

Shoreham District  
Ornithological Society

REPORT 1982



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SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 1982

CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Editorial Notes by B.R. Clay	1
Birds Around The Shoreham District by B.F. Forbes	4
Systematic List compiled by B.F. Forbes	6
Ringling Report compiled by Dr. J.A. Newnham	34
Sanctuary Report by Dr. J.A. Newnham	40
Steyning Ringing Group Report by P.J. Clay	42
The Adur Levels by P.J. Clay	46
Spring Seawatch Report compiled by M.P. Hall	49
Autumn and Winter Seawatching by Dr. J.A. Newnham	59
Sri Lanka - An Ornithological Honeymoon by C.J. Fox	65
Sponsored Birdwatch by B.R. Clay	68
Did You Miss These ? by Dr. J.A. Newnham	72
Field Outings 1982	77
Lectures 1982	80
Notes, News and Accounts	82

## EDITORIAL NOTES

After the traumas of 1981, 1982 marked a year of consolidation for the Society. The A.G.M. in April 1982 confirmed the appointment of the new officers, with perhaps the most significant change being the resignation of D.r John Newnham as recorder after 7 years service. Even a cursory glance through the Society's reports for the last few years will testify to the enormous contribution he has made to the content and quality of these reports. Thankfully it is only the recordership which Dr. Newnham surrendering and I am sure he can be persuaded to make further literary contributions in the future, as well as continuing to compile the Sanctuary report and ringing data.

Into the role of recorder, perhaps most onerous office in the society, steps Mr Bernard Forbes, already well known to many members. He has made an admirable start by compiling the notes on the years birding events and the systematic list in this report and now knows what he has let himself in for. However, I am sure he will welcome the opportunity to put a non-seawatchers view!

It is pleasing to be able to include in this report notes on a full year of successful field outings arranged by the new Hon. Field Secretary, Mr Colin Messar and also a summary of an equally entertaining series of lectures arranged by the new Secretary, Mr John Dixon. Mention of the indoor meetings should not pass without a big word of thanks to Mrs J Weeding who, with her volunteers, has contributed enormously to the success of the evenings by the provision of refreshments and the organisation of the raffle; the latter making the evenings self financing.

The Society ventured into the political area during 1982 to curb the enthusiasm of the Adur District Council.

The Council had produced two proposals which could have been extremely detrimental to two sites of considerable ornithological importance.

Firstly, as part of an Informal Plan for the development of the area around the harbour, the Council had identified a site adjacent to the Norfolk Bridge and the houseboats as suitable for a marina. The location, well known to local ornithologists, is extremely important on a national scale for waders, particularly the Ringed Plover and is also a major gull roost. Dr. Newnham, acting in his capacity as Chairman, wrote a strongly worded letter of objection to the Council Planning Office and Dr A.B. Watson attended a public meeting convened to discuss the plan and presented verbally the Society's views. In the face of opposition received from this Society, the RSPB, houseboat owners and other objecters, the Council have now formally withdrawn their proposal.

The second Council generated policy which gave cause for concern was a 'Conservation Project' to be developed in association with the County Council and the Manpower Services Commission. The scheme was devised in an attempt to provide some short term employment for unemployed young people and involved the Widewater area. A number of aspects of the scheme were ill conceived despite the projects title and included - in a general tidying up operation - the removal of scrub, an island, and the posts projecting from the lagoon all of which are of benefit to the birdlife of the area. Further 'environmental' works were also proposed which may have affected the level of water in the lagoon. Again, Dr Newnham has written to the Council and other officers have attended site meetings with Council officials. The latest information is that the Council have modified their proposals and that apart from some litter and debris clearance the other 'tidying up' ideas have been abandoned.

The Society's records have proved an invaluable source of data in presenting the arguments against these Council proposals; wader and gull populations in relation to the marina policy, and the addition of 25 species to a bird list prepared initially by the R.S.P.B. in response to the Widewater project.

The Society is now firmly on the map as far as the Council is concerned and the Society will remain vigilant in opposing any further detrimental development proposals. The importance of members' records in providing background information to support objections of this nature cannot be over emphasised.

I will leave Bernard Forbes to comment on the ornithological happenings but in closing I would like to thank wives and friends who assisted me and other contributors in typing up manuscripts.

B.R. Clay

## BIRDS AROUND SHOREHAM DISTRICT 1982

This, my first year as recorder, has been a difficult one in trying to match the excellent past record of Dr J. Newnham. Below I have briefly outlined some of the interesting ornithological happenings in 1982.

The cold spell at the beginning of the year gave rise to many wildfowl sightings in our area; Scaup seen off Goring/Worthing beaches, Widewater and Southwick canal; a single female Goosander seen on the Adur and off Widewater and our first record of Ruddy Duck at Hove Lagoon. 5 Bewicks Swans flying north up the Adur in early January were a sign of the very cold weather, although the Sandwich Tern in Southwick canal was surely not. Goring and Worthing Beach was well covered in January and our first Great Skua for the month recorded. Along our entire recording area the coast was watched in earnest with sightings of rafts of Divers and Auks very close inshore and a second record of a Little Auk off Brighton Marina in February.

Other main features were the wintering Black Redstart (9 in January), up to 10 Twite on the Adur and of course the regular Mediterranean Gulls along our coast. Snow Bunting at the Fort provided very close views; we seem to be recording this fine bunting more often.

As Spring approached, the first migrant Chiffchaffs were seen in many places; the usual Wheatears were reported from the beaches from mid March onwards and the sea watchers dusted off their scopes and sharpened their pencils.

April 14th came with an Alpine Swift on the seafront at Brighton. If accepted it will be our first official record. A male Brambling in song at Cissbury in April and Wood Warbler singing in a Southwick garden were unusual Sussex records. The White Stork over the

Sanctuary in April caused much panic for some lucky members on a field outing and the Adur gave us the first ever spring record of Curlew Sandpiper. From April until the end of May the vast majority of the records came from the 'beaches'; skuas of all denominations and terns of all classes giving the sea watchers apoplexy, although all local members apparently missed a Sooty Tern reportedly seen off Worthing Beach in June of which, regrettably, we have no details. No great fall of passerines occurred in our patch in the Spring although many of the commoner species were seen in smaller numbers.

Summer came with rain but then warmed up although there were only few records for June and July. August gave rise to a wader passage in the river valley with many species sighted, attention also turning in early Autumn to the migration at Cissbury with its several records of Buzzard. Another Osprey was seen off Ferring and Dotterel were once again recorded on Steyning Round Hill in September.

The gales in late September and early October brought another spate of Grey Phalaropes along the coast, with Brooklands holding two records and also a juvenile Red-necked Grebe. A Great Grey Shrike at Goring gap in the middle of October stayed briefly for a day before moving off. Firecrests were recorded from many parts in late October and November; in fact the maximum ever recorded in one year and a very late Whinchat was seen at Goring at the end of November. A single unringed Barnacle goose turned up on the wader roost at Goring in late November, and also in this month a Kentish Plover on the Adur was just seen once.

With the year drawing to a close Long-eared Owl roosting in the Cissbury area and the much sought after Wheatear at the Harbour were drawing crowds. The year ended on a high note with plenty of activity on Christmas day: a flock of White-fronted Geese over Goring, Mediterranean Gull and Snow Bunting at Brooklands; Glaucous Gull at Widewater on New Year's Eve rounded off the year.

B.F. Forbes

## NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA IN 1982

This systematic list of the birds recorded in the Shoreham district is based upon records submitted by the following:

Messrs S.R. Allen, M. Banks, R. Chapman, B.R. Clay, P. Clay, J. Dixon, J. Feest, B.F. Forbes, F.J. Forbes, C.J. Fox, M.P. Hall, S.P. Hitchins, C.E. Hope, R. Ives, R. Jackson, A.R. Kitson, C.E. Messer, B. Metcalf, O. Mitchell, C.M. Newcombe, Dr J.A. Newnham, K. Noble, A.J. Prater, R.J. Sandison, N. Sibley, T. Smart, H. Sturman, T.J. Wilson.

ABBREVIATIONS: Ad - Adult, imm - immature, juv - juvenile, 1y - first year, m - male, f - female, E - East, W - West, etc., A.L. - Adur Levels, cc - Cuckoo's Corner, Ciss - Cissbury, W.B. - Worthing Beaches, G.B. - Goring Beach, F.B. - Ferring Beach, S.B. - Southwick Beach, Harb - Shoreham Harbour, B.Ma. - Brighton Marina, N.S.F. - New Salts Farm, Sanc - Sanctuary, S.R.B. - Strivens Reed Bed, S.H. - Steyning Horseshoe, W.P. - Wiston Pond, W.W. - Widewater, s.p. - summer plumage, w.p. - winter plumage.

'Downs' refers to the downland area between the Adur Valley and the A24 road including Cissbury.

Worthing beaches in sea watching summaries refers to all sea watch sites unless specifically mentioned as a separate observation or special note.

1. RED THROATED DIVER - Large numbers in Jan reported from B.Ma to F.B., many of the birds close inshore. G.B. 55E Jan 1st, maximum off W.W. 38 in Jan, also seen in Jan on River Adur and Southwick Canal, in autumn W.W. 1E Sept 19th, W.B. 4W Nov 11th, W.W. 1 Dec 12th.

2. BLACK THROATED DIVER - W.W. 2 on sea Jan 10th, 1 there on 15th, G.B. 1W Jan 6th, W Pier 2E Jan 11th, 1 off B.Ma. Jan/Feb and 4E March 27th and 1E there April 4th, W.B. 1W in s.p. May 25th, autumn W.B. 5W Nov 30th, G.B. 1E Dec 30th.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER - 1 record B.Ma. 1E May 11th (TJW) full description sent.

DIVER s.p. - W.B. between Jan 1st and May 25th total of 691E and 47W with peaks of 134E and 12W in 3 hrs Jan 12th and 107E in 2 hrs Jan 3rd. Spring passage off W.B. was similar to that of previous year's March 67E and 5W, April 72E and 2W, May 34E and 7W. B.Ma. peak passage March 6th 22E, April 4th 20E, May 11th 9E. Autumn winter off W.B. from Oct 9th to Dec 31st total only 72W and 51E, peaks of 12W Nov 30th and 10E and 7W Dec 4th. No repeat of last winter's enormous numbers.

6. LITTLE GREBE - W.W. peak counts 18-Jan; 13-Feb; 11-March; last spring record 4-April 2nd. Adur 6 Jan 10th, N.S.F. 4 Jan 13th, Brooklands 1 Oct 3rd, W.W. 6 Oct 26th, Adur 3 Oct 29th, W.W. max counts 15-Nov; 18-Dec.

7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE - W.B. 19E and 4W between Jan 1st and May 18th, most often recorded Jan/Feb 12E and 3W. Southwick canal 6 Jan 14th, Hove beach 24 Jan 17th, B.Ma. 8 Jan 31st, W.W. 18 Jan 15th. The birds recorded in the eastern end of our area in Jan not recorded off the W.B. Autumn off W.B. frequently 1-2 birds particularly in Dec. Movements totalled 17W and 2E with 8W in one flock Dec 4th.

8. RED NECKED GREBE - B.Ma. 1 Jan 1st, W.W. 1 Jan 4th on sea, G.B. 1 on sea Jan 4th, Brooklands Sept 29th to Oct 5th 1 juv.

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE - W.B. 2 Jan 11th, G.B. 1 Feb 27th  
W.W. 1 Jan 30th W.W. 3 March 23rd, W.B. 2 April 3rd.
10. BLACK NECKED GREBE - W.B. singles in s.p. E on  
March 31st, April 5th, April 19th (Jan).  
  
SLAV/BLACK NECKED GREBE - W.W. 1 on sea March 31st,  
B.Ma. 1E April 3rd and 4th, G.B. 1 Oct 10th, 2  
offshore Dec 30th.
12. FULMAR - W.B. total of 126E and 162W between Feb 20th  
and May 31st. Peak movements April:-66E and 91W,  
May:-42E and 52W. B.Ma. 2E Jan 9th. W.B. autumn  
August 3rd to Sept 30th 20W.
18. MANX SHEARWATER - W.W. 3W April 29th; W.B. 1W May  
3rd, 1W Sept 7th, 1E Sept 24th, 1W Sept 26th, 1W  
Sept 28th.
25. GANNET - W.B. 168E and 160W between Jan 2nd and  
May 30th, peak 24E and 8W May 1st. B.Ma. March 6th  
to May 31st 62E and 8W. Autumn movements off W.B.  
Aug 5th to Dec 31st 245W and 42E on 45 days/182 hrs  
watched; peak 66W and 19E in 6 hrs Oct 16th.
26. CORMORANT - A count along Hove beach to Harb 40  
Jan 30th. Harb 15 March 16th. B.Ma. winter roost,  
east late afternoon return early morning, maximum  
50 Feb 21st. W.B. 86E and 60W April 1st to May 30th.  
Cissbury 2W Aug 7th, A.L. 9 Sept 9th.
27. SHAG - B.Ma. 2 present Feb and 1 there March 2nd  
(TJW); W.W. 1E May 10th and 1E May 12th (ARK);  
G.B. 1E May 25 (DS); W.W. 1 offshore Aug 14th (ARK).
39. HERON - B.Ma. 1 sick bird present Jan 13th to March  
6th. G.B. 2 in off sea April 26th, 1 in off sea  
April 28th and 1 in May 27th. N.S.F. 4 Aug/Sept  
and 8 Nov 11th, A.L. 8 in Aug/Sept.

42. WHITE STORK - Sanc 1 overhead and then drifting west April 24th, third record for our area. Well seen by the lucky members who turned up on this outing.
47. BEWICKS SWAN - Adur airport 5N early morning Jan 10th (BFF).
51. WHITE FRONTED GOOSE - High Salvington 33E Jan 18th (JAN), G.B. 77E Dec 25th (RJS).
53. GREY LAG GOOSE - F.B. 1E Jan 10th, Cissbury 6E April 28th, W.B. 4E Dec 2nd.
- GREY GOOSE SPECIES - B.Ma. 2E Jan 31st and 13E March 3rd.
55. CANADA GOOSE - Small Dole 1 pair March 3rd, Adur 2 April 7th, A.L. 148 Oct 27th, 200 Dec 12th decreasing to 47 Dec 11th.
56. BARNACLE GOOSE - Goring 1 Nov 11th unringed bird resting on wader roost (RJS) (DS) 3rd record.
57. BRENT GOOSE - W.B. total of 1,095E and 31W between Jan 1st and April 29th, peak of 284E in 1 hr Feb 28th. B.Ma. 1,108E between Jan 3rd and May 31st. The W.B. total is only 60% of 1981 figure and 34% of spring 1980 record. W.B. pale breasted race passed east with 18 dark bellied Jan 18th and seen off W.W. (JAN) (AJP). W.B. in autumn between Oct 1st and Dec 31st total of 6,267W and 271E on 49 different dates, peaks 2,306W in 6.25 hrs Oct 23rd; 680W in 5.5 hrs Oct 24th and 1,733 in 8 hrs Nov 6th. W.W. 3 Jan 13th and 3 in Nov/Dec. Inland movement Upper Beeding 205S Nov 6th and 32S Dec 12th. This flock also seen feeding on A.L. same day, 70W along A259 Lancing Nov 6th.

61. SHELDUCK - Adur maximum count 32 Jan 16th with 17 on March 3rd. W.W. 1 Jan-March; A.L. 5 Jan 17th and 10N Jan 18th; W.B. 200E and 86W between Jan 2nd and May 31st with May producing 82E and 47W. B.Ma. Jan 1st to May 31st recorded 70E. Autumn observations from W.B. between Aug 21st and Dec 31st 164W and 8E with no peak and no cold weather movement. Adur 1 Dec 24th.
64. WIGEON - The very cold spell in Jan produced many birds, on the Adur 50 Jan 10th, N.S.F. 73 Jan 13th. A.L. 50 Jan 10th. W.B. total of 108E and 271W between Jan 3rd and March 7th. Peak of 151W on Jan 9th was prompted by severely cold weather. Autumn W.B. Nov 6th to Dec 31st only 80W and 14E on 7 dates.
67. GADWALL - Adur 3 Jan 10th, N.S.F. 1 Feb 13th and 21st, W.B. 2E April 5th, Adur 1 Nov 12th and 13th.
69. TEAL - Cold weather in Jan produced good numbers in the Adur valley, 100 airport Jan 10th and over 300 A.L. Peak counts on A.L. 425 Jan 1st, 192 Jan 17th, 90 Feb 2nd. Cuckoo's Corner 31 Jan 16th, W.B. 24E and 28W between Jan 3rd and April 5th. Autumn sea watching W.B. Aug 24th to Dec 4th 82W and 14E, peak on Nov 11th 23W and 11E. A.L. counts 62 Dec 18th and 270 Dec 12th. W.P. 15 Dec 25th.
70. MALLARD - W.B. 33E and 5W Jan 3rd to May 31st; N.S.F. 35 Jan 13th and 35 Feb 13th; Adur 50 Nov 11th rising to 70 Dec 27th; W.P. 13 Nov 25; W.B. 27W Nov 6th.
72. PINTAIL - W.B. 17E on 4 dates:- 5 Jan 3rd, 8 Jan 6th, 1 Feb 3rd, 3 May 11th. A.L. 12 Feb 2nd. Autumn W.B. from Oct 16th to Dec 27th 29W, peak 11W in 8 hrs Nov 6th.
73. GARGANEY - B.Ma. 1E March 23rd, 4E March 24th, 1E May 31st.

75. SHOVELER - W.B. total of 32E and 8W in spring. B.Ma. 25E in spring, peak 14E April 1st. N.S.F. 1 Jan 6th; A.L. 20 Jan 3rd, 14 on Jan 17th. In Dec A.L. 15 on 11th.
77. POCHARD - Increase in records with maximum of 14 W.W. Jan 9th decreasing to 1 March 23rd. Patching pond 8 Jan 9th. W.W. 1 Nov 6th increasing to 4 Dec 29th. Brooklands 7 Nov 11th and 9 on Dec 12th.
80. TUFTED DUCK - Increase in numbers over previous years with 2 W.W. Jan 2nd rising to 20 Jan 11th. Cuckoo's corner 3 Feb 21st; A.L. 5 Jan 17th; Patching pond 5 Feb 14th; W.B. 10E and 10W in Jan. B.Ma. 2W May 10th and 1E May 5th which may have been bird on W.W. on May 5th. A.L. 1 Oct 6th. Brooklands 4 Nov 13th rising to 21 Dec 16th (largest flock recorded in our area). W.W. 1 Dec 3rd; Small Dole 1 Dec 27th; W.P. 2 Dec 30th. W.B. autumn recorded on 4 dates between Oct 28th and Nov 28th 17W and 4E.
81. SCAUP - W.B. 6E Jan 10th; 3E W.W. and the same 3E B.Ma. Jan 10th; W.B. 9E Jan 11th (RJS). Southwick canal 3 Jan 24th, W.W. 1 Jan 1st and 3 there Jan 31st present until March 16th. Brooklands 1 Sept 30th with 3 there Dec 20th, W.W. 1 Nov 11th and 2 from Nov 29th to Dec 12th.
82. EIDER - W.B. a record total of 380E and 2W between Feb 2nd and May 31st, 351E in April-peak on 18th with 184E in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hrs including 2 flocks in excess of 60. Harb 4 Jan 12th. At B.Ma. 169E and 8W in spring. W.B. autumn Oct 1st to Dec 31st 159W and 11E with maximum of 63W in 3.5 hrs Dec 4th, 23W in 2.25hrs Dec 30th.
86. LONG TAILED DUCK - B.Ma. 1E May 11th, W.B. 1W Oct 26th, 2W Nov 21st, 1W Dec 4th.

87. COMMON SCOTER - W.B. total of 1,816E and 49W between Jan 1st May 31st with a peak of 305E in 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs April 4th. B.Ma. over the same period recorded 3,582E and 25W. W.B. numbers one of the lowest since 1977. Autumn return W.W. 1 July 27th and then recorded from W.B. Aug 15th to end of year 205W and 175E, peak on Nov 6th 41E and 17W.
89. VELVET SCOTER - W.B. total of 46E with 27E on Jan 25th, 5 during March and 14E on April 5th. At B.Ma. 64E with peak of 32E on April 4th; W.W. 2 offshore Nov 6th; W.B. 14E and 2W 8 hrs Nov 6th.
91. GOLDENEYE - B.Ma. 1 Jan 11th, 3E there March 25th, 3E March 28th. W.B. 2 offshore Jan 6th, 2E Jan 12th and 1E Jan 14th. Adur Steyning 1 Jan 15th; W.W. 1 Jan 11th; W.W. 1 March 28th. Autumn inflow occurred on Nov 6th with 3 females Brooklands, 1 off W.W. and 7E W.B., 1W W.B. Nov 7th.
94. RED BREASTED MERGANSER - Total of 331E and 67W at W.B. between Jan 3rd and May 16th. Migration of this species difficult to assess due to large flock of 60-100 birds offshore Ferring to Shoreham. Peak movement 25E and 1W April 18th although 82E and 27W in first 10 days of April. W.W. maximum count 10 in Jan with one or two birds present up to early April, 1 picked up dead oiled Shoreham beach March 7th. First record autumn W.B. Oct 3rd and then until Dec 31st with 237W and 75E, peak 31W in 8 hrs Nov 6th. Dec records of 78W and 64E may be related to local flocks. 1 or 2 in Nov/Dec on W.W. and Brooklands.
95. GOOSANDER - Adur 1 Jan 16th (AJP), W.W. 1E Jan 9th (ARK), both female.
96. RUDDY DUCK - first record for Shoreham 1 at Hove Lagoon, male Jan 16th-19th (BFF).

103. MARSH HARRIER - G.B. 1 male off see departed NW at 10.45 hrs April 29th (FJF) (RJS), probably the same bird Shoreham beach 13.13 hrs east (KN). W.B. 1 west May (JAN).
104. HEN HARRIER - Highdown Hill 1 ringtail N Jan 5th, Cissbury 1 ringtail April 24th, Cissbury 1 ringtail Sept 17th, Long Furlong Findon 1 ringtail from Oct 31st to Nov 11th.
105. MONTAGU'S HARRIER - Downs 1 ringtail Aug 23rd and 25th, 1 there Sept 11th.

HARRIER SPECIES - Downs 1 July 29th, Ferring Aug 30th.

108. SPARROW HAWK - Found in 7 areas in breeding season possibly 8 prs. Winter seen in 20 localities, many edge of built up areas. Birds possibly involved in migration seen at 3 coastal watch points in spring. Regular Downs all year with maximum 4 Sept 4th.
109. BUZZARD - B.Ma. 1N Jan 10th, Southwick canal 2W Jan 7th. Downs March 23rd, April 11th and 12th, May 8th, Aug 15th, 21st, 30th, Sept 2nd, 7th, 10th, 14th, 17th and Oct 14th all singles, difficult to assess numbers. March/April only one bird. Aug/Sept sightings probably related to same individual.
113. OSPREY - W.B. 1NW May 30th (JAN); Ciss 1SW Sept 10th (BFF) (FJF) (RJS); Ciss 1E Sept 13th (FJF); F.B. 1 Aug 15th (MPH).
115. KESTREL - Recorded in breeding season with estimate of 20/25 prs in area. Often seen throughout year in built up areas around Lancing, Hove and Portslade.
118. MERLIN - Adur levels 1 around Steyning Jan 2nd, Jan 12th and Feb 26th.

119. HOBBY - 7 spring sightings mainly from coast although 1 at Bramber April 14th, earliest record. Sanc 1 June 19th. 4 recorded on the Downs in autumn, finally 1 over Brooklands Sept 30th.
124. RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE - 1 in garden Upper Beeding at night Jan 11th (AJP).
130. GREY PARTRIDGE - 10 Mill Hill Oct 31st, all records would be most welcome.
131. QUAIL - Beeding Hill 1 calling July 23rd (TCS). Ciss 1 July 17th and Aug 1st calling (FJF).
136. WATER RAIL - Adur Levels 2 Jan 1st, 2 there on Jan 9th and 1 Feb 2nd. Steyning Mill Pond 1 March 23rd.
142. MOORHEN - Brooklands Jan 13th 20 rising to 22 Jan 23rd. Patching Pond 16 Feb 14th. B.Ma. 5 Feb 2nd.
145. COOT - Counts received from Brooklands - 60 Jan 23rd, 46 Feb 14th. Patching Pond 15 Feb 18th. W.W. 51 Jan, 50 Feb, 35 March returned W.W. 3 Nov 9th, only 4 Dec 31st. Brooklands 18 Nov 11th.
151. OYSTER CATCHER - B.Ma. Jan 1st to May 31st recorded 321E and 25W. W.B. Jan 18th to May 31st 274E and 116W, peak occurred second 10 days of April. Recorded on Adur maximum of 2 in July/August.
153. AVOCET - W.B. 1E April 4th (JAN), Adur 1 July 5th (KN). W.B. 3E Dec 2nd (JAN)
158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - W.B. 4 spring records:- 1E April 5th, 1W April 6th (JAN), 1E April 17th (CJF) and 1E May 11th (JAN). Adur 1 Aug 2nd and 1 Aug 23rd.
159. RINGED PLOVER - Goring roost maximum counts 143 Jan 23rd, 60 Feb 25th, 21 March 8th. B.Ma. 17 Jan 24th. Adur 103 Jan 24th, 116 Aug 8th, 207 Aug 30th, 180

Sept 14th. B.Ma. 27 Dec 30th. Goring roost 220 Dec 7th. W.W. 3 pairs and 1 male reared 2 young. W.B. 28E between April 23rd and May 31st.

161. KENTISH PLOVER - Last year's bird overwintered at Goring beach recorded on many occasions Jan 2nd to March 15th. Once again recorded on the Adur Nov 11th (KN) - this one feeling the cold and not staying.
163. DOTTEREL - 1 Steyning Round Hill Sept 10th (ARK)
166. GREY PLOVER - W.B. total of 350E and 6W between April 1st and May 23rd; 58E and 1W in April and 292E and 5W in May. The peak of 171 in  $9\frac{1}{4}$  hrs on May 11th (including one flock of 80). B.Ma. 201E between April 17th and May 14th with same day peak as W.B. 160E May 11th. Adur maximum count of 20 in Jan. Peak counts as Goring roost 190 Jan 10th, 104 Feb 20th, 12 March 12th, 60 Nov 17th, 164 Dec 7th. W.B. in autumn recorded from Aug 12th to Dec 31st 144W and 7E.
169. LAPWING - Cold weather in Jan produced a movement of 2,310SW in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs Upper Beeding and 591SW at G.B. on Jan 9th plus another 420 feeding in fields. B.Ma. 110E Jan 10th, N.S.F. 280 Feb 13th, Adur 780 Feb 20th and 750 Airport Feb 7th. Autumn flocks Airport 600 Sept 2nd, A.L. 2,000 Nov 13th, Lancing college 900 Dec 28th and 1,500 on Dec 29th.
170. KNOT - W.B. 93E 2W between April 16th and May 30th with the peak during SE winds in the middle of May with 64E May 13th. B.Ma. 67E May 13th. Adur 1 Jan 1st, 1 Aug 13th, 2 Aug 24th, 6 Sept 6th, 3 Sept 12th, 1 Oct 1st. W.W. 1 May 9th, 1 May 23rd, 1 Aug 19th, 1 Aug 21st. W.B. only 10 recorded W in Aug/Sept.
171. SANDERLING - W.B. 531E and 8W between April 1st and May 31st with 83E in April and 498E and 8W

in May; peaks 75E May 11th and 130 on May 14th. B.Ma. 47E May 11th. Goring roost counts 150 Jan 31st, 120 Feb 25th, 132 March 20th, 40 Dec 6th. Ferring Beach low tide counts 200 Feb 11th, 200 March 13th. W.W. 8 May 5th. Adur singles on Aug 17th, Aug 23rd and Oct 12th.

178. LITTLE STINT - 1 Adur Jan 15th, Feb 21st, March 3rd and 26th. W.W. 1 May 4th, W.B. 1E May 11th. Adur 1 Oct 28th, Nov 2nd and Dec 21st. W.W. 1 Oct 17th.
182. CURLEW SANDPIPER - 1 Adur April 3rd (KN), our first spring record. Adur all records 1 July 7th, 1 Aug 30, 3 singles in Sept, 2 on Sept 25th, 2 Oct 6th, singles on Oct 12th and 13th.
183. PURPLE SANDPIPER - Recorded both ends of the year from harbour mouth; 5 Jan 5th, 3 Feb 5th, 1 March 3rd and from Nov 29th until Dec 31st regular, maximum of 6 on Dec 17th. 1 B.Ma. April 4th, 1 April 18th, 2 Dec 30th. G.B. 1 March 20th.
184. DUNLIN - Peak monthly counts:

Adur	Jan	6th	1,000	Goring	Feb	11th	850
	Feb	7th	800		March	8th	378
	March	3rd	300		Dec	6th	260
	Aug	8th	18				
	Sept	16th	90				
	Nov	10th	438				
	Dec	19th	2,000				

W.B. spring sea watching 291E and 150W, peak 81E on May 13th. Autumn movement W.B. Aug 15th to Nov 30th 296W and 23E; peak 105 Oct 16th.

188. RUFF - 1 Adur Sept 7th, 1 Oct 6th and 1 Oct 13th. A.L. 1 Dec 27th, W.B. 1W Aug 26th.

190. SNIFE - Large numbers are hard to come by in lower Adur, 30 Sanc Jan 13th, N.S.F. 6 Feb 4th, Sanc 1 April 14th. Remainder of records come from the levels above Bramber 660 in snow field Jan 9th, Kings Barn Lane 340 Jan 10th, 50 Feb 2nd. A.L. 29 Oct 4th and 64 on Dec 18th.
194. WOODCOCK - Very cold weather in Jan produced a count of 12 at Lychpole Hill on 12th, 1 at Swandean on Jan 12th. 1 Lychpole Nov 14th and 1 trapped Sanc Dec 4th.
195. BLACK TAILED GODWIT - W.B. 1W April 26th, 4 Adur May 8th. 1 Small Dole Tip July 16th.
196. BAR TAILED GODWIT - 1 Adur in early Jan, 1 G.B. March 20th.

Worthing Beach

	Jan/Feb	March	April	May
E	32	4	4,393	490
W	0	0	0	2

The peak during afternoon April 27th 1,193E in 6½ hrs. B.Ma. 1,503E in spring watching, peaks 355E April 26th, 182E April 27th. Adur up to 5 resting on river early May. In autumn only 27W and 8E in Aug/Sept, 1 Adur July 30th.

198. WHIMBREL - W.B. a record of 883E and 26W between April 6th and May 29th; 766E in April and 117E in May, peak 88E April 22nd. B.Ma. 408E in spring, peak of 177E April 26th. Adur recorded from Aug 7th. Up to 6 seen on Adur Rec and Airport Sept 8th. W.B. autumn from Aug 15th to 30th, 25W and 2E.
199. CURLEW - W.B. 84E and 9W between Feb 3rd and May 14th, peak of 12E on April 15th. 1 N.S.F. Jan 15th; 3 A.L. Jan 9th. 1 Airfield Sept 9th, 1 A.L. Dec 12th. W.B. autumn 18W and 1E Aug 3rd to end of year.

201. SPOTTED REDSHANK - 1W.W. Aug 14th. 1Adur Aug 24th, 1 Sept 2nd and then 2 around river area in early Oct until 14th. 2 W.W. Oct 14th and 1W Oct 10th.
202. REDSHANK - Peak counts Adur 175 Jan 31st, 58 Aug 30th, 100 Oct 8th, 103 Dec 4th. Goring roost 14 Jan 18th, 17 Feb 25th. 6 Small Dole Tip April 5th. 1 pair A.L. summer.
204. GREENSHANK - W.B. 1E April 26th, 2 Small Dole Tip May 5th. Adur between July 27th and Oct 13th recorded on 15 dates, 3 on Sept 25th, 3 on Oct 6th. Cissbury 1W Aug 22nd.
208. GREEN SANDPIPER - A very good year mainly recorded in Upper Adur. Small Dole Tip 1 April 11th, 7 on 12th, 10 on 20th (largest count in our area), 1 on 27th. 1 Adur Jan 10th, 1 S.R.B. Jan 13th, 5 A.L. July 28th, 1 Adur Aug 10th, 1 Small Dole Tip Dec 18th, 1 Wiston Pond Dec 25th.
211. COMMON SANDPIPER - W.W. bird seen from Jan 1st until 13th. First spring record 2 B.Ma. April 27th and then total of 27 birds throughout area, maximum 9 B.Ma. May 11th. First autumn record July 7th, 1 Small Dole Tip with 4 there on July 11th. Only 5 records from lower Adur, last record 1 N.S.F. Sept 22nd.
213. TURNSTONE - Only record from G.B. 3 March 20th (there must be more in this area). 1 W.W. May 6th and 2 Aug 8th. Singles on Adur from Aug 2nd until Nov 11th. W.B. 4OE and 12W between April 16th and May 22nd with main passage on May 11th and 12th, in the autumn only 12W on 6 dates.
216. GREY PHALAROPE - The autumn gales produced another good year with the Brooklands birds affording splendid views to many. Brooklands 1 Sept 29th to Oct 1st and 1 Oct 17th. B.Ma. 1 Sept 27th, Goring Gap on wader roost Dec 11th and 12th.

217. POMARINE SKUA - W.B. total of 20E, a smaller number this year. The April bird also noted off Selsey is the second earliest record for this area.

April	17th	1	15.00 hrs	G.B.
May	10th	1	12.04 hrs	W.B.
May	10th	1	19.35 hrs	W.W.
May	13th	14	08.27 hrs	W.B.
May	14th	1	17.20 hrs	Lancing
May	15th	2	14.47 hrs	G.B.

Various probable "poms" were noted as follows: April 23rd 5 (FJF), May 11th 2 (JAN) and 2 (ARK), May 12th 3 (MPH). B.Ma. 1E April 29th, 1E May 5th, 13E and 7W May 13th. Presumably the flock of 13 was the same flock seen off W.B.

218. ARCTIC SKUA - B.Ma. from April 5th to May 14th 31E. W.B. total of 67E and 6W between March 31st and May 17th with peaks of 10E May 2nd and 11E May 3rd. Recorded offshore from Sept 19th with 24W and 20E on 13 dates, peak Oct 16th 12E and 10W.
219. LONG TAILED SKUA - 1W Goring 10.35 hrs April 6th (FJF). If accepted by Sussex O.S. it will be the second for area.
220. GREAT SKUA - W.B. 2E Jan 7th (FJF), our first Jan record. W.B. 1E April 30th, 1E April 10th (FJF). On return passage from Sept 21st until Dec 30th 8W and 5E with unusually large number of records in Dec. 1W Sept 21st, 1W Oct 1st, 1W Oct 13th, 2E and 1W Oct 16th, 1W Oct 17th, 1E Dec 2nd, 1W Dec 3rd, 1W Dec 4th, 2E Dec 18th, 1E Dec 30th.
222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL - 1 W.W. adult resident from Jan 1st until end of March. 1 Ad E Jan 1st, 1 Ad W Jan 5th, 2 Ads E Jan 9th, 1 Ad E Jan 10th, all at Goring, probably refer to 2 adult birds.

In spring 1 Ad W W.B. March 30th; 1 1st year W.W. April 24th and 3 there April 26th (ARK); 1 W.W. 1st summer April 27th and 1 Ad E May 12th. Autumn birds seen from Adur 1st winter Sept 7th, Nov 3rd and 11th, W.B. 1 Ad Oct 16th. Brooklands 1 Ad Dec 25th.

225. LITTLE GULL - W.B. total 91E and 8W between Jan 3rd and May 13th; peak numbers in middle of May with maximum of 54E May 11th, peak also at B.Ma. on 11th with 27E. Recorded in autumn at Adur 3 Sept 30th; W.W. 1 Sept 29th, 1 Nov 12th; Hove lawns 1 Aug 27th. W.B. from Aug 28th to Nov 24th 36W and 2E on 17th dates, peak 11W in 2.25 hrs Oct 17th.
228. BLACK HEADED GULL - W.B. in spring 3,569E and 307W. W.B. 1,000 in roost April 7th and 374E in 2 hrs April 20th. W.B. July 9th 1,000 in roost. G.B. 35,000W in 2 hrs Oct 14th (FJF, RJS).
233. COMMON GULL - W.B. spring counts incomplete but 774E and 140W mainly April, 1 albino W.B. May 5th. Roost at W.B. 490 March 30th and 3,000 April 7th.
234. LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL - W.B. total of 105E and 3W were mainly the continental sub species in spring. Small Dole Tip 9 April 18th. Adur 4 July 27th, 14 Sept 22nd, 16 Nov 3rd.
235. HERRING GULL - Counts made at W.B. 177 April 27th and 160 G.B. same day. Downs 250 Nov 5th, Adur roost 560 Dec 16th. Again an increase in yellow-legged sub species records; 1 in Feb; none until June 4th; 90 in July; 50 in August; 21 in Sept; 4 in Nov, mainly from Adur valley, Small Dole plus 1 or 2 G.B. and Brooklands.
237. GLAUCOUS GULL - Adur 1 first winter Oct 29th and at W.W. presumably the same bird Dec 31st. Only two records for this gull which had been seen on

many occasions according to word of mouth reports.

238. GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL - Counts as follows: Adur 320 Feb 3rd, 50 Aug 8th, 200 Sept 12th, 610 Nov 6th, 510 Dec 16th; Sompting Tip 200 Nov 20th.
240. KITTIWAKE - Portslade beach 53 offshore Jan 7th and at G.B. 93E and 26W on the same day. Small numbers noted at W.B. in spring peak 71W on April 8th. Oiled birds reported from W.W. 1 and G.B. 2 Jan 2nd. B.Ma. from March 3rd to May 31st 530E. W.B. in autumn recorded (Aug 13th to Dec 31st) 502W and 199E in 182 hrs on 47 dates, peaks Oct 16th 100W and 54E and 125W and 20E Nov 11th.
245. SANDWICH TERN - Southwick canal 1 Jan 25th and 31st (BFF) (SRA) (2nd winter record). W.B. spring passage 3,669E from March 27th until May 31st, peaks of 378 in 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs on April 4th and 318 in 6 hrs April 5th, with an overall rate of 10.9 birds/hour. B.Ma. total of 1,789E from March 27th until May 31st, peaks as W.B. 313E April 4th and 251E April 5th. Steyning Round Hill 2 calling at dusk Aug 25th and 2W Cissbury Sept 9th. Autumn W.B. from Aug 12th until Oct 30th 355W and 33E on 40 dates.
246. ROSEATE TERN - W.B. 1E May 12th (JAN) and 1E W.W. May 13th (AJP).
- 247/ COMMON/ARCTIC TERN - W.B. total of 1,939E and 15W  
248 between April 3rd and May 31st, only 101 in April and 1,838 in May; peak of 724E in 9 hrs May 15th. Spring passage was low, 31% of 1981 figure and 21% of 1980 record figure. Corresponding passage recorded off B.Ma. 1,972E. Regular Adur July/Aug maximum of 8. Return passage W.B. Aug 3rd until Oct 16th 689W and 89E, peak 55W Oct 3rd and 52W Aug 24th.

251. LITTLE TERN - W.B. total pf 448E and 38W between April 19th and May 31st, only 20E April and 428E in May; peak 152E in 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs May 11th. B.Ma. 167E over the same period. Adur up to 5 present July/Aug. W.B. only 27W from Aug 15th to Sept 12th.
253. BLACK TERN - Total off W.B. 59E on 7 dates between May 2nd and May 29th, peak of 30E May 12th. W.B. return passage from Aug 17th to Oct 3rd 29W and 2E; peak, 9W Sept 1st, 8W Sept 26th.
255. GUILLEMOT - Large numbers close inshore in Jan produced maximum counts of W.W. to Southwick beach 35 Jan 7th, 25 Jan 11th and 53 Jan 15th. 2 birds found dead and several picked up suffering from oil pollution.
257. RAZORBILL - Birds reported in Jan from W.W. 2, Harb 1, G.B. 2, B.Ma. 2. B.Ma. present on 5 dates in May and Southwick 1 in April and 1 in May.
259. BLACK GUILLEMOT - 1 Portslade beach seen offshore Jan 7th. Full description supplied, first record Shoreham (SRA).
260. LITTLE AUK - B.Ma. 1 Feb 14th (TJW). Well seen, full description (our 2nd record).

AUK SPECIES - The total of 267E and 69W reflects the large numbers present in the Channel in winter (although vast majority Guillemot)

	Jan/Feb	March	April	May
E	221	4	7	29
W	30	9	1	19

264. STOCK DOVE - Breeding season only record Steyning Horseshoe. Downland flocks 80 Feb 24th, 100 Nov 27th, 180 Dec 4th and 40 Dec 8th.

265. WOOD PIGEON - Sompting Tip 850W at dusk Jan 20th; Steyning Round Hill evening roost flight 1,830 in 1 hr.
266. COLLARED DOVE - Sanc roost 50 March 3rd, a decline in recent years. Southwick canal 60 feeding at grain wharf March 16th. B.Ma. 1N March 27th, 2N April 21st. Adur 22 Dec 12th.
267. TURILE DOVE - First recorded Ciss 10 May 7th, 2 on May 9th. Small Dole 1 May 8th, Shaves Wood 2 May 10th. No breeding season counts received. Small numbers in Aug/sept Ciss, 1 Mill Hill Sept 27th, Sanc 1 Sept 22nd.
271. CUCKOO - First Ciss April 12th plus 4 there April 24th, 6 counted Downs area June 19th, Sanc 1 May 5th. Reported Shaves Wood in breeding season, no autumn records received.
274. BARN OWL - Findon valley 1 calling April 21st, 1 Sanc March 21st and 22nd, 1 Steyning regular Jan. Ashurst pr. during breeding season. 1 A.L. in summer. 1 W.P. Oct 23rd, 1 Steyning-by-pass Nov 16th.
279. LITTLE OWL - Breeding records from 5 Downland localities, 5 areas around Steyning and one in the suburbs of Worthing. 4 winter records on Downs away from breeding areas.
280. TAWNY OWL - Breeding season records Findon Valley, Nepcote Park, Cissbury 4 prs, Offington Park, West Worthing, Sanc, Goring, North Lancing, Steyning 2 pr. 1 Mill Hill Oct 22nd, regular 3 Ferring autumn.
281. LONG-EARED OWL - Downs 1 Dec 4th.

282. SHORT-EARED OWL - A good year, 10 records: Airport 1 Jan 10th, Downs 1 March 27th and 1 Oct 23rd, W.B. 1E April 19th and 1NE April 23rd. Ferring area 2 Oct 9th, 1 Oct 14th and 1 Oct 27th, Victoria Park Worthing 1N Oct 18th.
289. SWIFT - First record April 26th 1 Durrington. W.B. 2N April 29th with 98 arriving from the sea May 3rd, with corresponding increase from May 3rd in the whole area; last record Cissbury and Upper Beeding Sept 10th.
291. ALPINE SWIFT - Our first record in our area 1 Brighton seafront April 14 (KN) (if accepted by BB).
293. KINGFISHER - Recorded regularly in the Adur valley with wandering birds at W.W. Jan and Sept. Brooklands Jan, West Durrington 2 Feb 11th, although no proof of breeding this year. One seen from my bedroom window Lancing W over garden Feb 27th.
300. GREEN WOODPECKER - Records mainly from the Downs and northern area suggests at least 7 prs breeding. W.B. 1E along beach April 25th.
302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - 6 breeding reason records of single or pairs in suitable areas. Sompting 1 Feb 2nd, Offinton 1 Oct 10th, S.R.B. Jan 13th, Goring Gap 1 Nov 4th, Sanc 1 Sept 29th.
303. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Only 5 records: Goring Gap 1 April 15th and 1 May 6th, Ferring Rife 1 in autumn, W.P. 1 Nov 25th, 1 Dec 25th.
313. SKYLARK - Cold weather in Jan produced 405W in 5 hrs G.B. Jan 9th, with another 50 feeding in fields. Adur 110 Jan 10th and 65 on airport same day and 85 at Mill Hill. 31 prs breeding on 55.1 ha A.L. Ciss 200 Oct 13th, 400 Nov 14th and 100 Nov 27th.

313. SAND MARTIN - First seen 1 W.B. March 28th and then only 3 recorded on sea watches. Ferring 50W Oct 10th.
314. SWALLOW - First seen W.B. and B.Ma. April 5th then none until April 18th, thereafter daily arrivals noted. In autumn F.B. 900E in 2 hrs Sept 30th, W.B. 112E in 15 mins Sept 3rd, 181E in 15 mins Sept 9th, 320E in 16 mins Sept 14th. Last record High Salvington Nov 15th.
316. HOUSE MARTIN - First recorded Upper Beeding 1 April 16th and then noted W.B. and B.Ma. April 19th. Autumn counts G.B. 350W in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr Sept 2nd, 1,000 Findon Green Sept 14th, F.B. 5,100E in 2 hrs Sept 30th, Ciss 40 Oct 23rd, Mill Hill 4 Nov 1st, Shoreham beach 2 Nov 24th.
320. TREE PIPIT - No spring records. In the autumn 127 recorded at Cissbury with peaks of 21 Aug 19th, 28 Sept 9th and 6 Sept 14th. F.B. 5 Oct 10th.
322. MEADOW PIPIT - W.W. 40 Jan 5th. Recorded in spring W.B. total of only 160. B.Ma. 119N in March and 125N in April, 30 prs breeding 55.1 ha A.L. During autumn counts on Downs as follows: 80 Sept 3rd, 140 Sept 20th, 170 Sept 25th and 200 Oct 9th.
324. ROCK PIPIT - W.W. 2 Jan 23rd and 1 Feb 19th; Harb 1 April 4th; B.Ma. 6 Jan 24th. W.B. a walk along entire length in Jan produced a count of 13. Autumn regular Shoreham beach 5th Nov to Dec 31st, peak of 6 on Dec 9th. G.B. 1 Dec 30th, B.Ma. 3 Nov 11th. Singles showing characteristics of 'Water Pipit' W.W. Feb 22nd and March 30th to April 1st.
325. YELLOW WAGTAIL - 12 arrivals on 10 dates W.B. April 4th to May 12th B.Ma. 28N April 5th to May 11th. A.L. 2 pairs holding territory June/July. One showing characteristics of the typical

race Blue-headed Wagtail on A.L. July 10th, W.W. 1 Aug 10th and 1 Adur rec Aug 30th. During autumn recorded from amny coastal localities, peaks 20 Sompting Sept 12th; 24 W.B. Sept 17th. Large numbers occured on the Downs with following counts: 80 Aug 28th, 226 Aug 30th (200 in one flock), 40 Sept 3rd, 120 Sept 4th. Last record 12 F.B. Oct 10th.

327. GREY WAGTAIL - Singles G.B., Maybridge, Swandean Hosp., Brooklands in Jan, regular Steyning all year and then in Sept evidence of migration with 4 birds W Ciss. 1 W.W. Sept 14th and 6E Sept 16th, 1 Sanc Sept 22nd. Winter records F.B. and Rife Nov 20th; 1 Steyning Nov 16th; 1 Brooklands Dec 25th. All breeding season records would be most welcome.
328. PIED WIGTAIL - W.B. entire length 52 feeding on tide waste Jan 23rd, 30 Harb Dec 29th, 18 F.B. Dec 4th.
338. NIGHTINGALE - 1 G.B. in full song Ilex wood April 26th-29th. B.Ma. 1N April 19th. No records of breeding, one juv trapped Sanc July 4th.
342. BLACK REDSTART - Wintering records Jan-March Southwick beach to W.W. maximum 2 males and 5 females Jan 15th; singles W.B. and B.Ma. in same period. Passage birds in spring 1 W.B. April 2nd, 1 West Durrington March 3rd, 1 Central Lancing March 26th, 1 Downs April 4th, 1 High Salvington May 18th. Autumn records 1 F.B. Oct 17th and 1 Oct 29th, 8 F.B. and Rife area Nov 13th, W.B. singles Nov 6th and 27th. Winter count from Southwick beach to W.W. maximum 5 Dec 9th. 1 B.Ma. Dec 30th, 1 Brooklands Dec 13th.

343. REDSTART - 4 spring records: 1 B.Ma. April 23rd, 1 Worthing April 29th, 1 G.B. May 6th, 1 Mill Hill May 7th. During autumn Aug 15th to Sept 22nd Ciss total 130; peaks 17 Sept 3rd, 20 Sept 4th, 19 Sept 9th, 15 Sept 11th. Adur Rec 2 Aug 29th. Last record 3 Steyning Oct 3rd.
344. WHINCHAT - Only 2 spring records, 1 B.Ma. April 23rd and 1 Ciss May 7th. In autumn low numbers at Ciss, 26 Sept 14th, 16 Sept 15th, 16 Sept 20th. 8 Sanc Sept 29th, 8 F.B. Sept 5th. Odd records from Adur valley in Sept. G.B. a very late bird Nov 20th (DS) full description.
345. STONECHAT - Wintering records from several coastal localities in Jan/Feb: 2 W.W., 3 G.B., 1 Adur, 2 Airport April 21st. No records until 2 at Ferring Aug 21st and then only 6 birds recorded in autumn. Nov/Dec sightings came from G.B. 1, Adur 6 birds in 4 localities.
346. WHEATEAR - 1 G.B. March 14th and then 87 recorded in spring from Goring to Shoreham beach. B.Ma. 60 counted March 19th to May 12th. Autumn records widespread with peak counts as follows: Ciss 37 Aug 28th, 20 Aug 30th, 22 Sept 11th; G.B. 58 Sept 2nd; Adur Rec 31 Aug 29th; W.W. 35 Sept 9th; Adur 3 Nov 6th. Our first winter record Harb Nov 29th to Dec 31st.
359. RING OUZEL - 1 Ciss April 5th and 1 there Oct 9th, only records.
360. BLACKBIRD - 12 prs A.L. 55 ha.
364. FIELDFARE - Cold weather in Jan produced movement at G.B. 220W Jan 8th, 27W Jan 9th, 222W Jan 10th. Mill Hill garden 76 Jan 10th, Durrington 120 in garden Jan 14th, A.L. 200 Jan 16th, Ciss 30 March

26, 2 there April 24th. First autumn birds F.B. 2 Oct 10th, Ciss 30 Nov 14th, A.L. 200 Dec 4th and 500 there Dec 18th.

366. REDWING - G.B. 60 Jan 6th, 50 there Feb 13th; Hove Lagoon 12 Jan 15th. First autumn records, birds heard calling at night at Ferring Oct 9th, Ferring 27N Oct 15th. No records received for Nov and Dec.
373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER - Ciss 1 April 21st, Steyning Horseshow 1 early June, Cuckoo's Corner 1 July 9th, 1 Ciss Aug 1st and 1 Sept 18th.
378. SEDGE WARBLER - 1 Adur April 21st, G.B. wood April 29th. Small Dole 6 prs breeding. A.L. 27 prs on 55.1 ha. F.Rife 6 Aug 28th.
382. REED WARBLER - 1 Adur April 21st. A.L. 37 prs on 55.1 ha.
388. MELODIOUS WARBLER - Ciss 1 July 5th (RJS), awaiting ratification by Sussex O.S.
397. LESSER WHITETHROAT - First recorded 2 Ciss April 24th, 4 there April 28th; W.B. 1 in offsea April 27th; Sanc 1 April 29th. Autumn total Ciss 400 with peaks 34 Aug 14th, 30 Aug 19th, 64 Sept 9th, 22 Sept 14th, last on Sept 22nd.
398. WHITETHROAT - Recorded Ciss 1 April 12th, 6 April 24th. Cissbury autumn total of 660 with peaks of 95 Aug 10th, 62 Aug 14th, 108 Aug 19th, 53 Sept 9th, last on Sept 22nd.
399. GARDEN WARBLER - Only 2 spring records: 1 G.B. wood May 8th and 1 May 16th. 1 Ciss July 7th. Present in Sahves Wood and Small Dole in summer. 1 Sanc Oct 9th.

400. BLACKCAP - Wintering birds present at a Steyning garden in late Feb and with 1 singing March 11th, another in Steyning March 23rd. Upper Beeding 1 Jan 18th. First spring arrivals Cissbury 6 April 12th, Sanc 1 April 14th, Shaves Wood April 20th, Goring wood 3 singing May 8th. Autumn passage at Cissbury only 300; peaks 97 Sept 9th, 30 Sept 14th. Goring wood 1 Nov 6th. Ferring garden Oct 30th to Nov 21st. Shoreham garden 2 males Dec 21st.
408. WOOD WARBLER - Goring Gap Wood 1 singing May 8th and 1 Southwick garden singing April 26th.
409. CHIFF-CHAFF - None reported in early part of year. Many birds reported from 5 localities in March with lost numbers reported last week of March and first 2 weeks of April. Cissbury autumn total 620; peaks 202 Sept 9th, 40 Sept 10th, 30 Sept 19th. Goring Gap 4 Oct 7th, Ferring 1 Dec 28th, Sanc 1 Dec 4th and 2 there on Dec 28th.
410. WILLOW WARBLER - First at S.R.B. 1 April 6th and 6 Sanc on the 10th. Cissbury 35 April 12th and 64 April 21st. 6 in garden West Worthing April 29th, 8 Goring Wood April 24th. Cissbury autumn total 900 with peaks of 60 Aug 6th, 113 Aug 9th, 90 Aug 10th, 174 Aug 14th, 70 Aug 17th, 194 Aug 19th. Little passage recorded at Sanc.
411. GOLDCREST - Only counts made: Cissbury 10 Oct 23rd and Goring Gap 20 Oct 30th. Recorded all year round Mill Hill.
413. FIRECREST - At least 14 individuals, a record year, all in autumn/winter: first W.W. 1 Sept 16th, Ferring 1 Oct 29th for 3 days in garden. Goring Gap Wood 2 Oct 30th, 3 there Nov 1st and 2 Nov 4th,

Stump Bottom 3 Nov 11th, Cissbury 2 Nov 27th, Sanc  
1 Dec 4th. 1 killed by a cat in Dec in Steyning area.

413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - First one Goring Gap Wood May 11th, then 5 Cissbury May 28th. Pair bred Findon church. Autumn total Cissbury 207 with peak of 60 Sept 3rd and 22 Sept 4th. Last bird Ferring Oct 1st.
416. PIED FLYCATCHER - No spring records. During autumn 1 Ferring Rife Aug 27th and 28th; Cissbury singles Sept 2nd, Sept 14th and Sept 15th; Sanc 1 Sept 15th; Worthing 1 Sept 15th.
418. LONG TAILED TIT - Present Small Dole and Shaves Wood all year. Cissbury 14 June 8th and 15 there Oct 23rd, 17 Mill Hill Nov 21st.
419. MARSH TIT - Cissbury 2 April 16th, 1 there May 3rd. Chanctonbury 4 April 12th. Autumn Cissbury 3 Sept 9th, 1 Sept 18th, 2 Oct 9th, 2 Dec 4th.
420. WILLOW TIT - 2 records, 1 Cissbury Sept 9th and 2 Henfield Dec 18th.
425. NUTHATCH - Chanctonbury 2 April 12th, W.P. 4 Dec 25th.
427. TREE CREEPER - Chanctonbury 2 April 12th, Goring Gap Wood 1 Jan 28th, High Salvington 1 Jan 4th, Sanc 1 Oct 9th. 9 located in 3 hrs walk TQ11 Steyning Nov 30th.
434. GREAT GREY SHRIKE - 1 Goring Gap Oct 15th (FJF).
436. JAY - Cissbury 9SE April 24th and 11N May 7th, Goring 4 Feb 2nd, Mill Hill 1 May 4th.
441. ROOK - Sompting Tip 500 Jan 20th.

442. CROW - Sompting Tip 300 Jan 20th.
- STARLING - W.B. 405W Jan 9th - cold weather movement.  
Airport 3,000 Feb 2nd and 10,000 Nov 11th, pre roost  
assembly flocks.
448. TREE SPARROW - W.W. 2 Jan 1st, Goring Gap 2 Jan 9th,  
Upper Beeding 20 Jan 9th, W.W. 6 Feb 14th, Goring 6  
Feb 13th, Mill Hill 5 March 23rd, A.L. 50 July 23rd,  
Ferring 10W Oct 10, Goring Gap 7 Oct 15th, Mill Hill  
6 Dec 26th.
451. CHAFFINCH - Durrington 60 Jan 16th. A.L. 7 pr breeding  
55.1 ha. Cissbury 300 Sept 20th, 200 there Nov 14th.
452. BRAMBLING - Goring Gap 1 Jan 1st, 18 there Jan 9th,  
another site in Goring 20 Jan 16th. Cissbury 1  
male in full song April 12th.
455. GREENFINCH - A.L. 6 prs breeding 55.1 ha. W.W. 30  
Oct 14th; W.B. 170W in 20 mins Oct 19th; Ferring  
200 Nov 17th, 90 there Nov 28th.
456. GOLDFINCH - Widely reported; W.W. 10 Jan 10th, 12  
Sanc Feb 20th, 16 there March 17th, W.B. 24 May  
13th. Cissbury 60 Aug 28th, Adur 55 Sept 22nd, Sanc  
100 Sept 29th, W.W. Oct 8th, W.B. 165E Oct 12th,  
Sanc 12 Dec 25th.
457. SISKIN - Henfield 10 Jan 3rd and 8 there Jan 17th.  
Goring Gap 10E Jan 11th, W.W. 1E Jan 12th, Sanc 2  
March 23rd. Cissbury 6W Oct 9th and 10W Oct 16th.
458. LINNET - W.B. spring passage 229E and 54W. Cissbury  
60 Aug 16th, 80 on Oct 11th; Adur 50 Sept 22nd;  
Goring Gap 300 Oct 8th. A.L. 14 prs bred on 55.1 ha.

459. TWITE - Goring Gap 1 Jan 10th and 18th. Remainder of records from Adur 10 Jan 10th, W.W. 5E Jan 10th, Adur 10 Feb 2nd, 7 March 3rd and April 1st and 6 there April 3rd. Autumn return to Adur 1 Nov 2nd, 6 there Dec 22nd.
460. REDPOLL - Goring Gap 4 Jan 10th, Sompting 1 Jan 21st, Upper Beeding 6 Jan 28th to Feb 5th, Sanc 1 July 18th (an early bird), F.B. 2W Oct 10th, W.B. 5W Oct 23rd.
494. SNOW BUNTING - A good year, 4 birds seen, the Harb bird present from last Dec seen regularly Jan and Feb, last on March 30th. A.L. 1 Jan 9th, East Brighton Golf Course 1 Oct 7th, Brooklands 1W calling Dec 25th.
496. YELLOW HAMMER - Ciss 50 Jan 29th, 60 there Nov 28th.
506. REED BUNTING - Adur 124 Jan 10th (including one flock 100 on river bank), 1 Cissbury Jan 6th, Adur 10 Feb 2nd. A.L. 19 prs bred on 55.1 ha. W.B. 2W Oct 23rd.
510. CORN BUNTING - Cissbury 200 Jan 12th; W.W. 9 Feb 19th; Cissbury 10 Feb 21st, 60 March 21st; Beeding Hill 40 July 23rd; Ferring Rife 115 Aug 28th; Adur 100 Sept 25th; Ciss 240 Dec 28th.
- SULPHUR CRESTED COCKATOO - 1W W.B. May 9th.

Acknowledgements to Dr. John Newnham and Mike Hall for seawatch data and to Mrs E Messer for invaluable assistance in typing the list.

B.F. Forbes

# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1982

This feature has been compiled from records sent in by local observers - abbreviations are the same as in Notable Birds of the area.

Whimbrel	Apr	6	W.B.	Sept	8	Adur
* Common Sandpiper	Apr	27	B.Ma.	Sept	22	N.S.F.
* Sandwich Tern	Mar	27	W.B.	Oct	30	W.B.
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr	3	W.B.	Oct	16	W.B.
Little Tern	Apr	19	W.B.	Sept	12	W.B.
Turtle Dove	May	7	Cissbury	Sept	27	Mill Hill
Cuckoo	Apr	12	Cissbury	Aug	28	Cissbury
Swift	Apr	26	Durrington	Sept	10	Cissbury
Sand Martin	Mar	28	W.B.	Oct	10	Ferring
Swallow	Apr	5	W.B.	Nov	15	Worthing
House Martin	Apr	16	Upper Beeding	Nov	24	Harb
Yellow Wagtail	Apr	4	W.B.	Oct	10	F.B.
Redstart	Apr	23	B.Ma.	Oct	3	Steyning
Whinchat	Apr	23	B.Ma.	Nov	20	G.B.
* Wheatear	Mar	14	G.B.	Nov	6	Adur
Fieldfare	Oct	10	Ferring	Apr	24	Cissbury
Redwing	Oct	9	Ferring	Apr	15	G.B.
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr	21	Cissbury	Sept	18	Cissbury
Sedge Warbler	Apr	21	Adur	Aug	28	F.B.
Common Whitethroat	Apr	12	Cissbury	Sept	22	Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr	24	Cissbury	Sept	22	Cissbury

Garden Warbler	May	5	G.B.	Oct	9	Sanc
* Blackcap	Apr	12	Cissbury	Nov	21	Ferring
* Chiff-Chaff	Mar	7	A.L.	Oct	7	G.B.
Willow Warbler	Apr	6	S.R.B.	Sept	14	Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May	11	G.B.	Oct	10	Ferring

\* Excluding possible wintering birds.

B.F.F.

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RINGING REPORT FOR 1982

Ringling activities in the Shoreham area were sustained at a high level during 1982 as the grand total of 3952 birds ringed clearly illustrates. Indeed 1982 was the seventh successive year when the total exceeded 3000 with no year prior to 1976 reaching this figure and only eight of these years attaining even 2000 birds. The majority of the birds were ringed as full grown individuals and only 289 (8%) as nestlings.

The hard labours in the unpleasant and frequently freezing conditions of the local refuse tip rewarded the gull group with a total of 1944 gulls. At the sanctuary Dr. John Newnham, with the help of Judith Baker and Martin Banks trapped only 876 birds. The Steyning Ringing Group, led by Phil and Brian Clay, were working with 'constant effort' at the Mumbles and added 654 to the list. Blue Tit nestlings were the main passerine 'prey

items' of Dr. Barrie Watson as these comprised over half of his total of 272 birds. Finally John and Catrina Barret caught 206 varied species on the airfield during a short holiday in this area.

Below is a table of the 56 different species ringed:-

Kestrel.....	2
Woodcock.....	1
Black Headed Gull.....	1730
Common Gull.....	63
Lesser Black Backed Gull.....	3
Herring Gull.....	126
Great Black Backed Gull.....	26
Wood Pigeon.....	1
Cuckoo.....	1
Swift.....	2
Kingfisher.....	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker.....	2
Sand Martin.....	1
Swallow.....	90
House Martin.....	1
Tree Pipit.....	1
Meadow Pipit.....	1
Yellow Wagtail.....	3
Pied Wagtail.....	119
Wren.....	27
Dunnock.....	89
Robin.....	33
Nightingale.....	2
Redstart.....	1
Whinchat.....	1
Wheatear.....	3
Blackbird.....	129
Song Thrush.....	29
Redwing.....	1
Mistle Thrush.....	1
Sedge Warbler.....	80

Reed Warbler.....	179
Lesser Whitethroat.....	36
Whitethroat.....	40
Garden Warbler.....	7
Blackcap.....	59
Chiffchaff.....	67
Willow Warbler.....	140
Goldcrest.....	8
Firecrest.....	1
Spotted Flycatcher.....	3
Long Tailed Tit.....	14
Willow Tit.....	1
Coal Tit.....	2
Blue Tit.....	373
Great Tit.....	111
Tree Creeper.....	6
Starling.....	135
Chaffinch.....	30
Greenfinch.....	34
Goldfinch.....	38
Linnet.....	16
Bullfinch.....	28
Yellow Hammer.....	7
Reed Bunting.....	39
Corn Bunting.....	2

The Woodcock trapped in the sanctuary during December appears to be the first for the area. Other notable points from this table include a record number of Blue Tits ringed and the highest number of Whitethroats trapped since the late 1950's; perhaps this latter species may be showing some signs of a population recovery!

#### RECOVERIES

1) <u>Dunlin</u>	ringed Adult	23.11.76	River Adur
	found dead	26.4.82	Vieux Conde Nord
			France 275km.E.

This, our first French recovery, augments those



This recovery in arctic Norway is joined by three others from Sussex, Denmark and southern Norway.

6. House Martin      ringed juv. 29.9.77 Shoreham Sanc.  
                         controlled 20.8.82 Fazakerley  
                         Liverpool 343km.NW.

(see 1981 report for summary of House Martin movements to date).

7. Pied Wagtail      ringed juv. 30.6.82 Otley Yorkshire  
                         controlled 14.10.82 Shoreham reed bed  
                         353km.S.

Despite intensive ringing of this species over the past few years this is only the second movement recorded from outside Sussex, the first in 1976 from Surrey.

8. Blackbird          ringed ad.F 2.12.78 Shoreham sanc.  
                         found dead 29.11.82 North Berwick Lothians

This, presumably a continental Blackbird, demonstrates there is still an influx of migrant Blackbirds into the sanctuary during late autumn and winter. All previous distant recoveries of Blackbirds from Shoreham were reviewed in the 1977 ringing report.

9. Reed Warbler      Two females were controlled at Steyning during May, both ringed in previous autumns, one from Bedfont Quarry, Greater London and the other from Lower Test Marsh Southampton. (see 1980 ringing report).

10. Blackcap          ringed juv. F. 24.7.82 Shoreham Sanc.  
                         controlled 4.9.82 Dungeness Kent 89km.E.

This recovery demonstrates the typical time of emigration of British bred Blackcaps, continental birds invariably not occurring in Sussex until October. Blackcaps are infrequently recovered and this, only the sixth recorded movement, joins controls from

Sussex and East Germany. (see 1975 ringing report).

- |                       |            |         |                                 |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 11. <u>Chiffchaff</u> | ringed Ad. | 14.8.82 | Bishops Offley<br>Staffordshire |
|                       | controlled | 19.9.82 | Shoreham sanc<br>264km.SE       |

(see 1981 ringing report)

12. Willow Warbler a juv. controlled at the sanctuary  
was ringed earlier in the year somewhere in South  
Yorkshire, regretablely no details are available yet.
13. Spotted Flycatcher ringed juv. 3.9.80 Shoreham Sanc  
found dead 27.9.82 Ceuta Spanish  
Morrocco 1711km.S.

This is our first significant movement recorded for this species. There have been less than 20 recoveries of British ringed Spotted Flycatchers in Africa, most, like this are from North Africa during the autumn.

14. Starling ringed Ad.F. 15.1.81 West Worthing  
found dead 30.4.82 Pysza Poznan  
Poland 1218km.E.

Additionally there was a January recovery from Northfleet, Kent and a control of a winter ringed bird from Plumpton.

15. Greenfinch There were several local recoveries the most distant being 35km.NE to East Grinstead.
16. Reed Bunting ringed Ad. M 4.11.81 Shoreham reed bed  
controlled 13.11.82 Banbury Oxon  
154km.WNW.

By coincidence the last recorded movement of this bunting from Shoreham was a female controlled also at Banbury. (see 1978 ringing report).

As usual there were several other local recoveries recorded.

J.A. Newnham.

## SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1982

A cold, flooded, often inhospitable place in the Winter, the Sanctuary attracts few birds and even fewer observers. This is the season for diverting energies into tasks like coppicing, undergrowth clearance and fence repairing as time spent spreading mist nets is seldom fruitful. The occasional cold snap produced unusual records of 30 Snipe and 20 Fieldfare in the copse on Jan. 13th. The small foraging flock of mixed finches contained at least 12 Goldfinches throughout January and it is pleasing to note the diminutive Goldcrests survived both the harsh weather and the talons of the resident Sparrow Hawk. The winter roosts were unremarkable except on Jan. 31st when at least 100 Collared Doves were present.

A Chiffchaff on Mar. 14th heralded the Spring and by Mar. 27th, a glorious sunny day when Comma, Brimstone and Tortoiseshell butterflies appeared, there were at least 7 Chiffchaffs frantically singing. The following day 2 Siskins passed through but all the other migrants slowly arrived during April and May with no unusually early dates or notable falls. The society's spring field outing to the Sanctuary was destined to be a total disaster as an early morning distant raptor remained unidentified and no birds were trapped; fortunately late in the morning a magnificent White Stork glided low over Mill Hill and was watched circling and rising in thermals generated from the Adur Valley. A Jay on Apr. 29th was unexpected and the Garden Warbler and Hobby on June 5th and 19th respectively were presumably late spring migrants.

No breeding season counts or surveys were done this year. The Autumn started dry warm and promising particularly after a Nightingale was trapped on July 4th and an early Redpoll seen on July 18th. The number of warblers escalated dramatically throughout the month with peaks of 22 Willow Warblers and 11 Blackcaps trapped on July 24th. By this time water was becoming scarce and many different species were being attracted to the stream to

drink. Unfortunately the nearby cattle were also attracted to the water and shade of the copse; a succession of 'break-ins' during late July effectively destroyed the drinking pools, undergrowth and reed beds. Thereafter August was most disappointing for birds although the variety and number of butterflies seemed greater than previous years. September continued in the same vein with seldom more than a dozen Blackcaps or Chiffchaffs in the copse on any day. There were no large hirundine movements recorded, the low peak of 8 Whinchats occurred on Sept. 29th and the only noteworthy flock of finches was 100 Goldfinches on the same date. A few warblers lingered later than usual with 2 Willow Warblers trapped on Sept. 22nd, a Garden Warbler on Oct. 9th and a Chiffchaff on Oct. 27th. Throughout autumn Sparrow Hawk, Grey Wagtail, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen regularly but the only unusual sightings were a Pied Flycatcher on Sept. 15th and 30 Shovelers on Sept. 29th.

A combined Sussex O.S. and Shoreham D.O.S. meeting on Nov. 13th visited the copse and a good opportunity was presented to compare Kestrels and Sparrow Hawk in flight as well as a chance to see some common species, including Redwing, being trapped and ringed.

The wet weather continued through late autumn into winter and soon the Sanctuary was flooded, perhaps this attracted a Woodcock and Grey Wagtail on Dec. 4th. The mildness was of benefit to small birds; a large party of tits, particularly Long-tailed Tits, could be found and with these up to 4 Goldcrests, a Firecrest on Dec. 4th and 2 Chiffchaffs until the end of the year.

I would like to record the society's thanks to the staff of S.W.A. for their co-operation throughout the year.

J.A. Newnham.

## STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1982

Over the years the activities of the Group have been summarised under the title of the Strivens Reed Bed Report, but since the demise of that site and the group setting up shop on the adjoining plot, henceforth known as 'The Mumbles', the title of these reports has now been altered. Apart from the main site the group also works various other sites at Wyckham,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the Mumbles, Wiston Park and members' gardens.

In addition to the main ringing report (see page 35) a totals list for the group is appended below showing the numbers of birds rung at the various sites.

The habitat at the Mumbles has been well described in previous reports. Wyckham however is a small 1 acre reed bed with a hedgeline of Goat Willow, an old Withy and some open water. The site is owned by a local farmer, Mr Roger Millman, and is managed by wildfowlers who have the shooting rights over the area. We are grateful to both for their kind permission to operate the site.

The site has the benefit of being more central to the Adur levels. It is situated at a point where the old railway line now ends. To the north the line still acts as a passage route for migrating passerines but, to the South, between Wyckham reed bed and the Mumbles where the line used to enter a cutting which has since been filled in, the birds moving South disperse across the valley towards Beeding. Hence at Wyckham we pick up more Chiffchaffs on passage, plus Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher. However this site is not so good for sylvia warblers - a reflection on the habitat.

Whilst ringing at Wyckham sight records have included four 'comic' terns flying south down the valley,

Greenshank, Snipe, Cormorant and Wheatear.

The site provides a useful comparison to the Mumbles and can be operated with one person with a maximum of three nets, whereas the Mumbles requires a minimum of three people and 600 feet of net.

We have now completed three years of ringing at the Mumbles and this year the breeding population of Reed warblers reached its lowest level with a proven 11 pairs compared with 26 pairs in 1980 and 14 in 1981, representing a 47% drop from 1980 to 81 and 22% from 81 to 82. Other breeding species are shown below.

TOTALS OF BREEDING SPECIES AT THE MUMBLES

Blackbird.....	6	Long-tailed Tit.....	1
Blackcap.....	5	Reed Bunting.....	2
Blue Tit.....	2	Robin.....	2
Bullfinch.....	2	Sedge Warbler.....	4
Dunnock.....	2	Song Thrush.....	4
Garden Warbler.....	1	Willow Warbler.....	2
Great Tit.....	1	Wren.....	1
Linnet.....	1	Whitethroat.....	1

Whilst Reed Warblers have shown a decline Sedge Warblers have increased to four pairs from two; possibly a reflection on a changing habitat in favour of Sedge Warbler as the reed bed continues to dry out.

Eleven pairs of Reed Warbler and one pair of Sedge occupied Wyckham reed bed but this site lacks the surrounding scrub and Alder vegetation that the Mumbles has, so the diversity of species is much more restricted.

Our oldest Reed Warbler JV32993 returned for a seventh year arriving on or before the first trapping date of May 9th and by May 16th had already occupied a nest

site and was sitting, whereas other birds took at least two weeks to pair up. Her mate of the years up to 1980 did return this year, and this presumably accounted for JV32993's absence in 1981 when she was trapped at Bramley in Surrey and proved to be breeding. She was originally ringed on 20th July 1975 as a first year, probably having been raised in Strivens Reed Bed, and this shows a very interesting example of birds returning to their natal area to breed.

Visitors to the Mumbles during the winter included a Woodcock on 28th January brought in by the cold weather and a Goldcrest trapped on the 7th March at a very low weight of 4.9 grams. By the 15th March signs of spring were on their way with Lesser Celandine coming into flower with the Primroses and Small Tortoiseshell feeding off them. A Water Rail was observed by the side of the pond while two Canada Geese flew over and female Mallard swam across the water on the 20th. Over Easter a small hide was constructed overlooking the pond enabling us to get a close look at the activities in and around the pond, but the only thing that came near was a Moorhen!

First of all the spring migrants to arrive was the usual Chiffchaff on the 4th April followed by its close relative the Willow Warbler on the 6th. By the 23rd April Reed and Sedge Warblers had arrived as well as Whitethroat. A Nightingale was around and singing on the 30th May. On the 29th we checked the 12 nestboxes at Wiston and were disappointed to find that only three were occupied, possibly due to mortality during the severe winter. For the first time one box was occupied by Great Tits who raised 10 young. The two pairs of Blue Tits had clutches of 13 and 10 eggs, both high, reflecting the availability of food due to a low breeding population.

By the end of July signs of passage were beginning with Green Sandpiper, Cuckoo and Spotted Flycatchers appearing. Willow Warblers were moving through by the 12th August, with a Yellow Wagtail and a Kingfisher on the 28th.

TABLE 2

## RINGING ANALYSIS

SPECIES	WISTON		MUMBLES		WYCKHAM		OTHERS		TOTALS		
	P	Ad	P	Ad	P	Ad	P	Ad	P	Ad	TOT
Cuckoo	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kingfisher	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Great Spot.Wpkr	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Wren	-	-	-	13	-	2	-	-	-	15	15
Dunnock	-	-	-	35	-	5	3	-	3	40	43
Robin	-	-	-	9	-	3	-	-	-	12	12
Nightingale	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Redstart	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Blackbird	-	-	-	26	-	-	10	-	10	26	36
Song Thrush	-	-	-	11	-	1	-	-	-	12	12
Mistle Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Sedge Warbler	-	-	-	30	-	11	-	-	-	41	41
Reed Warbler	-	-	-	71	-	51	-	-	-	122	122
Lsr.Whitethroat	-	-	-	6	-	4	-	-	-	10	10
Whitethroat	-	-	-	19	-	8	-	-	-	27	27
Garden Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Blackcap	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	14	14
Chiffchaff	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	7	7
Willow Warbler	-	-	-	28	-	17	-	-	-	45	45
Goldcrest	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Spttd.Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Long-tailed Tit	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Willow Tit	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Blue Tit	36	-	-	65	-	23	-	-	36	88	124
Great Tit	10	-	-	48	-	2	7	-	17	50	67
Treecreeper	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	4	4
Chaffinch	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Greenfinch	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Goldfinch	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	6	6
Linnet	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	7	7
Bullfinch	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Yellowhammer	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Reed Bunting	-	-	-	4	-	19	-	-	-	23	23
TOTALS	46	-	-	422	-	165	21	-	67	587	654

Note: P = Pullus; Ad = Adult

Chiffchaffs were still being recorded on the 19th September when the first Corn Buntings assembled for the winter roost. Male and female Sparrowhawks were seen on several occasions moving in on the roost and up to four Green Sandpipers were present on the stream and ditches around the site. A pair of Willow Tits were trapped in December, one being previously ringed in 1978.

So the year had its highlights and disappointments but whatever happens to the reed bed, the site will continue to provide useful information. After another two years study a full analysis of the variation of populations over the years will be carried out.

My thanks again to Mr Millman for permission to ring at Wyckham and to Mr Goring for allowing the nestboxing at Wiston.

P.J. Clay

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#### THE ADUR LEVELS

Uptil 1969 the Adur Levels were very much a neglected area with the only records being a rather vague "up to 200 on marshes at Steyning, Sept 29th" as in the 1968 report. Wildfowl, Lapwing and Snipe went unrecorded as did other incidental species.

Following the demise of the Shoreham to Horsham railway, the route became a regular haunt for my brother and myself when we were beginning our birdwatching.

The area I call the Adur Levels lies North of the A283 at Bramber. For the first mile they extend up between Steyning and Beeding reaching Small Dole to the East and

the farmsteads of Wyckham to the West and then on for a further mile to the ancient manor of Streatham where the old railway crosses the River Adur, exactly on the grid line between TQ11 and TQ21. The width of the flood plain narrows here but a valley extends in an oxbow from the river to just south of the West End Lane cottages at Henfield.

Not far from my back door a typical walk commences at the humpbacked bridge at Beeding. I take a path northward along wither riverbank up to the grey bridge that takes the footpath from Kings Barn in Steyning across to Beeding Church. A look across the marshes from the bridge toward Bramber Castle can be worthwhile as numbers of Snipe, together with Lapwing are usually present. The fields are dissected by a wide drainage channel called the Reed Ditch where up to 200 wagtails roost in the Autumn. Barn Owls can sometimes be seen hunting over these water meadows.

Continuing northward along the west bank from the grey bridge the brooks of Kings Barn Farm to the left are lined with Hawthorn and reeds providing a valuable high-density breeding habitat for Reed and Sedge Warblers together with Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer and other species.

About a mile further on a pylon line converges on the river, (one of the pylons providing up to 40 Cormorants with a roosting site) and over to the west lie Wyckham Brooks, the main area for wintering wildfowl and Snipe.

The numbers of duck are very variable from year to year and depend on the amount of surface water on the fields. The peak counts for species have been; 44 Bewicks Swans, 78 Canada Geese, 400 Wigeon, 600 Teal, 250 Mallard, 30 Shoveler and 28 Pintail with Gadwall occasionally present and Garganey recorded on spring passage.

Golden Plover and up to 1000 Snipe can also be seen here and sometimes Ruff and Jack Snipe. Green and Common

Sandpipers inhabit the muddy edges of the brooks and the river. In the Spring Snipe can be heard drumming over the area and Redshank usually breed. Last Summer I was delighted to see a pair of Blue Headed Wagtails at this point. Whimbrel, Curlew, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank have also been recorded on the levels.

The river turns due east before turning northward again, past Small Dole rubbish tip to the East. It's worth checking the gulls on the tip because Glaucous, Mediterranean and yellow-legged Herring Gulls have been recorded here.

Only a short distance is Streatham Bridge where there is a choice of route. Northwest along the river lies Wyckham Wood with a heronry of up to nine nests. Herons can always be seen along the brookside fishing or standing motionless below hedgerows.

Northeast from Streatham the line runs to Henfield. About a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Streatham, just into the first cutting, a gate on the west side overlooks the Henfield brooks; yet a further area to study for wintering wildfowl.

Southward from Streatham the old railway line heads back toward Steyning. The marsh at Streatham was formerly a good area for wildfowl but hasn't been of much interest of late. Two years ago two Black-tailed Godwit were observed in this area. The line then enters a low cutting, the site of an old badger set. The banks are covered with bramble and provide a very good habitat for migrating passerines; sylvia warblers in particular can be seen along here. Across Wyckham Marsh the embankment has been removed as far as Wyckham Reed Bed (described in the Steyning Ringing Group Report) but a bridleway connects the old railway track with Kings Barn Lane near Wyckham and one can walk back down the lane to the Kings Barn area of Steyning to complete a circular tour of the area.

The area has its delights at every season, but for me the most enjoyable time is when, on an icy evening with the marshes flooded, the wildfowl flight in. The Levels may be of small importance compared to other sites but it is our local area and has given me many hours of pleasure. The unexpected can still give those rare moments as when, just five minutes from my home, virtually every bird over Kings Barn Farm took flight as a Red Kite winged its way southward down the valley. Let us hope there will be many such instances and that they will be recorded by the increasing number of watchers covering the area.

P.J. Clay

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#### SPRING SEA-WATCH REPORT SHOREHAM/WORTHING 1982

As in previous years this report deals with visible migration of sea birds and other species past the Worthing/Shoreham beaches between January 1st and May 31st.

The majority of the observations have been made by:- J. Newnham, B. Clay, C. Fox and M. Hall at West Worthing, plus F. Forbes and R. Sandison at Goring.

Additional contributions at other sites, from Shoreham by Sea to Ferring appear in the complete list of contributors.

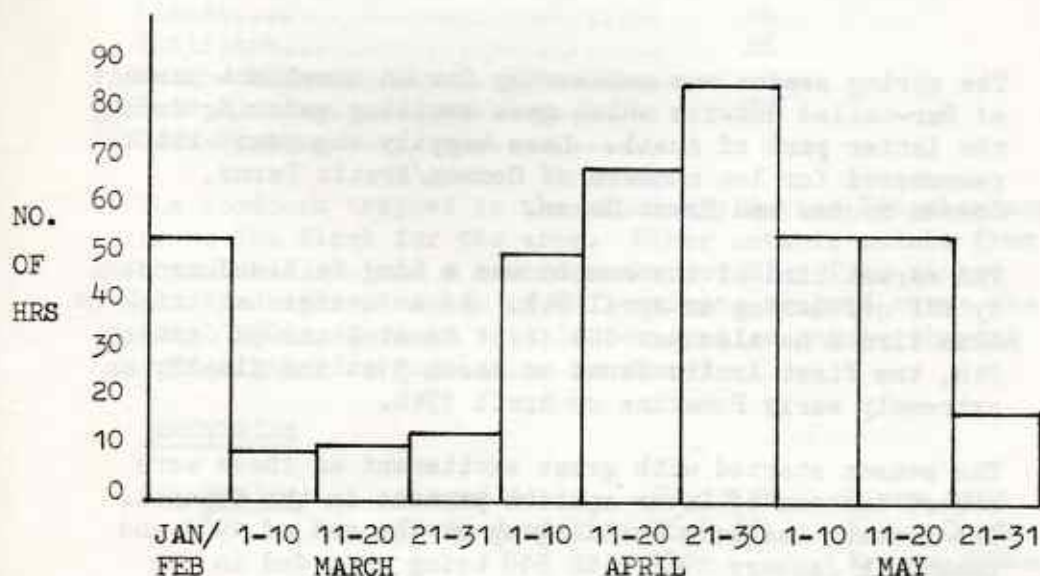
As is usually the case most records refer to easterly movement. In comparison with other years this report contains more records of westerly-moving birds; this reflects a change in recording practice rather than a change in bird behaviour.

This spring the sea was watched for 410 hours with many synchronous watches involving up to eight people. Monthly watching totals were as follows:-

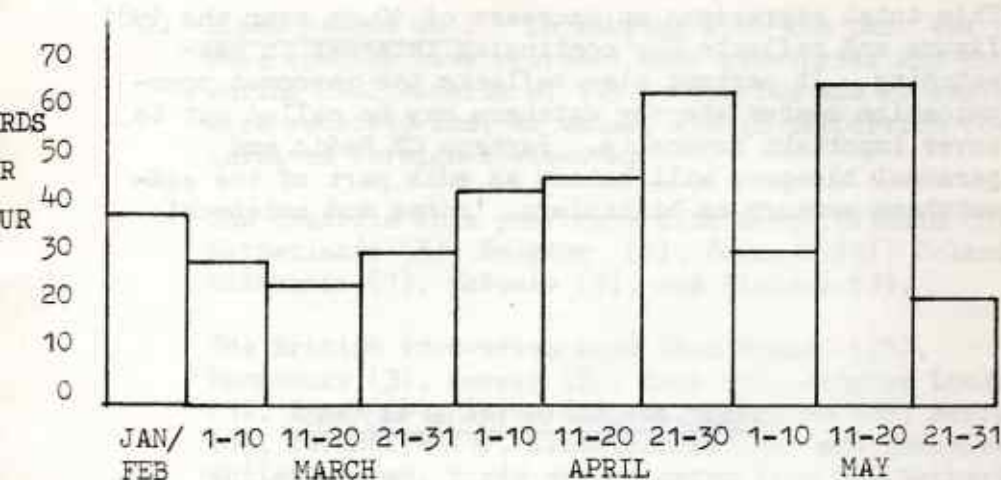
Jan/Feb. 53    March 25. 75.    April 202. 50  
 May 128. 75.

This total represents an increase of 10.4% over the 1981 figure and reflects the continuing interest in sea-watching. It perhaps also reflects the improved communication system whereby watchers may be called out to cover important movements. Perhaps CB Radio and personal beepers will become as much part of the sea-watchers armoury as binoculars, 'scope and notebook!

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS WATCHED



RATE OF TOTAL PASSAGE IN BIRDS/HOUR



The spring season was noteworthy for an excellent passage of Bar-tailed Godwits which gave exciting watching during the latter part of April. Less happily the year will be remembered for low numbers of Common/Arctic Terns, Common Scoter and Brent Geese.

The rarest bird of the season was a Long Tailed Skua seen by FJF off Goring on April 6th. In a further hat-trick of Skua firsts he also saw the first Great Skuas on January 7th, the first Arctic Skuas on March 31st and finally an extremely early Pomarine on April 17th.

The season started with great excitement as there were record numbers of Diver species present in the Channel. The numbers had been building up at the end of 1981 and peaked in January 1982 with 518 being recorded in

January and February, that is almost three times the number recorded in the entire 1981 spring season.

The early months also provided some good observations of Brent Goose passage with 657 passing east. This eventually proved to be 60% of the season's total.

Other early high spots were 6 Scaup on January 10th (JAN), and 5 Mediterranean Gull, 4E and 1W seen separately by JAN and FJF. Great Crested, Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes were recorded, as were 8 Little Gulls and 143 Kittiwake.

Perhaps the most unexpected observation of the period was the flock of 32 Bar-tailed Godwits which flew east past a rather startled JAN on January 9th.

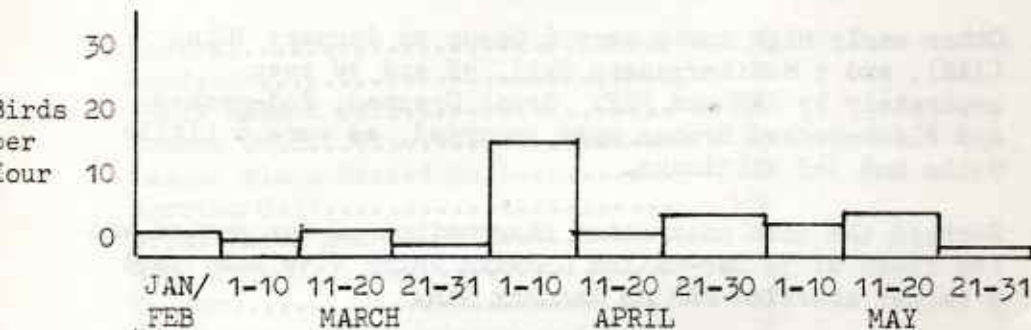
March was generally a quiet month although Brent passage was regular and Diver were well reported in the first ten-day period. The number of hours watched declined a little but there was still enough coverage to locate another Mediterranean Gull, the first Sandwich Tern which arrived off Widewater on March 27th and the first Arctic Skuas.

April was perhaps the prime month with a record 202.50 hours watched and 10500 birds recorded (excluding the common gulls). Tern passage continued with the first Common/Arctic on the 4th and the first Little Tern on the 19th. Sandwich Tern migration reached a peak in the middle period when 1188 birds passed in ten days. Fulmar numbers peaked at the end of the month, more Little Gulls were recorded and at least three more Mediterranean Gulls were seen.

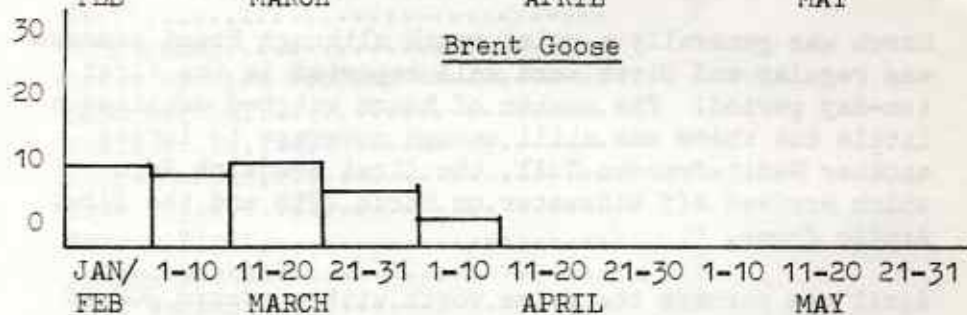
# RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS, SELECTED BIRDS

(Jan & Feb represented as one 10 day period)

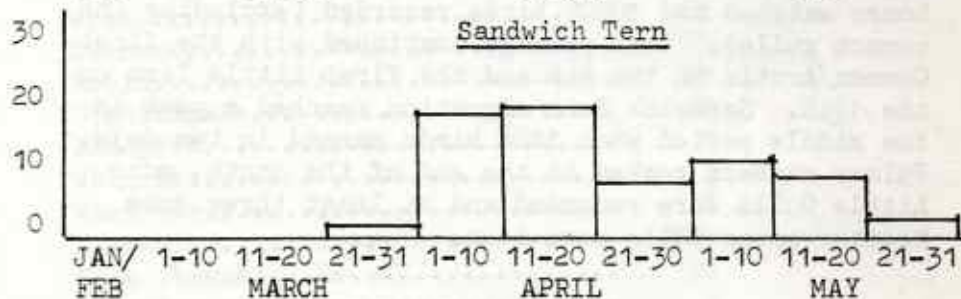
## Common Scoter



## Brent Goose



## Sandwich Tern



Wader passage accelerated and during the month the watchers were rewarded with two great delights of sea-watching: occasional rarities and large flocks of the commoner species. Of the more uncommon birds the most noteworthy were the Avocet on the 4th, the Little Ringed Plover on the 5th and 6th and the Greenshank moving east on the 26th.

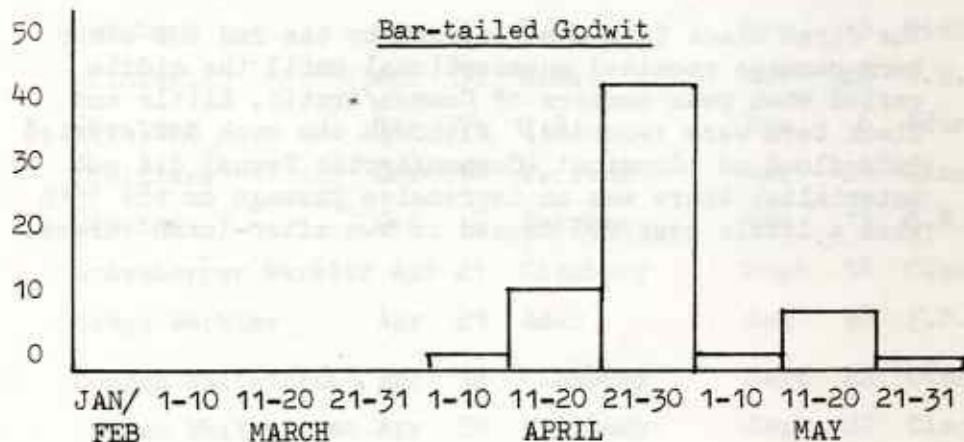
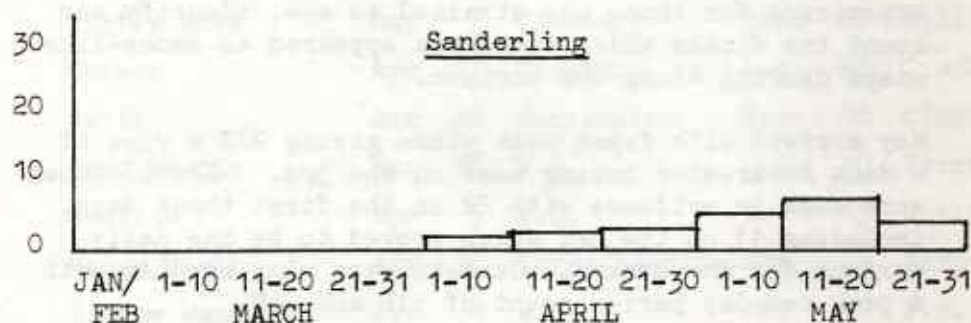
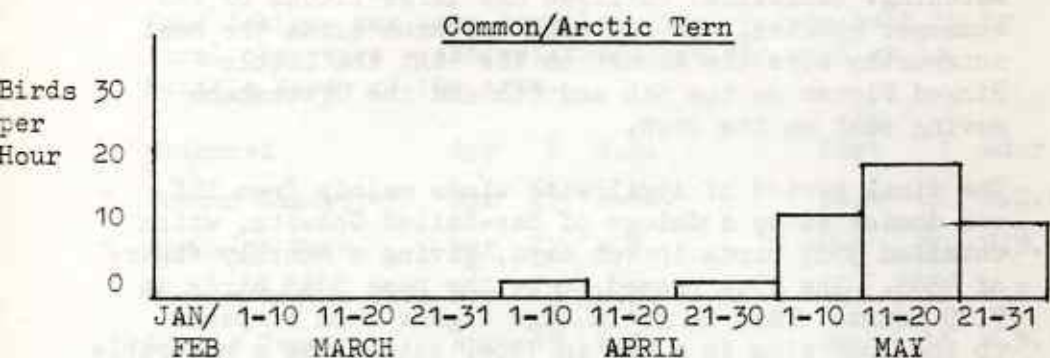
The final period of April with winds mainly from ENE, was dominated by a deluge of Bar-tailed Godwits, which totalled 3525 birds in ten days, giving a monthly figure of 4393. The 27th proved to be the peak 1193 birds in 7.75 hours. This is not a huge figure when compared to the 2000 plus in a day in 1980, but it was a memorable experience for those who strained to see, identify and count the flocks which sometimes appeared as smoke-like wisps dancing along the horizon.

May arrived with fresh west winds giving RJS a view of a Manx Shearwater moving west on the 3rd. Arctic Skuas were much in evidence with 22 in the first three days, including 11 on the 3rd which proved to be the daily maximum for the season. Gannets were also regular with a peak ten-day period count of 51E and 26W.

The first Black Tern was recorded on the 2nd but other tern passage remained unexceptional until the middle period when peak numbers of Common/Arctic, Little and Black tern were recorded. Although the much anticipated late flood of 'Comemics' (Common/Arctic Terns) did not materialise there was an impressive passage on the 15th when a little over 700 passed in two after-lunch surges.

# RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS, SELECTED BIRDS

(Jan & Feb represented as one 10 day period)



The middle of the month also saw the peak passage of many of the small waders and an unusual sighting of a Little Stint which gave excellent views to the assembled Worthing watchers as it moved east on the 11th.

Pomarine Skuas made their major appearance between the 10th and the 15th of May with an impressive pack of 14 off Worthing and later at Widewater on the morning of the 13th.

During the last period of May there was something of a feeling of anticlimax as it became evident that a final flood of Common/Arctic Terns was not to be. Nevertheless interest was maintained by a regular wader passage and moderate numbers of terns which were still passing when systematic watching was concluded on May 31st.

References: Shoreham Ornithological/District Ornithological Society Reports 1977 - 1981

Sussex Bird Report 1981

'The Birds of Sussex' - M. Shrubbs.

Acknowledgements: Thanks are due to the contributors for recording and tabulating their reports and to Miss W Oliver for typing the report.

M.P. Hall

Eds note:- Space prevents a systematic list from being included here. However details have been included in the main systematic list and the seawatch details can be provided separately on request.

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS WINTER/SPRING 1982

DATES	JAN 3	JAN 12	JAN 13	MAR 6	APR 4	APR 5	APR 17	APR 18	APR 22	APR 25	APR 26	APR 27
HOURS WATCHED	2	3½	3	2½	6½	6	9½	4½	7½	7	9½	6½
WIND DIRECTION	SSW 3	NE 3	ENE 4	SSE 5	SE 2-5	ESE 2	ENE 5-6	ENE 2	SE 1-2	NE-SW 2 2	NE 4	NE 5
Diver Sp.	107	134	63	53	4	14	3	5	3	2	4	5
Brent Gse	19	-	2	70	18	-	24	-	-	1	-	8
Fider	-	-	-	7	5	97	22	184	6	-	-	-
C.Scoter	7	-	-	6	305	248	4	35	35	104	30	-
G.Plover	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-	17	-	2
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	-	34	4
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	23	-	2	1	-
Bar-t Gdwt	-	-	-	-	2	-	128	80	884	463	464	1193
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	4	41	55	88	85	30	6
Arctic Sku	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
Pomrne Sku	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Little Gil	2	-	-	-	3	-	99	36	2	-	-	-
Sandwich Tn	-	-	-	-	378	318	-	-	38	139	106	103
Common/	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arctic Tn	-	-	-	-	7	22	2	-	24	10	18	12
Little Tn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auk Sp.	18	63	8	3	-	12	3	1	-	-	-	-

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS SPRING/AUTUMN 1982

DATES	MAY 2	MAY 3	MAY 4	MAY 5	MAY 6	MAY 7	MAY 8	MAY 9	MAY 10	MAY 11	MAY 12	MAY 13	MAY 14	MAY 15	OCT 16	OCT 23	NOV 6
HOURS	6½	5	10	9½	6½	Cal	SE 5	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 2	S-SE Gale	Cal	SE 5-6
WIND DIRECTION	NW-SW	SW 4-5	NE1-2-SW3	Cal	SE 5	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 3	SE 2	S-SE Gale	Cal	SE 5-6
Diver Sp.	4	4	3	6	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	-	2	3	2
Brent Gse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	2306	1733
Eider	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
C. Scoter	47	28	12	165	27	32	9	10	9	10	17	36	22	17	24	30	58
Grey Plover	-	-	-	171	2	61	3	2	41	130	3	41	2	3	20	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	75	19	17	81	16	81	2	14	46	57	16	105	-	-
Dunlin	-	100w	4	22	-	13	46	48	46	2	48	4	1	1	-	-	44
Bar-t Gdwt	48	-	15	122	15	129	4	6	4	6	1	14	3	2	-	-	1
Whimbrel	7	-	5	20	20	6	4	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Arctic Sku	10	11	3	3	4	-	1	3	2	1	3	14	2	2	-	-	-
Pomne Sku	-	-	-	-	2	-	14	-	1	1	2	12	1	-	4	-	1
Little Gll	1	-	-	54	-	9	8	-	8	5	8	12	4	10	154	16	58
Kittiwake	2	-	-	5	1	8	62	-	8	112	84	62	30	69	9	-	-
Sandwich Tn	156	60	60	112	41	84	62	30	62	112	84	62	30	69	9	-	-
Common/																	
Arctic Tern	51	11	66	157	62	175	132	63	132	157	175	132	63	724	1	-	-
Little Tern	30	13	11	152	29	55	15	31	15	152	55	15	31	21	-	-	-
Black Tern	1	-	-	14	-	30	1	-	1	14	30	1	-	-	-	-	-
Auk Sp	1	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	13	-	1

## AUTUMN AND WINTER SEA-WATCHING DURING 1982

For the second successive year this stretch of the Sussex coast has been watched regularly during the late part of the year to record the coastal movements of sea and coast-line birds. A brief account of the watch in 1981 was published in the Shoreham D.O.S. report and for several years the spring coastal migrations have been also documented. This report for the autumn of 1982 draws some similarities and comparisons with these earlier watches.

Between August and December nine observers watched the sea on 121 different days; the log totalled 182 hours with the lowest watch of 8 hours on November 6th. This represents far fewer hours watching than in recent springs but the number of days with sample watches was about the same. The table 1. reveals how the watching effort was constant throughout the season, far more so than the markedly fluctuating effort noted in most recent springs.

The grand total of 10,385 birds (excluding commoner gull species) moving westward and 1223 recorded flying eastward gives an overall rate of about 64 birds passing for each hour watched. This although lower than typical springs, was greater than that recorded in the spring of 1982 and marginally better than that noted during the autumn and winter of 1981. The Brent Goose was the most numerous species recorded and after an obviously successful breeding season the large number of flocks contained many juvenile birds. Indeed the record total of 6267W represented 60% of all birds moving westwards; hitherto, no one species has so dominated autumn or spring sea watches.

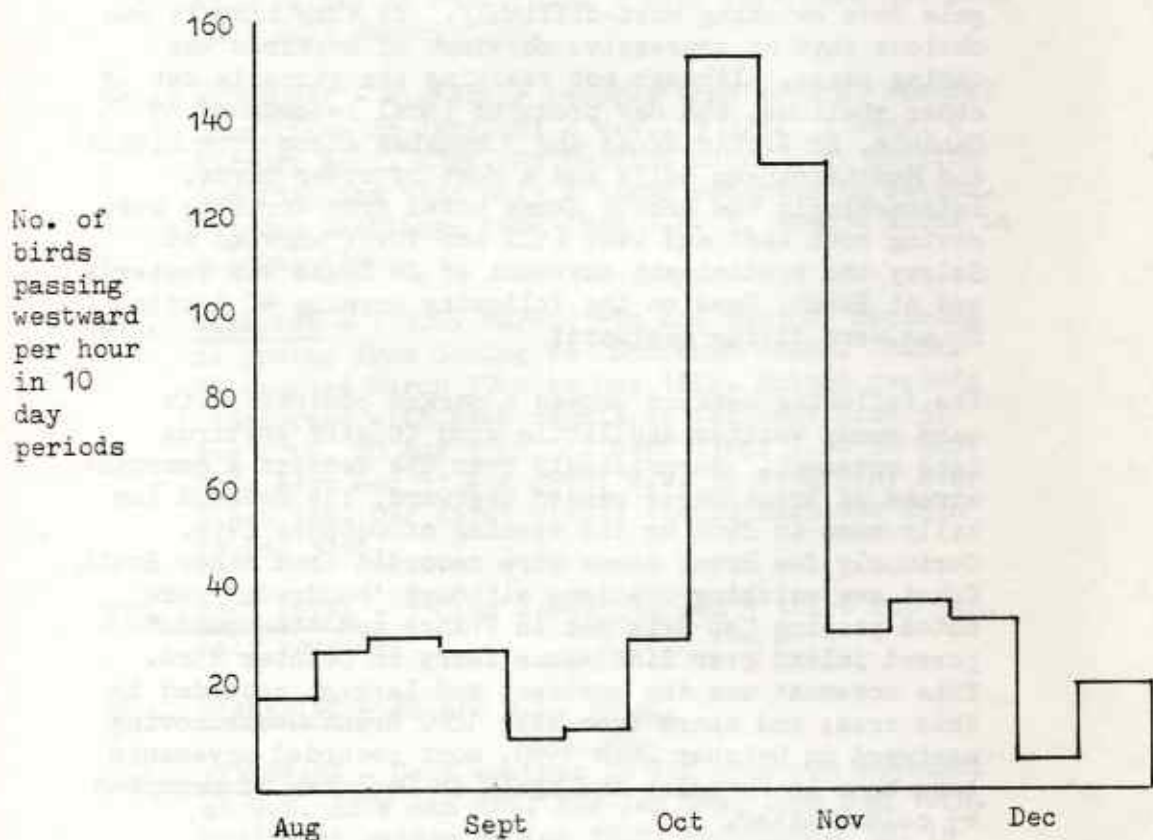
Like most seasons, 1982 will be remembered for the three or four days when large movements were obvious, justifiably so as over 50% of the season's total was noted on just

4 days. The first of these, on October 16th followed a week of exceptional passerine falls on the east coast and memorable sea watches around the country. Only 2 days previously at Sheringham, on the North Sea, some 200 Arctic Skuas were noted and on the same day, but the other side of the country at St. Ives, Little Shearwater, Bridled Tern and Mc'Cormick's Skua were seen amongst bumper movements of other sea birds. The weather on the previous day was sunny with light N.W. winds; a very deep Atlantic depression proceeded eastward through the English Channel overnight so by first light a fresh S.S.E. wind was blowing and by mid morning a southerly gale made watching most difficult. By this time it was obvious that an impressive movement of seabirds was taking place, although not reaching the pinnacle set by other stations, the day produced local records of 85 Gannets, 22 Arctic Skuas and 3 Bonxies along with Little and Mediterranean Gulls and a host of other birds. Interestingly the Arctic Skuas noted from Worthing were moving both east and west (12E and 10W); whereas at Selsey the predominant movement of 24 Skuas was westerly and at Beachy Head on the following morning 40 Arctic Skuas were flying eastward!

The following weekend showed a marked contrast with warm sunny weather and little wind to stir seabirds into movement. Surprisingly over the weekend a constant stream of Brent Geese passed westward, the weekend log tally came to 2986 by the evening of October 24th. Curiously few Brent Geese were recorded from other South Coast sea watching stations although 'hundreds' were noted passing Cap Griz Nez in France and 'thousands' passed inland over Siddlesham Ferry on October 23rd. This movement was the earliest and largest recorded in this area; and apart from over 1200 Brent Geese moving westward on October 26th 1980, most recorded movements have been in November and again in December if prompted by cold weather.

By early November the wind was blowing softly from the Southeast; conditions which in the Spring would lead to compulsive watching. However, surprisingly little was

moving until the winds suddenly freshened and a change in the weather was imminent on November 6th. This morning, again a Saturday, saw another avalanche of Brent Geese moving close inshore westward or south westward in company with a good selection of marsh and sea ducks. Altogether a most memorable sight to witness.



After three very good weekends the remainder of the year, although interesting, was an anticlimax. The effects of these few days can be clearly seen in table 1. and in the histogram of birds passing the beach per hour watched.

A closer look at the table, perhaps alongside that for 1981, reveals a marked difference in the movements recorded in December. The severe cold of December 1981 encouraged Shelduck and Wigeon to move westward, both clearly in fewer numbers in the mildness of 1982. Likewise the cold weather may have been partially responsible for the presence of large numbers of divers and auks in the English Channel during 1981; they too were noted in fewer numbers in 1982. The complexities of movements of these sea birds will require several years of observation to elucidate the reasons more clearly. Similarly, Kittiwake numbers in the Channel fluctuate considerably and, typically, movements occur with increasing onshore winds following periods of settled weather.

The table also depicts the arrival of Red breasted Mergansers to these shores; initial movements are exclusively westward and are undoubtedly migratory but as the wintering flock arrives so more birds are noted moving eastward, thus by December probably only local movements are being recorded as east bound birds are about equal to those flying west.

Unlike 1981, records were gathered during 1982 for August and September and these clearly show the slow but steady westward movement of terns; the rates of movement are clearly slower than typical spring migrations as shown in the following analysis.

	Aug/Sept 82	Apr/May 82	Apr/May 81	Apr/May 80
Sandwich Tern	5.1	10.9	9.8	10.8
Common/ Arctic Tern	9.6	5.8	17.7	39.5
No. of birds noted per hour watched.				

As in the spring waders were recorded regularly but in markedly smaller numbers except for Oystercatcher and Dunlin. The former was recorded moving westward mainly in August when 84% of the 176 total were noted and the peak period for Dunlin fell between mid-October and early November when 83% of the 296 were recorded. The movements of waders are even further complicated by roosting movements which are certainly in evidence by October and again require further investigation.

Like all long sea watches a number of 'spicy' birds were recorded in late 1982; such species as Velvet Scoter, Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck, Manx Shearwaters, Avocets and Osprey were definitely noted, others like Sooty Shearwater, Long-tailed Skua and Gull-billed Terns are considered as possibly seen. Needless to say, like the spring watches, I suspect the autumn watching is here for a few more years.

More details of records can be found in the systematic list of species and in the table of selected sea watching days.

Contributors:	M. Banks	F.J. Forbes	K. Noble
	B.R. Clay	M.P. Hall	R.J. Sandison
	C.J. Fox	J.A. Newnham	D. Smith

J.A. Newnham

DETAILS OF THIRTEEN REGULARLY RECORDED SPECIES SEEN FROM WORTHING BEACH

DURING AUTUMN/WINTER 1982

TABLE 1	AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			TOTAL
	11- 20	21- 31		1- 10	11- 20	21- 30	1- 10	11- 20	21- 31	1- 10	11- 20	21- 30	1- 10	11- 20	21- 30	
HOURS	13½	15½		9½	3½	20½	12½	17½	24½	17½	10½	10	10½	5	11	182
Diver Sp. W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	9	19	2	13	51
Gannet E W	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	26	7	3	3	24	11	5	17	72
Brent Goose	32	12	-	21	-	48	6	75	6	4	1	21	9	-	8	42
Shelduck E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	84	17	8	3	24	81	53	271
Wigeon E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	270	3465	1993	244	104	90	15	71	6267
Eider E W	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	8
Common Scoter	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	26	12	6	1	74	1	13	164
Red BrstE MergansrW	23	-	-	11	-	32	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	14
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	3	33	-	-	80
Kittiwake E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	11
SandwichE Tern W	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	3	113	-	7	18	-	16	159
Common Arctic W	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	40	21	10	8	14	-	13	175
Auk Sp E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	2	16	5	43	65
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	37	31	31	23	1	54	237
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	4	2	-	-	-	36
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	-	22	7	4	-	199
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	3	94	225	16	-	35	502
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	355
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	689
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	2	17
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	7	4	5	38

## SRI LANKA - AN ORNITHOLOGICAL HONEYMOON

During the winter of 1980 my wife and I decided to visit Sri Lanka for our honeymoon. We had carried out a fair amount of research in the months leading up to our wedding, initially in studying holiday brochures as to the cost, availability and, above all, feasibility of an unusual venue for the holiday of a life-time.

After careful scrutiny we decided upon Sri Lanka, as it appeared to fill all the criteria for a holiday to remember. It is an island of richly varied landscapes; lush jungle and rolling hill-country, brilliant green tea plantations and, of course, palm fringed beaches. In addition, an island which could boast a population of 20,000,000 people fifteen centuries ago and had shrunk to a figure of only 2,000,000 by 1860 must have a great deal of cultural heritage to offer. We decided to base ourselves at Kandy situated at an altitude of 1,000 feet and in a good central location from which we could make excursions further afield.

Besides the obvious arrangements that one makes, I was keen to discover as much as I could about the avifauna of the island before our departure. For available literature, without doubt the Bird Bookshop run by the Scottish Ornithologists Club, offers the best advice. I was lucky for two books were in print and available: A Guide to the Birds of Ceylon by G.H. Henry and an Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ceylon by W.W.A. Phillips, both authors having spent many years in the country during colonial times.

At last the day arrived - our flight from Heathrow lasted thirteen hours which included a stop at Bahrain. From the moment our plane touched down at Bandaranaike Airport we were met by an avian reception committee. Pond herons were spied from the aeroplane windows walking stealthily along the grassy areas surrounding the runways,

while House Crows sat around nonchalantly perched on any suitable object, whether a baggage trolley or even a suitcase !!

We were soon through Customs and were quickly united with our Taxi which was to take us on an eighty mile journey up into the hills to our hotel at Kandy. The journey provided us with a wealth of early impressions. The roads were narrow and the journey slow due to the competition with bullock carts and mopeds for road space, but the gentle pace gave us ample opportunity to take in our surroundings. We passed frond thatched mud dwellings scattered among the palm groves; occasionally more substantial bungalows, a relic of colonial days and in desperate need of a coat of paint, and more often opensided workshops and business premises carrying out every conceivable trade or craft. After a four hour journey and as dusk was nearing we reached our hotel.

Next morning I awoke to a quite unfamiliar dawn chorus and spent the next two hours on the balcony of our room, by breakfast time I had added fourteen species to my list. Our first three days were spent exploring our immediate surroundings as there was so much to see. We found the locals very friendly but were never able to explore alone, always people would appear and offer to show us something of interest - their extra pair of eyes often most useful and on more than one occasion I was grateful for their presence - especially when a Cobra appeared only ten feet away from us.

Once we had familiarised ourselves with our surroundings we decided to hire a car and travel north where the countryside become flatter and offered a complete change of habitat. Our journey took us through a landscape of paddy fields and many tanks (man-made lakes), greenish mauve, with water hyacinth covering their surface. The tanks produced birds in abundance; Little Cormorants and Indian Shags were plentiful, whilst the

Darter was never far away. Overhead the Brahminy Kite and Crested Hawk-Eagles were regularly recorded. By mid-afternoon we reached our destination, a Government run hotel on the edge of a large tank at Polonnaruwa.

From our hotel bedroom window we had commanding views over the water and were able to watch Grey-Headed Fishing Eagle and a single White-bellied Sea Eagle lazily quarter to and fro in search of a discarded morsel provided by the many fishing folk who made their living there. The birds which gave me much pleasure here were the waders. Green Sandpipers were abundant. How nice it was to recognise a familiar call. Black-Winged Stilt, Marsh Sandpipers Lesser Golden Plover and Red Wattled Lapwings were also recorded.

From our base in Kandy we also travelled to the tea country where tea plantations abounded between an altitude of 2,000 and 7,000 feet, the hardy plants thriving on sun and rain. Alas this monoculture excluded most species of birds; only the uncultivated gullies, known as sholas, harboured birds in any numbers. We spent one night at Nuwara Eliya - the landscape is heavily timbered with some fine Cypresses particularly prominent. I was keen to visit this area for two high altitude endemic species could be found, the Yellow-eared Bulbul and Hill White-eye. I was lucky to take photographs of each.

We left Nuwara Eliya and travelled to the south of the island and stayed at Tissamaharama, a town dominated by a towering Dagoba, which dates from the second century B.C. We visited the Tissa Wewa Sanctuary, an area of vast tanks, where cattle wade far into the shallow water and terns fly white against the backdrop of distant mountains. Pelicans sail overhead with little regard for the Crested Serpent Eagle or Grey-Headed Fishing Eagles which were often present. Back at the resthouse we relaxed on the balcony and counted the

many species of water birds flying back to roost. In addition, huge numbers of Rose-Ringed Parakeets passed noisely overhead. We counted 10,000 in about twenty minutes and still waves passed over. We were very sad to leave this paradise and travel back to Kandy.

The third week of our holiday was spent at a beach-side hotel near Negombo on the west coast, where we relaxed after a gruelling tour, but still birds abounded; the sea, brilliant blue, teamed with the flickering of terns - a vast number of Tibetan Common and Whiskered were seen daily, while the larger Crested and Bridled Tern were occasionally identified. The sandy beaches harboured both Greater and Lesser Sandpipers and the more familiar Kentish Plover, while occasionally a Pied Kingfisher would fish in the lagoon behind the beach - painting a picture of an island and a holiday I shall never forget.

C.J. Fox

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#### SPONSORED BIRDWATCH

John Newnham, Chris Fox, my brother Phil and I had arranged to spend a day birdwatching in the Dungeness area. Whilst consuming a pub lunch in a bar in Rye a plan began to materialise. A very pleasant October morning had been spent watching Woodlark, Short-eared Owl, Firecrests and Long-tailed Duck and it seemed not inconceivable, with a pint or two inside, that a worthwhile sum of money could be raised by repeating an outing in a similar format but with sponsored support.

A target of 100 birds was rashly set and it was unanimously agreed that each person should obtain 25p worth of sponsors making the venture worth one hundred pounds to the Sussex Ornithological Society Conservation Fund in whose benefit a birdwatch day on 1st January 1983 was being arranged. John set down a challenge during an indoor meeting of our Society in the hope of generating some competition and the first sponsors had their arms twisted!

Events then moved slowly until around Christmas when Phil suddenly announced that he had obtained over 50p worth of sponsors, twice the anticipated amount. This provided an additional impetus for the rest of the group as each species of bird spotted eventually became worth £2.00 in sponsorship money to us all.

A planning meeting was held on 30th December and then at 7.30 am on a rather gloomy 1st January morning we all duly met (no hangovers reported!). John's four door car was chosen to permit quick access for us all and because I'd taken a clipboard, I was nominated as recorded and thereafter worried that whilst scribbling I'd be missing the next bird. We were soon speeding toward Pagham Harbour with Sidlesham Ferry the first stop.

Eyes peered through windows and into the half-light for the first £2.00 worth. It was a Balckbird at Hunston, near Chichester. Next bird Black-headed Gull also at Hunston, and then to Sidlesham and into the hide. 32 species notched up here, including Ruff, Snipe, corvids and gulls, as well as some evocative views of Brent Geese fighting in through a blue-grey sky. Green Woodpecker and Grey Wagtail were unexpected bonuses.

Off to Church Norton. Dunlin, Ringed and Grey Plover and Oystercatcher soon added. John found a Bar-tailed Godwit and Chris searched out a solitary Avocet through his 'megabins' (powerful 20 times magnification binoculars).

'Where's a Turnstone? there must be a Turnstone'. Small party of Knot spotted. Still no Turnstone but another frantic search through a telescope and I discovered a distant bird skulking in the seaweed. All queued up in turns to view. Round to the beach. Turnstones all over the place !! However Eider Ducks and Wigeon on the sea and Slavonian Grebe close to the shore. Along the bank to the harbour mouth 2 Snow Buntings flitted over the shingle.

Returning to the car park, we paused briefly to quiz the warden Bob Lord on the best place to find roosting waders. Then to the car, but some thing moved in the hedgerow. 'Firecrest !!' we shouted to an incredulous conservation working party grouping nearby. With a running total now of 53 birds we headed for Selsey Bill and Kittiwake, Goldeneye, Common Scoter and a close Little Gull. John and Phil located a distant Glaucous Gull known to be in the area. Quick drive round to the lifeboat station in the hope that Chris and I could also log it but to no avail. Then with 9 new birds on the list down country lanes and a wrong turning to find Bob Lord's waders. At South Mundam at the end of a farm track they were spotted but a strong cold wind made observation difficult. However Black-tailed Godwit added some lists and Golden Plover to all.

Next to Chichester Gravel Pits and on the way a sudden stop for some possible finches glimpsed from the car instead revealed Redwings over a playing field hedge. Little to log around the Ivy Lake pits apart from a Bullfinch flushed from a hedge. On to the pit at Oving where a Ring Neck Duck had been seen recently. No luck, but Ruddy Duck, Long-tailed Duck and Sparrowhawk instead under the watchful eye of Tony Prater from the RSPA. One more lake to go and birdwatchers just leaving say Chiffchaffs about. After too long a search all except myself had seen one. I was always on the wrong side of the hedge when they sneaked out!

77 birds now and Greatham and Amberley Brooks next; coffee and sandwiches in the car on the way. Mist and drizzle when we arrived, but Pintail added quickly, then up to Greatham bridge. "Are those really swans in the distance?" Nothing for it but a brisk walk up the river bank. Eventually a flock of Bewicks Swans appeared out of the murk together with some grey geese. Grey Lags was the consensus but what about the two sitting down, heads tucked under wings. No good, can't spend any longer, off to Rackham Woods having pushed up the total to 80. (We later learnt we had missed two White-fronted Geese).

Out of the car and a look over the gate; Pheasants and Partridge! Then into the woods and this time luck was with us; a winter feeding party of tits moved through the trees with Marsh Tit, Goldcrest, Treecreeper and Nuthatch. A few panics; cries of 'I've not seen Nuthatch/Treecreeper/Goldcrest/Marsh tit' variously rang out but later birds made up any deficiencies and 88 birds. A look over the Wildbrooks for Short Eared Owl proved fruitless so on to Swanbourne Lake at Arundel where Mandarin and Gadwall were guaranteed.

By now certain omission were becoming apparent, Robin, Linnet, Heron, Fieldfare and Skylark were some. Robin found, plus a flight of Canada Geese low over the Arun and the expected Duck together with a Scaup. A Kingfisher darted across the water meadow; 94 birds! Light fading and time running out. A group decision to head straight for Ferring Beach where at least Sanderling should be certain. On the way a quick but futile search in the rain mud around Patching Pond in the hope of adding Reed Bunting for all but myself - I'd spotted one at Pagham.

By the time Ferring was reached the light had almost gone and the rain hadn't eased. We plodded around a field of sprouts hoping for finches and larks but only Phil and

John successfully added to their lists and that was Red-legged Partridge. The combined effect of rain, gloom and fogging binoculars had almost put me out of action and Chris was experiencing similar difficulties. The field was finally abandoned and we trudged to the beach to find a Sanderling. As we stumbled into rock pools and over boulders a little party of Sanderling emerged from the darkness. 96 birds the final total.

With a sense of relief that it was over but disappointment that the 100 species had been missed by such a small margin we returned to John's home. A glass of excellent homebrew cider revived flagging spirits and talk of the commoner birds that got away (Linnet, Skylark, Heron, Corn Bunting and Fieldfare) turned to plans for next years event!

At the S.O.S. Conference in January 1983 we jointly handed in cheques to the value of £208, the outcome of a most enjoyable day.

B.R. Clay

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#### DID YOU MISS THESE?

Additions to the birds of the Shoreham District, based on a literary search.

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IN the 1978 Shoreham O.S. report there appeared a checklist and collation of the Shoreham records for the 25 years that the local Society had been flourishing. This list, obtained from the society's own records, revealed some 237 different species had definitely occurred within

the recording area and a further 7 species had probably occurred, although the supporting evidence was insufficient.

A deeper look into the available literature about the birds in the county shows many other rare species have been reported in the region between Brighton and Worthing. Sussex is fortunate to have a comprehensive literature of its ornithology with three major works forming a backbone. In 1938 J. Walpole-Bond in his 'A History of Sussex Birds' compiled the available knowledge about the avifauna of Sussex and particularly noted many records from the nineteenth century. A quarter of a century later des Forges and Harber critically looked at these early records and with many new records wrote the then definitive work on Sussex birds in their 'Guide to the Birds of Sussex'. This book was eventually superseded in 1979 by 'The Birds of Sussex' by M. Shrubbs, who not only gathered information from the previous authors but also fed upon the mass of detailed information produced by the recording and survey work of the rapidly growing Sussex Ornithological Society.

In the nineteenth century Worthing and Brighton were two of the largest centres of population in the county and with an increasing interest in natural history unusual specimens were reported. Furthermore, until 1881 many finches, buntings, larks and pipits were caught either for the table or for cageing; indeed in 1860 alone 132,000 Goldfinches were taken near Worthing. It is not surprising that some unusual species were caught as well; amongst the thousands of larks trapped came three rare species. Out of the four Sussex records of Crested Larks three were caught between Worthing and Portslade in 1863, 1869 and 1881; Short-toed Larks were trapped at Brighton in 1884 and 1909; and perhaps the most remarkable a White-winged Lark, probably from Southern Russia, was trapped in 1869. A further three individuals of this rare lark, which hasn't been recorded in Britain since 1955, were seen on Hove seafront in November 1917.

A similar autumn collection of unusual buntings and finches taken in this area included 2 Rock Buntings and a Little Bunting in 1864, a Rustic Bunting in 1867, Black headed Bunting in 1868 and a Scarlet Rosefinch in 1869. It was in this period that perhaps the rarest bird to be recorded in our area was trapped; from the eastern Palaearctic came a Blyth's Pipit. This bird was initially identified and its skin labelled as a Tawny Pipit but in 1963 it was rediscovered and has now been accepted as the only British record of Blyth's Pipit, indeed the only other European record since is one in Finland in 1975.

In the last century and early years of this if unusual creatures avoided the snare they frequently fell victims to the gunn; another 7 species can be added to our area's list in this way. The irruptive Pallas's Sandgrouse arrived in Sussex during 1863 and 1888, a single straggler was shot at Shoreham in 1889. Unusual waders have frequently been recorded in the Adur, but the Spotted Sandpiper shot in November 1908 and the Broad-billed Sandpiper shot in October 1845 remain the only records for the river although the latter species was recorded at Hove Lagoon in March 1948.

Skulking and secretive marshland birds perhaps could only be identified if caught or shot and this fate certainly fell on the American Bittern killed at Hollingbury in October 1909, a Squacco Heron shot between Steyning and Henfield in September 1934 (one later recorded at Brighton in April 1951) and Baillon's Crakes shot near Brighton in 1894 and at Lancing in 1900. Another unusual Crake, the Spotted Crake, was also recorded dead but under a pylon, into which it presumably collided, in October 1951. If one adds the Night Heron seen at Lancing in December 1954, the two Purple Herons and three White Storks recorded over the past 3 years then one completed the list of marshland birds. If one considers that vast areas of the river

valley and coastal plain were poorly drained and frequently flooded providing good habitat for this group of birds then the foregoing list may not seem so rich as perhaps it ought to be.

Two other species have been recorded dead, both are also the only authenticated records in the county. A White's Thrush was found in a Hove garden September 1898 and a Sooty Tern was taken at Brighton in April 1911; the knowledge that this species has been recorded in this area before only partially eases the shame of the local sea-watchers who missed seeing one which was present on Worthing Beach for two days in late June 1982.

Fortunately as field-glasses and telescope were developed the ability to observe wild life undisturbed at a distance was improved. This, coupled with an increasing conservation awareness, reflects the recent absence of specimens being taken and perhaps why the unusual birds seen in recent years lack the small 'brown' larks and buntings of last century but are heavily biased towards the larger sea and shore birds. Amongst the small passerines I can only find three notable records which have not hitherto appeared in the Shoreham report; a Richard's Pipit at Hove Lagoon in January 1956, two Lapland Buntings over Brighton in December 1966 and an Ortolan Bunting on the Downs near Steyning in August 1982. The remaining undiscovered species apart from the Red-footed Falcon at Cissbury in 1979 and the Alpine Swifts over Brighton in 1964 and the springs of 1981 and 1982, come from wetland or coastal habitats.

The interest in sea-watching obviously accounts for sightings of Cory's and Sooty Shearwater and Storm Petrel offshore, although one of this last species was seen over the Adur in November 1952. Similarly Caspian Terns have been noted in April 1969, May 1971 and July 1981, and a Gull-billed Tern seen in September 1950. Rare gulls seem unusual in Sussex, a Great Black-headed

Gull at Hove in August 1932 precedes the eventually unaccepted record of one at Brooklands in November 1969. Both Ivory and Bonaparte's Gulls at Brighton in 1961 must have proved exciting.

In recent years the lagoons at Hove, Widewater and Brooklands have been watched regularly; at Hove the only Red-necked Phalarope to be noted in this area occurred in October 1952 and inevitably a Ruddy Duck appeared in early 1982. The Baird's Sandpiper at Widewater in August 1981 was only the fourth Nearctic species noted and the origin of the Wood Duck at Brooklands in January 1982 must be questioned.

I would suggest the following 40 species can therefore be added to the list produced in 1978; many occurred long before this Society's inception and many we will need to wait for many years to see again.

Cory's Shearwater  
Sooty Shearwater  
Storm Petrel  
American Bittern  
Night Heron  
Squacco Heron  
Purple Heron  
White Stork  
Wood Duck  
Ruddy Duck  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ivory Gull  
Gull-billed Tern  
Caspian Tern  
Sooty Tern  
Pallas's Sandgrouse  
Alpine Swift  
White-winged Lark  
Short-toed Lark  
Crested Lark

Redfooted Falcon  
Spotted Crake  
Baillon's Crake  
Baird's Sandpiper  
Broad-billed Sandpiper  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Longtailed Skua  
Great Black-headed Gull  
Sabine's Gull  
Richard's Pipit  
Blyth's Pipit  
White's Thrush  
Scarlet Rosefinch  
Lapland Bunting  
Rock Bunting  
Ortolan Bunting  
Rustic Bunting  
Little Bunting  
Black-headed Bunting

## References:

- A History of Sussex Birds      J Walpole Bond    1938 Witherby  
A Guide to the Birds of Sussex    G. des Forges and D.D.  
Harber    1963    Oliver & Boyd  
The Birds of Sussex - their present status    M. Shrubb  
1979    Phillimore  
Rare Birds in Britain and Ireland    J.T.R. and E.M. Sharrock  
1976    T. & A.D. Poyser  
An Atlas of the Birds of the Western Palaearctic  
C. Harrison    1982    Collins  
Shoreham Ornithological Society Report    Nos. 1 - 29  
Sussex Bird Report    1951 - 1981  
British Birds - Report of Rare Birds    1976 - 1981

J.A. Newnham

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## FIELD OUTINGS 1982

Sat. January 16th

Adur Levels with Mr P.J. Clay

The first of a new season of field outings commenced with an encouraging turn out of nearly twenty members. A walk northward up the Adur Valley produced unexpected Pochard and Goldeneye on the river. Across the levels 100 Mallard and 200 Teal intermingled with Snipe, Lapwing and Redshank. The winter thrushes, Redwing and Fieldfare were present in the fields and 3 Golden Plover flew over. 8 Cormorants rested on a pylon and Kestrels regularly hovered above. Those who stayed the course were rewarded with a Siskin on returning to the ringing site.

Sat. February 13th.

Goring/Ferring with Mr F.J. Forbes

Despite the drizzle fourteen members met at the seafront shelter. An hours sea watching failed to produce any exciting birds, although the waders feeding along the shoreline provided continual interest.

A walk through the trees and around the adjacent fields revealed secretive Jays, Redwing, Fieldfare, and a small party of Tree Sparrows while a Kestrel hunted overhead.

The rest of the morning was spent studying the flock of roosting waders in the hope of isolating the celebrated Kentish Plover from among the Dunlin, Sanderling, and Ringed Plovers. Varying degrees of success were reported as juvenile Ringed Plovers created identification problems!

Sat. April 24th

Seawatch and Sanctuary with Dr J.A.  
Newnham

Fifteen members assembled at the Norfolk Bridge in Shoreham on a cloudy morning with a cold northerly wind blowing. No waders were found on the river, although an early Reed Warbler was picked out and 30 Linnets were seen as we made our way to the beach.

Very little was moving on the sea apart from a few Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit and Sanderling. No views were to be had of a Mediterranean Gull and White Wagtail, recorded earlier in the day. We adjourned to the Sanctuary for a ringing demonstration but took our poor luck with us as we caught no birds and failed to identify a high flying raptor.

The day was just about to be logged as a total disaster when a White Stork drifted into sight, thermalling over the Adur Valley!

Friday May 21st

Cissbury with Mr B.F. Forbes

Eleven members turned up for an evening walk, on what was a cool, cloudy and windy evening; too windy for the environs of the Ring. A walk to No Mans Land and back along Stump Bottom produced very little except Cuckoo, Turtle Dove, common warblers and a Lapwing with young. The outing culminated at dusk with 2 Tawny Owls calling on Lychpole Hill.

Wed. August 18th

River Adur with Mr S. Allen

Despite appalling weather earlier in the day eleven members turned out for what proved to be a delightful evening walk in good weather from the Toll Bridge to Cuckoo Corner. Among a variety of birds seen, including a large number of Ringed Plover, were a Green Sandpiper, a Whimbrel, a yellow-legged Herring Gull, Yellow and Pied wagtails, Sand Martins and a Swift.

Sat. September 4th

Sidlesham/Church Norton with  
Mr O. Mitchell

16 members attended on a pleasant dry and sunny day.

Waders recorded included Green Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Ruff and Knot. Sandwich, Common and a rarer Black Tern were the marine migrants, whereas Spotted Flycatcher, Whinchat, Yellow Wagtail and Lesser Whitethroat represented the passerines.

Other highlights were a Sparrowhawk and an early record of a Short Eared Owl.

Sat. 16th October

Cissbury/Stump Bottom with Mr C.E.  
Messer

Despite a very gloomy weather forecast, a dozen or so members turned out at Cissbury car park for the walk to Stump Bottom and No Mans Land.

Soon after we had set out the weather started to deteriorate, wind and frequent showers persisted throughout the morning and as a result we only saw a few birds. A party of about 100 Linnets was the only sizable finch flock seen. Birds seemed to be mostly at long range and then mainly Crows, gulls and a Lapwing. The only raptors present were 4 Kestrels and 2 Sparrowhawks.

As we neared the end of the walk the rain intensified and by this time we were glad to be going home to dry out.

Sat. 13th November    Widewater & lower Adur with  
                              Dr J.A. Newnham (Jointly with Sussex)

About 50 members from both Societies grouped in the Widewater car park on a bright morning with a light NW wind blowing. 18 Dabchicks, 2 Mergansers, Tufted Duck and a Pochard were present on the water and a Black Redstart on the beach.

On the river the falling tide provided perfect conditions for viewing the regular waders. The crocodile-line progress along the river bank meant that some missed a Kingfisher but most saw Stonechat, Gadwall, 50 Mallard and 2000 Lapwing. At the Sanctuary the nets had been prepared for our arrival and a Redwing caught on cue enabled all present to watch a ringing demonstration. Sparrowhawk and Kestrel over Mill Hill assisted an explanation of basic raptor identification.

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#### LECTURES 1982

Monday 4th January

Mr J. Stevenson, Education Officer at the Arundel Wildfowl Trust, introduced the society to aspects of his work with the Trust, and with many close portraits of wildfowl he highlighted how their plumage and structure had adapted to fill their individual ecological niches.

#### Monday 1st February

Mr and Mrs A Simpson relived their spring vacation to Southern Sweden with a display of slides showing the scenery, habitats, plant and bird life of that country. Amongst the more attractive species were Goldeneye with young, Black-throated Diver in summer plumage and a male Red-backed Shrike.

#### Monday 29th March

The business of the A.G.M. was followed by a short talk by Mr P. Hall on the birds of a Steyning garden to introduce a local garden bird survey. Dr J.A. Newnham then reviewed his seven years as the society recorder, noting changes in the birds and observers in the Shoreham district. Illustrations of small dots over the sea, immediately identifiable to seawatchers as Bar-tailed Godwits, were mixed with other excellent pictures of many species seen locally.

#### Monday 4th October

Mr B.F. Forbes fired the society with his enthusiasm for watching the downland area near Cissbury. His illustrated lecture portrayed the diversity of species to be found around the Ring and particularly focussed on the importance of this area for migrating birds.

#### Monday 1st November

Mr A.J. Prater, South East regional officer for the R.S.P.B. and one of the worlds experts on waders, presented a very interesting talk on this subject. His observations and hints for identifying waders by their behaviour coupled with his knowledgeable references to their habitat and its associated pressure led to an extremely informative presentation.

## NOTES, NEWS AND ACCOUNTS 1982

### OFFICERS

President	- Dr J. Stafford
Hon. Secretary	- Mr J. Dixon Rock Cottage, Common Hill, West Chiltington, Nr. Pulborough RH20 2NS
Hon. Field Secretary	- Mr C.E. Messer 15 Broomfield Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex,
Hon. Treasurer	- Mr S.R. Allen 3 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex
Hon. Recorder	- Mr B.F. Forbes, 95 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex
Report Editor	- Mr B.R. Clay
Sanctuary Committee	- Dr A.B. Watson, Dr J.A. Newnham.
Other Committee Members	- Dr J.A. Newnham, Mr M.P. Hall Mrs J. Weeding

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Will members kindly advise the Secretary of any change of name or address. (Address as above; Phone: West Chiltington 2234).

## MEMBERS RECORDS

It would be a great help to the Recorder if members could send in their records twice a year, with the second batch in December, leaving the last few records to the first week in January. This is vital if members want to receive the annual report at the A.G.M.

A reminder that the Society's record sheets are set out as shown:-

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality/Notes</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Observer</u>
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Rarities should have adequate supporting notes. All records should now be sent to Mr Bernard Forbes at 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex.

## Previous Years Reports

One or two of this and some previous reports are available on request. Special prices are available for purchases of three or more reports.

## Secretary's Note

For practical reasons, members are entitled by their subscription to the report which is actually printed during the year for which their subscription runs; in other words, that of the previous year. This means that the report will only be circulated to those who have already paid their subscription by the date of publication. Copies will be available to those who pay after this date, as and when they do so.

In accordance with the new rules, draughted and approved by the Society last year, provision has been made for 1-4 members, not holding office, to attend committee meetings. 2 or 3 of these places are usually filled, but there is always room for any member with suggestions (or even criticisms) to come along and air their views. Anyone wishing to do so should contact me.

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1982

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>£.</u>
Balance brought forward	324.10	Donations	10.00
Subscriptions	352.30	Printing	154.60
Donations	124.33	Stationery	4.46
Raffle and Refreshment receipts	33.87	Secretary's Expenses inc. Hire of Hall etc.	75.00
Bank Deposit Interest received	22.67	Lecturers	10.00
		Southern Water Authority	4.00
		Hire of Hall	10.00
		Sundries	34.00
		Balance Carried Forward	555.21
	<u>£ 857.27</u>		<u>£ 857.27</u>

S.R. Allen (Hon. Treasurer)

Date: 28th January, 1983

ACCOUNTANTS CERTIFICATE

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared without audit from the books, vouchers and information supplied to us and is in accordance therewith.

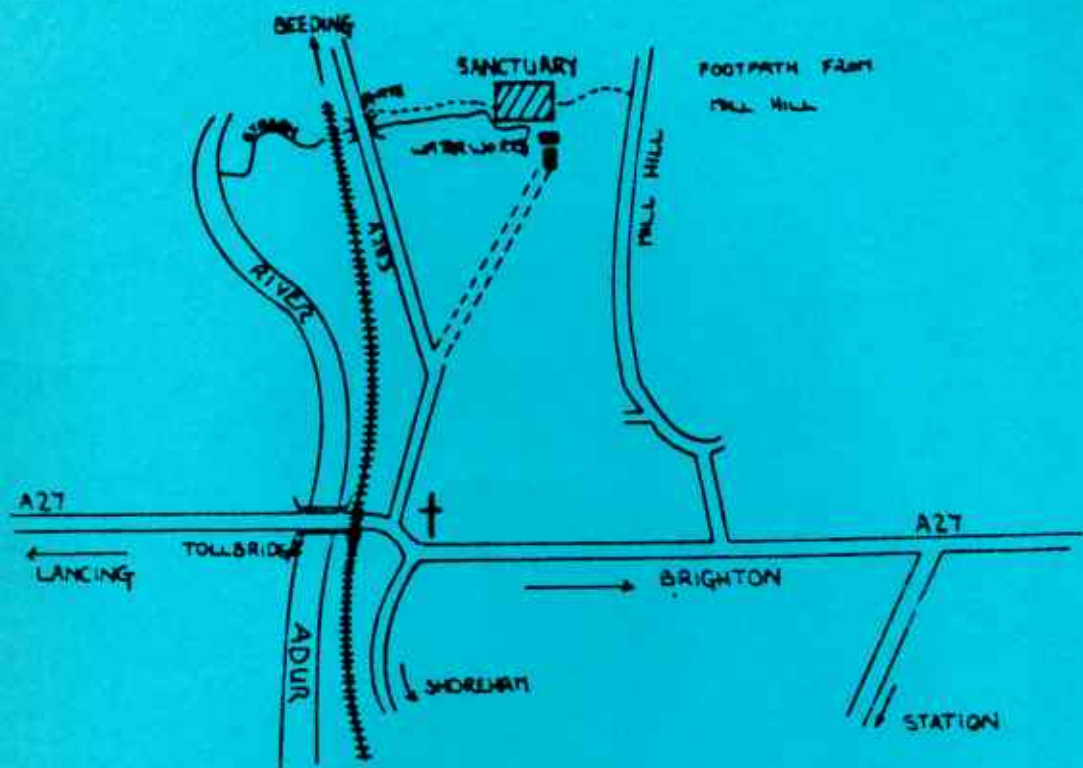
Date: 28th January, 1983

52/53, Old Steine,  
Brighton BN1 1PH

Signed: Chater Spain Brothers  
Chartered Accountants

Membership

At the time of going to print there were 126 paid-up members of this society.



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