waterworks buildings. Cars *must* be left at the junction of the Beeding Road and the Waterworks Road.

Alternative access is through the gate on the Beeding Road, or steeply down from Mill Hill.

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