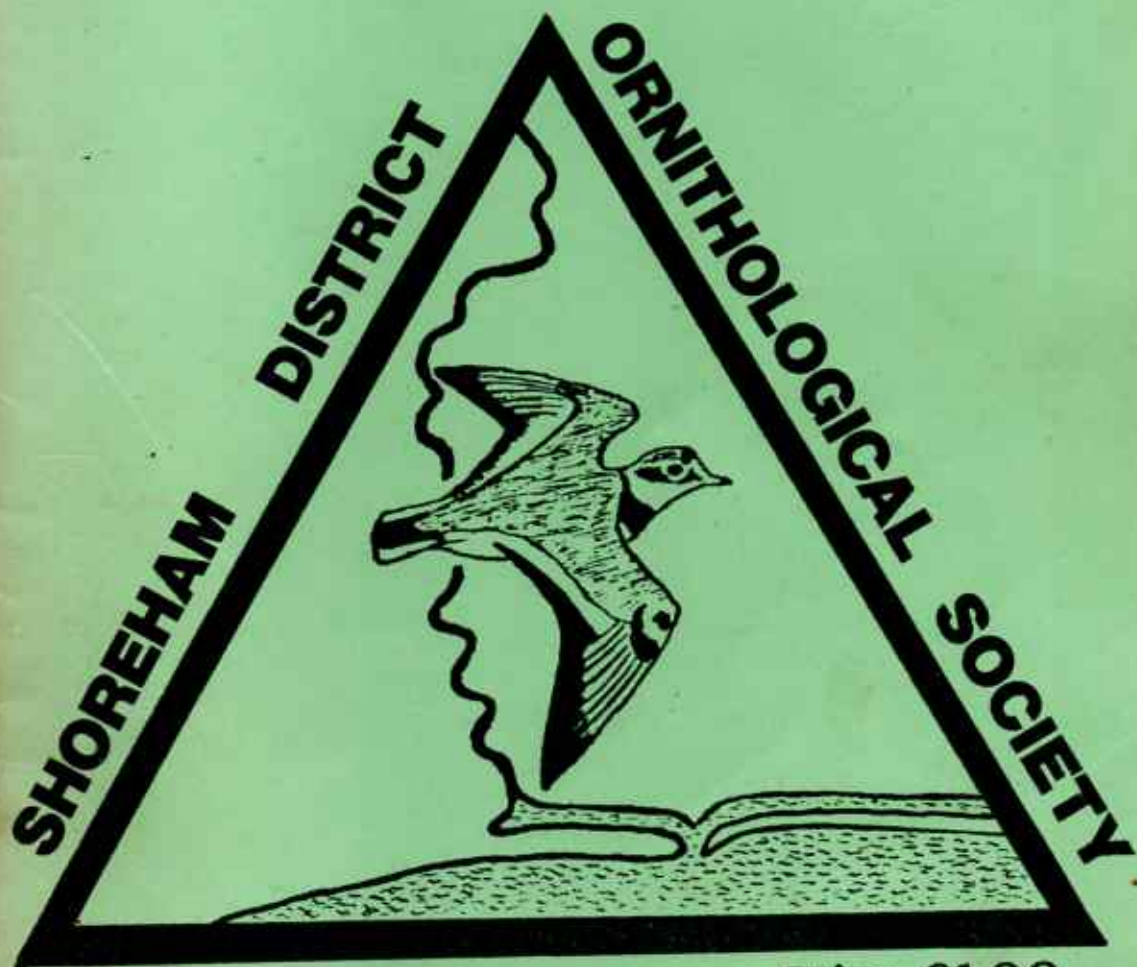


# REPORT 1983



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SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORTHITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 1983

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

Another comprehensive report this year bears witness to the continuing growth and success of the Society; any greater volume of articles and I will be running to an additional supplement as the process by which the report is produced determines the maximum size at about the current level!

The summer newsheet was a new venture in 1983, which it is proposed to repeat in 1984 providing the indications that it was well received are correct. There has always been a communication gap between the spring and autumn lecture programmes and a newsheet seemed an ideal way of keeping in touch.

Our recorder Bernard Forbes notes a pleasing increase in the volume of records submitted. There has been a tendency in the past for records to be received from a few more experienced members, the majority of who could often be seen birdwatching from the same beach hut on favourable days in the spring thus producing a certain similarity (but not always!) in the records they obtained. All members records are welcome; the notes at the front of the systematic list indicates the main recording areas.

Colin Messer reports on a well attended season of field outings; regrettably birds of White Stork rarity cannot be produced every year! John Dixon, our secretary, describes an informative and entertaining series of indoor lectures, which have been well attended. The 'support services' to these meetings, the coffee and the raffle, have again generated a valuable source of revenue. Mrs Weeding who masterminded their reintroduction had to withdraw her services during the year and to her, our grateful thanks. Her place on the Committee has been taken by Mrs E Chadwick to whom we extend a warm welcome.

The Garden Bird Survey being organised on BTO lines by Mike Hall has got off to a hesitant start, partly through unfavourable mild weather, but also due to a slow initial response from members. Participation has picked up and an analysis of the first year's results is included in the report. This is a project that all members who operate a winter feeding station contribute to; Mike Hall has full details. News of further participative projects will be given at the meetings.

Finally bigger reports mean more checking and typing and I acknowledge gratefully assistance given by Dr John Newnham with the systematic list and invaluable typing support from my wife Diane, Claire Fox and Melanie Spencer.



## BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM DISTRICT 1983

1983 has been a good year for birds, which may have given rise to the increase in the records submitted, both in terms of the number of observers contributing to the report and the volume of record sheets processed. The vast majority of records have come from the Adur levels and estuary, Widewater, Worthing beaches and the Downs west of the Adur. We now have a detailed knowledge of the birds and their movements in these areas but of course new species to the district are often recorded in most years. We therefore continue to learn more about the avifauna and discover different patterns of bird behaviour at all times of the ornithological calendar.

One site that might produce variety of species is the Lancing Clump/Manor area which over the past few years has been rather neglected and would certainly be worth visiting in the early morning in spring and autumn. The west side of the Airport south of the Withey Patch is also an area which past reports have shown to be excellent in the migration period.

As for the ornithological highlights of the year January and February passed with some very cold temperatures in late January but otherwise it was very mild and consequently low numbers of marsh and sea duck were reported in our area with no geese flocks recorded. A Merlin occurred by the Adur in January, a Little Stint overwintered, and a record 300 Redshank were observed in February. At the Harbour Wheatear was ticked off many 'birders' year lists and Black Redstart and Purple Sandpiper added to the interest. Another winter Sandwich Tern at Southwick Canal may have been the same bird which turned up at Brighton Marina in February. Little Auk and Puffin seen off Worthing Beach on February 23rd made an exciting sea watch whilst at Cissbury up to 3 Long-Eared Owls were roosting.

In March up-channel passage was increasing; the first terns were sighted by the 13th with divers and waders building up numbers. In April good numbers of sea and land migrants were recorded from the coast, the Adur and the Downs. May produced a huge shearwater movement, most of them in one day at Worthing Beach, a Sabine's Gull also at Worthing

and a Peregrine at Widewater. The spring seawatching totals of terns and skuas were very high with record numbers of Arctic and Great Skuas. Mediterranean Gulls are now an annual spring migrant and we had several through our district this year.

June and July will be remembered for the long hot dry spell which in turn created a dearth of bird sighting, although Ringed Plover found three nesting locations on our overpopulated coast.

The dry weather continued throughout August and migration was relatively light, especially at Cissbury, with few large falls of passerines recorded although Red-backed Shrike, Hobby and Montagus Harrier passed through. August the Adur once again became alive with waders feeding for a few days on the long journey to their winter grounds; many different species are now recorded regularly during August/September. At Mill Hill a Nightjar flushed from the road at dusk was an unusual record.

By the second week of September the fine weather was breaking up and several rare species were seen including a Sooty Shearwater at Worthing Beach, Goshawk and Peregrine over Worthing and another Peregrine over the Downs where a Tawny Pipit was heard calling. At Cissbury in early October a massive Jay movement occured with over 400 logged in one morning; this was part of a massive movement recorded in other parts of the country. Along the coast in October a Great Northern Diver at Worthing Beach and Storm Petrel and Grey Phalarope at Brighton Marina were the more notable sightings.

The remainder of the year was very mild with no cold weather to push unusual species into our district although Bewicks Swans over Wiston were probably on their way to winter in the Arun valley. Several Long-tailed Ducks were seen off our shore in this month and Hen Harrier and Buzzard hunted the Downs. Twite were once again back on the Adur with up to 22 recorded near the airport but the lack of cold weather produced few large flocks of finches in November/December, although an out of season Wheatear was at New Salts Farm on December 3rd. Worthing Beach watchers recorded 9 Arctic Skuas moving west on December 19th; this is the largest number ever seen off the Sussex coast in this month. 37 White-fronted Geese on the Adur levels on the 27th December and 3 Scaup on Widewater on Christmas Day rounded off the year.



### NOTEABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA IN 1983

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

S.R. Allen, K.M. Bartlet, B.R. Clay, P.J. Clay, G.L., L.M., M.L., & N.J. Champion, J. Dixon, R. Edney, D. Freeman, J. Feest, B.F. Forbes, F.J. Forbes, C.J. Fox, C.P.S. Griffiths, M.P. Hall, S.P. Hitchings, R. Ives, L.R. Keen, N. Lord, C.E. Messer, O. Mitchell, Dr. J.A. Newnham, K. Noble, A.J. Prater, B. Reeve, R.J. Sandison, D. Smith, Dr. J. Stafford, H. Sturman, T. Smart, J. Underwood, B. Upton, R. Weal, T.J. Wilson.

#### ABBREVIATIONS:-

ad - adult, imm - immature, juv - juvenile, ly - first year etc.,  
f - female, m - male, N - North etc., pr - pair, sp - summer plumage,  
wp - winter plumage, ha - hectares.

AL - Adur Levels, Btn M - Brighton Marina, Ciss - Cissbury, FB - Ferring Beach, GB - Gorign Beach, Harb - Shoreham Harbour, NSF - New Salts Farm, Sanc - Sanctuary, SB - Southwick Beach, SR Hill - Steyning Round Hill, WB - Worthing Beaches, WW - Widewater.

'Downs' refers to the downland area between the Adur Valley and the A24 including Cissbury/Chanctonbury. References to Worthing Beaches in sea watching data include all sea watch sites unless separately identified.

1. RED-THROATED DIVER - Singles recorded off WW, Harb, and Hove Beach during January/March with 8WW on Feb 2. 4 offshore Btn M Feb/March with 5 recorded E in April and 2E in May. From Jan 1 to May 18 a total of 26 birds recorded at WB with single birds noted on the sea until April 11. Records later in the year include singles at Harb Nov 15 and Dec 9 and WB Nov 29; 10 in flight WB Dec 11.

2. BLACK-THROATED DIVER - More birds being specifically identified. Singles at Ferring Beach Jan 15 and WW Feb 11. Monthly totals at WB: - Jan - 1, Feb - 1, March - 0, April - 6, May - 17; peak of 7E May 18. 5E Btn M in April and 7 in May. In autumn at WB singles recorded moving W on Sept 21, Oct 29 and Nov 6.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER - 1W WB Oct 23 (RJS FJF)

DIVER SP - Recorded from both WB and Btn M between Jan 1 and May 18 with a total of 278E and 49W on 76 dates at WB and 293E and 52W at Btn M. The peak spring movement was on April 22 with 26E.  
Monthly analysis:-

		J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
Worthing Beach	E.	7	40	30	143	58	-	-	15	31
	W.	11	34	2	1	-	1	18	21	70
Brighton Marina	E.	-	102	53	107	16	No Records			
	W.	-	50	1	-	-	Btm M			

Small numbers noted offshore during winter. Recorded WB after Sept 21 with total of 46E and 110W on 40 dates and peak movement of 20W and 3E on Dec 18.

6. LITTLE GREBE - in the early months singles recorded at 3 localities including 1 on sea WB Feb 23. The peak monthly WW counts were:- Jan - 15, Feb - 16, March - 9; last record of 3 on April 4. First Dec - 2. 2 Brooklands Nov 6 increasing to 7 on Nov 16 but down to 2 on Dec 12. 1 AL Nov 10. Up to 6 recorded in Nov around Shoreham Adur/NSF and with 3 Southwick canal Dec 12 and 1 Harb mouth Dec 21 suggests the decline on WW may involve birds moving around local sites.
7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE - Recorded offshore regularly between Btm M and Ferring during early months with max of 14 Hove/Portslade and 4 Shoreham Feb 17, 6 Btm M March 7 and 6 WW March 17. WB watchers recorded 6E/7W - Feb, 2E/3W - March, 3E/2W - April, 1W - May; offshore counts at WB included 9 on sea March 20 and 11 on Nov 19 with winter movement there of 2E/2W Nov and 4E/3W Dec.

8. RED-NECKED GREBE - Once again a scattering of records - in recent years has become more regular. 1 offshore Btn M Feb 16 and 1E in SP April 16. 1 offshore WB Oct 1.
9. SLAVONIAN GREBE - Singles at Btn M from Feb 15 to March 3, WW from Feb 17 to 21st and WB on March 2 and April 10. Only autumn record 2 on sea WB Nov 17.
10. BLACK-NECKED GREBE - Singles recorded WB April 10 and Btn M April 15.
12. FULMAR - Sea watchers at WB recorded after Feb 20 a total of 261E and 279W on 67 dates with a peak of 50 on April 22. Few recorded in autumn with 11W and 2E in Aug/Sept; the last date being Sept 22.
17. SOOTY SHEARWATER - 1W WB on Sept 21 (Jan) will be the 2nd Shoreham record if accepted.
18. MANX SHEARWATER - 1W Btn M April 15. A record total of 88W and 5E at WB between April 10 and May 23; the peak of 82W on May 2 coinciding with peaks at other coastal stations. The majority of the spring records were of 'puffinus' but 1E May 23 showed characteristics of the race 'mauretanicus'. Autumn records from WB were of singles W on Sept 2 and 19th with 1E/2W on Oct 12.
22. STORM PETREL - 1W Btn M close inshore on Oct 17 (NL) is the 3rd Shoreham record.
25. GANNET - Offshore movements noted at Btn M and WB where 116E/48W and 138E/153W were recorded respectively. Peak counts were of 26E WB on May 1 and 18E Btn M May 17. During autumn and winter the WB total was 164W/46E on 41 dates including 38W on Sept 2 and 48W on Dec 10 (see seawatch table for details).
26. CORMORANT - Widely recorded along our coast and river valleys. Spring watches at WB noted 158E/222W on 76 dates with peak of 34W/3E on April 9. Records elsewhere include 10S AL Jan 9, 20 Southwick Feb 20 and 52E Btn M Feb 25. Numbers decreased at Brighton Power Station roost due to treatment of pylons. Recorded regularly at WB in autumn with peak of 31E/10W Oct 30. 175 Ciss Oct 2. Max AL count of 11 in Nov.



27. SHAG - 1 Btn M from Feb 15-21st and another March 16. 1 Harb March 3.  
1 off WW Nov 21.
39. HERON - 8 AL Jan 29, 18 there Jan 30 and 7 present Aug/Sept. Counts  
of between 6 and 9 Adur/NSF in autumn. Up to 3 Ferring Beach/Rife  
spring - summer. Singles noted moving mainly eastward at coastal  
locations on scattered dates. 1 flushed from hillside at Ciss on  
April 14.
46. MUTE SWAN - Peak AL counts: - 34 - Jan 30, 26 - April 17, 36 (non-  
breeding herd) - July 2. In 1911 5 prs attempted to breed but only  
1 pr succeeded. 11 Breeding Cement Works May 23 increased to 50  
summering by July. 36 AL Dec 27. Small numbers were recorded off  
WB; 8E May 23 perhaps the most significant record.
47. BEWICK SWAN - 9NW at Wiston heard calling on Dec 5. (CJF)
51. WHITE FRONTED GOOSE - 35 AL Dec 27. (CJF)
53. GREYLAG GOOSE - 1E Btn M April 24. 2 AL April 10 and 4 there Dec 27.  
3 Airport Sept 24.
- GREY GEESE SP - 12 SE GB Nov 7.
55. CANADA GEESE - 121 on AL Jan 8 - a smaller number than last year.
57. BRENT GOOSE - Spring movements noted until May 18 at WB and until the  
late date of June 20 at Btn M. A monthly analysis of movement shows:-

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
WB	E	293	164	2145	458	36	3096
	W	23	17	25	28	3	96
Btn M	E	6	381	2674	740	25	3826

The peak dates were all in March; on March 3 561E passed WB and 758E  
at Btn M. 1 pale breasted form 'hrota' noted with 14 dark bellied  
on April 24 at WB. During autumn/winter only 1262W/315E between Sept  
27 and Dec 31 with a peak 233W Oct 29. (Details in seawatch table).  
Regular WW individual from Oct 31 with max 6 there. 5S Adur Oct 3  
and 8N there Nov 21.

61. SHELDUCK - Spring coastal movements noted at both WB (101E/190W) and Btn M (115E/31W); their significance, like the autumn movements at WB (175W/44E) is unclear. 3 Ferring Jan 15. 2 Adur Jan/Feb then regularly after Sept 15 with peaks of 5 Oct 24 and 6 in early Dec. 35 Upper Beeding Nov 17.
64. WIGEON - Fewer records this year. At Btn M 2E Feb 15, 15E Feb 19 and 2E May 31. Later at WB a very small autumn passage with peak of 40E Dec 9. 2 Brooklands Oct 2.
67. GADWALL - 1 Adur Nov 24 is the only record.
69. TEAL - Few coastal movements noted with a spring total of 12E at WB and 39E at Btn M on March 3. Counts at AL small with 7 on Jan 8, 2 prs April 14 and 4 - Aug 6. After Sept 15 the autumn/winter movements WB totalled 81W and 8E. Small numbers recorded from Wiston Road Pond, NSF and Small Dole.
70. MALLARD - At WB only 26E and 19W on 16 dates throughout the year. 94 NSF Aug 25 and 16 there on Oct 18. 50 Mill Hill Oct 14 and 97 feeding on stubble SR Hill early Sept. Breeding count of 5 prs on 55ha AL.
72. PINTAIL - Recorded at WB on 6 dates throughout the year with totals of 26W and 4E; 2 AL Jan 30, 1WW Nov 13 and 16S Upper Beeding Dec 24 are the only other records.
73. GARGANEY - One male W WB April 30 is the only record.
75. SHOVELER - A small coastal movement totalling 11E Btn M on 3 spring dates; no significant movement at WB where the year total of 29E/40W included the peak of 17W on Sept 30. A pair at WW April 21 and away from the coast 1 AL Jan 30 and 2 there March 12.
77. POCHARD - 4 WW during Jan and up to 6 in Feb. They returned there Nov 22 then 4-8 birds until the end of the year. Up to 9 noted Brooklands throughout Nov. 7E WB May 16.
80. TUFTED DUCK - 1 in Btn M June 18. 1 AL March 12-13; 8 again Brooklands Oct 26 increasing to 9 on Nov 9 but dropping to 4 Nov 15. 1 WW Oct 21.
81. SCAUP - 4W WE Dec 29. 3 WW Dec 25. 1 female Brooklands Oct 26 - Nov 4 and again Nov 8.

82. EIDER - Spring sea-watch totals of 60E and 21W on 18 dates at WB, and 59E and 7W at Btn M, the last date recorded May 8. 3 in Btn M Jan and Feb and 1 or 2 off WW on 3 scattered dates. After Oct 13 between 2-6 regularly off WW, with max 25 on Nov 27. Coastal movements WB totalled 53E and 112W after Sept 19 with peak 25W on Sept 30 (see table for sea watching details). 8 offshore WB Oct 31 and 50 there Nov 13.

86. LONG-TAILED DUCK - A good showing of this sea duck in our area. 1 Btn M Feb 21 and one present throughout March, 1 male E March 27 1 female April 3 and 1E May 5. 1 male W at WW Nov 24. Single females W WB Nov 14, Nov 27 and Dec 9 may have been the same individual.

87. COMMON SCOTER - Spring sea watch total WB 2651E and 110W on 64 dates until May 18, the peak of 346 on Apr 10. (see table of selected sea watch days). Likewise from Btn M Jan-June total 2769E with peaks of 236E on Apr. 20, 261E on Apr 22 and 252E on Apr 26. Between May and Dec at WB 116W and 142E with peak 74E on Oct 30, and 20 offshore there in early Dec. Small flock off WW numbered 16 on Nov 14, 42 on Nov 19 and 45 on Dec 11.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
WB	E	13	15	99	1760	764	2651
Btn M	E	5	4	207	1833	692	2741

89. VELVET SCOTER - Despite prolonged seawatching a poor year with spring totals of 8E and 4W on 5 dates at WB, and 10E on 3 dates at Btn M. 2 offshore Btn M Apr 27 and 28th, only 5W on 4 dates during autumn at WB.
91. GOLDEN EYE - 1E Btn M Feb 18 was the only early record, later in the year 2 Brooklands Nov 6-27th and 1 WW Nov 8; total 9W WB on 5 dates Oct 30-Dec 18 with max 4W on Oct 30.
94. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - A record spring passage of 512E and 157W between Jan 1 and May 2< at WB; at Btn M 59E during April. 1E WW July 10 is the first record for this month. Movements in autumn/winter only totalled 76W and 37E at WB. Regularly recorded offshore during winter months at locations west of Shoreham, peak counts include 45 WB Jan 22. 51 there Mar 2 and 44 in Dec; and at GB 25 during Oct/Nov.



104. HEN HARRIER - 1 male and 1 female 'ringtail' Downs Nov 20 and 1 male there Nov 21, the gamekeeper noted these regularly from late Oct. (PerRJS).
105. MONTAGU'S HARRIER - 1 male Downs Aug 30 (BFF RK).
- GOSHAWK - 1NW over Broadwater in Worthing Sept 27 (RI) is our fourth record.
108. SPARROW HAWK - During the breeding season possibly 9 pairs recorded from 7 areas. In winter up to 20 birds were seen in many localities even over extensive urban development. No coastal migration recorded but an influx onto Downs suggested some movement between August and October when up to 3 were seen on many dates.
109. BUZZARD - 1W Upper Beeding May 5; on the Downs 1 Aug 17-18; 2 soaring Sept 5 and 1 Dec 2 but the gamekeeper reported up to 3 in late Nov.
115. KESTREL - Breeding season estimates suggest between 20-25 prs in our area with records mainly west of the River Adur. Singles arriving from sea on Apr 6 at WB and Apr 13 at Btn M, 1W WB Sept 13 and 9 Ciss Oct 17 are records providing evidence of migration.
118. MERLIN - 1 AL Jan 23; 1 Shoreham Adur Jan 24 was noted to catch a small wader. 1 Ciss Sept 22 and 1S Lancing Nov 15.
119. HOBBY - 6 individual noted from 5 locations between May 12 - June 18 with max 2 Downs May 23; during autumn, July 18 - Sept 25 singles recorded on 6 dates from Ciss, Ferring, Upper Beeding and WB.
123. PEREGRINE - 1 imm male arriving from sea WW May 13 (AJP); 1W over Worthing Sept 12 (RI) and 1 imm Downs Sept 25 (CJF BRC). These 3 records treble the number noted during the past 20 years.
131. QUAIL - Single bird calling near Ciss May 22 and 27th.
136. WATER RAIL - 1 Airport Dec 21 was the only record.
142. MOORHEN - 2 prs bred Ferring duck pond raising 5 young, 21 there Nov 13; 14 Brooklands Feb 13 and 24 there Dec 24. 3 NSF Dec 24.

145. COOT - Observation at Brooklands include 18 on Jan 6, ( ON Feb 26, no breeding attempts but returned by Aug 5; 19 there Oct increasing to 28 by Dec 11 and 31 by Dec 24. At WW max 6 in Jan and 5 in Feb; returned Dec 11 with max 5.

151. OYSTERCATCHER - Sea watching totals between Jan - May of 224E and 120W on 53 dates from WB and 272E at Btn M where the peak of 27E occurred on Apr 22. Movements between Aug - Dec WB totalled 164W and 67E. 6 FB Jan 29 with up to 21 there later in the year; 7 Adur Apr 23 and 1 there in mid Nov.

153. AVOCET - A record 24 birds noted; 14E WB Apr 10 and 5E there May 12; at Btn M 1E Mar 4 and 3E on June 7. 1 Flood Arch Nov 12.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - No records this year.

159. RINGED PLOVER - Peak monthly counts.

(1) Adur	Jan 15 - 200	Aug 7 - 73	(2) Goring	Sept 9 - 158
	Feb 12 - 140	Sept 13 - 107		Oct 18 - 102
	Apr 7 - 7	Oct 4 - 160		Nov 10 - 150
	June 6 - 6	Nov 17 - 182		
	July 28 - 33	Dec 17 - 80		

Up to 20 Btn M during Jan and Feb. Spring sea watching total WB a record low of 26E but autumn total of 107E and 222W may contain birds moving to and from high tide roost sites. 2 prs bred at Btn M and Goring Gap, the 4 prs at WW raised 6 young and 1 pr displaying Downs Apr 14.

165. GOLDEN PLOVER - 36 AL Jan 8; 1N Btn M Feb 9; on Feb 12 33 flew S at Upper Beeding and 52 Kings Barn where only 17 were found by Feb 13. 4 Ciss Sept 19 and 5 individuals noted there Sept 26; 1 Airport Dec 21.

166. GREY PLOVER - High tide roost counts from Goring

Mar 5 - 14	Oct 18 - 17
Mar 12 - 60	Nov 6 - 45
Sept 4 - 4	Nov 19 - 136

A poor spring passage with only 10SE and 3W WB with peak 25E on Apr 20; similarly at Btn M only 24E throughout Apr and May. Between Aug 11 and Nov 39W and 36E at WB. 1 Adur Sept 2; 2 there Oct 4 and 3 on Oct 15.

169. LAPWING - No counts of breeding birds; selective counts in Adur Valley suggest large wintering population.

(1) Lower Adur/Airport/NSE

Jan 5 - 2000  
Feb 13 - 300  
Sept 22 - 400  
Nov 7 - 700  
Dec 21 - 3000

(2) Upper Adur/AL

Jan 2 - 1500  
June 19 - 135

At the onset of cold weather 220W WB  
Feb 11 but returned E Feb 25 when 84E  
WB and 137E at Btn M.

170. KNOT - 20E Btn M Apr 24; a similar poor spring WB where only records of 1E Apr 26, 6E Apr 28 and 5E June 7. Single WW July 23-25 and Sept 2; recorded Adur Aug 29 - Oct 8 with max 4 on Sept 19 4W WB Sept 1 and 12W there Sept 11.

171. SANDERLING - Few noted at winter roosts, a synchronised count between Worthing and Ferring at low tide may show more clearly the numbers feeding on these flats. Spring passage total at WB 286E and 56W on 26 dates with a peak 47E on Apr 19; whereas 37E and 12W at Btn M during Apr and May. 57 FB Apr 19 and 1 Adur July 18-19 are unusual. Few noted along shoreline between Sept and Dec.

175. LITTLE STINT - The overwintering individual Adur recorded until Mar 9; singles recorded WW Apr 10-11, Aug 9-10, and Oct 5, 2 there Sept 10-13; recorded at this site.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER - 3 WW Aug 24. 2 Adur Sept 26 and singles Sept 27-28 and Oct 4-15.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER - 2 regularly Btn M Jan-Apr 11 and again in Nov-Dec; 2 Harb Jan with 4 there Jan 13 (perhaps from Btn M). 1 Apr 11 and again 2 Dec 21st. 1 GB Mar 24 and 1E Btn M on May 4.



184. DUNLIN - Peak monthly counts:-

Adur	Jan 15 - 1130	Goring	Jan 29 - 120
	Feb 4 - 500		Mar 5 - 144
	Mar 10 - 300		Sept 9 - 11
	Apr 18 - 17		Oct 22 - 20
	Oct 8 - 190		Nov 19 - 240
	Nov 19 - 500		
	Dec 12 - 1300		

At WW up to 9 noted early May returning on July 12 and a max of 25 on Aug 26. Recorded on Adur after July 1 with with 16 Aug 31. During spring WB total 245E and 84W on 29 dates with a peak 40E May 5; between Aug-Oct 145W and 8E but after Nov difficult to separate birds migrating along the coast from those involved in local feeding or tidal movements.

188. RUFF - 1 WW Aug 26 - Sept 3.

190. SNIPPE - All noteable records from Adur Valley and can be divided into upper and lower reaches; the largest counts from the upper Adur Valley include 100 Upper Beeding Jan 2, 25 AL Jan 8 and 24 there till Apr 17, 84 Small Dole Mar 9; 20 AL Aug 6 but only 5 on Nov 10 however 70 there by Dec 30. In the lower Adur Valley mainly noted at NSF with counts Feb 12 - 59, Aug 7 - 1, Nov 7 - 62 and Nov 13 - 100.

194. WOODCOCK - 2 Ciss Feb 10 and singles there Feb 13 and Dec 1; singles flushed by dog Coombes Nov 15 and 23.

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT - 1E WB Mar 30, 1W there Apr 3 and finally 1E May 1, highlight how scarce this species is in our area.

196. BAR-TAILED GODWIT - Spring offshore movement Mar 12 - June 7 can be summarised in the table below:-

		Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
WB	E	5	2148	493	2	2648 (+ 62W)
Btn M	E	-	1619	372	-	1991

The peak of 449E on Apr 24 at Btn M coincided with peak 472E at WB (see table of selected days for peak days). 2 WW Apr 10, the only resting spring record, shows how few pause on their spring migration. 2W WB Oct 1 and 1 Adur Nov 6-27.

198. WHIMBREL - Spring offshore movement between Apr 1-May 24 can be summarised as below.

		Apr	May	Peak date	Total
WB	E	662	97	Apr 19 - 125	759 (+ 164W)
Btn M	E	593	103	Apr 24 - 243	696

Main spring movements illustrated in table of selected days. 6 Adur Apr 23, 1 there Apr 27 and 2 on Apr 28; 1 AL June 19; in autumn up to 3 Adur July 19 - Oct 19.

199. CURLEW - WB spring total 67E and 28W on 23 dates between Mar 3 and Apr 24; 14W WW Apr 19. 1 Adur June 7 and 1S AL June 19. Coastal movement WB between Aug-Dec totalled 21W and 3E. 2N Adur Dec 2.

202. REDSHANK - Peak monthly counts from the Adur are:-

Jan	15 - 116	Aug	7 - 60	
Feb	2 - 300*	Oct	15 - 104	*(record high)
June	28 - 39	Nov	8 - 130	
July	19 - 65	Dec	17 - 68	

4 pairs AL June 5. 12 Goring Oct 22.

204. GREENSHANK - 1E WB Apr 11 and 1 Adur June 7 are the only spring records. As usual the autumn records came from the River Adur where up to 3 noted in Aug; up to 2 in Sept and recorded until Oct 15.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER - Wintering records of 2 Small Dole refuse tips Jan 29 and 1 there Feb 12, 1 Kings Barn Feb 13. At the same Small Dole site singles also recorded June 26, July 23, Aug 6 and Sept 17. 3 high over Upper Beeding July 30 and 3 AL Sept 10.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER - 2 Adur Apr 3 were the first recorded; 1 Btn M Apr 15 and 7 there Apr 18; 1 Shoreham Beach Apr 23. On several dates during July recorded on Adur with max 11 counted between the cement works and flyover on July 28. 2 WW early Aug. On the coast 2 FB July 25, 1W WB Sept 29 and 2W there Oct 14.
213. TURNSTONE - Singles Adur Jan 22 and Feb 2; recorded WB and FB in small numbers with peak 4 on Apr 13 and 10 on Nov 5. Poor spring movement WB when between Apr 16 - May 16 only 23E and 5W, likewise in autumn only 10W on 3 Oct dates. 3 WW Nov 2. The most unusual record however 1 inland AL July 7.
216. GREY PHALAROPE - 1 offshore Btn M Oct 18.
217. POMARINE SKUA - 1 imm skua offshore WW Jan 7 considered to be this species (AJP). The poorest sping movement since 1979 with only 8E and 2W WB; singles E Apr 20, May 4, May 15 and May 17, 4E May 9 and 2W, apparently going the wrong way May 23, at Btn M only 3E May 4 and 2E May 17.
218. ARCTIC SKUA - A record spring passage was noted between Apr 3 - June 19 and is summarised in the table below (see also selected days table).

	Apr		May		June	Total		Peak movement
WB	86E	2W	77E	3W	1W	163E	6W	May 4-14
Btn M	82E		44E		1E	127E		Apr 26-21

Autumn movements WB between Aug 30 - Oct 29 totalled 16W and 6E. 9W GB Dec 13 (DS FJF) is the largest Dec movement recorded in Sussex and finally 1 light phase adult W Dec 18 (CJF JAN) is the latest for the area.

220. GREAT SKUA - 1 offshore WB Jan 11; a record spring total of 18E and 1W on 12 dates spanning Apr 10 - May 19 with a peak of 5E on Apr 24. Btn M observers recorded 10E in spring. During autumn only 3 singles WB on Sept 15, Sept 25 and Oct 12.



222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL - No records suggesting wintering birds this year; between Mar 27 - May 23 5 singles comprising 2 ads and 2 1st yr were noted at WB or Btn M. A second year Btn M July 13 and ad Brooklands July 20 and an ad FB July 31 are the first three July records for this area. Autumn records include a 1st yr Btn M Aug 23; singles ads Adur Oct 1, WB Oct 9 and FB Oct 30, and a 2nd winter WW Nov 13. The only bird away from the coast 1 ad Downs Dec 11. Another good year with a minimum of 10 individuals recorded.
225. LITTLE GULL - By comparison with the past 3 years a poor year. 1W Btn M Feb 2, the spring total there only 22E; equally poor spring WB where 29E on 13 dates and peak 5E Apr 22. 1 WW Sept 3. In autumn only 4W WB on 3 dates Sept 5 - Oct 12; singles W there Dec 3 and Dec 27, 2 ads Harb Dec 20.
226. SABINE'S GULL - 1 1st summer W WB May 11 (MPH JAN) should be south of the equator and is our third record.
228. BLACK-HEADED GULL - Synchronised count Jan 26 total 27,000 between FB and Btn M; a total of 3461E and 452W recorded on 47 spring dates WB with peak 658E Apr 27. Midsummer counts WB showed an early return with 849 on June 27 and 5220 by July 13. 1500 Southwick Hill Sept 10; 2000 following plough Ciss Oct 28 and 1160 NSF Dec 4 are a sample of random counts.
233. COMMON GULL - Total 3653 counted roosting Jan 26 between FB and Btn M. 300 Adur Feb 19 and 250 Small Dole Apr 4. Midsummer counts along 7 km WB revealed only 3 on June 27 but 142 by July 13.
234. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - An infrequently recorded species; 13 Adur Jan 16; spring total 45E WB. 1 pair holding territory on Worthing roof top during June and mid summer count along 7 km WB July 13 revealed 15.
235. HERRING GULL - Total 1380 counted roosting Jan 26 between FB and Btn M; a survey of roof nesting gulls in Worthing suggests up to 25 pairs nesting between Chapel Road and Grand Ave, only 2 found north of Shelley Road and at least 13 pairs successfully raised young. Mid summer counts along 7 km WB 256 June 27 and 299 July 13 including 2 yellow legged subspecies. Once again the yellow

legged subspecies occurred in good numbers between Small Dole and the Adur Valley; a count of 80 Small Dole Apr 4 is out of keeping with their normal occurrence. More typical are counts on June 24-1, July 27-30, Aug 5-35, Sept 13-17, Oct 3-20, and Oct 9-18.

237. GLAUCOUS GULL - A first year Portslade Jan 15, Harb Jan 16 and possibly the same at Btn M Jan 26. Possibly another first year WB Apr 17- May 9, Adur May 10 and 16th and at WW May 19. One speculate whether this bird remained through the summer as 2 different first year birds were seen between Small Dole/Upper Beeding/Adur on 6 dates June 28- July 7; one of those Truleigh Hill Aug 6 was moulting into 2nd year plumage and could possibly be the same 2nd year noted at Small Dole Dec 30. 1 1st year WB Dec 8-18. A confusing picture suggesting somewhere between 3 and 6 different birds.

238. GREAT-BLACK BACKED GULL - 300 Airfield Jan 5 but only 274 counted roosting Jan 26 between FB and Btn M; mid-summer count along 7 km WB revealed 18 June 27 rising to 32 by July 13; 530 Adur Oct 12, 360 there Dec 21 falling to 152 by Dec 31.

240. KITTIWAKE - 28 offshore Shoreham Jan 25; the early months sea-watching can be tabulated thus:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	peak
WB	E	24	46	54	136	237	7	504	Jan 11-111W
	W	416	53	5	33	143	-	650	
Btn M	E	96	8	985	342	791	69	2291	Mar 13-629E
	W	-	65	-	13	114	15	207	

Few species show such a marked variation in numbers between these two sites, undoubtedly the close proximity of an increasing breeding colony swells the numbers seen at Btn M. However, it is interesting that whilst 629 passed E at Btn M only 15 were seen in 2½ hours at WB. 70 offshore Btn M Oct 24. Autumn/winter totals WB 172W and 219E mainly in Nov and Dec. (see sea watch table for details).

245. SANDWICH TERN - 1 Southwick Canal Feb 17 and possibly the same Btn M Feb 25 is our 3rd winter record. A record spring passage noted after Mar 13 and tabulated below; all the main passages are shown on table of selected days.



Eastbound	Mar	Apr	May	June	Totals	Peak
WB	.16	4404	1206	28	5654E +95W	Apr 10-1248E
Btn M	11	4525	1260	20	5816E +41W	Apr 10-1015E

Recorded Adur July 18-Sept 26 with max 5; total 279W and 46E noted on 47 dates between Aug 1 and Oct 13 at WB 1 WW Oct 14.

246. ROSEATE TERN - Singles E Btn M May 20 and May 30.

247. COMMON TERN - Recorded Adur July 18-Oct 16 with max. 14 Aug 10; 2 Btn M Oct 23 and \* there Oct 24.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN - First recorded WB Apr 7; thereafter a record spring as shown in table below and in table of selected sea-watching days.

Eastbound	Apr	May	June	Total	Peak
WB	6201	4301	48	10,550E	Apr 20-3048
Btn M	3613	3691	54	7,358E	Apr 22-1864

It is most unusual to record more in April than May, and the movement on Apr 20 is the earliest of such magnitude in the county. Autumn is the earliest of such magnitude in the county. Autumn movement WB only 284W and 84E on 42 dates until Oct 30.

251. LITTLE TERN - A good spring passage WB Apr 16 - May 30 (see selected day table).

Eastbound	Apr	May	Total	Peak movement
WB	382	305	687E+38W	May 4-109
Btn M	119	77	196E	May 4-35

Very few recorded in autumn; 2 Adur July 14; 2 WB on Aug 23 and 1 W.W. Sept 1.

253. BLACK TERN - Moderate spring movement totalling 39E at WB on 8 dates Apr 20-May 18 with a peak 15E on Apr 20; at Btn M only 20E until May 29 with same peak day Apr 20 when 8E. 2 WW Sept 10 and 1 there Sept 17; singles W WB Sept 8, 1017 and 25th, and 5W there Sept 21.



255. GUILLEMOT - Several offshore Portslade to WW Jan-Feb; 30 Btn M Feb and 3 off WW Feb 17 and 1 there Apr 13. Returned WW Sept 21 thereafter regularly 1-2 offshore.
257. RAZORBILL - 1 WW Feb 11; singles on 9 dates Feb-May Btn M and 2 offshore there July 13. 1 dead AL Apr 22. Singles WW Oct 14, WB Nov 16 and Nov 22.
260. LITTLE AUK - 1 drifted W WB Feb 23 (RJS); the areas third record.
261. PUFFIN - 1 juv drifted W WB Feb 23 during the same watch as the Little Auk; presumably the same bird there Feb 26 (RJS). Only the 4th record for the area.

AUK sp. - Movements noted offshore from both WB and Btn M; many details can be found in the sea watching tables. For the early months the results can be tabulated:-

		J	F	M	A	M	Total
WB	E	13	19	5	8	33	78E
	W	22	5		3	30	60W
Btn M	E	5	25	7	14	13	64E
	W	7	13			1	21W

At WB Sept 14-Dec a small total of 32W and 25E, most of which were considered to be Guillemots.

264. STOCK DOVE - No large downland flocks noted; 10 Upper Beeding Jan 23, 4W Btn M Apr 24 and 2 pairs bred Ferring were sole records of note.
265. WOOD PIGEON - 30W GB Nov 26. 276 Upper Beeding Dec 10.
266. COLLARED DOVE - 40 feeding on grain Southwick Jan 9 and 47 there Jan 18. Roost at Sanc 84 Feb 13.
267. TURTLE DOVE - 2 Ciss Apr 24 were the first, 7 there by May 7; 2N Btn M Apr 27. Recorded from 6 localities during the breeding season; only notable autumn record of 13 Small Dole July 31.

271. CUCKOO - First records from AL on Apr 17 and Ciss on Apr 24; 1 arriving from sea FB Apr 28 2-3 pairs bred Ciss. and 1 pr Ferring; last noted Sept 1 at Ciss.
274. BARN OWL - Breeding season records from Wiston, AL and Sompting, also recorded at these localities at other seasons as well as 1 Mill Hill Feb 18 and 1 calling Ciss Oct 20.
279. LITTLE OWL - Breeding season records from Downs (4 prs), AL (3 prs), Offington and Ashurst; recorded regularly Downs and AL during winter months.
280. TAWNY OWL - Breeding pairs noted from Downs (4), Ferring (3 birds calling), West Worthing, Findon Valley and Southwick. 2 Cuckoo's Corner July 18 and regular Sanc autumn/winter.
281. LONG-EARED OWL - Upto 3 reported Jan-Feb at Ciss. 1 at roost AL Nov 20.
282. SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 regularly at Ferring Rife in Jan Singles recorded at Small Dole on Feb 10, Ciss Apr 30 and Worthing town Nov 18.
284. NIGHTJAR - 1 calling at Washington in late May. 1 flushed from roost at Mill Hill at dusk Aug 30.
289. SWIFT - 1st record of a single at NSF on Apr 23 then 1E Btn M Apr 25. Widespread from May 5. 300 New Erringham June 15. 50 WW Aug 4 and last sight of 1 at W8 Sept 3.
293. KINGFISHER - 1 pr present all year at Ferring Rife and pond but no indication of breeding. Records for all months from the Adur except Apr to July; 3 present Dec 1. Singles Southwick canal July 24, W8 Sept 27 and Harb mouth Dec 2.
300. GREEN WOODPECKER - Breeding season records from coastal, downland and inland areas with max 3 prs in one locality. Records outside of the breeding areas were of 1 at Worthing rubbish tip on Oct 30 and up to 2 at Sanc Sept/Nov.

302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Breeding season records of 1 pr at Ferring, Offington and Kings Barn with 2 prs Findon Valley and 6 prs in the Steyning/Ashurst area. Recorded regularly at Cissbury in autumn. Other autumn/winter records from Goring Gap, Sompting, Sanc and Small Dole.
303. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Still rather scarce with only records of 1 Goring Gap Apr 19 and a regular pair present in Ferring. All records of this species would be welcome.
311. SKYLARK - AL breeding survey had 32 prs on 55 ha. 'Many hundreds' in off sea at Ferring on October. 340 Downs Dec 2.
313. SAND MARTIN - 1 Adur March 25 and again March 30 and Apr 3. 10 WW Sept 7. Last record of 1 Ferring beach Oct 27.
314. SWALLOW - First arrivals 2N Btn M Apr 11 with several records in our area over the next 10 days. A pair nesting on Mill Hill had 5 juvs on wing by May 31 and a further 5 hatched from a new nest by July 13. Autumn movements recorded were 222E in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr Aug 28 and 2000E in 1 hr Sept 29. 20 Ferring beach Oct 27 and 2E Nov 5.
316. HOUSE MARTIN - First noted West Hove golf course Apr 16 then 3 AL Apr 17 and 1 Airport Apr 24. In autumn 2000E in 1 hr at Ferring Sept 29, 50 Mill Hill Oct 20 and 10 Ferring Oct 27.
318. TAWNY PIPIT - 1 flying west and calling on Downs Sept 24. (CJF)
320. TREE PIPIT - 1 N Btn M Apr 13 and 1 Ciss Apr 28. At Ciss in autumn only 54 seen with peaks; 16-Aug 20, 15-Aug 22 and 5-Sept 15.
322. MEADOW PIPIT - Spring arrivals noted at Btn M with totals of 84N in March and 256N in Apr. 369 in from sea at WB mainly in early Apr. AL breeding survey:- 29 prs on 55 ha. Autumn records of 35 WW Sept 28 with peak Ciss counts of 60-Sept 22, 200-Sept 29, 800-Oct 2 dropping to 300 by Oct 8. 28 Small Dole Dec 31.
324. ROCK PIPIT - Recorded in winter from all coastal sites in small numbers. Noted at WW in autumn from Aug 25 with up to 4 present until the end of year. Records of upto 4 also from Adur in Oct and Dec. 4 birds showing characteristics of Water Pipit on Al Dec 30 were watched at close quarters (KN).



325. YELLOW WAGTAIL - 1 Btn M Apr 14 the first of 16 spring records with peak of 7 AL Apr 17. AL breeding survey:- 2 prs on 55 ha. In autumn smaller numbers at Cissbury; 6-Sept 1, 33-Sept 5. Also recorded at Adur Rec. NSF and WW with max 40 WW Sept 5.
327. GREY WAGTAIL - Recorded after Apr 30 from a number of localities throughout the district with max 3W Ciss Oct 8 and 1-2 regulars at Ferring Rife in Aug and Dec. No evidence of breeding in our area.
328. PIED WAGTAIL - 18 Ferring Beach Jan 29 with 40 later in the year on Nov 5. 40 also Harb Mar 1-3. Other counts from WW, Brooklands and Lancing where 20 flew W at dusk. Over 500 at roost Steyning Road. 1 White Wagtail (*M.a.alba*) WW Apr 27.
331. WREN - AL breeding survey:- 3 prs on 55 ha.
333. DUNNOCK - AL breeding survey:- 5 prs on 55 ha.
338. NIGHTINGALE - 1 juv trapped at Sanc. on Aug 6 is the only record.
342. BLACK REDSTART - During Jan/Feb at least 7 present on Hove beach. Scattered winter/spring records of single birds until 1 male Highdown on May 18. In autumn singles again recorded mainly from coastal localities with smaller numbers of resident wintering birds in Nov/Dec.
343. REDSTART - Spring records from AL, Wiston, with 2 Ciss Apr 16 the earliest. Autumn passage noted at Sanc with 4 on Aug 28 and 2 on 31st. Also at Ciss in very small numbers; 5-Aug 23, 9-Aug 28, 2-Sept 1, and 5-Sept 15. From other localities 2 GB Sept 19 and 7 Southwick Hill Sept 10.
344. WHINCHAT - 1 AL on Apr 27 and 1 Ciss May 2 in spring. At Ciss the total number observed during autumn passage was 203 with peaks of 28-Aug 22, 32-Aug 28 and 19-Sept 15. Regularly seen during Aug/early Sept at NSF/Adur Rec. with max. 12 counted on Sept 22. Small numbers recorded elsewhere in autumn with last record at Shoreham on Oct 4.

345. STONECHAT - Singles recorded at a number of localities between Jan 1 and March 15 suggesting at least 7 individuals. A possible 2 prs bred at Airport with 2 juvs on the wing by July 2. Records from Airport continued until end of year with at least 2 males/2 females. Singles at Ciss, Beeding and AL Oct/Nov with prs at GB and Beeding Nov/Dec.
346. WHEATEAR - The 1982 over-wintering bird at Harb remained until Feb 2. First spring records were of 1 Harb and Btm M March 10 with Btm M noting a total of 42 up to May 6. Recorded at all beaches from March 21; peak of 14 WB Apr 14. No breeding season records. Return passage first noted at GB with 2 on July 13; thereafter records from many sites in small numbers (peak 36 Ciss Aug 29) until 1 WW Oct 21. 1 NSF Dec 3 perhaps over-wintering.
359. RING OUZEL - 1 in a Hove garden Oct 9 the only record. This species has become scarce in the past few years.
360. BLACKBIRD - AL breeding survey: 13 prs on 55 ha.
364. FIELDFARE - 60 Poynings Feb 12, 60 Kings Barn Feb 13. Autumn/winter 80 Small Dole Nov 19 and 250 AL Dec 27.
365. SONG THRUSH - AL breeding survey:- 1 pr on 55 ha.
366. REDWING - 22 Kings Barn Feb 12. 1 Ciss Oct 1 then 80 there Nov 18 and 280 Dec 11. 120 Small Dole Nov 26 and 425 Dec 27.
373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER - 1 singing at Wiston May 24. 1 flushed Ciss Aug 28. 1 SR Hill Sept 6.
378. SEDGE WARBLER - No reports of spring arrivals. AL breeding survey:- 17 prs on 55 ha. 6 prs Small Dole July 16. 1 Airport Sept 22.
382. REED WARBLER - 1 AL Apr 27. AL breeding survey:- 25 prs on 55 ha. 2 prs bred Airport. 1 pr July Small Dole, 1 Sanc Sept 20 and 25th. Last recorded Airport Oct 1.



397. LESSER WHITETHROAT - First note of 2 Ciss on Apr 24 with 6 by May 2. Singles at AL on Apr 27 and Btn M May 6. Breeding records of 5 prs Ciss and 1 pr Airport. Ciss autumn passage totalled 232 with peaks years. A poor autumn too at Sanc with only 10 trapped. 9 Southwick Hill Sept 10.
398. WHITETHROAT - 1 on Apr 16 at Ciss the first spring record followed by 2 on the 24th, 15-May 2 and 12-May 10. On June 22 a breeding count on the north side of Ciss produced 10 singing males. Autumn passage at Ciss lower than normal with peaks of 35-Aug 18, 20-Aug 22, 30-Aug 23, 27-Aug 27 and 32-Sept 1.
399. GARDEN WARBLER - A good year for this species. Singles in spring noted at Sanc, Goring Gap, Wiston and Devils Dyke. 2 in song at Ciss June 22 and 17 recorded in Aug/early Sept with 8-Aug 15. 1-3 daily at Sanc Aug 1 to 28th and 10 trapped. 1 Lancing Clump Aug 18 and at Goring Gap 1 Sept 10 and 2 on the 12th.
400. BLACKCAP - Wintering records of 1 male Upper Beeding Feb 13, 1 Small Dole Feb 23, 1 male in song Shoreham churchyard Mar 8-30th and 2 females in a Tarring garden from Jan 18 to Mar 23. Spring arrivals of 1 Shaveswood Apr 22 and 1 Wiston Apr 23. 5 singing males at Ciss June 22 but very low autumn passage there with the only large movement noted being 43 on Sept 15. Overwintering records of 1 female at a W Worthing garden on Nov 19 and again Dec 4, 1 Upper Beeding Nov 20 and 1 male Southwick Dec 21.
408. WOOD WARBLER - 1 Small Dole tip Aug 7.
409. CHIFFCHAFF - Wintering records of 1 in a Ferring garden Jan/Feb, 4 Airport railway embankment Jan 2, 1 Sanc Jan 5 and 1 Upper Beeding Jan 31. First spring records of 1 Upper Beeding Mar 18 and 2 Sanc Mar 19. Poor autumn passage noted at Ciss with peak of 38 on Sept 15. Similarly at Sanc few recorded with only 11 trapped. 1W Worthing garden Dec 14.
410. WILLOW WARBLER - First spring records of 1 Upper Beeding Apr 13 with 4 Sanc and 20 Ciss the following day, increasing at Ciss to 25 by Apr 25. Autumn records from Ciss and Sanc show a smaller passage this year with peaks at Ciss of 110 on Aug 13, 68-Aug 18, 90-Aug 20 and 68-Aug 27. Fewer trapped at Sanc than usual with last beird there on Sept 25. 10 WW Sept 7.



411. GOLDCREST - 20 Findon Feb 5, 42 Ciss Oct 8 and 20 Goring Gap Oct 15.
412. FIRECREST - Singles at Goring Gap on Jan 22 and Worthing Crematorium Feb 5 with 2 at the latter site Apr 12/13. 1 Ferring garden Oct 1-4th. 1 Upper Beeding Nov 20.
413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - Only spring records from 8tn M with singles on 15th and 26th May. Breeding records of single prs from Worthing Crematorium and Lancing Manor. Low numbers at Ciss in autumn with peaks of 11-Aug 18, 12-Aug 20 and 12-Aug 22. Other autumn records scarce and mainly of single birds with 9 Ferring Rife Aug 12, 12 Sanc Aug 28 and 8 Goring Gap Sept 12 the maximum counts.
416. PIED FLYCATCHER - A notable passage recorded Aug 8-31st when at least 12 noted at Sanc, Ciss, West Hove golf course, Ferring Rife and a W Worthing garden, the max being 4 on Aug 13 at Ciss.
418. LONG-TAILED TIT - Winter parties reported from 6 areas, the maximum flock number being only 12.
419. MARSH TIT - 1 AL Jan 29, 1 Ciss Apr 24; bred Ciss and 1 there Aug 13 and 2 on Aug 22.
420. WILLOW TIT - 3 Wiston May 24 and 2 May 30th, 1 Devils Dyke June 6, 2 Ciss Aug 18 and 2 there Sept 15.
424. GREAT TIT - A party of 12 Lancing Manor Nov 20. 1 melanistic male Adur Nov 13 was identical to one feeding at a bird table later in the winter in north Sussex.
425. NUTHATCH - 2 Titnore Lane, Goring Feb 19. 1 Ciss Aug 18 and 20th is the first record of this species on Cissbury Ring.
427. TREECREEPER - 6 Wiston Pond Jan 30 and 1 Clapham Woods July 10.
432. RED-BACKED SHRIKE - 1 imm at Ciss Aug 22 (FJF).
436. JAY - 6 Lancing Clump June 28. The events of the autumn were remarkable; a parasitic wasp infestation destroyed 90% of the local acorn crop and, coupled with an invasion from Scandinavia, record numbers were seen. The first note of unusual numbers were 5E Ciss on Sept 29. On Oct 1

at least 50 circled over the Sanc departing SW in small parties then on the following day 417 were counted moving NNE over Ciss in 4 hrs (the previous record at Ciss was of 38 in one day). 12 Mill Hill Oct 8 and several records of individuals in unusual locations during Oct and Nov. This was just part of a huge movement involving most of Southern England.

- 437. MAGPIE - Parties of 18 AL Jan 5, 22 Tottington Jan 23 and 12 Ciss Dec 4.
- 438. JACKDAW - 180E Ciss Nov 18 is a small movement compared with those recorded in the West Country this year,
- 441. ROOK - 650 Coombes Oct 30.
- 442. CARRION CROW - 28 FB Oct 18.  
STARLING - 118 arriving from the sea at GB from the SE in 2 hrs on Oct 30.
- 448. TREE SPARROW - No large flocks observed. 12 Tottington and 20 Saddlescombe Jan 23. AL breeding survey:- 1 pr on 55 ha. A small autumn gathering at Ciss from 6 on Oct 16 to 24 by Nov 11. 5 present at Ferring Rife in autumn.
- 451. CHAFFINCH - AL breeding survey:- 6 prs on 55 ha. 80 Ciss Oct 8 and 125 there Dec 11. 100 Coombes Oct 14.
- 452. BRAMBLING - 1 Wiston Nov 2 and 9th is the only record.
- 455. GREENFINCH - AL breeding survey:- 6 prs on 55 ha. No large winter flocks recorded.
- 456. GOLDFINCH - 50 Upper Beeding Jan 16. AL breeding survey:- 1 pr 55 ha. Small flocks ranging between 30-100 noted at several localities during the autumn; 34 NSF Dec 24.
- 457. SISKIN - 4W Lancing Oct 20.
- 458. LINNET - AL breeding survey:- 20 prs on 55 ha. The largest gathering in autumn were 130 at Truleigh Hill on July 28, 150 Adur Rec Oct 1 and 125 Airport Oct 14.

459. TWITE - 6 Adur Jan 2 and 2 WW Feb 13. First 6 noted on Adur Nov 13, 22 by Nov 24 and up to 18 recorded in Dec.
460. REDPOLL - 2 Ciss Oct 8 and 2 Sanc Nov 12 reveals a marked decline during this autumn.
463. CROSSBILL - 2W Steyning Sept 27 (CJF).
494. SNOW BUNTING - 1 on beach Btn M Nov 16.
496. YELLOW HAMMER - 50 Ciss Jan 16 and 250 there on Nov 1.
506. REED BUNTING - AL breeding survey;- 19 prs on 55 ha. 1 - 3 regular WW Nov/Dec
510. CORN BUNTING - AL breeding survey;- 1 pr on 55 ha. 1-5 regular WW from Oct 7 to Dec 31. 30 roosting Adur in Dec.

Amendments and Corrections to the 1982 List.

103. MARSH HARRIER - 1 female imm at GB and Shoreham Beach April 29 (not male).
162. CURLEW SANDPIPER - 1 Adur July 29.

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B.F. FORBES



# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1983

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. 1	WB	Oct. 19	Adur
*Common Sandpiper	Apr. 3	Adur	Oct. 14	WB
*Sandwich Tern	Mar. 13	Btn M	Oct. 13	WB
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr. 7	WB	Oct. 30	WB
Little Tern	Apr. 16	WB	Sept. 1	WW
Turtle Dove	Apr. 24	Cissbury	Sept. 1	Cissbury
Cuckoo	Apr. 17	AL	Sept. 1	Cissbury
Swift	Apr. 23	NSF	Sept. 3	WB
Sand Martin	Mar. 25	Adur	Oct. 27	FB
Swallow	Apr. 7	Coombes	Nov. 5	FB
House Martin	Apr. 16	West Hove	Oct. 28	FB
Yellow Wagtail	Apr. 14	Btn M	Sept. 22	NSF
Redstart	Apr. 16	Cissbury	Sept. 19	GB
Whinchat	Apr. 27	AL	Oct. 4	Adur
*Wheatear	Mar. 10	Btn M	Oct. 21	West Hove
Grasshopper Warbler	May. 24	Wiston	Sept. 6	S R Hill
Reed Warbler	Apr. 27	AL	Oct. 1	Adur
Whitethroat	Apr. 16	Cissbury	Sept. 12	Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr. 24	Cissbury	Oct. 1	Sanctuary
Garden Warbler	May. 7	Sanctuary	Sept. 15	Cissbury
*Blackcap	Apr. 14	Coombes	No. 22	Beeding
*Chiffchaff	Mar. 18	Beeding	Oct. 8	Cissbury
Willow Warbler	Apr. 13	Beeding	Sept. 25	Sanctuary
Spotted Flycatcher	May. 15	Btn M	Sept. 17	Ferring

\* Excluding possible wintering birds.

B.F.F.

# RINGING REPORT FOR 1983

The annual total of 3328 birds ringed reveals that for the eighth successive year the area's ringing total has exceeded 3000. Only 8% (281) of these were ringed as nestlings and the rest as fully fledged birds. In keeping with the past four years the Gull Study Group accounted for nearly half the total; as catches on Sompting refuse tip led to 1591 gulls being ringed. Despite the usual mist netting effort at the sanctuary, only 585 birds were ringed there, but Dr John Newnham's personal total was boosted by 467 birds trapped in his Worthing garden, of which 40% were Greenfinches caught coming to feed on peanuts. Dr Barrie Watson's total of 415 included 155 Pied Wagtails caught during the autumn evenings at the local reed bed roost. Finally the total was completed by 270 birds ringed at Steyning by Phil Clay and the Steyning Ringing Group.

The table (1) shows the numbers of the 47 different species ringed during 1983.

TABLE 1  
THE NUMBERS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES RINGED IN 1983

Sparrow Hawk.....	1	Whitethroat.....	10
Black-headed Gull.....	1458	Garden Warbler .....	12
Common Gull .....	89	Blackcap .....	49
Herring Gull.....	32	Chiffchaff .....	18
Gt. Blackbacked Gull ..	18	Willow Warbler .....	61
Collared Dove .....	1	Goldcrest .....	24
Swift .....	2	Spotted Flycatcher ....	1
Kingfisher .....	3	Pied Flycatcher .....	2
Green Woodpecker .....	1	Long-tailed Tit .....	14
Gt. Spotted W/pecker ..	1	Coal Tit .....	12
Swallow .....	64	Blue Tit .....	263
House Martin .....	3	Great Tit .....	146
Pied Wagtail .....	155	Jay .....	5
Wren .....	38	Jackdaw .....	1
Dunnock .....	94	Starling .....	79
Robin .....	74	Tree Sparrow .....	1

TABLE 1 cont....

Nightingale .....	1	Chaffinch .....	58
Blackbird .....	140	Greenfinch .....	205
Song Thrush .....	43	Goldfinch .....	14
Redwing .....	2	Linnet .....	5
Mistle Thrush .....	3	Bullfinch .....	15
Sedge Warbler .....	16	Reed Bunting .....	7
Reed Warbler .....	64	Corn Bunting .....	3
Lesser Whitethroat .....	20		

The five Jays ringed more than doubles our previous grand total and must be due to the unusual invasion during the autumn. At the other end of the scale the numbers ringed of several species were well down; the totals for both Sedge and Reed Warbler are the lowest since 1973, mainly as a result of a poor breeding season at the Mumbles, near Steyning. Likewise the numbers of Goldfinches, Bullfinches, and Linnets ringed was very low and for the first year since 1955 the Yellowhammer has not appeared on the ringing list.

#### RECOVERIES

1. BLACK HEADED GULL. This species is reported to have a recovery rate of 4.6%, therefore one would expect nearly 450 recoveries to be generated from the 9700 gulls ringed prior to 1983; indeed 359 have been notified and coupled with 137 controls a detailed picture of the origins of our wintering Black-headed Gulls has evolved. The table (20) lists the recoveries and controls to date.

A few interesting points can be learnt from table 2. Column A reveals little about the movements of Black-headed Gulls but does show clearly the nations in North and Western Europe, where there is a programme for ringing fledged gulls. A similar bias can apply to column B but here the precise origin of the birds is known. Interestingly a third of these come from Estonia and none have originated either from nearby France or from the numerous British colonies outside of South East England.



TABLE 2 SHOWING THE SITE AND SEASON OF BLACK-HEADED GULL  
RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

	CONTROLLED AT WORTHING		RINGED AT WORTHING AND RECOVERED (ADULTS)			
	Ringed as Full Grown	Ringed as Nestlings	Br. Season Apr-Mid July	Early Autumn Mid July-Sep	Oct, Nov & March	Mid Winter Dec-Feb
	A	B	C	D	E	F
U.S.S.R.	-	1	7	-	-	-
Finland	-	10	45	5	-	-
Estonia	-	27	11	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	6	1	1	-	-
Poland	2	8	3	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	-	-	6	1	-	-
East Germany	-	1	9	1	1	-
West Germany	-	7	6	2	2	4
Norway	-	2	1	1	-	-
Sweden	1	2	16	2	-	-
Denmark	-	5	25	11	17	-
Netherlands	14	6	13	8	11	1
Belgium	14	5	1	3	1	-
France	1	-	-	-	3	-
S.E. England	19	3	11	52	34	38
E. England	-	-	-	3	1	-
Central England	2	-	-	3	2	-
S.W. England	1	-	-	1	-	-

When looking at the recoveries (column C ? F) other factors need to be considered; an active group studying gulls in Denmark and the practice of shooting and trapping Black-headed gulls in Finland has undoubtedly boosted the total number of recoveries for these countries. However, despite these problems, a glance at columns B and C illustrates clearly where our wintering gulls return to during the breeding season. Indeed, 52% of the breeding season movements involve Finland, Estonia or Denmark.

The autumn exodus from the more northerly latitudes is evident from Column D. Adult Black-headed Gulls return to Sussex beaches in mid-July and by mid-August several thousand can be counted. This is reflected in the marked increase in recoveries from South East England during this period. Many of the early autumn recoveries are of birds found dead or dying on local beaches and it would appear that returning Black-headed Gulls are more vulnerable during this season than later in the Autumn or Winter; perhaps a long south-westward migration followed by the annual molt saps the energy of the weaker individuals. Curiously the autumn is the only time when Worthing ringed Black-headed Gulls are recovered outside the Southeast portion of England.

Column E extends the picture into the late Autumn and includes recoveries in the early part of Spring (March); clearly, as well as local recoveries there is a good representation from the Netherlands and Denmark. However, by mid winter there are only 2 recoveries away from Southeast England and to further emphasise this wintering area fidelity one could consider the 1770 retraps, a large proportion of which have returned to Sussex from previous winters.

2. COMMON GULL Single recoveries from Sussex and Denmark and the Netherlands add little to our current knowledge of the movement of this species.
3. HERRING GULL The following table summarises the recoveries and controls to date and demonstrates that our wintering population may come from several areas.

<u>S.E. Britain</u>	<u>S.W. Britain</u>	<u>Northern Britain</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
Sussex - 24	Hants/Dorset - 6	Sunderland - 1	Northern France - 4
Kent - 3	Devon/Cornwall - 4	Durham - 1	Netherlands - 2
	Bristol Channel - 7	Northumberland - 1	Channel Isles - 2
	Southern Ireland - 1	Strathclyde - 1	Norway - 1

The following two recoveries break new grounds for Worthing ringed Herring Gulls; interestingly the biometric measurements for a) were much larger than for most Herring Gulls caught at Worthing and conformed to the quoted values for the Norwegian birds.

a) Ringed adult	26 - 11 - 78	Worthing
Shot	18 - 08 - 83	Rogaland Norway 1009 km NNE

- b) Ringed adult 09 - 12 - 81 Sompting tip  
 Controlled 10 - 03 - 83 Strathclyde Scotland 643 km NNW

4. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL Ringed adult 26 - 01 - 83 Sompting tip  
 Skeletal remains 12 - 09 - 83 Nordland  
 Norway 1841 km NNE

This is our third Norwegian recovery; a recent paper in British Birds (Jan 1984) shows northern Britain wintering Great Black-backed Gulls also to have originated in Norway.

5. SWALLOW The first two were birds ringed as nestlings in the sanctuary and recovered after the return journey from Africa.

- a) Found dead 08 - 05 - 83 Alfriston Sussex  
 b) Found dead 26 - 06 - 83 Sherborne Dorset

The third recovery was both ringed and controlled during the autumn migration.

- c) Ringed 3f 12 - 09 - 81 Shoreham  
 Controlled 04 - 09 - 83 Osterley Greater London

These three movements augment our previous eight from South Africa (1), Monmouth (1), Yorkshire (2), Staffordshire (1) and Hampshire (3).

6. ROBIN One controlled at dusk in early Dec. at the sanctuary was ringed near Tonbridge Kent.

7. SEDGE WARBLER Ringed juv. 06 - 08 - 83 Shoreham Sanc.  
 Controlled 21 - 08 - 83 Charente Maritime France 596 km S

This, our first foreign recovery of a Sedge Warbler, demonstrates how quickly this species moves southwards during autumn. Our only other Sedge Warbler movements have come from Northants (1), Berkshire (1), Dorset (1), and Sussex (1).

8. REED WARBLER Ringed juv 26 - 07 - 82 Wykeham Steyning  
 Recovered 05 - 07 - 83 Berkhamsted & Herts 99 km

(see 1980 ringing report)



9. STARLING      Ringed adult M 26 - 11 - 81      Worthing  
Caught and killed 25 - 10 - 82 Oost Vlanderen Belgium 290 km E

This is our 23rd foreign movement recorded, the previous ones coming from Belgium (8), Netherlands (5), USSR (2), Poland (2), Germany (2), France (2) and Lithuania (1). In addition there are 11 past British recoveries in excess of 30 miles.

10. BLUE TIT      Ringed juv 07 - 08 - 83 Newdigate Surrey  
Controlled 07 - 12 - 83 Worthing 33 km S

Short movements of tits occur regularly; longer movements tend to occur in irruption years and 1984 is predicted as a year when the tit population may 'irrupt'!

Dr J.A. Newnham

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#### SANCTUARY REPORT 1983

The Society's Sanctuary has been watched regularly for a long time; indeed this is the 31st annual report to be compiled for the small waterworks copse. With each year the habitat changes slightly when shrubs develop into trees, as gradually the area evolves. During most winters some effort is spent in keeping the main willow patches at a height which is convenient for both seeing and trapping birds. In 1983 the only 'gardening' party was on February 27th when six volunteers coppiced two important areas of osier.

January was mild and windy, the copse was flooded and there were few birds about to encourage visitors; a Chiffchaff on January 5th was perhaps the only noteworthy record. Mist netting started in mid-March when the first Chiffchaffs were singing but unfortunately few excursions were possible in the Spring as strong winds and rain thwarted most efforts. Consequently no large falls of migrants were noted, although these may have been missed and by May 7th most of the regular summer

visitors were recorded in the area. A very active Sparrowhawk seen on most spring days may have contributed to the low number of birds seen.

During the Spring and Summer Judith Baker repeated the census of breeding species and concludes in her article that there is a healthy population of breeding residents and summer visitors in the copse and immediated surroundings.

After a wet and cold spring the Summer was warm and dry and by June 6th butterflies and dragonflies were abundant and small frogs were everywhere, hiding in the rapidly growing vegetation. On June 18th a Hobby passed overhead; fortunately choosing a day when a party from St Peter's Primary School were visiting the copse. The Sanctuary is an ideal site for seeing birds in both their natural surroundings and in the hand. Later in the year groups from the Glebe School and the Brighton R.S.P.B. were shown several of the commoner species at close quarters and studied birds being trapped and ringed.

August remained warm, dry and sunny and will be remembered for the variety and abundance of butterflies. All the common species were plentiful and were augmented by Chalkhill and Adonis Blues, hosts of Clouded Yellows and most magnificent of all, a Monarch on August 31st.

Invariably, in dry summers, the streams were full of drinking finches and the surrounding meadows alive with small parties of feeding finches. Unfortunately heavy grazing by horses have reduced much of the pasture to muddy patches and despite the presence of water very few finches were seen and even fewer trapped. The ringing totals for Goldfinch (3), Bullfinch (13), and Yellow Hammer (0) are the lowest totals since the mid 1950's; Linnet (4) is the lowest since 1965 and following the total of 4 Greenfinches in 1982 this years total of 11 is the second lowest ever.

The autumn migrants, too, were generally few in number, the best day was August 28th when a Tree Pipit, 12 Spotted Flycatchers, 4 Redstarts, 12 Lesser Whitethroats and a Whinchat were counted. The more unusual migrants included a Nightingale and Greenshank on August 6th, and Pied Flycatchers on August 10th, 26th, and 31st. The ringing totals for all the common migrants were below average as the following table suggests:

# SANCTUARY REPORT TABLE

	SEDGE W/BLER	REED W/BLER	LESSER WHITE'	GARDEN W/BLER	BLACKCAP	CHIFF- CHAFF	WILLOW W/BLER
NO. TRAPPED AUTUMN 1983 MID JULY-OCT	12	23	11	9	27	11	47
AVERAGE NO. TRAPPED AUT 1975-1982	10	31	20	10	42	40	63
RANGE OF TOTALS 1975-1982	3-23	7-48	11-29	2-14	24-94	15-87	15-107
MEAN DEVIATION	5	12	4	3	13	18	25

September eventually turned wet and windy, so the numbers of typically September species like Blackcap and Chiffchaff were perhaps lower due to poor weather. Kingfisher, Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker and Grey Wagtail were notable birds this month. The Sanctuary's largest movement of Jays, 50 moving S.W. in small groups, was noted on October 1st, but this melts into significance when compared with the thousands seen later in the West Country.

The rest of the Autumn followed the usual pattern with a small Blackbird and thrush roost congregating on the hill, parties of roving tits moving through the copse, the occasional Tree Sparrow noted in the evening, and the year's only Redpoll noted on November 12th. On each of the mist netting sessions after the beginning of November between 65-70% of the birds were retraps, suggesting very little movement was taking place through the Sanctuary.

I would like to express the Society's thanks to the staff of the S.W.A. pumping station for their continued help and co-operation during 1983.

Dr. J.A. Newnham



BREEDING BIRD POPULATION  
OF SHOREHAM SANCTUARY

The breeding bird population of Shoreham Sanctuary was censused again this year using the Standard Mapping Technique (the basis of the B.I.O. Common Bird Census). The census was carried out between 7th April and 8th June 1983 and with the exception of one evening visit, all visits were made in the early morning. Territorial boundaries of the difficult or more numerous species are easier to determine, on this small site, when singing is at its height.

21 species were included in the census (see table 1), of which 8 were summer visitors. Common Whitethroat, Blackcap and Yellowhammer were found not to be breeding in the Sanctuary this year, although Yellowhammers were breeding at the top of Mill Hill. The absence of Blackcaps was disappointing in view of the 4 pairs present in 1981, and only one individual was ringed during the breeding season. Common Whitethroat was present on the hill at the end of May, but did not stay to breed. Reed Warblers were also down to one pair from 3 to 4 pairs in 1981.

However, Garden Warbler bred for the first time in the Sanctuary (which compensated slightly for the lack of Blackcaps). The status of most species, e.g. Swallow, Dunnock, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Great Tit,

TABLE 1

Swallow	5*	Song Thrush	6
Dunnock	9	Mistle Thrush	1
Reed Warbler	1	Long-tailed Tit	1
Common Whitethroat	0	Great Tit	2
Lesser Whitethroat	1	Blue Tit	2
Garden Warbler	1	Wren	11
Blackcap	0	Yellowhammer	0
Willow Warbler	5	Chaffinch	6
Chiffchaff	1	Goldfinch	1
Robin	17	Bullfinch	1
Blackbird	15		
<u>TOTAL BREEDING PAIRS</u>	<u>86</u>		

\*Nests counted

Blue Tit and Wren does not appear to have changed much since the last census.

The apparently significant increase in numbers of Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird and Wren (see 1981 Report) can probably be attributed almost entirely to earlier rising (on my part!). This enabled much more accurate mapping of thier dense territories than in 1981 and it highlights the importance of censusing at the right time of day. The Sanctuary is supporting a high population of breeding birds, especially common residents, but also good numbers and variety of summer visitng species.

J. Baker

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THE MUMBLES REPORT 1983

1983 at the Mumbles was probably the poorest on record in terms of activity by the group Martin Banks gained his 'C' bird ringing permit during the year, but spent some of his time ringing at a site elsewhere, and trainees David King and Duncan Harryett were away at college and university respectively. Seventeen ringing sessions were held at the Mumbles, but no ringing was carried out at our other site and Wyckham read bed. The nest-boxes at Wiston produced 32 Great Tit and 21 Blue Tit pulli. It was the best year for Great Tits who occupied five of the boxes with one pair fledged 13 youngsters.

Of the low total of 270 birds ringed during the year only 30 were Reed Warblers with 16 being adults. Indications are that the breeding population was similar to last year, but accurate estimates are not possible due to the limited number of ringing sessions. 24 Reed Warblers were retrapped from previous years; 9 from 1982, 5 from 81, 7 from 80 and only one from 1979. As no ringing was done in August the number of juveniles ringed was very low. A couple of ringing sessions in September produced a few late Blackcaps which were feeding on elderberries. A Kingfisher was caught in the same session.

Great Spotted Woodpeckers were present on many occasions throughout the year, as were Kestrels and now and again a Sparrowhawk. A Cuckoo was seen on 5th June and July was highlighted by the presence of up to 4 Clouded Yellow butterflies. 1 or 2 Green Sandpipers were recorded in November and December when the Corn Buntings were coming into roost.

Conservation tasks were carried out during the year with the bulk of the work being carried out by the Sussex Ornithological Society conservation working party in the Autumn. A patch of reeds were out and some elders and willows planted to thicken out the hedge on top of the embankment.

During the Summer the pond evaporated somewhat and it was not until the wet spell in December that it reached its proper level. The muddy area around the sides did, however, provide an area for the Green Sandpiper to feed.

With an alteration to the net rides planned for 1984 to make the sites more operable for 1 or 2 ringers it is hoped to carry out full scale ringing utilising a reduced personnel. I will be interested to see how the year will compare with other years with full coverage.

P.J. Clay

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#### STEAMED-UP OVER BIRDS

During 1982 my wife and I saved hard to finance a "new roof". We'd decided that the 50 year old tiles had reached the end of their life and a replacement roof would enable the loft to be converted to an extra room. Then one wet and chilly September evening my wife brought home some holiday brochures. Flicking through the pages my eyes rested on a section labelled "Palace on Wheels".

This grandiose title refers to a train of refurbished carriages once owned by princes and maharajas. The train is a joint venture organised by Indian Railways and the Rajasthan Tourist Board. From October to March passengers may travel in "luxury" for up to a week from Delhi and into the state of Rajasthan before returning.



The brochure fired our imaginations, the new roof was forgotten and we had soon compiled a list of reasons for joining the "Palace on Wheels". Top of my list was the opportunity to travel behind "real" steam locomotives whilst we were both eager to savour the total experience that is India. Yet although we consider ourselves to be keen "birders" the ornithological attraction came lower down on our list since we just didn't know what to expect, though the brochure did promise a visit to a bird sanctuary. Nevertheless, having booked our holiday, we took the precaution of obtaining a copy of Martin Woodcock's 'Handguide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent'.

On Boxing Day we left Heathrow and after a 12 hour delay in Paris we reached Delhi after 13 hours flying time. As we disembarked from our "Jumbo" and walked to the terminal building we observed large dark birds circling above. In the early morning light they appeared to be black and we dismissed them as "crows". Later, from our hotel bedroom we discovered them to be the Pariah Kite - a bird which was never far from view in the towns and cities of Rajasthan that we visited. This early experience taught us to keep our "handguide" nearby at all times and to observe closely.

Before and after our journey on board the "Palace on Wheels" several days were spent in Delhi. The city appears vast and sprawling yet it has large areas of scrubland which provide roosts for countless homeless Indians and many species of exotic birds. Imagine our surprise at finding the Peacock roaming alongside the ubiquitous sparrow. Yet we were pleased to find the Common Mynah replacing the role of its British cousin, the Starling. Meanwhile, in the centre of Delhi the flocking and screeching behaviour of the bright-green Rose-ringed Parakeets was reminiscent of our own urban feral pigeons.

During our second full day in Delhi we took a taxi to the Railway Museum. Here on a 10 acre site can be found as fascinating a collection of locomotives as anywhere in the world. All exhibits are outside and while there we recorded the Bank Mynah, Red-vented Bulbul and White-throated Munia whilst by the side of an ornamental pool a large Pied Wagtail was observed.

That same evening we joined the "Palace on Wheels". As we entered Delhi Cantonment Station we found the 21 ivory-liveried carriages of the "Palace" with an Indian-built steam locomotive simmering at the front. Suddenly we had stepped back in time. If cameras had been present to film a sequel to an Agatha Christie mystery nothing would have seemed amiss. Indeed one suddenly felt a part of an overriding mystery and mystique.

No sooner had we raised the shutters of our compartment the following morning than we pulled into a small station east of Jaipur. A movement in some nearby trees brought the binoculars forth - a common Grey Hornbill. This was a memorable sighting as it was the only hornbill that we saw.

The speed of the "Palace" is restricted to 50 k.p.h. and as we approached Jaipur signal checks became frequent. As a result we soon became expert at identifying birds on the telegraph wires. With its long trailing pair of tail feathers the Black Drongo was an easy one to spot as was the Indian Roller with its brilliant turquoise and blue wings. As might be expected the predatory shrikes take advantage of the wires and as our train slowed for the approaches to Jaipur we recorded both the Indian Grey and Rufous-backed Shrikes.

Jaipur is a beautiful city. Much of it is built in pink sandstone and it seemed rather appropriated that the first bird we saw on the city's outskirts was a Rosy Starling. Yet despite our guide's efforts to show us the best of Indian architecture one did not have to look very far to see the poverty and filth that is endemic. In one such slum area three chilling White-backed Vultures were seen resting on a roof-top.

New Years Eve and New Years Day were spent at "the lake city" of Udaipur. The city stands at the centre of a well-irrigated plain and contains several beautiful parks. As we entered this oasis-like city the small and rather bedraggled looking Scavenger Vulture was to be found on the rooves in the poorer ghettos. This bird thrives on every kind of garbage and so in some respects is a help to India's sanitation problem. Later, on a parapet of the massive City Palace,



a Long-billed Vulture was found to be ideally situated for a photograph. This was one of a group of "memorable shots" that were lost when the film snapped! Fortunately we still have the memories. In one of the parks of Udaipur we saw our first exotic small-bird when an iridescent Purple Sunbird gave a perfect display of taking nectar. Minutes later a neurotic twitching revealed itself to be a Grey Tit - similar to our own Great Tit but white replacing yellow.

Our departure from Udaipur was heralded by a Coucal sculking in nearby undergrowth. From here we travelled north and then west. Before entering the Thar Desert we saw a small group of great Indian Bustards on open grassland. The numbers of these birds had declined in recent years with the spread of cultivation in north-west India.

Westwards across the Thar we steamed towards the old fortified city of Jaisalmer a settlement ruly in the middle of nowhere. During our 22 hour journey I scrounged an exhilarating 2 hour footplate ride. Heat took on a new meaning in a cramped area where two firemen fought to keep the firebox full whilst the sun beat down from above. And remember this was the middle of winter in India as well! Yet even in this apparently inhospitable area birds are to be found. Most notable were a pair of Tawny Eagles whose home appeared to be a ledge on the beautifully carved golden sandstone of Jaisalmer fort. Nearby in the market-place a group of White-checked Bulbuls were finding sustenance from indeterminate matter on the ground.

Retracing our steps across the desert we reached Jodhpur. Having visited yet another fort with its resident vultures we were about to enter a Moslem mausoleum when my wife and I noticed a small lake (300m. x 100m.). We hurriedly lost the main party and took up position with our binoculars. The next quarter of an hour was a high-spot in our "birding". This pool was a rarity in a dry rocky area on the outskirts of Jodhpur and attracted many fish-eaters including a pair of Pallas's fish Eagles, the heron-like Paddybird and some Little Cormorants. Later that afternoon in the city we could not believe our luck when we viewed the spectacular Chestnut-headed Bee-eater followed by the Little Green Bee-eater - both taking advantage of the city's telegraph wires.



For many of our travelling companions the 4th January 1983 will always be remembered as the day they visited the Moslem shrine of the Taj Mahal. Bird-wise this site was disappointing and only offered the Little Ringed Plover on the adjacent mud-flats of the River Jumna. Earlier in the day we had gasped in delight at the ornithological shrine of Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. In the days of the Raj this site was kept well-stocked with game-birds for the amusement of maharajas and their guests. It is horrifying to record that in a single shot Lord Chelmsford brought down 4,206 birds with 50 guns. Today the only firing is done with cameras. Here there are still birds in abundance. In groups of six we were punted by knowledgeable guides around the lakes for an hour commencing at dawn. This was the perfect time as the birds were just waking. Egrets, storks and ducks were found close to a Marsh Harrier, whilst a swimming White Pelican seemed almost out of place among the reeds. Wintering at Bharatpur were flocks of Greylag Geese from Siberia and Bar-headed Geese from China. More spectacular were the Spoonbills, White Ibis and the Darter. The latter is a highly specialised under-water fisher, in appearance like a cormorant, with a sinuous neck which helps to give it the other name of "snakebird". Equally dramatic fishing displays were given by the Common and the larger White-breasted Kingfishers. For my wife the Purple Moorhen, Bronze-winged and Pheasant-tailed Jacanas were personal favourites as they effortlessly moved across the floating vegetation.

On our return to Delhi there were several days available for shopping, relaxing and visiting the majestic imperial city designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. One memorable lunch-time was spent in the grounds of the Imperial Hotel, away from the hustle and bustle of commercial Delhi. Fortunately we had the presence of mind to have our "birding gear" at hand for in the grounds of the hotel were to be found individuals from some of India's most attractive small birds. The Purple-rumped Sunbird and the Indian White-eye with their nectar-seeking beaks were hard at work in the flowers whilst in nearby bushes were two warblers the nuthatch-coloured Ashy Brinia and the Tailorbird with its green tail cocked like a wren.

These were but a few of the delights of a fortnight spent on north-west India. It is a country designed for the ornithologist. During our stay we saw some 90 different species and apart from our visit to Bharatpur we did not consciously seek-out birds. For the

ornithological devotee the scope is endless, the people are friendly no matter what their lot and the sights and sounds can best be savoured in person. So if you haven't and can, do visit India. If you've a sound roof so much the better!

J. Maskell

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SEA WATCHING REPORT FOR 1983

Introduction

The enthusiasm for watching visible migration over the sea has continued throughout the year and 1983 is the seventh successive year when sufficient information has been accumulated to allow a separate sea-watching article to be compiled. In keeping with the past few years most of the observations come from the shelter at Marine Gardens on Worthing beach augmented as usual, by notes from Ferring, Goring and Widewater beaches. Within this Society's recording area valuable and regular sea-watching was done at Southwick, Hove and Brighton Marina but the data collected is not included here.

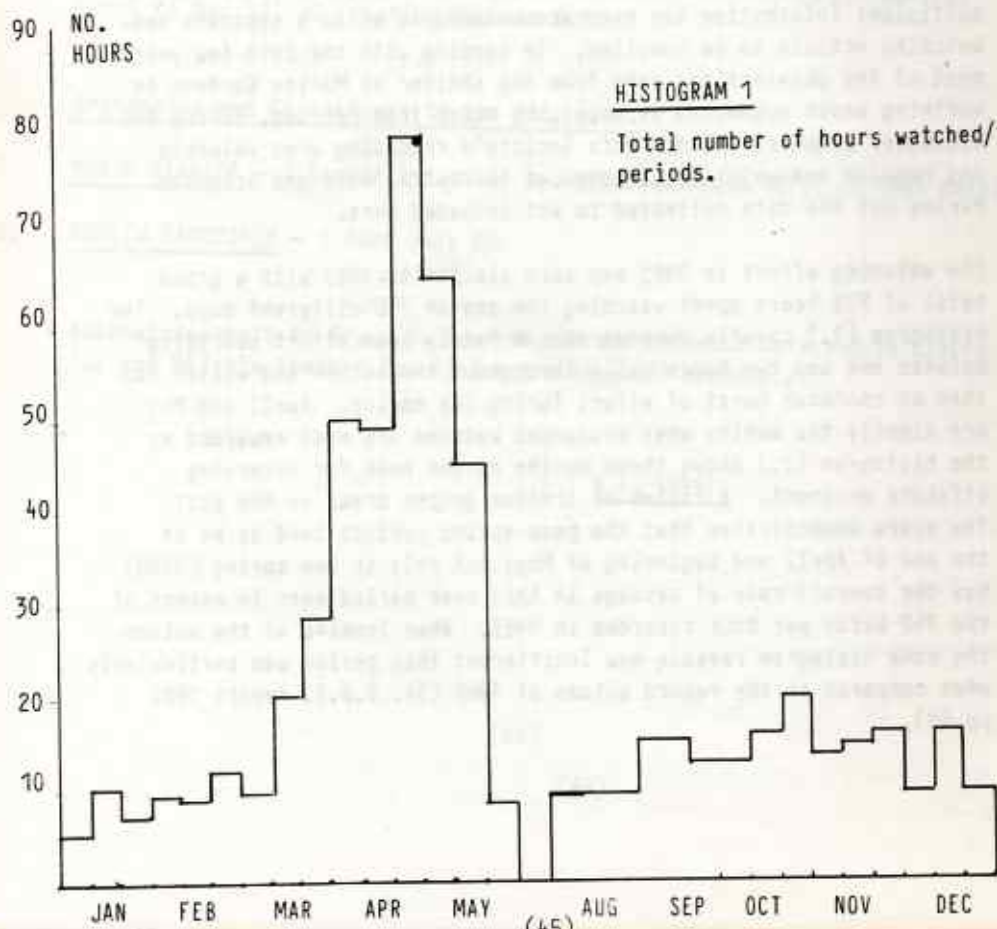
The watching effort in 1983 was very similar to 1982 with a grand total of 578 hours spent watching the sea on 250 different days. The histogram (1.) clearly demonstrates a fairly even effort averaging between one and two hours daily throughout the autumn and winter and then an enormous burst of effort during the spring. April and May are clearly the months when prolonged watches are most rewarded as the histogram (2.) shows these months as the peak for observing offshore movement. A review of similar graphs drawn in the past few years demonstrates that the peak spring periods tend to be at the end of April and beginning of May; but only in one spring (1980) has the overall rate of passage in this peak period been in excess of the 140 birds per hour recorded in 1983. When looking at the autumn the same histogram reveals how indifferent this period was particularly when compared to the record autumn of 1982 (Sh. D.O.S. report 1982 pp 61).

The histograms showing the rate of passage of individual species are drawn for comparisons with each other and with previous years but a more detailed account of the individual species appears in the systematic list. Two tables are presented also for comparison with previous years; the table (a) of selected sea-watching days shows clearly the variety and numbers of the more common species seen on typically good days. This table shows eastward flying birds in spring with the exception of Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Gannet, Kittiwake and the auks which, like the autumn and winter days, are the sum of east and west movements. The second table (b) summarises the latter part of the year in ten day periods and hopefully shows the arrival of wintering wildfowl and the departure of summering seabirds.

NO.  
HOURS

# HISTOGRAM 1

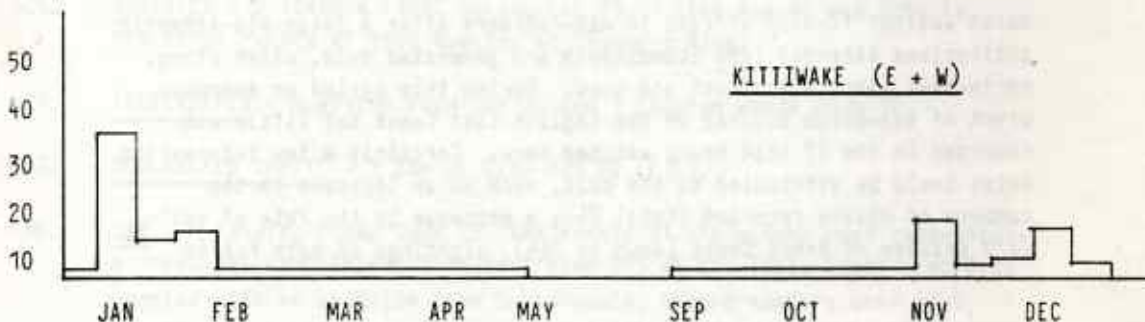
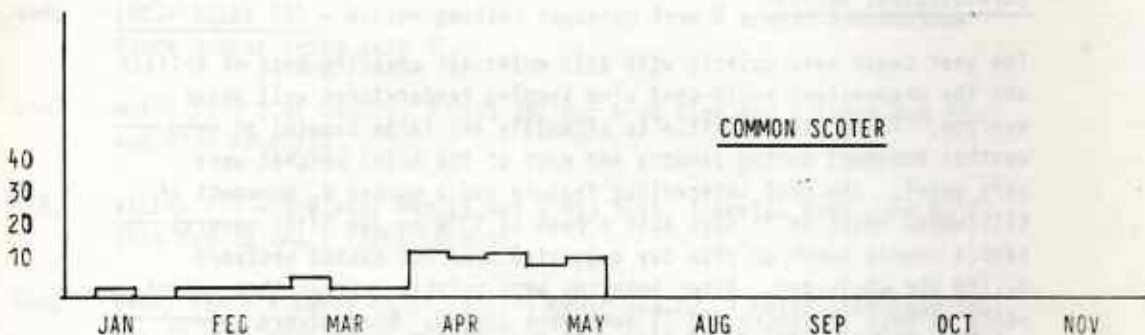
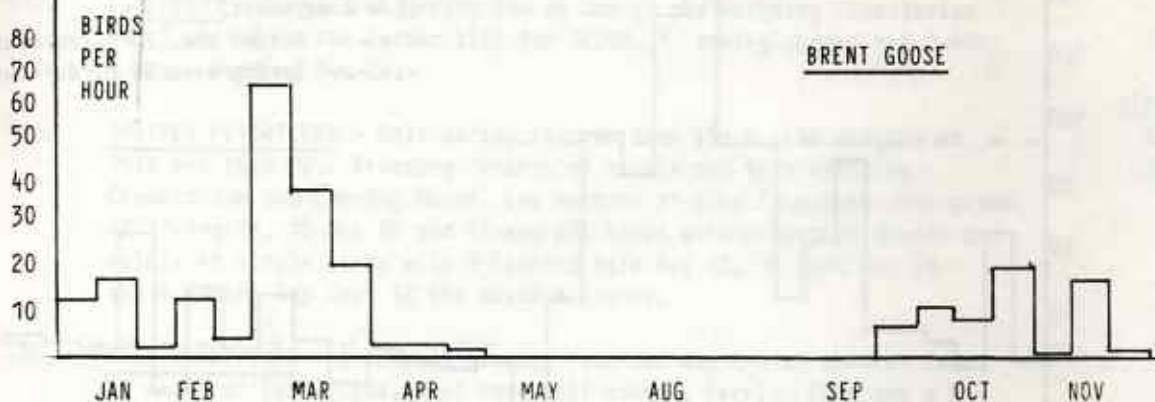
Total number of hours watched/10 day periods.







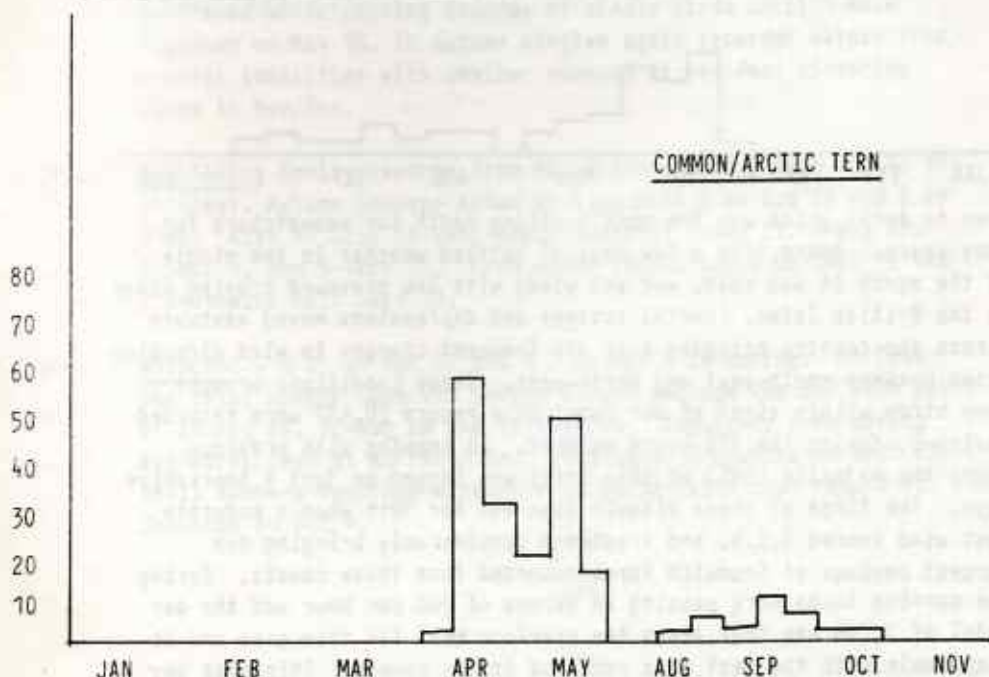
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS, SELECTED BIRDS (E in spring, W in autumn)



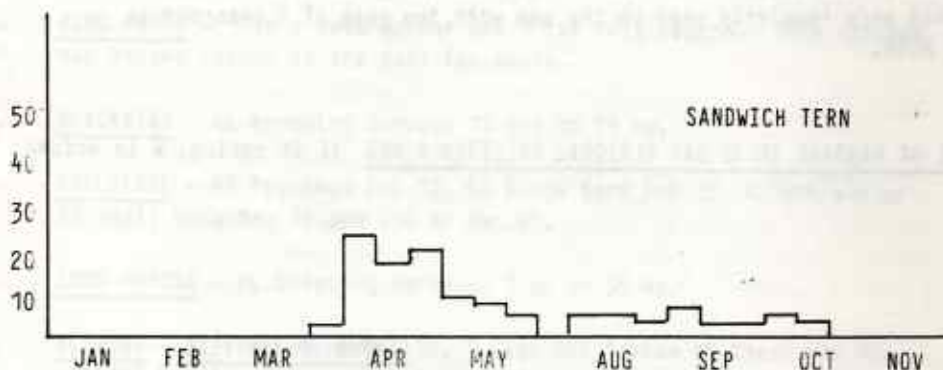
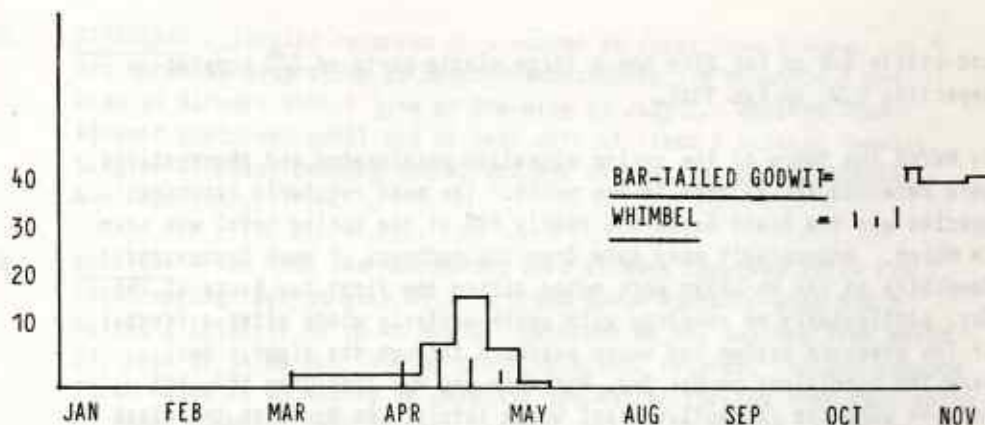
and Little Auk on Feb 23rd and a large single party of 220 Lapwing departing S.W. on Feb 11th.

By March the tempo of the spring migration accelerated and observations were recorded for 29 days in the month. The most regularly recorded species was the Brent Goose and nearly 69% of the spring total was seen in March. Undoubtedly many came from the harbours of West Sussex and Hampshire as the majority were noted during the first two hours of the day, particularly on mornings with south-westerly winds after a frontal or low pressure system had moved eastward through the night. Such were the conditions on Mar 3rd, Mar 14th and Mar 27th when 561, 493 and 444 were the respective Brent Goose totals. On Mar 27th the first of 19 March Sandwich Terns were seen and the first of 4 spring Mediterranean Gulls was noted. Throughout the month Great Crested Grebes were regularly seen on the sea with the peak of 9 recorded on Mar 20th.

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS, SELECTED BIRDS (E in spring, W in autumn)







Then to April which was the most exciting month for seawatchers for many years. Apart from a few days of settled weather in the middle of the month it was cold, wet and windy with low pressure staying close to the British Isles. Frontal systems and depressions moved eastward across the country bringing rain and frequent changes in wind direction often between south-east and north-west. These conditions brought many birds within sight of our coast as a record 20,437 were recorded moving E. during the 177 hours watched. In keeping with previous years the majority (58%) of this total was logged on just 4 impressive days. The first of these classic days was Apr 10th when a moderate east wind veered S.S.W. and freshened considerably bringing the largest passage of Sandwich Terns recorded from these coasts. During the morning terns were passing in excess of 300 per hour and the day total of 1,248 was four times the previous best for this area and is comparable with the best days recorded in the county. This same day

also produced the spring peak of Common Scoter at 346, 10 Avocets, both Black-necked and Slavonian Grebe and the first Manx Shearwater of the year. Sea passage dwindled in the next few days as an Atlantic high pressure produced light west to north-west winds and unfortunately the only day with favourable wind, Apr 16th, was also a day when thick mist obscured the sea. However, on Apr 19th the cold N.W. wind backed to S.W. in the afternoon and the peak passage of 125 Whimbrel was noted; this weather change heralded another low pressure system moving through the Channel producing another memorable but wet watch on Apr 20th. The log for this day totalled a further 758 Sandwich Terns, an area record of 3,048 Common/Arctic Terns, the spring peak of 15 Black Terns and 4 Scaup. Two days later terns were streaming past again with another 864 Sandwich and 2,320 Commics being recorded, the latter being most numerous and close inshore during a period of rain in the mid-afternoon. With such a marked visible passage of terns it is no wonder that this period produced local records of skua movements. Both Arctic and Great Skuas occurred in good numbers at all the south coast sea-watching stations but a spring total of 163 Arctic Skuas (86 in Apr) and 18 Bonxies (14 in Apr) is exceptional for Worthing. The last part of April is the time to view the impressive Channel movements of Bar-tailed Godwits; invariably east to north-east winds, clear skies and settled weather trigger these movements but the lack of such conditions in 1987 is no doubt reflected in the low peak of 417 on Apr 27th. Several unusual species were noted in late April including a Glaucous Gull, another Mediterranean Gull and a Garganey on Apr 30th. On this last date, a day of light east wind, several birds defied identification; a large gull-like tern passed ferring; a curious finch with an odd call passed overhead and a brown Hobby-like falcon with a cream head and collar flew cuckoo-like ashore at Goring.

May started on a promising note for sea-watchers as yet again a low pressure system moved across the country bringing heavy rain and a change in the wind from a light easterly to a south-westerly gale. On May 1st some 1600 Manx Shearwaters were observed passing eastward at Portland and on the following morning the returning birds were noted at Dungeness (80), Beachy Head (150), Worthing (82) and Selsey Bill (180). All these shearwaters were very distant, mainly the British race "puffinus" and no doubt those observed in this unprecedented movement from the Sussex coast were just the edge of a substantial displacement from the Atlantic into the English Channel. Light south-east winds on May 4th saw yet another large tern passage including the



years peak of 109 Little Terns but by May 6th the wind was again south-westerly where it stayed blowing freshly until May 14th. This period in the second week of May is usually the peak time for seeing the later waders such as Grey Plover, Knot or Sanderling; it is the period when Black Terns and Little Gulls most frequently occur and it is the time when the elusive Pomarine Skua passes through the English Channel. Unfavourable weather brought few of these species within sight of the Channel shores; indeed, as several hundred Pomarine Skuas were recorded from the Hebridean coast, it suggests the more usual west coast route was used. However, these fresh winds from the Atlantic produced more regular MANX Shearwaters, an unidentified Petrel, and an immature Sabine's Gull on May 11th; this along with the Sooty Shearwater at Selsey on May 9th, was many miles off course and probably the wrong side of the equator!

Despite low pressure still in the vicinity of Ireland the wind on May 15th turned to the south-east again bringing another flood of 2046 Commic Terns passed; their route remains a puzzle as very few were noted at either Selsey or Beachy Head. During the following few days the winds freshened from the south-east but very little was recorded and the impression amongst the observers was that everything had already passed by and thus the hours of watching gradually diminished to a mere 6 hours in the last 10 days of May. Undoubtedly the spring was exceptional for the number of terns and skuas recorded but it is possibly best put into perspective by comparing the table of selective days and the histograms depicting the passage of the common species with those from previous years shown in the Shoreham O.S. reports from 1978 onward. Slowly the weather improved, so after one of the coldest and wettest springs on record one of the warmest and driest summers had started by early June.

Traditionally very little watching is done in June and July, this year was no exception. A warm settled summer meant most short sea-watchers were unproductive and most of the hours spent on the beach were spent swimming improving the sun tanor even building sand castles rather than peering hopefully sothwards. However, by September the winds freshened as complex deep depressions approached from the Atlantic. By Sept 2nd gale force winds were blowing, the pressure dropped by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch and



sea birds were evident as 38 Gannets, a Manx Shearwater and a good number of Sandwich Terns were noted in only a short watch. The following day in a westerly gale virtually nothing was seen but on the Atlantic seaboard at St. Ives the depression and strong winds led to a memorable watch when Gannets (20,000), Manx Shearwaters (25,000), Storm Petrels (10,000), Sooty Shearwaters (250), Great Shearwaters (50), Bonxies (450), Arctic Skuas (245) and rarities such as Sabines Gull (100) and Wilson's Petrel passed within yards of the observers. Such news, told with excitement by colleagues who witnessed this makes one realise how insignificant the passage of sea-birds is through the English Channel.

Despite several good south-westerly blows in September very little was seen; an occasional skua, a solitary Little Gull, and a Hobby; Manx and Sooty Shearwater on Sept 21st were the month's highlights. On Sept 30th a varied selection of wildfowl were observed and with these 56 Brent Geese passed westward. These were somewhat earlier than usual but as October progressed it became obvious there was not going to be a repeat of the 1982 spectacular movement of Brent Geese, indeed the low peaks of 224 and 233 occurred on Oct 21st and 29th respectively. Likewise seabirds were not numerous with only 9 Arctic Skuas, 1 Bonxie, 3 Little Gulls, 3 Manx Shearwaters and a maximum of 28 Gannets on Oct 12th. Table (b) shows that divers including a Great Northern on Oct 23rd, Red-breasted Mergansers and Shelduck were appearing more regularly in late October.

November remained uneventful; divers were noted on most days, a few more Brent Geese passed and other wildfowl appeared more often including Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck and a party of 12 Grey Geese. In the middle of the month up to 11 Great Crested Grebes occurred offshore and were joined by 2 Slavonian Grebes on Nov 14th.

Mild weather continued into December and perhaps is the reason why the numbers of wildfowl and geese were lower than in the colder years like 1981. Fishermen reported large sprat shoals in the Channel which in the past has led to an increase in the sighting of seabirds. Indeed divers were more numerous than in December 1982 although auks were scarce and the maximum daily total of Kittiwakes was only 49. On Dec 10th the year's peak of 48 Gannets was noted but most remarkable was the 10 Arctic Skuas recorded. These occurred on days, both shown in Table (a),

with increasing onshore winds produced by an advancing low pressure system slowly edging a ridge of high pressure eastward. Such weather conditions over the past few years invariably lead to an interesting sea-watch whatever the season. Hitherto only 9 winter Arctic Skuas have been recorded in Sussex (Dec 5th; Jan 3rd; Feb 1st) and by mid-December most Arctic Skuas are found south of the equator either in the Benguala current off the Namibian coast or marauding on the Patagonian Shelf near Argentina. Similarly December record if accepted. More seasonal however were the records of more Goldeneye, Long-tailed Duck and an immature Glaucous Gull.

This report is based on records from the following:-

S.R. Allen; M.I. Banks; B.R. Clay; J. Dixon; B.F. Forbes; C.J. Fox;  
D. Freeman; M.P. Hall; C.E. Hope; B.A.E. Marr; C.E. Messer; O. Mitchell;  
J.A. Newnham; A.J. Prater; R.J. Sandison; D.I. Smith.

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS WINTER/SPRING 1983

TABLE A

DATES	JAN 11	JAN 17	MAR 3	MAR 14	MAR 27	APR 10	APR 19	APR 20	APR 21	APR 22	APR 23	APR 24
HOURS WATCHED	3-5	.5	3	4	6-25	11	6.5	13	9	13	7	16
WIND DIRECTION	SW4	W4	SSW3	SW4	VAR TO 5	SSW5	W4	ESE5	SW4	SE5	SSE4	SE4
Diver Sp.	-	1	2	16	-	15	2	10	16	26	25	7
Fulmar*	-	-	-	1	26	14	8	43	21	50	37	24
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gannet*	1	3	-	3	7	23	1	14	1	22	2	2
Brent Goose	151	-	561	493	444	100	29	18	63	39	20	16
Shelduck	-	-	3	2	-	9	-	11	3	6	14	-
Eider	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	9	-	7	-
Common Scoter	12	-	10	5	24	346	10	203	51	210	61	32
Red-b. Merg.	8	5	1	16	11	37	12	43	3	9	6	-
Grey Plover	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	25	15	6	-	22
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	10	13	47	18	8	10	1	20
Dunlin	-	-	-	5	20	12	-	15	1	18	2	6
Bar-t. Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	17	6	346	412	41	26	474
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	9	125	69	117	103	25	41
Pomarine Skua	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Arctic Skua	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	6	10	7	10	8
Great Skua	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	3	5
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	1	5	-	-
Kittiwake*	120	95	14	4	12	38	3	24	-	46	6	13
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	-	7	1248	51	758	119	864	201	117
'Commie' Tern	-	-	-	-	-	144	5	3048	15	2320	8	240
Little Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14	19	32	5	57
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	5	-	-
Auk Sp*	11	4	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	3

\* Total sightings per day, mainly eastward in spring and westward in autumn.



SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS SPRING TO WINTER 1983

TABLE A

DATES	APR 25	APR 26	APR 30	MAY 1	MAY 2	MAY 4	MAY 5	MAY 13	MAY 15	NOV 14	DEC 13	DEC 18
HOURS WATCHED		8	7	9	6.5	11	11.5	6.5	8.5	3.25	3	3.5
WIND DIRECTION	SE3	SE4	E2	E2-SW7	SW7	SE3	SE4	SW6	SE1	NE5	SW5	SSW5
Diver Sp.	9	4	-	-	2	4	6	6	4	1	5	23
Fulmar *	33	23	19	24	4	8	20	5	3	-	-	-
Manx Shearwtr.	-	-	-	-	82	-	-	5	-	-	1	-
Gannet*	8	4	2	26	9	8	3	5	9	-	-	5
Brent Goose	25	-	-	4	-	-	-	17	-	31	-	54
Shelduck	18	-	-	8	2	7	7	3	5	1	-	6
Eider	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	-	-	8	-	13
Comn. Scoter	204	131	44	74	-	115	122	16	118	6	1	5
Red-b. Merg.	9	12	3	3	-	-	1	3	2	9	12	-
Grey Plover	-	1	3	3	-	-	22	-	1	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	1	1	13	-	-	42	17	19	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	1	-	4	16W	-	40	-	16	5	-	-
Bar-t. Godwit	80	473	155	288	-	58	95	-	16	-	-	-
Whimbrel	32	10	11	3	-	27	38	4	-	-	-	-
Pomarine Skua	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Arctic Skua	10	11	3	5	3	14	8	10	2	-	9	1
Great Skua	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Little Gull	1	2	-	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Kittiwake*	2	2	4	26	1	27	21	49	40	159	45	49
Sandwich Tern	241	182	123	135	14	295	154	48	95	-	-	-
'Commic' Tern	138	82	71	64	9	1029	290	57	2052	-	-	-
Little Tern	90	28	60	60	10	109	37	2	13	-	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	-	8	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Auk Sp.*	1	1	-	2	1	1	2	13	2	-	1	12

\* Total sightings per day, mainly eastward in spring and westward in autumn.

DETAILS OF THIRTEEN REGULARLY RECORDED SPECIES SEEN FROM WORTHING BEACH  
DURING AUTUMN/WINTER 1983

TABLE B	HOURS	AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			TOTAL
		1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	
		5½	5½	5½	15	16	10½	10½	15½	19	12	13	15	10½	14½	10½	178½
Diver	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	9	8	15	8	46
Sp.	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	7	6	8	31	32	7	80
Gannet	E	-	1	17	9	3	3	6	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	1	45
	W	4	5	5	46	5	1	6	30	-	-	-	-	49	8	5	164
Brent	E	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	14	14	20	14	15	1	55	179	315
Goose	W	-	-	-	-	-	63	100	105	541	6	347	46	28	3	23	1262
Shelduck	E	-	20	8	5	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	3	-	-	44
	W	-	-	-	1	2	7	2	15	39	15	10	-	5	59	18	173
Wigeon	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	40	13	-	62
	W	-	-	4	-	-	11	-	1	16	-	23	-	-	6	-	61
Eider	E	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	16	2	-	53
	W	-	-	-	-	4	27	-	-	-	8	9	5	37	17	5	112
Common	E	-	-	3	1	9	11	-	-	77	2	24	5	4	3	3	142
Scoter	W	19	-	7	6	19	15	2	19	12	2	1	1	9	6	17	116
Red-brst	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	11	15	2	-	37
Merg.	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	11	2	9	21	14	2	76
Little	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gull	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Kittiwake	E	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	1	8	159	8	4	29	5	219
	W	2	-	-	4	3	4	3	9	2	19	-	-	14	93	19	172
Sandwich	E	-	6	22	14	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Tern	W	24	28	6	123	39	16	32	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	279
'Commic'	E	1	5	3	28	21	21	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	85
Tern	W	14	21	6	112	83	26	16	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	284
Auk	E	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	2	3	-	5	3	8	-	25
Sp.	W	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	7	4	2	1	1	3	11	1	32

### A JULY DAY IN FRISTON

At our December 1983 meeting John Newnham suggested we looked at other things while out 'birding'. This summer I've been doing just that so here's my account of one day spent in Friston Forest.

My day started soon after alighting from the bus at the Country Park. I'd only walked a short way before I'd seen a Comma on the hedgerow whilst alongside the wildflowers were Goatsbeard, figwort and the Marsh Mallow which my Flora tells me is used to make the sweetmeat. The path overlooking Charleston Bottom held lots of butterflies; mostly Speckled Woods and Meadow Browns, but not so many Marbled Whites as last year. A Green Woodpecker didn't approve of my presence; he flew round above my head making a sound I took to be his alarm call.

I continued my walk into the Forest toward a dewpond, stopping on my way to admire several Peacocks on some thistles, wishing I had a camera. Further on were White Admirals on Honeysuckle (their food plant) and below on a dead bush a female Libellula dragonfly sunning herself. The dewpond, usually full of birdsong and calls, was very quiet. However, I had my lunch watching dragonflies as a pair of Libellula were mating and laying until 3 other males tried to join in. Then it was amazing how quickly the female vanished and the male chased the intruders round and round until they went. There was also an Emperor present and I was able to compare her different method of depositing eggs.

I was still wondering why the birds weren't about when a vixen cub came out of the undergrowth for a drink until, unfortunately, I made a slight movement and she was off. I then moved to a very different dewpond further into the forest. There were butterflies, dragonflies and other insects all along the way, notably a Red Admiral on a very bright green beech leaf. Imagine my surprise when it flew round me, landed near my feet and walked at least 18 inches to a heap of fresh manure where it proceeded to feed! My next surprise was seeing a Brown Aeshna dragonfly take a Marbled White on the wing.



I now made a detour to get around to the back of the pond. Once again the small birds were missing but there were numerous damsel flies on the weed; they are always worth watching. I sat out of the sun and waited. A female Sparrowhawk was about which probably explained why it was so quiet, and why the small birds were keeping under cover. I was just going when there was a splash in the water. A young male Sparrowhawk only about 8 feet away watching me with his beady yellow eye - a fantastic sight. He drank, bathed and preened, scratching his ear and shaking and flapping his wings. I was surprised how small his beak was and it was nice to see the yellow cere. I could see his changing plumage; the black barring on the breast becoming brown on the sides. After what seemed like 5 minutes, but was probably only 2, he was off.

I waited awhile, but all was quiet so I returned to the first pond. The usual finches and tits, plus Bullfinches, were bathing and drinking, quite a colourful sight including the blue and brown butterflies on the bramble. However, my day wasn't over. Suddenly the birds went and a young dog fox came to drink. I didn't move so was able to notice the difference in the colour of the coats; the vixen's was light and fluffy, the dog's slinky and orangey.

The only thing left to do after six hours of pure pleasure and interest was having my tea and go home. I walked on air! As this was only one of many lovely days I had last summer I fully endorse John's advice. Try it !!

Mrs B.M. Buckler

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#### GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY

During the winter of 1982/83 the Society began a long-term study of birds feeding in member's gardens. The survey is carried out in a similar way to the B.T.O.'s Garden Bird Feeding Survey.

The primary aim is to record the maximum number of each species feeding together at any one time in each month between October and February. In addition to this birds of prey disturbing garden birds are also reported.

In this inaugural winter disappointingly few members were able to contribute. Obviously this sample study will gain more importance as it continues through successive winters and hopefully the number of contributors will increase.

### SURVEY RESULTS 1982/83

In what was generally a very mild winter there were few surprises and no large concentrations of birds in our gardens. The small sample size makes all but a few observations on the results impossible. However, it can be seen that of the 32 species recorded 10 were commonly found in all our gardens, 10 more were fairly common, whilst the remaining 12 were uncommon, being found in only 2 or less of the contributing sites. Most contributors reported similar numbers of the common species but there were few trends visible except perhaps that numbers tend to peak in the December-January period.

One surprise, to me at least, was the rarity of the Rook as a garden species; only R.J.S. at Findon recording it. In my former garden at Steyning it was a regular garden feeder and possibly in the future observations from contributors in these more inland sites will be forthcoming.

Of the less common species, winter Chiffchaff and Blackcap made an appearance whilst in my own garden the delightful Firecrest and the Short-eared Owl which passed overhead I must modestly offer as the joint prizes of the year.

Various contributors mentioned the importance of fallen apples and I would add to this apple trees in general because of the aphids they attract. Fieldfare, Blackcap and the 'crests were specifically noted in this connection.

# SURVEY RESULTS 1982/83

Total No. of Contributors:-	8
Total No. of Species Recorded:-	32
Maximum No. of Species Recorded in One Garden:-	28
Minimum No. of Species Recorded in One Garden:-	12

## LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

SPECIES	NO. OF GARDENS RECORDED		% NO. GARDENS RECORDED
	REGULAR	OCCASIONAL	
Blue Tit	8	0	100
Blackbird	8	0	100
House Sparrow	8	0	100
Starling	8	0	100
Dunnock	8	0	100
Robin	7	1	100
Greenfinch	7	1	100
Great Tit	6	2	100
Song Thrush	6	2	100
Chaffinch	6	2	100
Collared Dove	6	1	87.5
Black-headed Gull	4	2	75
Wood Pigeon	2	3	62.5
Pied Wagtail	1	4	62.5
Wren	3	1	50
Carrion Crow	3	1	50
Coal Tit	2	2	50
Mistle Thrush	0	4	50
Common Gull	0	4	50
Magpie	1	2	37.5
Goldcrest	0	2	25
Kestrel	0	2	25
Sparrowhawk	0	2	25
Herring Gull	0	2	25
Blackcap	0	2	25
Redwing	0	2	25
Jackdaw	0	2	25
Short-eared Owl	0	1	12.5
Rook	0	1	12.5
Fieldfare	0	1	12.5
Firecrest	0	1	12.5
Chiffchaff	0	1	12.5



## A Note on 1983/84

At the time of writing, January 1984, there has hardly been a winter as such. Very mild conditions and an abundance of natural food remaining by early January have made garden bird feeding rather unnecessary and the remarks of a few members suggest that, so far, numbers of finches and tits are comparatively low.

M.P. Hall

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## HABITATS IN DANGER - A PERSONAL VIEW

Some members may feel that an Ornithological Society should keep out of politics. With respect to them (and I know they exist), this is a head in the sand attitude, and I suggest that much of the loss of wildlife and its habitat in this county, and indeed the world over, is due to people such as us being afraid to stand up and be counted.

The Sussex coast between Black Rock and Lancing has been grotesquely disfigured over the last 100 years by the progress of so-called civilisation. What an attractive coast it must have been before the days of Brighton's garish seafront; Hove's featureless promenade and the commercialism of Shoreham harbour (just look at the Constable painting in Brighton Art Gallery to see what I mean).

Despite the worst that man has done, in the Shoreham D.O.S. area there remain some delightful oases: wildernesses in miniature, and two of those. Widewater, and the mudflats below the Norfolk Bridge have recently come under the jaundiced eye of officialdom.

It is hard to trace how the threat of Widewater began. I suspect that certain residents whose houses back on to this delightful stretch of water complained to the local authority about the smell (entirely a natural one) which sometimes, particularly in hot weather and drought, arises from the exposed mud.

In 1983, your society heard of a local authority scheme to "tidy up and improve" Widewater. There were suggestions that the water level might be "raised". Perhaps the threat is best summarised by the remarks of one councillor, who when I implored him to use his influence not to have the old piles near the Widewater footbridge removed, pointing out that they were often used as a perch by Kingfishers, replied "no doubt your little Kingfishers will another post " .....

Your society acted: but it had to find out which authority it might best deal with. West Sussex County Council (landlords), Adur District Council (rating authority and with planning powers) Lancing Parish Council (tenants) and Southern Water Authority all had a toe in the water. The laws of libel prevent me telling the full story of various meetings but suffice to say that thanks to powerful support from Tony Prater and the RSPB John Newnham and others have hopefully made it known that Widewater, whilst not reaching site of special scientific interest (SSSI) standing, is important nationally for its natural history, is not going to be improved by "tidying-up" (except for litter). Your society had acted - it was in politics.

Almost simultaneously, the Shoreham Harbour 'Plan' was published by Adur District Council, who invited the public to an open discussion on its proposals. The plan included a proposal for a yacht marina between the Norfolk Bridge and the Shoreham footbridge, on the mudflats immediately up river from the footbridge.

At the public meeting Barrie Watson, speaking succinctly and with quiet authority, was able to tell the somewhat startled officials of Adur of the great value of the site as a wintering ground for waders. Luckily this scheme has not proceeded at present, but these ugly threats to two areas, not only important to birdwatchers, but also of considerable beauty, illustrate that we must always be alert in the future, because I'm sure there will be other such threats at any time.

We all know that SSSI's themselves are disappearing at an alarming rate, and a government who seems entirely preoccupied with the material wants of man appear to have no heart in improving the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. If SSSI's can't survive, what chance can



there be for the little oases, the little wildernesses - Widewater, the Adur Mudflats ? My very strong belief remains that this Society, whilst continuing to enjoy its birdwatching, its outings, its meetings, its companionship, must be prepared to fight and fight hard to preserve the very places without which there would be no more 'little Kingfishers'.

S.R. Allen

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### SCILLY ADVENTURES

When one thumbs through British Birds, one cannot help but be impressed by the tasty morsels which are recorded on those western extremities of Britain. It was for this reason that five of this society decided on a week among the Goodies (actually Bill Oddie was not there that week).

We chose the third week of October when we hoped the number of ornithologists would be bearable. Fortunately, we were successful on that account as there had been over 1,000 the week before. There were only 300 Barbour-clad waders milling about on the islands whilst we were there.

The first morning was full of anticipation as we stepped off the helicopter. It took three minutes to see one of the best birds, an Upland Sandpiper which could be viewed from the bus! This bird was ridiculously tame, so much so that it could be fed with worms. The only way this much maligned practice was put to an end was spreading the rumour that it was a carrier of that nasty disease which is spreading through America. Other good birds included 3 Lapland Bunting and a Cliff Swallow (1st for Europe). The latter was very difficult to see and our views were far from excellent. Perhaps we should look more closely at the swallows which pass through the area as there could be many a strange specie lurking among our migrants.

St. Mary's is a beautiful island and we decided to cover as much ground as possible the following day away from the hordes. We searched everywhere for rarities and were rewarded by seeing a lovely Glaucous Gull. A tea shop was spotted and so we sat down for "tiffin on the



lawn". Within a few seconds the waitree told us about a rarity just down the road. By the time the dust had settled we were miles away. It was obvious were the bird was as over 100 birders surrounding a small bush. One has to keep a cool head in situations like this as it's rather like standing on the terraces at Anfield. Once the bird made an appearance the crowd armed with binoculars, instead of broken bottles, surged forward - not a situation for the long ornithologist. Fortunately, the bird did show itself and the beautiful eye stripe and yellow rump could be made out - all diagnostic features of a Pallas's Warbler.

The following day was wasted in search of Nivana (Blackpoll Warbler) on Bryher. I spotted a small yellow bird crossing the channel just before the boat landed - perhaps the American visitor didn't like crowds? Talking of crowds there were over three hundred standing on the edge of a field waiting for the to make an appearance! We decided to keep away and were rewarded by seeing a Wryneck, Hen Harrier and Great Northern Diver. We then chose to re-enact the Roman invasion walking through the sea to Tresco. A boatman had said that the water was only ankle deep at low tide, unfortunately he forgot to add 'if one walked on one's hands'. Trousers were removed, shoes and socks stored safely, and we waded across the channel. It was rather 'cool' as the piercing screams which reverberated between the islands showed. Pictures of this historical event were taken but, hopefully, the negatives have been destroyed!

Tresco produced a fantastic array of species the next day with Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Barred Warbler and Black Duck being seen. Luckily we managed to see all the birds before the crowds arrived and so we could savour the birds in privacy. The island itself is really superb; a collection of biotopes crushed together on a tiny island. The southern part of the island is a sandy area which has been transformed into a tropical paradise whereas the northern area is an upland tundra environment reminding one of Lapland. This island is a real jewel and one which should not be missed.

St. Agnes, the last inhabited island before America, is decidedly rugged and somewhat bleak but it has its own character which attracts many a visitor in the summer. We managed to see a Red-breasted Flycatcher on the island and it showed itself well which delighted many people. Why such a passerine should take up residence on such an island remains a mystery. The cats on St. Agnes are some of the best fed in

Europe especially when one considers the number of American songbirds which have found their way into the large intestines of these creatures. The largest mouthful must have been the Grosbeak which disappeared the week before.

The last day was highlighted by a well-marked Little Bunting which flittered among the cabbages. It was with sad hearts that we boarded the helicopter to return to the mainland for the homeward journey. Fortunately, the long haul was punctuated by two very good birds: Spotted Sandpiper and Lesser Golden Plover - the latter standing on the edge of a flock of 700 Golden Plover!

Looking back over the holiday, it seems incredible how many fantastic birds are found on these islands. Common passerines are relatively thin on the ground, so much so that a third Bullfinch caused some excitement! For anyone who enjoys the company of others and wants to see some very rare birds then the Scillies in mid-October are the place. For those who prefer a quieter life, late October is a better bet when one could find a rare bird and not be trodden underfoot in the rush.

R. Ives

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#### FIELD OUTINGS 1983

Field outings were well attended throughout the year and many interesting species were encountered.

The first outing of the year was to Ferring beach on 15th January; unfortunately Mike Hall, the nominated leader, suffered a slipped disc just before the outing and was unable to attend. Never the less members did see many of the waders that feed and roost in the area.

Wildfowl were the main feature of the outing to Amberly wild brooks led by Colin Messer on 13th February. 98 Bewick Swans were present and good numbers of Wigeon, Teal, Pintail and Shoveller. With the use of telescopes reasonable views were obtained of a Short-eared Owl perched in a bush on the other side of a field.



It was wet with strong S.E. winds when Dr. John Newnham took members on a seawatch at Widewater on 24th April. From the shelter of the beach huts members had good views of Common/Arctic Terns, Sandwich Terns and distant views of Arctic Skuas and Great Skua.

Brian Metcalf's outing to Sidlesham Ferry on 14th May proved to be very rewarding. All the usual waders were present including a fine Avocet, which was seen feeding as well as in flight. The rarest bird however was a Wryneck which was spotted amongst gorse bushes.

On 10th June about 20 members attended the outing to Wiggonholt Common led by Colin Messer. The first hour was spent at Waltham Brooks observing Redshank, Snipe, Gadwell, Yellow Wagtail, etc. Successful broods of Shelduck, Canada Goose and feral Greylag were recorded. Later on Nightjars made a timely appearance on Wiggonholt Common and Woodcock could be heard overhead.

Stanley Allen took 20 members on a summer evening walk down the River Adur from the old toll bridge on 12th August. The waders present on the saltings included Dunlin, Redshank, Greenshank, Whimbrel and Common Sandpiper. Reed Warblers were heard and a number of Wheatear seen. 27 species were recorded including 6 Yellow-legged Herring gulls. A most picturesque sunset made a fitting end to a cheerful evening.

Phil Clay's outing to the Adur Valley and saltings on 11th September recorded similar species to the previous outing, but a Kingfisher provided superb close views and Whinchat and Sparrowhawk added to the tally.

Bernard Forbes led the final outing of the year to Cissbury Ring and Stump Bottom on 16th October. However, very few birds could be seen due to force 8 winds; the only notable species being two rather distant Sparrow hawks, a Little Owl, a number of Jays and six Tree Sparrows.

C.E. Messer



## LECTURES 1983

### Monday 17th January

This was the occasion of the first of two quizzes arranged by Dr. J.A. Newnham which taxed the ornithological skills of members. Experts press-ganged from the floor contributed to the evening by bravely attempting on-the-spot identifications from the slides after the quiz. A good time was had by all, even if the score cards were low at the end of the evening.

### Monday 7th February

Mr C. Fox present our annual travelogue this year, which included many excellent photographs of birds, as well as of flowers and scenery in Sri Lanka, where he spent his honeymoon. Even his last week, spent sunbathing on the beach, produced some interesting shots of exotic terns and sandpipers.

### Monday 21st March

The business of the A.G.M. was followed by a talk by Dr. J Stafford on thirty years of birdwatching in the Shoreham area. This covers the approximate period in which the Society has been in existence, although in fact, Dr. Stafford took us back to the early days of professional bird catchers, when an astonishing number of interesting birds were caught, along with thousands of commoner species. Ornithological memory is short and it was pleasant to be transported back to the days when ringers used genuine Japanese hair nets and never bothered with a licence, and when migrant Corncrakes turned up in one's back garden. Dr Stafford concluded with some fascinating Nightjar shots.

### Monday 3rd October

The Strivens Reed Bed/Mumbles report has been a feature of the Annual Report for some years and it was therefore enlightening to hear Mr P. Clay talk on his own 'patch' as well as the adjacent Adur levels from where a large number of the Societys wildfowl records are obtained. He also explored the techniques of reed bed conservation: a habitat which is always at a premium.

Monday 17th November

Having fairly recently moved to Ferring Mr M. Hall was able to give the Society a full account of the birdwatching opportunities in his area. In addition to talking about some of the birds to be seen in the area he discussed some of the conservation issues; in particular the activities of the Southern Water Authority at Ferring Rife. The importance of the area for wintering Sanderling was also stressed.

Monday 5th December

The first experimental winter meeting was a decided success with the second quizz of the year. Members had not only to identify birds, but also butterflies, dragonflies, bushes and ditches, in a series of slides arranged by Dr. J. Newnham. Those who were not up to the task were consoled with a glass of wine and a mince pie!

J. Dixon

## NOTES, NEWS AND ACCOUNTS 1983

### OFFICERS

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Chairman of the Council

Dr J.A. Newnham

Sanctuary Committee

Dr J.A. Newnham Dr A.B. Watson

Other Committee Members

Dr J.A. Newnham Mr M.P. Hall



## Membership

At the time of going to print there were 136 paid-up members of this society.

## 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 subscriptions 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, drafted 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 criticism) to come along and air their views. Anyone wishing to do so should contact me.

SHUREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1983

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance brought forward	555.21	Printing	198.50
Subscriptions	364.50	Stationery	3.33
Donations	26.00	Secretary's Expenses Including Hire of Hall	31.50
Sale of Reports	28.00		
Net Raffle and Refreshments Receipts	43.10	Southern Water Authority	4.00
Bank Deposit Interest Received	32.29	Sundries	14.61
		Wine for Christmas Meeting	20.72
		Balance carried forward	776.44
	<u>£1,049.10</u>		<u>£1,049.10</u>

S.R. Allen (Hon. Treasurer)

Date: 19th February, 1984

ACCOUNTANTS CERTIFICATE

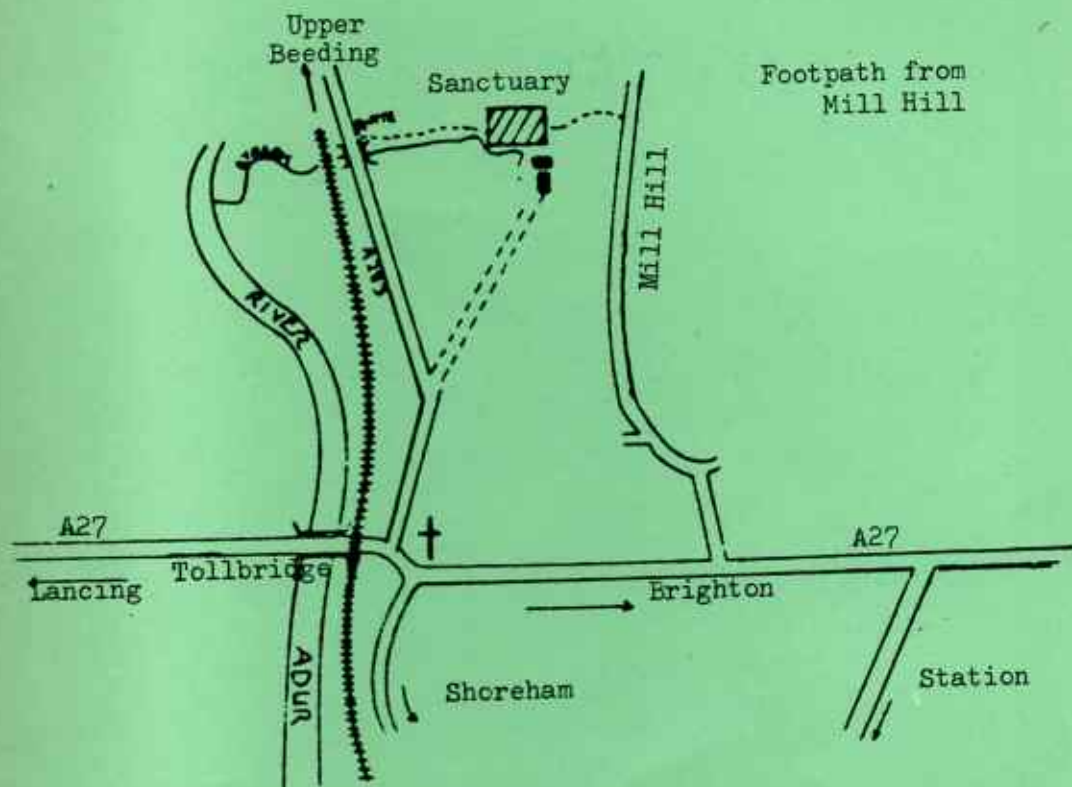
WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared without audit from the books, vouchers and information supplied to us and is in accordance therewith.

Date: 19th February, 1984

Signed.

52/53 Old Steine,  
BRIGHTON, BN1 1PH

CHATER SPAIN BROTHERS  
Chartered Accountants



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.