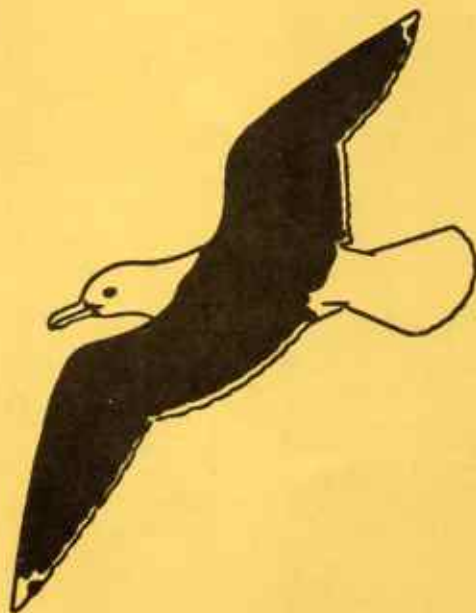


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Twentyfourth Annual Report



for the Year 1976

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SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1976

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EDITORIAL NOTES

1976 will be remembered for a very long time for its meteorological extremes - a very mild winter followed by a record-breaking summer of heat and drought, and then, in sharp contrast, an autumn of what seemed almost ceaseless rain. And nowhere was the contrast more evident than in the Sanctuary, where the stream had virtually dried up by the end of May, but was running at an exceptionally high level by the end of the year.

However, these extremes did not prevent an interesting range of birds being recorded, as our "Notable Birds" list and other features show and a year that sees Bearded Tit, Puffin and Tawny Pipit in Shoreham must be counted a very satisfactory one.

Once again, Dr. John Newnham's labours with both mist-net and pen are attested by the very considerable part of this Report that we owe to him, and we are very much in his debt.

Other substantial contributions have come from Messrs Philip Clay, Bernard Forbes, Colin Messer and Richard Porter, who between them have covered coast, river and downland very thoroughly.

The year has seen our departure from Huntingdon Hall, our "home" for about 15 years, for reasons beyond our control, but we have found an acceptable replacement in the Community Centre at Pond Road, where some excellent lectures by Messrs Richard Porter and Brian Forbes have provided a good introduction, after finishing at Huntingdon Hall in fine style with Messrs Lawrence Holloway and Chris Mead.

On a sadder note, Mr. J.M. Twort, an elder statesman of the Society, died in August at the age of 90, and an appreciation appears elsewhere in this report. We also record with regret the death of Capt. J. Biggs, who gave loyal support to his Sister, the late Catherine Biggs, our co-founder and secretary for so many years.

We record our thanks for yet another year's service to the Society to Mrs. Farmer, our able Secretary, to Mr. Rampton for keeping the books so meticulously, to Mr. Burstow for arranging our field putings (only one of which was rained off!) to the other members of Council, and to Dr. Stafford for so ably chairing it and the indoor meetings. And finally the Editor would like to record his - and the Society's indebtedness to Mrs. Violet Rimmington who, for a number of years now, has volunteered to type the material for the Report from a very varied and not always very legible collection of manuscripts.

* * * * *

SANCTUARY REPORT 1976

1976 was another year for good coverage at the Sanctuary with well over 200 visits logged and 70 of these being long visits for the purpose of ringing. As with any site which is observed regularly the Sanctuary had a sprinkling of interesting birds including Siskins, Green Sandpiper, Long-eared Owl, Firecrest, 2 Hobbies, Ring Ouzels and Wryneck.

The year started dry and mild apart from a cold snap at the beginning of February. This dry weather continued throughout spring to make a record drought in the scorching summer. All the streams were dry by mid-May and the usually lush vegetation was already parched and thin before suffering further damage due to a series of break-ins by the cattle through the flimsy fences. The

resulting growth of reeds in 1976 was extremely poor. When the rains eventually came in mid-September they came with a vengeance, so that by the end of October the streams were overflowing and well over half the bridges were floating away. Throughout the year hang-gliding continued, at times attracting large crowds of people onto the hillside; as time goes by it appears this causes very little disturbance to the sanctuary birds, though no doubt the crowds would influence the birds on the hilltop. As usual a large amount of lopping and path clearance was done during the winter and spring.

The early part of the year is often uneventful from the ornithological point of view; 1976 was no exception. Up to 3 Water Rails were present until March, and one could often be seen feeding on grain and seed from a "hopper" feeder on the bird table. Greenfinches were possibly more numerous than usual as over 90 were trapped in the first 3 months. A Redpoll was seen on January 15th, a Siskin on January 24th and Grey Wagtails on four occasions. In the fields the usual flocks of Lapwings and gulls were recorded, but only 2 Mallard, 1 Teal and a maximum of 6 Snipe were seen. A Jack Snipe was present on February 7th. Up to 30 Redwing and Fieldfare were seen daily until late March, with over 200 Redwing roosting on the hillside on March 8th. Other roosting birds were the Collared Doves with numbers often in excess of 250, Starling numbering between 1000 and 2000, and a single Tawny Owl, but no substantial Blackbird roost.

The only unusual birds during the first quarter were 5 grey geese, which silently flew eastward over the copse on March 20th.

Whilst several of the winter birds were still about, some of the resident species were beginning to nest; a pair of long-tailed Tits were busy building on March 11th, a Song Thrush had 3 eggs by April 5th and both Mistle Thrush and Blackbird had full clutches by mid April.

The first Migrant to arrive was a Chiff-chaff on March 24th; there were a further 2 on March 28th and at least 4 were present on March 29th. This day, which was rather wet and windy, also brought the first Willow Warbler, the first of 5 early Blackcaps and at least 3 Goldcrests, a species which was unusually scarce this spring. Phylloscopus species were also less numerous than previous years, with Chiff-chaffs seen only in singles or pairs throughout April and Willow Warbler peaks of 6 on April 1st and 8 on April 16th and 30th. The early spring produced three interesting birds; a Green Sandpiper was seen daily in the main dyke between

April 1st and April 9th, a Long-eared Owl was flushed from the hawthorn thicket on April 2nd and a Firecrest was recorded on April 3rd.

The rest of the spring was fairly normal with summer migrants arriving in small numbers. The first Whitethroat appeared on April 13th, the first Lesser Whitethroat on April 24th and thereafter there were 2 - 3 of each, seen daily throughout April and May. On April 19th 6 'Flava' wagtails were feeding amongst the cattle and a further 2 were seen on April 29th. Goldfinches and Linnets increased in number throughout April with a marked influx on April 28th. Most of these were seen flocking to drink in the rapidly drying streams. The first Swallow was seen on April 28th and soon had increased to 3 by April 30th, but House Martins did not arrive until May 10th. Meanwhile a Garden Warbler was heard on May 1st, the first Sedge Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher were recorded on May 5th and the first 4 Swifts and 2 single Reed Warblers were seen on May 7th. After May 10th Turtle Doves were recorded in small numbers and remained throughout the summer to breed. For the past few years Grasshopper Warblers have been heard and seen regularly on the hillside; in 1976 there was just one record of one singing on May 29th.

Throughout June juveniles of the resident species were everywhere, but the only migrants which were successful in breeding were 2 pairs each of Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat, single pairs of Willow Warbler and Blackcap and 5 pairs of Swallows in the garage. For the first year on record neither Reed nor Sedge Warbler bred in the copse, presumably due to the poor growth and destruction of reeds. Stock Doves were seen on several occasions during the month, a Great Spotted Woodpecker was present on June 14th and a Hobby was recorded on June 21st.

July usually brings the beginning of autumn passage, particularly of Swifts, acrocephalus and Willow Warblers; however July 1976 was very quiet, when the only numerous creature was the ladybird. The only bird of interest was a Cuckoo on July 5th and 19th.

In past autumns the passage and occurrence of unusual numbers of migrants at Beachy Head has been mirrored on a much smaller scale at the Sanctuary. During 1976 at Beachy Head there were good numbers of Sylvia warblers, Redstarts, Wrynecks and Ring Ouzels but poor passage of phylloscopus sp., Goldcrests and Redpolls; a similar picture was seen at the Sanctuary.

For the second year in succession only a handful of Willow

Warblers and Chiff-Chaffs were trapped. Equally scarce in the autumn of 1976 were Reed and Sedge Warblers, with no more than 3 recorded in any one day and the last Reed Warbler remaining only until September 9th, and the last Sedge Warbler until September 17th. Sylvia Warblers, however, seemed numerous although the ringing totals do not suggest a bumper year; on most days in August and early September, there were plenty of Common and Lesser Whitethroats on the hillside. Garden Warblers and Blackcaps, too, seemed more obvious, the first 3 Garden Warblers appearing on August 7th and the last on October 16th, whilst Blackcaps were present in good numbers throughout the autumn until November 14th.

No Pied Flycatchers were recorded, but Spotted Flycatchers showed the usual passage with up to 4 birds present between August 18th and October 11th. Chats were more numerous than the past few autumns; Whinchats suddenly appeared on August 20th when 5 were present, then up to 10 were recorded, usually on the hillside, until October 11th. Stonechats only reached a maximum of 6, but continued on throughout November, with singles present in December, and Redstarts were recorded in singles on 5 dates between August 21st and September 26th. Undoubtedly the best bird for the year was a Wryneck which was seen at close quarters on August 21st.

Throughout August a large flock of moulting Corn Buntings gathered on the hillside; estimates of the flock size were difficult but on August 23rd it was considered that at least 400 were present; Other buntings and finches were fewer in number, presumably due to the absence of the drinking pools.

September saw the usual hirundine passage, Swallows and Sand Martins early in the month and House Martins replacing the Sand Martins later. The peak Swallow passage occurred on September 6th, when 1,500 per hour were passing eastward; these continued in diminishing numbers until the last single Swallow was recorded on November 13th. House Martins were frequently seen passing over in small numbers with Swallows but large flocks of 2000 appeared on September 17th, September 27th and 28th, with smaller flocks on other days in late September and early October. As at Beachy Head, these flocks seemed to appear from nowhere about 1000 hrs. and by 1200 hrs. they had completely vanished. A late Swift was with one such flock on September 27th.

Slightly unusual birds for September included a Hobby on

September 1st, a Sparrow Hawk on September 4th and 28th, a Green-shank on September 18th and up to 2 Kingfishers on several dates, despite the absence of water.

Goldfinches were less numerous than 1975, but Linnets built up to the usual autumn roost of 250 - 300 birds in mid October. A few Redpoles were recorded on six dates with a maximum of 22 on November 14th and Siskins were seen on 3 dates at the end of October, with a maximum of five on October 30th. Unusual late October migrants were six Sand Martins on October 27th and a Turtle Dove on October 24th.

Despite a huge crop of berries the number of thrushes were disappointing. Redwing did not arrive until October 23rd and the first Fieldfare not until November 1st, but remained in numbers of up to 30 until the end of the year. Blackbirds and Song Thrushes were more numerous than 1975, but no startling numbers were recorded. The most interesting records were of Ring Ousels, a species seldom recorded at the Sanctuary, there being single birds present on October 16th, October 24th and November 9th and four individuals on October 29th.

During late October and early November a moderate-sized Starling roost used the Sanctuary; on November 1st some 20,000 Starlings were present, but curiously one week later none remained to roost.

The Water Rail returned to the now very wet Sanctuary on November 14th and was joined by a second bird in mid-December. The last six weeks of the year were uneventful with the best records being a Sparrow Hawk on November 20th, a late or wintering Chiff-chaff on December 4th and four Golden Plover on December 12th.

I would like to express thanks, firstly to Mr. Santer and staff of the Southern Water Authority pump station, and secondly to those who have helped at the Sanctuary and supplied records to make this report possible.

J.A.N.

* * * * *

RINGING REPORT FOR 1976

1976 was another excellent year for ringing, surpassing last year's record with a grand total of 3102 birds of 57 species. The majority, i.e. 2979 were ringed as full grown birds and 123 were marked as nestlings.

Dr. John Newnham accounted for 2258 of the total, mainly at the Sanctuary or on the Adur. Towards the end of the year Ann Taylor, from the local R.S.P.B. office, and Dr. Mark Wight helped at the Sanctuary in order to gain experience in handling and ringing birds. Dr. Barrie Watson ringed 269 in the Shoreham area, and the remaining 575 were ringed by Steyning Ringing Group. This body was formed in June to co-ordinate and encourage ringing in the Steyning area, and particularly at Strivens Reed Bed. The senior members of the group are Phil Clay and Dr. Barrie Watson. Brian Clay and Catrina Tyson hold 'C' permits and the group's trainees are Tim Oldham, Mike Hall, Graham Brown and Jonathon Cooke. Considering operations did not start until mid-September, their totals represent some good potential from that area and coupled with the group's enthusiasm some exciting results should be expected.

Below is a table of the birds ringed:-

Mute Swan.....1	Blue Tit.....268	Willow Warbler...52
Kestrel.....1	Long-Tailed Tit....36	Chiff-Chaff.....45
Moorhen.....4	Tree Creeper.....3	Goldcrest.....21
Redshank.....23	Wren.....62	Spotted
Knot.....2	Mistle Thrush.....5	Flycatcher....15
Dunlin.....276	Song Thrush.....77	Dunnock.....115
Black-headed Gull...1	Blackbird.....208	Meadow Pipit.....8
Wood Pigeon.....5	Fieldfare.....1	'Alba' Wagtail...20
Turtle Dove.....1	Redwing.....16	Grey Wagtail.....1
Collared Dove.....43	Wheatear.....1	Starling.....68
Barn Owl.....1	Stonechat.....2	Greenfinch.....208
Kingfisher.....4	Whinchat.....3	Goldfinch.....117
Great Spotted	Robin.....96	Linnet.....60
Woodpecker.....2	Reed Warbler.....106	Bullfinch.....68
Lesser Spotted	Sedge Warbler.....85	Chaffinch.....38
Woodpecker.....1	Blackcap.....46	Yellow Hammer....9
Swallow.....158	Garden Warbler.....14	Corn Bunting....30
House Martin.....460	Whitethroat.....30	Reed Bunting....30
Sand Martin.....1	Lesser Whitethroat..36	House Sparrow....1
Magpie.....2		Tree Sparrow....29
Great Tit.....86		

The Knot and Barn Owl are probably first-timers for the area, Wheatears are seldom trapped and there was a good sprinkling of colourful birds, like Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail and Woodpeckers. For the second year running House Martin has topped the table due to some large catches of passage birds in late September. Dunlin

(see separate article) took over second place from the usual species like Blackbird, Blue Tit and Greenfinch all of which regularly exceed 200.

* * * * *

RECOVERIES AND CONTROL

1976 was a good year for recoveries with no fewer than 8 foreign movements recorded; 5 of these were Dunlin and are mentioned elsewhere. A control of a Russian Starling, for which the ringing details are not yet available excludes another bird from the list of movements recorded below.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. GOLDFINCH. ringed first year, male | 25. 7.72 Shoreham Sanc. |
| (Not reported until 76.) | 22.12.74 Huesca area Spain |
| 2. GOLDFINCH Ringed juv. | 7. 8.74 Shoreham Sanc. |
| | 12. 3.76 Vitoria (Atava)
Spain |
| 3. GOLDFINCH Ringed juv. | 5. 8.75 Shoreham Sanc. |
| controlled | 8. 5.76 Sherringham,
Norfolk 250 Km.NNE. |

This proves further how migratory this species is (see 1975 ringing report). The following three warblers were ringed elsewhere on autumn passage and controlled during the subsequent spring; the Blackcap was breeding in the Sanctuary.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 4. WILLOW WARBLER Ringed juv. | 18. 8.73 Radipole,
Weymouth, Dorset. |
| controlled | 30. 4.76 Shoreham Sanc.
155 Km. E. |
| 5. REED WARBLER Ringed juv. | 2. 8.75 Titchfield Haven,
Hants. |
| controlled | 7. 6.76 Shoreham Sanc.
67 Km. E. |
| 6. BLACKCAP Ringed full grown f. | 12. 8.75 Filsham, Bexhill,
Sussex. |
| controlled | 30. 5.76 Shoreham Sanc.
55 Km. W. |

Despite large numbers of House Martins ringed recently few are heard of again; both of these were birds caught from large migratory flocks by using a tape recorded lure.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 7. HOUSE MARTIN Ringed juv. | 4. 9.76 Epping, Essex. |
| controlled | 27. 9.76 Shoreham Sanc.
100 Km. SSW |
| 8. HOUSE MARTIN Ringed juv. | 31. 8.75 Shoreham Sanc. |
| found dying | 4. 9.76 Upper Beeding
6 Km. N. |

9. PIED WAGTAIL.	Ringed juv.	31. 8.74	Chiddingfold, Surrey
	Controlled	19. 7.76	Shoreham roost. 40km SE
10. PIED WAGTAIL	ringed juv.	1. 7.75	Shoreham Sanc.
	controlled	25. 1.76	Thakeham roost. 16Km NW.

This last bird was almost certainly one of the young from the 1975 Sanctuary breeding pair - obviously a greenhouse roost was more attractive than a windy Shoreham reed bed where the local birds roost.

11. GREAT TIT.	ringed 1st year	17. 2.73	Shoreham
	controlled	28. 2.76	High Hurstwood, Uckfield 35Km NE.
12. CORN BUNTING	ringed full grown	4. 9.75	Shoreham Sanc.
	controlled	17. 1.76	Strivens Roost 7 Km NNW.

Very little is known about Corn Buntings and very few are ringed throughout the country each year. With large flocks at the Sanctuary and a roost at Strivens Reed Bed this species would be ideal for an area ringing study; unfortunately Corn Buntings prove very difficult to catch.

Each year I stress that ringing shows more than just bird movements; the following two recoveries represent the range of life span in one species.

13. STARLING.	ringed juv. male	27.12.66	Shoreham
	found dead	16. 3.76	Shoreham
14. STARLING	ringed juv.	2. 6.76	Shoreham
	found dead	9. 6.76	Portslade 5Km E.

There were many other local recoveries and retraps all of which help piece together the behaviour of local birds.

* * * * *

J.A.N.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1976

This feature is based upon the records sent in by the following:-

Mrs. G.M.Cook, Miss M.Davies-Scourfield, Mrs. B.Reeve, Mr. & Mrs. A.E.Holman, Messrs S.R.Allen, P.J.Clay, B.F.Forbes, F.J.Forbes, M.P.Hall, C.F.Helyer, R.Ives, C.E.Messer, Dr. J.A.Newnham, R.E.F.Peal, R.F.Porter, F.Severs, B.J.Short, Dr. A.B.Watson.

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

ly. - 1st year; E. - east; W. - west etc; C.C. Cuckoo's Corner; E.W.B. East Worthing Beach; Harb. Shoreham Harbour; Sanc. Sanctuary; S.R.B. Strivens Reed Bed; W.R.D. Worthing Rubbish Dump; S.R.D. Steyning Rubbish Dump; W.W. - Widewater.

1. BLACK THROATED DIVER:- 1 flying E. Southwick, Apr.26 (R.F.P).
4. RED THROATED DIVER:- Singles flying E. Southwick. Apr.23-
Apr. 26. 1 Hove Beach May 5.
DIVER Sp:- 1 Ferring Feb. 1; 1 flying E.Hove May 5;
5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE:- Recorded offshore at Ferring, Hove and
W.W. from Jan. until May 14; maximum 7
W.W. Mar.24; 1 W.W. Dec. 27.
9. LITTLE GREBE:- Records from W.W. and Adur in winter
months, max. 8 Dec. 27; 1 Wiston Pond
Aug. 21.
26. FULMAR:- 2 or 3 offshore at Southwick and Hove
Apr. and May; 6 Roedean May 6.
27. GANNET:- 1 flying W. Lancing May 2, 2 there
June 27 and 4 W.W. Sept.29, 17 Hove
Sept. 18; last recorded off Shoreham
Oct. 10
28. CORMORANT:- 27 Worthing Mar.25, up to 19 roosting
on pylons Adur levels in Oct.
29. SHAG:- 1 sub-adult on sea Southwick May 11,
(REP) & 1 W.W. Oct.6 and Oct.24 (BFF)
30. HERON:- 10 Wyckham Wood Heronry Apr. 24, up
to 14 Airport area thro-out autumn, 9
there Dec. 5, 3 flying over Downs
June 12.
45. MALLARD:- Up to 20 S.R.B. in Jan. and Feb; 50
recorded Adur levels Oct. 14 and Dec.3;
10-15 pairs bred in lower Adur Valley;
33 roosting Airfield in Dec.
46. TEAL:- Adur level counts of 4 on Feb.8, 2 Apr.3,
2 on Apr. 18, 40 on Oct.14 & 30 Dec.27.
47. GARGANEY:- 3 including 1m. Adur. July 31. (R.F.P)
50. WIGEON:- 20 Ferring Feb.1 & 50 Adur levels
Oct. 14.

53. SHOVELER:- 1 W.W. Apr.30; 7 flying over Lancing July 25 and 7 Adur levels Oct. 14.
57. POCHARD:- 2 Wiston Pond Jan. 15.
62. VELVET SCOTER:- 1 E.Southwick Apr.23; 4 flying E. there May 3.
64. COMMON SCOTER:- between Apr. 21 and May 14 283 flying mainly E. off Southwick with maximum 60 W. on May 12 and 90 E. on May 14.
67. EIDER:- at W.W. 1 m. Mar.28 and 3 f. May 14; at Southwick 1 imm. m. flying E. Apr. 21 and 2 W. Apr. 27.
69. RED BREASTED MERGANSER:- counts at Ferring of 20 on Feb. 1; 30 on Mar. 7 and 17 on Dec. 19; 2 off Worthing Mar 23 and 4 W.W. Mar 24.
73. SHELDUCK: up to 20 in Adur area between Jan. and Mar, up to 10 recorded W.W. same period.
- GEESE Sp:- 5, probably Grey-lag, flying E. Sanc. Mar. 25.
80. BRENT GOOSE:- 10 W.W. Jan. 3, 10 Ferring Feb.1, other records of smaller numbers at both localities early in year. 9 flying E. Southwick Apr. 26; 9 flying W. Ferring Oct. 20, 40 E. over Downs Oct. 30. 15 E. at Hove Nov. 27 and 16 flying E. W.W. Dec. 11.
82. CANADA GOOSE:- 2 Wiston Pond Jan. 15.
91. BUZZARD:- 1 Adur levels Apr. 4, singles recorded from Downs on 6 dates between Aug. 19 and Oct. 24. 1 Mill Hill Oct. 31.
93. SPARROW HAWK:- recorded on 35 dates throughout year from Downs with max. 4 Sept. 9. Also recorded East Worthing, Annington Brooks, Adur levels and Sanc.
99. MARSH HARRIER:- 1 f. or imm. Downs Oct. 1 (BFF)
100. HEN HARRIER:- 2 records only - 1 m. Downs on Apr. 23 and Apr. 25.

104. HOBBY:- singles on 7 dates from Downs between Apr.28 and Sept. 7; 1 Worthing Apr. 29, singles from Sanc. and N. Shoreham area on May 12, June 21, Sept. 1, and Sept. 14.
110. KESTREL:- recorded from many localities; max. 15 Downs Nov. 13.
115. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE:- 2 upper Adur May 9. 7 Chanctonbury Oct. 17
117. QUAIL:- 3 or more calling Fulking Hill July 22.
120. WATER RAIL:- up to 3 Sanc. Jan - Mar, 2 there Nov.- Dec, 1 S.R.B. Oct. 9 and 1 Downs Oct. 9.
131. OYSTER-CATCHER:- Ferring counts of 32 on Jan 17 and 10 on Mar. 15; 1 Adur Jan. 1 and 2 Harb. Jan 2; 10 EWW May 8 and 4 there Aug 4 and Oct. 29.
133. LAPWING:- 900 Airfield Jan 6 and 350 there Jan. 17. 1000 Adur levels Oct. 14, 1500 there Oct.15; and 1000 Nov. 21.
134. RINGED PLOVER:- Selected Adur counts:-

Jan. 1 - 70	Aug. 4 - 40
Jan. 17 - 40	Aug. 13 - 80
Mar. 27 - 20	Aug. 20 - 120
July 19 - 9	Sept. 5 - 170
July 23 - 20	Oct. 17 - 90
	Nov. 27 - 70

 Ferring counts 115 on Jan 17, 100 Jan 24, 300 on Feb. 1 and 30 on Mar 7 and Mar. 13. Up to 3 birds recorded on Downs in late spring and early summer.
139. GREY PLOVER:- Singles on Adur Mar.13, Mar.17 and Oct.3
 Counts at Goring/Ferring - 43 on Jan.17, 60 on Feb. 1, 32 on Mar.14 and 25 on Mar.15.
140. GOLDEN PLOVER:- 3 Downs Aug.24, 50+ there Dec.29. 40 Adur levels Nov.21; 70 Adur levels Dec.3 and 9 there Dec.27. 4 Sanc. Dec.10.
143. TURNSTONE:- 17 Ferring Feb.17. 1 Adur Jan.10, 2 there Apr.26 and 1 Sept.8. 2 W.W. May 2.
145. SNIBE:- up to 60 S.R.B. in early months, 20 Sussex Pad Mar.13 and up to 82 there Nov. and Dec.

145. SNIFE:- (Continued) Adur level counts of 30 on Oct.6; 60 on Dec.3; 100 on Dec.4 and 200 on Dec.27. 2 Downs Aug. 20.
147. JACK SNIFE:- 1 flushed from gorse, Downs, Apr. 25; 1 Adur levels Dec. 4 and 2 there Dec. 27.
148. WOODCOCK:- 1 feeding in West Chiltonington garden Sept.7; singles Downs Nov.3 and Dec.11; 1 S.R.B. late Dec.and 1 over Lancing Dec.20.
150. CURLEW:- single birds recorded from vicinity of Adur Jan.17, Apr.4, Aug.27 and Oct.16.
151. WHIMBREL:- 1 Adur levels Apr.18; between Apr.18 and May 10 79 observed flying E. off Hove and 71 off Southwick beach, with maximum of 29 on Apr.23 and 25 on Apr.25. 1 - 2 recorded between July 10 & Aug.13. Adur.
154. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT:- 2 Adur and 2 W.W. Apr.30, 1 Adur May 1, 3 there Aug.13 and 1 Aug.14.
155. BAR-TAILED GODWIT:- between Apr.18 and May 13 762 flying east off Southwick and 476 off Hove beach with maximum of 217 in 1½ hrs. Apr.26 and 386 on Apr.27. Easterly passage also observed off W.W., 3 Adur Apr.28, 6 there Sept.5, 4 Sept. 8 and 2 Oct.3.
156. GREEN SANDPIPER:- 2 Adur Feb.2 and single bird Sanc. Apr.1 - Apr.9.
159. COMMON SANDPIPER:- recorded on 21 dates between July 15 and Oct.3 Adur area max. 10 Aug.13. 1 over Lancing at night Sept.1.
161. REDSHANK:- possibly 3 pairs bred lower Adur and 3 pairs Adur levels.
Selected Adur counts:-

Jan. 17	- 80	Aug. 20	- 90
Feb. 22	- 180	Oct. 10	- 117
Mar. 29	- 26	Nov. 27	- 20
July 23	- 50	Dec. 7	- 0

on river
last few weeks records of many feeding in fields near river and Airport.
162. SPOTTED REDSHANK:- 4 Adur levels Oct. 6 (PJC)

165. GREENSHANK:- 1 or 2 recorded on 14 dates between Aug.9 and Oct.3 Adur area
169. KNOT:- 2 Adur Jan. and Feb; 4 there Oct.5.
170. PURPLE SANDPIPER:- up to 5 Ferring Jan. - Mar.
178. DUNLIN:- Selected Adur Counts
 Jan. 1 - 700 Aug. 6 - 20
 Jan. 3 - 1250 Aug.26 - 10
 Feb.12 - 600 Sept.5 - 40
 Feb.22 - 750 Oct.17 - 31
 Mar.11 - 320 Nov. 1 - 300
 Mar.27 - 65 Dec.13 - 400
 Many feeding on Airfield and fields round river in last few weeks. 927 at Ferring Jan.17.
181. SANDERLING:- counts at Ferring 138 Jan. 17; 30 Mar.28 and 20 Apr. 2.
184. RUFF:- 1 f. near Sussex Pad Oct.6 (MPH)
 4 f. and 1m. Adur levels Oct.15 (PJC)
185. AVOCET:- 8 flew E. off Southwick 0725 Apr.22 (seen at Beachy Head 0820) (RFP)
193. ARCTIC SKUA:- Southwick beach 1 light-phase E. May 5, 3 inc. 1 dark-phase May 6 and May 7.
195. POMARINE SKUA:- 6 light phase flying E. Southwick May 7.(RFP)
198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:- Adur mud flat counts 200 Jan 22, 100 Mar.3 and 200 Dec. 24. max. 50 all year S.R.D.
199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:- up to 2 wintering Adur and Goring beach.
200. HERRING GULL:- 20 Adur mudflats Jan.3 and 70 there June 30.
201. COMMON GULL:- flocks of up to 250 recorded from Downs and Sanc. area in Mar. and Apr.
202. GLAUCOUS GULL:- adult Hove until Jan.14. imm. Adur Jan.25 and Southwick Feb.8.
205. MEDITERRANEAN GULL:- 2 flying W. W.W. in summer plumage Apr.8; 1 sub-adult there Nov.6 - 7. 2 adults E. Southwick Apr. 29.

207. LITTLE GULL:- 1 Footbridge Mar.13; total 9 adults flying E. on 5 dates, Apr.26 - May 7 Southwick, 1 Hove Sept.18.
208. BLACK-HEADED GULL:- Adur mudflat at counts 3000 Jan. 22, 200 Jan.25 and 35 June 30; 25 - 30,000 gulls, mainly this species, roosting Airfield Dec.7; and 8 - 10,000 there Dec.30.
211. KITTIWAKE:- 2 flying W. Lancing May 2, and 1 there June 29.
212. BLACK TERN:- 2 Southwick beach May 6, 2 Lancing June 29, 1 Shoreham beach Sept.25, 3 Harb. Sept.29 and Oct. 6.
- 217-218. COMMON/ARCTIC TERN:- between Apr.18 and May 18 438 flying E. off Hove beach and 462 E. off Southwick with max. 250 E. in 1½ hours Apr.26. 250+ fishing off Hove May 5. 12 Harb. Sept.29 and 1 there Oct.17.
222. LITTLE TERN:- 6 E.W.B. Apr.20 and 6 Hove Apr.27. Up to 4 W.W. early Aug. and up to 12 Adur same period.
223. SANDWICH TERN:- 2 Ferring Mar.29; Between Apr.16 and May 14 483 flying E. off Hove, max. 211 in 1½ hours Apr.26, and 709 E. off Southwick with max: 199 Apr.27. 2 Harb. Sept.29.
224. RAZORBILL:- 1 Hove Jan.12, 1 there Apr.26; 1 W.W. May 8 and May 15.
227. GUILLEMOT:- 1 Shoreham beach July 21.
230. PUFFIN:- 2 off W.W. Apr. 2. (BFF).
232. STOCK DOVE:- flocks on downs of 20 on Apr.28, 30 May 30, 80 on Oct.27 and 300 Nov.13.
235. TURTLE DOVE:- spring records of 4 Downs Apr.28 and Apr.30, 6 on May 8 and 20 May 30. 110 Downs Aug.30. Last recorded Sanc. Oct.29.
- COLLARED DOVE:- usual winter roost 250 - 300 max, Sanc.
237. CUCKOO:- 1 Downs Apr.13, 4 there Apr.30; recorded in 12 well spread localities May/June. Last juv. seen Sanc. Aug.13.

241. BARN OWL:- 1 S.R.B. early in year; 1 Downs Feb. 20 and Nov. 4.
246. LITTLE OWL:- up to 2 recorded Downs 9 dates between Apr.21 and Dec.2. 2 Annington Brooks June, 1 Lancing Aug.20. 1 found dead Southwick beach Feb.23.
247. TAWNY OWL:- 1 regularly roosting Sanc; 1 Shoreham Jan.3, and 1 Lancing Feb.
248. LONG-EARED OWL:- recorded on 7 dates Downs Jan.- Apr. with max. 12 Jan.14, 1 there Oct.9. 1 Sanc Apr.2.
249. SHORT-EARED OWL:- up to 2 recorded on 8 dates Downs until Mar. 23. 1 Airfield Apr.16; 2 Downs Sept.25 and Dec.2. 1 flying E. over Lancing Oct.23.
252. NIGHTJAR:- 1 Patching May 19.
256. SWIFT:- 1 Downs May 1, 2 Portslade and 3 Lancing May 6, 60 Portslade June 14. Late birds, 1 Sanc. Sept.27 and 1 Broadwater Oct.1.
258. KINGFISHER:- singles recorded from Annington Brooks, S.R.B, Ferring and Southwick beach. Up to 2 recorded regularly Adur mostly between Aug. - Oct.
262. GREEN WOODPECKER:- up to 3 recorded Downs on 11 dates. Additional sightings at W.W. S.R.B, Devils Dyke, Marefield Park and Coombes.
263. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER:- recorded throughout year in singles or pairs at 8 wooded localities.
264. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER:- singles recorded at S.R.B Jan.17 and between Sept.20 and Oct.4; 1 West Worthing Jan.19 and 1 Bramber Apr. 15.
265. WRYNECK:- 1 Sanc. Aug.21 (JAN). 1 seen feeding on lawn near Steyning Aug.20 (per JAN).
272. SKYLARK:- flocks 200 Nov.4 and 300 Dec.29 Downs; 200 Sanc. Nov.23.
274. SWALLOW:- first records of 1 Worthing Golf Club and 4 Downs Apr.19, bred successfully Sanc. and Lancing College. Peak autumn movement of 1500 per hour E. Sept.6. Late records of 2 Annington Nov.10, 2 Sanc. Nov.7 and 1 there Nov.13.

276. HOUSE MARTIN:- 2 Downs May 1 (only spring record). Flock 60 - 80 Portslade Aug, 2000+ Sanc. Sept.17, 27 and 28; late records of 30 Brighton Oct.31; 3 there Nov.15 and recorded via R.I. at W.W. Dec.12.
277. SAND MARTIN:- 1 Downs Apr.19 and 30. Steady E. passage Sanc. late Aug. - Sept, 6 Sanc. Oct.24.
281. HOODED CROW:- 1 Steep Down Mar.8 and 18 (MDS)
282. ROOK:- 27 nests Buckingham Park, 43 Cement Works.
286. JAY:- 1 Wiston Jan.15; 1 Lancing Mar.28; 1 found dead Chanctonbury Apr.2 and 2 Lancing College Sept.8.
292. MARSH TIT:- 1 Goring June 5, 2 Downs Aug.13.
293. WILLOW TIT:- 1 S.R.B Jan.18 and Oct.14, 4 Downs Aug.18.
294. LONG-TAILED TIT:- recorded in numbers of up to 7 at Southwick, 8 at Sanc. and 30 S.R.B.
295. BEARDED TIT:- 4 S.R.B Oct.31 (PJC)
296. NUTHATCH:- 2 Bramber Apr.4; 1 Shaves Wood Apr.18 and 2 Buckingham Park July 5.
298. TREE CREEPER:- 2 Streatham Manor Apr.25.
302. FIELDFARE:- 20 - 30 Sanc. during Jan. - Feb; 50 Mill Hill and Truleigh Hill late Mar. Last 3 recorded Downs May 1. 400 Adur levels Oct.14, 600 there Nov.21 and 500 Dec.3. Small numbers from Downs and Sanc. Nov. - Dec.
304. REDWING:- 20 - 30 Sanc. Jan. - Feb, roost 200 there Mar.8; 25 Downs Oct.19, 200 there Nov.13 and Dec. 2, 400 Adur levels Nov.21 and 200 there Dec.3.
307. RING OUZEL:- recorded on 5 dates in spring between Apr.13 - May 1 on Downs, max. 6 Apr.28. Autumn passage on 9 dates between Oct.3 - Nov.9 from Downs and Sanc. with max.4 Sanc. Oct.30.
311. WHEATEAR:- 1 Downs Mar.21, small arrival Mar.28 with 1 Harb, 1 Adur valley and 13 between

311. WHEATEAR:- (cont.) Worthing and Ferring. Spring Downs peaks 9 Apr.28, 6 Apr.30; summered and possibly bred Downs. Autumn peak counts from Downs 35 Aug.19; 30 Aug.21 and 23; 28 Sept.25. Last recorded Downs Nov. 21.
317. STONECHAT:- records from at least 8 localities; probably bred in 2 or 3 areas. Peak autumn counts from Downs of 27 Oct.14, 60 Oct.17, 60 Oct.19 and 18 Oct.27.
318. WHINCHAT:- 2 Downs May 7 and 1 there May 8. Autumn passage Downs July 21 - Oct.19 with 20 - 33 recorded regularly between Aug.19 - Oct.1; heavier than usual passage Sanc. with max.8.
320. COMMON REDSTART:- 1 Downs May 1, in autumn singles from Downs on 6 days July 31 - Sept.25, 9 there Sept.7 and 14 Sept.14. Recorded 4 dates late Aug.-Sept. Sanc. in singles and 1 Shoreham garden Sept.4.
321. BLACK REDSTART:- up to 2 Harb. Jan - Mar; 1 Lancing Feb.14, 1 Mill Hill Mar.21, 1 Worthing Apr.3. 1 Downs Oct.19
322. NIGHTINGALE:- 1 Lychpole Apr.28 and Apr.30; 3 there May 1 and 2 May 8. 1 - 2 recorded in May from Oreham Common, Park Wood, Beggars Bush, Muddles Wood and Shaves Wood.
327. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER:- 1 Downs May 1; 2 W.R.D May 2; 1 Pyecombe May 6; 1 Airfield May 7.
333. REED WARBLER:- 2 Shoreham May 5. 67 pairs bred Adur valley none bred in Sanc. and poor autumn passage. Last recorded S.R.B. Oct.1.
337. SEDGE WARBLER:- 2 Airfield Apr.17, 1 W.R.D May 2 and 1 Sanc. May 5. 39 pairs bred Adur valley. 20 Airport Aug.6, 1 Sanc. Sept.17.
- 343 BLACKCAP:- 1 f. Sanc. Mar.29, 1 m. there Apr.3. Recorded regularly in various localities after mid-April. 20 Downs Aug.28, 3 Sanc. Nov.9, 1 there Nov.14, 1 f. Shoreham garden Nov.

346. GARDEN WARBLER:- 1 Sanc. May 1, 1 Lychpole May 8, May 18 and 2 there June 12. Autumn passage Sanc. up to 3 between Aug.7 - Oct.16.
347. WHITETHROAT:- 4 Downs April.28, spring peaks there of 12 Apr.30, 30 May 8 and 24 May 30. 30 Pyecombe May 6. Autumn counts on Downs 60 on Aug.13 and Aug.18, 40 on Aug. 25, 2 S.R.B Oct. 4.
348. LESSER WHITETHROAT:- 1 Sanc. Apr.24 and 1 Downs Apr.25, there after regularly recorded from both localities. 3 pairs bred Sanc. Autumn passage Downs Aug.18 - Oct.14 with peaks of 30 Aug.18, 60 Aug.24, 50 Aug.28, 35 Aug.30, 42 Sept.7 and 24 Sept.12.
354. WILLOW WARBLER:- 1 Sanc. Mar.29, 2 there Mar.30 and 6 on Apr.1. Count from Downs 15 on Apr.13, 20 Apr.25 and 40 Apr.28 - 30. Few recorded in autumn, 1 Downs Oct.19.
356. CHIFF-CHAFF:- 1 Worthing Jan.28, 1 Southwick Feb.5, 1 Lancing Mar.13; Poor spring and autumn numbers. 1 Sanc. Dec.4, 1 Sompting Dec. 19, 1 Lancing Dec.22, 1 S.R.D Dec.24.
357. WOOD WARBLER:- 1 Shaves Wood May 6 (J.A.N)
365. FIRECREST:- 1 Sanc. Apr.2, 2 Lychpole Dec.29.
366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER:- 1 W.R.D May 2, 1 Sanc. May 5 and there after. Peak numbers in autumn 47 Downs Sept.7, 1 Sanc. Oct.11.
368. PIED FLYCATCHER:- No spring records. 1 Downs Aug.19, 1 there Sept.7. 1 Woods Mill Aug.22; 1 Lancing Aug.24 and 4 W.R.D Aug.29.
373. MEADOW PIPIT:- 14 pair bred Adur valley. 100 Downs Oct.1 and 40 there Oct.12.
375. TAWNY PIPIT:- 2 Lancing garden Aug.24. (RI).
376. TREE PIPIT:- 2 Streatham Manor May 30.
379. ROCK PIPIT:- few records of 1 or 2 from coastal localities.
380. 'ALBA' WAGTAIL:- c 50 S.R.D autumn. Shoreham roost max. 30 in autumn increasing to 100 by Dec.

380. 'ALBA' WAGTAIL:- 15 Downs Nov.4 and 20 there Nov. 13.
(Continued)
381. GREY WAGTAIL:- records in autumn and winter from Sanc.,
Adur levels, W.W., S.R.B, Airport and
Downs.
382. 'FLAVA' WAGTAIL:- 11 flying N. E.W.B Apr. 11, 1 W.R.D. Apr.11,
6 Sanc. Apr.19. Autumn records from W.W.
Sanc. and Downs between July 30 - Oct.1,
max. 30 Downs Aug.30 and 35 there Sept.12.
389. STARLING:- 20,000 roosting Sanc. Nov.1.
393. GOLDFINCH:- autumn flocks of 200 Adur Aug.6, 150 Downs
Sept.12, 100 there Sept.25, 120 there Oct.9,
100 W.W. Oct.13.
394. SISKIN:- 1 Shaves Wood Jan.23, 1 Sanc. Jan.24, 4-5
Sanc. Oct.30 and 2 there Nov.13.
395. LINNET:- 300 Pycombe Apr.8; 200 Downs Aug.13 and
400 there Sept.12; roost 250+ Sanc. Sept.
- Oct; 100-200 Truleigh Hill Oct.11.
396. 'TWITE:- recorded Adur between Jan.1 - Feb.19 with
max. 50 on Jan.25. 13 returned Oct.31,
thereafter recorded until end of year
with max. 60 Dec.29.
397. REDPOLL:- 1 Sanc. Jan.15; 6 Worthing Apr.19;
recorded in small numbers Sanc. after
Sept.28 with max. 22 Nov.14. 50 W.W.
Oct.13.
408. BRAMBLING:- 2 Downs Mar. 6 and Mar.16.
409. YELLOW HAMMER:- 27 Mill Hill Dec.5
410. CORN BUNTING:- 400+ moulting flock Sanc. mid Aug;
roost Adur 200 Sept.9; 60 Downs Nov.13;
roost S.R.B 500 max. in winter.
415. CIRL BUNTING:- 1 m. Hoe Court Apr.2.
421. REED BUNTING:- 28 pairs breeding in Adur valley; 10
Downs Dec.29.
423. SNOW BUNTING:- 1 Worthing sea front Feb.17 - Apr.3.
425. TREE SPARROW:- up to 50 Downs during early months; 100
there during Oct. and 200 on Nov.4 and Nov.13.
50 S.R.D autumn; 29 Truleigh Hill Nov.21.

BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1976

The number of records received for 1976 was similar to 1975 and at a higher level than the previous few years, thanks mainly to the enthusiasm of a handful of keen watchers. As usual Colin Messer, Bernard and Frank Forbes produced records from many localities as well as their regular downland haunts. The Adur Valley, Sanctuary and coastal areas were well covered by C.F.Helyer, R.F.Porter and myself, whilst the upper Adur was regularly watched by Phil Clay.

Most years produce one or two new species for the area; during 1976 these included 4 Bearded Tits which visited Strivens Reed Bed for a short while at the end of October and a Puffin seen off Widewater in April. As the coastline in our area is flat and uninviting for seabirds it is unusual to have records of Puffin, Guillemot, Razorbill and Shag all in the same year. Most of the other interesting birds seen off-shore were during the spring passage when terns, divers, 5 Arctic Skuas, 6 Pomarine Skuas, 8 Avocets and several Little Gulls were seen. At least 5 Mediterranean Gulls were recorded, possibly 3 different Glaucous Gulls seen and records of several thousands of the commoner gull species were received.

The downland area had its now expected plethora of interesting birds; 12 Long-eared Owls roosting in January, a Hooded Crow in March, Quail in July, a Marsh Harrier in October and 2 Firecrests in December to name but a few. More satisfying in some ways are the large number of migrants which pass through this area. Just consider 110 Turtle Doves, 60 Stonechat, 14 Redstarts, 60 Whitethroats and Lesser Whitethroats or nearly 50 Spotted Flycatchers. Large numbers was the theme of records from Adur levels with 1500 Lapwing, 200 Snipe, 70 Golden Plover, 600 Fieldfare and 400 Redwing, although there too, there were unusual species like Spotted Redshank and Ruff. The lower reaches of the Adur supported its usual variety of waders and a flock of wintering Twite and in July 3 Garganey were seen there.

Undoubtedly the best back-garden watching done this year was by Richard Ives who saw 2 Tawny Pipits and a Pied Flycatcher on the same August day. About the same time 2 Wrynecks appeared in the area, one at the Sanctuary and one in Steyning.

Several species which previously have been irregularly recorded have done well in 1976. Amongst these I would include Sparrowhawk, Hobby, Little Owl and to a certain extent Fulmar,

Buzzard and Golden Plover, although, sadly, others like Cirl Bunting, Barn Owl and Grasshopper Warbler seem to have diminished.

I wonder what 1977 will bring?

J.A.N.

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J. M. TWORT

Joseph Twort, who died in August at the considerable age of 90, joined the Society in the first year (1955) of its existence, becoming a member of Council in 1954 and being designated its first official Recorder in 1955, a post he held until 1965, when the late Tom Palmer took over.

He was a man of strongly-held beliefs, which he lost no opportunity of propounding, but in the field, and in his record-keeping, he was a thoughtful and knowledgeable ornithologist. His sight sadly declined during his later years, but his hearing remained unimpaired, and he could identify unseen birds by sound even into his late 80s., as earlier Reports testify.

C.F.H.

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BIRDING IN SWEDEN

During the past three years I have had the good fortune of being a regular visitor to Sweden. The purpose of my trips has been to visit my wife's family who live near Stockholm, but as a keen ornithologist I have taken every opportunity to study and explore the bird and animal life of this country. So far my visits have been confined to the southern and middle half of Sweden but I do have some plans to go to Lapland in the near future.

Skåne in the southern half of Sweden is an excellent area for birds; it attracts many thousands of migrants during the spring and autumn. At the southern-most tip of Skåne is Falsterbo, a famous migration point for thousands of raptors. These birds (mainly buzzards) pass over the narrow sea channel between Sweden and Denmark en route for southern Europe and Africa. I visited Falsterbo in the winter of 1974, and although the migration was long over I was surprised at the large number of raptors that actually spent the winter there.

During my brief stay I saw a few hundred Common and Rough-legged Buzzards and a number of Hen-harriers, but the best bird of

all was a young Golden Eagle which flew out of a pine tree about 35 feet above me. It circled for about 10 minutes before finally departing. I have seen many Golden Eagles but the view I obtained of this young bird was certainly my finest.

Along the coast of southern Skåne one can see huge flocks of wintering wildfowl, at sea there are rafts of Long-tailed Ducks, Goldeneye, Eider, Goosander and Tufted Duck. Whooper Swans are also a common sight. A new bird for me was the Bean Goose, I saw hundreds of them grazing in the fields and very close to busy main roads.

In the last two years I have spent Christmas with my in-laws in the town of Norrköping in Östergötland.. Norrköping is a coastal town and about 15 minutes drive from it is a small archipelago. In the winter months the occasional Sea Eagle visits the area, but alas! despite my repeated efforts I have so far failed to see one. I have seen a few Buzzards and Sparrow Hawks on its wooded islands, also Black Woodpeckers which seemed to be particularly numerous. Thousands of sea ducks were present in the archipelago during the winter, mainly Goosander and Goldeneye, indeed the Goosander flocks were among the biggest I have seen.

Last summer my wife and I spent two weeks in a summer house deep in the forest of Kålmården which lies between Norrköping and Stockholm. It is a beautiful forest with many lakes making it an ideal place for birds. Our list of garden birds (so to speak) included Hazelhen, Honey-buzzard, Icterine Warbler, four species of woodpeckers and at night Tengmalm's Owl could be heard. Ospreys were a common sight over most of the larger lakes, and other birds seen in the locality included Crossbill, Parrot Crossbill, Scarlet Rose-finch, Red-backed Shrikes, Goshawks, Hobbies and Capercaillies. Animals too were very plentiful. We saw foxes, badgers, red squirrels and roedeer. A lynx had been reported in the area during the winter, this was obviously a wandering individual from further north. For me the most exciting animals of all were the elks, they are really magnificent beasts. The bulls with their large palmated antlers are particularly striking. Although a rather shy solitary animal they have on a number of occasions come within a few yards of the summer house.

Sweden has a great deal to offer the ornithologist, it is a land of vast forests, lakes, mountains, tundra. Lapland is of particular interest as its bird life changes so frequently according to the availability of food such as lemmings and new finds are always possible. So for me there is still very much to explore.

The very nature of Sweden's terrain makes it impossible to see all the birds that one would like to see. It can take weeks, even months to track down some of the more elusive species. So it will take many more trips before I am fully acquainted with the birds of Sweden.

C.E.M.

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THE RIVER ADUR:-

A review of records of wading birds over the past 20 years

The past annual reports of the Shoreham Ornithological Society contain many records of interest from the mud flats of the River Adur, showing the importance to bird life of this local habitat. In recent years more attention has been paid to this area whilst observers have recorded for the joint R.S.P.B/B.T.O Estuarine Bird Enquiry, the B.T.O's Sites Register scheme and the Sussex Ornithological Societies annual Coastline Wader counts. Over the past year one or two members have been studying the river more closely as plans have been submitted to the local authorities to build a marina on the intertidal areas near the houseboats and Creek.

Comparison of numbers of waders on the Adur with the large estuaries such as Chichester and Pagham Harbours makes the Adur seem insignificant, but despite its much smaller size it holds up to 25% of the Sussex wintering Ringed Plover; 10% of the county's Redshank and 4% of Dunlin.

The following is a brief analysis and resume of the records submitted to the Shoreham recorder over the past 20 years, combined with some personal recent observations.

Redshank, being the largest common wader and a noisy species, are the most obvious wading bird. They have been recorded annually with numbers between 50 - 175 from July until February, with only small numbers recorded between March and June when a few pairs remain to breed in the Adur valley water meadows. Redshank numbers are often difficult to assess, as counts seem to vary from day to day and even counts done the same day show marked differences; this, presumably, is partly due to the timid nature of this species, and partly due to its tending to frequent ditches and flooded fields. The highest concentration of Redshank feeding on the mudflats is usually in the area between the Norfolk and Foot bridges, particularly just after high tide. High tide roosts seem variable and may depend on the tide height; New Salts Farm and the airfield

are the most commonly used sites, but during neap tides the roost may be on the islands of sea purslane near the Norfolk Bridge.

The closely related Spotted Redshank regularly wintered between 1956 and 1965, but since then there have been only 4 records. 1 January 1970; 2 September 1970; and 1 September 1975. Greenshank, on the other hand, are recorded annually with up to 4 birds recorded during autumn passage between late July and October. Slightly unusual were the spring records of 1 March 1956, 1 May 1961 and 2 May 1958, and the only winter record is of a single bird in January 1963. Greenshank are usually found either near the Toll Bridge and Cuckoo's Corner or feeding in the fresh-water ditches near the river.

The most numerous wader is the Dunlin; these arrive in small numbers during August, September and October with the occasional small peak of presumably passage birds. The bulk of the wintering population arrive in late November and December and have departed again by the last week in March with very few seen in April or May. Over the past 4 years there has been almost a doubling of the winter population with counts prior to 1971 between 3-600 and counts from 1971 - 1975 between 600 - 1200 individuals. Observations on their feeding behaviour suggests that during spring tides up to 80% of the flock feed on the mudflats between the Norfolk Bridge and the Harbour, whereas during neap tides only 50% use this area. The remaining 50% feeding on the mudflats near the Toll Bridge. The Dunlin roost appears to be in the area of Lancing Marsh and the airfield, but during neap tides they roost on the exposed mud banks.

Often associating with Dunlin in other estuaries are Knot; curiously they are unusual on the Adur, although recorded in most years, usually in groups of up to 10 during the autumn. Until 1965 there were frequent wintering birds, including 18 seen in February 1959, but since 1965 winter records have been limited to 1 or 2 birds in the past 3 years.

Ringed Plover, like the Dunlin, have been wintering on the Adur in increasing numbers over the past few years. Before 1967 peak counts varied between 70 and 100 individuals, but since 1967 numbers of up to 200 have been recorded with a maximum of 400 in February 1972. Ringed Plover arrive earlier than Dunlin with a flock well in excess of 100 present during August and September. During autumn and neap tides in the winter the Ringed Plover show a preference for the mud-flats near the Toll Bridge, but during spring tides they, like the Dunlin, feed downstream of the Norfolk Bridge.

Of the other plovers, Lapwing are the most commonly encountered as individuals, or small groups coming from the surrounding fields if dry or frozen, to preen or wash in the river. Grey Plover have been recorded in 11 of the past 20 years; most frequently records of up to 4 birds between August and December, the maximum being 8 in December 1974. Strangely there are only 3 spring records, 1 in May 1956, 2 in May 1958, and 1 in March 1976. Golden Plover, a bird of open hillside and fields seldom turns up on the lower reaches of the Adur, the only records being of 15 near Flood Arch December 1964 and 4 near the Toll Bridge December 1976. Little Ringed Plover has been recorded twice in Autumn 1964, possibly these records are relating to the same bird, and a single Kentish Plover was seen near the Toll Bridge in early August 1975.

Despite a small area of rock and shell based river bed between the Norfolk and Rail bridges very few birds which like this habitat have been recorded.

Oyster-Catchers are unusual; singles or pairs were recorded annually in January or August prior to 1963, but since then they have only been recorded in small numbers on 12 dates in 1971. Turnstone likewise were recorded annually in autumn and winter, with a maximum of 14 in August 1956, but since 1963 the only records have been 2 in February 1968; 2 in January and February 1976; 1 in September 1974 and 2 in May 1976. Whether this reflects a decrease in these species or a decrease in observer cover is unclear. Purple Sandpipers have never been recorded.

Curlews have been seen in all but 6 of the past 20 years; these in small numbers of 1 - 3, usually in late summer and autumn, but prior to 1963 winter records were regular with a maximum of 19 in February 1960. There have been April records of Curlew and 1 in May, but the species has never been recorded in June. The closely related Whimbrel has been recorded annually; its status in autumn has remained the same over the period with 1 - 4 birds seen on any day between late July and October (2 in November 1959.) In spring however, fewer birds have been recorded, with a maximum of 6 over the past 10 years, compared with 10 - 13 Whimbrel in a single day in the late 50's. During mid-November 1975 a bird resembling a Slender-billed Curlew was seen on the river.

Despite large numbers of wintering godwits in the western harbours of the county, they are unusual on the Adur. Bar-Tailed Godwits are the commoner, but have only been recorded during 13 of the past 20 years, with the bulk of records involving up to 6 birds between August and October; spring observations have occurred only

in the years 1958, 1961 and 1976, and the only winter record is of a single bird in February 1963. Black-Tailed Godwits are quite scarce, with one winter record of 2 in 1963, 2 spring records of 2 in May 1958 and 2 - 3 in May 1976, and records of only 12 birds in autumn, mostly in August, with a maximum of 3 in August 1976.

The only sandpiper which is recorded annually is the Common Sandpiper; these are invariably found north of the Toll Bridge between July and October. Over the past 3 years there has been an apparent increase in numbers with maxima of 20 in 1974; 10 in 1975 and 13 in 1976, compared with the previous maximum of 6 birds. In spring 1 or 2 birds are regularly seen in April and May with peak spring counts of 7 in 1973 and 13 in 1974; 4 years have provided winter observations. 1962, 1963, 1969 and 1970. Green Sandpipers are irregularly reported and usually from near the Toll Bridge or Cuckoo's Corner; the entire collection of records are singles in September 1956, 1957 and 1958; 1 in June 1963; 2 in July 1968; 1 in November 1971; 1 in August 1975 and 1 in April 1976. Two species of sandpiper have only been recorded once. A Wood Sandpiper was seen near Cuckoo's Corner in July 1961 and a Pectoral Sandpiper was near the Toll Bridge in September 1970. Curlew Sandpipers have been recorded on autumn passage in 8 years; singles in 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961 and 1974. Up to 14 in 1969, 10 in 1970 and up to 9 in 1975.

When the small pool was present on the Shoreham Rubbish Dump, there were regular records of Little Stint on the pool and river. Between 1956 and 1965 they were recorded annually with maximum of 5 present in 1956 and 1959. Since 1965 there have only been records of single birds in September 1969, 1970 and 1975.

Of the remaining waders the Ruff is the most commonly sighted with 15 sporadic observation over the 20 years, comprising of 2 in January; 1 in February; 3 in March; 4 in August; 3 in September; 1 in October; and 1 in December.

Sanderling, usually a bird of the open coast, has shown a definite change in the pattern of records between 1956 - 1965, and 1965 - 1975. During the first decade they were recorded on 9 occasions in singles (once a group of 3) during May or between July and December. Since 1960 there have been records of c 100 February 3rd 1968, c 50 February 4th 1968 and 50 February 1972.

Grey Phalaropes have been recorded on three occasions in November 1954, November 1959 and October 1960, and Avocets likewise, recorded in June 1961, March 1962 and 2 in June 1968.

As well as waders, other interesting birds have been recorded in the river, including Spoonbill; Great Northern Diver, Goosander, Smew, Whooper Swan, Iceland Sabines and Mediterranean Gulls. A Shorelark was by the Footbridge in 1974 and variable sized flocks of Twite regularly feed on the saltmarsh plant seeds by the river's edge.

J.A.N.

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ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS FOR 1976

This feature has been compiled from records sent in by members: Abbreviations are the same as in Notable Birds of the area.

Whimbrel	Apr.18	Adur levels	Aug. 13	Adur
Common Sandpiper	-	-	Oct. 3	Adur
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr.18	Hove	Oct. 17	Harb.
Little Tern	Apr.20	E.W.B	Aug. 20	Adur
Sandwich Tern	Mar.29	Ferring	Sept.29	Harb.
Turtle Dove	Apr.28	Downs	Oct. 29	Sanc.
Cuckoo	Apr.13	Downs	Aug. 13	Sanc.
Swift	May. 1	Downs	Oct. 1	Broadwater
Swallow	Apr.19	Downs	Nov. 13	Sanc.
House Martin	May 1	Downs	Dec. 12	W.W.
Sand Martin	Apr.19	Downs	Oct. 24	Sanc.
Fieldfare	Oct.14	Adur levels	May 1	Downs
Redwing	Oct.19	Downs	Mar. 24	Sanc.
Wheatear	Mar.21	Downs	Nov. 21	Downs
Whinchat	May 7	Downs	Oct. 19	Downs
Redstart	May 1	Downs	Sept.26	Sanc.
Grasshopper Warbler	May 1	Downs	-	-
Reed Warbler	May 5	Shoreham	Oct. 1	S.R.B
Sedge Warbler	Apr.17	Airfield	Sept.29	S.R.B
Blackcap	Mar.29	Sanc.	Nov. 14	Sanc.
Garden Warbler	May 1	Sanc.	Oct. 16	Sanc.
Whitethroat	Apr.28	Downs	Oct. 4	S.R.B
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr.24	Sanc.	Oct. 14	Downs
Willow Warbler	Mar.29	Sanc.	Oct. 19	Downs
Chiff-Chaff	Jan.28	Worthing	Dec. 24	S.R.D
Spotted Flycatcher	May 2	W.R.D	Oct. 11	Sanc.
Yellow Wagtail	Apr.11	E.W.B	Oct. 1	Downs.

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BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

On September 7th my wife reported a strange bird on our lawn, only five yards from our bungalow window. It proved to be a Woodcock. It stayed about half an hour, which time it spent probing in the soil, obviously feeding. The nearest known breeding place of Woodcock is about three miles from our garden, and it seems probable that the state of our lawn was responsible for its selecting it as a suitable feeding area.

For miles around us the ground was parched dry, yet during this abnormally dry spell we had green grass all through the summer - I even had to use the lawn mower at least once and sometimes twice a week. Did the sight of this lovely green grass attract the Woodcock as something reasonably soft in which to probe for food?.

Then on October 7 another stranger was reported by my wife - this time a Comma butterfly. Perhaps some member fully acquainted with butterflies would let me know whether this species is a rarity in this area, but we have lived here for 14 years and although many species of butterfly frequent our garden, this is the first Comma we have seen here. It was a particularly fresh and lively specimen - I should imagine not long out of its chrysalis. October is surely a late date for this species.

A.E.H.

(Sussex is well within the breeding range of the Comma. Its second brood normally emerges in September. Ed.)

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SPRING SEA-WATCHING 1976

One of the old features of the Shoreham report was the article on sea watching from Widewater; unfortunately this faded several years ago. Many consider our situation in a large bay with Selsea Bill to the west and Beachy Head to the east as hopeless for observing sea passage. I hope this brief review will dispel such thoughts.

Between Apr.19 - May 14 the sea was watched for approximately 40 hours on 23 days. Completely independently R.F.Porter watched of Southwick mainly during the early morning for about 24 hours, J.A.Newnham off Hove mainly in the evenings for 14 hours, and one or two other members off Widewater and East Worthing for short periods. Only for 4 hours was there any overlap which has been accounted for in the records.

Excluding gulls, which were occasionally passing in thousands, 3721 birds were seen of 22 different species. The bulk of these records coming from five species, Common/Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Common Scoter. "Comic" Terns numbered 873 in all with their peak observed passage on Apr.26/27 when 366 were seen. Early morning counts of terns were usually highest although curiously the two individually highest counts were during evening watches when 250 passed Hove in 1½ hours on April 26 and 124 in 40 minutes on May 5. "Comic" Terns often were passing in packs of up to 60 birds, occasionally along the tide line, so good views could be obtained, and sometimes well out at sea. By contrast Sandwich Terns seemed to pass up Channel in smaller groups and more often close in. At least 1138 individuals were seen with their peak passage of 510 occurring again on April 26/27.

Bar-tailed Godwit seemed to favour the same conditions (N.E. winds and sunny), as their peak of 841 birds out of a total of 1231 occurred on the same 2 days. Tight packs of up to 90 individuals were seen occasionally several hundred yards out. Whimbrel only totalled 143 and their peak of 105 between April 22- April 26. was just before the peak godwit and tern passage. Whimbrel were usually seen in smaller groups, occasionally singly and much closer in shore.

Common Scoter numbered 283 with 150 of these occurring on May 12 and 14. 1 Common Scoter was recorded on an evening watch, the rest being seen in the hour after dawn. If these "bread and butter" birds do not appeal, then the "Jam" may. During this month a party of 8 Avocets were seen on April 22; 2 Mediterranean Gulls were displaying on April 29; 9 adult Little Gulls were seen on five mornings; both Red and Black-throated Divers were clearly seen at the beginning of May; 2 Black Terns were fishing in May 6; 5 Velvet Scoter, including a group of 4 were seen on May 3, and 5 Arctic and 6 Pomarine Skuas were recorded between May 5 and 7. All the skuas were seen after 0800 hrs.so one does not have to rise too early.

Also recorded, but in small numbers were Fulmars, Gannets, Shelduck, Mergansers, Kittiwakes, Razorbill, Oyster Catchers and Brent Geese as well as a small number of passerines arriving from the sea. Perhaps in 1977 the sea could be watched more thoroughly, especially during the passage periods with a little more organisation and help.

J.A.N.

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1976 AT STRIVENS REED BED

Despite the still lingering effects of the long, dry summer, 1976 can still be classed as a good year for strivens Reed Bed.

The management of the reed-bed itself and the alder wood progressed well with help from members of the Sussex Ornithological Society and Steyning Grammar School N.H.S. Bird ringing was somewhat irregular with only four visits to the 26th June, but with some effort put in during the last four months of the year, the ringing totals were the best for four years.

Bird Observations. Ornithologically there were some interesting observations during the year, although the summer and early autumn were completely unvisited, due to my ill-health.

During the winter there was the usual Great Spotted Woodpecker around and the nightly Corn Bunting roost of max. 500 birds. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen on the 17th January and on the 28th a Great Spotted was heard drumming. Smaller numbers of Snipe were present in the reed bed and surrounding fields and never over 100 as in previous years. Mallard numbers were generally slightly higher with up to 20 present during the winter, with a pair of Teal present on the 27th March. On the 17th and 18th of January a Kingfisher was observed fishing in the culvert by the old railway line.

The spring was heralded by the first Chiff-chaff on the 4th April, followed by a Willow Warbler on the 7th with the first Swallow on the 16th April. By the 29th May 4 Reed Warblers and 3 Sedge Warblers were singing in the reed bed. Fledged Whitethroat were about by the 6th of June, having probably rested on the railway embankment.

There being no records for the summer and part of the autumn, most of the migration passed un-observed, but there were still Warbler movements until October. Great and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were observed during October, as were a flock of c 30 Long-tailed Tits. On the adjacent rubbish tip Whinchat, Wheatear and Stonechat were present and also a feeding flock of Linnets, Goldfinches and Tree Sparrows, amounting to some 300 birds in all. A Kingfisher appeared on the 4th October followed by a Water Rail on the 9th and 3 Snipe on the next day. The highlight of the autumn was the 31st October when a flock of 4 Bearded Tits paid a five minute visit to the reed bed. They were first identified by their distinctive call note and subsequently located where they were watched for

two minutes before vanishing into the distance, heading due north. By now the Corn Bunting roost was building up again with c 300 birds present on 1st November. Snipe, Grey Wagtail and Great Spotted Woodpecker were around every day as were up to 2 Kestrels.

A Chiff-chaff was observed on the rubbish tip on Christmas Eve and subsequently on the 27th December a Woodcock was present, a suitably seasonal bird to end the year with.

Ringling. A report of the bird ringling and the formation of Steyning Ringling Group is included in the Ringling Report compiled by Dr. John Newnham. However I feel it is worth-while describing the year here.

Some mist netting was done in January when nets were set by the feeding station to trap Blue and Great Tits. Nets were also set in the reed bed to trap Corn Buntings coming to the roost, with the purpose of trying to establish the catchment area of the roost. Only six birds were ringed, but one was controlled, this bird being ringed by J.A.N at Shoreham! Nets were next erected on the 26th June and this provided 5 Reed Warbler "retraps" from previous years, 4 being ringed as adults in 1975 and one ringed as an adult in 1973.

Autumn ringling commenced late in the year on 18th September, just when warbler passage was petering out. Some single shelf nets were set on the old rubbish tip, adding small numbers of finches to the totals as well as 28 Tree Sparrows, 8 Meadow Pipits, 4 House Martins, 2 Whinchats and a Stonechat. The bird of the year was a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker that was trapped on the 4th October. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were trapped on 16th October and 12th December when nets were again set at the feeding station. Corn Bunting roost netting produced 13 birds in 2 days.

Conservation Work. The planned management work was carried into its fifth year. The 1975/6 winter programme was successfully completed with an area of reeds cut and the debris raked out, effecting taller denser reeds - generally better for birds and insects alike. An area of grey alders were coppiced to prevent them from becoming top heavy in the sodden ground, these started to show new growth even during the drought. The drought had a bad effect on the site, drying it out right up to the spring half a mile away. The alders lost their leaves by August and the gaping cracks in the ground still remain!

The 1976/77 winter programme was off to a bad start because of too much water with two conservation meetings flooded off. Fortunately a party from Steyning Grammar School organised by Mr. Mike Hall, who is head of the school's Rural Science Department, were

able to carry out some work on the grey alder trees.

After a slow dull start 1976 ended very well indeed, having nearly recovered from the "drought" and with some interesting birds being seen. Hopefully the formation of the Steyning Ringing Group will allow a lot more consistency in ringing effort, so important when it comes to analysing results. The most important aspect for the future of the site is the management work which is proceeding so well with the help of the Grammar School and the Sussex Ornithological Society in particular.

I am grateful to Alf Simpson for organising the working parties and joining in with the hard, messy work. All thanks must go to Mr. Strivens of Gatewick Farm for allowing us to carry out this work on his land, without whose co-operation none of it would be possible.

P.J.C.

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WADER RINGING ON THE ADUR

In the 1958 Shoreham Report Tony Marr wrote of wader trapping, after catching 19 birds, that it can be exciting and rewarding. In December 1973 I restarted a wader ringing programme on the Adur, trapping, as in 1958, with mist nets at night near the houseboats. During 1976 many of the other local ringers, particularly Barrie Watson, helped and by the end of the year 369 Dunlin, 22 Redshank and 2 Knot had been handled.

The purpose was naturally to find out as much about our local wader population as possible; to compare data from the Adur with a sample of 485 wintering Dunlin I handled on the Forth - (Edinburgh), and to supply information for the B.T.O wader study group. Furthermore the information collected may provide a useful pool of data for advising marina developers! The sample of Redshank and Knot are really too small to consider, but the Dunlin supply us with some interesting information.

TABLE 1.		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
	No. of Dunlin	24	32	39	115	159
	No. of trapping sessions	2	4	6	14	6

Table 1. shows when most Dunlin were caught; the figures

are probably more representative of the effort involved rather than the number of birds present. Prior to November and after March too few birds are on the Adur to make trapping worthwhile. This suggests the Adur is principally of value to wintering flocks of Dunlin, presumably of the northern race 'Alpina', than a migratory stopping point for the southern 'Schinzii' race on Dunlin.

To confirm that the Dunlin are of the race 'Alpina', one can look at the biometric data of wing and bill length.

TABLE 2.		Wing. mm			Bill. mm		
		Range	Mean	Sample	Range	Mean	Sample
	Edinburgh	113-136	121.35	484	26-39	32.77	379
	Morecambe	112-131	121.24	555	27-39	32.37	555
	Shoreham	113-131	121.58	369	28-40	32.81	347

Morecambe data from Ringer's Bulletin (Prater)

Table 2 shows that Dunlin wintering on these three estuaries are all of the same race and the values are those for 'Alpina' Dunlin. This race of Dunlin breeds in Northern Scandinavia and U.S.S.R., migrates Southwestward through the Baltic to winter in Britain, Ireland and even further south.

The following birds were all trapped on the Adur between 8th February 1976 and 6th March 1976, and show the features of this passage well.

Ringed Juvenile	27.8.74	Store Ekery, Vadsø, Norway.	70°04'N, 30°08'E
Ringed Juvenile	31.8.74	Ytter, near Pori, Finland.	61°32'N 2°33'E
Ringed Adult.	15.8.70.	Ottenby, Öland, Sweden	56°12'N 16°24'E.
Ringed Adult.	18.7.75	Aflandshage (Sjælland) Denmark	55°33'N-) 12°36'E)
Ringed Adult.	30.7.74	Mikoszewo, Gdansk, Poland	54°2'N 18°57'E
Controlled) First year)	16.5.76	North Mooton, (Wash) Norfolk.	220Km NNE

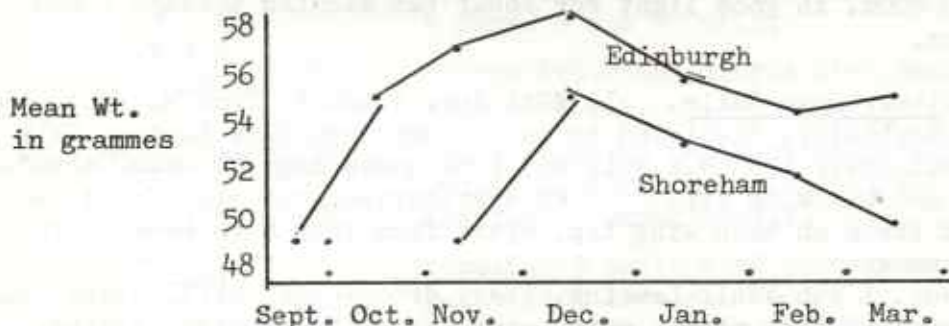
Note how much earlier the adult Dunlin move south compared with the juveniles, also consider how far north and east these Dunlin originate given that Shoreham is 50°51'N 0°17'W. The Swedish bird gives us some idea how old Dunlin can be and the spring recovery on the Wash perhaps gives us some idea where our Dunlin go after leaving in March for their breeding grounds.

Considering that about 170,000 Dunlin have been ringed in Britain it seems strange that none ringed elsewhere in Britain were controlled on the Adur; is it possibly because wintering flocks remain faithful to their area? Consideration of the retraps could answer this question.

No. Dunlin retrapped in same winter as ringing	-	7
" " " " next winter after "	-	6
" " " " 2 winters " "	-	4
" " " " 3 winters " "	-	1

As only 74 Dunlin were handled prior to the winter 75/76 and 11 (i.e. 15%) were retrapped in a subsequent season it is strongly suggestive that the same Dunlin return year after year to their wintering area, however, retrap data from the same season suggest rather different behaviour. Before March 4th in the winter 75/76 106 Dunlin were ringed, on March 4th a large catch of 99 Dunlin were handled, of which only 4 had been ringed earlier in the season. If the population were static this would suggest there were about 2800 Dunlin on the river; clearly either new birds are continually joining the flock or ringed birds stay away from mist nets, as this number of Dunlin has never been recorded on the Adur.

As well as taking wing and bill measurements each bird was weighed; The following represents graphically the monthly changes in weight recorded on the Adur compared with the Edinburgh flock.



Note that both Edinburgh and Shoreham birds have a peak weight in December and that Edinburgh birds increase their weight earlier and to a greater extent than those weighed in Shoreham, a fact possibly due to the colder Edinburgh winters. Clearly we are getting some answers about our local Dunlin, but many questions, particularly about the size and age structure of the population, need further study.

J.A.N.

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FROM OUR MEMBER' NOTEBOOKS

Shag at Southwick. 1 sub adult on sea, Southwick, 11th May. Bronzy green plumage; thin neck, compared with Cormorant present, thin bill, steep forehead, much smaller headed than Cormorant. Yellow chin stood out well.

R.F.P.

Glaucous Gull in the River. 1 1st winter bird, River Adur 25th Jan. Slightly larger than nearby Herring Gull, Cafe au lait colour, with white primaries; large pale bill with dark end, orange legs, bulky breast, some smudging in front of and around eye.

R.F.P.

Pomarine Skua off Southwick. 6 light phase birds Southwick on 7th May at 0800 hours. At $\frac{1}{2}$ mile range and c 200 feet up, tails seen clearly on each bird. Heavy steady wing beats, lacked "dash" of Arctic; wing beats almost "owl-like". Birds kept fairly regularly spaced one behind another.

R.F.P.

Marsh Harrier on the Downs. A female or immature of this species seen in the Cissbury-Chanctonbury area on Oct.1st. Longer-winged than Hen Harrier, with long tail; heavier in build, more on lines of Common Buzzard. Wings wider than Hen Harrier at body and not as angled. Dark plumage overall above and below except for pale area around face and throat. Typical flight profile of shallow V even when gliding, more ponderous than H.H. Seen with Carrion Crow at about 600-800m. in good light for about two minutes through 10x40 Binoculars.

B.F.F.

Three Mediterranean Gulls. 1) 29th Apr. 2 adults from W. settled on beach at Southwick, displayed to each other then flew East. Call similar but lower than B.H gull and less quavering, an even "keea". One bird had black on tips of 3 or 4 primaries, the other bird had one black fleck on each wing tip, apart from this both were in full summer plumage.

2) 6th Nov. 1 sub-adult Lancing, heavy droopy dark bill, black line through eye and over nape; white wing tip with 2-3 black flecks.

R.F.P.

Tawny Pipits in the Garden at Lancing. Two present in the garden on Aug.24th at 6.0 am. Distinctive song especially in flight; rather a harsh repeated note. The bird was very pale and the breast was mottled but had a definite cut-off line, below which it was pure white. I watched the bird from a few yards. It had long pale legs, and called to its mate in another garden. When it flew to a roof-top it looked like a very petite, pale long-legged thrush. It called for

most of the time, and that, plus the strong white eye-strips were the most distinctive features. I have no doubt that these two birds were Tawny Pipits. They came into my garden from a flock of Meadow Pipits flying west. These two birds stayed for three or four minutes then flew eastwards.

In the evening there was a Pied Flycatcher in the garden, making August 24th a superb day.

R.I.

Pin-tailed Whydah at Goring. March 31st - as I got out of my car, I saw a bird which had just flown fairly low over my head, closely followed by another. Apparently all-white, about the size of a swallow, but tail about twice the length of a Swallow's. Call a short, rather rasping cry, repeated. Then on April 4th I saw one similarly flying away from me as I was in the garden, and heard it calling. Clearly an exotic and I asked P.J.S. Olney (Zoological Society of London) and D. England (Aviculturist) whom I saw a few days later, for their suggestions, and they thought the birds would have been Pin-tailed Whydah (adult males) - the males are apparently more imported than the females. C.J. Mead (B.T.O.) said he believed these were escapes of this species at Selsey.

R.E.F.P.

White Cygnet on Patching Pond. On 26th June I stopped the car by Patching Pond, and noticed a pair of swans with six cygnets, one of which was a "Polish" (white) cygnet. They were well-grown but still downy.

On 29th July I visited the pond again, armed with a supply of bread, and lured the family up to me. The cygnets were producing feathers by this time. The white cygnet's feathers were white, with three streaks of very pale buff on the back; the eyes were dark; base of bill dark; bill pinkish buff; legs slightly paler than normal.

A month later they had all their feathers. At no time did I notice any antagonism shown to the "Polish" cygnet by parent birds or normal cygnets.

I saw the cygnet last on 1st October with two of the brown ones. There was no sign of the parents or other three cygnets. The "Polish" cygnet was entirely white, the earlier traces of pale buff having disappeared.

I understand that this colour phase is rare in the British Isles, but less so on the Continent.

M.D.S.

GARDEN BIRDS 1976

Garden in Shoreham. (Mrs. G.M.Cook) Willow Warbler, Chiff-Chaff, Garden Warbler, Goldfinch, Flycatchers, Cuckoo, Kestrel, Tree Creeper, 2 Tawny Owls and Blackcap.

Garden in West Chiltonington. (Mr. & Mrs. A.E.Holman) Woodcock and Comma butterfly.

Garden in Lancing. (R.Ives) Tawny Pipit, Pied Flycatcher, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Chiff-Chaff.

Garden in Southwick (Mr. & Mrs. C.F.Helyer) Chiff-Chaff, Willow Warbler, Goldcrest, Pied Wagtail.

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SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS 1976

Saturday 3rd January. - Amberley Wild Brooks with Mr. B.Forbes. Seven members turned up on a cold fine day to find such a lack of water in the Wild Brooks that they were soon abandoned in favour of Rackham Woods, where at least it was expected that woodland birds would prove rewarding. But the hoped-for woodpeckers (all three species can be found there) were nowhere to be seen, and the party broke up at midday having seen nothing more exciting than the normal tit species - Great, Blue, Marsh and Lon-tailed, being all residents there.

Monday March 21st - Pagham Harbour with Dr. J.A.Newnham. 8 members left Church Norton on a bright blustery morning to walk to Sidlesham. By the time we were half way the cold east wind had blown a dense cloud cover over. Despite this we all had good views of the common waders, and were fortunate to be able to compare Common and Spotted Redshank side by side. Parties of Brent Geese and Shelduck often flew nearby and at the Ferry close examination of Teal, Shoveler and Pintail was possible.

Some of the party walked briskly back but 3 members braved the freezing wind to sit by the main channel to eat their lunch. My group sat in the car to have lunch at Selsey whilst watching a small up channel passage of Brents, Mergansers and Divers.

Thursday 13th May. - Warren Hill, Washington with the Editor. Some 16 members turned up on a fine May evening at the appointed meeting place and awaited the arrival of the leader(s) - scheduled as the Field Committee. In their absence, the Editor was prevailed upon to assume their mantle. Fortunately a locally-resident member was able to navigate, and we walked through the woods listening to rather than watching birds. In fact, apart from two Blue Tits' nests and

three or four Willow Warblers, we were limited to identifying by call or song Lesser Whitethroat, Chiff-Chaff, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Turtle Dove etc. Alas! there were no Nightjars or Woodcocks to be seen or heard.

Sunday 30th May. - Coates Common and Burton Mill Pond with Miss V.E.Lyon. 10 members braved the bank holiday traffic to take part in a walk that turned out to be more audio than visual.

One of the highlights was a very loud triple call from a Hoopoe coming from the direction of the Castle garden. We heard it before setting out and then later on 3 or 4 times. I should think it was the same bird on the move.

We had a good view of a Tree Pipit parachuting from its perch, several Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and good views of Cuckoos, and heard both the male and female calling.

Chiff-Chaffs were noticeable by their complete absence, but we must have heard at least 12 Willow Warblers, a couple of Blackcaps and a Garden Warbler.

After lunch we visited Burton Mill Pond and had good views of a male Grey Wagtail, Whitethroat, Great Crested Grebe and a family of Coot with large young, but the adults were very busy adding to their already large nest in the rushes. There were 3 or 4 pairs of Tufted Duck on the pond and a good number of Sand Martins. Reed Warbler was heard and Reed Buntings were seen.

Saturday 19th June. - Charlton Forest with Dr. J. Stafford. Rain, rain and more rain on this one wet evening of the summer prevented this outing from even starting! (And those of us who went to Lords instead fared no better! - Ed.)

Sunday 12th September. - Cissbury and Chanctonbury with Mr.B.Forbes. In contrast with the leader's experience on 3rd January, this was a good day's birding, but only one member joined him.

On a fine day, a walk from Cissbury to Stump Bottom and then towards Chanctonbury produced a splendid variety and number of birds, including 14 Redstarts, 8 Stonechats, 25 Wheatears, 30 Whinchats, 8 Spotted Flycatchers, 24 Lesser-Whitethroats, 30 Yellow Wagtails, 1 Green Woodpecker, 40 Meadow Pipits, 150 Goldfinches, 400 Linnets and 300 Greenfinches. And even more gratifying, 3 Sparrowhawks together, and later another over Wiston Wood, 1 Buzzard and 6 Kestrels.

Sunday 10th October. - Beachy Head with Mr. Brian Short. This was the first outing to be led by me, and although the venue was a good one and the time of year right it proved to be a rather birdless day. The main feature of the day was the movement of small parties of finches westward along the coast. A total of 500 Tree Sparrows; 500 Goldfinches; and 120 Linnets were recorded during the morning.

Migrants were thin on the ground and were limited to 1 Redstart; 8 Chiff-Chaffs and a solitary Blackcap. The Sardinian Warbler which had taken residence in the gorse bushes and brambles above Birling Gap eluded the party of 9.

The highlight of the morning was an Arctic Skua seen at close quarters pursuing a Herring Gull over the Birling Gap car park and later out at sea. It was unfortunate that the Yellow-browed Warbler which had been found on private ground could not be seen by any one other than the party leader, for which he apologises.

Saturday 13th November. - Cissbury and Chanctonbury with Mr.C.E. Messer. Just four members turned out at the Cissbury car park for the walk to Chanctonbury.

We were lucky enough to have one of the very few dry days in November; however, 2 months of almost continual rain had made conditions very muddy.

Raptors unfortunately were not so plentiful as in other years. Only one Hen Harrier had been reported, and that only stayed for a day or two. We did however see about 15 Kestrels and 2 Sparrow Hawks, but no other raptor species.

Finch flock numbers were surprisingly low, just a few dozen to a flock instead of several hundred as is usually the case. The typical downland birds such as Skylark, Lapwings and Corn Bunting were in good numbers. The main feature of the day was a very large flock of Stock Doves near Chanctonbury. Well over 300 were estimated, indeed, they seemed more numerous than Wood Pigeons. A Stock Dove flock of this size is not often recorded, although large numbers may well occur regularly on downland, but are simply overlooked, plus the fact that large areas of downland are rarely watched. By the afternoon the weather had become much colder, and with little prospect of anything else turning up, we decided to call it a day.

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NOTICE

By a decision of the Council in 1971, membership of the Society is limited to 180, to avoid overcrowding at meetings. New applicants for membership may accordingly be invited to join a waiting list from which vacancies will be filled in order of application.

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RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31st DECEMBER 1976

G.W. RAMPTON
Hon. Treasurer.

January 17th	Ornitholidays to Ethiopia Addis Ababa is the Red Sea	Mr. L.G.Holloway
February 7th	A World Within Itself Look Again at Garden Birds Farming with Wildlife	Three R.S.P.B. films at Shoreham Community Centre
March 27th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by The Sand Martin Enquiry	by Mr.C.J.Mead
October 23rd	The Birds of Turkey	by Mr. Richard Porter
November 27th	The Natural History of the Galapagos Islands	by Mr. Brian Hawkes

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Mr. P. Constable	11 Adur Drive, Shoreham BN4 6PN
Mrs. G.M. Cook	84 Parkside, Shoreham
Mr. P.N. Cook	" " "
Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Cooper	38 Hurst Road, Hassocks.
Mr. A.F. Coppendale	The Little House, Small Dole, Henfield, Sx.
Miss M. Davies-Scourfield,	2 Andrew Close, Steyning
Messrs G.D.P. & J. Dixon,	Rock Cottage, Common Hill, West Chiltonington, Pulborough.
Mr. & Mrs. A.A. Dumbrell	6 Southdown Avenue, Brighton.
Mr. A. Edwards,	41 Hawthorn Rd. Broadwater, Worthing.

Mrs. E. Edwards	41 Hawthorn Rd. Broadwater, Worthing.
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Evans,	19 Penlands Way, Steyning BN4 3PN.
Mrs. D.N. Evans,	62 Mill Drive, Hove BN3 6WD
Mr. P.E. Evans,	50 Parkside, Shoreham.
Mrs. E. Farmer,	78 Park Avenue, Shoreham.
Mr. F.J. Forbes,	156 Salvington Road, Worthing BN13 2JW.
Mr. B. Forbes,	42 Penstone Park, Lancing.
Mrs. H.A. French	261 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham.
Mrs. I.M. Fry,	24 Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham.
Mr. A.F. George,	107 King Edward Avenue, Worthing
Mr. P.H. Giles,	313 Brighton Road, Worthing
Mrs. M. Gillett,	10 Tongdean Avenue, Hove 4.
Mrs. N. Goddard,	Birch Spinney, Hazelwood Close, Storrington.
Mrs. D.L. Glibbery,	2 Clyde Terrace, Steyning BN4 3YN
Mr. & Mrs. D.R. Grant,	12 New Road, Shoreham.
Miss C.P.S. Griffiths, (Hon).	16 Devonshire Close, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5JG
Mr. & Mrs. C. Hale,	"Lamont", 23 Offington Drive, Worthing.
Mr. R. Hamlyn,	Chapel Lodge, Alderholt Park, Alderholt, Nr. Fordingbridge, Hants.
Miss M. Heath	152 Orchard Street, Chichester.
Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Helyer,	41 Roman Way, Southwick BN4 4TN.
Mr. H. Hiscoke,	5 Upton Avenue, Southwick BN4 4WF
Dr. M. Hollings,	St. Cyprian, Ham Manor Close, Angmering.
Mr. A.E. Holman,	Oakmere, Mill Road, West Chiltington.
Mrs. M.A. Hopkins,	55 Lindum Road, Worthing.
Mrs. O.M. Hunt,	24A Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. R. Ives	9 Field Close, North Lancing.
Mr. & Mrs. Jenking,	Ashcroft, Maudlyn Park Way, Steyning.
Mr. C. Jones,	2 Holmbush Close, Shoreham.
Mrs. B. Jones,	2 Holmbush Close, Shoreham
Miss Joseph, (Hon.)	Under Round Hill, Lains Road, Steyning.
Mrs. D. Jupp,	13 Crowshaw Close, Lancing BN15 9LE
Mr. R. Kelly,	5 Ingram Court, Portland Road, Hove.
Mr. & Mrs. R.A. Kingsnorth,	Kentwyn Cottage, Woodmancote, Henfield BN5 9SO
Miss H. Landman,	7 Leeward Road, West Worthing.
Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Lovett,	26 Vale Walk, Findon Valley, Worthing BN14 OBS
Miss V. Lyon,	Great Ballard, Eartham, Nr. Chichester.
Mrs. B.H. Marshall,	12 Woodland Court, Hove.
Mr. B.E. Matveeff,	44 Breach Close, Steyning BN4 2RZ
Mr. D. & Miss M. McKechnie,	73 Connaught Avenue, Shoreham.
Dr. & Mrs. G. McGregor,	36 Bennett Drive, Hove BN3 6UT
Mr. R.P. Meadows,	Ashtrees, Aldingbourne, Chichester.
Mr. C.E. Messer,	125 Cokeham Lane, Lancing.

Mr. B. Metcalfe,	18 Newham Lane, Steyning.
Miss J. Monks,	Nurses Home, St. Richards Hospital, Chichester
Mr. & Mrs. H. Newcombe,	4 Paythorne Close, Southwick BN4 3YB
Dr. J. S. Newnham,	38 Dean Close, Portslade, Sussex.
Miss J. V. Nye,	16 Mallory Road, Hove, 4.
Miss M. Ormerod,	53 Terrines Avenue, Worthing.
Miss M. A. Pankhurst,	6 Church Close, North Lancing.
Miss J. Perry,	35 Woodland Drive, Hove, 4. BN3 6DH.
Miss J. Partridge,	Riverways, Riverside Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Mr. R. E. Peal,	24 Creighton Avenue, London N.10
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Phillips,	Brynben, Hyde St. Beeding, Steyning Sx.
Miss M. E. Polak,	35 First Avenue, Lancing.
Mrs. C. V. Playford,	95, Windfield, Epsom Road, Leatherhead.
Mr. G. W. Rampton,	34 Croft Avenue, Southwick BN4 4Ab.
Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Ranger,	52 Cobton Drive, Hove BN3 6WE
Mr. Ray,	35 John Street, Shoreham BN4 5DL.
Mrs. B. Reeve	Hoelain, Hoe Court, North Lancing.
Mr. J. C. Reeves,	58 Terrines Avenue, Worthing.
Mr. H. Richardson,	35 Mill Lane, Shoreham.
Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Rees,	"Garth", 25 West Drive, Ferring, Worthing.
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Robinson,	61 Slonk Hill Rd. Shoreham.
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Robbins,	114 Old Shoreham Road, Southwick.
Mr. G. A. Robbins	" " " " "
Mr. T. D. Rogers,	32 Buckingham Road, Shoreham.
Miss Rogers,	157 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham.
Mr. & Mrs. Ruscoe,	Annington Old Farmhouse, Botolphs, Steyning.
Mr. F. Severs,	5 Beach Road, Shoreham Beach.
Miss B. Scatliffe,	36 Shirley Drive, Hove BN3 6UD
Mr. B. J. Short,	27 Shadwell Close, North Lancing.
Dr. & Mrs. J. Stafford,	Uplands, Mill Hill, Shoreham.
Mr. D. Stone,	69 The Drive, Shoreham.
Mrs. & Miss Stringfellow,	7 Queensway, Horsham.
Mr. K. J. Tanner,	31 Clarendon Road, Shoreham.
Messrs J. E. S. & P. J. Thompson,	77 Nutley Crescent, Goring-on-Sea.
Miss J. M. Tozer,	68 Hertford Road, Brighton BN1 7GF
Mr. J. M. Twort, (Hon.)	Elmcroft, Croft Avenue, Southwick.
Miss C. Tyson,	87 Eastern Avenue, Shoreham BN4 6PE.
Mr. & Mrs. Vegrass,	64 Benfield Way, Portslade BN4 2DL
Mr. C. M. Veysey,	Ashmount, Southey Road, Worthing.
Mrs. O. M. Vines,	7 Stocks House, Sompting BN15 0BB.
Dr. B. Watson,	83 Buckingham Road, Shoreham.
Mr. S. R. G. Whetham,	56 Crescent Road, Burgess Hill.
Mr. & Mrs. G. N. Wildish	52 Coopers Hill, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne BN20 9JC.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Williams, Hazelhurst Farm, Wisborough Green,
Billingshurst, Sussex.
Mr. P. S. Wilmshurst, 12 Ashcroft Close, Shoreham.
Miss W. M. Woodroffe (Hon.) 6 Charles House, Goring Road, Worthing.
Mr. N. W. S. Yonge, Homefields Farm, Bull's Lane, Cowfold.

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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	Sanc.	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.

Items for the "Arrivals and Departures of Migrants" Section should be extracted from General records and detailed separately.

* * * * *

OFFICERS ETC.

President & Chairman:

Dr. J. Stafford

Council Members:

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. E. Farmer
78 Park Avenue,
Shoreham-by-Sea.

Hon. Field Secretary

Mr. A. Burstow

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. G.W. Rampton
34 Croft Avenue
Southwick BN4 4AB

Tele: Brighton 592792

Hon. Recorder

Dr. J.A. Newnham

Report Editor

Mr. C.F. Helyer

plus:

Miss C.P.S. Griffiths

Mr. H. Hiscoke

Mr. B. Forbes

&

Mr. C.E. Messer

Field Committee:

Miss C.P.S. Griffiths
Messrs A. Burstow, B. Forbes,
C. Messer & Dr. A.B. Watson

Sanctuary Committee:

Messrs F.J. Forbes, B.R. Clay
P.J. Clay & Dr. A.B. Watson.

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

Mrs. Farmer

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NOTICE

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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

British Trust for Ornithology

and

SHOREHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The membership fee is £1 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 50p. a
year, also inclusive of the Report.

Commencing 1st January 1977 the membership fee will be :-

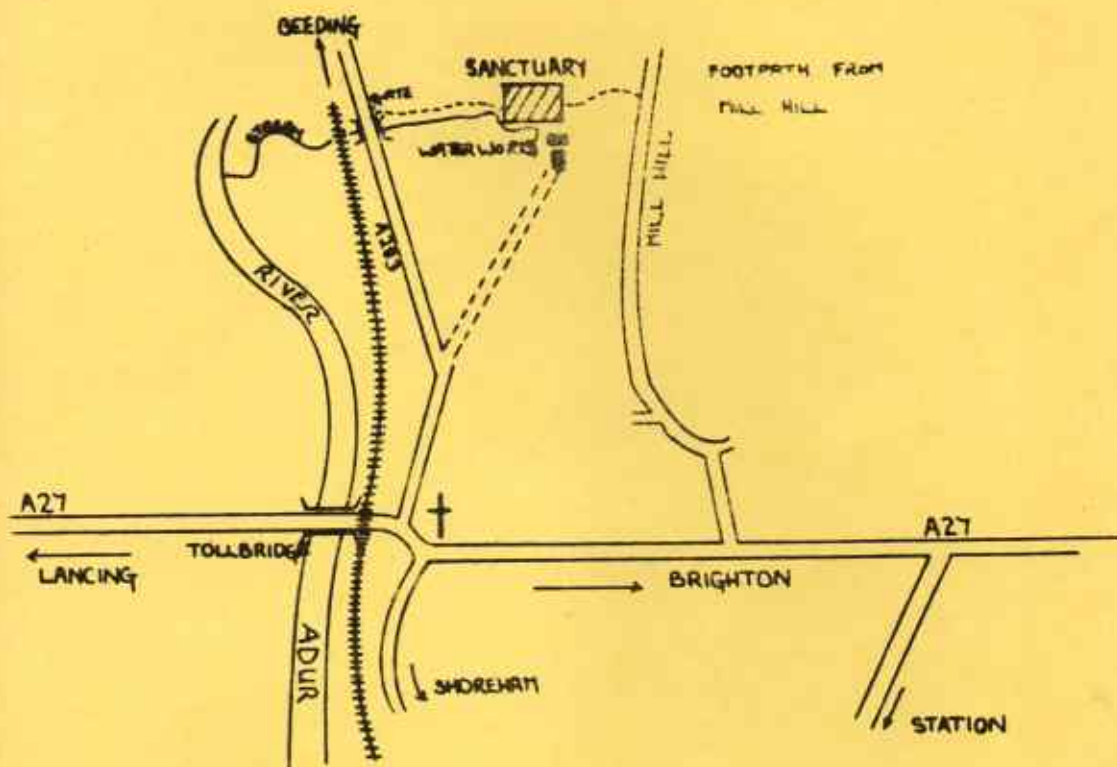
Seniors - £2.00 p.a.

Juniors - £1.00 p.a.

* * * * *

EXTRA COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT MAY
BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY AT 30p. 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.