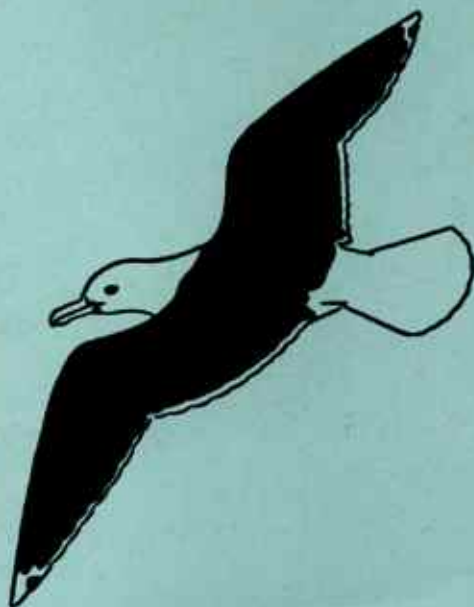


SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*Twentysixth Annual Report*



for the Year 1978

PRICE: 40p

# SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 1978

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

The continued success of any society such as ours relies on the maintenance of a balance between experience and youth.

Mr. George Rampton, our Treasurer since 1954, is a foundation member of the Society - five others are still members - and the longest serving officer after Dr. Stafford. Our finances could not have been in more efficient, agreeable or legible hands, and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. Despite a handicap which would have crushed lesser spirits, he has not merely attended nearly all our indoor meetings but can look back on some effective bird-watching and recording. Sadly, he has now decided to relinquish office and in expressing our warm appreciation of all he has done, we are glad to report that we have a volunteer to fill the vacancy, and the Council has approved the election of



Mr. F.G. Ranger in his place.

At the other extreme of youth, we salute Mark Welfare - 1978's Young Ornithologist of the Year - who has not only provided plenty of records, but has collected all the facts and figures of the current hard-weather movements into a comprehensive article which, although strictly belonging to the 1979 Report, is included as a matter of topicality.

We are again indebted to Dr. John Newnham for all the work he has put in on the records and the articles arising from them - as well as a considerable amount of vigorous forestry in the Sanctuary! Our thanks, too, to Mrs. Farmer and our other officers for their continued efforts on our behalf. As last year, Philip Clay has given us a full report on the detailed work he and his team have put in at Strivens Reed-bed.

Our indoor meetings were as usual well attended and appreciated, and we roamed the world from Selwyn's Wood to Afghanistan and from Lapland to Florida. Field outings again suffered somewhat from the weather, but only on a bitterly cold February day did the numbers fall below 12. We should record here our thanks to members of the Sussex O.S. who have helped us in leading outings, lecturing and helping with conservation work.

The weather pattern in 1978 - a late spring, wettish summer and a long fine autumn - combined with an increase in sea-watching from Brighton to Worthing, meant that a greater proportion of notable records came from the coast. It will be interesting to see if the exciting (if uncomfortable!) start to 1979 is maintained.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1978

1978 was the third successive year that the Society's sanctuary had been visited on over 200 occasions.

| Month         | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of visits | 16  | 16  | 21  | 33  | 25  | 13  | 12  | 14  | 15  | 18  | 11  | 9   |

An analysis of the month by month coverage of the copse shows a fairly steady number of visits throughout the year, apart from during the spring months when the anticipation of new arrivals obviously encouraged more frequent observations.

Most of the watching at the Sanctuary is carried out by C.F.Helyer and myself, so this report is drawn up predominantly from our notebooks, but it does include a few records from other individuals. In years past a daily log book was kept in the ringing hut; this has the obvious advantage that all visits can be recorded, and visitors can see what birds have been observed recently. This can be easily reinstated if sufficient members visit the copse.

Each year a lot of time and hard work is needed to maintain the Sanctuary as a copse. During the early months of 1978 a large area of osier was coppiced in the S.E. corner and on the N. boundary, and later a small area of willow and elder in the centre of the copse was cleared. The results were very encouraging, as these areas were favoured by the passage warblers in the autumn. Fortunately the winter water-level was not as high as previous years, so the bridges only needed minimal maintenance, but the perimeter wire needed reinforcing in a number of places after further break-ins by cattle.

The early months are ornithologically lean periods at the Sanctuary with very few birds being seen or trapped. At least two Chiffchaffs wintered in the area, one or other being seen on 7 dates in Jan. and Feb. The usual wintering Water Rail was seen on most days, and a Grey Wagtail on several days feeding by the flooded stream. In the fields the peak counts of gulls and waders were: 500 Black-headed Gulls, 250 Great Black-backed Gulls, 100 Common Gulls, 300 Lapwings and 18 Redshanks. The cold snap in mid-Feb. brought in 20 Snipe, a Jack Snipe on Feb. 11 and 12, 30 Fieldfare and Redwing, and a Little Owl on Feb. 18, a species which hadn't been seen for several years. The roosting birds were similar to previous years with c.200 Collared Doves and a small Starling roost in the copse; and a scattered Blackbird/thrush roost on the hillside.

Towards the end of March Goldcrests and Chiffchaffs became more numerous and spring was in the air, but by mid-April it was obvious that the migrants were arriving late, and the numbers of passage birds at the Sanctuary were far fewer than usual. The table shows the arrival date and peak numbers of the commoner migrants. Comparison with previous years reveals 1978 as the most disappointing spring recorded in recent years. Indeed, two regularly occurring species, the Sedge Warbler and Yellow Wagtail, were totally absent.



| SPECIES            | SPRING       |                                       | AUTUMN                             |           |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
|                    | Arrival date | Peak Numbers                          | Peak Numbers                       | Last Date |
| Chiffchaff         | Mar 15       | Mar 29 (4) Apr 2 (4)                  | Sep 17 (9), 19 (11),<br>Oct 4 (10) | Oct 14    |
| Willow Warbler     | Apr 14       | Apr 21 (10) May 3 (6)                 | Aug 13 (25+) Aug 28 (11)           | Sep 24    |
| L. Whitethroat     | Apr 24       | No more than 2                        | Aug 27 (8+) Sep 2 (4)              | Sep 21    |
| Whitethroat        | Apr 27       | No more than 2                        | No more than 2                     | -         |
| Blackcap           | Apr 29       | No more than 2                        | Sep 17 (7+) Sep 19 (8+)            | Nov 1     |
| Garden Warbler     | Apr 29       |                                       | Aug 19 (3)                         | Sep 2     |
| Sedge Warbler      | -            | No spring records                     | No more than 1                     | Sep 17    |
| Reed Warbler       | May 4        | No more than 2                        | Aug 13 (5)                         | Sep 13    |
| Swallow            | Apr 19       | Apr 23 (5) May 3 (12)                 | Sep 13 (several hundred)           | Oct 18    |
| House Martin       | Apr 22       | May 3 (12) May 12 (25)<br>May 24 (60) | Sep 21 (200)<br>Oct 4 (500)        | Oct 18    |
| Swift              | Apr 27       | May 6 (4) May 24 (50)                 | No large numbers                   | Sep 13    |
| Turtle Dove        | Apr 28       | No more than 2                        | Very few                           | Sep 29    |
| Spotted Flycatcher | May 5        | No more than 2                        | Very few                           | Aug 30    |

The few highlights in the spring included an odd-looking pale Phylloscopus on Apr.7, a Sparrowhawk on Apr.25, a Cirl Bunting on Apr.29 and Cuckoos on Apr.25 and Jun.10. Prior to the construction of the Adur flyover Cuckoos were commonplace over the Sanctuary and Mill Hill during the spring. Alas! they have been scarce in recent years.

The breeding season followed the usual pattern, and by mid-June there were plenty of juveniles of the resident species hopping about. Slightly more interesting breeders included 6 pairs of Corn Buntings, 5 pairs of Swallows, 4 pairs of Reed Warblers, 2 pairs each of Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Lesser Whitethroat, and singles of Turtle Dove and Stonechat.

The beginning of the long autumn passage was evident in late July as small numbers of Swifts were gathering overhead and moving off towards the S.E., and the number of warblers increased slightly. A young Lesser Spotted Woodpecker trapped on Jul.29 provided an added interest. It is not until August that the warblers start moving in earnest with the first Garden and Sedge Warblers, and an increase in the number of Willow Warblers and Lesser Whitethroats occurring on Aug.6.

The above table shows the peak passage days and the first and last dates for the commoner migrants.

After a disappointing spring for warbler passage the autumn returned to normal, with average ringing totals for all the warblers with the exception of the Sedge Warbler, for which there were only 4 records. Observations from other reed-bed sites suggest that British Sedge Warblers had a poor breeding season in 1978. Hirundines were certainly fewer than in previous autumns - the cold summer may have discouraged breeding pairs from having second broods and encouraged an earlier return south, as during September there was only one morning, the 13th, when several hundred Swallows were seen, and the largest House Martin flock was only 500 strong.

Once again there were noticeable absentees during the autumn. There were no records of Redstart, Pied Flycatcher or Ring Ouzel; Wheatear, Yellow Wagtail and Whinchat were only recorded once on Aug.23, Sep.6 and Oct.8 respectively, and no more than two Stonechats were seen on any one day.

Throughout the autumn large flocks of cardueline finches frequented the thistle beds on the hillside and marsh, with



maximum numbers occurring in late Sep. and early Oct. when there were at least 300 Goldfinches and 200 Linnets present. Other finches were less numerous. A glance at the ringing totals shows that Greenfinches and Yellowhammers were fewer than usual, and the only Tree Sparrow was seen on Oct.8. One sizeable flock of Corn Buntings was recorded on Aug.28 when 260 flew over the copse, and although Redpolls were recorded regularly between Oct.8 and Nov.8 their numbers never exceeded the 6 seen on Oct.21.

As parts of the Sanctuary gradually mature from copse into woodland one would expect to record more species typical of woodland. During the autumn no less than 5 Treecreepers were trapped, Great Spotted Woodpeckers were present on 7 occasions, a Green Woodpecker was seen on Oct.15, 2 Tawny Owls frequented the area, and 2 Coal Tits were recorded on Oct.25. One could speculate that these records are a reflection of the changing habitat.

Other unusual visitors to the Sanctuary during the autumn included at least 2 Kingfishers, 7 Curlews and a Tree Pipit on Sep.2, 2 Stock Doves on Oct.8 and yet another Little Owl on Oct.28.

The first of the winter thrushes, 20 Redwings, arrived on Oct.18 and numbers gradually built up until some 400 were feeding and roosting on the hillside. Blackbirds increased to 50-60 in the copse during the same period but Fieldfares weren't so numerous, with their peak of 20 on Dec.10. Undoubtedly the huge hawthorn crop attracted these thrushes, as by the end of the year when the berries were disappearing so their numbers diminished. Apart from the thrushes and the usual residents, the only record of note during Dec. referred to a party of 20 Long-tailed Tits, and not even the now regularly wintering Water Rail had returned.

I would like to express the Society's thanks to Mr. Santer and other employees of Southern Water Authority for their help throughout the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RINGING REPORT FOR 1978

1978 was the third successive year when over 3000 birds were ringed in the Shoreham area; the annual grand total was 3005 of which 195 were ringed as nestlings. At the sanctuary 1098 were ringed by Dr. John Newnham and Dr. Mark Wright; the London Gull Study Group with the help of all the local ringers cannon-netted

693 gulls on the beach; the Steyning Ringing Group based at Strivens reed bed totalled 615 and Dr.Barrie Watson ringed 599 at various sites around Shoreham.

Training of new ringers continued throughout the year and in the autumn Dr.Mark Wright gained his C permit. Dr.Barrie Watson was unburdened at the end of the year when his term as chairman for the Ringing and Migration Committee expired, his successor, Dr.Peter Stanley, is also an active local ringer in his role as leader of the gull group.

The gull group visited the area on 6 occasions during the winter months, their best trip being on Jan.22nd when the days catch was 346 Black headed Gulls, 8 Herring Gulls and 7 Common Gulls.

Below is a table of the birds ringed:-

|                  |     |                     |     |                      |     |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Moorhen .....    | 1   | Blue Tit .....      | 320 | Willow Warbler ...   | 241 |
| Redshank .....   | 11  | Coal Tit .....      | 6   | Chiffchaff .....     | 90  |
| Dunlin .....     | 18  | Marsh Tit .....     | 2   | Goldcrest .....      | 12  |
| Bar-t-Godwit ... | 1   | Willow Tit .....    | 2   | Spotted Flycatcher.. | 9   |
| Common Gull ...  | 10  | Long tailed Tit ..  | 24  | Dunnock .....        | 50  |
| Black-h-Gull ..  | 560 | Tree Creeper .....  | 7   | Tree Pipit .....     | 1   |
| Herring Gull ..  | 122 | Wren .....          | 74  | Pied Wagtail .....   | 271 |
| Great-B-B-Gull.. | 1   | Mistle Thrush ..... | 1   | Grey Wagtail .....   | 2   |
| Wood Pigeon .... | 1   | Song Thrush .....   | 62  | Starling .....       | 13  |
| Turtle Dove .... | 1   | Redwing .....       | 23  | Greenfinch .....     | 49  |
| Collared Dove..  | 21  | Blackbird .....     | 133 | Goldfinch .....      | 116 |
| Kingfisher ..... | 2   | Robin .....         | 49  | Linnet .....         | 10  |
| Gt-Spotted Wood. | 9   | Reed Warbler ....   | 105 | Redpoll .....        | 1   |
| Ls.Spotted Wood. | 1   | Sedge Warbler ....  | 32  | Bullfinch .....      | 38  |
| Swallow .....    | 146 | Blackcap .....      | 59  | Chaffinch .....      | 32  |
| House martin ..  | 81  | Garden Warbler ...  | 12  | Yellow Hammer .....  | 5   |
| Magpie .....     | 1   | Whitethroat .....   | 6   | Corn Bunting .....   | 2   |
| Great Tit .....  | 98  | Lesser Whitethroat  | 30  | Reed Bunting .....   | 30  |

The Bar-tailed Godwit, trapped in December on the Adur, and the Great Black backed Gull are additions to the local ringing list. The marked decline in the House Martin numbers was due to the absence of large flocks during the autumn; many of the other summer migrants were clearly fewer than in 1977. The record number of Pied Wagtails were ringed at a large roost in the reed bed by the Steyning road, recoveries over the next few years will hopefully show the origins of this large collection of wagtails.



During 1978 more recoveries were reported than in any previous year, the following is a selection:-

## 1. BLACK HEADED GULL.

The first two were both ringed at Worthing on 14.12.75.

- a. found dead 24.04.78 Ruovessi (Hame) FINLAND
- b. shot 25.06.78 Lohja Lake Uusimaa FINLAND
- c. ringed Ad. 14.12.75 Worthing beach  
found dead 02.04.78 Den Helder NETHERLANDS

the next two were both ringed at Hove on 13.02.77, d. as 1st year,

- d. controlled 22.01.78 Frelinghien (Nord) FRANCE
- e. found dead 24.03.78 Brighton

this is the only local recovery of a Black Headed Gull and suggests they may return to the same area in subsequent winters.

The following ten were all caught on Worthing beach on 22.01.78 and refer to adult birds unless otherwise stated.

- f. ringed 25.06.71 pullus Friesland NETHERLANDS
- g. .. 26.12.77 1st year Hollegum (W.Flanders)  
BELGIUM
- h. found dead 05.06.78 Ranua (Lappi) FINLAND
- i. shot 12.05.78 Keuruu (Vaasa) FINLAND
- j. found dead 09.06.78 Parikkala (Kymi) FINLAND
- k. injured 25.06.78 Västernorrland SWEDEN
- l. controlled 04.04.78 Copenhagen (Sjaelland) DENMARK
- m. .. 05.09.78 Friesland NETHERLANDS
- n. found dead 20.07.78 Hamut (Limburg) BELGIUM.ringed 1Y.
- o. controlled 22.01.78 Frelinghien (Nord) FRANCE

The recoveries from April to June are from the most likely breeding areas. Note how one individual (o.) was trapped on both sides of the channel in the course of one day; the bird must have travelled at least 260 km. during that afternoon, in a due East direction!

- p. ringed 22.03.74 Great Wakering Essex  
found dead 25.08.78 Durrington Sussex. 115km.SW.

## 2. HERRING GULL

- ringed Ad. 14.12.75 Worthing beach
- found dead 06.07.78 Penzance Cornwall 375 km.WSW.

### 3. HOUSE MARTIN

- a. ringed juv. 27.09.76 Shoreham sanc.  
killed by car 14.06.78 Dorchester Dorset 155 km.W.
- b. ringed juv. 26.09.77 Shoreham sanc.  
killed by cat 12.07.78 Woburn Bedfordshire 130 km.N.

Considering that 1600 House Martins have been ringed in the past three autumns these are the only two recoveries; both suggesting possible breeding areas.

- ### 4. BLUE TIT.
- ringed juv. 02.10.73 Littleington Sussex  
controlled 19.01.74 Shoreham sanc. 30km.W.  
killed by cat 16.05.78 Tunbridge Wells 49 km.NE.

Life histories involving more than one movement in small passerines are exceedingly rare, in 1978 we recorded two (see Reed Warbler).

### 5. REED WARBLER

- a. ringed juv. 03.09.77 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled 04.10.77 Lagoa de Santo Andre PORTUGAL
- Movements within Britain are regularly recorded in this area but this is only the third foreign recovery of a Shoreham ringed Reed Warbler; the others were from Morocco and Spain.

- b. ringed juv. 21.09.77 Shoreham  
controlled 26.08.78 Selby Yorkshire 325 km.N.
- c. ringed 13.08.78 Hornsea Mere Yorks  
controlled 16.09.78 S.R.B. 335 km.S.
- d. ringed juv. 14.08.75 Beachy Head Eastbourne  
controlled 14.06.78 Shoreham 38 km.WNW.
- e. ringed juv. 11.08.73 Farlington Hants.  
controlled ? Titchfield Haven Hants.  
controlled 14.06.78 Shoreham 65 km.E.
- f. ringed juv. 17.08.78 Lower Test Marsh Soton. Hants.  
controlled 27.08.78 Shoreham sanc. 85 km.E.
- g. ringed 15.05.77 S.R.B.  
controlled 11.06.78 Fleet Hants. 53 km.NW.

d. and e. were both breeding females. During the breeding season 26 breeding birds had two brightly coloured plastic rings placed on their left leg as part of a study; if any of these birds are sighted in the Adur valley I would appreciate receiving information about the date, site and colour combination.



6. BLACKCAP.

ringed F.G.m. 26.08.78 Godalming Surrey  
controlled 21.09.78 Shoreham sanc. 45 km.SE.

7. WILLOW WARBLER

a. ringed Ad. 08.04.77 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled 01.05.78 Camberley Surrey 63 km.NW.  
b. ringed F.G. 27.08.77 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled f. 07.05.78 Retford Nottinghamshire 280km.N  
c. ringed juv. 23.07.78 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled 11.08.78 Dungeness B.O. Kent 85 km.E.

these were probably on passage at all 6 captures. See Shm.  
rpt.1977.

8. STARLING

ringed juv. 04.06.74 Kaunas LITHUANIA  
controlled 13.03.76 Shoreham sanc.

this control is typical of this species; all 257 British  
recoveries in the U.S.S.R. and Baltic States are shown on  
pp103 Ringing and Migration Vol.2 No.2.

9. GREENFINCH

ringed 1Y.m. 17.01.76 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled 01.04.78 Epping Essex 98 km.NNE

many Greenfinches are recovered locally; nine, mainly from  
winter ringing, have been recovered outside Sussex in Devon,  
Surrey, Hertfordshire (3), Kent, Essex and Suffolk (2).

10. GOLDFINCH

ringed juv. 04.09.76 Shoreham sanc.  
found dead 05.01.78 Chateau-Chinon (Nievre) FRANCE

see article on Goldfinch migration in this report.

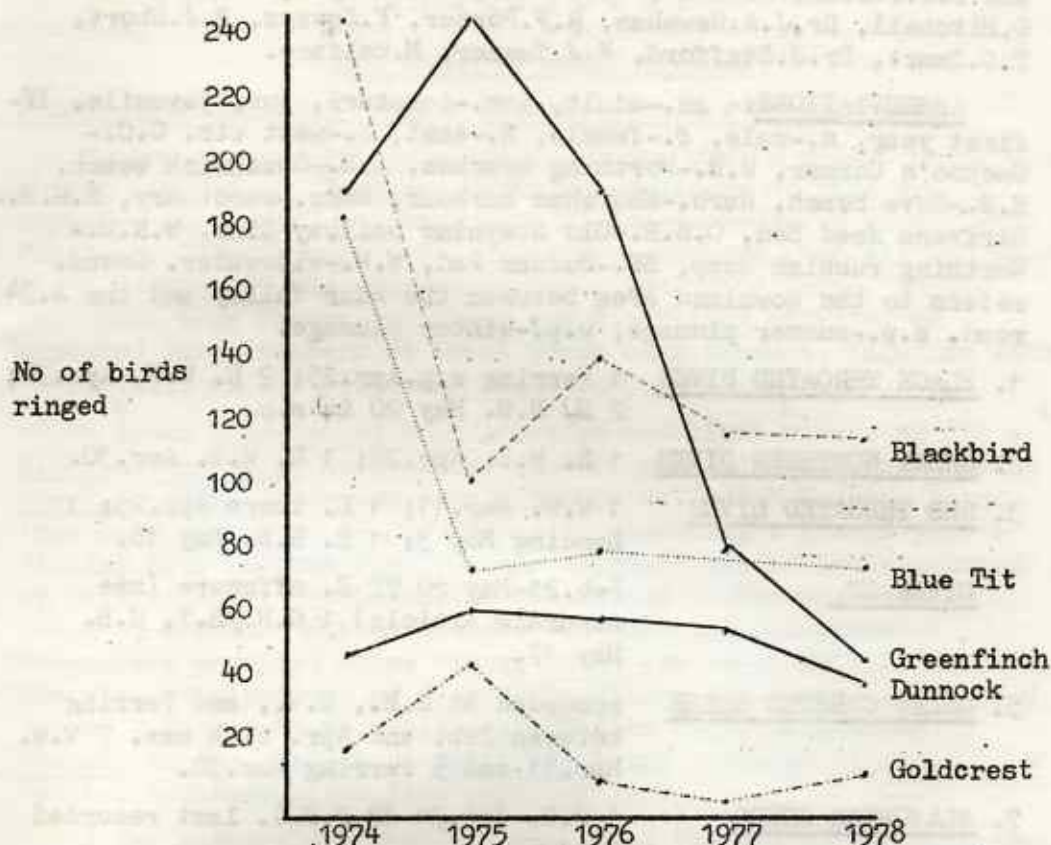
11. REED BUNTING

ringed 1Y f.25.10.75 Shoreham sanc.  
controlled 26.02.78 Banbury Oxon. roosting 150 km.WNW.

Reed Buntings usually move South and West to winter. The  
only other movement recorded in this area was of a female  
found dying in Shoreham in Feb. having been ringed at  
Dungeness in autumn.

Over the past five years the ringing at the sanctuary has  
been more regular and with more constant effort than previously;  
in this situation the ringing totals probably reflect the popula-  
tion present. The fig. below plots the ringing totals for five

regularly occurring species for the past five years and appears to show the changes in population levels.



Clearly the Dunnock enjoys a steady population at the sanctuary. Both Blackbirds and Blue Tits were numerous in 1974, but since then their numbers have stabilised, unlike the Greenfinch which has been remarkably scarce in the past two years for no apparent reason. The Goldcrest peak occurred in a year when there were enormous falls of Goldcrests during the autumn on the East coast; presumably some reached the sanctuary.

J.A.N.

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#### NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1978

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



Mrs. B. Buckler, Miss M. Davies-Scourfield, Mrs. B. R. Reeve, Miss E. M. B. Rogers, Messrs. S. R. Allen, B. Clay, P. Clay, J. Feest, B. F. and F. J. Forbes, D. Grant, T. Gravett, C. F. Helyer, R. Ives, O. Mitchell, Dr. J. A. Newnham, R. F. Porter, F. Severs, B. J. Short, T. C. Smart, Dr. J. Stafford, K. J. Tanner, M. Welfare.

**ABBREVIATIONS:-** ad.-adult, imm.-immature, juv.-juvenile, 1Y-first year, m.-male, f.-female, E.-east, W.-west etc. C.C.-Cuckoo's Corner, W.B.-Worthing beaches, S.B.-Southwick beach, H.B.-Hove beach, Harb.-Shoreham harbour, Sanc.-sanctuary, S.R.B.-Strivens Reed Bed, O.S.R.-Old Steyning railway line, W.R.D.-Worthing rubbish dump, SP.-Sussex Pad, W.W.-Widewater. Downs. refers to the downland area between the Adur Valley and the A.24 road. s.p.-summer plumage, w.p.-winter plumage.

1. BLACK THROATED DIVER 1 Ferring s.p. Apr. 25; 2 E. W.W. Apr. 30; 2 E. H.B. May 20 in s.p.

2. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER 1 E. W.B. Apr. 28; 1 E. W.W. Apr. 30.

3. RED THROATED DIVER 1 W.W. Mar. 11; 1 E. there Apr. 25; 1 Lancing May 3; 1 E. H.B. May 18.

DIVER SP.

Feb. 21-May 20 72 E. offshore (see separate article) 1 G.N./B.T. H.B. May 17.

5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE recorded at S.B., W.W., and Ferring between Feb. and Apr. with max. 7 W.W. Mar. 11 and 5 Ferring Mar. 30.

7. SLAVONIAN GREBE 1 H.B. Dec. 31 (R.F.P.). last recorded in 1975.

9. LITTLE GREBE recorded Adur and W.W. during winter months with max. W.W. 7 on Feb. 11 and 6 in late autumn. 1 E. S.B. Aug. 2.

16. MANX SHEARWATER 1 W., S.B. Mar. 28 (M.W.).

26. FULMAR Mar. 3-May 25 120 sightings offshore (see article), none seen in autumn.

27. GANNET Mar. 16-May 25 74 sightings offshore (see article), July 26-Nov. 28 frequently seen offshore with max. 18 fishing W.B. Oct. 4.

28. CORMORANT regularly seen offshore and up the Adur to the levels, max. Adur Levels 13 Jan.15.
29. SHAG 1 S.B. Feb.23; 1 W., H.B. Apr.15; 3 imm. S.B. Sept.24 and 1 there the following day; 1 ad. and 1 imm. S.B. Oct.3. This is by far the largest no. of records received for this sp.
30. HERON recorded in var. localities with max.13 S.P. in autumn.
40. WHITE STORK 1 over Goring Dec.31. (J.F.).
46. MALLARD 70 Adur and fields Jan.2; 16 S.R.B. Feb.25; bred in at least 3 localities; 24 Airport Oct.22; 32 Adur Levels Dec.17; 17 W., W.B. Dec.31.
46. TEAL 40 Adur Levels Jan.19 and 39 there Dec.17; 2 prs. S.P. Feb.20; Apr.14-May 17; 12 seen flying offshore on 4 dates max.7 Apr.14.
47. GARGANEY 2 Adur Levels Mar.24; 2 E., W.W. Apr.24.
50. WIDGEON 460 W. W.B. Dec.31 largest flock 120; heard the same evening over Goring.
52. PINTAIL 2 E., W.W. Feb.20 and 3 E., Harb. Feb.21; 1 W., W.B. Dec.31.
53. SHOVELER 1 m. C.C. Feb.20 and 21; 4 E., H.B. Apr.7; 4 W., W.W. Aug.3; 1 m. Tortington Nov.26 and 1 m. Wiston Pond Dec.19.
55. SCAUP 5 f. W., W.B. Dec.31.
56. TUFTED DUCK 2 prs. Wiston Pond Jan.1.
62. VELVET SCOTER 10 E., H.B. Apr.29 (J.A.N.)
64. COMMON SCOTER 2270 E. offshore during spring (see article); in autumn first recorded S.B. July 27 then irregular sightings offshore with a max. 44 W., Oct.2.
67. EIDER Jan.-Apr. 1 f. Harb.; Apr.8-Apr.28 15 sightings offshore 1 W.W. Nov.30.



69. RED BREATED MERGANSER recorded offshore regularly during the winter months with max. 30 Ferring Feb.11 and 14 W.W. Feb.14; 65 observed offshore on spring passage and 20 W. in cold weather Dec.31 W.B.
73. SHELDUCK Feb. and Mar. up to 4 upper Adur; Mar.27-May 26 111 sightings offshore (see article); 13 W., W.B. Nov.5 and 96 W. Dec.31.
- GREY GEESE SP. 12 (prob. Whitefronts) W., W.B.; 1 (prob. Grey-lag) W., W.B.; 30 + 3 W., H.B. all Dec.31.
76. WHITEFRONTED GOOSE 3 N.E. over Shoreham Feb.19; 14 NW., H.B. Dec.31 and 17 NW., W.B. Dec.31.
80. BRENT GOOSE 438 sightings offshore between Feb. and Apr.30; 2 W.B. Oct.1; 19 W. there Oct.26; 351 W. Nov. 26; 23 W. Nov.27 and 181 W. there Dec.31; 1 Adur Levels Dec.17; 1 light-bellied race Goring Nov.26.
82. CANADA GOOSE 1 W., H.B. May 9; 2 Adur Levels May 21; 16 W. Downs June 3.
86. BEWICKS SWAN 3 Adur Levels Jan.5; (PC).
91. BUZZARD 1 W. over Goring May 23; 1 Mill Hill June 1; 1 Downs Sept.10.
92. ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD 2 Downs late Nov./early Dec. (seen by Game-keeper).
93. SPARROW HAWK recorded Downs (max.3 Sept.2); Worthing; Sanc; Wiston; S.R.B.; Annington; Airport; Foredown; and Mill Hill. Bred in at least 1 site in the area.
94. GOSHAWK 1 f. Downs May 12 and 15. (OM).
98. HONEY BUZZARD 1 over Goring Sept.3 (JF). If this record is accepted by the county records committee it will be the first substantiated observation of this sp. in the area.
99. MARSH HARRIER 1 f. or imm. coasting W., H.B. and S.B. May 5; 1 f. flying N. high above the Adur May 7; up to 2 (f. and imm.) Airport May 7-9; 1 Downs Aug.18 and 25. (M.W. et al).

100. HEN HARRIER none recorded in early months; 1 Mill Hill Oct.4; 1 m. Downs Nov.30 and ring-tails there Dec.12, 20 and 23; 1 m. coasting W., W.B. Dec.31.
102. MONTAGU'S HARRIER 1 f. or imm. Downs Sept.10 (BFF).
103. OSPREY 1 over Lancing May 3 (RI); 1 prob. over Portslade May 14 (JAN); 1 fishing H.B. May 22 (T.G.).
104. HOBBY 1 Downs May 14 and 1 there Sept.10; 1 departing S., S.B. Sept.17.
107. MERLIN 1 Downs Jan. 15 (RI); 1 C.C. Feb.20 (M/I); both m.
110. KESTREL recorded Downs (max.7 Aug.7), W.W., Annington, Sanc., S.R.B., Worthing. singles coasting W., W.B. Nov.5 and 26.
117. QUAIL June 18-Jul.16 Downs max.3 on 4 dates.
120. WATER RAIL all year S.R.B. max.10 in the winter; 1 Sanc. Feb.-Mar.; 1 Shoreham reed bed Oct.28.
131. OYSTER CATCHER 135 observed on spring sea watches Feb.21-May 27; in autumn largest movements 18 W., W.B. Aug.18 and 46 E., S.B. Oct.8; Ferring winter counts, max.19 Feb.11.
133. LAPWING 300 Airport Oct.22; 600 Downs Oct.25; 500 S.P. Nov.13; 600 Ferring Dec.30; large cold weather movements Dec.31 (see article).
134. RINGED PLOVER selected counts Adur:- from Ferring:-  
 Jan. 2 - 50 Aug. 28 - 90 Jan.14 - 212  
 Jul.30 - 50 Sep. 10 - 156 Feb.11 - 50  
 Aug. 6 - 70 Oct. 22 - 120 Nov.12 - 80  
 Aug.14 - 120 Dec.27 - 69 Nov.14 - 125  
 possibly bred in the area.
136. KENTISH PLOVER 1 juv. Adur Aug.12 - 13 (RFP et al).



139. GREY PLOVER 12 recorded on spring sea watches in singles until May 18; Counts from Goring/Ferring area:-  
 Jan.14 - 20 Dec.17 - 80  
 Feb.11 - 34 Dec.18 - 54  
 Dec. 4 - 32 Dec.30 - 60 3 Adur May 2 and 1  
 Dec. 7 - 49 there Oct.22.
141. GOLDEN PLOVER 20 Adur Levels Jan.29 and 22 there Dec.17; 1 Adur Feb.20; 1 Downs Aug.28 and 1 there Dec.9; 2 W., Brighton Dec.31.
143. TURNSTONE 2 Ferring Jan.14, 6 there Jan.15, 20 Nov.14 and 21 Dec.4; 1 W.W. Apr.22; 34 sightings during spring sea watching, all late Apr./early May and flying E. 3 W.B. Aug.2.
145. SNIFE up to 300 Jan.-Mar. Adur Levels, 70 there in Dec.; max.20 Sanc. mid-Feb.; 25 Airport Jan.2, max. Annington Brooks 30 Nov.
147. JACK SNIFE 1 Sanc. Feb.11-12; 2 S.P. Feb.16 and 1 there Feb.20.
148. WOODCOCK 2 Downs Jan.14; 1 coasting W., W.B. Nov.29; 1 Southwick Dec.31 and 1 S.P. the same day.
150. CURLEW in first half year 1 or 2 seen offshore on Feb.20, Feb.21, May 14 and June 8; in the autumn 2 E., S.B. Jul.31 and 11 E. there Aug.2; frequently seen Adur Valley late Aug. and Sept. with max.7 Sanc. Sep.2; 18 Downs Oct.19, 3 there Oct.25, 14 Dec.9 and 3 Dec.23; 42 Goring Nov.26.
151. WHIMBREL first recorded calling over Hove Apr.9; 142 sightings Apr.16-May 14 during sea watches (see article); 6 dates between Apr.22 and May 7 Adur, max.6 May 4; in autumn 6 dates Aug.2-Sep.12 Adur with max.8 Aug.26; 1 Ferring Aug.13 and 1 Worthing Aug.21.
155. BAR TAILED  
GODWIT 1 S.B. Mar.31 and Dec.22; 1541 E. Apr.17-May 22 during sea watches; 20 W., Goring Nov.19, 1 there Nov.26 and 1 Adur Dec.18.
156. GREEN SANDPIPER 1 Adur Levels Mar.24, Apr.17, Dec.10 and 2 there Dec.22, singles recorded on 4 dates Jul.14-Aug.6 Washington Sand Pit; 1 Annington Aug.11.

159. COMMON SANDPIPER 1 upper Adur Apr.21 and up to 3 recorded there until May 16; 1 or 2 offshore 4 dates Apr.23-May 16; autumn records Jul.9-Nov.5 from Adur, New Salts Farm, Airport Brooklands, Washington Sand Pits, max. Aug.2 when at least 20 were seen in var. localities.
161. REDSHANK max. count Adur 93 Sep.13; fewer than previous years.
162. SPOTTED REDSHANK 1 C.C. Feb.16-22; 1 Adur Aug.12.
165. GREENSHANK 1 E., H.B. May 22; 1 or 2 Adur Aug.1-Nov.5; 1 over Worthing Sep.11.
169. KNOT 2 W., W.B. Apr.27 and 18 there Dec.31; up to 6 Adur on 5 dates Aug.28-Sep.13.
170. PURPLE SANDPIPER 4 Ferring Jan.14, 5 there Jan.15, 7 on Feb.11, 1 Feb.27 and 1 Oct.28.
178. DUNLIN selected counts from Adur:-  
 Jan. 2 - 500 Aug. 2 - 18  
 Feb.12 - 300 Aug.14 - 20 Ferring counts:-  
 Feb.25 - 876 Sep.10 - 14 Jan.14 - 810  
 Mar. 3 - 600 Oct.22 - 45 Feb.11 - 1040  
 Mar. 8 - 150 Dec.25 - 560 Dec. 7 - 300  
 during late Apr./early May 104 individuals seen E. offshore.
179. CURLEW SANDPIPER 1 Adur Sep.2, 4 there Sep.6 and 5 Sep.13.
181. SANDERLING counts at Ferring:- up to 14 W.W. Jan.;  
 Jan.14 - 214 Apr.20 - 25 14 W.B. Mar.10 and  
 Feb.11 - 70 Nov.26 - 80 30 there May 17; 150  
 Mar.30 - 50 seen on spring sea-watches.
184. RUFF 1 W., W.W. May 1 (RI); 12 S.P. Oct.11 (ABW).
185. AVOCET 1 Adur Apr.5-7 (var. obs.); 1 W., S.B. Apr.16 (MW).
193. ARCTIC SKUA 34 individuals offshore Apr.1-May 23, (see article); peak days 7 Apr.29 and 5 May 9; in autumn 1 W., W.B. Sep.12, 22, and Oct.4; at least 3 harassing terns W.B. Oct.6; 1 S.B. Oct.8.



194. GREAT SKUA 1 E., H.B. Apr.24; 1 W.B. Oct.6, Nov.11, and Dec.17.
195. POMARINE SKUA 2 E., H.B. May 16 a.m. (JAN); 2 E., H.B. May 16 p.m. (RFP); 5 E., S.B. May 18 (OM).
- SKUA SP. 2 large skuas very distant off W.B. chasing Arctic Skua Oct.6, probably Pomarines.
198. GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL 500 Adur Jan.7 and 700 there Nov.22; 250 Sanc. Jan.14.
199. LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL 1 or 2 wintering in the area; c. 1000 Airport roost Jan.28 (RFP).
200. HERRING GULL Jan.28 large gull roosts Hove - Ferring 3312, 500 of this sp. on the Airport, 2 yellow legged race S.B. Aug.10 and 1 there Sep.4.
201. COMMON GULL 2000 Airport roost Jan.28; 800+ S.B. roost Apr.4.
205. MEDITERRANEAN GULL 1 ad. W.B. Feb.26 (JAN); 1 ad. W.W. Mar.10 (JS); 1 1Y. Goring Dec.17 (JAN), 1 ad. there Dec.14 (FJF).
207. LITTLE GULL 18 offshore Mar.28-May 18, (see article); 1 imm. W.B. Sep.12.
208. BLACK HEADED GULL Jan.28 small gull roost Hove - Ferring 15,310 9000 this sp. Airport; 3000 Adur Feb.26 and 1500 Adur Valley in V formations Oct.22; 30,000+ W.B. in SSE gale Dec.2.
211. KITTIWAKE 1 W.W. Feb.4; 162 individuals seen during sea-watching Mar.12-May 31; on 5 dates in autumn S.B. with 14 E. and 21 W, Aug.2, and 26 on Oct.2.
212. BLACK TERN 17 E. offshore Apr.18-May 18; 3 W.B. Aug.6; 1 W., W.B. Sep.12 and 2 E. S.B. Sep.14.
217. COMMON/ ARCTIC TERN 4,773 E. during spring sea-watches (see article); recorded in autumn between Aug.2-Oct.6 with daily figures fewer than 24 apart from the flock of c.50 fishing W.B. Oct.4-6.
219. ROSEATE TERN 1 E., H.B. May 18 (JAN,RFP).

222. LITTLE TERN 429 E. and 47 W., offshore Apr.16-May 25;  
5 W., S.B. Jul.31 and 1 there Aug.4.
223. SANDWICH TERN 2406 E. and 112 W. during sea-watches Mar.30-  
June 1; very few W. during Aug. and Sep. 1  
S.B. Oct.8.
227. GUILLEMOT occasional 1 found dead on beaches in early  
months; during spring sea-watches 20 auks,  
mainly this sp.; 1 S.B. Jul.31 and Sep.24; 1  
H.B. Nov.8.
232. STOCK DOVE 60 Washington Sand Pit Jul.11; prob. bred  
Lancing College and New Erringham Farm.
234. WOOD PIGEON 600+ Downs Feb.17.
235. TURTLE DOVE 1 Sanc. Apr.28, fairly widespread by early May,  
bred in several suitable localities; peak  
autumn nos. 18 Downs Jul.15 and 16 Annington  
Aug.9; 1 Lancing Oct.17.
- COLLARED DOVE up to 200 Sanc. roost Jan.
237. CUCKOO 1 Sanc. Apr.25, 1 Downs Apr.27 and 6 there  
May 3 and 6; no records later than the juv.  
Airport Jul.26.
241. BARN OWL 1 Steyning Jan.8; and 1 there May 9; 1 Downs  
May 3; 1 Airport late May, pr. bred within the  
area but eggs taken (apparently by boys).
246. LITTLE OWL recorded throughout the year Downs with poss.  
3 breeding prs; 1 Sanc. Feb.18 and Oct.28,  
1 pr. during summer near Worthing; 1 Washing-  
ton Sand Pit Jun.14.
247. TAWNY OWL recorded at var. times Lancing, Sanc., Downs,  
Hoe Court, Lancing College, Steyning, Southwick,  
and West Worthing.
249. SHORT-EARED  
OWL no records in early months; 1 W. Ferring  
Oct.17; 1 W., W.B. Oct.19, Nov.5-Nov.26 (later  
seen at Goring); and Dec.31.
256. SWIFT 1 Hove Apr.24; 1 W.W. and Worthing Apr.26;  
1 W.W. Apr.30. main autumn exodus late July/  
early Aug. 670 E. in 1½ hrs. over Southwick  
Jul.31 and 50 E., S.B. Aug.2; 300 Shoreham  
Aug.9; 3 records mid-late Sep.; 1 Worthing  
Oct.11.



258. KINGFISHER 1 Adur Jan.3; several Autumn records of 1-2 in both upper and lower reaches of Adur.
261. HOOPOE 1 W.W. May 1 (DG).
262. GREEN WOODPECKER records from 6 localities, max.4 Downs Aug.28 and 4 Washington Sand Pit Aug.2.
263. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER recorded from 17 localities within the area, observations suggest a marked increase in this sp.
264. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER singles recorded at var. times from S.R.B., Sanc., Coombes Road, Cissbury, Goring, Ferring, Swandean, Highdown, Clapham, Oreham Common; the most ever recorded in the area.
272. SKYLARK Large W. movements in cold weather Dec.31 (see article).
274. SWALLOW 1 Sanc. and Ferring Apr.19, 1 Southwick Apr.20; 20 W.W. Apr.22; 2 Worthing Oct.30.
276. HOUSE MARTIN 1 Sanc. and 2 W.W. Apr.22; 1 Ferring and 3 S.R.B. Apr.23; throughout May nos. increased at Sanc. with max. 60 May 24; fewer recorded Sanc. in autumn; 5000 (with Swallows) Downs Sep.20; 600 SE Southwick Oct.2, 100 Lancing College Oct.22; 1 Worthing Nov.21.
277. SAND MARTIN 140 occupied nest holes Washington Sand Pit Jun.14.
280. CARRION CROW 100-150 Highdown roost Jan.; 30 Airport Oct.22.
282. ROOK Count of rookeries: Southlands 16 nests; Buckingham Park 12, and Cement Works 30.
286. JAY 5 Downs Feb.23.
290. COAL TIT 5 moving E. through Shoreham Nov.4.
292. MARSH TIT 2 S.R.B. Mar.4; 1 Downs Apr.2.
293. WILLOW TIT 1 Downs Oct.19.
294. LONG TAILED TIT max. 20 Sanc. Nov.1.
298. TREE CREEPER at least 5 individuals Sanc. Aug.19-Dec.2.

302. FIELDFARE recorded in numbers up to 40 in at least 6 sites in the early months, particularly in the cold weather in mid-Feb; 120 Downs Mar.4; 2 Ferring Oct.14; 1 Downs Oct.25 and only 3 there by Nov.4; 60 N. Worthing Nov.28; 200 Truleigh Hill Dec. 3; 350 Downs Dec.9; and 300 N. of Shoreham Dec.10.
304. REDWING max. counts in early months of 100 C.C. Feb.16 and 300 Downs Mar.4; 13 Ferring Oct.14, 20 Sanc. Oct.18 and 10 Downs Oct.19; 1200 Downs Dec.9; 200+ N. of Shoreham Dec.10; 300 Adur Levels Dec.10 and 1000 there Dec.17. Movement of 65 W. Worthing Nov.28 and large W. movement in cold weather Dec.31. (see article).
307. RING OUSEL 1 Downs Apr.19; singles there Sep.17, Oct.19 and 22.
311. WHEATEAR 2 Harb. and 1 S.B. Mar.12; 1 W.B. Mar.18 and 1 Ferring Mar.19; 12 W.W. Apr.16 and 10 there Apr.22; at least 17 dates Jul.10-Sep.26 Downs with peaks of 12 - Aug.6; 11 - Aug.25 and 13 - Aug.28; 4 Ferring Oct.17; 1 H.B. Nov.9.
317. STONECHAT wintering records of 1-2 from 7 regular haunts, 5 Adur Feb.16; at least 3 prs. bred in the area; autumn max. of 5 Sanc. Oct.8, 6 Downs Sep.13 and 20.
318. WHINCHAT 1 Airport Apr.26, 3 H.B. Apr.29, singles on 5 days early May Downs; 13 dates Aug.7 - Sept.26 Downs with peaks 14 - Aug.27, 12 - Aug.28, 20 - Sep.1, 25 - Sep. 2 and 12 - Sep. 13; 1 Sanc. Oct.8.
320. REDSTART 1 f. Patcham Apr.29; 6 dates Aug.24-Sep.23 Downs with max.6 Sep.2 and 4; 1 Ferring Oct. 14.
321. BLACK REDSTART wintering records from Harb., Sompting, S.B., and Southwick; in spring 1 N. Portslade Apr.5 and 1 Downs May 3; in autumn 1 Downs Sep.13 and 1 Worthing Oct.19.
322. NIGHTINGALE 2 Horsebridge Common May 15, 1 Oreham Common Jun.6; 1 Downs Aug.28.



327. GRASSHOPPER  
WARBLER 1 Airport Apr.28 and May 7, and 2 there May 9.
333. REED WARBLER 1 S.R.B. Apr.26, not recorded in Sanc. until May 4; 15 prs. bred S.R.B. and 12 prs. in Steyning road:reed bed; 1 S.R.B. Sep.24.
337. SEDGE WARBLER 1 Airport Apr.16 and 6 there Apr.23; 1 S.R.B. Apr.23; 1 Airport Apr.27 and 2 there Apr.30; few in autumn with last at S.R.B. Sep.24.
343. BLACKCAP 1 f. Lancing Mar.12 and 1 m. there Mar.20 and 23; 1 Goring Apr.16 and 1 C.C. Apr.19; in autumn peak count Downs 23 - Sep.20; 1 Sanc. Nov.1.
346. GARDEN  
WARBLER 1 Sanc. Apr.29 and 2 Downs May 18 (only spring records) usual Aug. passage Sanc.; max. counts Downs on 5 Aug.27 and Sep.4; 1 Steyning Sep.22.
347. WHITETHROAT 1 Sanc. Apr.27, 1 Downs Apr.29 and 2 there May 3; 35 breeding prs. in 500 hectares of downland scrub; peak counts Downs 28 - Aug.7, 24 - Aug.24, 15 - Aug.28, 16 - Sep.4; 4 there Sep.20.
348. LESSER  
WHITETHROAT 1 Sanc. Apr.24 and 25, 1 Downs May 3 and 10 there by May 6; 7 prs. bred Downs and 2 prs. Sanc; in autumn max.8 Sanc. Aug.27; recorded Downs Aug.6 - Sep.20 with peaks of 19 - Aug.7, 24 - Aug.28, and 17 - Sep.2.
354. WILLOW  
WARBLER 5 Downs and 1 S.R.B. Apr.2, no more arrivals until Apr.14; peak spring counts of 10 Sanc. Apr.21 and 20 Downs May 17; in autumn numerous at S.R.B. where an estimate of 1-2000 passed through, peak 25 Sanc. Aug.13; peak counts Downs 62 - Aug.24, 35 - Aug.27, 45 - Aug.28, 72 - Sep.2 and 37 - Sep.4. Last recorded S.R.B. Oct.1.
356. CHIFFCHAFF 2 sanc. Jan.-Feb.; 1 S.R.B. Mar.8; 1 sanc. Mar.15 and 4 there Mar.29 and Apr.2; 1 Worthing Mar.13; no large numbers recorded in spring; peak autumn counts sanc. 9 - Sep.17, 11 - Sep.19 and 10 Oct.4; 1 N. of Shoreham Dec.10.

357. WOOD WARBLER 1 Erringham Farm May 7; 1 Hoe Court Jun.28.
365. FIRECREST 1 Downs Oct.16 and Oct.22 (FJF).
366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER 1 S.R.B. Apr.23 then none until May 12 when 1 Downs and Sanc.; bred in at least 3 localities; 10 dates Aug.6-Sep.20 Downs with peaks 7 - Aug.27, 15 - Aug.28, 8 - Aug.29, and 9 - Sept. 4; 1 S.R.B. Sep.23.
368. PIED FLYCATCHER 3 Downs Aug.29, 1 there Aug.30 and 31; 3 Shoreham garden Sep.17.
373. MEADOW PIPIT 45 roosting Durrington Mar.3; northward passage W.B. from Mar.16; 172 S., Downs Sep.19 and 100 S. the following day.
376. TREE PIPIT 12 dates Aug.23-Sep.23 Downs with peaks 29 - Aug.24, 27 - Aug.27, 15 - Aug.30.
379. ROCK PIPIT 2 Harb. Feb.21, thought to be fewer in this site than usual.
380. PIED WAGTAIL 34 on river bank by Cement Works Oct.25; 5-700 roosting Steyning Road reed bed Nov.-Dec.
381. GREY WAGTAIL mainly autumn and winter records of 1-2 individuals from S.R.B., Adur, S.P., Sanc., Ferring, S.B., and Downs.
382. YELLOW WAGTAIL 1 W.R.D. Apr.18, 1 W.B. Apr.25 and 2 there Apr.29; few in Adur valley in autumn with max. 6 Aug.22; Downs peaks 60 - Sep.1 and 30 - Sep.2.
392. GREENFINCH flocks of 100 Shm. beach Nov.19, 200 Harb. Nov.29 and 100 Goring Dec.10.
393. GOLDFINCH 2 W.W. Jan.8, 4 Downs Jan.17; 15 in from sea H.B. May 2; 300 Sanc. Sep.6 and 200 there Oct.
394. SISKIN 1 Downs Oct.19.
395. LINNET flocks of 100 Goring Apr.10 and Dec.12, 200 Sanc. Sep.-Oct. and 300 Downs Oct.25.
396. TWITE recorded Adur until Feb.20 with max.30 - Feb. 16; seen same place after Nov.2 with max. 35 - Nov.29.



397. REDPOLL 4 S.R.B. Feb.12 and 1 there Mar.27; 3 N.,  
H.B. May 18; Oct.8-Nov.8 sanc.; 11 E.  
Worthing Oct.15.
407. CHAFFINCH 200 Downs Dec.9 and 100 there Dec.20.
408. BRAMBLING singles at Goring Jan.15; Harb. Feb.16; Coombes  
Feb.17; W.R.D. Mar.4; 3 Highdown Mar.27;  
singles Devils Dyke Oct.29; Downs Dec.4 and  
Goring Dec.10.
409. YELLOW HAMMER 70 Downs feeding on grain Feb.23.
410. CORN BUNTING S.R.B. winter roost 300; 69 singing m. N.  
Portslade in late May and 5 in vicinity Sanc.  
June; 260 E. Aug.28 Sanc.; 100+ Adur Sep.2.
415. GIRL BUNTING 1 Sanc. Apr.27 (CFH) and 1 Hoe Court May 13  
(BJF).
425. TREE SPARROW 12 Annington Jan.14; 1 S.R.B. Apr.2 and 1  
Sanc. Oct.8 only records this year of this sp.

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#### BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM 1978

During 1978 the area was well watched and a large number of records were received from various observers watching the downs, river valley and coast. Throughout the year interesting birds were seen from each of these localities.

The year began well with 3 Bewick's Swans seen on Adur Levels, an area just north of Strivens reed bed and well recorded by Phil and Brian Clay. January also produced a Merlin on the downs and the incredible count of 1000 British race Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the Airfield on the 28th. Another Merlin turned up at Cuckoo's Corner in February; the first wintering Spotted Redshank for many years was seen in the same area and further downstream a beautiful Patagonian Black-necked Swan spent a few days. One of the local collections had obviously lost a prize specimen as this bird was seen several miles offshore some days after leaving the Adur. The first Mediterranean Gull of the year appeared at Worthing in late February to be followed by another adult at Widewater in March. A small arrival of Wheatears, Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and Garganey in mid-March were the first of the summer migrants but then no more occurred until mid-April.

Probably the most unusual March record was the Manx Shearwater seen off Southwick by Mark Welfare; this species has now been recorded in 3 out of the 4 past springs.

Apart from the Cirl Bunting at the sanctuary and the Avocet on the Adur all the best April records came from the lengthy spring sea-watches. Large numbers of scoter, waders and terns were recorded with the highlights of Avocet, Bonxie, Little Gulls, Black Terns, Garganey, all three species of diver, Velvet Scoter and numerous Arctic Skuas.

Most of the summer visitors arrived in May and with them came, to my mind, the years most exciting collection of birds. The up-channel sea passage continued through the month and accounted for the records of Ruff, 9 Pomarine Skuas, Roseate tern, one of the possible 4 Marsh Harriers seen in the area, and one of the 3 Ospreys seen. The Hoopoe seen at Widewater was the first for many years, a Wood Warbler was singing at Erringham, and another Cirl Bunting was seen at Hoe Court. The cream of this rich month was the large female Goshawk seen on the downs by Owen Mitchell; this is only the second ever recorded in this area.

Both June and July were relatively quiet; a Wood Warbler at Hoe Court and Quail on the downs were the only two records of any note. The second Kentish Plover for this area was found by Richard Porter in early August but by the end of the month attentions had switched to the downs where there was yet another Marsh Harrier and large numbers of migrants including Tree Pipits. Once again this locality was well watched by Bernard Forbes who in September was rewarded with views of Montagu's Harrier and Hobby. The other raptor of note was a Honey Buzzard seen by John Feast over his garden in Goring; if this record is accepted by the county recorder it will be a new species to the Shoreham area. Curlew Sandpipers were recorded on the river and several Shags were seen off Southwick beach in September.

October was settled and warm but there were only a few notable records; a Bonxie was seen offshore with several Arctic Skuas, at least 1 Firecrest occurred on the downs and an early Hen Harrier was seen over Mill Hill. November continued in the same vein with the majority of records coming from the coast, the most exciting being another Bonxie, a large westerly passage of Brent Geese and the occasional coasting Short-eared Owl. It is curious how no Short-eareds were recorded from the usual downland



habitats when 5 were seen offshore. During November the local Pied Wagtail roost reached a peak of 700 birds.

After early December winter thrushes became plentiful in several sites. Hen Harriers were also more evident this month. On the foreshore 2 more Mediterranean Gulls were recorded and a large collection of up to 80 Grey Plover were seen. The cold weather movement on the last day of the year, involving large numbers of larks, thrushes, Lapwings, ducks and geese, was probably the most exciting winter movement recorded. As well as the commoner species a White Stork was seen over Goring. This was probably the bird which remained throughout the latter part of the year in East Sussex and is the first record of this species in the recording area. A fine, but cold way, to end 1978.

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#### SHOREHAM Y.O.C. WINNER

The title of "Young Ornithologist of the Year" in the senior section, has been won for 1978 by one of our younger members, Mark Welfare. He is the third Sussex winner in successive years, and the second from Shoreham O.S. - the other being Tony Marr who won it twice in 1955 and 1956.

Entrants had to answer a small quiz on birds; submit a detailed study of a particular locality over three months - Mark chose sea-watching at Southwick in winter and spring; and write an essay on a single species - he discovered Britain's first Pallid Swift on May 13th last on an R.S.P.B. outing to Stodmarsh, Kent.

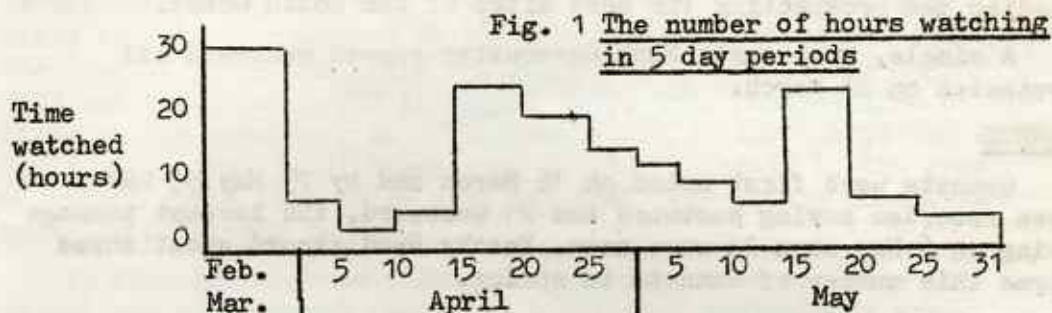
His prize is a year's subscription to "British Birds" and books to the value of £20 - he has chosen Vol.1 of "Birds of the Western Palaearctic". We extend our warmest congratulations to him.

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#### 1978 SPRING SEA-WATCHING OFF THE CENTRAL SUSSEX COAST

In 1978 the combination of a handful of enthusiastic sea-watchers with ample opportunity, coupled with favourable winds and weather conditions, led to the recording of the most exciting up-channel sea passage observed off the local beaches (Hove-Worthing), since the start of the Shoreham Society.

Excluding passerines and the commoner gulls a total of over 12,800 birds were recorded moving east and a further 1000 west by eight observers watching for about 175 hours. Figure 1 shows the distribution of these hours throughout the spring; in one group for all February-March watches and in 5 day periods for April and May. (These periods are used for all following histograms).



Watching was carried out at all times of the day but early morning watches were most numerous although not always the most productive. The 4 principal observation points were Hove Lagoon, Southwick Beach, Widewater and West Worthing Beach.

The following is an account of the movement but reference should be made to the systematic list for further details. Where relevant, comparisons have been made with the sea-watching data for Beachy Head analysed by J.F. Cooper in the 1975 Sussex Bird Report.

### DIVERS

A total of 72 divers were seen moving eastward between 1 April-20 May and a single bird on 21 February. Only 11 of the closest were positively identified comprising 4 Red-throated, 5 Black-throated and 2 Great Northern. Recorded in most weather conditions, although easterlies seemed the most favourable, and usually seen in singles, doubles or groups of three. Compared with the headlands to the east, our area is relatively poor for observing diver passage: Cooper (1976) suggests Beachy Head observe over three times the number of divers recorded off Shoreham and in April 1978 alone Dungeness recorded over 270 (ref.b). It would appear that divers moving well offshore and in a N.E. direction through the channel are more frequently observed from headlands.



### FULMAR

There were over 120 observations of Fulmar between 20 March and 25 May, this species being seen on most watches. Nearly 70% of the observations were of birds flying eastward. Rather than migration through the channel I suspect these represent birds feeding and prospecting for nest sites on the South Coast.

A single, very early Manx Shearwater passed westward off Southwick on 28 March.

### GANNET

Gannets were first noted on 16 March and by 25 May 53 had been recorded moving eastward and 21 westward, the largest passage being on 6 May when 23 were seen. Beachy Head record about three times this number of Gannets in spring.

### BRENT GOOSE

Between 20 Feb.-30 April 348 were seen moving east and 90 west. A monthly analysis (Feb. - 288, Mar. - 22, Apr. - 38 + 90 west) clearly shows that most of the Brents would have moved from the West Sussex and Hampshire harbours before regular watching started. The movements during the last week in February were on S.-S.W. winds.

### SHELDUCK

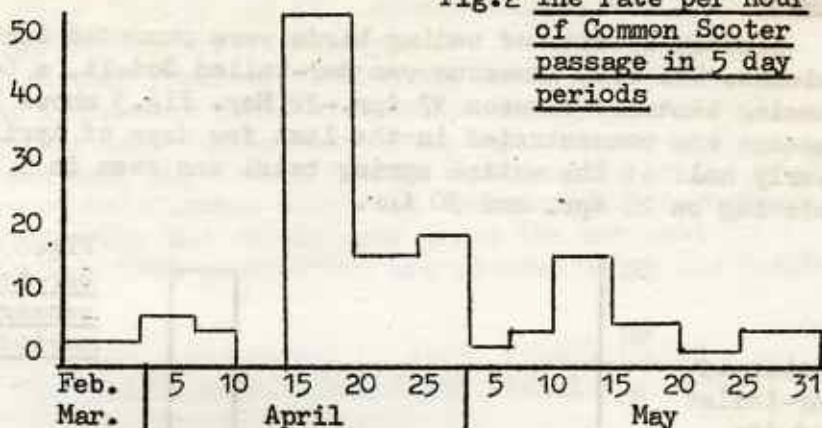
Between 27 Mar.-26 May 82 Shelduck were seen moving eastward and 29 westward in small groups with a maximum of 22 on 12 May. The March and April records were probably of birds moving to their breeding areas; however 72% of the observations occurred in May by which time breeding Shelduck usually have clutches.

### SEA DUCK

Common Scoter were the most numerous duck recorded, Fig. 2 shows the timing and rate of passage.

Fig.2 The rate per hour  
of Common Scoter  
passage in 5 day  
periods

No of scoter.  
passing per  
hour



Clearly the peak passage was during a period of S.E. winds in mid-April, the 18th. alone producing over 600 birds. The total of 2,270 scoter seen, however, is only half that seen in Beachy Head's lowest year (ref.a), and is totally eclipsed by the enormous passage of 24,000 recorded in April '78 off Dungeness (ref.b) or the estimated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million which pass the Gulf of Finland each May (ref.c).

Only one party of 10 Velvet Scoter were recorded (on 29 Apr.). Likewise Eider were not numerous with only 12 seen moving east and 3 west between 8 Apr.-28 April.

Although Red-breasted Mergansers were frequently seen feeding offshore in winter very few were recorded moving: between 20 Feb.-6 May only 54 passed eastward and 11 westward with 77% of the sightings occurring in April.

Other ducks seen included 6 Mallard, 4 Shoveler, 5 Pintail, 12 Teal and a pair of Garganey.

#### BIRDS OF PREY

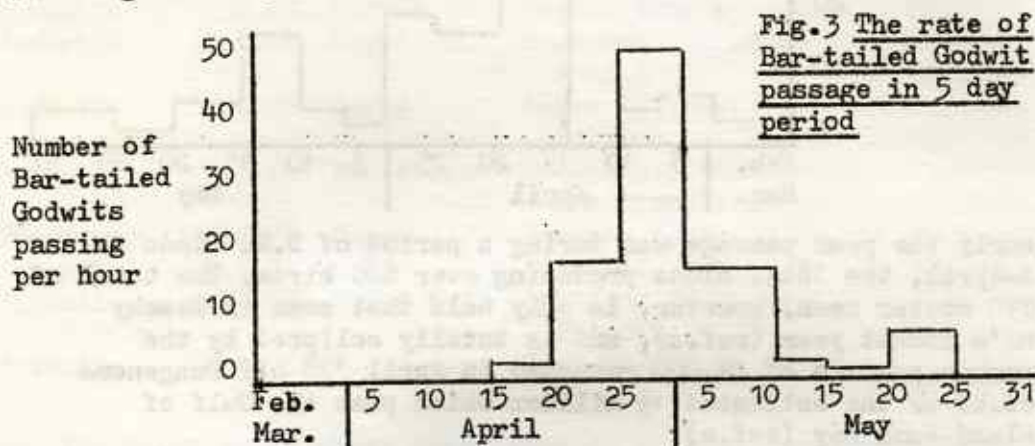
A female Marsh Harrier drifted westward off Brighton at 1350 hrs. and off Shoreham at 1400 hrs. on 5 May; presumably the bird seen approaching Beachy Head from the S.E. and departing S.W. at 1200 hr. on the same day.

An Osprey was watched fishing off Hove between 0630 hr. and 0645 on 22 May before flying off eastward. The Scottish birds have usually returned to their eyrie by April; this bird was possibly a non-breeding individual moving northward for the summer.



## WADERS

Sixteen species of wading birds were recorded during the watches. The most numerous was Bar-tailed Godwit, a total of 1541 passing eastward between 17 Apr.-22 May. Fig.3 shows how this passage was concentrated in the last few days of April, in fact nearly half of the entire spring total was seen in 5 hours watching on 28 Apr. and 30 Apr.



The peak period in 1978 coincided with the peaks of passage at Beachy Head during the years of Cooper's study and numerically it would appear that between 50%-70% of the Beachy total can be seen off our local coasts. Parties of up to 75 birds were seen passing at various distances from the shore, about 50% in their red summer plumage and the others still in their grey winter. Bar-tailed Godwits wintering in Sussex and Hampshire never reach this number and by April there are barely a handful in the southern estuaries (ref.d) so clearly those passing the S.coast in late April are coming from estuaries in France, Southern Europe or N.W. Africa. Over half the N.W. Palearctic Bar-tailed Godwit population (which numbers 90,000) winter on the North Sea and British estuaries, therefore regular census of late spring Godwits moving through the Channel may be useful for monitoring the portion of Godwit population wintering on the irregularly counted S.European and African estuaries.

The first Whimbrel occurred on 15 April and by 14 May 128 had been recorded moving east and 14 west; 89 of these were in the period 16 Apr.-25 April. The 200 or so pairs of Whimbrel breeding in N.Scotland and Shetland (ref.e) would probably return from

Africa via the shorter route across the Atlantic and along the West coast of Britain therefore S. coast observations probably relate to Scandinavian breeding birds.

Oystercatchers were regularly seen; a total of 103 moving east and 32 west between 21 Feb.-27 May in small groups of up to 13. About 1500 Oystercatchers winter in the county and several pairs breed (ref.d), so these sightings may relate to local movements.

Two small waders showed a distinct passage. Over 70 Dunlin (from a total of 92) moved eastward between 26 Apr.-30 Apr. Sanderling were passing in the same period with 34 recorded in the last 5 days of April and a further 88 recorded between 16 May-20 May with virtually none occurring outside these periods. Both these species, particularly the Dunlin, are numerous in the winter, but by late April and May are unusual in the Shoreham area (ref.f).

Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Turnstone, Knot, Common Sandpiper, Ruff, Greenshank, Redshank, Curlew and Avocet were recorded only in small numbers.

#### SKUAS

All except Long-tailed were recorded. Arctic Skua was the most regular with 34 records between 1 Apr.-23 May, the majority occurring between mid-April and mid-May. During the past 25 years a grand total of only 39 spring Arctic Skua records (and 7 autumn) were recorded in the Society's files with nearly half of these occurring in 1960; (ref.f); the 34 recorded this year almost certainly demonstrates how under recorded this species has been in previous years. At Beachy Head Arctic Skuas are more numerous (ranging between 22 and 238 individuals per spring) but as expected the timing of the passage appears to be the same as that off Shoreham. Shetland-breeding Arctic Skuas probably return from their winter quarters via the West coast and many are back on their breeding grounds by late April and early May (ref.g), therefore I feel it is reasonable to assume that birds using the Channel/North Sea route are bound for Scandinavia.

Pomarine Skuas are certainly moving towards Scandinavia and beyond into N.Russia and for the past decade have been regularly recorded moving eastward through the Channel, although larger numbers are often recorded from the Hebrides. Cooper states that the main period in Sussex for Pomarine Skua passage is the first



ten days in May; all 9 individuals recorded this year were outside this period; 2 groups of 2 passed on 16 May and a party of 5 at lunch time on 18 May.

Only 1 Great Skua was seen moving east off Hove on 24 April.

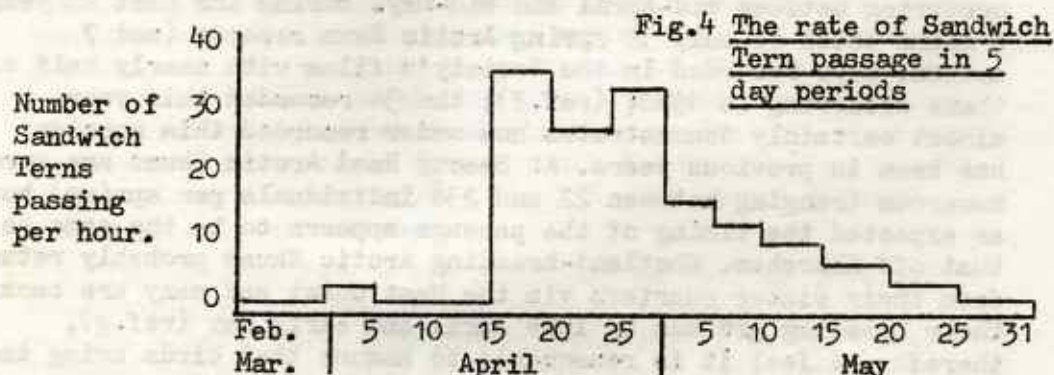
### GULLS

Although many gulls were observed only the Little Gull and Kittiwake were systematically recorded. In 1978 the first of 18 Little Gulls was recorded moving east on 28 March; 12 were recorded in the last half of April (max.7 on the 18th) and the last, an immature, was seen moving west on 18 May. The 25 years of Shoreham records only note 12 spring individuals, so the 18 recorded this year is exceptional for our area. However, this melts into insignificance when compared with the 292 individuals sighted off Dungeness in April (ref.b).

Between 12 Mar.-31 May a total of 144 Kittiwakes passed east and 18 west, with peaks of 19 on 22 April and 35 on 24 May.

### TERNS

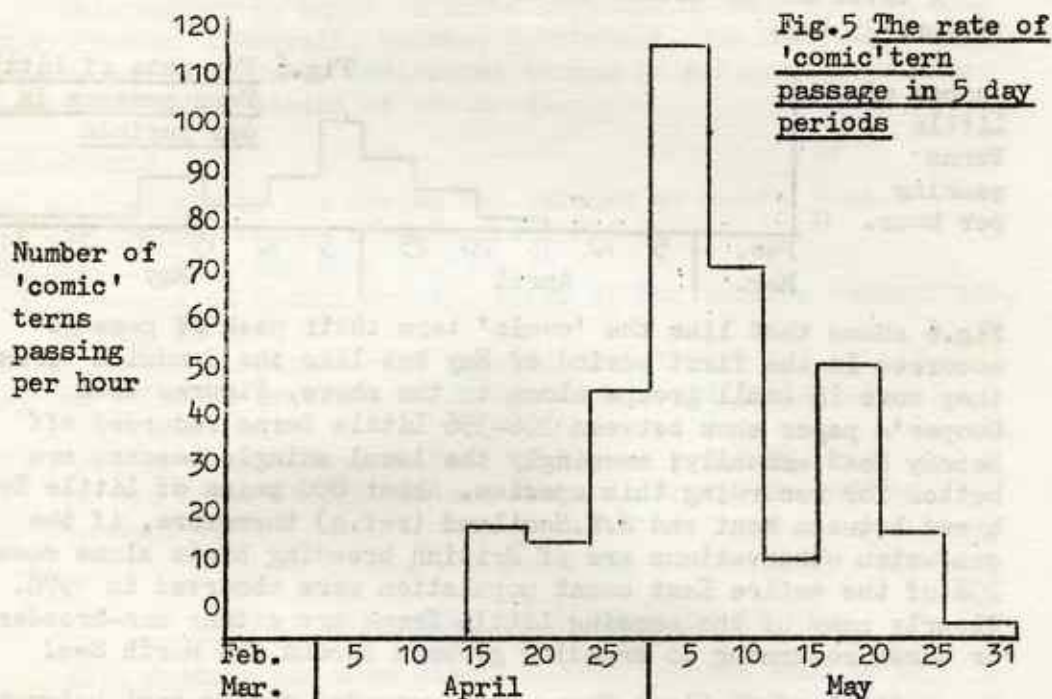
No less than 7626 terns were observed moving eastward, representing nearly 60% of the total birds recorded. Six species were seen. Fig.4, 5 and 6 show the rate and timing of the passage for the three commonest species.



Sandwich terns, totalling 2406 east and 112 west, were recorded between 30 March and 1 June and passage showed a similar pattern to the years of Cooper's study with a slow start, a peak in late April and passage continuing with ever decreasing volume throughout May. The rate of passage and total number are very similar to those recorded at Beachy Head; this may be partly due

to the tendency of the Sandwich Tern to move close inshore. Most Sandwich Terns were seen in small groups with a max. pack size of 13 (cf. 'Comic' tern) and were seen moving in most weather conditions although easterly winds were favoured. The bulk of the 11,000 pairs of British breeding Sandwich terns occur on the east coast of England and S.E. Scotland, therefore, unless an overland passage occurs, these terns, along with N.European breeders, pass through the Channel in spring (ref.g).

Common and Arctic Terns are grouped together as positive identification was rarely possible. Of those identified most Arctics were seen in April and none were seen in late May; the large passages at the beginning of May were predominantly Common.



A total of 4773 'comic' terns passed east between 14 Apr.-27 May. Fig.5 shows how the passage started abruptly and rapidly rose to a peak of 114 birds per hour in the beginning of May. The largest movement, 646 recorded in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours on 3 May, was on a day with most unlikely weather conditions - N.W. winds and drizzle. The sudden drop in passage in mid-May was probably due to N. and W. winds as passage soon resumed in the following period when winds were in the easterly sector. 'Comic' terns were observed at



varying distances from the shore with a trend for the distance to increase as the day progressed so by mid-afternoon birds were several hundred yards offshore. Unlike Sandwich most 'comic' terns were recorded in sizeable packs with the largest containing 182 individuals. Only slightly fewer 'comic' terns were seen off the local beaches compared with Beachy Head but at Dungeness 6,323 passed by in April 1978 alone (ref.b). About 9,000 pairs of Common Tern breed on the East coast whereas the stronghold for British Arctic Terns is in N. and W. Scotland; the former presumably pass through the Channel along with Scandinavian bound terns, whereas the latter will probably use the West coast route.

A total of 429 Little Terns passed east and 47 west between 16 Apr.-25 May.

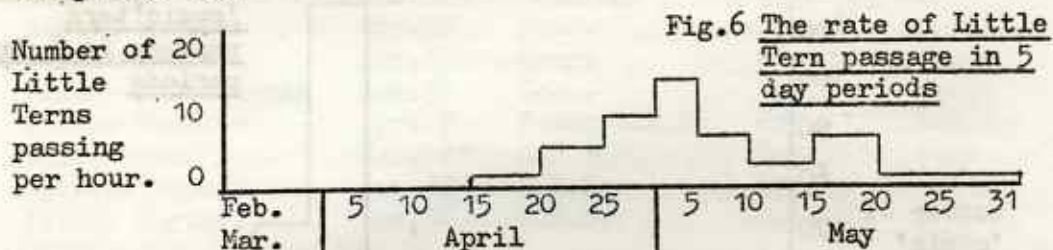


Fig.6 shows that like the 'comic' tern their peak of passage occurred in the first period of May but like the Sandwich Terns they move in small groups close to the shore. Figures from Cooper's paper show between 206-356 Little Terns recorded off Beachy Head annually; seemingly the local shingle beaches are better for recording this species. About 800 pairs of Little Tern breed between Kent and S.E.Scotland (ref.g) therefore, if the sea-watch observations are of British breeding birds alone some 25% of the entire East coast population were observed in 1978. Clearly many of the passing Little Terns are either non-breeders or birds returning to breeding grounds across the North Sea.

A total of 17 Black Terns were recorded moving east between 18 Apr.-18 May; 11 of these occurring on 17 and 18 May, and all seen on S.E. winds.

A single Roseate Tern was recorded on 18 May. With colonies on Coquet Island, the Farnes and in the Firth of Forth (ref.g) one would expect this species to be recorded more regularly in the Channel in spring.

In conclusion it appears that the pattern and timing of the offshore spring passage in 1978 was similar to that recorded in

previous years from the major S. coast headlands of Selsey, Beachy Head and Dungeness. Clearly these general trends can be recorded equally well from the Shoreham area as from the more famous sites if adequate watching is done, but interestingly, whereas certain species appear in far fewer numbers off Shoreham, others, in particular the terns, are recorded in similar numbers to Beachy Head. A host of ill understood factors such as wind, visibility, the effect of the coastline, time of day (and possibly night) and the differences between the migratory habits of the different species, regulate this passage, and possibly account for the differences and certainly require further investigation.

This report is based on notes supplied by Messrs. B.F. and F.J. Forbes, T.Gravett, R.Ives, O.Mitchell, J.A.Newnham, R.F. Porter and M.Welfare. Additional thanks to R.F.Porter for his constructive criticism of the draft.

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S.Cramp et al
- d) Wader counts Sussex Bird Reports 1966-1976.
- e) The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland,  
J.T.R.Sharrock
- f) Shoreham Ornithological Society Report Nos.1-25
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Saunders 1974.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1978

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

|                  |        |            |        |            |
|------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| Whimbrel         | Apr. 9 | Hove       | Sep.12 | Adur       |
| Common Sandpiper | Apr.21 | Upper Adur | Nov. 5 | Upper Adur |
| 'Comic' Tern     | Apr.14 | Hove       | Oct. 6 | Worthing   |
| Little Tern      | Apr.16 | Southwick  | Aug. 4 | Southwick  |
| Sandwich Tern    | Mar.30 | Southwick  | Oct. 8 | Southwick  |
| Turtle Dove      | Apr.28 | Sanc.      | Oct.17 | Lancing    |



|                    |         |              |         |          |
|--------------------|---------|--------------|---------|----------|
| Cuckoo             | Apr.25  | Sanc.        | July 26 | Airport  |
| Swift              | Apr.24  | Hove         | Oct.11  | Worthing |
| Swallow            | Apr.19  | Sanc.Ferr.   | Oct.30  | Worthing |
| House Martin       | Apr.22  | Sanc. W.W.   | Nov.21  | Worthing |
| Sand Martin        | Apr.19  | W.W.         |         |          |
| Fieldfare          | Oct.14  | Ferring      | Mar. 4  | Downs    |
| Redwing            | Oct.14  | Ferring      | Mar. 4  | Downs    |
| Wheatear           | Mar.12  | Harb.        | Nov. 9  | Hove     |
| Whinchat           | Apr.26  | Airport      | Oct. 8  | Sanc.    |
| Redstart           | Apr.29  | Patcham      | Oct.14  | Ferring  |
| Grasshopper Warb.  | May 7   | Airport      |         |          |
| Reed Warbler       | Apr.26  | S.R.B.       | Sep.24  | S.R.B.   |
| Sedge Warbler      | Apr.23  | S.R.B.       | Sep.24  | S.R.B.   |
| Blackcap           | Mar.12* | Lancing      | Nov. 1  | Sanc.    |
| Garden Warbler     | Apr.29  | Sanc.        | Sep.22  | Steyning |
| Whitethroat        | Apr.27  | Sanc.        | Sep.20  | Downs    |
| Lesser Whitethroat | Apr.24  | Sanc.        | Sep.21  | Sanc.    |
| Willow Warbler     | Apr. 2  | Downs/S.R.B. | Oct. 1  | S.R.B.   |
| Chiffchaff         | Mar. 8* | S.R.B.       | Oct.14* | Sanc.    |
| Spotted Flycatcher | Apr.23  | S.R.B.       | Sep.23  | S.R.B.   |
| Yellow Wagtail     | Apr.18  | W.R.D.       | Sep.20  | Downs    |

\*excluding possible wintering birds

\* \* \* \* \*

#### GARDEN BIRDS 1978

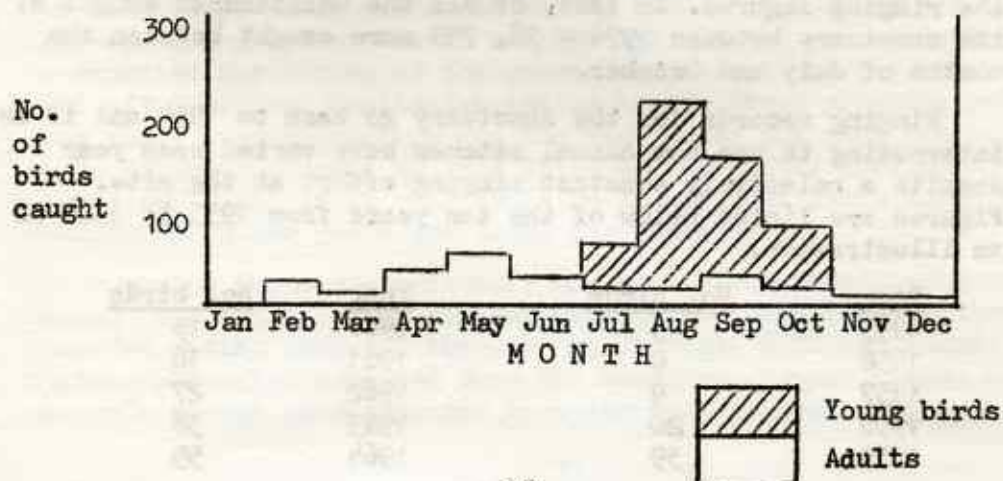
- Garden in Portslade (JAN) Black Redstart, Chiffchaff, Fieldfare and Redwing, Osprey overhead.
- Garden in Goring (JF) Reed Bunting, Bullfinch, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Chiff/Willows, Redwing, Honey Buzzard and White Stork overhead.
- Garden in Worthing (JAN) Black Redstart, Sparrow Hawk, four sp. warblers, Tawny Owl, Gt.Sp.Woodpecker, Coal Tit, Fieldfare and Redwing, overhead Greenshank, Wigeon, Mallard, Lapwing, Whimbrel.
- Garden in Steyning (MDS) Garden Warbler, Coal Tit.
- Garden on Mill Hill (SRA) Magpies (6), Long tailed Tit.
- Garden at Coombes (BR) Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tit at bird table.

### GOLDFINCHES AT THE SANCTUARY - SOME OBSERVATIONS

The Goldfinch (*carduelis carduelis*) is relatively common throughout southern Britain. Sharrock estimates a British and Irish breeding population of about 300,000 pairs and every year a number of the birds are caught and ringed at the sanctuary. It is one of the most colourful and attractive of British birds with its red face mask and broad yellow wing bar. This beautiful colouring has worked to the bird's disadvantage in this country in the past, as it used to be a favourite cage bird. In fact, there are reports that 132,000 goldfinches a year were being caught near Worthing in 1860 for this purpose. Unfortunately trapping still goes on in a number of European countries where there is still a demand for cage birds. The only useful aspect of trapping in the Iberian peninsula is that a significant number of birds ringed in England have been caught in Spain and thus considerable information about the birds' migration routes has been obtained.

Goldfinches are present in the sanctuary throughout the year, whether it be for breeding, feeding, drinking or roosting. However, it is estimated that 80% of the British breeding population migrate during the winter (I. Newton) and accordingly very few birds are caught in the sanctuary at this time. In the histogram below, relating the number of birds caught during the past five years to the time of year, the pattern of goldfinch migration is apparent.

Fig. 1 Histogram relating the number of birds caught to the time of year





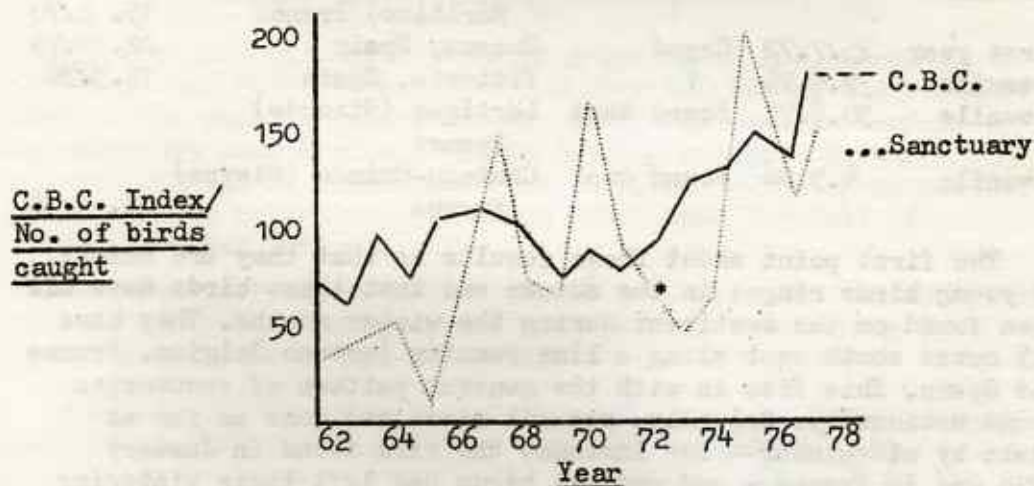
Very few birds are caught in the first three months of the year but numbers increase in April and May with the spring migration. Fewer birds are caught in June and these are probably the birds breeding locally whilst in July numbers start increasing with the appearance of the first young birds. In August and September numbers increase dramatically, not only with the onset of the autumn passage but also with the attraction of thistledown and ragwort seed in the sanctuary. They begin to fall off again by early October. In November and December only small numbers of over-wintering birds are present. If the data from which the histogram was derived are examined more closely in terms of age and sex, two points become apparent. As might be expected, almost equal numbers of male and female birds are caught in the summer months, but in the winter, although numbers are small, 80% of the birds caught are male. This fits in with the generally held view that more hens migrate than cocks. Secondly the vast majority of birds caught between July and October are young birds. In June, for instance, only one of the seventeen birds caught was a young bird. In July, 66% were young birds, in August 91%, in September 88% and in October 86%. This huge proportion of young birds accounts largely for the difference between the numbers of birds caught in the spring migration and those caught in the autumn migration. It also gives some indication of the scale of winter mortality of young Goldfinches. The figures, however, are a little distorted because in spring many birds probably pass straight over the sanctuary when making for their breeding grounds, whilst in autumn large flocks of finches congregate round the sanctuary as at that time there are excellent supplies of thistledown and other seed for them to feed on, thus boosting the ringing figures. In fact, of all the Goldfinches caught at the sanctuary between 1974 - 78, 75% were caught between the months of July and October.

Ringing records for the sanctuary go back to 1954 and it is interesting to see how annual catches have varied each year despite a relatively constant ringing effort at the site. Figures are listed below of the ten years from 1955 to 1964 as an illustration.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>No. birds</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>No. birds</u> |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1955        | 5                | 1960        | 15               |
| 1956        | 0                | 1961        | 16               |
| 1957        | 9                | 1962        | 27               |
| 1958        | 20               | 1963        | 38               |
| 1959        | 39               | 1964        | 55               |

It can be seen that there was an increase in the number of birds caught after 1958-59 and this corresponds to the introduction of mist netting at the sanctuary - not to any sudden increase in Goldfinch population. However, recent work has suggested that numbers of birds of a particular species caught at a "constant effort site" using mist nets, may be a reasonable indicator of national population trends (R.Spencer). In the graph below, numbers of Goldfinches caught in the sanctuary each year from 1963 are plotted, and on the same graph the national fluctuation of Goldfinch populations are plotted using the C.B.C. index figure.

Fig. 2 Graphs comparing the number of birds caught in the sanctuary with C.B.C. index figure



\*No ringing at sanctuary Autumn 1972

As can be seen, the sanctuary population fluctuates wildly from year to year, but despite this, in general the numbers caught at the sanctuary do seem to reflect an upward or downward trend in population at a national level. The reason for the considerable range in numbers of birds caught is probably partly related to whether there has been a good crop of thistledown or not and to the availability of water in the sanctuary. In a good year, large flocks are attracted to the sanctuary and a proportion will be caught, whilst in bad years the birds will be looking elsewhere for food. This is born out by the fact that in a hot dry summer such as that of 1975 213 birds were caught whilst in a wet summer such as that of 1977 only 86 birds were caught.



Considerable information about Goldfinch migration has been obtained from ringing recoveries. Of the birds ringed at Shoreham during the past eighteen years or so, nine have been recovered abroad. These are listed below:-

| <u>Age ringed</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>How Found</u> | <u>Place Found</u>                        | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|---|-------------|
| Juvenile          | 30.8.61     | Killed           | Ondres (Landes) France                    | 7.11.63     |
| Juvenile          | 1.8.63      | Killed           | Sestor (Vizcaya) Spain                    | 27. 4.64    |
| Juvenile          | 25.8.64     | Caged            | Soussans (Gironde)<br>France              | 10.11.64    |
| Juvenile          | 7.9.67      | Caged            | Angre (Hainaut)<br>Belgium                | 23.10.67    |
| Juvenile          | 28.8.69     | Found dead       | Champagnac (Charente-<br>Maritime) France | 15. 2.70    |
| First year        | 25.7.72     | Caged            | Huesca, Spain                             | 22.12.74    |
| Juvenile          | 7.8.74      | ?                | Vittoria, Spain                           | 12.3.76     |
| Juvenile          | 30.8.75     | Found dead       | Lartigue (Gironde)<br>France              |             |
| Juvenile          | 4.9.76      | Found dead       | Chateau-Chinon (Nievre)<br>France         | 5. 1.78     |

The first point about these results is that they are mainly of young birds ringed in the autumn and that these birds have all been found on the continent during the winter months. They have all moved south west along a line running through Belgium, France and Spain. This fits in with the general pattern of recoveries found nationally. Secondly, not all birds had gone as far as Spain by mid-winter - for instance the bird found in January 1978 was in France - and not all birds had left their wintering area by April - viz. the bird recovered in Sestor, Spain in April '64. This again fits with what is now considered to be the general pattern of Goldfinch migration i.e.: that the birds have set migration routes but that they vary greatly in the distances they may go along that route and that individual birds may go further one year than another - some even over-wintering in this country one year and going to the continent the next (I. Newton).

There are two other recoveries of particular interest. These are:-

| <u>Age ringed</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Place found</u>   | <u>Date found</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Juvenile          | 5. 8.75     | Sheringham, Norfolk. | 8.5.76            |
| First year        | 28.10.68    | Orford, Suffolk.     | 28.4.69           |

These suggest that the birds moving through Shoreham in the autumn migration are birds that breed in East Anglia - this again would fit in with a south-westerly migration pattern.

The other recoveries are all local, varying from birds being found dead a few months after ringing to one ringed as a juvenile in September 1967 and found dead in October 1973. Many other birds have been retrapped at the sanctuary in subsequent summers, the longest lived one being one ringed as a juvenile in August 1971 and being retrapped in August 1977. This reappearance of the birds at the sanctuary in subsequent years is not unexpected as it is known that Goldfinches tend to stick closely to the same migration route year after year and that they return to the same breeding site each season.

As with all species caught for ringing, each bird has its weight and wing-length recorded. A detailed analysis of wing-lengths has revealed no startling results apart from the observations that males tend to be larger than females.

Thus:-

| <u>Range of wing lengths</u> |          | <u>Mean wing-length</u> |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Males                        | 75-86 mm | 79.6 mm                 |
| Females                      | 73-82 mm | 77.3 mm                 |
| Juvenile                     | 64-85 mm | 78.5 mm                 |

Likewise analysis of the weights showed very little except that there was a suggestion that the males were heavier than the females and adults heavier than younger birds.

Thus:-

| <u>Range of weights</u> |              | <u>Mean weight</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Males                   | 14.0-17.5 G. | 15.74 G.           |
| Females                 | 13.5-17.0 G. | 15.15 G.           |
| Juvenile                | 12.5-17.5 G. | 15.03 G.           |

Individual birds' weights vary from day to day but it is clear that their weight increases as the day progresses - on average they increase their weight by 2-5% during the day.

In conclusion, the results of ringing at Shoreham do show that the local Goldfinch population movements and fluctuations are a relatively close reflection of what is happening on a large scale over the country as a whole.

C.M.V.W.

J.A.N.



## STRIVENS REED-BED REPORT 1978

The work of the ringing group continued successfully into its second year and the annual winter tasks of management were pursued.

The usual Mallard were present during the winter months, with two pairs staying to breed, again occupying nest sites adjacent to mist-net rides, so delaying ringing activities in the spring. The Corn Bunting roost was again evident, with two birds being trapped on Feb.2nd. Earlier the same day 98 birds had been trapped coming to the feeding station, two being Great Spotted Woodpeckers, and the majority being Great and Blue Tits. During February a solitary Brambling took up residence on the old rubbish dump with around 4 Redpolls. Water Rail, Marsh Tits and the usual visitors were present for the winter months.

Before the Fieldfares and Redwings had departed, 3 Chiffchaffs had arrived (Mar.5th) followed by the first Willow Warbler (Apr.1st). The Mallard were now sitting and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker joined the resident Great Spotted. A Sparrowhawk was seen on Apr.15th, and by the 22nd 2 Swallows had arrived, followed by a Sedge Warbler, 2 Blackcaps, 3 House Martins and a Spotted Flycatcher a day later.

By this time the Mallard had left and Reed Warblers were taking up residence, whilst a Cuckoo searched for likely foster-parents. Apr. 26th produced a Barn Owl - too few are seen these days.

May was not so merry for the reed-bed and its watchers, as it brought a series of visits from local vandals. Amongst their targets were the ringing site - wrecked three times - one nest-box knocked down, one with air-gun pellets embedded in it, newly-planted vegetation wrecked, the dam which maintains the spring water-level twice broken and valuable water lost. Fortunately, in a relatively wet year this did not matter so much, but in a dry year could be disastrous. The vandals did not, however, put off Whitethroat, Turtle Dove and Garden Warbler from nesting, along with the other usual species.

Autumn ringing proved most successful, with over 150 Willow Warblers and good numbers of Reed and Sedge Warblers, although 25% down on the previous year's totals. Other species of warbler moved through in small numbers, as did about 10 Spotted Flycatchers and the last dates for summer migrants to be seen

were Reed Warbler Sep.24th, Willow Warbler Oct.1st and House Martin, Swallow and Chiffchaff Oct.8th.

An interesting aspect of Sedge Warbler migration was that 6 ringed birds that were retrapped showed a significant increase of weight prior to migration. This is the first year this has happened at S.R.B., and it is significant that, due to management of the reed-bed, the right conditions have been created for the Plum Reed Aphid to multiply - the principal prey of pre-migratory Sedge Warblers, which sometimes double their weight before migration.

The first winter arrivals were 2 Grey Wagtails - one was still present at the end of the year. Parties of up to 30 Long-tailed Tits were foraging through the hedgerows; the feeding station was reset and 2 G.S.Woodpeckers were trapped on Dec.9th. On Dec.10th 600 Redwings and Fieldfares were on an adjacent field, a small number of Snipe were present in the reed-bed, and a Green Sandpiper seen along one of the adjoining ditches. The Corn Bunting roost was strong, but no successful netting was carried out.

At the conservation meeting organised by Mr. Alf Simpson of the county Society, members carried on the annual task of reed cutting, with about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre cleared and raked to generate denser, taller growth the next year. Some members joined another gang erecting a gate and 200 yds. of barbed wire fencing on the old railway embankment. This was done under the expert guidance of Mr.Des Heryett, of Glebe Farm, whose son Duncan is now a trainee of the Ringing Group. It was erected with the permission of West Sussex C.C., the present owners, to prevent disturbance of birds and ringing activities by people wandering along the embankment. A party from the Grammar School, led by Mr.Mike Hall, cleared and dredged about 150 yards of the stream that feeds the reed-bed. Another party spent the day digging up bushes growing on the old rubbish tip and replanting them in the drier parts of the reed-bed.

Thanks must be expressed to all who take part in the management work, which is now so obviously bearing fruit, and to Mr.Strivens for allowing the work and study to continue.

P.J.C.



## A CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA

Last year the Shoreham Ornithological Society had its 25th birthday and published its 25th annual report of records for the area. Now would thus seem the appropriate time to collate the past 25 years of records in a summary check-list. Furthermore it is getting more difficult to pronounce an unusual occurrence in the area as a 'new' bird without ploughing through back-numbers of the report.

The area covered by the reports has never been truly defined, and tends to be left to the Recorder's discretion. In early years only records for Shoreham, Southwick and Lancing were included, but now we have stretched our boundaries to Ferring Beach in the west, Brighton in the east, and north to about Washington.

I have arranged the list in the sequence devised by Prof.K.H. Voous and adopted as the list of Birds of the Western Palearctic, which is now taking over from the old Wetmore order.

### KEY:

CAPITAL letters - species recorded at the Society's Sanctuary.

Underlined species - species which have been ringed in the area.

(brackets) - species which have either been rejected by higher ornithological bodies, or for which insufficient information is currently available.

dates - species which have been recorded on not more than two occasions.

### LIST:

Red-throated Diver

\*Black-throated Diver

\*Great Northern Diver

#### LITTLE GREBE

Great Crested Grebe

\*Red-necked Grebe

\*Slavonian Grebe

\*Black-necked Grebe

Fulmar

\*Manx Shearwater Apr.75, Apr.77

\*Leaches Petrel Oct.66 (dead)

Gannet

CORMORANT

\*Shag

\*Bittern winter 63, Jan. 71

\*Little Bittern May 66

\*Cattle Egret April.62

GREY HERON

\*Spoonbill

MUTE SWAN

\*Bewick's Swan

\*Whooper Swan

\*Bean Goose Mar.64

\*Pink-footed Goose

\*White-fronted Goose

\*GREY-LAG GOOSE

CANADA GOOSE

\*Barnacle Goose Feb.63

Brent Goose

SHELDUCK

WIGEON

\*Gadwall

TEAL

MALLARD

PINTAIL

\*GARGANEY

SHOVELER

Pochard

Tufted Duck

\*Scaup

Eider

\*Long-tailed Duck

Common Scoter

\*Velvet Scoter

\*Goldeneye

\*Smew

Red-breasted Merganser

\*Goosander

\*Black Kite May 77

\*Red Kite Nov.71

\*Marsh Harrier

\*Hen Harrier

\*Montagu's Harrier

\*Goshawk Nov.74

SPARROWHAWK

\*BUZZARD

\*ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD

\*Osprey

\*Lesser Kestrel Nov.73

KESTREL

\*Merlin

\*HOBBY

\*Gyr Falcon Mar.72

\*PEREGRINE

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

GREY PARTRIDGE

\*Quail

PHEASANT

WATER RAIL

\*Corncrake

MOORHEN

Coot

\*Crane Oct. 63

Oystercatcher

\*Avocet

\*Stone Curlew

\*Little Ringed Plover

RINGED PLOVER

\*Kentish Plover Aug.75

\*Dotterel Apr.77

GOLDEN PLOVER

Grey Plover

LAPWING

Knot

Sanderling

\*Little Stint

\*Pectoral Sandpiper Sep.70

\*Curlew Sandpiper

\*Purple Sandpiper

DUNLIN

\*Ruff

\*JACK SNIFE

SNIFE

\*WOODCOCK

\*Black-tailed Godwit

Bar-tailed Godwit

WHIMREL

\*(SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW) Nov.75

CURLEW

\*Spotted Redshank

REDSHANK

GREENSHANK

\*GREEN SANDPIPER

\*Wood Sandpiper

COMMON SANDPIPER

Turnstone

\*Grey Phalarope

\*Pomarine Skua

\*Arctic Skua

\*(Long-tailed Skua) Oct.60



- \*Great Skua
- \*(Great Black-headed Gull) Nov.69
- \*Mediterranean Gull
- \*Little Gull
- \*(Sabine's Gull) Sep.56
- BLACK-HEADED GULL
- COMMON GULL
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
- HERRING GULL
- \*Iceland Gull
- \*Glaucous Gull
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL
- Kittiwake
- Sandwich Tern
- \*Roseate Tern Spring 71, May 73
- Common Tern
- Arctic Tern
- Little Tern
- \*Black Tern
- \*(White-winged Black Tern) Aug.73
- \*Guillemot
- \*Razorbill
- \*Little Auk Nov.59, Nov.73
- \*Puffin Apr.76
- STOCK DOVE
- WOOD PIGEON
- COLLARED DOVE
- TURTLE DOVE
- ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET
- CUCKOO
- \*BARN OWL
- \*LITTLE OWL
- TAWNY OWL
- \*LONG-EARED OWL
- \*SHORT-EARED OWL
- \*NIGHTJAR
- SWIFT
- KINGFISHER
- \*Bee-eater Sep.58, Augumn 71
- \*Hoopoe
- \*WRYNECK
- GREEN WOODPECKER
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER
- \*LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER
- \*Woodlark
- SKYLARK
- \*Shore Lark
- SAND MARTIN
- SWALLOW
- HOUSE MARTIN
- \*Tawny Pipit
- \*TREE PIPIT
- MEADOW PIPIT
- Rock Pipit
- YELLOW WAGTAIL
- GREY WAGTAIL
- PIED WAGTAIL
- \*Waxwing Nov.65, Jan.66
- WREN
- DUNNOCK
- ROBIN
- \*NIGHTINGALE
- \*Bluethroat
- \*BLACK REDSTART
- REDSTART
- WHINCHAT
- STONECHAT
- WHEATEAR
- \*RING OUZEL
- BLACKBIRD
- FIELDFARE
- SONG THRUSH
- REDWING
- MISTLE THRUSH
- \*CETTI'S WARBLER Oct.77
- \*GRASSHOPPER WARBLER
- \*Savi's Warbler Apr.68
- SEDGE WARBLER
- \*MARSH WARBLER June 59, Sep.61
- REED WARBLER
- \*(Icterine/Melodious Warbler)
- Aug.67, Aug.73
- \*Dartford Warbler Nov.61, Mar.74
- \*BARRED WARBLER Aug.59

LESSER WHITETHROAT

WHITETHROAT

GARDEN WARBLER

BLACKCAP

\*Yellow-browed Warbler Oct.67

\*WOOD WARBLER

CHIFFCHAFF

WILLOW WARBLER

GOLDCREST

\*FIRECREST

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

\*(Red-breasted Flycatcher)

Oct.68, Apr.75

\*PIED FLYCATCHER

\*Bearded Tit Oct.76

MARSH TIT

Willow Tit

COAL TIT

BLUE TIT

GREAT TIT

Nuthatch

TREE CREEPER

\*Golden Oriole May 60

\*RED-BACKED SHRIKE

\*GREAT GREY SHRIKE

\*WOODCHAT SHRIKE Sep.56, Oct.58

JAY

MAGPIE

JACKDAW

ROOK

CARRION CROW

\*R ven

STARLING

HOUSE SPARROW

TREE SPARROW

CHAFFINCH

\*BRAMBLING

GREENFINCH

GOLDFINCH

\*SISKIN

LINNET

TWITE

REDPOLL

\*Crossbill 1964 Sep.66

BULLFINCH

\*Hawfinch

\*(Lapland Bunting) Jan.68

\*Snow Bunting

YELLOW HAMMER

\*CIRL BUNTING

REED BUNTING

CORN BUNTING

Four further subspecies or races have been identified:

\*Water Pipit

\*Blue-headed Wagtail May 65

\*White Wagtail

\*Hooded Crow

Fourteen exotic escapes have been recorded, including White Pelican, Flamingo, Demoiselle Crane, Sarus Crane, Cereopsis Goose, Cape Shelduck, Cape Teal, Egyptian Vulture, Barbary Dove, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Red-crested Cardinal, Pin-tailed Whydah, Java Sparrow and Red-headed Bunting.

The diversity of the 244 recorded species in our area must be due to the variety of habitats present. There seem to be no remarkable absentees from the list, and unexpected species like Lesser Kestrel, Gyrfalcon, Pectoral Sandpiper, Savi's and Barred Warbler were recorded, although probably never to be seen again.



What does the future hold? If this society records for a further 25 years will many more species be added to this list? Certainly birds change over this short period - as who would have thought 25 years ago that the Collared Dove would today be a common garden bird? Serin, Fan-tailed Warbler and Scarlet Rosefinch are all reputed to be extending their range like the Collared Dove - will they be next in Shoreham? The Downs have produced unusual raptors in the past; perhaps a Honey Buzzard or Red-footed Falcon may be recorded there - only time will tell.

As Recorder for the society I frequently receive requests to clarify what sort of records I am interested to receive. As broad guide-lines I have marked with an asterisk all species for which all sightings are welcome (some, of course, require supporting notes). Records of early and late migrants, unusually high concentrations of birds, species in unusual habitats, and counts of either passage birds or breeding concentrations of common species are helpful to build up a picture of our total bird life.

J.A.N.

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#### THE BOTANY OF THE SANCTUARY

The second Shoreham Bird Report, for the year 1954, included an article on the plant life of the Sanctuary, and it was thought that it might be of interest to reprint it here. It is hoped to identify the present flora to see what changes have occurred in 25 years. It must be mentioned that some of the names do not coincide with those used in current handbooks - but that has also happened in ornithology!

#### REPRINT FROM 1954

As will be realised, the birds of a given area are attracted by, and are partly dependant upon, the natural characteristics of that area, these being all interrelated.

Colonel W.R.Roberts, C.B.E., a Shoreham resident and botanist, has, over the past year, compiled a list of plants he found in the Sanctuary; this is reproduced below. Colonel Roberts asked me to say that the list is by no means complete, and is confined to the actual area of the Sanctuary itself excluding the adjacent Downland.

|                         |                      |                     |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Travellers' Joy         | Silver Weed          | Creeping Jenny      |
| Meadow Crowfoot         | Agrimony             | Brock Weed          |
| Bulbous Crowfoot        | Field Rose           | Scarlet Pimpernel   |
| Celery-leaved crowfoot  | Hawthorn             | Privet              |
| Lesser Celandine        | Hairy Willow herb    | Water forget-me-not |
| Water Crowfoot          | Hoary Willow herb    | Bittersweet         |
| Marsh Marigold          | Alexanders           | Black nightshade    |
| Cuckoo flower           | Procumbent apium     | Large convolulus    |
| Cardamine flexuosa      | Chervil              | Brook Lime          |
| Hairy bittercress       | Lesser Water parsnip | Water speedwell     |
| Hedge Mustard           | Hogweed              | Germander speedwell |
| Shepherd's Purse        | Wild parsnip         | Field speedwell     |
| White campion           | Ivy                  | Water mint          |
| Mouse-eared chickweed   | Elder                | Scull-cap           |
| Common chickweed        | Honeysuckle          | Self-heal           |
| Hemlock stork's bill    | Marsh bedstraw       | Ribwort plantain    |
| Spotted Medick          | Cleavers             | Great plantain      |
| Black Medick            | Teasel               | Great water dock    |
| Small Yellow Trefoil    | Daisy                | Sharp dock          |
| Bird's foot trefoil     | Fleabane             | Sorrel              |
| Tufted vetch            | Groundsel            | Stinging nettle     |
| Common vetch            | Marsh thistle        | Sallow              |
| Bush vetch              | Spear plume thistle  | Crack willow        |
| Yellow meadow vetchling | Field thistle        | Yellow flag         |
| Sloe                    | Smooth hawksbeard    | Cuckoo pint         |
| Blackberry              | Dandelion            | Water plantain      |
| Dewberry                | Cowslip              |                     |

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HARD-WEATHER MOVEMENTS NEW YEAR 1979

The night of Dec.30/31, 1978, brought a very severe frost and about 3 inches of snow to the coastal areas of southern England, with deeper snow and drifting in higher areas and inland. The following six weeks may well be remembered for the series of strikes that disrupted the country, but for bird-watchers it was one of the best periods of the decade. Not since the 12 week freeze of 1962/3, which also started in late December, has such a variety of wildfowl, in particular, been seen.

On the coast, vast numbers of Lapwing headed out to sea, with smaller numbers coming in from the NE, probably the movement of two distinct populations. It must be remembered that virtually the



whole of NW Europe was under snow at the time, causing ground-feeding birds to move S. & W. to find food. It is estimated that 40,000+ Lapwings moved out to sea on Dec.31 along the 10 miles of coast between Brighton West Pier and Goring. In addition 5000+ arrived from the sea - probably from the Continent. The movement lasted from shortly after dawn until about noon, when it died down. Next day, Jan.1, fewer were moving, but there were up to 2000 in the Adur Valley, some heading down the valley and out to sea at Widewater. A few Golden Plover were moving with them. The movement had stopped by Jan.2.

Other birds seen flying W to escape the snow included Skylark, Redwing/Song Thrush, Fieldfare and Mistle Thrush, and large numbers of Wigeon, Shelduck, Brent and grey geese and other wildfowl. Passerine movement was very much concentrated over the alluvial coastal belt, although it is difficult to assess movement over the Downs as they were inaccessible. Birds were moving up the Adur valley, showing its importance as one of the few "passes" through the Downs. These included 300 Skylarks flying N in just  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. on Dec.31, as well as 6 Wigeon and 62 Lapwing in the same short period. Skylarks were the dominant passerine and on Dec.31 appear to have been arriving from the Continent at Brighton and flying W along the coastal strip. RFP estimates that c.3000 arrived from ESE and flew obliquely in over just Hove in 2 hours mid-morning. At Worthing and Shoreham, just  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile or so from the beach, the birds were moving due W. JAN estimates that 3000 moved W over his house between 09.30 and 11.30, and the writer counted 623 W over his Shoreham home between 07.45 and 09.00, with 450 more during the rest of the morning. However, many were missed owing to the limited sky-area visible from my garden, and to the cold. Since many could well have been counted more than once as they flew along the coast, a reasonable estimate is that 7000-10,000 Skylarks moved W or WNW on Dec.31. Movement on Jan.1 was as large and particularly noticeable over the Airport, where the large area of flat ground permits accurate counting. At Widewater numbers moving just behind the beach made it hard to decide whether to sea-watch or concentrate on passerines! On Jan.2 only 300 moved NE and movement had stopped completely by Jan.3, although there were still large numbers in the area feeding on any snow-free patch of ground.

Redwings/Song Thrushes were difficult to assess; RFP recorded only 80 W/WWN on Dec.31, JAN less than 100 but the writer had 728 W between 07.45 and 09.00 and a further 1050 during the rest



of the morning, dying out by midday. A total of less than 100 Fieldfares moved W, although, like Redwings, they are largely nocturnal migrants and may have been moving all night, so that thousands were missed. On Jan.1 Redwings were moving at the rate of 100/hour along the beach, whilst another 115 Fieldfares moved W - movement being concentrated behind the beach N to the edge of the Downs.

Other passerines included Starlings, difficult to assess, only moving on Dec.31. RFP counted 1660 arriving at Hove a.m. in about 1 hour; JAN only 100 W in 2 hrs. at Worthing; whilst I had great difficulty in distinguishing between roosting and cold-weather movements. Wood Pigeon/Stock Dove: 160 W on Jan.1 with a few in NE. Meadow Pipit: total 6 W and NW on Dec.31 and 9 on Jan.1. Blackbird: about 3 birds coasting W in entire period. Small numbers of Linnet and Greenfinch were also coasting W.

Of wildfowl, a total of 460 Wigeon moved W in 3 hrs. off Worthing on Dec.31 with a further 122 W off Widewater and Southwick on Jan.1, 50 W off Southwick in 2 hrs. on Jan.2 and there were 60 by the Adur on that day, decreasing to 40 on Jan.3 with a further 145 W off the coast. Passage was still recorded on Jan.4 - 90 W off Worthing in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. in late afternoon, and 60 W off Southwick on Jan.5, by which time there were 75 on the Adur. Wigeon (and also grey geese) are largely night migrants, so that many may have been missed. They reached a peak of 140 by the Adur on Jan.7 decreasing to 30 by Jan.10 and 25 by Jan.16. A total of 21 Mallard coasted W on Dec.31 and the first few days of Jan., and up to 200 were on the Adur. Pintail were represented by 4 coasting W on Dec.31/Jan.1, and more Teal than usual with up to 20 by the Adur on Jan.5. To complete the dabbling ducks, 4 Shoveler and 4 Gadwall were recorded.

Diving ducks included 5 f. Scaup off Worthing on Dec.31 and 19 W off Widewater on Jan.1. Up to 5 Tufted Duck on the Adur and 6 in the Aldrington Canal/Harbour area and up to 11 Pochard in the Canal and 3 on the Adur and Old Salts Farm - 1 stayed until early Feb. Goldeneye, all f., totalled 17 W off the coast and 3 on the Adur, and 30 R-b Merganser flew W with up to 6 in the Canal from Jan.7. 3 Goosander arrived on Jan.4, 10 (including 3 ad.m.) later in the week and 11 f. on Jan.6 and the last on Jan.14. There was just 1 Common Scoter in the Harbour on Jan.3 and 15 W on Jan.5; 4 Velvet Scoter moved W on Jan.2.



The pattern seems to be that many more Wigeon moved S than other dabbling duck, perhaps they were more affected by snow-covered ground. Inland diving duck such as Goosander and Pochard were more affected than sea duck such as Eider (no records) and Scoter. Noticeably most of the duck were f. or juv.

Other wildfowl were:

Shelduck - Dec.31 - 95 coasting W at Worthing (2 hrs)

Jan. 1 - 11 W off Brighton ( $\frac{3}{4}$  hr), 118 W off Widewater (2 hrs), 1 W off Southwick (1 hr), 65 W off Worthing ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs), 1 Adur valley.

Jan. 2 - 35 W Southwick (2 hrs)

Jan. 3 - 54 W Southwick (2 hrs), 2 Adur, 18 W Worthing ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr).

Jan. 5 - 3 Adur

The records show a definite peak in the number passing between dawn and 1030. Numbers increased on the Adur to 41 by Feb.3.

Brent Goose - Dec.31 - 181 W Worthing (2 hrs)

Jan. 1 - 23 W Worthing ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs), 77 W Widewater (2 hrs), 28 W Hove (1 hr)

Jan. 2 - 11 W. Southwick (2 hrs)

This also showed an early morning peak.

Grey goose sp. - 77 moved W off Worthing and Hove Dec.31 and 39 on Jan.1 with another 3 E. 106 W off Southwick on Jan.3 and 3 there on Jan.4; 10 W over Lancing on Jan.5. A small passage occurred on Jan.28, when there was a blizzard, with 14 S over the Downs at Hove and 8 in a field at No Man's Land. Of the birds identified 112 were probably White-fronts and 7 Greylags. 8 White-fronts (6 ad., 2 imm.) were present on the Airport and Sussex Pad on Jan. 5 and 7. 3 ad. Bewick's Swans joined the geese on Jan.7, staying until Jan.8. 12 swans flying E about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles offshore at Southwick on Jan.1 were probably Bewick's as very few mute Swans migrate.

Raptors recorded included a m. Hen Harrier coasting W at Worthing and a Sparrowhawk coasting W about 1 mile out of Southwick on Jan.2 which was mobbed by gulls and flew back to the E. A f. Hen Harrier was seen on the Downs at Cissbury and 1 over the Sanctuary on Jan.14 and a Short-eared Owl coasting W on Jan.1.

Good numbers of divers were recorded, including a possible Great Northern off Southwick on Jan.3. Two Red-necked Grebes turned up, one staying in the harbour from Jan.3 for about a week and another at Brooklands from Feb.4. A Slavonian Grebe off Hove on Dec.31 and 1 in the Harbour on Jan.6, a small passage of Great Crested Grebes and a few Dabchicks complete the grebe picture. The first 20 Coot appeared on the Adur on Jan.3 increasing to 100+ by Jan.6, staying into Feb. Up to 9 were recorded in the Canal, 16 at Widewater and 20 at Brooklands.

Unusual wader numbers on the coast were balanced by indications that many Dunlin had moved off the Adur by Jan.4, although normal numbers had returned by Jan.7. There were 600 at roost at Cuckoos Corner on Jan.1, when nearly 200 moved E at Widewater together with 150+ Sanderling, one of the largest movements seen at Shoreham. Small numbers of Redshank, Curlew, Oystercatcher, Knot (up to 18), Ringed Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Grey Plover and Snipe were seen in unusual places or coasting - mainly W - and about 3 Woodcock, in the Adur valley and Sanctuary, 1 Jack Snipe and 1 Spotted Redshank.

A few miscellaneous oddities included a Little Gull at the Harbour on Jan.14, an ad. w/p Mediterranean Gull by the Adur and at Worthing, Southwick and Hove Lagoon and 3 Water Rails, also by the Adur.

Brambling were more widespread than normal, with up to 30 at the Sanctuary, 35 by the Flood Arch into Feb. and 2 at No Man's Land. Twite disappeared from the Adur in the first 9 days of Jan., 18 returning on Jan.10. 2 arrived from the S at Widewater on Jan.1, flying N after pausing on the beach. Good numbers of Linnet (max.1000 at Sanct.), Greenfinch, Tree Sparrow and Stock Dove (max.40 at Sanct.) also seen to have congregated at easily available food sources.

The rarest birds recorded were an imm. Sabine's Gull drifting W off Worthing on Jan.3 (of the less than 20 Sussex records 3 have been in this area; normally seen in Sept/Oct., it is very rare in winter); and at least 1 White Stork, no doubt one (or both) of those present in E.Sussex in Dec. pushed westward by the weather. The first sighting was by JF near his Goring home, flying W on Dec.31 and the second N of the fly-over. It is, of course, rare enough to require submission of records to the Rarities Committee.



Altogether about 115 species were seen in the area in Jan.79, including 21 species of wildfowl - a very good month.

M.W.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FROM OUR MEMBERS' NOTEBOOKS

Unusual Large Gull at Worthing. Very large hooded gull, at least as large as heaviest Herring Gulls present on tide-line, notably different and easily picked out by hood and paler plumage, which had look of 3rd year Herring Gull. Hood was dark, smudgy, darker towards neck and nape and extending as far as in Mediterranean Gull. Bill large, heavy, pale with distinct dark terminal band; neck and back white with patches of cafe-au-lait; coverts and most of forewing varying shades of light brown; inner primaries, secondaries and hind wing mainly white; dark brown wing-tips formed by outer 6 primaries; brownish tail with dark terminal broad band; undersides almost white with greyish streaks, particularly in axilla; legs not seen. Behaviour similar to other large gulls scavenging on tide-line. (Would have been submitted as Great Black-headed Gull if had had better views of soft parts and tail had a more distinct terminal band).

J.A.N.

A Strange Encounter. At 13.45 on Nov.9th, a hazy sunny day, I saw two brown birds on the grass by Hove Lagoon - a Wheatear and a Redwing. Their behaviour suggested a territorial dispute - the Redwing gave in! Was he telling the Wheatear it was time she went south? On returning two hours later, the Redwing (the most colourful I've yet seen) was on the putting green with three Goldfinches and a Pied Wagtail. The Wheatear, looking very plump but with her left wing drooping slightly, was still by the Lagoon. I marvelled at the distance these two birds must have covered to have met at this spot.

B.M.B.

Shags at Southwick. Two juvs. on Sep.24 on the Power Station outfall. Steeper forehead than Cormorant. Light back contrasting with black primaries/secondaries. Distinct dark band across neck separating buffish chin/throat from nearly white scalloped breast. 1 juv., 1 ad. also on outfall Oct.3. Much less bulky than nearby Herring Gulls. Steep forehead again noted, giving head a small appearance. Adult flew past with a Cormorant at c.200 yds. Shag obviously smaller with quite different flight pattern - very much faster wing-beats, with short glides after every 7-8 beats. Cormorant did not glide at all. Shag was rather darker.

M.W.



Hoopoe on Beach. On May 1st at 08.30 hrs., whilst cycling towards Widewater, I noticed a, to me, unusual bird fly by and settle on the beach opposite Widewater Court. I stopped and watched it for about 5 minutes at a distance of about 30 feet. When I returned 20 minutes later it was still there, but flew inland when I approached. Cinnamon-coloured plumage with very clearly marked black and white barred wings, and longish down-curved bill. Crest folded; no call note.

D.G.

Juvenile Kentish Plover at Shoreham. One, just N of R.B. on Aug. 13 on E bank of river. I was on the W bank, but could see virtually every detail as the light was good. Distinguishing features were shape and paleness.

Shape - much shorter tail and wing than Ringed Plover, but rather larger head. Body much more round than R.P. Plumage - pure white underside, smudging fore and aft of eye, and slightly darker, not very obvious spot on side of breast. Back lighter than R.P., crown appeared gingery. A particularly light area from breast spot back over neck, looking like a pale saddle - instantly recognisable through 20 x 30 telescope. Legs looked dark - R.P.'s seen to be orange from same range.

Habits: at times fed in typical plover fashion, running a few steps then probing, but occasional much longer, almost Sanderling-like runs.

M.W.

Sparrowhawk in Trouble! On the evening of May 8th a male adult Sparrowhawk flew into a window of my house whilst chasing a flock of house sparrows. It was concussed, but flew off strongly after a rest.

J.S.

First-year Mediterranean Gull at Goring. Common Gull size and proportion; large, black 'drooped' bill, White forehead, dark smudge through eye and over nape forming partial hood; plumage whilst sitting on sea otherwise similar to 1st year B.H. Gull (except wing-tips appeared slightly darker); bird sat flatter on sea with less buoyant appearance. Flight Common Gull-like, outer six primaries forming dark wedge at wing-tip, dark trailing edge formed by tips of secondaries; several brown feathers in median and greater coverts; rest of wing white, tail white with dark terminal band.

J.A.N.

Black Redstart at Southwick. A cock Black Redstart was seen in the car park of the Grange Press on Jan. 14th. It was watched from the



window for three minutes. The rusty tail and flycatching style were obvious pointers. T.C.S.

Female Hen Harrier at No Man's Land. On Dec.20 flying low over ground, followed by a Carrion Crow. Larger than latter; especially long in tail and wings. Wings noticeably crooked at "elbow" and rounded at ends rather than square. More angled and thinner than Marsh Harrier. Biscuity-brown in colour, very much lighter than Crow. Patch of white at base of tail very obvious. Seen at  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile range for about 5 seconds before it disappeared over a ridge. M.W.

Roseate Tern at Hove. Excellent views at 50-100 yds. in good light as it flew by. Of common Tern size and Sandwich Tern whiteness with long tail streamers, black bill and buoyant flight.

J.A.N.

Albino Robin at Kirdford. On Aug.25th. I went to a garden at Kirdford where a "Snow Bunting" had been reported. The bird obligingly displayed itself on the ground and in trees. Its plumage pattern was very much that of a cock Snow Bunting in breeding plumage - a basically pure white bird with dark primaries and tail. But its habits, and then its song proclaimed it to be an albino Robin. I later learned that, first seen on July 28th, it survived until the New Year, when it was found dead in the snow.

C.F.H.

Unusual Gull Plumages - presumably due to some degree of albinism.

(1) Goring Sep.13. Herring Gull with all adult features apart from one wing being pure snow-white, the other white with black tip.

(2) Worthing Sep.13. Common Gull with striking wing pattern. Large triangular area of pure white from tip of c.7-8 primary to shoulder forming most of hind wing; clear demarkation between it and grey outer forewing; wing-tip typical of adult Common Gull.

(3) Shoreham Feb.1. Ghostly white Black-headed Gull; shape, proportions, bill etc. similar to other B-h.Gulls. Small black tips to primaries in flight.

J.A.N.

Marsh Harrier at Cissbury - very large, fairly evenly-coloured dark brown with cream crown and chin. Dark "mask" through eye. Seen from above and below at a range of 100 yards in the Cissbury area; hunting over a small hawthorn patch at one point when it perched in a large tree, unfortunately out of sight. Much heavier than Hen Harrier, especially in breadth of wing. No light

shoulders. Much larger than nearby Herring Gulls which were mobbing it. M.W.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SUMMARIES OF FIELD OUTINGS

##### Sunday 15th January - Pagham Harbour with Mr. O. Mitchell

Twelve members met on a dull, dry day with a cold N wind. The outing started at the Ferry Pool, where flocks of Teal and Shoveler were seen, together with 72 Canada Geese. 2 Rose-ringed Parakeets (feral) were noted by several members, but all had good views of many of the commoner waders, including Snipe, Dunlin, Redshank, Grey Plover and Black and Bar-tailed Godwits. As expected large numbers of Brent Geese were present, together with 30 Pintail, in the Sidlesham channel.

A drake Long-tailed Duck provided excellent views, as did a Black-necked Grebe soon after. Another good bird followed when a Great Northern Diver was seen offshore at Church Norton. Alas! this bird seemed to be struggling to disentangle itself from a fishing net. Another bird further offshore was probably a second of this species. Great-Crested and Little Grebes were also present, 8 Common Scoter moved W offshore and Red-breasted Mergansers provided close views. Lunch was taken at the Severals, but with no sightings of Bearded Reedlings. This was compensated for by 2 Sparrowhawks, Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Stonechats, 2 Avocets in the channel, a Water Pipit and fleeting glimpses of a Spotted Redshank which flew past calling.

A few members who braved the cold at the end of the afternoon visited the E side of the harbour. The hoped-for Short-eared Owls were not located, but the party was rewarded with Fieldfares, about 100 Redwing and also 15 Ruff and a Kingfisher.

It was generally agreed to have been a good outing, with a fair number of species seen, including some of our less common winter visitors.

##### Sunday 19th February Amberley Wild Brooks with Mr. B. Forbes and Mr. C. Messer

Five members assembled in arctic cold at Greatham Bridge. In a strong E wind the party walked from the bridge to Amberley Wild Brooks, which produced a few birds - 20 Pintail, a few Teal, 2 Green and one Great Spotted Woodpecker. Good views were obtained



of Redwing, Fieldfare and Snipe - the latter in the few unfrozen ditches.

Lunch was taken at Rackham Woods and the walk through the wood afterwards provided good views of Long-tailed, Great, Blue and Coal Tit, Treecreeper and a solitary Nuthatch. All three woodpeckers were also seen - two Great Spotted and one each of Green and Lesser Spotted, the latter affording excellent views. A Jay was heard, and several hundred Redwings and the odd Fieldfare were feeding in the trees - driven there by the frozen ground of the Brooks, which certainly limited the number of species seen.

A distant view was had of a large flock of Bewick's Swans - subsequently counted and found to be 105.

Sunday 30th April - Sea Watch with Dr. J. A. Newnham

On this cold spring morning 17 members met at the Sanctuary for the annual ringing demonstration. Unfortunately the dearth of birds, coupled with a fresh S.E. wind carrying a hint of rain made the prospects of productive mist-netting bleak. After some thought the party adjourned to the beach at Widewater for a spring sea watch. Here we were in luck, as a 2-hour watch produced 326 birds as follows:

|                           |     |                |    |
|---------------------------|-----|----------------|----|
| Sandwich Tern             | 20  | Dunlin         | 6  |
| Common/Arctic Tern        | 10  | Turnstone      | 3  |
| Little Tern               | 6   | Fulmar         | 1  |
| Little Gull 1 ad. 1 imm.  |     | Scoter         | 55 |
| Arctic Skua (light phase) | 1   | Shelduck       | 4  |
| Bar-t. Godwit             | 203 | Black-t. Diver | 2  |
| Sanderling                | 12  | Great N. Diver | 1  |

Many birds were passing close to shore and allowed us all some good views. As always on cold days, at least half the party had left before the skua and divers came by.

Saturday 9th September - Sidlesham Ferry/Church Norton with Mr. O. Mitchell

In dry, quite sunny weather, warm at times though with a force 4/5 westerly wind, 18 members met at Sidlesham Ferry, where very close views were obtained of many species of wader - 2 Avocets, 2 Spotted Redshanks, 10 Ruffs, 32 Curlew Sandpipers, 20 Little

Stints, 40 Golden Plovers, as well as Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew and 7 Snipe.

Later, there were good views of passerines along the fields/fences, including Whinchat (16), Yellow Wagtail (30), Stonechat (1), Wheatear (5) and also several of Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Turtle Dove, Blackcap, Sedge and Reed Warblers. The party also had good sightings of Great Crested and little Grebes, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Wigeon (2), Eider (2), Knot (2), Shoveler (20) and a small party of Teal.

At Church Norton 3 Black Terns appeared, and also Sandwich Tern, Common/Arctic Tern and one Greenshank. 8 Spotted Flycatchers were seen, (but unfortunately a Pied Flycatcher eluded us); good numbers of Willow Warblers were noted and a single Kestrel and Kingfisher.

The party returned to the Ferry Pool where the outing was "rounded off" with further close views of the waders. All were well pleased with the variety seen.

Sunday 29th October - Cissbury/Stump Bottom with Mr. C. Messer

On a dry day with clear visibility but a strong wind, twelve members joined the leader at the car park just north of Cissbury Ring. Our route comprised a circular walk taking in Chanctonbury Ring and Steyning Round Hill, but the variety of birds seen was very disappointing - one or two finch flocks, six Skylarks and a Kestrel. No large raptors were seen in this likeliest of all areas; indeed a Hen Harrier was seen in the area both a week before and a week after our visit, but we had to be content with an invigorating walk!

Sunday 26th November - East Head with Mr. C. Janman

Fifteen members assembled, and during the morning the party observed a small group of Sanderling along the tide-line. Other waders seen included Bar- and Black-tailed Godwits, Curlew, Redshank, Dunlin and Ringed, Grey and Golden Plovers. At the point we saw a Great Crested Grebe in low flight across the water, a pair of Stonechats and a flock of about 100 Linnets.

After lunch, some members were lucky enough to see briefly a handsome male Sparrowhawk at very close range. Good numbers of Golden Plover were seen later. As is usual for this area, many Brent Geese were also present.



SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31st DECEMBER, 1978

RECEIPTS

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Brought forward from   |        |
| 31.12.77               | 159.93 |
| 118 Subscriptions @ £2 | 236.00 |
| 5       "       @ £1   | 5.00   |
| Donations              | 2.60   |

EXPENDITURE

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Subscriptions: RSPB       | £5            |
| British Birds             | £16           |
| Binding                   | <u>£4.50</u>  |
|                           | 25.50         |
| Affiliation fees BTO      | 5.00          |
| Shoreham Community Centre |               |
|                           | 10.00         |
| Room Hire                 | 37.70         |
| Lecture fees              | 25.00         |
| Sanctuary Exp. Rent       | 4.00          |
| Printing Duplicating      | 78.70         |
| Postage                   | 20.53         |
| Stationery                | 9.28          |
| Miscellaneous expenses    | 1.00          |
| Carried forward to        |               |
| 1.1.1979                  | <u>186.82</u> |

£403.53

£403.53

Audited and Found Correct  
 (Signed) C. F. HELYER

(Signed) G. W. RAMPTON  
 Hon. Treasurer

\* \* \* \* \*

LIST OF LECTURES 1978

|               |                        |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| January 21st  | Travels in Afghanistan | Mr. Richard Williamson |
| February 18th | Birding in Lapland     | Dr. J. Stafford        |
| March 18th    | Annual General Meeting |                        |
|               | Birds of Selwyns Wood  | Mr. S. Bayliss-Smith   |
| October 28th  | 'The Sunshine State'   | Mr. & Mrs. A. Simpson  |
| November 25th | 'Bird Flight'          | Mr. A. Mitchell        |

# SHOREHAM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP LIST 1978

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 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. Becher           | The Cottage, East Hill Park, Portslade<br>BN4 2FA.          |
| 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.                            |
| Rev. & Mrs. E.W. Bowes    | 40 Exmoor Drive, Worthing.                                  |
| Mrs. K.M. Bowyer          | 6 Seafields, The Close, Shoreham-by-Sea.                    |
| Mr. C. Bryant             | 71 West Street, Shoreham-by-Sea.                            |
| Mrs. B.M. Buckler         | 116 St. Leonards Avenue, Hove BN3 4QN.                      |
| Mr. A. Burstow            | 27 Erringham Road, Shoreham.                                |
| Mrs. Carey                | 44 Greenways Crescent, Shoreham.                            |
| Mrs. E. Chadwell          | 19 Goldstone Crescent, Hove BN3 6LQ.                        |
| Mrs. M.E. Chandler        | Victoria Cottage, Coolham, Horsham RH13 8QN                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. A.B. Childs    | Cobbers, 6 Bennett Avenue, Hove BN3 6UR.                    |
| Mr. B.R. Clay             | 16 Melbourne Ave., Worthing.                                |
| Mr. P.J. Clay             | 11 Roamn Road, Steyning.                                    |
| Mr. S.E. Cole             | Barn End, 27 Amberley Drive, Goring.                        |
| J 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, West<br>Chiltington, Pulborough. |
| Mrs. P. Drawnsfield       | 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. E. Farmer            | 78 Park Avenue, Shoreham.                                   |
| Mr. J. Feest              | 18 The Avenue, Goring, Worthing.                            |



|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Mr. F.J. Forbes            | 156 Salvington Road, Worthing BN13 2JW.            |
| Mr. B. Forbes              | 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            | Orchard Way Cottage, Thakeham.                     |
| 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                | 10 Malthouse Close, Sompting, Lancing.             |
| Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Helyer     | 41 Roman Way, Southwick BN4 4TN.                   |
| Mr. A.E. Holman            | Oakmere, Mill Road, West Chiltington.              |
| Mrs. O.M. Hunt             | 24A Windlesham Gardens, Shoreham-by-Sea.           |
| Mr. R. Ives                | 9 Field Close, North Lancing.                      |
| Mr. 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, Henfield<br>BN5 9SO. |
| Miss H. Landman            | 7 Leeward Road, West Worthing.                     |
| 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. & Mrs. H. Newcombe     | 4 Paythorne Close, Southwick BN4 3YB.              |
| Dr. J.A. Newnham           | 27 Gerald Road, West Worthing.                     |
| 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. Parry              | 35 Woodland Drive, Hove BN3 6DH.                   |
| Miss J. Partridge          | Riverways, Riverside Road, Shoreham-<br>by-Sea.    |
| Mr. R.E. Peal              | 24 Creighton Avenue, London N.10                   |
| Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Phillips   | Brynben, Hyde Street, Beeding, Steyning<br>Sussex. |
| Mr. J.E. Phillips          | 131 Nevill Avenue, Hove BN3 7UE.                   |
| 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              | The Old Rectory, Coombes Lancing, Sx.                     |
| 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.                         |
| J Mr. G.A. Robbins         | 114 Old Shoreham Road, Southwick.                         |
| Miss E.P. Robinson         | The Street, Pyecombe, Brighton BN4 7EE.                   |
| 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's Close, North Lancing.                       |
| Mr. T.C. Smart             | 7 Phoenix Way, Southwick.                                 |
| Dr. & Mrs. J. Stafford     | Uplands, Mill Hill, Shoreham.                             |
| Mr. D. Stone               | 69 The Drive, Shoreham.                                   |
| Miss D. Stringfellow       | 7 Queensway, Horsham.                                     |
| Mr. K.J. Tanner            | 31 Clarendon Road, Shoreham.                              |
| Miss J.M. Tozer            | 68 Hertford Road, Brighton BN1 7GF.                       |
| Miss C. Tyson              | 87 Eastern Avenue, Shoreham BN4 6PE.                      |
| Mr. & Mrs. Vegrass         | 10 Boxgrove Gardens, Aldwick, Bognor.                     |
| Mrs. O.M. Vines            | 7 Stocks House, Sompting BN15 1BB.                        |
| Miss J.M. Wakeford         | 32 Seventh Avenue, Lancing BN15 OPJ.                      |
| Dr. & Mrs. B. Watson       | 83 Buckingham Road, Shoreham.                             |
| J Mr. M. Welfare           | 16 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 in the Wetmore order, which is that used in the Field Guide.

The Society's records are set out as shown:-

| <u>B.O.U.</u><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 where practicable. Rarities should have a full description sent in with particular emphasis on field marks etc.

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

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A REQUEST FOR HELP

In the latter part of 1978 the Lancing and Sompting A.27 Action Committee asked me, as Recorder for the Shoreham Ornithological Society, for details of the bird life along the proposed 'orange' by-pass route, as evidence for a proposed inquiry in late 1979. Unfortunately, this area, which runs from Hoe Court, north of Lancing, Sompting and Sompting Abbotts to the Downlands Corner, is not well recorded. In order to provide information for this group a survey of migrant and breeding birds will be necessary. I am prepared to co-ordinate and present the findings but I don't have time to do the field work. If any member is prepared to cover a small stretch of this route please contact me.

John Newnham

Worthing 47596.

\* \* \* \* \*

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.  
Tel: Brighton 592792
- Hon. Recorder Dr. J.A. Newnham
- Report Editor  
plus: Mr. C.F. Helyer
- 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

MacMillans Journals Ltd. send a reminder that members of approved Bird Clubs may obtain "British Birds" at the reduced rate of £7.50 per annum instead of the normal £12.00 p.a.

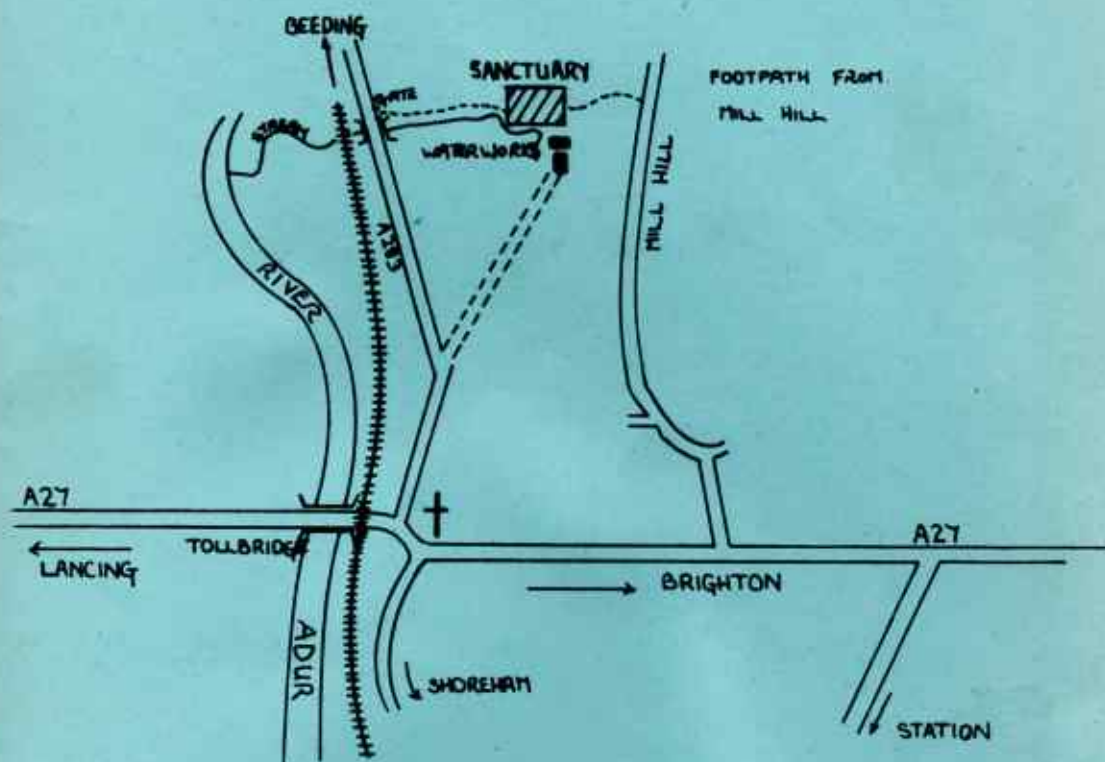
\* \* \* \* \*

EXTRA COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT MAY BE  
OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY AT 40p 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.