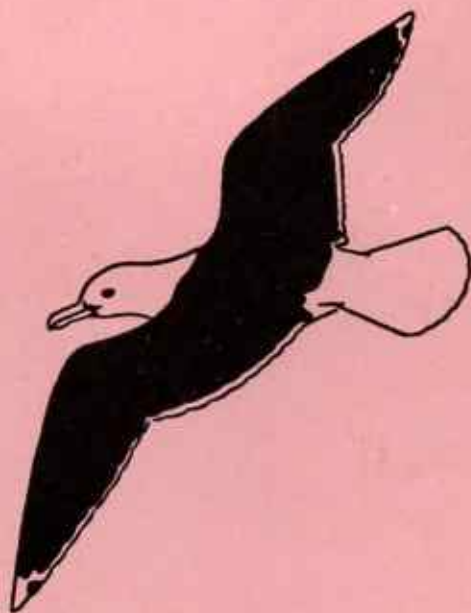


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Twentyfifth Annual Report*



for the Year 1977

PRICE: 35p

# SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1977

## CONTENTS

|   | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Editorial Notes by C.F.H.   | 1           |
| Sanctuary Report by J.A.N.  | 2           |
| Ringling Report for 1977 by J.A.N.  | 6           |
| Notable Birds of the Area by J.A.N.   | 9           |
| Birds around Shoreham 1977 by J.A.N.  | 20          |
| Ringling Recoveries of Shoreham Birds by J.A.N.                             | 21          |
| Raptors on the Downs by B.F.F.  | 24          |
| Arrivals and Departures of Migrants by J.A.N.                               | 29          |
| Some Observations on Willow Warbler Passage through<br>Shoreham by C.M.V.W. | 30          |
| Progress at Strivens Reed-bed by P.J.C.                                     | 35          |
| Turkey for Christmas by C.F.H.  | 38          |
| From our Members' Notebooks   | 39          |
| Garden Birds 1977 by J.A.N.   | 42          |
| Summaries of Field Outings 1977   | 42          |
| Receipts and Expenditure Accounts 1977                                      | 45          |
| List of Lectures 1977   | 45          |
| List of Members 1977  | 46          |
| Members' Records - Notice   | 49          |
| Officers etc. in 1977   | 50          |
| General information   | 51          |

---

## EDITORIAL NOTES

This being the 25th Report to be published by the Society - which celebrated its 25th anniversary in January 1978 - it is of interest to turn back to the first Report, for 1953. This was a modest 14 page booklet, showing a membership of 44, and it is noteworthy that eight of the names are still to be found in our 1977 list of members, including Dr.Stafford, Mrs.Farmer and Mr.Rampton, who are still serving the Society in an active capacity.

Ringling had begun at the Sanctuary in 1953, but the 258 birds caught must be compared with Dr.Newnham's 2334 for 1977. This illustrates the development of the Society's scientific work, as do the papers in this issue of "Willow Warbler passage", "Ringling recoveries for Shoreham" and "Raptors on the Downs". Today, Strivens Reed-bed makes a substantial contribution to our records, and both sea and Downs are expertly watched.



The Society, although small, can look back over the 25 years with some pride and satisfaction - the Reports from the intervening years encapsulate a great wealth of careful observation and recordkeeping.

1977 was weatherwise a back-to-normal year after the record-breaking summer of 1976, but there was variety enough in the birds seen to include four species new to the area (see "Birds around Shoreham") and if we went short of raptor records there was plenty to compensate - probably thanks to an increased number of contributing observers.

We must once more express our gratitude to Dr. Newnham for his substantial contribution to this Report, as also to our other contributors.

We have settled down to our meetings in the Shoreham Community Centre - with one or two hitches! - and our usually well-attended lectures ranged from Florida and Shetland to Sussex and Bird Protection. Attendance at our field outings varied from 1 to 16, and the leaders must be thanked for turning out regardless of weather.

Once more we are indebted to our President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as to the other officers and Council members who have kept the Society going by their various activities.

Finally the Editor regrets to record the death of Mrs. Violet Rimmington, who volunteered to type out the material for our Reports over a number of years.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SANCTUARY REPORT 1977

The society's sanctuary is situated about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Old Shoreham on the eastern edge of the Adur valley, in the lee of Mill Hill. The approximate 2 acre copse is set in the gardens of the Southern Water Authority pumping station and is easily approached by the private waterworks road, Mill Hill, or the Steyning road. (see map on cover). The dominant shrub of the copse is hawthorn, which in parts is nearly 20 ft. tall and so dense that only scanty undergrowth can survive in their shade. Elder shrubs are plentiful and there are two small areas of osier withy admixed with a few sallow. Sycamore is encroaching along the hillside from the flyover area and numerous saplings and some larger trees now shade the copse. In the summer the undergrowth is thick, with nettles, bramble and willowherb predominating in



the dryer areas and in the damper sites, reed grass and patches of phragmites. The area the report covers includes the hawthorn-covered hillside and the watermeadows extending across to the Steyning road. During the winter these fields and the streams which run through the copse often flood so each year a certain amount of bridge reconstruction is necessary. Other annual chores which are important to complete include reinforcement of the fences, lopping and coppicing the shrubs and clearing the foot-paths.

The sanctuary was visited about 200 times during 1977, some occasions were very brief and others lasted for several hours especially on mist-netting days during the passage seasons. The following is a chronological account of the bird life in this area.

The first 3 months are usually very quiet with the majority of the interesting birds being found on the flooded fields. Wading birds were more numerous than usual with up to 50 Redshank during February, a maximum of 30 Dunlin on January 30th, 8 Snipe on March 12th and a single Jack Snipe on January 28th. Gulls were equally plentiful with over 500 Black Headed Gulls on January 3rd frequent flocks in excess of 100 Common Gulls, and 80 Great Black-backed Gulls in February, Wildfowl were limited to a few Mallard apart from a male Pintail on March 11th. As usual Redwing, with a peak of 60 roosting on February 5th, were more numerous than Fieldfare with a maximum of 10 on January 16th. Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail and Water Rail were recorded regularly along the streams and the only interesting bird seen in the copse was a wintering Chiff-Chaff at the end of January and during February.

In common with other south coast sites spring migrants arrived earlier than usual; none earlier than a Swallow which flew into the garages on March 7th; the next Swallow followed on April 7th and 4 were present on April 8th. The other hirundines were close behind with 8 Sand Martins on March 30th and the first House Martin on April 8th, although the peak House Martin passage was on May 19th and June 4th when 60 were present. Chiff-Chaffs started to arrive on March 11th and thereafter there were up to 4 present on most days. Throughout the spring 17 individuals were trapped but this was completely overshadowed by the record 193 Willow Warblers which were trapped. The first of these was heard on April 3rd, thereafter 8 were ringed on April 7th and other peak days were April 14th and 16th with 25, April 23rd and 27th with 30 and April 30th when 20 were trapped. Considering these



numbers relate only to birds trapped there must have been a considerable passage during the spring of this species. The other warblers were much less numerous; the first Blackcap was recorded on March 30th; the first Sedge Warbler on April 17th, 2 on April 23rd and 3 on April 30th; a single Whitethroat was heard on April 23rd and the first of 4 Garden Warblers (an unusual spring species) on April 24th. On the last day of April new arrivals included 16 members of the society attending the annual sanctuary outing, a Turtle Dove and a Lesser Whitethroat; the following day brought the first Cuckoo and a single Wood Warbler. The traditionally later migrants were soon to follow when 2 Swifts were recorded on May 5th, then a Reed Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher arrived on May 7th. The streamside was graced with up to 8 Flava wagtails after April 20th and 4 Common Sandpipers on May 25th. Other interesting spring records include a Sparrow Hawk on April 8th, an enormous multicoloured parrot on April 9th, a Ring Ousel on April 16th and a Tawny Owl on April 23rd and 24th.

Although the spring of 1977 was milder than the previous years the summer was markedly wetter and colder than we have grown accustomed to lately. However, the breeding season seemed more successful than the past few years. The first fledgling Blackbird was seen on April 11th and throughout the next two months there were plenty of young tits, Robins, Dunnocks and thrushes in the copse. At least 2 pairs of Willow Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers bred; others breeding included 4 pairs of Reed Warblers, 5 pairs of Swallows and singles each of Turtle Dove, Kestrel, Magpie, Carrion Crow and Stonechat. Cattle broke in again during June and totally destroyed the two largest patches of reeds taking with them the 2 Sedge Warblers' nests. Unfortunately the reeds were not given another chance to grow because the plague of rabbits found the reed shoots to be a particular delicacy. Another nearby area was also devoid of vegetation as overgrazing of horses in the winter completely eroded the hillside grass and undergrowth; I think this was the cause for fewer Whitethroats, Linnets and Corn Buntings on this portion of the hillside.

Whilst many birds are still breeding and not many weeks after the frantic flights north in Spring, July sees birds turning southward again for the beginning of the autumn passage. Swifts leave early; no doubt the 200 over the sanctuary on July 26th and the 400 on August 3rd were soon to depart as few were seen thereafter until the last 2 were recorded on September 1st. Warblers were soon to follow; the 25 Willow Warblers in the copse on



July 31st and August 2nd were the beginning of the best autumn passage of Willow Warblers recorded for several years with peak days of 20 or more on August 11th, August 27th and September 3rd and finally being recorded on September 26th. All told 101 individuals were ringed, a total only beaten by the previous spring. Lesser Whitethroats are usually found with Willow Warblers but in comparison numbers in 1977 were average with peaks of 5 on August 13th and 10 on August 27th. Likewise Garden Warbler passage between August 3rd and September 23rd with a peak of 3 on August 11th was very predictable. The 'acrocephalus' species were more abundant than last year with a maximum of 9 Reed Warblers recorded until October 3rd and Sedge Warblers seen until September 26th with their maximum of 10 on August 10th. The later warblers were certainly much more plentiful than previous years; Chiff-Chaffs reappeared on September 3rd and were present daily until October 19th during which time 85 individuals were trapped. This period also covered the bulk of the Blackcap passage when a record 87 were marked. Curiously both Chiff-Chaff and Blackcap migration ended abruptly and early with the last Chiff on October 19th and the last Blackcap on October 26th.

Chats and flycatchers trickled through with a maximum of 4 Wheatears during August, 6 Whinchats on September 8th, up to 6 Stonechats during September and October, and a solitary female Redstart on August 27th. For the second autumn in succession no Pied Flycatcher was seen. Likewise there was a remarkable lack of 'crests' throughout the entire Autumn.

Yellow Wagtails appeared as usual between August 21st and October 1st with a maximum of 10 on August 27th but the usual heavy eastward passage of hirundines was not nearly so marked and the only large number of Swallows recorded was on September 14th when c.500 were feeding over the hillside. Martin flocks were occasionally enormous, thousands were seen on September 26th, 2000 present on September 29th and at least 1000 passed over on October 7th.

A large thistle bed on the hillside encouraged a flock of Goldfinches to remain most of the autumn but Linnets and Corn Buntings, with the exception of 150 Corn Buntings on October 19th, were notably fewer. An albino Linnet gave one observer an identity crisis! Redpolls arrived earlier than usual on September 23rd but then were disappointingly few with the maximum of 10 on October 9th. The only 2 Siskins were seen on October 22nd.



Blackbirds were plentiful in October and November but the other thrushes were far from obvious; Ring Ousels were recorded on September 19th and October 16th; Redwings seen in small numbers after October 12th and no Fieldfare were observed. Jays were moving again this autumn, October 7th was the peak day when no less than 26 individuals were seen. For the past few years the sanctuary has been an autumn roost site for Starlings, 1977 was no exception and the peak count of c.50,000 was on October 19th. However, by October 26th the roost had completely dispersed. Unusual autumn records for the sanctuary include 7 Canada Geese on September 9th, a Coal Tit throughout October, a Sparrow Hawk and a Ring Necked Parakeet on October 22nd and a grey squirrel from October onwards.

By mid November the annual cycle is almost complete as the copse becomes quiet again apart from a few Chaffinches and Bullfinches, the tits feeding from the suet and peanut basket, and the odd Water Rail scurrying in the wet undergrowth. Towards the end of the year the Collared Dove roost showed signs of increasing again as numbers approached 150 birds. On the last day of 1977 a Kingfisher was seen and a Chiff-Chaff was trapped.

Once again I would like to express the thanks of the society to Mr. Santer and the staff of the Southern Water Authority for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

J.A.N.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RINGING REPORT FOR 1977

1977 saw yet another increase in the number of birds ringed in the area as the grand total reached 3318 full grown birds and 168 nestlings. Dr. John Newnham, with the help of Dr. Mark Wright, marked 2334 birds mainly at the sanctuary; the Steyning Ringing Group headed by Phil and Brian Clay totalled 642; the London Gull Study Group cannon netted 276 wintering gulls on the beach (see Dr. A.B.W.'s article in Sussex O.S. newsletter); and Dr. Barrie Watson ringed 244 birds around Shoreham.

Dr. Barrie Watson occupied his 3rd year in the chair of the BTO's Ringing and Migration Committee and spent a month in the summer ringing migrants in Portugal. Catrina Tyson, after returning from a similar expedition in Europe, graduated to her A permit.

Below is a table of the birds ringed:-

|                      |                    |                        |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Water Rail.....1     | Great Tit.....66   | Chiffchaff.....112     |
| Moorhen.....2        | Blue Tit.....281   | Goldcrest.....2        |
| Redshank.....9       | Coal Tit.....4     | Spotted Flycatcher..11 |
| Dunlin.....26        | Long Tailed Tit.9  | Dunnock.....88         |
| Common Gull.....16   | Wren.....51        | Pied Wagtail.....13    |
| Black Headed Gull262 | Mistle Thrush...5  | Starling.....40        |
| Wood Pigeon.....4    | Song Thrush....71  | Greenfinch.....109     |
| Collared Dove.....23 | Redwing.....14     | Goldfinch.....86       |
| Tawny Owl.....1      | Blackbird.....163  | Siskin.....1           |
| Kingfisher.....2     | Robin.....74       | Linnet.....8           |
| Green Woodpecker...2 | Cetti's Warbler..1 | Twite.....1            |
| Lesser Spotted       | Reed Warbler..176  | Redpoll.....2          |
| Woodpecker.....1     | Sedge Warbler..93  | Bullfinch.....70       |
| Swallow.....120      | Blackcap.....115   | Chaffinch.....61       |
| House Martin.....791 | Garden Warbler.14  | Yellow Bunting.....15  |
| Sand Martin.....1    | Whitethroat....18  | Corn Bunting.....5     |
| Magpie.....1         | Lesser             | Reed Bunting.....10    |
| Jay.....1            | Whitethroat..31    | Tree Sparrow.....1     |
| Willow Tit.....2     | Willow Warbler404  | House Sparrow.....6    |

The House Martin total is the greatest annual total for a single species ever recorded from Shoreham and coupled with large warbler catches at the sanctuary and Strivens makes a total of nearly 1900 summer visitors ringed. Cetti's Warbler, Siskin and Twite are new species to the local ringing list.

As more birds are ringed more recoveries are gathered; the following is a selection:-

1. KESTREL      Ringed      Ad. f.      30. 3.76 Shoreham sanc.  
hit by car      6. 8.77 Winchester Hants.  
76kmWNW.

The only other Shoreham recovery was from Sheppey, Kent.

2. REDSHANK      ringed      Ad.      23.11.76 Shoreham Adur  
found dead      22. 3.77 Langstone Harb. Hants.
3. BLACK HEADED GULL the following were ringed at Worthing on 12.12.75.
  - a. found dead      8. 6.76 Vassa, Finland.
  - b. " "      14. 4.77 Oland, Sweden.
  - c. " "      15.11.77 Ribe (Jylland) Denmark
  - d. " "      ? 7.76 W.Wittering Sx. 38km.W
  - e. " "      23. 7.77 Cobnor Point Sx.32km.W
- BLACK HEADED GULL ringed Ad. 17. 5.74 Wakering Essex.
- " " " controlled 13. 2.77 Worthing Sx. 115km.SW.
- " " " ringed pull 6. 6.75 Suureadam, Estonia.
- " " " controlled 15. 1.77 Hove.



these give an indication where some of our wintering B.H. Gulls come from.

4. MEDITERRANEAN ringed Ad. 12. 4.72 Kalmthout (Antwerpen)  
GULL Belgium.  
controlled 15. 1.77 Hove

This is the first control of a Med.Gull in this country; what a shame it was not ringed as a pullus so its precise origin could be determined.

5. HERRIN G GULL Ringed 1. 7.75 Dalkey Is. Dublin  
controlled 14.12.75 Worthing, Sx.  
6. BLACKBIRD Ringed Ad.F. 2.11.74 Shoreham sanc.  
Killed by cat 3. 1.77 Whitegate, Cork, Eire.  
560NW.  
" Ringed Ad.F. 13.11.76 Shoreham sanc.  
caught in fish net 7. 5.77 Langelmaeki (Hame),  
Finland.

These are the first two foreign movements of Blackbirds from Shoreham since 1966. Between 1960-66 8 winter-ringed Blackbirds were recovered from Germany (1), Norway (2), Sweden (1), France (3) and Denmark (1) but between 1966-76 only local recoveries occurred. It is only in the past 2 decades that wintering Blackbirds in Britain have come from Finland (see Spencer Bird Study 79.22.117).

7. REED WARBLER Ringed Ad. 30. 7.76 Farlington Hants.  
controlled 15. 5.77 Strivens R.B. 48km.E.  
" " Ringed 1Y 17. 8.75 Godalming, Surrey.  
controlled 12. 6.77 Strivens R.B. 37km.SSE  
" " Ringed 1Y 9. 8.76 Great Salterns  
Portsmouth.  
controlled 24. 7.77 Strivens R.B. 50km.ENE  
" " Ringed 1Y 7. 8.73 Peterborough Northants  
controlled 31. 8.77 Strivens R.B. 177km.S.  
" " Ringed 1Y 10. 8.77 Titchfield Haven Hants  
controlled 4. 9.77 Strivens R.B. 63km.E.  
" " Ringed 1Y 19. 7.76 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled 23. 7.77 Litlington Sx. 30km.E.

this is the finest series of warbler controls we have had, the 2nd and 3rd birds were breeding at S.R.B.; note the tendency to South and East movements.

8. BLACKCAP Ringed 1Y.M. 7. 8.77 Benfleet Downs Essex  
controlled 17. 9.77 Shoreham sanc. 95km.SW.





9. LITTLE GREBE 5 Adur Jan.5; 4 there Nov.27.
16. MANX SHEARWATER 1 W.Ferring (B.F.F.). Apr.26.
26. FULMAR regularly 1 - 2 offshore in spring; 5 off Lancing Jun.24.
27. GANNET 1 dead W.W. Feb.16; 1 Ferring Apr.26; 5 off Lancing Jun.24; 1 Hove Oct.3.
- HERON up to 8 S.P. all year; 12 Wykeham Woods Apr.17; 5 Adur Levels Aug.14.
45. MALLARD 32 Adur Jan.3; max. count Airfield 55 Feb.14; 2 prs. bred S.R.B.
- TEAL 7 Adur Jan.3; 60 Adur Levels Jan.16; 3 Airfield Feb.27; c.30 Adur Levels Dec.21.
- WIGEON 2 Adur Levels Dec.21.
- PINTAIL a pr. Airfield Feb.27; a pr. C.C. Mar.27 and 1 m. sanc. Mar.11.
- TUFTED DUCK 1m, Adur Dec.21.
64. COMMON SCOTER 517 E. between Apr.16-21; 260 in 1 hour W.W. Apr.16; 185 Hove Apr.21.
67. EIDER up to 2 Southwick beach Jan.8-Mar.27; 1f. Harb. Dec.
69. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER 30+ off Worthing Jan.23; in smaller nos. in winter from W.W., W.E.B., Ferring and Hove.
73. SHELDUCK up to 3 recorded various times W.W., Adur, Airfield.
- GREY GEESE SP. 38 S. C.C. Nov.27.
75. GREY LAG GOOSE 1 W. Adur Sept.9. (S.R.A.)
76. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE 40 E. over Worthing Jan.19 (C.E.M.)
78. PINK-FOOTED GOOSE 3 S. over Lancing Dec.18 (R.I.)
80. BRENT GOOSE 2 Adur Nov.20, 1 remained until early Dec.; 19 W. Ferring Nov.19.
82. CANADA GOOSE 2 S.R.B. Feb.8.; 5 there on May 8; 7 E. Sanc. Sept.3.

91. BUZZARD 2 S.R.B. Jan.22; (J.C. P.C.); 1 probably this species over the Adur Apr.7. (S.R.A.).
92. ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD 1 Downs hunting over rape field Nov.19 (seen by gamekeeper).
93. SPARROW-HAWK many downland sightings throughout the year with a max. 3; also seen at S.R.B., Sanc., Adur Levels, Shoreham.
96. BLACK KITE 1 Cissbury May 5. (B.F.F.).
100. HEN HARRIER 1 ringtail Downs Jan.29; 1 St.Botolphs Dec. 6.
103. OSPREY 1 Southwick beach drifting NE over Hove May 24. (R.F.P.).
104. HOBBY 1 Downs May 8 and 19; 1 N. of Shoreham Aug. 13.
107. MERLIN 1m. Mill Hill Shm. Apr.22 (C.E.M.).
110. KESTREL max. 20 Downs Oct.19, numbers diminished over the past two years; Bred successfully Sanc., Patcham.
115. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE 15 near Airfield Feb.27; 5 Downs Mar.25; 2 Ladywells Apr.19.
117. QUAIL max. 6 Downs on 4 dates Jun.16 - Jul.10.
120. WATER RAIL Jan.-Mar. Sanc., and there after Oct.16.
131. OYSTER CATCHER frequently recorded in parties up to 11 offshore; 1 Adur Jan.4; 2-3 Ferring winter months.
133. LAPWING 1000+ Airfield Jan.22-24; 2500 Lancing Marsh Feb.8; 2000 Adur Levels Aug.28.
134. RINGED PLOVER Selected Adur counts:- Jan.3 - 70 Sept.1-98  
1 pr bred in downland Jan.24-150 Sept.28-120  
area Feb.8 -100 Oct.2 -85
135. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER 1 Washington sand pit May 15. (B.F.F.).
139. GREY PLOVER 7 Ferring Feb.20; 1 Adur Aug.6.
141. GOLDEN PLOVER 2 Adur Levels Feb.6; 5 Downs Oct.2.



142. DOTTEREL 2m. and 1f. Downs Apr.27.
143. TURNSTONE 3 Ferring Apr.26, 6 there Nov.19; 1 Adur Nov.20; 1 W.W. Dec.2.
145. SNIPE 50+ Adur and S.P. throughout Jan.; 40 Annington Jan.21.; 60 Adur levels Feb.6; 100+ Adur Dec.7; 600-1000 Bramber Levels Dec.17.
147. JACK SNIPE 1 Sanc. Jan.28; 2 Steyning Road reed bed Feb.13 and 1 there Dec.21; 1 S.R.B. Apr.3; 2 Bramber Levels Dec.17.
148. WOODCOCK 1 Downs Dec.23.
150. CURLEW 1 Mill Hill Jul.9; 1 Airfield Aug.25; 1 Downs Sept.13 and 2 there Oct.2.
151. WHIMBREL first recorded off W.W. Apr.13; there after fewer than usual with a max. of 5 Apr.25; 4 NW over Portslade May 12 and 5 N. over Adur May 25; few spring records of 1 - 2 from Downs, Adur and Southwick; 1 - 2 Adur Aug.9 - Sept. 1.
155. BAR-RAILED GODWIT c80 E. Hove May 2. (only spring flock recorded cf.1976); 1 Adur Aug.27.
156. GREEN SANDPIPER 1 Adur Levels Feb.7. (P.C.)
159. COMMON SANDPIPER 1 - 2 Adur May 7 - May 21; 4 Sanc. May 25; max. 5 Adur Aug.13 - Oct.9; 10 E.W.B. Aug.13 and 10 Adur Levels Aug.14.
161. REDSHANK counts from Jan.24 - 194 Aug. 9- 50 Adur area. Feb. 8 - 167 Dec.26-125 2 prs bred Adur Levels.
165. GREENSHANK 1 - 2 Adur Aug.14 - Oct.19, fewer on lower reaches of Adur than usual; 1 over Lancing Sept.6 and 7.
169. KNOT 3 Adur Aug.25 and 2 there Sept. 1.
170. PURPLE SANDPIPER 5 Goring Dec.7.
178. DUNLIN selected Adur counts Jan. 3 - 700  
Jan. 16 - 1000

178. DUNLIN selected Adur Jan. 3 - 700 Mar.11 - 200  
counts Jan.16 - 1000 Aug.17 - 20  
75 Ferring Apr.24. Jan.24 - 1150 Nov.26 - 650  
Feb. 8 - 900 Dec. - 5-600  
Feb.27 - 720
181. SANDERLING 30 Ferring Feb.20 and 40 there Apr.26;  
6 dates W.W. Mar.23-Apr.22 with max. 32  
on Mar.23.
185. AVOCET 1 W. W.W. Apr.5 (R.I.)
193. ARCTIC SKUA 2 E. Ferring Apr.26; 2 dark phase E.  
Hove May 2.
198. GREAT BLACK-  
BACKED GULL Jan.-Feb. 200 Adur; 250 Adur water-  
meadows Jan.15 and 86 sanc. Jan.16;  
Worthing - Southwick coastal gull roost  
count Feb.5 totalled 2107 large gulls,  
mainly this sp.
199. LESSER BLACK-  
BACKED GULL up to 4 recorded in var. localities in  
winter; 30 Adur Oct.23.
200. HERRING GULL 50 Adur Feb.2.
201. COMMON GULL 250 Downs Apr.30 and 100 there May 19.
205. MEDITERRANEAN GULL 1ad. Hove Jan.15 (many obs.); 1ad. W.W.  
Dec.5 (C.F.H.).
207. LITTLE GULL 2imm. Harb. Aug.25; 1 imm. Hove Oct.3.
208. BLACK-HEADED GULL Jan.-Feb. up to 2000 Adur, Worthing -  
Southwick coastal gull roost count  
Feb.5 totalled 9100 small gulls,  
mainly this sp., 500 Southwick beach  
Jul.15.
211. KITTIWAKE 1 or 2 recorded in Mar., Oct., Dec.,  
from W.W. and Harb.; 60 feeding on  
whitebait 3 km. off Lancing Jun.24.
212. BLACK TERN 2 E.W.B. Aug.11; 4 Harb. Aug.25.  
70 Shoreham after gales in late Aug.
- 217.- COMMON/ARCTIC TERN first recorded offshore with 8 Apr.20;  
218 only 34 recorded on upchannel passage  
this spring (cf 1976), with a max. 20  
May 15; 11 W. W.W. Oct.2 and several  
off Southwick Oct.9.



222. LITTLE TERN a total of 18 E. in 16 hrs off Hove after Apr.16; 1 Ferring Apr.17 and 4 there Apr.21; 10 W.W. Apr.22; 2 Southwick Oct.9.
223. SANDWICH TERN Mar.30-May 15 187 E. offshore; 10 Southwick Aug.25; 1 Hove Oct.3.
224. RAZORBILL 1 W.W. May 1; 1 Hove Dec.10; 1 oiled Southwick Dec.20.
232. STOCK DOVE 100 Truleigh Hill Jan.11.
235. TURTLE DOVE 1 Downs Apr.26 and 4 there Apr.30; recorded Sanc. Apr.30-Sept.17; small nos. from other suitable habitats, 13 North Farm Findon Jul.17.
- COLLARED DOVE Sanc. roost max. 100 in first 3 months (fewer than the past years), up to 150 there in Dec.
237. CUCKOO 1 heard but not seen Adur Valley Apr.4; 1 Hove Apr.13; 1 Downs Apr.17; 3 there Apr.26 and 4 Apr.30. No autumn records received, apart from 1 Mill Hill Oct.15 (Mrs. E.F.).
241. BARN OWL records from Downs in Mar., June and Aug.4 when 3 were roosting in a barn; 1 flyover Apr.3; 1 found Coombes Nov.
246. LITTLE OWL regularly seen Downs, 4 prs holding territory; bred Ferring; 1 Sompting Village Jan.30.
247. TAWNY OWL 4 prs. Downs, single prs. Lancing, Broadwater, Southwick, Portslade and Sompting Abbots; occ.roosts Sanc.
248. LONG-EARED OWL 1 Applesham Feb.27; bred for the 4th year within the area; 1 hunting Downs Aug.4; 1 there Nov.26; winter roost of 2 located Downs by gamekeeper Dec.29.
249. SHORT-EARED OWL only 3 records, 1 Downs Mar.30; 1 Findon Park Oct.13; 1 Bramber Levels Dec.17.

256. SWIFT 1 Downs Apr.26; 2 Sanc. May 5; 150 there June 14 and 200 Jul.26. At Portslade 200 Aug.22, 100 Aug.31, 45 Sept.11 and 2 Sept.22.
258. KINGFISHER 1-2 recorded throughout year from Adur, Sanc., W.W., Annington. Scarcer in lower Adur than past few years.
262. GREEN WOODPECKER Recorded from Mill Hill, Southwick Hill, Patcham, High Salvington, Highdown, Clapham, O.S.R., S.R.B., and Downs throughout the year, max. 4 Downs Oct. 13.
263. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER recorded from 9 regular localities, max. 3 O.S.R. Jun.20.
264. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER records from Lancing College, Downs and S.R.B.; breeding at Clapham, High Salvington, Durrington.
271. WOODLARK possibly 1 of this species S. over Cissbury Oct.15 (R.I.).
272. SKYLARK 100+ Truleigh Hill Jan.11 and 30 S.P. Jan.31.
274. SWALLOW 1 Sanc. Mar.7 and then regular between Apr.7-Oct.22; 2 Southwick Mar.27; 18 broods fledged Lancing College area; 5 pairs Sanc; 500 Sanc. Sept.14.
276. HOUSE MARTIN first recorded Sanc. Apr.8, thereafter counts of 60 on May 19 and Jun.4; 500 Sept.19; 2000+ Sept.26 and 29; and 1000+ Oct.7; 60+ Downs Oct.23; 5 Durrington Nov.21; and 1 Brighton Nov. 28.
277. SAND MARTIN 6 Sanc. Mar.30; thereafter regular during spring and autumn until Sept.29; 20 holes at colony at Lower Chancton Farm.
279. RAVEN 1 Downs Jan.15 (R.F.P.).
281. HOODED CROW 1 Downs Mar.29 (M.D.S.).



282. ROOK Rookery counts of 33 nests Buckingham Park, 10 nests The Drive, 4 nests S.R.B. Swiss Cottage rookery now extinct; corvid roost c.250 Highdown Nov.
284. MAGPIE up to 8 Sanc. all year.
286. JAY 1 Tottington Wood Jul.17; 26 W. Sanc. Oct.7, and 1 there Oct.16 and 18, 12 Downs Nov.26.
290. COAL TIT apparently more widespread, records from Sanc., Mill Hill, Coney Hill, Lancing, Steyning, Downs.
293. WILLOW TIT 3 Chanctonbury Jan.16; 2 S.R.B. winter.
294. LONG-TAILED TIT up to 8 Sanc. autumn.
296. NUTHATCH 1 Chanctonbury Mar.25.
302. FIELDFARE 20 St.Botolphs Jan.14 and 30 Adur Levels Feb.6; 1 Downs Sept.29, 12 there Nov.13, 40 on Nov.18 and 100 Nov.19.
304. REDWING up to 40 recorded in Jan. at Sanc., Annington and Southwick; 1 Downs Mar.7; 1 Sanc. Oct.12; 50 Downs Oct.19 and 200 there Nov.19.
307. RING OUSEL recorded on 3 spring dates Apr.6-May 1 Downs with max.5 Apr.26; 1 Sanc. Apr.16; on return passage 1 Sanc. Sept.19 and Oct.16; 2 Downs above Shoreham Oct.25; 9 dates Sept.15-Oct.23 Downs with max. 12 on Oct.13, 10 on Oct.22 and 9 on Oct.15 and 19.
311. WHEATEAR 1 W.W. Mar.22; 2 there Mar.28 and 25 on Apr.6; 1 Hove and 3 Southwick Mar.27; 8 Hoe Court Apr.14; 10 Downs May 7. peak autumn counts on Downs:- 12 Aug.23; 35 Aug.29 and 8 Sept.17. Last recorded downs Oct.22.

317. STONECHAT winter records from at least 9 regular haunts; bred Downs, W.R.D.; Sanc., Truleigh Hill; autumn counts from Downs - 6 Sept.15; 17 Oct.14; 6 Oct.22; 7 Nov.2.
318. WHINCHAT 6 Downs May 1, 4 there May 7 and 2 May 14; in autumn recorded Aug.23 - Oct.14 with max. 35 Aug.29 and 23 Aug.30, max. 6 Sanc. Sept.8.
320. REDSTART 1 m. O.S.R. Apr.22; 2 Downs Apr.26 and 1 there May 14; in autumn recorded Aug.20 - Sept.25 from gardens at Portslade, Mill Hill, Lancing and Goring; seen on 5 days Downs Aug.23 - Oct.16 with a peak of 31 Aug.29.
321. BLACK REDSTART No Jan.-Mar. records; 1 Downs Apr.19 and 1 Harb. Apr.27; 1-2 Downs 5 dates Oct.19-Nov.17; 1 m. Ferring Oct.29 and 1 f. there Nov.6; 1 f. High Salvington Nov.3; 1 f. Upper Beeding Nov.13; 1 Lancing Nov.22.
322. NIGHTINGALE 1 Downs Apr.25 and 30; 2 there May 14 and 15; 1 Southwick garden May 28.
327. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER 1 Ladywells Apr.30, the only 1977 record.
- GETTI'S WARBLER 1 f. Adur Valley Oct.3 and 7. (J.A.N.)
333. REED WARBLER recorded Sanc. Apr.30-Oct.3, 4 prs bred sanc. at least 15 prs. bred S.R.B.
337. SEDGE WARBLER recorded Sanc. Apr.17 - Sept.26 with a max. 10 Aug.8; 4 Airfield Apr.19; 2 prs. bred Ferring; plentiful S.R.B. autumn.
343. BLACKCAP 1 m. Broadwater Jan.16, 1 m. there Mar.10 and a pr. Mar.13; recorded Sanc. Mar.26-Oct.22 where 85 were trapped during autumn; recorded in Apr. Downs and Steyning.



346. GARDEN WARBLER 1 Hoe Court Apr.14 and 1 singing in Shoreham garden Apr.17; recorded Sanc. Apr.24-Sept.23 with max. 3 Aug.11; 2 Downs May 5 and 5 there May 7.
347. WHITETHROAT 1 Downs Apr.19, 1 W.R.D. Apr.21 and 1 Sanc. Apr.23; spring peak Downs counts - 16 Apr.26, 40 Apr.30 and May 5, 60 May 7; autumn counts from same area - 20 Aug.11, 15 Aug.29 and 30; last recorded Downs Sept.26.
348. LESSER WHITETHROAT recorded Downs after Apr.24 with spring peaks 8 on May 5 and 14, autumn Downs counts - 30 Aug.29; 40 Aug.30 and 4 Sept.12; at Sanc. Apr.30-Sept.24 with 22 trapped in autumn.
354. WILLOW WARBLER recorded Sanc. Apr.3-Sept.26, 193 trapped in spring and 101 in autumn (for peak days see Sanc. Report) 1 Downs Apr.6, 30 there Apr.17, 60 Apr.26 and 50 Apr.30.
356. CHIFFCHAFF Jan.-Feb. records from Sanc. Airfield, Shoreham gds., S.R.B. (max.6 in Feb.).
356. CHIFFCHAFF Jan.-Feb. records from airfield (max.2), Sanc. (max.2), Shoreham gds., peak spring counts 6 S.R.B. Apr.10. 4 Sanc. Mar.31 and 4 Downs Apr.17; autumn passage Sanc. Sept.3-Oct.19 during which 86 were trapped. 1 Sanc. Dec.31.
357. WOODWARBLER 1 Sanc. May 1 (J.A.N.).
364. GOLDCREST very scarce even during passage periods, max. at Sanc. 3 Oct.19.
366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER 1 S.R.B. Apr.26; 1 Sanc. May 7; 1 Downs May 7 4 there May 14. Bred successfully Sanc., Cissbury, and Sompting; 50 Downs Aug.29; 1 Lancing Sept.7.
368. PIED FLYCATCHER 1 m. Apr.26 Portslade; 1 Lancing gd. Aug.22, 2 Buckingham Park Aug.23, 1 Portslade Aug.26 and 3 Homefield Park Sept.19.

373. MEADOW PIPIT several prs. nested Mill Hill.
375. TAWNY PIPIT 1 Cissbury Aug.23 (B.F.F.).
376. TREE PIPIT 3 Downs Aug.29 and 7 there Aug.30.
379. ROCK PIPIT 1-2 Adur and beach.
380. ALBA WAGTAIL 20 Adur banks Nov.20.
381. GREY WAGTAIL winter records from Sanc., airfield, C.C., Ferring.
382. FLAVA WAGTAIL 8 Sanc. Apr.20 and there throughout spring and autumn until Oct.1; up to 9 birds recorded from 7 other localities; Sept. - Oct.3 c.70 counted SW over Shoreham early mornings.
384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE 1 Downs Dec.11 (C.E.M.)
388. RED-BACKED SHRIKE 1 f. S.R.B. June 8 (P.C.)
389. STARLING 10,000 roosting Sanc. Oct.12, c.50,000 there Oct.19; roost dispersed completely by Oct.26.
392. GREENFINCH 300 Downs Oct.19 and 200 there Nov.18.
393. GOLDFINCH 30 Southwick Railway Station; plentiful at Sanc. autumn.
394. SISKIN 1 Lancing gds. Sept.18 and 6 W. there Nov.3; 1 m. S.R.B. Sept.13; 2 Sanc. Oct.22 and 20 Downs same day; 2 downs above Shoreham Oct.25.
395. LINNET flocks of 800 Downs Sept.25, 400 Nov.18 and 200 Oct.23; 1 partial albino Sanc. Oct.18.
396. TWITE 11 records between Jan.2 - Feb.15 with max., 35 Jan.23; 4 dates after Nov.20 with the max. of 35 on that day, all Adur.
397. REDPOLL recorded regularly Sept.23 - Nov. Sanc. with max.10; 50 Streatham Manor Sept.27; 4 S.R.B. Oct.2; 3 Downs Nov.2; 4 Lancing gd. Nov.20.



408. BRAMBLING 1 Downs Dec.12.
410. CORN BUNTING 3 singing m. Highdown; 1 Ferring; 19 Singing m. Mill Hill - Beeding Hill; sanc. 150-200 Oct.19; usual winter roost S.R.B. c.300.
415. CIRL BUNTING 1 m. Adur Apr.9 (J.A.N.); 1 m. Hoe Court Jun.15 (B.F.F.)
421. REED BUNTING 1 m. Shoreham gd. end Feb.
425. TREE SPARROW 120 Downs Jan.30, 50 there Oct.22 and 200 Nov.18; other winter records from Truleigh Hill (80), S.R.D. (20); Annington (10).

\* \* \* \* \*

#### BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM IN 1977

As I scan through the past 25 years of records and reports I can count 240 different species which have been recorded in our area; a further 10 species could be added if probable 'escapes' are included. Most of the recent years have produced an additional 1-2 birds but in 1977 no fewer than 4 new species were added to the list.

It is fitting that 3 of these were seen on the local downland which, as usual, has been well watched and documented by Messrs. Forbes and Messer. Firstly Richard Porter, our local R.S.P.B. officer, saw a Raven in January, then 3 Dotterel were seen from the Steyning road in late April and a week later a Black Kite was watched by Bernard Forbes for several minutes over Cissbury. Other large raptors were not so numerous on the downs this year as the paucity of records of Hen Harrier, Common and Rough Legged Buzzard show, however, Sparrow Hawks seem to be continuing their revival and smaller falcons and owls were widespread. The downland watchers have also provided records of large numbers of passage chats, Redstarts, scrub warblers and Ring Ousels, a species which has been more numerous over the past 2 years. Another rarity turned up on Cissbury in early autumn in the shape of a Tawny Pipit.

The Adur Valley produced the fourth newcomer to the area when a Cetti's Warbler was seen and trapped in early October; it was surely only a matter of time before this hardy little warbler

was recorded in the area. The valley, including the sanctuary and river, has been regularly watched again by Cyril Helyer, Mark Welfare (a promising junior), and myself. The numbers of waders in the Adur Valley maintained their high levels but two other species were recorded more zealously by members. Firstly the Twite flock which has now become established as a winter visitor to the estuary, and secondly the Brent Geese which were present in late November. Brents are recorded annually in the area but I cannot recall seeing or hearing of them on the river. Grey geese, however, are irregularly recorded so it is pleasing to see observations of Pinkfeet, Grey-lag and Whitefronts in the same year. The best records from the upper Adur Valley were undoubtedly the Red Backed Shrike seen at Strivens Reed Bed in June, the Little Ringed Plover seen in a Washington Sand pit in mid-May and the incredible count of up to 1000 Snipe flushed from a flooded field near Beeding in December.

Spring birds arrived incredibly early in 1977 with many records of Chiffchaffs in February and March at least 3 March Swallows and many other migrants in early April. The usual spring upchannel passage of terns and godwits was disappointing but watchers were occasionally rewarded with such birds as Manx Shearwater, Arctic Skua, Osprey or Avocet.

More observers than the past few years have contributed to the 1977 report of Notable Birds, it is pleasing that most records were of a high standard, presented in Wetmore order and above all were sent in promptly. Unfortunately each year some good and valuable observations are submitted far too late to be included in the report; in order to have time to sort and compile these records so the report is printed in time for the societies A.G.M. it is essential to receive all the records by mid-January.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RINGING RECOVERIES OF SHOREHAM BIRDS

Any member who has reported a ringed bird to the British Museum or the B.T.O. will know that they receive a small white typescript form showing the bird's ringing and recovery details; the ringer receives a 'pink' copy and two top copies are kept for research in the archives of the B.T.O. One wet summers evening I reviewed the small pile of pink and white forms that I had accumulated from my Shoreham ringing over the past eight years to see if any interesting patterns emerged.



My total of 206 recovery slips covers 30 species and has come from ringing about 11,900 birds. This gives an overall recovery rate of 1.7%; i.e. to have one recovery reported to me I need to ring 58 birds. As expected, the recovery rates vary from species to species; table I shows an example of this variation for some common birds.

| <u>Table I</u> | <u>Species</u> | <u>Recovery rate</u> |                                 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
|                |                | %                    |                                 |
|                | Starling       | 5.9                  | Starlings and Blackbirds are    |
|                | Blackbird      | 5.1                  | conspicuous birds, often        |
|                | Bullfinch      | 3.9                  | frequenting gardens, and conse- |
|                | Greenfinch     | 1.8                  | quently are more likely to be   |
|                | Goldfinch      | 1.8                  | found dead by the public than   |
|                | Song Thrush    | 1.6                  | small wary species. Why then do |
|                | Wren           | 0.0                  | fewer Song Thrushes get         |
|                |                |                      | recovered, and why is the rate  |
|                |                |                      | for Greenfinches, a common      |
|                |                |                      | garden bird, the same as the    |
|                |                |                      | rate of the Bullfinch?          |

more rural Goldfinch and half the

| <u>Table 2</u>                   | <u>Recovery</u>        | <u>No.</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| by the birds; as expected most   | Shoreham area          | 101        |
| birds were recovered in or       | Britain under 10 miles | 40         |
| around Shoreham. As one goes     | Britain over 10 miles  | 43         |
| further afield from Shoreham one | Foreign movement       | 22         |
| would expect the density of      |                        |            |

Shoreham ringed birds to diminish dramatically; clearly there must be some other factor influencing the figures for my British recoveries. Several of the 10 mile plus recoveries are of migrants controlled by other ringers; curiously ringers within 10 miles (apart from A.B.W. retrapping my ringed birds in Shoreham) have only controlled 3 Shoreham birds. The foreign movements involve most of the western European communities with France and Spain being the most abundant source. The non-European birds include a Reed Warbler in Morocco, a Chiff-Chaff landing on a trimaran off the Canaries and a controlled Russian starling.

Examination of the circumstances leading to the recovery raise some interesting points. Nearly 20% were controls, most of these are small warblers unlikely to be recovered by the general public, thus ringers as a group supply most of the data on these species. The remainder were reported by the public: table 3 shows the circumstances of these recoveries.

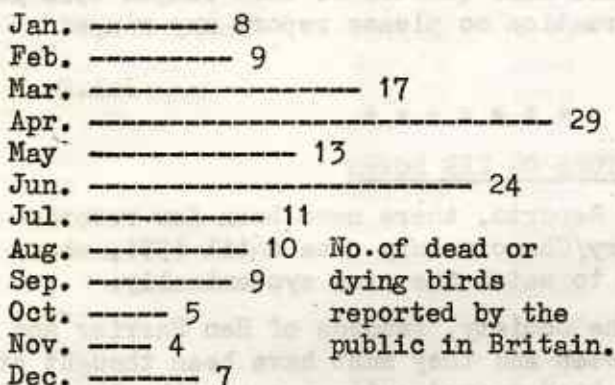
TABLE 3

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Found dead.(no details known or given)... | 70 |
| Killed by cat                             | 44 |
| Killed by car                             | 23 |
| Killed by hitting window                  | 5  |
| Caught and released                       | 5  |
| Caught in garden netting                  | 4  |
| Trapped and caged (all continental)       | 4  |
| Shot                                      | 3  |

Undoubtedly most birds die of natural causes and their corpses remain undetected; ringed birds are presumably no exception but Table 3 gives some idea of the sort of pressures man and his

pets impose on birds. Some met with more bizarre ends, a Blue Tit was found stuck in a length of tubular scaffolding, a Reed Warbler was found dead sitting on her nest, one Blackbird drowned in a garden pond and another was killed by a train, and an unlucky Greenfinch had only the ring found in a raptor's pellet.

Fig. 1



Plotting the recoveries by month can determine peaks of bird mortality. During the past 8 years we have had remarkably mild winters with no prolonged cold spells to boost winter mortality. Clearly the graph (Fig.1) shows a marked increase in early spring perhaps as food supplies run out or as birds start to breed.

The breeding season is full of hazards when young inexperienced birds and adults feeding young are particularly vulnerable to cats, as the high June figure suggests. The autumn, when food is abundant, appears to be the best time for birds, or at least the period in which they are least likely to encounter man.



In past ringing reports recoveries of long-lived birds have been included; these are more the exception than the rule. I only had sufficient recoveries of Blackbirds, a species which is relatively easy to age, to see how long they live. Fig.2 suggests that most Blackbirds die before they are three years old and very few live beyond five years old. Of course smaller species generally have a shorter life span.

|  | <u>Fig. 2</u>   | No. recovered (Blackbird only) |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|
|  | Age             |                                |
|  | less than 1 yr. | ----- 9                        |
|  | more " 1 yr.    | ----- 14                       |
|  | " " 2 yr.       | ----- 13                       |
|  | " " 3 yr.       | ----- 5                        |
|  | " " 4 yr.       | ----- 5                        |
|  | " " 5 yr.       | - 1                            |
|  | " " 6 yr.       | - 1                            |
|  | " " 9 yr.       | - 1                            |

Full studies of migration patterns, mortality etc. requires many recoveries and can only be done by pooling the national data but occasionally a brief look at local data may demonstrate a local trend or at least raise some questions. Each ringed bird is potentially a mine of information so please report any ringed bird you find.

J.A.N.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### RAPTORS ON THE DOWNS

Looking back over past Reports, there have been few records of raptors from the Cissbury/Chanctonbury area until 1971, when Colin Nesser and I started to watch the area systemically.

In the early days of the Society, records of Hen Harrier and Hobby were few and far between and they must have been thought of as rare visitors. This has been proved quite wrong - the last few reports have shown a dramatic increase in records of both. The main reason for this is the increased coverage of the area, where wintering Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard are seen and migrating Hobby, Sparrowhawk and harriers pass through in spring and autumn. Greater awareness by our members, the rise in Hen Harrier and Sparrowhawk survival rate in the breeding season, and more efficient coverage of the peak dates in the right places have produced many more records.

In 1956 Hen Harrier was sighted on the Downs near Steyning on three November dates, and must have been thought of as a casual winter visitor. In fact I believe Hen Harriers have passed through this locality for a very long time and have not been recorded. One only has to look at the 1971 Report, when the first



real interest in the Downs began: no less than three different birds were seen on 16 dates in the autumn. In 1972 up to three were seen on too many autumn dates to publish. 1973 saw an upsurge in sightings, due possibly to a good breeding season and to more people covering the area. In January a male was wintering in October and November 5 individuals (one male) were seen, and a maximum of 4 on 14 dates in December. 1974 followed the same pattern, with wintering birds in the early months and evidence of spring passage when 2 females were seen as late as April 26th. In the autumn m. and f. on Oct.10, and 2 f. on 19 dates in November/December. 1975 saw a complete reversal, with only one m. on Oct. 12th. 1976 was no different with only one m. on two dates in April. And in 1977 for the first time since 1970 there were no Hen Harrier records that I know of. This is hard to explain when the rest of the county had reasonable harrier numbers. It was perhaps due to a local food shortage - less ground cover for rodents because of the reduction of kale for winter feed. Kale is a favourite hunting area for Hen Harrier. Another possible factor is a dwindling in the late autumn and winter finch flocks which provide an easy food supply. Perhaps 1978 will see an improvement in sightings, as it is increasing as a breeding bird in this country.

In 1973 this country saw an invasion of Rough-legged Buzzards and of course they were seen on the Downs, first appearing on October 12th and 2 were often seen together through the winter, hunting slowly over the steep scarps or hovering like a giant Kestrel in the wind looking for an easy kill such as a rabbit, unaccustomed to this bird from the Scandinavian Arctic. 1974 saw them stay until late March as spring broke, and I thought this would be the last time I should see the bird for many years in our area, little knowing that in the autumn they would return in greater numbers. From October 26th until the end of the year no less than 4 had been seen in one day - sometimes in the same binocular field. At this time birds were also seen at Coney Hill and the Sanctuary. Early in 1975 the Rough-legged Buzzard could still be seen in the area, the last two on March 22nd. The following October a bird was seen on two dates but no further influx has been recorded.

But the area does not just support the winter raptors - the Sparrowhawk, a bird well on the way to full recovery of its status - can be seen throughout the year, breeding just to the north of the Downs and hunting and soaring daily over the



downland fields. I have seen as many as 4 birds soaring together in the autumn on the thermals over Cissbury Ring.

The Hobby, once a rare bird in our annals, has been recorded in every recent year - sometimes on several dates throughout summer and autumn; these records are of course of birds passing through to and from their breeding areas in S.England.

Of rare raptors recorded in the course of greater coverage of the area, perhaps the most spectacular was the Gyr Falcon. First seen at No Man's Land on March 11th 1972 - for Colin Messer and myself a day we shall never forget - this was the most exciting bird I have ever seen. The observations obtained were first class. It was last seen on March 22nd and during those 12 days hundreds of bird-watchers flocked in from all over the country to "tick" the bird, some of them causing a good deal of trouble in their efforts. Many members of our Society saw the bird - it was quite unusual to see so many members in one place in the field! This Gyr was the third record for the county and the first for many years.

In 1973 a Lesser Kestrel was seen by C.M. in Stump Bottom on Nov.4th - seen only for a few minutes but sufficient to identify confidently all the grand and graceful features of this small falcon. It was subsequently accepted by the Rarities Committee. It was the first for Sussex and the 16th for Britain. Surprisingly two other Lesser Kestrels were seen on the same day in Wales and the Midlands.

1974 was a bumper year for birds of prey on the Downs. Buzzard was seen in May, August and twice in September, R-1. Buzzard as detailed above, Sparrowhawk regularly - it is now regarded as common by the Downland watcher. The autumn was exciting - no less than an Osprey and a Merlin were seen on September 14th. I remember the day well, walking up Stump Bottom, "twitching" every time the large Lapwing and full flocks rose up, expecting a large raptor to fly over the next hill. At No Man's Land, I climbed the hill for a commanding view and settled down hoping the effort had been worth it. In warm sunshine, I was searching the distant scarps to the N, when from the valley E. of Park Brow the sky was suddenly full of Lapwings, pigeons, gulls and finches - about 2000 birds - twisting and turning, and right amongst the turmoil a large raptor flying slowly and surely towards me. Within a few seconds the shout had gone up "Osprey" -



even the rabbits looked at me in amazement! By this time it had flown overhead, circled slowly and drifted off towards Findon - in search of another bird-watcher? On phoning C.M., he told me that in the morning he had seen a Merlin on the same hill.

One of the most fortunate sightings I have ever had was when blackberrying with my wife along the side of Lychpole Hill. By the time Carol had three-quarters filled her bowl, mine was only one third full as I had been looking at birds most of the time. My attention was suddenly drawn to a mewling flock of Lapwing diving into a field of corn. To my amazement, 150m. in front of me was a large dark raptor quartering the corn. It was a female or immature Marsh Harrier - an exciting bird to see on the Downs; indeed it was the first I had seen in Sussex. I returned to the car park with an empty bowl and covered in blackberry juice, to Carol's amusement. The Marsh Harrier stayed on the Downs from this date, August 18th until September 4th hunting over the corn-fields, which possibly looked like reed-beds. It took the odd partridge during its stay, but the gamekeeper was tolerant of this small loss.

The bird of prey that put the icing on the cake in 1974 was a Goshawk. This record was not published in our Report for security reasons, but time now allows me to put it in print. My father and I saw the bird at No Man's Land on November 17th. We were standing on the hill on a cold, grey and windy winter's afternoon watching a variety of birds including R. - 1 Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Short-eared Owl when we suddenly sighted this large accipiter flying directly towards us. It reminded us of a Buzzard more than a hawk in size and stature, although the slow, ponderous flight was very clearly that of a Goshawk. This is the first record for our Society and again proves the importance of the area.

1975 was one of the less exciting years for rare raptors, although the common ones were seen in fair number. Buzzard was seen throughout the summer months, Rough-legs as detailed above, Sparrowhawk on many dates with a maximum of 4 together, just the one Hen Harrier and Hobby on three summer dates. A Merlin was found by the gamekeeper on January 1st but not seen by him again - a pity! Merlin is a bird that eludes me on the Downs.

1976 was one of those years when nothing really rare occurred, although plenty of time was put in covering the area. Buzzard was recorded on 6 autumn dates and the usual Sparrowhawk sightings all the year round. The most exciting raptor seen was a Marsh Harrier on October 1st, seen for only a few minutes before



departing S., again proving the importance of the area for migrating raptors. One would be lucky to see this bird anywhere in Sussex, even Beachy Head. Hen Harrier was seen on just the two spring dates - April 19th and 25th - and not in autumn for the first time in years. In contrast, Hobby was well recorded with 7 sightings between April 28th (an early date) and September 7th.

In 1977 wintering raptors had little to offer with only a few sightings of Sparrowhawk. The only record of Hobby was May 19th. But the surprise was to come on May 5th. Sitting in my car at Cissbury, waiting for the rain to stop, my attention was drawn to a large raptor flying around the outer ring, mobbed by a couple of Carrion Crows. There was bedlam in my car, coffee being spilt in a frantic search for binoculars, and a hurried focussing on the bird. To my amazement it was a Black Kite, no less. Its bulky all-dark appearance and shallow-forked tail eliminated other similar species such as Red Kite and Marsh Harrier - the characteristics fitted only Black Kite. The brief view lasted only a couple of minutes, by which time it was out of sight over the crest. I hastily put on boots and waterproofs and raced up the steep slopes of the Ring. After half an hour's systematic search of the area, I caught a very brief view of it over the wood at the southern edge of Cissbury. Running towards the wood I lost sight again, spending my time in a game of hide and seek all over the ring - a terrible place to find a bird because of the many dips with no vantage point. Again I sighted the kite in the centre of the Ring, flying low this time. The views I obtained were better, but alas! it started to gain height, accompanied by the two crows which it dwarfed in size. I finally lost sight over Findon Valley. This was the most exciting moment of bird-watching I have known when out on my own. The record has, of course, still to be accepted by the Rarities Committee - if it is it will be the third record for Sussex, all in the past decade.

The rest of 1977 was a flop for raptors as far as I was concerned - the biggest "miss" being on November 19th when I led our outing to Stump Bottom, where in the morning the gamekeeper had watched a Rough-legged Buzzard at very close range for 30 minutes hunting over a kale field. Alas! the outing did not start until 2 p.m. and the bird had gone. But this is one of bird-watching's excitements - not knowing whether it will be a day of tremendous thrills or just a healthy walk in beautiful countryside.

A warning to interested readers - this area of downland is not easy to watch; you have to put in a lot of field work, be very dedicated, a little insane and have an understanding wife!

Although the last two years have been a little slow for raptors, I am sure that things will pick up again and I hope to rewrite this article in years to come to make the picture more complete. STOP PRESS: A Merlin has been seen near Lychpole Hill in January 1977.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1977

This feature has been compiled from records sent in my members:-

Abbreviations are the same as in Notable Birds of the area.

|                     |         |             |         |           |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Whimbrel            | Apr.13  | W.W.        | Sept.1  | Adur      |
| Common Sandpiper    | May 7   | Adur        | Oct.19  | Adur      |
| Com./Arctic Tern    | Apr.20  | W.W.        | Oct.9   | Southwick |
| Little Tern         | Apr.16  | Hove        | Oct.9   | Southwick |
| Sandwich Tern       | Mar.30  | Hove        | Oct.3   | Hove      |
| Turtle Dove         | Apr.26  | Downs       | Sept.17 | Sanc.     |
| Cuckoo              | Apr.4   | Adur Valley |         |           |
| Swift               | Apr.26  | Downs       | Sept.22 | Portslade |
| Swallow             | Mar.7   | Sanc.       | Nov.10  | W.W.      |
| House Martin        | Apr.8   | Sanc.       | Nov.28  | Brighton  |
| Sand Martin         | Mar.30  | Sanc.       | Sept.29 | Sano.     |
| Fieldfare           | Sept.29 | Downs       |         |           |
| Redwing             | Oct.12  | Sanc.       | Mar.7   | Downs     |
| Wheatear            | Mar.22  | W.W.        | Oct.22  | Downs     |
| Whinchat            | May 1   | Downs       | Oct.14  | Downs     |
| Redstart            | Apr.22  | O.S.R.      | Sept.25 | Goring    |
| Grasshopper Warbler | Apr.30  | Ladywells   |         |           |
| Reed Warbler        | Apr.30  | Sanc.       | Oct.3   | Sanc.     |
| Sedge Warbler       | Apr.17  | Sanc.       | Sept.26 | Sanc.     |
| Blackcap *          | Mar.10  | Broadwater  | Oct.22  | Sanc.     |
| Garden Warbler      | Apr.14  | Hoe Court   | Sept.23 | Sanc.     |
| Whitethroat         | Apr.19  | Downs       | Sept.26 | Downs     |
| Lesser Whitethroat  | Apr.24  | Downs       | Sept.24 | Sanc.     |
| Willow Warbler      | Apr.3   | Sanc.       | Sept.26 | Sanc.     |
| Chiffchaff *        | Mar.11  | Sanc.       | Oct.19  | Sanc.     |
| Spotted Flycatcher  | May 7   | Sanc./Downs | Sept.7  | Lancing   |
| Yellow Wagtail      | Apr.20  | Sanc.       | Oct.3   | Shoreham  |

\*excluding possible wintering birds



### SOME OBSERVATIONS ON WILLOW WARBLER PASSAGE THROUGH SHOREHAM

The Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus*) is Britain's most numerous summer visitor; Sharrock in "The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain" estimates that 3 million pairs nest in 92% of Britain and Ireland. They regularly breed in Shoreham with 2 or 3 pairs at the Sanctuary each year. Studies of breeding birds are relatively easy as the clear liquid song readily marks the territory of a breeding pair. Studies of migration, however, are considerably more arduous. Willow Warblers are nocturnal migrants and tend to feed in thick vegetation during the day whilst on passage, making reliable observation and census data impossible to gather. Thus one must look to ringing data for information on their migration. Unfortunately Willow Warblers have a very low recovery rate; it is estimated that 500 birds need to be ringed to obtain one recovery. Indeed, for the Shoreham area we have only had six recoveries reported since 1954. These are listed below:-

| <u>Date trapped<br/>at Shoreham</u> | <u>Site of ringing or recovery</u> | <u>Date at that site</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5.9.60                              | Berango, N. Spain                  | 12.9.60                  |
| 1.9.62                              | Lugo, N. Spain                     | No date reported         |
| 26.4.75                             | Bamburgh, Northumberland           | 7.5.72                   |
| 15.8.70                             | Hyde, Cheshire                     | 9.8.70                   |
| 31.8.68                             | Frampton on Severn                 | 17.4.70                  |
| 30.4.76                             | Weymouth, Dorset                   | 18.8.73                  |

(see Shoreham O.S. Reports 1960, '62, '70, '75, '76 for further details)

Any analysis of so few recoveries would be futile.

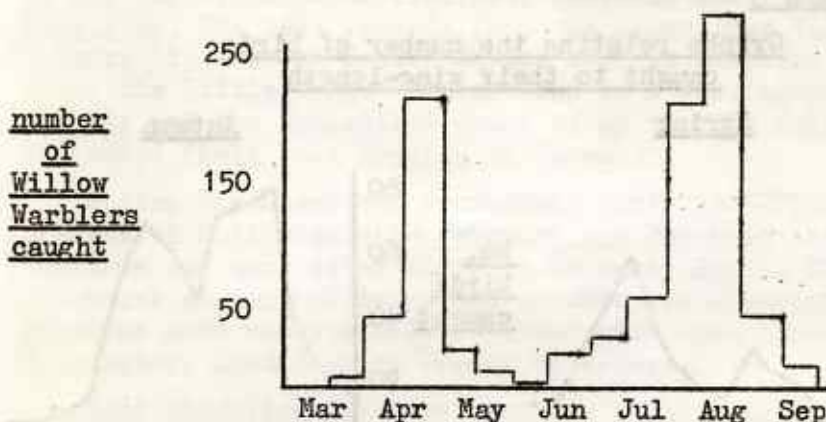
Over the past nine years, nearly 1,000 Willow Warblers have been ringed in the Sanctuary. 1977 was a particularly good year for these warblers with over 300 birds being ringed. Willow Warblers return from their wintering grounds south of the Sahara to breed in Britain. Their northward movement closely follows the advance of the 48°F isotherm and this reaches the south coast of England round about the first week in April. It is at this time that the first Willow Warblers are likely to be seen in the Shoreham area. Many of the birds, on reaching the coast, fly straight on inland towards their breeding grounds. A number, however, will come down to rest and feed on reaching land and if the weather is poor this number is increased. These birds only seem to spend a short time on the coast as, in general, when

significant numbers of Willow Warblers have been ringed on a given spring day in the Sanctuary, very few of them are retrapped the following day.

In the histogram below (Fig. 1) relating the number of willow warblers caught to the time of year, the general pattern of Willow Warbler migration can be clearly seen.

Fig. 1

Histogram relating number of Willow Warblers  
caught to the time of year



A few early migrants arrive in the last week of March followed by quite large numbers during the first half of April. The bulk of the spring migration, however, can be seen to take place during the second half of April. After this numbers rapidly fall off to a figure of only 6 birds caught during the first fortnight of June. These are probably the birds which breed locally. In the second half of June numbers gradually increase as the young birds begin to appear and by the last fortnight in July birds are again present in large numbers with the beginning of the autumn migration. It is clearly apparent though, that the main southward movement across the coast occurs during August and by mid-September most birds have departed. It is, in fact, not unusual to see a few Willow Warblers in early October but none have been caught in the Sanctuary at this time.

When the birds are ringed, not only are they weighed, but their wing-length is also recorded. Although the sex of an individual bird cannot be determined even when seen in the hand, it is known that the wing-length of female willow warblers varies

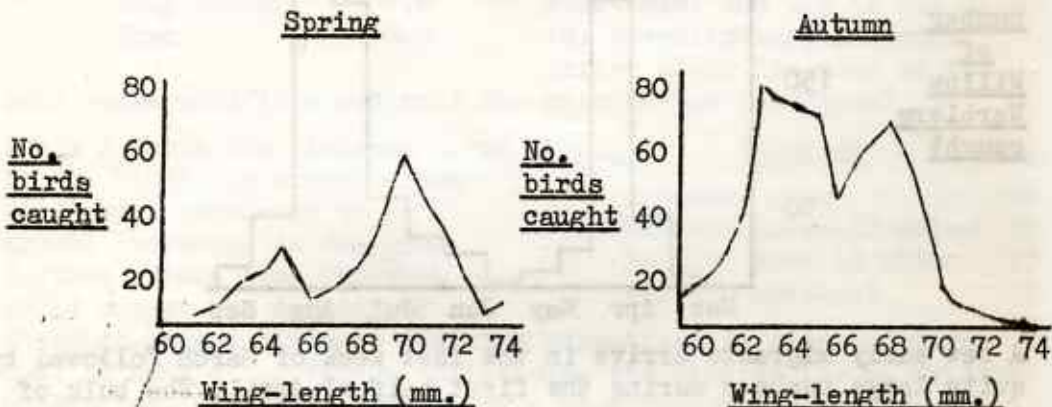


from about 60-66 mm. and that of males from 64-70 mm (Williamson). Thus the males tend to be slightly larger than the females, though there is an area of overlap.

On looking more closely at the wing-lengths of the birds we have caught during the spring and autumn migrations, it can be seen that they fall into two distinct groups. Those of wing-length above 66 mm. and those of wing-lengths below 66 mm. This is demonstrated graphically below in the figures relating the number of birds caught to their wing-lengths (Figs. 2 & 3).

Figs. 2 and 3

Graphs relating the number of birds  
caught to their wing-length



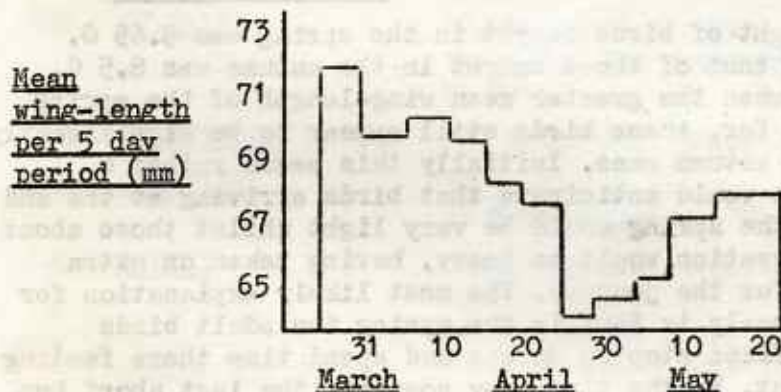
One feature that is immediately apparent on looking at the graphs is that, in the spring, nearly twice as many birds of wing-length greater than 66 mm. as those of wing-length less than 66 mm. were caught. This suggests that we catch twice as many males in spring as females. Curiously at Dungeness and Portland Bird Observatories this pattern is reversed (Lawn. In prep.). One possible reason for this longer wing-length, apart from sex, is that we might be catching a number of birds of the northern race of Willow Warbler (*P. trochilus accredula*) which are known to have a slightly longer wing-length, viz: 62-72 mm. (Williamson). It is fairly well established, however, that these birds are only found along the east coast of Britain during migration time. They also have rather different plumage characteristics which we have not noted, so it seems unlikely that they are relevant to our findings.

In the autumn, on the other hand, results are more as expected, with approximately equal numbers of both groups of birds being caught. It again seems reasonable to assume that these groups correspond to male and female birds. It is interesting to note that the mean spring wing-length is 68.3 mm. ( $n = 296$ ) whilst the mean autumn wing-length is 65.3 mm ( $n = 546$ ). Thus most of the birds caught in autumn are smaller than those caught in spring. The reason for this is that all the birds caught in spring are adults, whilst most of the birds caught in autumn are young and these are known to have a slightly shorter wing.

It appears that birds of wing-length greater than 66 mm. tend to arrive before those of wing-length less than 66 mm. This is shown on the histogram below (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4

Histogram relating date of arrival  
to wing-length



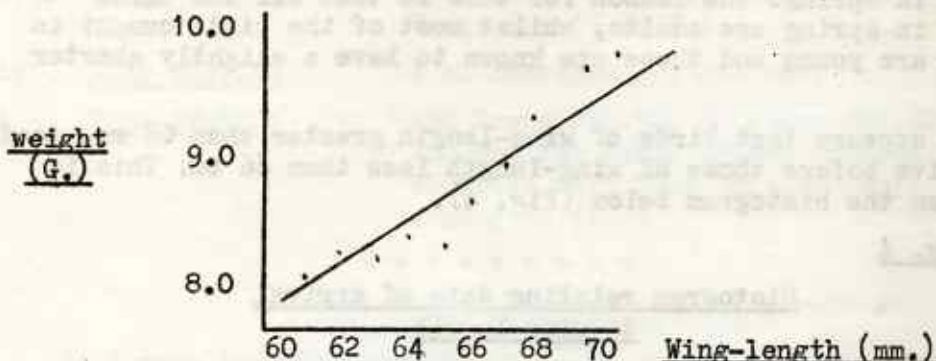
It can be seen that the mean wing-length of birds caught during given five day periods drops dramatically after April 25th, the mean wing-length of birds caught before April 25th being 69.2 mm and that of those caught between April 25th and May 20th being 66.3 mm. It therefore appears that the birds arriving during the first half of April are predominantly male, whilst most of the females arrive towards the end of April and in early May. This observation has been verified by studies at breeding grounds where the males almost invariably arrive earlier. Perhaps the reason for our catching more males is that during the first half of April the weather is likely to be worse than in May so that more birds are forced to make landfalls on reaching the Sussex coast.



On looking at the weights of the birds caught, it is apparent that there is a definite correlation between wing-length and weight as shown in the graph below (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5

Graph relating mean weight to wing length



The mean weight of birds caught in the spring was 9.65 G. (n = 296) whilst that of those caught in the autumn was 8.5 G. (n = 546). Even when the greater mean wing-length of the spring birds is allowed for, these birds still appear to be significantly heavier than the autumn ones. Initially this seems rather unexpected as one would anticipate that birds arriving at the end of migration in the spring would be very light whilst those about to set off on migration would be heavy, having taken on extra reserves of fat for the journey. The most likely explanation for this apparent anomaly is that in the spring the adult birds returning from Africa stop in Europe and spend time there feeding and so gain weight. By the time they complete the last short hop across the Channel they are already up to the necessary weight to start breeding straight away. In the autumn, on the other hand, the birds are mainly young and start moving comparatively early. They slowly make their way down through France and on into Spain in short stages, feeding as they go. It is not until they are approaching the Sahara that they really need to put on much extra fat for the long haul across the desert. This is in contrast to Reed and Sedge Warblers which do put on weight in this country prior to migration.

Willow Warblers are capable of changing weight very rapidly as can be seen in the examples below, where the weights of six birds

caught on the evening of April 23rd and which were retrapped on the morning of April 24th are listed:-

Weight (G.) on  
evening of 23.4.77

9.4  
11.2  
10.0  
10.6  
8.7  
10.2

Weight (G.) on  
morning of 24.4.77

9.0  
10.6  
9.5  
10.6  
8.2  
9.7

In each case except one it can be seen that there was a significant weight drop overnight. Similarly when the mean weight of birds caught after 1700 hrs. was compared with that of birds caught before 1100 hrs. it was found that on average the evening birds were 0.3 G. heavier.

In conclusion it can be seen that much information can be obtained from ringing even without a single recovery. It should be emphasised though, that many of the observations and the interpretation put upon them in this article are in the realm of speculation rather than proven fact.

C.M.V.W.  
J.A.N.

\* \* \* \* \*

PROGRESS AT STRIVENS REED-BED 1977

1977 was the first full year of the Steyning Ringing Group's operation at the reed-bed, which, as with the management programme, met with mixed success. However, not all was bad and some good results were obtained.

Bird Observations:

The year proved very interesting, with good coverage throughout. The winter continued in its usual way with the Corn Bunting roost present until March. Great, Lesser Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were all seen, the last two species being trapped on the same day in January. Snipe numbers continue to decline year by year, and a maximum of only 15 were present on April 10th. A single Jack Snipe was seen on January 3rd. On January 23rd everyone downed tools at the Conservation Working Party to watch a pair of Buzzards as they circled overhead. Mallard numbers never exceeded 5 during the winter and only one Teal was present.



The first bird of spring was a Chiffchaff which was caught on March 13th. It was not until April, however, that the majority of our summer visitors arrived, when on the 10th a Willow Warbler was identified, followed by a Swallow, Spotted Flycatcher and 2 Whitethroats on the 24th. Then followed the Sedge and Reed Warblers, turning the whole site into a cauldron of bubbling frenzied song. On May 8th male and female Cuckoos were adding their voices to the concert. These summer visitors settled into their territories amongst the resident birds, who had defined their breeding territories somewhat earlier.

First to start breeding were four pairs of Rooks, having been driven from their traditional rookeries in the now bare elms to find new homes in less suitable sites. The Mallard that were present during the winter were evidently prospecting for nesting places. Our management work of damming up the outflow drain raised the water level by 8" from existing ground level. This created small stands round the base of each clump of Grey Alder, providing ideal nesting sites. Four nests were built in all by 3 pairs, one nest being destroyed by predators and the pair rebuilding. One unfortunate aspect of the success in providing nesting sites for Mallard was that 2 pairs decided to nest adjacent to mist-net rides - one of the pairs on top of a 12' mist-net pole hidden in the vegetation! This meant ringing had to be abandoned until the young had left on May 8th. Another effect of this work was the improvement of the area for breeding Reed and Sedge Warblers, Reed increasing from 6 pairs to about 15, and Sedge from 1 to 3. Other breeding species included Whitethroat (2 prs.), Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Moorhen, Blackcap (2), Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Reed Bunting and to our delight and the hosts' astonishment, a pair of Cuckoos. The identity of the host was not discovered, but a juvenile was seen on July 10th.

The rise in the level of water had another effect, this being the provision of the correct conditions for the Reed Aphid to multiply, and they did in thousands; the whole reed-bed was covered with them, and the surface of the water with their dead skins. It is these insects that Reed, Sedge and to a certain extent Willow Warblers fatten up on before migration. This led to the best autumn passage over at Strivens for these species. Otherwise the autumn was rather as usual, with numbers of the other common warblers passing through. One notable absence was that of the finch flock on the rubbish tip, the only seed-eaters present being a flock of 30 Tree Sparrows.



For the winter the usual Corn Bunting roost returned, together with the Water Rail, Snipe and Mallard.

#### Ringling:

A summary of totals and controls are included in the "Ringling Report" - suffice it here to outline the year's programme.

"Peanut trapping" continued in January and February, providing a number of Blue and Great Tits. Trapping at the Corn Bunting roost was carried out on one day when 4 birds were caught with 2 Reed Buntings. We have yet to discover the best method of trapping Corn Buntings at roost, as 4 out of nearly 400 birds present is hardly a significant proportion, and if any serious study is to emerge, then it will be necessary to increase the catch considerably.

Netting in spring began on May 8th and continued through till mid-June to establish numbers of breeding warblers, as detailed above. During the spring and summer there were 2 controls of Reed Warblers ringed elsewhere and coming to Strivens to breed; also 2 birds returned having been ringed as juvs. in 1974, and 2 others, one ringed as adult and the other as juv. in 1975. It's nice to know that the birds approve of our management techniques!

Autumn ringling began on Aug. 13th, when there was a strong Willow Warbler passage, and towards the end of the month warbler numbers were boosted by a good passage of Reed and Sedge Warblers which were feeding on the aphids covering the reeds. Small numbers of other warblers such as Whitethroat, Blackcap and Garden Warbler were also caught. There were 3 Reed Warbler controls (see "Ringling Report").

#### Management Work:

At the beginning of the year the outfall ditch was blocked up and the water level raised by 8". It was this simple piece of work that has had the greatest effect on the reed-bed, with aphids abounding as also Reed and Sedge Warblers and Mallard nesting. It had the effect of raising reed height by 2 feet, increasing the density of reeds and their thickness of stem. Willow herb and other unwanted species were driven to the fringes of the reed-bed and left a clear span of reeds across the middle. With this success it is hoped to raise the water level by a further amount, so giving the reeds more water to "use" - they actually transpire vast amounts of water during their growth period - and providing further areas for them to spread to. One unforeseen disastrous effect of the flooding was that the patch of reeds cut on rotation



during the winter failed to grow during the summer, as we had cut off the oxygen supply to the rhizomes by "drowning" the cut stems. We learn by our mistakes! Due to this no patch of reeds has been cut this winter, but hopefully the bare patch will overgrow within 2 years and then we will return to our rotational system of cutting, thus preventing a build-up of reed waste.

Further planting has been carried out by the transplanting of small alder bushes growing on the rubbish tip to the dry fringe areas of the reed-bed, and the planting of osiers in similar places, thus further diversifying the habitat available for breeding and passage warblers.

We can now look forward to 1978 to see the continuing effect of our work. Thanks for organising this work and the members of the Sussex Ornithological Society who carried it out must go to Mr. Alf Simpson, Conservation Officer of that society. I must also express our gratitude to Mr. C.G. Strivens, of Gatewick Farm, Steyning for continuing to allow us to "degenerate" possible agricultural land in this way! With his co-operation we are now creating the finest compact marshland habitat in central Sussex. With reed marsh so scarce in the county every bit is worth preserving and studying.

P.J.C.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS

A promise to spend Christmas with our daughter and her family in Izmir saw us leaving Heathrow on December 16th on a delayed flight of Turkish Airlines which missed the last connection at Istanbul and obliged us to spend the night there - at the airline's expense!

However, we arrived in Izmir the following morning in mild, mainly sunny weather. Next day I made a familiar walk through a nearby hillside olive grove and was interested to see the change in bird population from the species I had seen in early and late summer. Black Redstarts were numerous, Robin and Dunnock were present, all as winter visitors, as were Chiffchaff and Sardinian Warbler. But the most common species was Chaffinch, which had descended from the higher ground of its breeding areas.

Of the summer species, Great, Blue and Sombre Tit were still there as was Syrian Woodpecker, Little Owl and the three corvids - Hooded Crow, Jackdaw and Magpie. Collared Doves (the Germans call them Turkish Doves) were in there usual strength, as were Corn



and Gird Bunting, Goldfinch and Greenfinch and the ubiquitous House Sparrow. There seemed to be some winter influx of Starling, Grey Wagtail, Stonechat and Wren.

A fishing lagoon on the nearby coast, with bordering marshes, had a wintering population of Coot, Great Crested and Black-necked Grebe (the latter in some numbers), a few Red-breasted Mergansers and Cormorants, and up to 70 Dalmatian Pelicans. Gulls were either Black-headed or Herring (the local yellow-legged race) but no Mediterranean Gulls which abound in summer. There was, however, the odd Slender-billed Gull, one Gull-billed Tern and one or two Sandwich Terns, Cetti's Warbler was still in good voice on the marsh, and there were pleasant flocks of a dozen or so Serin.

The weather was not much warmer than an average English Christmas, with snow on the mountains across the Gulf. But it was strange to see "business as usual" on Christmas Day, which is not, of course, a Turkish holiday. Fortunately, since it fell on a Saturday the children were not at school.

Walks slightly further afield added several more species - Rock Bunting, Rock Nuthatch, Crested Lark and Golden Eagle - whilst Blackcap and Chiffchaff were regular in the garden. But the most rewarding day was January 1st, when I gained access to a salt works across the Gulf, affording acres of salt water pools with the splendid sight of some 500 Greater Flamingoes, 200 Avocets, 150 Pintail, 3 or 4 Ruddy Shelduck, about 500 Redshank with some 10 Spotted Redshank and 21 Curlew, with a solitary Kingfisher and several Little and Great White Egrets - a fine start to the year!

On a final excursion to the marshes, upwards of 30 Kentish Plover were seen, and views of a Marsh and a Hen Harrier obtained. Finally, as we left Istanbul, under a light covering of snow, my first Turkish Rooks - so common here - were strutting on the airport tarmac.

C.F.H.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FROM OUR MEMBERS' NOTEBOOKS

Raven at No Man's Land. One on January 15th. Large black bird with long wedge-shaped tail, long neck and heavy bill. Buzzard sized. Seen well at range of c100 yards.

R.F.P.

Jack Snipe near Adur Bridge. Two birds seen beside small reed bed at about 5 feet on February 13th which flew out as I walked round edge. No call note. Dumpy build, bill shorter than Snipe. Flew a



short distance and dropped into ditch. When I returned to the reed bed 10 minutes later they flew out again and disappeared. One seen in same place on Dec. 21st.

M.W.

Manx Shearwater at Ferring. One flew E-W April 26th. Size of Little Gull, with longer wings; very slender, with completely dark upper parts, body and upper wings, light under parts and underwings. Flight typically up and down over waves with wings held rigidly in glide. Seen in a fair light at 400-500 m. in SW gale-force wind.

B.F.F. & F.J.F.

Long-eared Owl at Coombes. Seen at the end of the drive to Applesham farm in the Coombes road at 8pm. on February 27th. I had it in view at about 20 feet in undipped headlights. Its ear-tufts were very obvious and I was struck by the owl's slim appearance.

B.R.R.

Black Terns and Little Gulls at Shoreham Beach. 4 immature Black Terns were seen on August 25th at Shoreham Beach near the Harbour on August 25th with 2 Little Gulls. Both with buoyant flight. Black Terns had very dark plumage, especially on shoulders and back. Tail greyish, and greyish cap to head, rather "smudged". Rest of head whitish. Little Gulls, both juvenile, were seen feeding in the surf. The clear 'W' on the back and the small size were obvious. Head had greyish markings on it and a spot behind the eye. Appeared such "cleaner" than Black-headed Gull.

M.W.

Blue Tits nesting at Southwick. A pair used nest-box from mid-February. Clutch of 12 eggs on May 15th, but on May 23rd the complete nest was on the ground with no trace of egg-shells, yolk etc. In 1975 Blue Tits produced a successful clutch of 8 almost fully-grown fledglings, but a sudden frost, we think, caused desertion of the nest and the young were found dead in it.

C.M.N.

Tawny Pipit at Cissbury Ring. On August 23rd at 0915 hrs., my attention was drawn to the bird by a flight call similar to Yellow Wagtail. I then located a pipit flying overhead with a party of Skylarks. It descended into a pasture with the larks from which I flushed it with them; on rising a loud sparrow-like "chuckkeep" was heard, repeated several times. It landed about 40m. away in fairly long grass. In flight it strongly resembled Yellow Wagtail, undulating and with a larger body and longer tail than Meadow Pipit, and with longer wings; not so plump and heavy as a Skylark.



In flight plumage was very pale with white outer tail-feathers just visible and no streaking.

The bird was then seen briefly twice on the ground, with difficulty owing to the length of grass, but the erect stance and long tail were clearly seen as it moved about. Plumage overall greyish-buff with no streaks on body (very pale beside the larks). The unstreaked head was as pale as the body; I could not see a moustachial stripe but supercilium was faintly visible. Head held high on ground, bill longer than Meadow Pipit. When flushed with the larks its pale underparts were prominent; and when the bird had gained height, flying in a straight line, another call was heard, "tsyeep", repeated 2 or 3 times at several second intervals.

Observation time about 5 minutes. Last seen flying W. over Cissbury Ring. In 1970 C. M. Vesey recorded a Tawny Pipit near this location on August 27th.

B.F.F.

Cetti's Warbler at the Sanctuary. Bird mist-netted October 3rd and 7th at 0900 hrs. Calm and clear both days.

Size of Sedge Warbler, more rounded head; upperparts, wings, head back upper tail a uniform dark chestnut to mahogany; underparts messy silvery white mixed with muddy brown mainly on the chest and flanks; undertail coverts brown broadly fringed white; pale whitish thin eyestripe extending  $\frac{1}{4}$ " behind eye, thin white incomplete eye-ring; tail feathers 10 only, soft very rounded and disproportionately large; wings short rounded uniform warm brown, no bars, underwing silvery, Bill thin, bony brown with paler lower mandible; legs pale straw. Plumage was very soft and fluffy, similar in character to that of recently fledged birds. (I gather from A.B.W., who has handled many on the continent, that even adults have this character).

When released the bird flew low along the ground into thick scrub, similar to Reed Warblers when released; the overall darker brown, short rounded wings and large rounded tail were evident. It was watched for 30 seconds before disappearing, during which time it was skulking close to the ground; it cocked its tail like a Wren twice. No call or note was heard. According to A.B.W. the wing measurement is for a female.

J.A.N.



## GARDEN BIRDS 1977

### Garden in Portslade (J.A.N.)

Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Linnets, Goldfinches, Kestrel, Tawny Owl, Whimbrel, Cuckoo, Martins and Swifts.

### Garden in Lancing (R.I.)

Lapwing, Siskin, Pinkfeet, Greenshank, Coal Tit, Willow Warbler, Wheatear, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Collared Dove.

### Garden at Patcham (B.J.S.)

Green Woodpecker regularly, Kestrel bred.

### Garden at Broadwater (B.C.)

Winter and early spring Blackcaps, nesting Swifts.

### Garden in Goring (B.C.)

Yellow Wagtails and female Redstart.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS

### Saturday 15th January - Sidlesham Ferry/Church Norton with Mr. B. Forbes

Only one member joined the leader, deputising for Mr. C. Mitchell on a cold windy day. Four Avocets were seen at the Ferry, together with four Ruffs. On the walk to Church Norton along the harbour edge a few Red-breasted Mergansers, some Wigeon and one or two pintail were noted, and a Water Rail was seen by the Severals.

Later, at Chichester Gravel Pits, there was a female Scaup and 35 Gadwall; and a Sparrowhawk was seen over the road.

### Sunday 6th February - Amberley Wild Brooks with Mr. B. Forbes and Mr. C. Messer

Eight members joined the leaders in fine weather after early rain. From the starting point at Greatham Bridge 9 Bewick's Swans were seen, and during the walk to Amberley various tits, a Nuthatch and a Tree Creeper were observed, as well as 30 Tree Sparrows, 300 Fieldfares, a Green Woodpecker and 6 Stonechats. Only Bernard Forbes managed to get a brief glimpse of a Great Grey Shrike.

Duck on the Wild Brooks included 80 Mallard, 500-600 Teal, 200 Wigeon, 30 Pintail and 120 Shoveler. Near the river bank a Sparrowhawk - if not two! - was noted, and some 300 Snipe were put up. Stock Doves were seen, and as a finale three Short-eared Owls were flushed from the Brooks, and a Kestrel and 20 Ruff observed on the bank.

Saturday April 30th. Sanctuary with Dr. J.A. Newnham

Sixteen members visited the sanctuary on this warm spring morning for the annual ringing demonstration. There were plenty of spring arrivals to be seen and several of these were trapped allowing close inspection of their plumage. As usual, the best birds were caught when the party was absent, a Tawny Owl at 0800 hrs and a Garden Warbler in the early afternoon. Although no rare or exotic birds were seen most members left with the feeling they had learnt a little more about our common birds as well as enjoying a morning in the sun.

Wednesday May 25th - Wiggonholt Common with Mr. B. J. Short

Owing to a misunderstanding as to the exact venue, the designated leader, Colin Messer, never did find his flock. Instead 12 members, led by Brian Short, went to Rackham whilst awaiting dusk. On a hot, humid and still evening they had excellent and often very close views of two Barn Owls, sitting on a wall and tree, one Little Owl not so close, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker in flight. They also heard a Cuckoo calling and two Snipe drumming. Woodcock, 5 in all, were seen here and on the return to Wiggonholt, where, however, no Nightjars were seen or heard.

Saturday June 18th - Charlton Forest with Miss V. Lyon and Mr. R. Meadows

Fourteen members met at 8 p.m., the outing being led by Mr. Meadows - deputising for Dr. Stafford who was in Lapland - and recorded by Miss Lyon.

The main object of the expedition was to find Nightjars, but the trees had grown up so much since the previous season that the birds appeared to have moved away. We did, however, hear one churr briefly at 9.24 p.m., and we had close views as it flew up and along the edge of the high pines. Woodcock were very much in evidence, and from a total of about 8 we had close views of two chasing each other with much squeaking.

Other birds heard included several Willow Warblers, a Blackcap Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler and a family of Coal Tits calling.



There were plenty of Spotted Orchids along the path, and one wild blue Aquilegia.

Sunday September 11th - Belle Tout/Whitbread Hollow with Mr. B. J. Short

Only 6 members met at Belle Tout on a cloudy day with a strong SW wind and rain in the air, although it brightened later. In the Horseshoe Plantation two Spotted Flycatchers and a Male Kestrel were seen, and a Chiffchaff - larger and browner than usual - which was thought to be of the Scandinavian race.

Drawing blank at Birling Gap, the party moved on to Whitbread Hollow where a male Ring Ousel, a Redstart, a Tree Pipit, 3 Spotted Flycatchers, two late Swifts and some Yellow Wagtails were added to the day's list.

Sunday 23rd October - Cissbury/Chanctonbury with Mr. C. Messer

About 8 members turned out at the Steep Down car park for the walk to Chanctonbury. Sparrowhawks were present as usual and also a few Kestrels, although their numbers were noticeably down on previous years. We encountered none of the larger raptors that occasionally haunt the area.

A Ring Ousel was seen at No Man's Land - about a dozen had been seen only two days before. A more unusual bird for the Downs was a Snipe which flew up from a muddy corner of a field. Although the walk did not produce a great many birds, I think we all enjoyed the exercise.

Saturday 19th November - Cissbury/Chanctonbury with Mr. B. Forbes

This outing began at 2 p.m. and 6 members joined the leader at Steep Down car park in a bleak north-west wind.

In the morning a keeper had seen a Rough-legged Buzzard but this was not seen in the afternoon, nor were there any Short-eared Owls. However views were had of a Sparrowhawk, and 200 Redwing, 100 Fieldfare, 2 Stonechats and a few Tree Sparrows were seen on a walk which continued until dusk.

SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31st DECEMBER 1977

RECEIPTS

EXPENDITURE

|                           |         |                          |         |
|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Brought forward from 1976 | 63.32   | Subscription R.S.P.B.    | 3.00    |
| Subscriptions 121 @ £2    |         | BRITISH BIRDS            | 16.00   |
| 6 @ £1                    | 248.00  | Binding                  | 4.70    |
| Donations                 | 2.99    | Affiliation Fee B.T.O.   | 5.00    |
| Sale of Reports           | 90      | Hire Lecture Room        | 14.00   |
| Bank Interest             | 3.29    | Lecture Expenses         | 19.00   |
|                           |         | Field Committee Expenses | 2.00    |
|                           |         | Sanctuary Rent           | 4.00    |
|                           |         | Printing & Duplicating   | 72.00   |
|                           |         | Postage                  | 17.37   |
|                           |         | Miscellaneous Expenses   | 1.50    |
|                           |         | Balance in Hand 31.12.77 |         |
|                           |         | 31.12.77                 | 159.93  |
|                           | <hr/>   |                          | <hr/>   |
|                           | £318.50 |                          | £318.50 |
|                           | <hr/>   |                          | <hr/>   |

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

G. W. RAMPTON  
Hon. Treasurer

\* \* \* \* \*

LIST OF LECTURES 1977

|               |  |                       |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| January 22nd  | Ornitholidays to Florida                     | Mr. L.G. Holloway     |
| February 19th | Welcome to Shetland                          | Mr. & Mrs. A. Simpson |
| March 26th    | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING<br>followed by a Talk | Mr. P. Martin         |
| October 29th  | Birdwatching in Sussex<br>Today              | Mr. Tony Marr         |
| November 26th | Protection of Birds at<br>Home and Abroad by | Mr. Richard Porter    |

\* \* \* \* \*



# SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP LIST 1977

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mr. & Mrs. S.R. Allen     | 3 Mill Hill, Shoreham BN4 5TG.                                |
| Miss I.D. Barlow          | 43 King's Stone Avenue, Steyning<br>BN4 3FJ.                  |
| Miss H. Bartlett          | "Chancton", The Street, Old Shoreham.                         |
| Miss K.M. Bartlett        | Flat 2, 49 Walsingham Rd. Hove BN3 AFE.                       |
| Miss A. Bayliss           | 13 The Street, Pyecombe, Brighton BN4 7EE.                    |
| Mr. J.H. Betcher          | 146 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.                       |
| Mr. B.R. Beasley          | 39 Mill Lane, Shoreham.                                       |
| Miss J. Biggs (Hon.)      | c/o Mrs. Wyatt, 3 St. Botolphs Rd. Worthing.                  |
| Mr. & Mrs. B. Blake       | 10 Greenacres, Shoreham-by-Sea.                               |
| Miss V.V. Blake           | 35 Hollingbury Gardens, Worthing.                             |
| Mr. K. Bolingbroke,       | 24 Cornwall Gardens, Brighton 6.                              |
| Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Bowes,    | 40 Exmoor Drive, Worthing.                                    |
| Mrs. K.M. Bowyer          | 6 Seafields, The Close, Shoreham-by-Sea                       |
| Mr. B.M. Buckler          | 116 St. Leonards Avenue, Hove BN3 4QN.                        |
| Mr. A. Burstow            | 27 Erringham Road, Shoreham.                                  |
| Mr. S. J. Carter          | 111 Ophir Road, Worthing.                                     |
| Mrs. Carey                | 44 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham.                              |
| Mrs. E. Chadwell          | 19 Goldstone Crescent, Hove BN3 6LQ.                          |
| Mrs. M.E. Chandler        | "Four Winds", Church Close, North Lancing.                    |
| Miss M. Charles           | 298 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham.                            |
| Mr. & Mrs. A.B. Childs    | Cobbers, 6 Bennett Avenue, Hove BN3 6UR.                      |
| Mr. A. Chipperfield       | 62 Beach Green, Shoreham-by-Sea.                              |
| Mr. R.W. Clay             | 11 Roman Road, Steyning                                       |
| Mr. B.R. Clay             | 35 Leigh Road, Worthing.                                      |
| Mr. P.J. Clay             | 11 Roman Road, Steyning.                                      |
| Mr. S.E. Cole             | Barn End, 27 Amberley Drive, Goring.                          |
| Mr. J. Cook               | 18 Oakapple Road, Southwick.                                  |
| Mrs. G.M. Cook            | 84 Parkside, Shoreham.  |
| Mr. P.N. Cook             | 84 Parkside, Shoreham.  |
| Mr. & Mrs. H.E. Cooper    | 38 Hurst Road, Hassocks.                                      |
| Miss M. Davies-Scourfield | 2 Andrew Close, Steyning.                                     |
| Messrs. G.D.P. & J. Dixon | Rock Cottage, Common Hill,<br>West Chiltonington, Pulborough. |
| Mrs. P. Drawnfield        | 3 Erringham Road, Shoreham-on-Sea.                            |
| 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.  |
| Mrs. E. Farmer             | 78 Park Avenue, Shoreham.   |
| Mr. F.J. Forbes            | 156 Salvington Road, Worthing BN13 2JW.                               |
| Mr. B. Forces              | 42 Penstone Park, Lancing.  |
| Mrs. I.M. Fry              | 3 Woodview, Shoreham-by-Sea.  |
| 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,<br>Storrington.                       |
| Mr. & Mrs. D.R. Grant      | 12 New Road, Shoreham   |
| Miss C.P.S. Griffith (Hon) | 16 Devonshire Close, Amersham, Bucks.<br>HP6 5JG.                     |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. Hale         | "Lamont", 23 Offington Drive, Worthing.                               |
| Mr. P. Hall                | 23 Pound Lane, Upper Beeding.   |
| Mr. R. Hamlyn              | Chapel Lodge, Alderholt Park, Alderholt,<br>Nr. Fordingbridge, Hants. |
| Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Helyer     | 41 Roman Way, Southwick BN4 4TN.                                      |
| Mr. A.E. Holman            | Oakmere, Mill Road, West Chilmington.                                 |
| 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.                               |
| Mr. & Mrs. R.A.Kingsnorth  | Kentwyn Cottage, Woodmancote,<br>Henfield BN5 9SO.                    |
| Miss H. Landman            | 7 Leeward Road, West Worthing.  |
| Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Lovett     | 26 Vale Walk, Findon Valley, Worthing<br>BN14 OBS.                    |
| 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.  |
| Mr. R.P. Meadows           | Ashtrees, Aldingbourne, Chichester.                                   |
| Mr. C.E. Messer            | 56 Broadwater Street East, Worthing.                                  |
| Mr. B. Metcalfe            | 18 Newham Lane, Steyning.   |
| Miss J. Monks              | Nurses Home, St. Richards Hospital,<br>Chichester.                    |
| Mr. & Mrs. H. Newcombe     | 4 Paythorne Close, Southwick BN4 3YB.                                 |
| Dr. J.A. Newnham           | 38 Dean Close, Portslade, Sussex.                                     |
| Miss J.V. Nye              | 16 Mallory Road, Hove 4.  |



|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Miss M. Osborne          | 79 Underdown Road, Southwick                              |
| 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 Street, Beeding, Steyning, Sussex.          |
| 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 Terringes Avenue, Worthing.                            |
| Mr. H. Richardson,       | 35 Mill Lane, Shoreham.                                   |
| Mr. & Mrs. H.B. Rees     | "Garth", 25 West Drive, Ferring, Worthing.                |
| Mr. & Mrs. F.W. Robbins  | 114 Old Shoreham Road, Southwick.                         |
| Mr. G.A. Robbins         | 114 Old Shoreham Road, Southwick.                         |
| Mr. T.D. Rogers          | 32 Buckingham Road, Shoreham.                             |
| Miss Rogers              | 157 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham.                         |
| 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.                                   |
| Miss Stringfellow        | 7 Queensway, Horsham.                                     |
| Mr. K.J. Tanner          | 31 Clarendon Road, Shoreham.                              |
| 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       | 10 Boxgrove Gardens, Aldwick, Bognor Regis.               |
| Mr. C.M. Veysey          | Ashmount, Southey Road, Worthing.                         |
| Mrs. O.M. Vines          | 7 Stocks House, Sompting BN15 0BB.                        |
| Miss J.M. Wakeford       | 32 Seventh Avenue, Lancing BN15 0PJ.                      |
| Dr. B. Watson            | 83 Buckingham Road, Shoreham.                             |
| Mr. M. Welfare           | 11 Rectory Road, Shoreham-by-Sea.                         |
| 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

# 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 to 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><br><u>No.</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Name</u>    | <u>Locality</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Recorder's</u><br><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 were 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. B. Forbes

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. B. Forbes

&

Mr. C. E. Messer

Field Committee:

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## NOTICE

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

British Trust for Ornithology

and

SHOREHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The membership fee is £2 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 £1 a year, also inclusive of the Report.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

From early April the address of the RECORDER will be

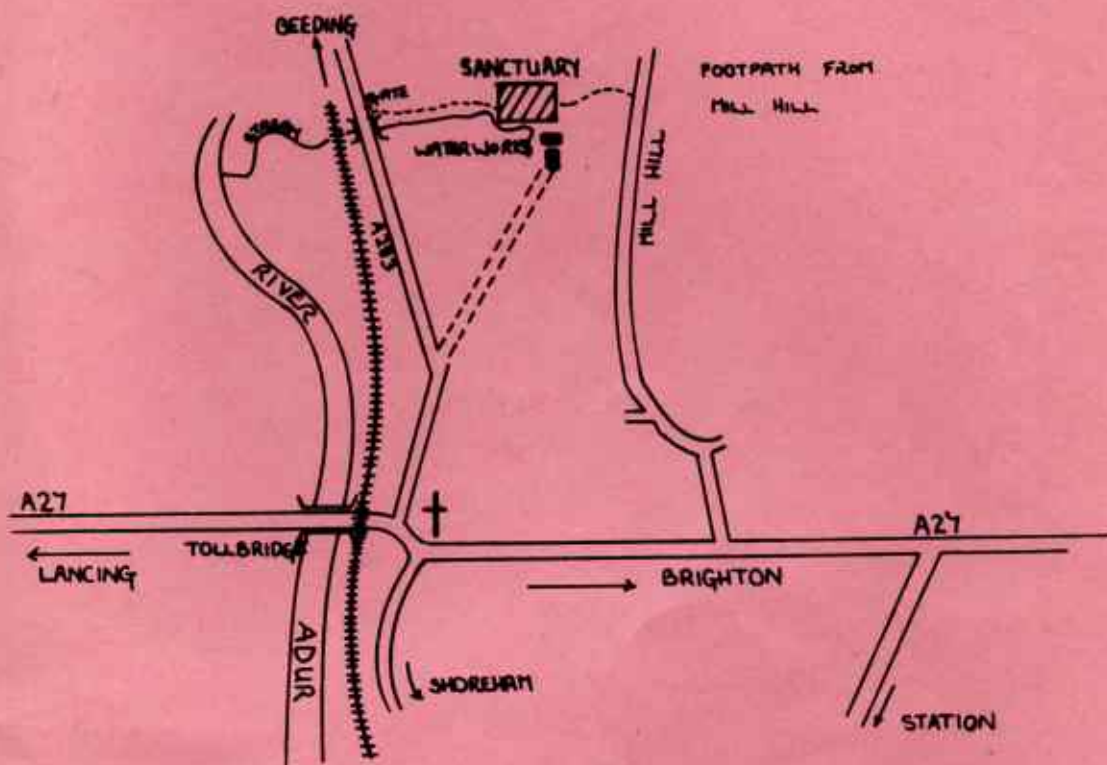
27 GERALD ROAD,  
WEST WORTHING.



EXTRA COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT MAY  
BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY AT 35p 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.