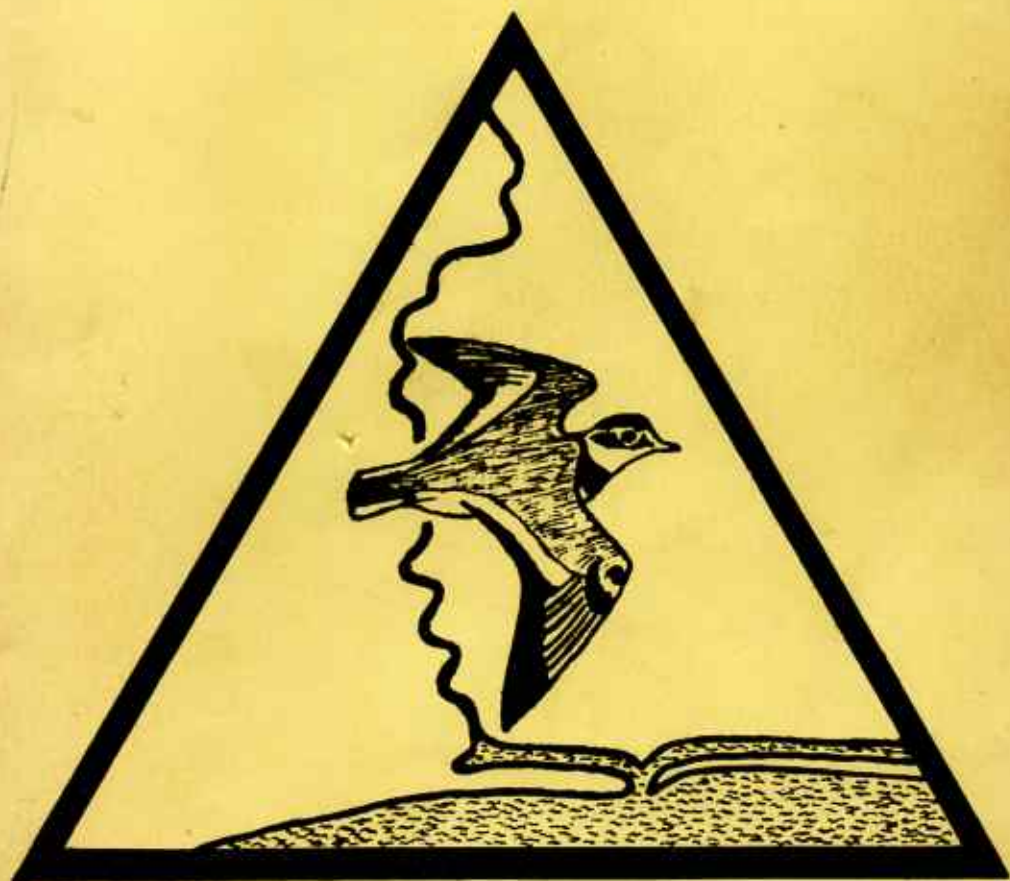


**Shoreham District
Ornithological Society**

REPORT 1984



No. 32

Price £1.00

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 1984

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EDITORIAL NOTES

It is pleasing to have compiled another substantial report which testifies to the continuing interest in our Society and the support it receives. In an effort to match members' expectations an attempt has been made this year to improve the presentation of the report utilising some new technology techniques. I write these notes optimistically as the proof of the venture will not be visible until it is too late!!

The number of members submitting records has again increased. To do justice to the records and make them more informative, and to ease the burden on our recorder it is hoped to introduce some amendments to the procedure which will be announced later in 1985.

The garden bird survey continues and although summarised details only are included in this report for 1983/84 as a fuller account appeared in last summer's newsletter, the intention is to publish the full account in this report in future. The raptor breeding survey undertaken by members in 1984 is analysed by Richard Ives and has proved to be of sufficient value to make further Society surveys worthwhile - Wheatears in 1985!

The field outings and indoor meetings arranged by Colin Messer and John Dixon respectively were both well received and supported, despite - for the binocular and boot brigade - some less than favourable weather. The summer break and social scene were enlivened by the evening barbeque held by courtesy of Dr. Barrie Watson, even though the natural elements had earlier in the day threatened their worst. Thanks particularly to all members who contributed toward making the evening a resounding success.

The late Cyril Helyer once remarked in an editorial of his on the "Steyning Grammar School succession"; a reference to an influx of junior members into our Society over a number of years from that particular school. It is sad to note that the succession appears to have ceased and that the junior membership generally is at a low ebb. Perhaps this

is an area where some of this Society's new energies should be directed.

A traditional but nonetheless sincere word of thanks to all those who have organised or assisted with refreshments, raffles and those other items which contribute immensely to the smooth running of our Society. Finally, acknowledgement must be made of the work of Bernard Forbes, our Recorder, and Dr. John Newnham, our Chairman, who have contributed individually and jointly 75% of the material for this report.

BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM DISTRICT 1984

As 1984 becomes a memory of processed recording sheets once again I can state that the year has been an exceptional one. I can recall previous recorders saying this but it seems to be true; ornithology is a dynamic subject, the more birdwatchers the more records, some of them containing vast logs of bird movements and sightings. Detailed information has once again been collated from the seawatching sites and the detailed analysis has been made by Dr. J. A. Newnham. Although year by year trends and patterns are generally set by weather cycles sudden changes can produce spectacular movements of many different species; this is reflected in the pages of our report.

One of my aims as recorder is to promote all bird species and to try and publish in the report both the detailed records of the dedicated notemaker and the more casual observations. Unfortunately, due to the upsurge in records of many species, it has become apparent that to complete the task of compiling the systematic list detailed locations of some common passage migrants need to be looked at in a different way. I hope to include some advice on this in the summer newsletter. Of course all difficult species including birds seen out of their normal season still require full descriptions.

Bird events during the year, considering the fairly long periods of settled weather, were rather interesting. In January Little Auk and Great Northern Diver were seen off Worthing Beach. Two Crossbills at Wiston in February were the only ones reported in our area despite a huge influx to other parts of the country. 40 Brambling feeding in Withdean Park Brighton in March was the largest gathering since 100 on the Downs also in March 1972. On March 2nd 7 Snow Geese flew west off Ferring Beach; the first record of this species in our area although escapes cannot be ruled out. A Firecrest on Widewater on March 23rd allowed itself to be photographed. Surprisingly the record 270 Pochard moving off Worthing Beach on March 12 must be the star birds for the month; it is incredible how a common species can excite an observer and break county records by sheer numbers. By the end of March migration was once again in full flight and good numbers of Wheatear were seen all along our coastal belt with 86 at Ferring Beach on April 12th. Two Marsh Harriers in April and another in May were exciting as was a Wryneck in a Worthing garden on April 29. Bird of the month must have been that sought after 'tick' - Gull-billed Tern seen off Ferring Beach on April 26th, our first record for thirty years.

By May most of the common migrants had arrived and so had several rare ones including the well watched Crane on the Adur Levels between May 1st and 8th affording splendid views and a few ticks for many watchers. A White Stork over the Sompting by-pass on May 1st delighted a single observer. Worthing beach observers logged good numbers of Pomarine Skuas and 138 Manx Shearwaters on May 22 during a 'blow'. An Iceland Gull was seen off Widewater and Worthing proves that it does pay to spend time seawatching.

Summer was quiet with no real rarities to be found although a single Kentish Plover turned up on the Adur on July 17th. By the end of July return migrants were being noted with waders gathering on the Adur and passerines noted on the Downs. In the Autumn common raptors were well represented although only 1 Marsh Harrier was noted in Aug. During the

same month many common species were found along the coast and on the Downs with two further Wrynecks occurring at Ferring Rife and Findon Valley in early September. Pied Flycatchers were reported from many locations including members' gardens. An Black-necked Grebe off Portslade Beach was our earliest by 8 days.

Overall September and October were disappointing although there were the odd good seawatching days in late October which produced Sooty Shearwater off Widewater on October 24th. Also worthy of note were 3 Buzzards and a late Hobby on on October 11th at Cissbury. By November bird movement had settled down with the latter part of the year being very mild, perhaps giving rise to the many garden reports of Chiffchaff, some in full song. A single Snow Bunting flew over the wader roost at Goring on November 21st and a huge count of 9000 Lapwing on the Adur in late December was exceptional. So the year ended quietly.

B.F.Forbes.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1984

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

S.R.Allen, M.I.Banks, B.Buckler, E.Chadwell, G.L., L.M., M.L. & N.J.Champion, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, G.Cooper, R. Edney, R.H.Eyre-Walker, J.Feest, B.F.Forbes, F.J.Forbes, C.J.Fox, E.Fuller, C.P.Griffiths, M.P.Hall, S.Harthill, S.Hitchings, C.Hope, R.Ives, R.W.C.Ives, P.James, L.R.Keen, D.H.Labdon, L.Mayhead, C.E.Messer, B.Metcalf, O.Mitchell, L.Muirhead, Dr.J.A.Newnham, K.Noble, A.J.Prater, B.Reeve, R.J.Sandison, R.M.Shaw, B.Short, T.C.Smart, D.I.Smith, H.Sturman, J.Underwood, B.Upton, Dr.A.B.Watson, R.Weal, T.J.Wilson.

Abbreviations:-

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

AL - Adur Levels, Btn M - Brighton Marina, Ciss - Cissbury, CC - Cuckoo's Corner, FB - Ferring Beach, GG - Goring Gap, Harb - Shoreham Harbour, NSF - New Salts Farm, PB - Portslade Beach, Sanc - Sanctuary, SB - Southwick Beach, 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 (WB) in seawatching data include all seawatch sites unless separately identified. "Adur" refers to the river and associated mudflats between the footbridge and the flyover.

The table below of time spent seawatching should be considered when reading the seawatch summary tables.

Hours Watched	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing Beach	23	15	77	147	143	13	418
Brighton Marina	14	23	95	216	176	34	558

NOTABLE BIRDS IN THE AREA IN 1984

1. RED-THROATED DIVER - Recorded offshore until June 1 and after Oct 13. Just over 10% of flying divers were identified as this species and the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	13	2	12	10	2	1	-	1	4
W.	7	3	-	-	-	-	2	3	8
Brighton E.	-	1	7	2	4	-			
Marina W.	-	1	-	-	-	-			

Scattered records of 1 or 2 feeding offshore until May 10, possibly involving up to 10 birds. 2 feeding WB late Dec.

2. BLACK-THROATED DIVER - Recorded offshore between Jan 15 and June 1; about 5% of divers were specifically identified in flight as this species:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing	1E,1W	1E	-	10E	10E	-	22E,1W
Brighton Marina	-	1E	2E	6E	7E	1E	17E

1 feeding offshore Btn M on Mar 12 and 1 in sp at WB Apr 18. Sole autumn record 1E WB Nov 9.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER - Singles E WB Feb 28 (RI) and May 3 (RJS).(Subject to acceptance by Sussex O.S.).

DIVER SP. - Movement noted offshore until June 3 and after Oct 9; monthly analysis of spring records:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	26	4	65	64	37	1	197
W.	13	4	3	1	2	-	23
Brighton E.	8	11	274	116	71	4	484
Marina W.	2	3	-	-	-	-	5

The spring peak coincided at both sites on Mar 23; however the total of 46E WB in 7 hours is overshadowed by a record 234E at Btn M in 7.5 hours watching. The second best day was

Apr 30 when 13E WB and 24E Btn M were noted. The poor autumn/winter total of 5E/28W at WB is analysed in the seawatching tables.

6. LITTLE GREBE - Max counts on Adur; Jan 15-6, Feb 11-2, April 4/5-1 and Oct 31st-3. Max. counts WW:- Jan-3, Feb-2, Mar-1 and a late individual on May 4. Returning there on Oct 12 increasing to 5 by Oct 30 and 7 by Dec 25 although only 2 there Dec 31; a notable decrease in numbers on this lagoon. Other records include 1 Adur Small Dole Jan 9, 5 Btn M on Jan 18, 1 offshore WB on Mar 23 and 1 Brooklands Sept 18.

7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE - 9E/6W WB between Jan 10 and June 1 and 8E/2W Btn M between Feb 19 and May 16. Regularly noted offshore at various sites between WB and Btn M until June 1 with max. counts of 12 on Apr 20 and 9 on Mar 21.

8. RED-NECKED GREBE - 1 offshore Btn M Mar 20.

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE - 2 offshore WW Mar 4 and 1W Nov 3.

10. BLACK-NECKED GREBE - 1 offshore Portslade Sept 4 and Nov 20 (SRA).

SLAV/BLACK-NECKED GREBE - 1W WB Feb 29, 1 offshore there Mar 31 and 1W Apr 8. 1E Btn M Mar 31, 1W WB Dec 22.

12. FULMAR - First noted from WB and Btn M on Jan 21; thereafter movements can be analysed thus:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	1	1	17	62	45	6	132
W.	-	-	43	89	81	8	221
Brighton E.	1	12	59	116	123	84	395
Marina W.	-	-	8	21	19	23	71

Interestingly 63% of the birds noted from WB were flying westward whereas at Btn M the predominant movement was eastward (85%). The peak movement was of 10E/48W in 2 hours at WB on May 22. More noted than usual from WB in autumn; July-5W; Aug-2E/8W; Sept-2W; the last on Sept 27.

15. CORY'S SHEARWATER - 1E Btn M May 3; if accepted by Sussex O.S. it will be our third record, the last on May 3 1981.

17. SOOTY SHEARWATER - 1W WW 09.00 hrs on Oct 24 (RMS) has been accepted by Sussex O.S.

18. MANX SHEARWATER - A report of 1E WB Jan 7 (RI), an exceptionally early date. A record movement of 91E/47W in 2.5 hrs at WB during a S. gale on May 22; no other spring dates from WB but at Btn M recorded on five dates between May 13 and June 2 where a total of 39E and a max. of 25E also on May 22. The only autumn records occurred in strong SSW winds; 4W WB Sept 20 and 1W there Nov 27 (RJS). As in previous years most records refer to the race "puffinus"; single Balaeric Shearwaters were noted passing westward on May 22 and Sept 20.

25. GANNET - Recorded offshore during every month, movements can be summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	7	29	42	22	70	4	174
W.	8	6	5	13	86	2	120
Brighton E.	-	8	48	11	146	36	249
Marina W.	-	4	-	14	39	3	60

Peak movements 34E/3W Btn M May 17 and 12E/24W WB May 22. Although the totals at both sites were remarkably similar it is curious how, like Fulmar, more are noted moving W at WB (40%) than Btn M (19%). The autumn totals WB are shown in the seawatch tables; the peak 3E/26W in 5 hours on Sept 20.

26. CORMORANT - Recorded in every month; the incomplete seawatching data gives a confusing picture:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	8	5	30	43	28	7	7	20	24	46	42	9
W.	7	5	30	59	10	3	1	2	12	96	34	20
Brighton E.	-	-	232	298	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marina W.	135	-	4	224	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Counts from SB:- Feb 2-21; Mar 13-25; Oct 13-18; Nov 20-30.
Max. monthly counts from AL pylon roost were Jan-17, Feb-8,
Oct-25, Nov-12, Dec-19.

27. SHAG - Recorded on 14 dates at Btn M from Jan to June
12 with max. of 7 on Feb 20/21 and Mar 30; an amazing
increase in records probably associated with a large wreck
of seabirds involving this species throughout the area.
1 offshore WW Dec 17.

EGRET SP. - 1E Btn M Apr 25.

39. HERON - 5 Adur Jan 17, 10 NSF on Aug 19 with up to 10
recorded from this area during autumn/winter. A total of 22
noted moving offshore between Feb 11 and Sept 29 at the main
seawatch stations with an incredible flock of 11E at Btn M
on May 1.

40. PURPLE HERON - 1E Btn M May 7 (JPS); if accepted by
Sussex O.S. will be our third record.

42. WHITE STORK - 1NE over Sompting May 1 (DHL), awaiting
acceptance by Sussex O.S.

46. MUTE SWAN - Peak monthly counts at WW:- Jan-16, Feb-11,
Mar-12, Apr-18, Oct-10, Nov-16 and Dec-17. 29 AL Jan 21.
11E/11W WB from Jan 14 to May 15. Pairs bred NSF and WW.

47. BEWICK'S SWAN - 3 AL on Nov 26 (KN), perhaps on route
for the Arun Valley.

51. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - 4NE at Btn M Mar 21. Skeins heard
on Apr 9 flying E over Lancing at 21.30 hrs. and SE over
Findon at 23.00 hrs.

53. GREY LAG GOOSE - 1E at Btn M Apr 8, 1E Apr 14 and 3E
there on May 15.

GREY GOOSE SP. - 1NW Brooklands on May 24.

54. SNOW GOOSE - 7W FB on Mar 2 (RI), escapes cannot be ruled out. First record for S.D.O.S; details submitted to Sussex O.S.

55. CANADA GOOSE - 1 pair Small Dole Jan 18. At WB 2 offshore Apr 12, 1W Apr 20 and May 1; 'small flock' E FB on May 20. Btn M also recorded 3 on 5 dates from Mar 31 to May 14. No records from AL.

56. BARNACLE GOOSE - 1E WW May 9, 1E and later W Btn M on May 25; both considered to be escapes.

57. BRENT GOOSE - Recorded on spring passage until May 23 and on autumn passage after Sept 17. Records from the early months reveal many more noted passing Btn M than WB; a feature presumably related to greater observer cover.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Worthing E.	9	44	4058	1052	60	5223
W.	79	-	45	5	-	129
Brighton E.	-	52	7603	2028	200	9883
Marina W.	2	-	-	-	-	2

The peak movement at both sites occurred on Mar 23 (1780 WB, 1689 Btn M) and Mar 24 (659 WB, 1390 Btn M); 58% of Btn M record total passed between Mar 20-24th, a typical time for such movements. The autumn total of 24E/1957W WB is analysed in the seawatch tables; the peak of 1192W in 3.5 hrs on Nov 9. Several large flocks were recorded inland on this date including 200SW over Broadwater and 100SSW over Southwick. 1 or 2 WW until Mar 21 and from Dec 18 to Dec 31, 1 Airport Dec 8. A single pale-breasted individual W WB on Nov 19.

61. SHELDUCK - Seawatching totals can be summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	1	-	31	44	177	16	269
W.	44	30	10	36	67	-	187
Brighton E.	-	3	35	55	81	12	186
Marina W.	-	-	13	25	20	-	58

The main spring E movement at WB was observed on calm May evenings. Apart from 26E WB on July 3 the autumn and winter movements were poor with a total of 28E/21W. Elsewhere up to 12 Adur Jan and Feb with 8 still there on Mar 17; 1 WW between Apr 9 and Apr 15; 5 AL May 17 and 2 there June 15.

64. WIGEON - WB recorded 311E/143W on 6 dates in winter/spring including 61W in 1 hr Jan 23, 82W in 2.25 hrs Jan 24 and 227E in 6.75 hrs on Mar 12 with 318E Btn M also on Mar 12. 1 WW on Apr 7. Only 5E/6W at WB in autumn/winter watches. 28 AL on Jan 21, 1 Mar 11 and 20+ Nov 26.
67. GADWALL - 1 Adur Jan 4, 1m AL Apr 3, 2E WB May 23, 5E Btn M Apr 14 and 2E Apr 27. 3m NSF Sept 26 and 1 pr WW Nov 30th concludes our best year for this species.
69. TEAL - 45 AL Jan 8, 20 there Mar 4 increasing to 160 by Mar 11. 91E/3W recorded at WB during spring seawatches including 70E on Mar 12 when Btn M recorded a peak of 165E. Autumn records were of 2 Adur Sept 5 and 1 WW Oct 17 and Nov 3; only 9W at WB from July to Dec.
70. MALLARD - 23 NSF Jan 14, 60 there Aug 29 and 34 Dec 8; 30 Sanc Dec 21. Seawatching produced 12E WB between Mar 4 and May 14, 2E in Sept and 14W in Nov. At Btn M 12E on Jan 21 and up to 28 present until June 11.
72. PINTAIL - 16 AL Jan 21. 1 pr Washington sand pit May 7. Spring seawatching between Mar 11 and May 25 totalled 12E at WB and 9E at Btn M with a flock of 7E noted at both sites on Apr 13. 11E/4W WB Oct 28, 4W Nov 6 and 1W there Nov 9.
73. GARGANEY - 1 pr AL Apr 3, 2E WW Apr 29.
75. SHOVELER - 1 pr WW on Mar 7, 38E/5W WB from Mar 8 to Apr 29 with 10E Apr 14. 44E Btn M on 12 dates from Feb 2 to Apr 21 with peaks of 7E Mar 14 and 10E on Apr 14.
77. POCHARD - 236E WB on Mar 12 in 11 flocks and a further 34E WW gives a total of 270 (area record). Only 32E at Btn M on Mar 12 but also 4E Mar 14, 4E Mar 21 and 2E May 13. Max.

4 at WW during Jan and Feb with last on Mar 11. First autumn record of 2 WW on Nov 5 increasing to 4 by Dec with 5 on Dec 19.

80. TUFTED DUCK - Small parties E at WB and Btn M between Mar 12 and May 2 with max. 19E WB on Mar 12 and 15E Btn M Mar 19. 3W Btn M May 25. Single bird present WW in Dec.

81. SCAUP - Single record of 1 WW on Jan 14.

82. EIDER - Coastal movements are summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	21	4	97	97	174	17	410
W.	3	-	18	-	-	-	21
Brighton E.	-	14	69	142	63	1	289
Marina W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Peak movements were 63E Btn M on Apr 11 and 137E WB in 5 hrs on May 31, a late date for a large movement. The last spring bird passed Btn M on June 17. The autumn movements at WB totalled 12E/59W with a peak of 24W on Dec 3 (see seawatch tables).

Up to 7 offshore WW from May 19 until Oct 20 and 8 there Dec 12; 8 offshore WB throughout late May and three there in late Dec; 1 Harb July 21 to late Aug.

86. LONG TAILED DUCK - 2 offshore SB Apr 17 and 20th. 2E Btn M Apr 19 and 2E there May 16. 1W (imm male) WB on Nov 2.

87. COMMON SCOTER - Spring movements recorded until June 21 and can be summarised as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	5	2	1031	1246	621	279	3184
W.	8	-	12	8	73	-	101
Brighton E.	2	7	1043	2370	1993	557	5972
Marina W.	-	-	19	17	2	-	38

The peak was of 542E at Btn M in 11.5 hrs. on May 17 when 318E passed in a similar time at WB. This species is always

noted in progressively larger numbers at sites further east. No notable movements observed during autumn at WB where totals were 32E/96W (see seawatch table).

Flocks noted offshore included 23 WW on Jan 8, 51 there on Feb 25; 30 Btn M on Apr 19 and 19 there on May 25. 1 female Adur Aug 17 is perhaps the most unusual record of the year.

89. VELVET SCOTER - 1W Harb Jan 2, up to 5 offshore WW Jan 10-12 with 3 there on Mar 3. Between Mar 2 and May 25 a record spring total of at least 170 on 24 dates.

		Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	23	22	30	75
Brighton Marina	E.	5	51	76	132

Peak on May 1 when a flock of 22E passed WB. Later in year at WB only noted on Aug 2 (2W), Oct 24(2W) and Oct 28 (1W).

91. GOLDENEYE - Noted on the coast on 8 dates between Jan 5 and May 1 with max. of 4 WW on Feb 26 and 4 WB on Mar 12. Recorded again after Nov 6 on 7 dates until Dec 14 with a max. of 3 WB on Nov 17. The approx. monthly totals were:-

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	4	10	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	1

94. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Recorded offshore in spring until June 2 and again after Sept 25, movements difficult to assess due to flocks feeding offshore but those considered passing can be summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Worthing E.	29	25	170	192	31	-	447
W.	30	2	10	4	2	10	58
Brighton E.	-	-	46	171	43	-	260
Marina W.	-	1	-	7	-	-	8

The peak was 36E at WB in 8 hrs. on Apr 19; a flock of 10W WB on June 2 is unusual. The autumn movements WB totalled 23E/85W and are analysed in the seawatch table.

Monthly maximum counts of birds offshore:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Dec
Widewater.	4	17	32	10	3	-
West Worthing	20	26	36	18	-	34

Low numbers noted at various times on WW, Brooklands, Hove Lagoon and Adur.

103. MARSH HARRIER - After an absence in 1983, 4 records this year; 1m AL Apr 3 (KN), 1m (sub-ad) Wiston Park Apr 24 (PG), 1m (sub ad) E at WW May 5 (RHE-W, AJP) and 1f/imm Ciss Aug 11 (BFF, FJF).

104. HEN HARRIER - 1m Downs Jan 21, Apr 2 and 17th. 1 ringtail E at Btn M Mar 18 and 1 ringtail Wiston Nov 18.

108. SPARROWHAWK - In winter 18 sites used regularly involving 5 downland, 8 coastal and 6 wealden localities. For breeding records see survey. Autumn records of up to 3/4 birds present Downs Aug-Oct; up to 3 Sanc area Aug-Dec. Increase in records of birds seen over urban areas in Aug, Sept and Oct.

109. BUZZARD - Single birds Downs Jan 29, Mar 30, Apr 5, 14 and 17th with 2 on the 16th. Singles seen twice in June; 1E Ciss and 1 Hove July 23 were possibly the same bird. Singles again on Downs Aug 19, Downs and Adur Sept 2, Newtimber Hill Sept 16 and 3 soaring together at Ciss Oct 11.

115. KESTREL - Noted from seawatching sites on 4 dates between Mar 12 and Apr 25 with another noted arriving WB on Oct 21. For breeding survey see separate article. Autumn gatherings on Downs included 5 Sept 23, 8 Oct 6 and 18 reported by gamekeeper in the air together over Well Bottom in Sept.

118. MERLIN - Again another good year. 1 Downs Portslade Sept 27, 1 Upper Beeding Oct 27 and 1 bird WW on Oct 11, Nov 10 and 24th.

119. HOBBY - Singles noted passing over the coast on 8 dates between Apr 23 and June 11. 1 Sanc May 30 and singles there on Aug 12 and 29th. 1 Adur Rec Sept 7. 9 birds recorded Downs in autumn until Oct 11.

131. QUAIL - Single bird calling AL Small Dole May 6.

136. WATER RAIL - 1 Sanc Feb 11, 1 NSF Nov 1 and 1 Ferring Rife Dec 12 were the only records.

142. MOORHEN - Counts at Brooklands:- Feb 25-20, Oct 17-8 and Nov 21-13. 1 pr Dew Pond Devils Dyke Aug 9.

145. COOT - 39 Brooklands Feb 5 and 20 there Nov 21; 1 pr bred raising 1 young. Max. counts WW:- Jan-7, Feb-8, Mar-6 and Dec-4. 2 Btn M from Jan to Mar 6.

146. CRANE - 1 AL Small Dole May 1-8th (AJP et al). The second area record; the first was 1963. Awaiting acceptance by B.B.R.C.

151. OYSTERCATCHER - Recorded in every month, the largest numbers noted on seawatches where the monthly totals were:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	4	29	167	189	144	7	9	9	20	70	96	23
W.	31	1	23	105	17	7	6	8	41	22	39	12
Brighton E.	12	-	129	278	168	10						
Marina W.	-	-	24	70	18	-						

Interestingly eastward movement predominates throughout most of the year.

Singles Adur Mar 14 and Oct 4; 1 over Upper Beeding Aug 26. Notable increase after Oct as recorded regularly on Widewater Beach with max. 17 on Nov 21 and feeding regularly WB with max. 12 in Dec. Increase reflected in GG roost counts; Oct 12-26, Nov 25-21, Dec 10-11.

153. AVOCET - 2E WB May 6 and 2E there May 13; 1 WW Aug 31.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - 1E WB May 1 and 2 Adur Aug 17.

159. RINGED PLOVER - Peak monthly counts as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur.	130	109	77	12	29	-	20	120	219	87	260	16
Goring.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	113	300	-

Spring movements WB between Mar 12 and May 27 when a record 80E/3E noted with a peak of 13E on Apr 28; at Btn M only 9E noted. During autumn at WB 4E/77W between July 12 and Nov 1 with a peak 23W on Oct 21. 3 prs bred Btn M raising 10 young and 5 prs took territories at WW and 4 prs laid although no young hatched, perhaps due to the presence of a pair of crows. 3 prs displaying and holding territories Downs Apr 14. 1 melanistic bird Goring roost Oct 28. WB observers noted more birds feeding with regularly 20-40 present.

165. GOLDEN PLOVER - 24 AL Jan 15, 12 on Mar 4 and 20 there Nov 26. 1 calling over Lancing Feb 23, 1 Adur July 28 and 1 Sept 18. 1 Portslade Downs Oct 14.

166. GREY PLOVER - Small numbers noted Adur until Apr 11 with max. 4 on Feb 13; 1 or 2 noted there during Oct and Nov. No counts GG during the early months but autumn peak counts were:- Oct 21-11, Nov 7-70, Dec 9-84. Below average spring movements were noted between Mar 18 and May 25 with a peak of 33E WB on Apr 29. The eastward monthly totals were:-

		Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	26	117	98	241
Brighton Marina	E.	1	18	37	56

Autumn movements were on a smaller scale between Aug 2 and Nov 27 when WB totalled 44W.

169. LAPWING - Small movement noted from WB with 52S Jan 19, 15W Jan 24 and Mar/Apr producing 12E/4W. 350+ Downs Feb 24. For detailed breeding study see separate article. Larger numbers than usual are shown below:-

Lower Adur Valley/NSF

Jan 21	400
Feb 18	900
Nov 9	800
Nov 25	3000
Dec 8	9000
Dec 14	6000

Upper Adur Levels

Jan 29	2400
Mar 11	750
Early Aug	200

8 feeding with other waders WB Dec 28.

170. KNOT - Spring movement WB between Mar 4 and May 23 with an above average total of 135E/1W. Although over half were noted in May (73) the peak day of 23E was Apr 29. Btn M however only logged 4 on 2 dates in May.

2 Adur Sept 2 and Sept 19, 1 there Nov 1. 2 FB Sept 5 and various Nov days.

171. SANDERLING - A record spring movement from WB between Mar 22 and June 3 with peak movements 87E on May 10 and 85E on May 18. Fewer were noted at Btn M; the monthly eastbound totals were:-

		Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	4	158	468	20	650
Brighton Marina	E.	-	35	106	-	141

Additional records include 22 WW beach May 17, 4 Adur Apr 9, 2 there July 21 and 1 on July 26. Singles WW Oct 4 and Dec 10. Autumn watching WB only noted 16E/37W. First noted FB Sept 29 and peak counts from GG roost include:- Oct 12-14, Nov 7-62 and Nov 24-155. In keeping with other waders the numbers feeding on WB showed a marked increase with max. 20 in Nov.

175. LITTLE STINT - Singles WW July 25, Aug 25, Sept 8, 12 and 23rd. 1 Goring beach Aug 20. 1 GG roost Oct 12.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER - 1 Btn M on breakwater May 17. 1 Adur Aug 28 and Sept 1.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER - 9 Harb Jan and 3 there Jan 4. 1-3 present Btn M between Jan 1 and Apr 4, 1E Apr 10 and 1E there Apr 25. No records from the end of the year.

184. DUNLIN - The peak monthly counts suggest fewer wintering on the Adur:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur.	450	600	620	29	-	-	20	37	29	42	600	900
GG Roost.	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	175	610
Widewater.	-	-	-	-	10	-	27	16	65	-	-	-

A marked increase in birds feeding at WB where 200 regularly in Nov/Dec and a peak of 294 on Nov 29. Tidal movements at WB continue with a max. of 153E on rising tide on Dec 12. Another wading species which produced record observations on spring migration. Noted WB between Mar 12 and June 1 with peaks of 105E on Mar 23 and 42E on May 5. The monthly totals for eastbound birds were:-

		Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	195	98	186	1	480
Brighton Marina	E.	-	34	69	-	103

Westward movement WB after Aug 2 totalled 399W, peak movement occurring in strong onshore winds, 110W in 2 hrs on Nov 27 and 53W in 5 hrs on Oct 28.

188. RUFF - 1W WB Nov 19 and perhaps same bird feeding FB.

190. SNIFE - Counts from AL Lower Adur/NSF

Feb 10	85	Jan 20	40
Feb 28	156	Nov 10	40
Mar 11	70	Dec 8	61
Nov 26	300	Dec 30	82

1W WB Nov 19, 1 Ciss Sept 8 and 1 GG roost Dec 9.

194. WOODCOCK - 1E Btn M Mar 23 (unusual record) and 1 Ciss on an early date of Oct 11 were our only records.

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT - 1 AL on Apr 3 and 1 Airport on July 26. Despite large movements of waders in spring at WB none of this species recorded.

196. BAR-TAILED GODWIT - An incredible spring movement noted between Mar 12 and May 30. Peak movements occurred, as usual, in late April when 2019E Btn M Apr 27, 1846E there Apr 28 and 3029E WB Apr 29 when curiously only 1162 were noted at Btn M. Poor visibility at WB on Apr 27 and 28th reduced counts to 1637 and 901 respectively. A minimum of 7922E during April and 1668E in May.

		Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	4	6084	1330	7418
Brighton Marina	E.	4	5971	1210	7185

During autumn, Aug 2 to Oct 22, only noted on 8 dates at WB with total 1E/24W. 4 Adur May 3 and up to 4 recorded there during autumn on 5 dates between Aug 29 and Sept 22. 1W over Ciss Aug 30.

198. WHIMBREL - The record spring offshore movement between Mar 23 and May 25 can be summarised below:-

		Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	-	409	437	846 (+62W)
Brighton Marina	E.	3	850	378	1231

A minimum of 903E in April and 566E in May, peak movements 169E Btn M Apr 23 (WB-118) and 161E WB May 14 (Btn M-61). 1 over Lancing Apr 9, max. 3 noted on 5 dates Apr 17-May 3 on Adur, 3 Upper AL Apr 24. Singles WW June 1, July 26 and Aug 29; 1 Mill Hill July 1 and 1S Ciss Aug 16. On Adur up to 2 noted in late July and Aug.

199. CURLEW - Total of 59E/8W at WB between Jan 26 and May 19 and at Btn M 18E in April, 61E in May with a peak of 32E on May 7. Singles Adur Mar, Aug and Oct; singles Downs Aug 21 and Dec 9. Only 8W WB during autumn watches.

201. SPOTTED REDSHANK - No records; last noted in 1982.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	110	73	-	-	-	72	75	130	12	158	93

Coastal movements of 22E WB between Mar 13 and May 19; 8E/2W Btn M between Mar 31 and May 18 and 37W WB in Sept/Oct. Up to 8 birds involved in tidal movements eastward on rise and westward on ebb. 8 GG roost Nov 25 and 11 there on Dec 9.

204. GREENSHANK - A record spring on the coast with total of 20E/1W between Apr 23 and May 19 with a peak of 8E May 5. 2 WW Aug 23 with up to 5 birds present to the end of the month, 4 on Sept 12 decreasing to a single bird on Oct 5. 1-3 Adur/NSF from Aug 3 to Oct 4; some overlap between these sites occurred. 1W over Lancing Oct 3, 8W and calling over Durrington Sept 11. An above average year with the autumn flock of 8 being the most ever seen together.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER - Wintering records of 3 Ferring Rife on Jan 1 and 1-2 present there until end of Jan. 1 AL Jan 21. 1 CC Dec 7 and 26th. Spring arrivals: 1 AL Apr 24, 1E Btn M Apr 27 and 1E there May 6. During the autumn 1 WW Aug 17 and 30th and 1 Adur Sept 9.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER - Wintering records of 1 CC Jan 9 and possibly the same bird on Adur, Steyning, Feb 1. First spring arrival Btn M on Apr 12 then present on 8 days that month with 2 on 25th, 10 dates in May with 3 on 15th and 24th and 1 there on June 1. 7E WB Apr 23 to May 19, another 11 birds recorded in spring at AL, WW, Adur and FB. Autumn passage commenced with 6 Adur July 14 and then recorded throughout Aug/Sept at many coastal sites; last records were 3W WB Sept 27 and 2 at Small Dole on Sept 29.

213. TURNSTONE - A total of 165E/3W at WB between Mar 23 and May 23 with 68E in Apr and 95E/3W in May; peaks were 15E on Apr 28 and 15E on May 16. Fewer at Btn M where 69E/4W total, 34E/1W in April and 35E/3W in May; peaks were 10E Apr 27 and 18E May 17. 1 Btn M June 25. 2 WW May 17 and 1 on Oct 16. 7 FB Sept 29 and 7 Nov 11th. 2E/9W WB between Aug 3 and Dec 1.

216. GREY PHALAROPE - 1E WB Oct 10 (JAN); 13th record in our area since 1981 with 7 in 1981, 4 in 1982 and 1 in 1983.

217. POMARINE SKUA - Spring passage between Apr 21 and June 2 was exceptional with a minimum of 178 birds all passing eastward, 135 noted from Btn M and 76 from WB. Although noted on 10 dates the majority were seen on May 14 when 109E at Btn M including a single flock of 51. The total at WB on May 14 was 64 and included a flock of 26 which departed due S and a very late party of 6 which were both unlikely to be noted at Btn M. More autumn records than usual with single ads E WB Sept 27 and imms WB Oct 24, 25 and 28th.

218. ARCTIC SKUA - 1E WB Feb 29 (RI) was an exceptionally early individual. Offshore spring movement, noted between Mar 23 and June 5, is summarised below:-

		Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	-	24	27	6	57 (+3W)
Brighton Marina	E.	1	21	49	10	81

From the two logs the minimum total passing was 32E in Apr, 64E in May and 13E in June; the peak days of 10E Btn M on May 4 and 9E there on May 17, the max. daily number at WB was only 4. Recorded WB on 16 dates between Sept 9 and Nov 6 with total 7E/32W and peak movement 1E/10W on Oct 22.

219. LONG-TAILED SKUA - 1E Btn M May 16 (JPS); subject to acceptance by the Sussex O.S.

220. GREAT SKUA - Spring passage noted Apr 18 to June 11, the monthly totals: Apr-9E, May-2E/1W and June-1E. The total at WB was 6E whereas Btn M logged 10E/1W; the peak there of 3E on Apr 19. Autumn records WB on 7 dates from Sept 18 to Oct 28 totalling 1E/10W and a peak of 3W on Oct 22.

222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL - A confusing number of records from FB (1), WB (7), WW (2), Ciss (1) and Btn M (10). The monthly distribution of these records can be shown:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
First Year	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Second Year	1	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	1	2	1	-

The records would suggest a very minimum of 15 birds being involved with a marked bias toward the spring migration.

225. LITTLE GULL - 1E Btn M Jan 21, 1E WB Jan 27 and 1 ad Upper AL on Jan 29 were the only records before spring migration started on Mar 23. Noted until May 31 with minimum monthly totals of:- March-25, April-66, May-31. Observation from WB totalled 44E and from Btn M the total of 103E was still fewer than Beachy Head. Peak movements from Btn M were 12E on Apr 20 and 28th and 26E on Apr 30.

Autumn offshore movements between Aug 25 and Dec 8 totalled 2E/53W with peak 12W on Oct 28. 1 Adur between July 17 and 22, singles WW May 5 to May 16, July 14, Oct 6 and Dec 5.

226. SABINE'S GULL - An imm/1st summer E at WB on May 6 (DIS); subject to acceptance by Sussex O.S.

228. BLACK-HEADED GULL - 1200 Downs Jan 12. Eastward spring movements noted between Mar 6 and May 31, thereafter only westward movement was seen. The following table gives the monthly totals:-

		Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	3336	1463	1856	-	6595
	W.	176	-	29	-	205
Brighton Marina	E.	1095	1350	1246	-	3691
	W.	300	4754	103	149	5336

Peak movements at WB were 3000E Mar 29 and 365E May 9 and at Btn M 4500W on Apr 1. The only autumn counts were of 225W at WW on Aug 16 and 3000 Adur Aug 19.

233. COMMON GULL - 100 West Hove Golf Course Apr 1; coastal movements were disappointing at WB where the total between Mar 23 and May 12 was only 443E. However at Btn M movement was noted until June 1 with monthly totals of: Mar-138E, Apr-1929E/1110W, May-382E and June-3E; the peak movements of

100W on Apr 1 and 389E on Apr 4. No autumn or winter counts.

234. LESSER BLACK-BACK GULL - Only 6E noted WB throughout spring although at Btn M the total was 73E. 3 Btn M June 23 and 15 Adur on Sept 8 were the only other notable records.

235. HERRING GULL - The yellow-legged race L.a.michahellis first noted at Small Dole tip on July 13 where the count was 10; undoubtedly increased throughout July and Aug although no counts recieved. Noted on the Adur July 21 to Oct 16 with up to 20 seen between Aug 15 and Aug 29.

236. ICELAND GULL - A 1y E WB Apr 25 (JAN,RJS) was probably the same individual which flew W at WW on May 6 (RHE-W) and noted 70 minutes later at WB (BRC,JAN,BJS).

237. GLAUCOUS GULL - The 2nd winter noted at Small Dole Tip at the end of 1983 was also seen on Jan 1 and Jan 9 (KN); a 1y there Feb 14. Singles were noted at FB and WB on Feb 29, Mar 1 and Mar 19 (FJF,RJS). 1 1st yr E at Btn M on Mar 11 and 2 offshore there on Mar 27.

238. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - Counts at Small Dole Tip include 42 on Jan 18 and 56 on Oct 12; 50 Btn M on Jan 19. All other counts from Adur were: Feb 11-78, July 25-80, Sept 19-150, Oct 16-215, Nov 12-260, Dec 14-85.

240. KITTIWAKE - Recorded in each month, for the early months movements can be tabulated thus:-

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	154	13	72	33	61	10	343
	W.	146	12	51	21	84	5	319
Brighton	E.	-	75	224	386	817	309	1811
Marina	W.	-	-	-	20	78	31	129

The peak movement at WB was 111E in 1 hr Jan 26 and at Btn M 160E in 2 hrs June 11. It is curious how less than 7% are recorded moving west at Btn M whereas at WB 47% are westbound.

The autumn total at WB of 75E/1709W is analysed in the seawatch tables; the peak 574W in 5 hrs on Oct 28.

242. GULL-BILLED TERN - 1E FB Apr 26 (RJS), awaiting acceptance by B.B.R.C. 2nd area record.

245. SANDWICH TERN - Spring passage recorded between Mar 20 and June 21, a monthly analysis is shown below:-

		Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	51	1911	709	142	2813
Brighton Marina	E.	105	3099	824	206	4234

The peak movement 685 Btn M in 13 hrs on Apr 18, at WB the peak on the same day when 272 noted in 6.5 hrs. During Apr/May the rate of passage of 9.0 birds/hr at WB and 10.0/hr at Btn M was similar to most previous years.

246. ROSEATE TERN - 1W Btn M May 19, 2E May 24 and 1E there May 25.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN - Spring passage between Apr 6 and June 21 is summarised below:-

		Apr	May	June	TOTAL	Peak Dates
Worthing	E.	1161	2493	1439	5039	996-June 1
Brighton Marina	E.	1932	4662	1905	8499	913-June 3

The passage was uncharacteristically even throughout the spring with 23 dates logging in excess of 100 birds, similarly atypical was the late dates for peak spring movements. Return passage WB only 65E/191W with the last 4 on Oct 28.

251. LITTLE TERN - Spring passage recorded between Apr 11 and June 13, monthly totals are tabulated below:-

		Apr	May	June	TOTAL	Peak Dates
Worthing	E.	229	377	30	636	68-May 5
Brighton Marina	E.	149	170	17	336	25-May 17&23

It is puzzling why more have been recorded at WB on each of the past springs, this has been emphasised this year particularly when one considers that Btn M was watched for many more hrs than WB.

This species remains scarce offshore during autumn, only 2 singles W WB on Aug 3, 3 WW Sept 9 and the last WB on Sept 27. 1 Adur Aug 22.

253. BLACK TERN - Noted on spring passage between Apr 19 and June 3, at WB a below average total noted on 11 days, at Btn M only recorded on 10 days but notably more numerous as shown in the table below:-

		Apr	May	June	TOTAL	Peak Dates
Worthing	E.	4	24	2	30	12E-May 15
Brighton Marina	E.	9	58	6	73	24E-May 16

1W WB Aug 3 was the sole coastal autumn record.

255. GUILLEMOT - A total of 17, usually in singles, noted offshore between WB and Btn M until June 6. Similar small numbers totalling 26 were noted after Sept 25 with a small peak of 10E WB during Nov.

257. RAZORBILL - A total of 8 noted offshore between Jan 26 and May 23; later 19 recorded between Sept 11 and Dec 31.

260. LITTLE AUK - 1 around Worthing Pier Jan 18 (RI) makes the third successive year of records.

261. PUFFIN - 1E reported (no description) at Btn M on May 1.

AUK SP. - Recorded offshore between Jan 2 and June 21, and later between Sept 9 and December. Movements during the first six months are summarised below:-

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	TOTAL
Worthing	E.	18	-	2	4	6	1	31
	W.	6	2	1	-	7	-	16
Brighton	E.	4	-	2	14	65	8	93
Marina	W.	-	-	-	2	4	4	6

The peak movement 28E Btn M on May 17. Autumn watches from WB totalled 50E/57W with a peak of 21E/1W in 4 hrs on Nov 8 (see seawatching tables).

264. STOCK DOVE - No large downland flocks noted. Single prs noted in 4 locations; 2 Btn M on Apr 25.

265. WOOD PIGEON - 1000+ Downs on Feb 24 and 300NW over Maybridge on Dec 9.

266. COLLARED DOVE - At Btn M 7 noted moving in Apr and 1N on June 16. 107 feeding around grain silos Harb Oct 13 and winter roost of 30 at Sanc shows a further decline.

267. TURTLE DOVE - Singles Downs on Apr 17 and Mumbles on Apr 20; 2 AL Apr 24 and 1N Btn M May 17. Breeding counts:- 1 pr Ciss, 3 prs Devils Dyke, 2 pr Small Dole. Last record of 1 Portslade Downs Sept 26.

271. CUCKOO - Singles Ciss and Shoreham Apr 20 and 1 Mumbles Apr 21 were the first records. 1N Btn M May 5. Breeding season records reported from Airport, Coombes, Small Dole, Titnore Lane, West Durrington, Ferring Rife, Sompting Village and Lancing. Last bird Ciss on Sept 6.

274. BARN OWL - 1 Lancing College Jan 22, 1 Oreham Common Mar 10 and 1 Wiston Pond Dec 12.

279. LITTLE OWL - See separate breeding survey. Recorded regularly at Downs in autumn/winter. Singles Lancing Aug 26, Portslade Oct 30 and Sompting Dec 12.

280. TAWNY OWL - See separate breeding survey. One found dead below power lines Cuckoo Corner Sept 29. Several prs reported from Worthing area in winter months, singles Sanc Feb 19 and Sept 8.

281. LONG-EARED OWL - 2 birds flushed by beaters on Downland shoot in Mar, 1 at downland site Nov 10; 1E Btn M Mar 16 must have surprised observers!

282. SHORT-EARED OWL - 1E WW on Mar 9 and 1 Adur on Nov 18.
289. SWIFT - 2N Btn M Apr 26 and 27th, 1 Upper Beeding on Apr 28 and 2 Ciss on Apr 29 were the first arrivals. A total of 119N Btn M in May and 100 WW May 28 were the only large numbers reported in spring. 200 West Hove golf course June 28, 150 Ciss June 26 and 100W there Aug 5; 200 Worthing Aug 5. The last record 1W Sanc and then over Lancing College by two different observers on the evening of Oct 7.
293. KINGFISHER - A max. of 2 recorded from Adur for all months except July; 1 pr regularly in Steyning area in June, 1 WW Oct 24, singles Sanc Feb May and June.
298. WRYNECK - 1 in garden Broadwater Apr 29 (CEM), 1 Ferring Rife Aug 27-Sept 2 (MPH,DIS) and 1 in Findon garden on Sept 11 (RE). A remarkable year as only 7 previously recorded.
300. GREEN WOODPECKER - 8 breeding records from the downland areas, including 4 prs near Ciss. Possibly 3 prs in Adur Valley and AL, 2 prs Wiston and single prs Offington, Washington and Ashurst. Isolated winter records of 1 Hove Park Jan 18, 2 Small Dole Jan 18 and 1 Ricardos Feb 17.
302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - 1 pr Sanc Feb until Mar 17. Breeding season records from Washington, Ciss, Sompting, Findon, Henfield and 5 prs Wiston/Ashurst. 1 in garden Offington late Aug and Sept, 1 Devils Dyke Aug 9 and seen regularly in winter at North Lancing.
303. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER - 1 Lancing Manor Feb 4, 1 calling in a Steyning garden during April and 1 Cement Works Oct 1.
311. SKYLARK - 30 prs on 55 ha AL Common Bird Census (CBC). A total of 9N/33E Btn M in Mar. Only sizeable flocks recorded in winter were 42 Adur Rec Jan 2, 400 GG Feb 4 and 40 Ciss Feb 12.

313. SAND MARTIN - Very few records of this species in our area. 1 Adur Apr 15, 1 Btn M Apr 22 and only 3N there remainder of the spring. 2 Sompting Oct 27.
314. SWALLOW - First arrivals 3N Btn M Apr 9, singles Bramber and Portslade Apr 16 and NSF Apr 17; a total of 239N Btn M April and May. Autumn movements included 200E WB in 15 mins Sept 20 and 1700E there in 65 mins on 28th. 1500+E per hr Sanc (movement lasted several hrs) Sept 26. 200N WB Oct 6. Last birds singles Broadwater Nov 12 and WW on Nov 26.
316. HOUSE MARTIN - First single noted Airport on Mar 31 but then none until 1 Breeding Apr 14 with 4 there by Apr 17. Several other records for 23-25 Apr. During autumn 50E Ciss on Aug 21, 300 Sanc on Sept 29, 700E WB in 20 mins Oct 1. Last records of 2 Broadwater on Nov 9 and 1 GG on Nov 17.
320. TREE PIPIT - Spring arrivals 1N Ciss Apr 8, singles N Btn M Apr 14 and 22nd. 1 Wiston May 15. A total of 182 recorded at Ciss in autumn with peaks of 14 on Aug 16 and 50 on Aug 27. 1 Ferring Rife Aug 27-Sept 2; last recorded Ciss Sept 29.
322. MEADOW PIPIT - A total of 1736N Btn M during Mar with peak of 1046N Mar 31. Also on the same day 1000+N WB. Counts of 96E Newtimber Hill on Mar 16 and 80 Ciss Apr 8. 25 pr on 55 ha AL CBC. 13 pr on 3 km walk north of Tollbridge June 30. 300 Ciss on Sept 23 falling to 200 by Oct 6, 30 WW on Oct 4 dropping to 8 by Nov 24.
324. ROCK PIPIT - Small numbers of up to 6 noted from Jan until Apr 6 and again after mid October from usual locations at WB, WW, Harb, Adur and Btn M. Birds showing characteristics of Water Pipit were 2 AL on Mar 4, singles Btn M Feb 22, Mar 4 and Apr 10; 1 WW on Mar 4.
325. YELLOW WAGTAIL - First arrivals at Btn M on Apr 14, NSF on Apr 15, WW on Apr 21 and 2 Ciss on Apr 25. A total of 20N Btn M in April and 2N in May. Suspected breeding NSF as 1 pr with juv on June 29. First autumn record of 6 Adur Rec Aug 21 and up to 12 there on Sept 13. Small numbers elsewhere

with 9 Ciss on Aug 27, 50 FB on Sept 2 and 5th; 16E at dusk WB Aug 26 and 10NE dusk Sanc Aug 29. 1W Goring Beach on Oct 3 was the last noted.

327. GREY WAGTAIL - 1 Harb on Jan 4, 4 AL Jan 21 and 1 Btn M on Mar 22 were the only records for the early year. No breeding season records and the first for the autumn was 1NW High Salvington on Aug 20. Thereafter noted at 5 locations with a max of 4 WW on Sept 10.

328. PIED WAGTAIL - 40 AL Jan 29. Autumn and winter roost sites and flight lines were as follows:- c300 Shoreham reed bed during Sept and Oct; 200+ Seeboard Broadwater roof-top roost on Oct 17; 40E Durrington on Nov 25 and E movements at dusk noted over Maybridge between Dec 4 and 16th with max. 213E on Dec 12 and lastly 92S Upper Beeding at dusk on Dec 9.

Singles showing characteristics of White Wagtail were seen at Btn M on Apr 10, 16, 22 and 25th and at WW on Mar 23.

331. WREN - 4 prs on 55 ha AL CBC.

333. DUNNOCK - 5 prs on 55 ha AL CBC.

336. ROBIN - 1 on beach Btn M Mar 26 and 8 Mill Hill Nov 21.

338. NIGHTINGALE - 1 trapped Mumbles Steyning on Apr 22 was the first; breeding prs recorded at Washington and Small Dole. During autumn singles at Ciss on Aug 8, Devils Dyke on Aug 27 and at the Mumbles on Aug 15 and 22nd.

342. BLACK REDSTART - The large number of records suggested a minimum monthly total as shown below:-

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	3	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	22	6	6

The short table shows the wintering birds at the usual sites like Harb and WW and it reveals the peak of spring passage to be in March although continuing later as shown by 1 WB on May 23. A large autumn passage started abruptly on Oct 16

with a marked influx on Oct 30 and 31st when 16 individuals noted between Brooklands and SB.

All but three of the years' records came from the coast or coastal plain; the exceptions were singles at Chanctonbury on Mar 30 and Oct 17, and at Upper Beeding on Nov 6.

343. REDSTART - 1 Btn M Apr 12, 2 Ciss Apr 17 and 1 Mill Hill May 7 were the only spring records. Only a total of 30 Ciss in autumn with 5 on Sept 3 and 8 on Sept 8. Just 1 at Sanc on Aug 27, 1 Hove garden on Sept 5, 3 Newtimber Hill on Sept 16 and finally 2 Ciss on Oct 6.

344. WHINCHAT - A good number of spring records with 10 noted from 7 widely spread localities between Apr 21 and May 18. An early migrant on Downs July 17, then none until 4 Ciss Aug 12 with 80 recorded in Aug with peaks of 36 on 19th and 19 on 30th; only 32 recorded in Sept at this site. 7 Adur Rec Aug 30 and 8 there Sept 8, 12 Adur Sept 2. Counts at Ferring Rife totalled 54 in Aug/Sept with peaks of 16 on Sept 2 and 13 on Sept 13. Small passage noted on West Hove golf course in Aug. Last records from Ciss and WW on Oct 6.

345. STONECHAT - 3 prs on Adur between railway bridge and CC in Jan. Singles at WW, West Durrington and Btn M in Mar were thought to be migrants. 1 Upper Beeding Apr 10 and 1m WW May 13. Prs nested north side of Airport raising 2 young and suspected of nesting at Ferring Rife and Steepdown. The autumn dispersal on the downs first noted Sept 18 with 8 on 29th and 12 at Ciss by Oct 6. 7 prs in winter located along Adur valley and coastal area with 2 prs at winter sites on the downs.

346. WHEATEAR - The first spring birds were 1 WB and 4 Btn M on Mar 21 followed by 1 FB, WW and 2 Airport on Mar 22; then a further 29 recorded in March at coastal localities. A large influx occurred during Apr 10-12th with 21+ WW on 10th and another 12 there during the evening of the 12th. This day also produced 86 at FB in 2 hrs, 9 at Ciss and 19 at Btn M. The last spring birds were singles at WW on May 24 and at Shoreham Beach on June 6. First autumn record of 1 WB July 26 but in keeping with past years the main autumn passage

occurred on the Downs with 464 birds counted during Aug and only 20 in Sept. Peak Cissbury dates were:-

August:-	13th	15th	18th	19th	20th	21st
	30	43	43	39	115	100+

Falls were noted elsewhere with 18 Airport/Adur Rec on Aug 28, 14 FB on Aug 16, 10 West Hove golf course on Aug 25 and 13 Portslade Downs on Aug 31. The last records of singles SB and WW on Nov 2.

359. RING OUZEL - 1 Ciss May 2 and 2 there on Sept 29.

360. BLACKBIRD - 13 prs AL CBC on 55 ha.

364. FIELDFARE - 111 AL Jan 9 and 300 there on 29th, 49 Tottington on Jan 18 and 50 West Hove golf course on Jan 19. 1 Devils Dyke May 10 is our latest spring date. A very late winter arrival with the first 33 at Ciss on Nov 2 then 300 AL Nov 17 and 400+ there on 30th.

366. REDWING - Largest counts made were 167 AL on Jan 9, 50 Coombes on Jan 28 and 100+ Lancing College on Mar 11. Extensive overnight movements were noted on Mar 5 and 22nd. Singles at Lancing on Apr 9 and Brooklands Apr 11th. 1 trapped Sanc Sept 29 equals the previous early record but the main arrival occurred with 80W Ciss and 11 High Salvington on Oct 6. An overnight movement was heard at Portslade on Oct 31 and Nov 1. The only large late winter flocks noted were 89 Adur on Dec 9 and 127 AL Dec 28.

373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER - 1 in song Wiston May 1st and 2nd and 1 ringed Ciss Aug 21 were the only records.

378. SEDGE WARBLER - 4 Airport Apr 23, 1 Btn M May 1. Breeding season counts were as follows:- 12 prs AL CBC on 55 ha, 4 prs Small Dole, 10 prs north side of Airport, 3 prs St Botolphs.

382. REED WARBLER - First recorded Airport on Apr 17 and 2 Mumbles, Steyning on Apr 27 where 9 prs stayed to breed. 1 bird in song Worthing garden June 1. 40 prs AL CBC on 55 ha. 2 birds ringed Ciss Aug 19 and 25th; the last record of 2 Sanc on Sept 29.

397. LESSER WHITETHROAT - 1 Mumbles Steyning Apr 20 was the only record until 10 Cis and 2 Tarring on May 2. 1 singing in a Worthing garden on June 1 was, like the Reed Warbler, on late passage. Singing males located at Small Dole (2), east bank of Adur (2), Coombes, SW side Airport and Ciss area (4/5). First autumn migrants were noted at Ciss with 18 on July 29, 38 on Aug 16 and 26 on Sept 18 but the overall total of 122 was lower than the average numbers usually recorded. 1 Devils Dyke Sept 27 and 1 Ciss 29th were the last recorded.

398. WHITETHROAT - Only spring record was 5 Ciss May 2. Breeding season counts of 7 singing males on Devils Dyke, 6 Adur, 7 Truruleigh Hill, 3 Mill Hill Hill and 2 Washington sand pit (a decline from 6-8 in 1983). Low numbers were noted on the Downs in the autumn with peaks of 40 at Ciss on Aug 11, 31 Ciss on Aug 16, the last recorded here on Sept 29.

399. GARDEN WARBLER - 1 Btn M May 4, an unusual location and 2 singing Devils Dyke during May/June. 9 recorded Ciss in autumn including 3 there Sept 16 and 1 Newtimber Hill on the same day.

400. BLACKCAP - Wintering individuals noted in a Steyning garden between Feb and Apr and in Tarring on Feb 15. Few noted during the spring, the earliest being 1 Offington Mar 10 and 1 in a Shoreham garden on Apr 6. The peak counts on the Downs during autumn were:- Sept 8-40, Sept 17-50, Sept 25-60, Sept 29-30. Autumn passage continued into Nov as three different individuals trapped in Worthing and singles noted in Hove gardens on Nov 15 and Dec 1, the last perhaps intending to stay the winter.

408. WOOD WARBLER - 2 Devils Dyke Aug 26; the only record.

409. CHIFFCHAFF - Only 3 birds, all singles, in early winter; 2 in Shoreham on Jan 4 and Feb 16 and 1 in Worthing on Feb 23. First spring birds in March were singles West Durrington on 6th, Mumbles on 25th, Btn M on 27th and Upper Beeding on the 30th. Elsewhere very few birds were seen in spring with records only from WW, Btn M and Henfield. Very low passage at Ciss in autumn with 24 on Sept 23 the only significant count. The only other count was 22 at Newtimber Hill on Sept 16. A total of 11 late records, most from urban gardens, 8 in the Worthing area with 7 in Dec including 1 singing in Homefield Park on Dec 5.

410. WILLOW WARBLER - The first birds were singles at WW and Upper Beeding on Apr 7; 9 WW on Apr 11, 10 Ciss on Apr 16, 20 there on Apr 17 and 40 May on May 2 were the only significant spring counts. After Apr 10 a total of 8 noted at Btn M. 8 singing Devils Dyke during June. An average passage at Ciss with peaks of 70 on Aug 8, 350 on Aug 11 but only 18 by 12th; 76 on Aug 19, 40 on 23rd and 145 on the 20th. 5 present in West Worthing garden on Aug 11 coincided with the large falls on the Downs, no large numbers were recorded at the Sanc.

411. GOLDCREST - No autumn passage recorded.

412. FIRECREST - 1 WW on Mar 23, 1 Devils Dyke on Oct 14 and 1 female trapped in a West Worthing garden on Nov 3.

413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - No spring arrivals noted. Pairs suspected of breeding were located at Ciss, Cuckoo's Corner and 2 pr Beeding Church although absent from a previous site at Findon Church. Very little passage in autumn at Ciss except for 50 on Sept 2 and 15 on Sept 8; small numbers recorded at various other sites with 5 Ferring Rife on Aug 27, the last birds being seen in a Hove garden on Oct 4.

416. PIED FLYCATCHER - 1m Sanc on Apr 18. Between Aug 14 and Sept 15 a good scattering of records involving 21 birds in 12 locations including birds seen in 4 different gardens in urban areas.

418. LONG-TAILED TIT - Large parties were noted; 12 Findon on Jan 6, 19 in a Findon Valley garden on July 25, 12 Small Dole on Sept 29 and 10 Devils Dyke on Oct 14.

419. MARSH TIT - 1 singing Devils Dyke April/May. 2 Newtimber Hill on Sept 16 and 2-3 prs present Ciss during Aug-Sept.

420. WILLOW TIT - 2 prs Devils Dyke all year, 3 Newtimber Hill Sept 16 and 1 Ciss on Aug 16.

425. NUTHATCH - 2 prs nesting Spithandle Lane, Steyning. 1 in a Steyning garden Apr/May and 1 bird calling at Ciss on Sept 17.

427. TREE CREEPER - Noted at Withdean (Brighton), Portslade and 3 prs at Lower Chanctonbury.

436. JAY - After the large movements of autumn 1983 a total of 24 were noted moving in a N or E direction over the coastal plain between Apr 25 and May 30, the largest flock of 6N over West Hove on Apr 25. Small autumn flocks of 6 at Devils Dyke on Sept 27 and 6 at Small Dole on Sept 29.

437. MAGPIE - Several observers have commented that there appears to be a general increase in this species, counts of this bird would therefore assist in proper monitoring. 24 Tottington Sands on Feb 15.

441. ROOK - 200+ Ciss on Aug 16 and 170 Beeding Hill Dec 9. No rookery counts recieved this year.

442. CARRION CROW - 22 Goring/Ferring beach Mar 1 and 11 West Hove Golf Course on Sept 19.

438. JACKDAW - 400 AL on Oct 27.

448. TREE SPARROW - 40 AL Jan 9 and 1 WW Nov 26. There were no records from the Downs.

451. CHAFFINCH - 150 Wiston Feb 18, 50 Ciss Feb 24 and 120 there on Sept 25. 9 prs on 55 ha AL CBC.

452. BRAMBLING - 40 Withdean Park on Mar 19 and 1m singing at Wiston on Apr 12.

455. GREENFINCH - 5 prs on 55 ha AL CBC. 120 Ciss on Oct 6 and 15 WW on Nov 21.

456. GOLDFINCH - A spring total of 185 in off sea at Btn M. 2 prs on 55 ha AL CBC. Autumn counts include 100 Newtimber Hill on Sept 16, 75 Kings Barn, Steyning on Sept 23, 213E WB in small flocks in a 20 min period on Oct 1 and 320E WW in 25 mins on the same day. 80 Ciss on Oct 6.

457. SISKIN - 1 in a Steyning garden Feb 12. 1 Wiston Mar 10 and 1 Chanc Mar 11.

458. LINNET - At Btn M spring arrivals were 25N in March, 335N in Apr and 3N in May. 14 prs on 55 ha AL CBC. No large downland flocks recorded.

459. TWITE The annual wintering flock in the vicinity of the Adur saltmarshes has continued to decline with the only records being 3-Jan 2, 4-Nov 1, 1-Nov 18, 2-Nov 26 and 7-Dec 6. Invariably this species associates with Linnets so care is needed to make accurate counts..

460. REDPOLL - 3N Btn M on 3 dates in Apr. 1 Sanc Sept 23, 2 there Oct 14 and a single bird on Oct 26. 3 feeding in a Shoreham garden on Nov 4. 2NE over Adur on Nov 18 conclude a poor autumn. 6 Mouse Lane Steyning on Dec 29 were the only winter records.

463. CROSSBILL - Considering the large numbers seen around the county in early winter there were surprisingly only two records: 1m Wiston Feb 5 and 2 there on the 17th.

469. BULLFINCH - Resident at Devils Dyke with 15 on Oct 21. Also seen regularly at Lychpole Hill where up to 12 birds recorded all year.

494. SNOW BUNTING 1 GG Nov 21 was the only record and the 6th since 1981.

496. YELLOWHAMMER - Feeding flocks of 100-150 birds noted at Ciss from Aug to Oct. 3 prs on 55 ha AL CBC.

506. REED BUNTING - Regular in a Maybridge garden in winter/spring with max. 8 in Jan. 1 in a Lancing garden Mar 7. 1N Btn M Mar 23. 8 singing males in 4 km walk north of the Tollbridge on June 30 and 19 prs on 55 ha AL CBC.

510. CORN BUNTING - 12 WW Jan 8 and 40 Findon same day. 45 singing males on 3 km walk on Portslade Downs during May/June. 120 Adur roost on Sept 29.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1984

This feature has been compiled from records sent in by local observers. Abbreviations are the same as in 'The Notable Birds of the Area'.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Whimbrel	Apr 10 WB	Oct 24 Adur
*Common Sandpiper	Apr 12 Btn M	Sept 29 Small Dole
Sandwich Tern	Mar 22 WB	Oct 12 WB
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr 6 WB	Oct 28 WB
Little Tern	Apr 11 WB	Sept 27 WB
Turtle Dove	Apr 17 Cissbury	Sept 26 Portslade
Cuckoo	Apr 20 Ciss/Shor	Sept 6 Cissbury
Swift	Apr 26 Btn M	Oct 7 Sanc/Collge
Sand Martin	Apr 15 Adur	Oct 27 Sompting
Swallow	Apr 9 Btn M	Nov 26 Widewater
House Martin	Mar 31 Airport	Nov 17 Goring Gap
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 14 Btn M	Oct 3 GB
Redstart	Apr 12 Btn M	Oct 6 Cissbury
Whinchat	Apr 21 Cissbury	Oct 6 Cissbury
*Wheatear	Mar 21 Btn M	Nov 2 Swick Beach
Reed Warbler	Apr 17 Airport	Sept 29 Sanctuary
Whitethroat	May 2 Cissbury	Sept 29 Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 20 Mumbles	Sept 29 Cissbury
Garden Warbler	May 4 Btn M	Sept 16 Cissbury
*Blackcap	Apr 6 Shoreham	Nov 11 Hove
*Chiffchaff	Mar 6 Durrington	Oct 21 Devils Dyke
Willow Warbler	Apr 7 Widewater	Sept 9 Ferring
Spotted Flycatcher	No Records	Oct 4 Hove

* Excluding possible wintering birds.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1984

For the ninth successive year the area's ringing total has topped the 3000 mark as a total 3605 birds of 56 species were ringed. This shows a small increase from 1983 but like last year only 7% (270) were ringed as nestlings; the majority therefore ringed as full grown birds. Clearly the local ringers are poor nest finders as the national figures show over 22% of the ringing totals are nestlings. A large proportion of the birds in recent years have been trapped on Sompting refuse tip; indeed in 1984 the Gull Study Group led by Dr.Barrie Watson caught 2129 gulls of which 1668 needed ringing, 23 birds were wearing foreign rings and the rest were retraps ringed in this area.

Dr.Barrie Watson also caught 411 smaller birds in Shoreham; 35% of his total being Pied Wagtails mist netted at the local roost. Dr.John Newnham spent another year trapping at the Sanctuary where the total of 600 was similar to 1983 and a further 218 were ringed in his Worthing garden. The Steyning Ringing Group continued ringing at the Mumbles near Steyning and their total of 262 was similar to 1983. However, an additional 53 pulli ringed on the Wiston Estate and 369 birds trapped on the north face of Cissbury brought the Steyning Group, led by Phil and Brian Clay, to a total of 708 birds ringed. The project of mist netting migrants on the downs could prove very interesting as sight records suggest that many hundreds of warblers pass through this area during the Autumn.

The table below shows the numbers of the 56 species ringed during 1984. When comparing the table with those of previous years one must consider that the numbers shown reflect the effort of the local ringers rather than changes in the population of birds. For example the increase in the number of scrub warblers, particularly the Whitethroat is purely due to the birds caught at the new site at Cissbury; likewise the absence of waders from the totals list merely reflects the absence of mist netting sessions on the estuary. However the total of 6 Pied Flycatchers is exceptional and probably suggests a greater abundance in this area during the Autumn.

TABLE 1

Sparrow Hawk	1	Reed Warbler	70
Kestrel	5	Lesser Whitethroat	42
Black-headed Gull	1581	Whitethroat	42
Common Gull	33	Garden Warbler	17
Lssr Black-back Gull	6	Blackcap	93
Herring Gull	32	Chiff-chaff	49
Grt Black-back Gull	12	Willow Warbler	170
Wood Pigeon	2	Goldcrest	15
Tawny Owl	1	Firecrest	1
Swift	2	Spotted Flycatcher	7
Grt Spotted W/pecker	1	Pied Flycatcher	6
Swallow	97	Long-tailed Tit	23
Tree Pipit	1	Marsh Tit	3
Meadow Pipit	3	Coal Tit	4
Yellow Wagtail	1	Blue Tit	315
Pied Wagtail	144	Great Tit	132
Wren	53	Jay	1
Dunnock	99	Magpie	1
Robin	84	Jackdaw	4
Nightingale	3	Starling	20
Redstart	1	Chaffinch	52
Stonechat	2	Greenfinch	114
Blackbird	90	Goldfinch	27
Song Thrush	34	Linnet	8
Redwing	4	Bullfinch	48
Mistle Thrush	2	Yellowhammer	12
Grasshopper Warbler	1	Reed Bunting	11
Sedge Warbler	11	Corn Bunting	10

Recoveries - the following are the more interesting recoveries reported during 1984:-

1) Black-headed Gull During 1984 a further 130 recoveries were reported to add to those displayed in the ringing report for 1983. Furthermore there were 23 controls from Russia (2), Finland (1), Estonia (3), Lithuania (2), Poland (2), Sweden (1), W.Germany (1), Netherlands (2), Belgium (6) and within Great Britain (3).

The recoveries can be listed as coming from Russia (9), Finland (10), Sweden (8), Norway (1), Poland (4), Denmark (15), E.Germany (3), W.Germany (3), Netherlands (9), Eire (1) and within Great Britain (65). The following was the most unusual and atypical of these recoveries.

Ringed	1st year	29-02-84	Sompting Tip
Found dead		16-10-84	Waterford Eire
			493km WNW

2) Common Gull Recoveries from Norfolk, E.Germany and Denmark were notified.

3) Lesser Black-backed Gull

Ringed	adult	07-03-84	Sompting Tip
Found dead		18-07-84	Sorvag Vagur Faeroes
			1317km NNW

This bird of the 'graellsii' race reminds us that pale grey mantled gulls are not necessarily of British origin but could come from Iceland, or like this one, from the Faeroes.

4) Herring Gull The 14 recoveries reported during 1984 came from Sussex (6), Kent (1), Greater London (1), Hampshire (2), Isle of Wight (1), Dorset (1), Devon (1) and Cornwall (1).

5) Swallow

Ringed	juv	16-08-84	Brandon Marsh Coventry
Controlled		12-09-84	Shoreham Sanctuary
			188km SSE

Both caught and controlled on Autumn migration, this recovery supplements those listed in 1983 ringing report.

6) Redwing

Ringed	adult	11-03-84	Shoreham Sanctuary
Shot		02-11-84	Courset Pas de Calaise FRANCE 150km E

Perhaps this bird was returning to spend another winter in Britain; the only other recovery of a Redwing from this area was one found dead near Southampton nearly a year after it was ringed in Feb. 1962.

7) Reed Warbler

a) Ringed	juv	20-07-80	Steyning
Shot		01-05-81	Ksar Tasarin, Amougar MORROCCO 2110km SW
b) Ringed	juv	21-07-84	Shoreham Sanctuary
Controlled		16-08-84	Ria de Jaizuba Guipuzcoa, SPAIN 841km S

In excess of 40 movements have been recorded from this area and these two are the fourth and fifth from foreign lands. Both may have been birds bred in the area but certainly both were recovered on their migration flights.

8) Blue Tit Two Blue Tits trapped at Worthing showed movements from Reigate (51km SW) and to Wisborough Green (25km NW). Certainly there were no signs in this area of the predicted irruption of this species.

9) Starling Winter trapping in Worthing produced the following results:-

a	Shot	female	24-05-83	Vaniaa Uusimaa FINLAND 1896km NE
b)	Killed	female	08-07-81	Gingelom Limburg BELGIUM 388km E

c) Killed 3-01-84 Gistel, West Vlaanderen
BELGIUM
238km E

The movement recorded to Finland was the first recorded from this area but the Belgian recoveries are more typical.

10) Greenfinch

a) Ringed	1 yr fem	13-10-83	Dungeness Kent
Controlled		07-09-84	Worthing
			98km W
b) Ringed	1 yr male	29-12-83	Worthing
Found dead		13-05-84	Hurst Green Sussex
			66km ENE

These, when linked to the recoveries of this species summarised in the 1978 report, suggest Greenfinches move South and West during the Winter, returning the following Spring.

11) Goldfinch Mark Wright discussed the movements of this species in the 1978 Shoreham report; the following recovery is typical in its location but is very early for a Goldfinch to be in Spain.

Goldfinch (cont)

Ringed	juv	29-08-81	Shoreham Sanctuary
Captured & killed		15-09-82	Burgos SPAIN 930km S

There were also, as usual, many local recoveries which help to build a picture of the life histories of our local birds.

Dr. J. A. Newnham.

SANCTUARY REPORT 1984

During 1984 the Society's Sanctuary was visited on at least 52 occasions with 42 of these being long visits for the purpose of mist netting. Although this seems a far cry from the 200 visits in 1976 and the regular 100 or more days observations in the early 1960's it still represents a regular recording and a valuable contribution to the ornithology of this area.

Peanuts and suet were offered at a bird table in the winter so increasing the number of tits in the copse and attracting at least 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers. In the flooded streams a Water Rail could be seen, up to 20 Mallard noted in the fields and an occasional Kingfisher was recorded. On Feb.5 about 15 society members spent the morning chopping and pulling willow cuttings from the main stream on the west side of the copse. A fortnight later another party, including some 'retraps' from the first expedition, helped coppice the main willow patch in the centre of the Sanctuary. Such trimming and gardening is necessary to maintain the height of the copse suitable for both birds and mist-nets and I thank all those who ventured out to help in the task.

No spring migrants were noted until Apr.7 when a Chiffchaff was singing; strong north to north-east winds seemed to delay the arrival of summer birds and no large falls were noted. Typically spring falls occur at the sanctuary in west to south-west winds with overnight rain, a feature lacking this April. However, noteworthy records did occur; a Green Woodpecker in March was unusual, a pristine male Pied Flycatcher was feeding in the Sycamore on Apr.18 and a Kingfisher was trapped on May 16. On May 30, after the eclipse of the sun, a Hobby was watched chasing amongst a flock of 60 House Martins and 3 Jays flew over, the latter being a very unusual spring sight at the Sanctuary and no doubt related to the previous autumn's eruption. During June the usual maintenance of bridges and paths occupied a lot of time. The month is usually a quiet period when butterflies and damselflies are more obvious than

birds. No detailed breeding survey was undertaken this year and the only record of note was of 2 Redshank on the marsh on June 10; it is many years since Redshanks have been seen on the watermeadows during the summer.

The summer was again hot and dry; the streams dwindled to puddles and the ground became parched. Often similar circumstances attract flocks of finches to the remaining puddles to drink but curiously this year all the finches were again very scarce. Warblers passed through in a trickle; seemingly mist netting days at the Sanctuary did not coincide with the main warbler movements as many south coast sites trapped good numbers of migrants but the table below, particularly when compared to previous years, clearly shows that the numbers of common migrants at the Sanctuary were below average.

Numbers Ringed During Autumn 1984

Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Lesser White	Common White	Garden Warbler	Blackcap	Chiff-chaff	Willow Warbler
5	20	12	0	2	25	38	26

During the early autumn at least one Sparrow Hawk was regularly seen and a Hobby was noted on two occasions. The few Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers and Grey Wagtail added colour to a rather mediocre early autumn.

A school party from Angmering visited the copse in July and enjoyed seeing many common birds in the hand. About the same time the pastures to the north of the copse changed ownership. Very soon the new owner had cleared the small ditches, grubbed out many of the bushes and hedgerows on the marsh and encouraged the S.W.A. to dredge the main dyke. Bulldozers and dredging equipment were in action during September but thanks to the water authority engineers these activities should have little or no effect on the Sanctuary. By late September hirundine movements were in full flight as on Sept.26 several thousand Swallows were passing eastward each hour. However martins were scarce apart from one flock of 300 House Martins on Sept.29. On this date the first

winter Redwing were noted, about two weeks earlier than usual, and at least 2 Reed Warblers and a Garden Warbler were still present.

Throughout October a few Redwing were seen and a general increase in Chaffinches was noted although no large flocks or movements were seen. At dusk a small Blackbird roost gathered on the hillside well to the south of the sanctuary and there was some evidence of a small Robin roost in the copse. The winter Collared Dove roost seemed to dwindle further as seldom more than 30 individuals were noted. By December the copse appeared very quiet with the exception of an occasional Sparrow Hawk, a few Tree Sparrows, up to 50 Redwing roosting on the hillside and a Chiff-chaff trapped on Dec.2.

I would like to express our thanks to the staff of the S.W.A. for their continuing interest and help. I would also like to thank Lysbeth Muirhead and Philip Turney for their help in mist-netting at the Sanctuary.

Dr.J.A.Newnham.

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 1984

The ringing year commenced on 20th April at the Mumbles site just off the Steyning bypass, north of the cutting. Four Willow Warblers were present as was a Lesser Whitethroat. Two of the Willow Warblers were trapped later in the year, having stayed to breed. A fifth bird was trapped on 21st April, being previously ringed on the 5th May 1980, when it was recorded breeding. Kingfisher, Sparrowhawk, Whitethroat, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo and Sand Martin were all seen that same weekend over the reserve. A Nightingale was trapped on the 22nd with the first Reed Warbler to return which had previously been ringed on 30th May 1982.

The nest boxes at Wiston were inspected on the 30th May when

three broods of Blue Tits were ringed, and on the 2nd of June a further brood of 12 Blue Tits and one of 10 Great Tits were also ringed.

Ringling at the Mumbles continued through to July with the usual batch of Reed Warblers, but with the breeding population diminishing further to 9 pairs, but one pair did occupy the area of reeds that have grown up around the pond. Sedge Warblers in 1984 were non-existent, with the exception of one bird seen skulking around in a bramble, rather un-Sedge Warbler like. A couple of these birds were trapped on autumn migration however during one of the six sessions held there in August and September. A further two Nightingales were trapped, one on the 15th of August and one on the 22nd. There was a small passage of Willow Warblers and small numbers of the other common warblers passing through the site. The reason for the limited number of visits to this site was due to the commencement of ringling in a different habitat site in the Autumn.

During June and July I was in correspondence with Worthing Borough Council Estates Department regarding the use of some land in their ownership for bird ringling purposes. The land lies just to the East of Cissbury Ring and extends eastward along Lychpole Hill for about half a mile and northwards down the scarp slope 300 feet. Permission to ring there was given and Chris Fox, Martin Banks, my brother and I began the arduous task of cutting out net sites through the scrub. Initially individual net sites were established at the top of the scarp, but these proved rather ineffective, so in mid-August we cut out a ride that extended right down the slope to the limit of the land available. The area at the foot of the slope and to the east and west was investigated a few years ago, but permission was not forthcoming for our purposes as it was felt that - to quote - "in the interest of the birds they are best left alone", which is rather sad since so much of their scrubland habitat is now being cleared in favour of wild flowers and butterflies; I am sure in some places this is purely used as an excuse to uproot this valuable habitat and ringling provides the necessary data to oppose such destruction.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Mumbles</u>		<u>Wiston</u>	<u>Cissbury</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	ad	pul	pul	ad	
Blackbird	20			8	28
Blackcap	7			46	53
Blue Tit	24	7	44	28	103
Bullfinch	5			16	21
Chaffinch	7			1	8
Chiffchaff	2			5	7
Dunnock	20			29	49
Garden Warbler				15	15
Goldcrest				2	2
Goldfinch	14			1	15
Grasshopper Warbler				1	1
Great Tit	31		9	17	57
Greenfinch	2			2	4
Lesser Whitethroat	8			22	30
Linnet	2				2
Long-tailed Tit	7			11	18
Magpie	1				1
Marsh Tit				3	3
Nightingale	3				3
Pied Flycatcher				4	4
Reed Bunting	1				1
Reed Warbler	30			2	32
Robin	13			22	35
Sedge Warbler	4			1	5
Song Thrush	7	3		1	11
Spotted Flycatcher				3	3
Tree Pipit				1	1
Whitethroat	7			35	42
Willow Warbler	25			93	118
Wood Pigeon	1				1
Wren	8			20	28
Yellowhammer				7	7
	<u>249</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>708</u>

A total of 17 visits were made to the site between the 29th July and the 28th September. On most occasions a total of 420 feet of netting was erected in two main rides diagonally

(North West) down the escarpment. Ringing sessions began before dawn and generally finished when things quietened down about mid morning. A small number of birds were caught at dawn and during the morning a steady trickle of birds moving west was observed; generally 'sylvia' and Willow Warblers. However the largest numbers were caught when a mixed flock of tits moved through the site in a west to east direction, usually spearheaded by Long-tailed Tits; this noise and activity seemed to inspire any other small passerine migrant around to leap into the nearest mist net. This sensational sort of movement generally happened between nine and eleven o'clock with anything upto 50 birds in a pair of nets. If part of the flock missed one net they would invariably end up in the next!

The totals of species involved are shown in the table above which clearly shows that Willow Warblers were the most numerous birds caught. The most interesting were the three Pied Flycatchers and the Tree Pipit, the latter being a 'life' ringing tick for me and the former being a Sussex ringing tick.

What was dissapointing was the small number of flycatchers caught when many more were seen and also that no Redstarts or chats were trapped when many were observed at the site. Further thought will have to be given to this if we are to continue with the project.

I should like to thank Worthing Borough Council for permission to use the site, Mr and Mrs Granshaw who farm the site without whose help access would have been virtually impossible and the National Trust on whose land we apparently parked our cars!

P.J.Clay.

SIBERIA - THE JOYS AND WOES OF BIRDING

If you are planning a carefree and relaxed birding holiday, with plush hotels serving good food with agreeable wines, which you sup whilst waiting for the next 'tick' to come and land at your feet, do not go to Russia. If, on the other hand, you possess a masochistic streak and actually enjoy battling through undergrowth, or craning your neck toward tree tops vainly attempting to identify dark specks singing merrily aloft, or waiting hours alongside hedgerows for the chirping occupants to flit just far enough for fleeting views, then you ought to start considering it. All the participants on my particular trip were at a distinct disadvantage, for there was nobody to forwarn us of what lay in store. Even the likes of Ian Willis, who you might credit with more sense, had to admit that he, like the rest of us, had erroneously pre-conceived pictures of rare thrushes and warblers lurking about at the bottom of every garden.

To the British birder Siberia is a mystic and curious land; the origin of all those exciting autumn migrants on which much October energy is spent. Its mystery is from its own reputation, and its curiosity stems from its doors remaining firmly closed for so long. Whatever it holds in the imagination its reality is stark. It is cold, but not only in climate, and it is bleak. It is bleak even on a fine day - the people have a bleakness about their faces, and the buildings have bleak facades. What it is like beyond the tourist boundary will always remain a mystery.

Tourism centres on the town of Irkutsk (approx. lat.52N long.104E), where the Intourist hotel looks out quite majestically over Gagarin Boulevard and the Angara River, with the tempting expanse of towering taiga forest just visible way beyond. Other hotels are on the shores of Lake Baikal, south of Irkutsk, all tastefully located in very picturesque lakeside settings, and surrounded by tall taiga forests. More recently, the new town of Bratsk, some 300 miles north of Irkutsk, has been open to tourists, mainly to

show off their hydro-electric scheme, but apart from this and the birds its only qualification is its striking reminiscence of the Gorbels and, quite honestly, should be totally ignored by the general tourist.

A summers day in Irkutsk will find the sky alive with Fork-tailed Swifts, and these probably feature on every birders list before embarking on a warm-up birding session at a small marshy area some ten minutes walk from Hotel Intourist. Having got over the disappointment of not finding the trees and gardens of Gagarin Boulevard teeming with rarities, the marsh serves as a good introduction to Siberian birds, with Citrine Wagtail and Richard's Pipit easily seen and in fair abundance, Swinhoe's Snipe and Corncrake skulking well out over the marsh, Yellow-breasted Bunting (very common), Brown Shrike and red-spotted race Bluethroat on the fringe and Little Ringed Plover and Garganey on the Angara River.

In Irkutsk, as in many other towns, one cannot escape the Feral Pigeon menace. Personally, not being a motorist, I do not think that Feral Pigeons are usually a menace but in this case they are as they hinder the identification of the Blue Hill Pigeon which occurs here. The key to identifying these birds is uniformity, hence all birds clearly marked with a sub-terminal white band and a terminal black band may be construed as being Blue Hill Pigeons. Doubtless 'plastic' varieties also occur!

About twenty minutes drive from Irkutsk lies the wooded/marshy area of Lessoe Park which can be considered a disappointment bird-wise. Scarlet Rosefinch and Willow Tit are abundant here in the wooded part and Marsh Sandpiper is regular on the marsh, but generally birds are pretty thin on the ground, although during three visits here a Black-faced Bunting was seen on the nest, a Pallas's Warbler enchanted us all busily collecting its nesting material, and on all visits a soaring Spotted Eagle with its attendant Lineatus Black Kite was enjoyed.

Some 64km SW of Irkutsk the Intourist boneshaker, if it has survived the journey, will deposit its passengers at a remote spot in the taiga forest where the birdwatchers will race off to find their next 'tick', and the ordinary tourists, if they are taken to such a place, will run the gauntlet of a pack of guard dogs to reach the 'restaurant' and thereafter scratch their heads and wonder what to do for the ensuing eight hours. If two full days are spent here an impressive list of birds will be built up, and 'certs' for the list will surely be Needle-tailed Swift, Olive-backed Pipit and Radde's Warbler. Obviously, in an area as vast as this, different species are recorded by different parties every year, and the search for the taiga birds requires relentless persistence - often with disappointing results. Tiny specks at the tops of trees were the best views we got of both Eye-browed Thrush and Two-barred Greenish Warbler; Mugimaki Warbler had to be observed crouching in some sort of yoga position, and we only saw one each of Red-flanked Bluetail and Siberian Thrush. Woodpeckers and raptors were more obliging, with good views enjoyed of both Black and Three-toed Woodpeckers and fair views of Goshawk and Besra Sparrowhawk.

Scanning Lake Baikal with binoculars on a clear day, the distant Sayan Mountains reach toward the heavens whilst the endemic Baikal Seal may bob its head above the water, and Velvet Scoter congregate with Goldeneye at the river mouth. A pair of Pied Wheatears were breeding below the cliffs whilst I was there, and up in the local taiga a few species not recorded elsewhere abounded. Oriental Honey Buzzard, although quite liberally distributed, I found relatively common here and thanks to the expertise of Ian Willis, a mystery raptor was successfully identified as an immature Upland Buzzard. Any visitor is sure to find Daurian Redstart around the hotel area and a good walk into the taiga should produce Red-breasted Flycatcher, Chestnut Bunting and, with a lot of hard work, more or less anything!

Last but not least is the slum town of Bratsk - a necessary evil if one is to enjoy the more northern species. The main

'catchment area' for birds seems to be the marsh and woodland of Kuznitsotica which in late May/early June can be teeming with arctic-bound migrants - but even late June is interesting. My main recollection of this area is getting soaked to the skin in torrential rain, but with compensation of Dusky Warbler, and a virtual plethora of Pallas's Grasshopper Warblers; who could complain? Blyth's Reed Warbler and Corncrake can also be seen around the marsh and the wooded area holds Rufous-tailed Robin, a Nightingale-like bird which tends to skulk in the wooded canopy but betrays its presence by its weird Little Grebe-like song! A Long-tailed Rosefinch which we saw is believed to be the first for this species in the area.

As I've said, rooting out specialities can be jolly hard work and I hold several painful memories of such rooting - most notably the following. There was a Thick-billed Warbler at Lessee Park which obviously gained some sort of sadistic pleasure in watching us stand ankle deep in mud in a futile attempt to see him. Also at Lessee Park was the Gray's Grasshopper Warbler which must have flown past us in the undergrowth many times before we secured a mere fleeting flight view. There was the White's Thrush whistling monotonously away in the taiga but successfully remaining hidden, and last but not least, the countless singing Siberian Blue Robins which permitted such close approaches but which allowed a view only once. The Siberian Rubythroat which vanished before I could raise my binoculars is too painful to mention!

So there we have a small insight into the search for birds in Siberia. My own curiosity is now satisfied, and as a country I certainly find no magic or mystique about it. It is cold, bleak and unsmiling; but bird-wise it is, and always will be, the jewel in the Palearctic crown.

R.M.Shaw.

SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1984

Introduction

For the eighth successive year enough information has been gathered on the coastal passage of sea and shore birds to warrant the writing of a full report. Most of the observations come from Worthing beach but records from Goring, Ferring and Widewater are also included. The enthusiastic band of local watchers logged a total of 5554 hours during the year which is similar to the effort for the past two years. The histogram of hours watched reveals April and May as the favourite months; an expected observation as the days grow longer and warmer and expectations of good watches, including unusual birds grow. However, although April and May together produced nearly 56% of the years total of 46,749 birds the numbers of birds seen for each hour watched was considerably fewer than the 153 birds per hour in early June or 139 per hour throughout March. During the Autumn only November with 80 birds per hour approached the rates of passage during the Spring; indeed taking the whole spring passage period the overall rate of 103 birds recorded each hour was exactly double the rate noted for the autumn months.

For the past few years histograms showing the rate of passage of some of the more numerous species have been drawn. Similar histograms are demonstrated again this year and when compared with previous years give a graphic impression of the timing and magnitude of the offshore passage for these commoner species. Also, in keeping with the past few years, two tables are presented which highlight details of (A) selected days watching and (B) a summary of the main species involved in the autumn and winter watches. The first gives an impression of the number and variety of species passing on the better days and records eastward passage in spring and westward passage in autumn except for Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Gannet, Kittiwake and the auks for which the sum of east and west movements are shown. The second table gives an idea of the numbers and movements noted and again is intended for comparison with similar

tables from previous years. Further details of individual species and , of course, the more unusual species are documented in the systematic list.

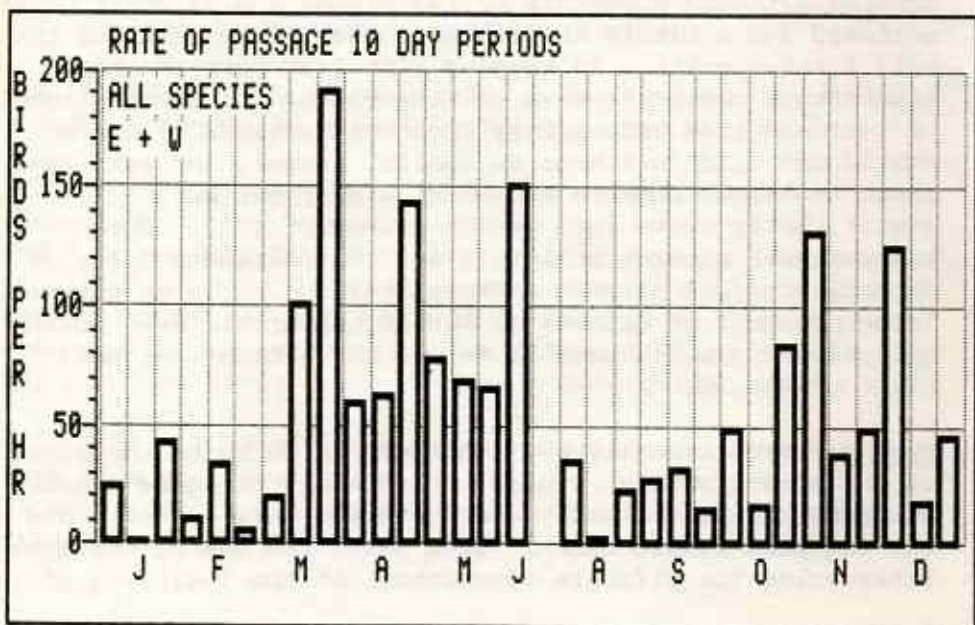
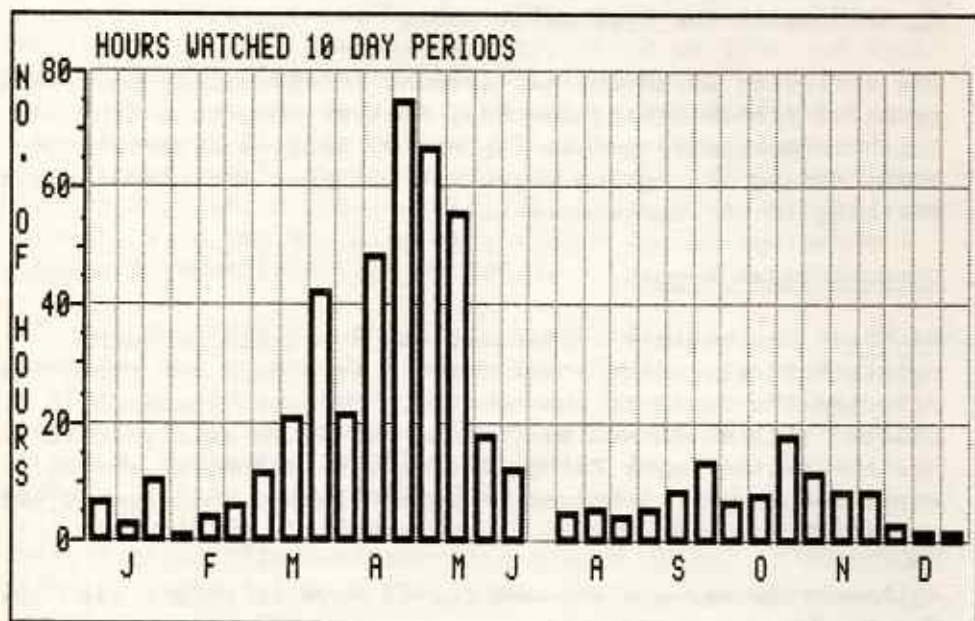
The following chronological account refers mainly to events recorded from Worthing beaches, however observers from Brighton Marina logged an impressive total and variety of birds during the Spring which are outlined and compared with Worthing in the Systematic List

Chronological Report

Winter:- The weather in January was dominated by warm, moist, westerly winds and for a few days cold and frost only affected the north of the country. February likewise started with south westerly winds but after anticyclonic weather settled over Europe colder east and north easterly winds reduced the temperature but no severe cold spells were recorded.

Although the sea was watched for 51 days in this period very few birds were noted. No obvious cold weather movements occurred although movements of 143 Wigeon and 77 Brent Geese westward and a Little Auk may have been birds escaping the cold further north. In keeping with last year the most significant movements were of Kittiwakes; the January total of 146E and 154W came mainly from observations of 65W on Jan.17 and 111E in 1 hour on Jan.26. Divers and auks were noted in larger numbers than last winter but were significantly fewer than in the winter of 1982. More unusual were records of Little and Mediterranean Gulls in January, reports of a Manx Shearwater on Jan.7, an unusually large movement of Gannets on Feb.18, an Arctic Skua on the exceptionally early date of Feb.29 and a Great Northern Diver on Feb.28.

Spring:- Traditionally one considers March to be the first of the spring months, indeed the numbers of hours spent watching the sea markedly increased and only on Mar.7 did the log book remain blank. This March was one of the most interesting for offshore movements. At the beginning of the

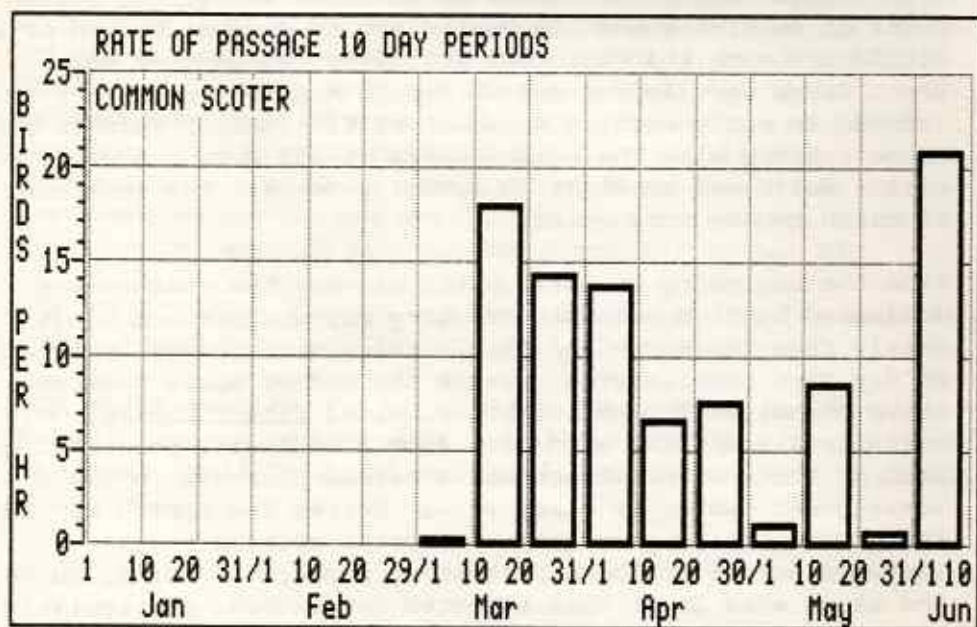
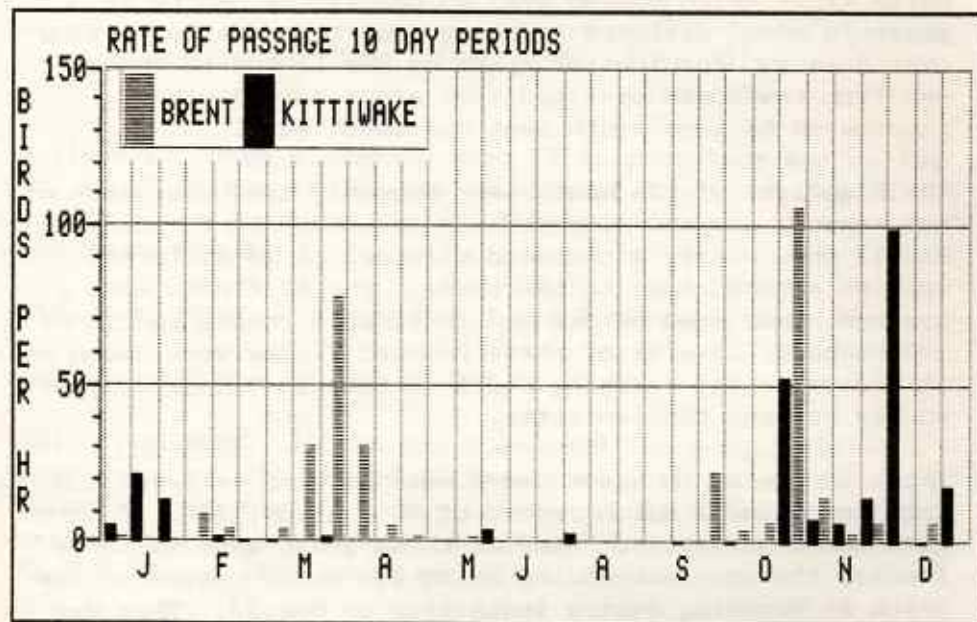


month a persistent high pressure to the west brought cold north winds which became even colder as the centre of pressure moved eastward inducing a north easterly airflow over Sussex. For a brief spell on Mar.11 and 12 the wind was from the south east and then after Mar.22 winds fluctuated between south east and south west.

The highlight of the month, and arguably the best watch of the season, was an unforgettable 1.5 hours in the morning of Mar.12 when nearly a thousand wildfowl of 14 different species passed close to the shore. The 67 flocks were a mixture never seen before and included a county record of 270 Pochard; several of these Pochard flocks were noted both at Widewater and Worthing and took between 9 and 12 minutes to fly between the two sites.

Later in the month Brent Geese were passing eastward and the total produced a March record of 4058 birds; 1780 of which were noted on Mar.23. Many of these geese were in large flocks, the most noteworthy being 600 which rested on the beach at Worthing during lunch-time on Mar.23. This day also brought the first influx of Sandwich Terns, the season peaks of 46 divers and 105 Dunlin and an unusual record of a Little Grebe on the sea. The following day another 659 Brent Geese were logged and on Mar.25 a strong onshore wind induced an early morning movement of Kittiwakes, Fulmars and Gannets along with the season peaks of 352 Common Scoter, 6 Little Gulls and at least 33 Sandwich Terns. The remainder of March became very quiet.

From the beginning of April until mid-May the weather was dominated by high pressure bringing dry weather and winds mainly from the North and East. Skies were generally clear so day time temperatures towards the end of April rose well above normal whilst the nights remained rather chilly. Only occasionally did the wind blow from a southerly point but on each of these events there was a marked increase in the variety and number of birds seen. Unlike the Spring of 1983 there were no low pressures or frontal systems moving eastward across southern Britain so numbers of terns, ducks and skuas were lower than expected but waders, particularly



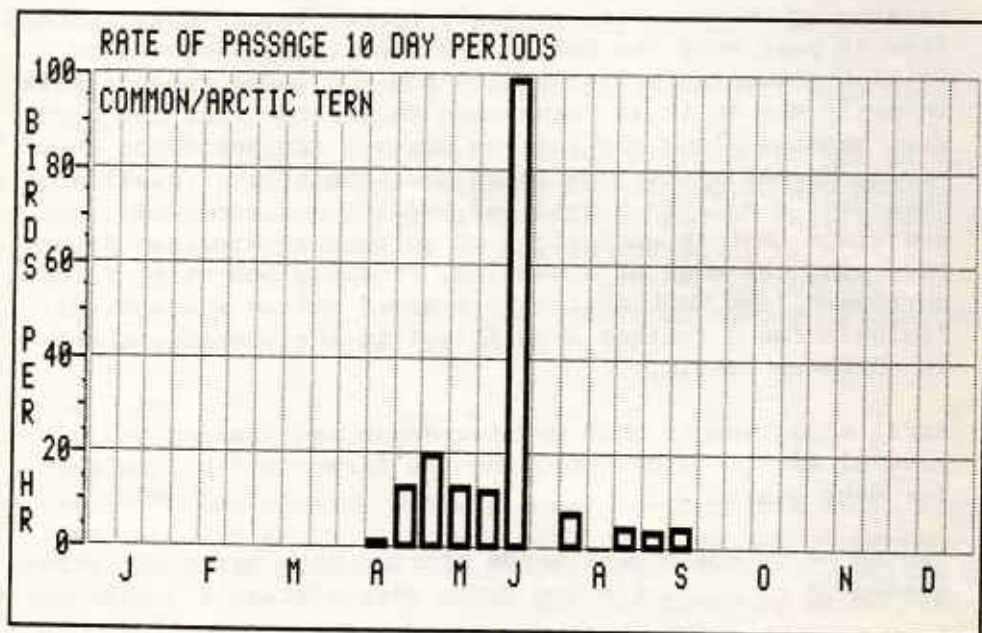
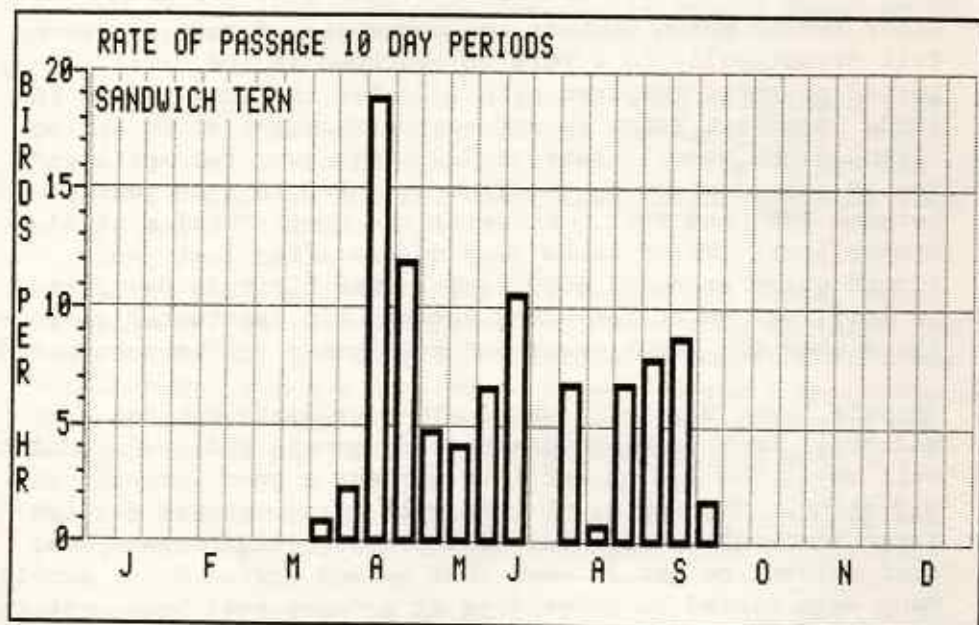
Bar-tailed Godwits, were recorded in high numbers.

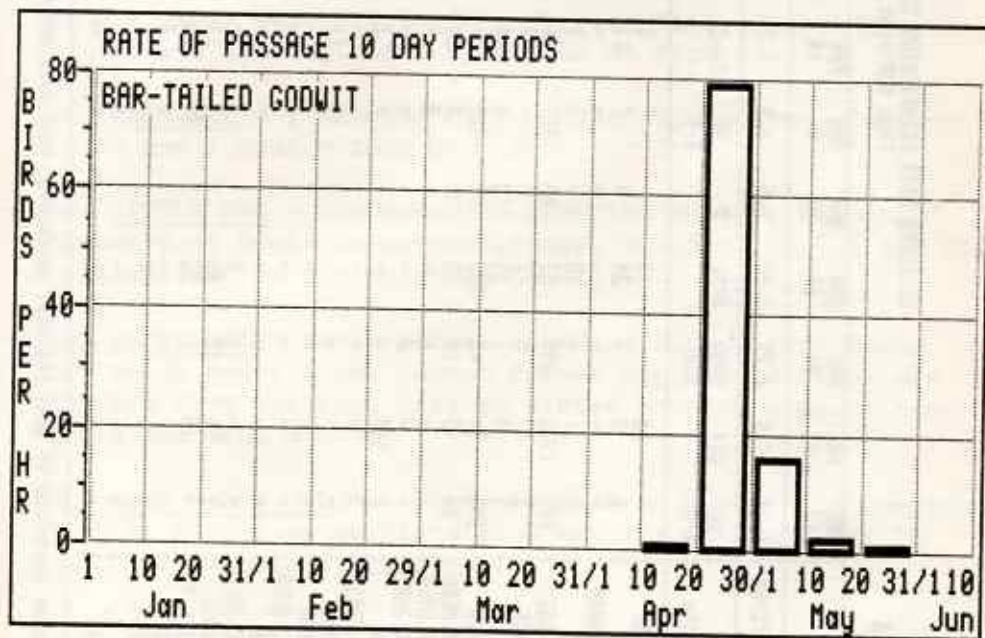
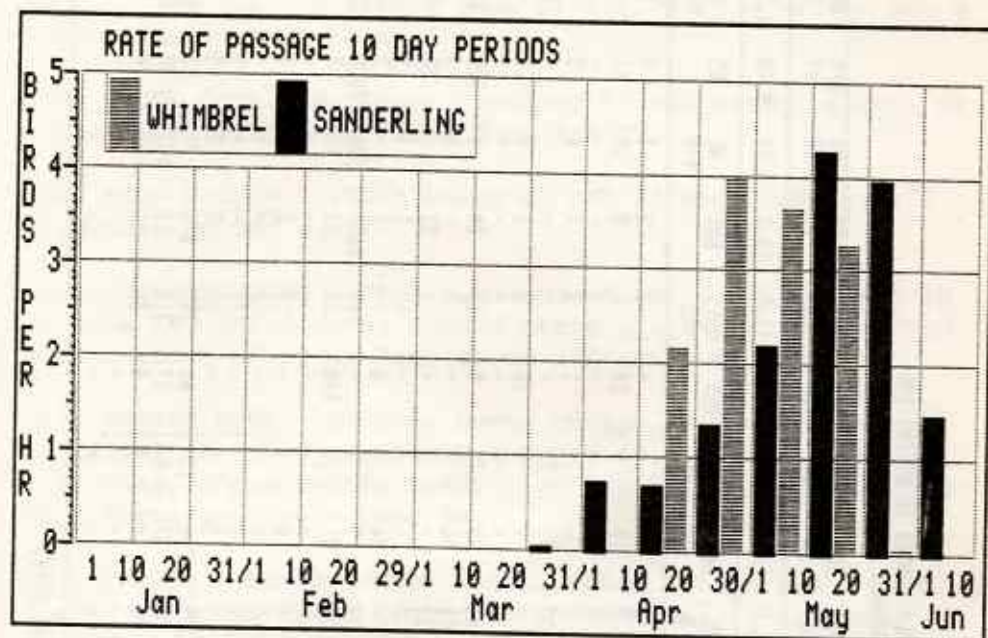
After record March numbers the movements of Sandwich Terns fell dramatically to a mere 56 recorded in the first 10 day period of April compared with 1322 for the same period in 1983. Sandwich Terns seemed scarce throughout the Spring although the overall rate of 9.0 birds/hour for April and May is only just below the figures noted in each year between 1980 and 1982. Likewise the April total of 1161 Common/Arctic Terns looks very meagre after last years record which exceeded 6000 birds. The first 10 day period of April was quiet for other species too, punctuated only on Apr.4 when 427 Brent Geese and 262 Common Scoter were noted.

Despite three days of light south east winds during mid-April there were no dramatic movements and one needed to wait until the end of April to witness a good spring migration. The Spring of 1984 will be remembered for the large movements of Bar-tailed Godwits. This passage was most evident on Apr.29 when 3029 passed eastward but surely many were missed on other days as a dense heat haze over the sea reduced visibility to yards and shimmering brown objects passing up channel were probably packs of godwits. At this time of year very few Bar-tailed Godwits are counted on British estuaries but counts on the Waddensea reach a peak in early May so it is reasonable to assume that the birds seen passing along the English Channel are bound for this area. Recent winter counts in Mauritania have revealed more than half a million Bar-tailed Godwits and one could speculate that in conditions of north east winds we are observing the edge of a massive, probably non-stop, flight northward from West Africa to Western Europe where birds 'refuel' for a further long flight to their breeding areas in northern Russia.

April also brought both Mediterranean and Iceland Gulls, several sightings of Hobby and the first Gull-billed Tern for many years.

The theme of north east winds started May; terns and skuas passed by in a trickle and ducks were virtually absent apart





SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS WINTER TO SPRING 1984
FROM WORTHING BEACHES

TABLE A

DATE	RAR 12	RAR 23	RAR 24	RAR 25	RAR 5.25	RAR 5.5	RAR 6.5	RAR 7.0	RAR 6.75	RAR SE4	RAR SE5-	RAR SE6	RAR E	RAR SE	RAR E1-2	RAR SE	RAR SE2	RAR SE	RAR 2-3	RAR SE	RAR NE3	RAR ENE	RAR ENE	RAR 25	RAR 27	RAR 28	RAR 29	RAR 30
HRS WATCHED	6.75	7.0	6.75	5.25	5.5	6.5	5.5	6.5	6.5	5.5	5.5	6.5	8.0	4.5	4.75	11.5	10.3	8.25	9.75	4.75								
WIND DIRECTION	SE 4-5	SE4	SE5-	SE6	E	SE	E1-2	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
DIVER SP	5	46	4	12	4	7	3	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
* FULMAR	5	4	4	34	4	2	11	7	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
* MANX SHEAR	2	21	-	18	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* GANNET	170	1780	659	13	66	427	66	22	30	30	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
BRENT GSE	2	17	5	2	5	-	7	1	9	9	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
* SHELDUCK	3	29	-	15	10	6	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EIDER	373	11	46	352	201	262	96	41	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
C-SCOTER	26	5	10	33	19	4	10	11	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
RED BR. MERS	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREY PLOVER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
SANDERLING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
DUNLIN	8	105	-	-	-	-	1	-	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
BAR T. GDMIT	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
WHIMBREL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
POM. SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BONNIE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTLE GULL	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* KITTIWAKE	2	4	15	80	1	2	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
SANDWICH T.	-	10	1	33	5	24	165	272	210	210	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139
COMMIC T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	52	37	37	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
LITTLE T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
BLACK T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* AUK SP.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Denotes summation of east and west movements, rest east movement only.

SELECTED DAYS SEAMATCHING TOTALS SPRING TO WINTER 1984
FROM WORTHING BEACHES

TABLE A

DATE	MAY 1	MAY 5	MAY 10	MAY 14	MAY 17	MAY 22	MAY 31	JUNE 1	JUNE 3	OCT 22	OCT 24	OCT 28	NOV 9	NOV 27	DEC 7
HRS WATCHED	6.8	11.5	9.8	6.5	13.0	2.3	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.5	5.8	5	3.5	2	2.5
WIND DIRECTION	NE	ENE 4-5	SE4	NNE- CALM	SM 2-3	NW- S8	SW3 SW4	SE- S4	SE- S4	SW 6-8	S: GALE	SSW 6-7	SE 4-5	SSW 6	WSW 4
DIVER SP	4	3	1	-	6	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	1	3
* FULMAR	6	4	4	-	2	58	5	6	4	-	-	-	-	1	-
* MANX SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	138	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* GANNET	2	3	-	3	5	36	4	4	1	1	10	8	-	1	2
* BRENT GSE	-	-	5	-	42	-	-	-	-	3	37	89	792	34	1
* SHELDUCK	-	2	7	8	48	-	-	-	16	-	3	-	6	-	1
ELDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	137	16	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
C. SCOTER	10	2	52	10	318	13	-	107	104	1	8	3	17	2	-
RED BR. MERG	8	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	8	6	5	5	5	11
GREY PLOVER	6	4	6	9	2	5	-	-	2	4	-	1	1	20	-
SANDERLING	4	24	87	14	65	9	36	19	1	8	-	53	4	110	-
DUNLIN	9	42	19	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BAR T. SWIFT	280	201	94	13	4	-	-	1	-	1	21	-	-	-	-
WHIMBREL	2	51	104	161	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POM. SKUA	4	4	-	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARCTIC SKUA	2	2	4	-	2	1	-	1	4	11	1	1	-	-	-
BONKIE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTLE GULL	9	1	1	3	5	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	-
* KITTIWAKE	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	-	-	-
SANDWICH T.	61	44	57	28	102	74	11	9	4	327	91	574	1	3	5
COMMIC T.	268	400	255	206	121	6	46	46	76	-	-	-	2	146	260
LITTLE T.	35	68	29	8	50	11	142	996	378	2	1	4	-	-	-
BLACK T.	1	2	1	-	4	-	-	10	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
* AUK SP.	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	4	5	3	1

* Denotes summation of east and west movements, rest east movement only.

from a close flock of 22 Velvet Scoter on May 1. Waders, however, continued to be seen with regular Bar-tailed parties, small flocks of Whimbrel noted most days and highlights of a Little Ringed Plover, record numbers of Greenshank and 2 Avocets.

On May 14 the cool north easterly wind dropped away, the barometer reading fell and the atmosphere became sultry; an early morning watch was given up as hopeless but between early afternoon and dusk the sporadic watches logged 64 Pomarine Skuas and 161 Whimbrel. More prolonged coverage at Brighton produced a total of 106 skuas including a phenomenal flock of 51 individuals. Three days later the wind blew from the south west for the first time for several weeks inducing a late movement of Brent Geese and a marked increase in the number of Common Scoter. After May 17 the wind switched and changed about, no more than during May 22 when, curiously, a low pressure system moved westward across the southern counties. A brief watch in the morning during north westerly winds revealed no birds but by late afternoon a southerly gale was brewing and in a short cold watch at least 60 Fulmar, 36 Gannets, 74 Kittiwakes and 136 Manx Shearwaters were seen, the last species being much closer to the shore than usual.

Several unusual birds were seen during the month including 2 Gadwall, a Marsh Harrier, several Hobbies, a Barnacle Goose and an Iceland Gull but the prizes must go to the Sabine's Gull noted from both Ferring and Worthing and the views of Long-tailed Skua and Cory's Shearwater from Brighton Marina.

By the end of May most observers had concluded their spring watching but the year demonstrated very clearly how late many birds migrate northward. On May 31 several parties of Eider totalling 137 passed and an increase in the number of terns was noted. The following day, June 1, a light south east wind brought the seasons peak of 996 Common/Arctic Terns, 107 Common Scoter, a late Great Crested Grebe and Red-throated Diver, and a curious pale tern which regrettably remained unidentified. The log on June 2 included a

Pomarine Skua and the unusual sight of 10 Red-breasted Mergansers amongst many commoner species. Then during south east winds on June 3 another 326 commic terns were noted and the seasons peak of 4 Arctic Skuas was logged.

Summer:- After the first few days of June the Spring seemed to be over and thereafter only irregular observations were conducted throughout the Summer. Like the preceeding year the summer weather was settled, warm and dry; indeed many parts of the country experienced drought conditions and water restrictions. The warm weather tempted several members to sit on the beach although ostensibly to be swimming or sand-castle building with families one always kept a watchful eye out to sea. However, apart from a few terns and waders and the occasional sighting of a Mediterranean Gull very little was seen. Probably the best watch would have been Aug.2 when in a fresh SSW wind several terns, Kittiwakes and 2 early Velvet Scoter were seen; regretablely the log composed of only a few minutes watching on this day.

Autumn:- By the end of August the weather had lost the settled feel as SW winds predominated, frequently reaching gale force with associated rain. Conditions, one felt, for producing some good seabird movements but despite several hours watching very little was seen. Perhaps the wind blowing consistantly from the SW was not conducive to promote a southward movement of seabirds from the North Sea. However, on the more settled mornings during September large numbers of passerines, particularly hirundines, could be seen usually flying off eastward.

October, like September, was again unsettled as high pressure remained well away from Britain and frequent Atlantic depressions passed over the north of the country. At the beginning of the month two days of east winds triggered some movement as 169 Brent Geese passed westward on the evening of Oct.5. During the same watch a wader resembling a Wood Sandpiper also passed westward. By Oct.7 the wind was again blowing from the SW and blew from that quarter in varying strengths until Oct.21. Some watching

DETAILS OF THIRTEEN REGULARLY RECORDED SPECIES SEEN FROM WORTHING BEACH
DURING AUTUMN/WINTER 1984

TABLE 8	JULY ALL	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	
HOURS	13.3	5.5	6.3	5.3	6.3	9.3	14.3	7.5	9.0	18.8	12.5	9.8	9.5	4.0	3.0	2.8	136.8
Diver Sp. E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	6	1	2	12
Gannet E W	3	6	1	-	3	3	8	10	2	1	4	2	1	-	1	16	28
Brent Goose E W	11	19	15	-	4	34	7	25	12	21	5	3	1	2	8	-	42
Shelduck E W	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	2	7	24
Migeon E W	26	-	-	-	-	5	28	173	39	131	1339	153	38	32	-	19	1957
Eider E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	28
Common Scoter E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	21
Red-brst Merg. E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Little Gull E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	6
Kittiwake E W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Sandwich Tern E W	4	16	2	-	2	17	12	6	6	5	14	7	2	32	1	-	59
'Cosmic' Tern E W	36	40	4	39	52	87	35	3	2	-	15	7	10	-	2	-	32
Auk Sp. E W	1	5	18	3	23	1	12	1	1	7	8	4	5	6	-	-	96
	4	48	6	30	31	58	4	2	2	1	12	13	12	17	2	-	23
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	8	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	6	-	3	1	-	52
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	70	154	305	4	52	75
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1709
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	298
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	191
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	17	2	2	1	-	57
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	2	-	2	-	50

was done on every day but no startling movements were observed and the only unusual bird was a Grey Phalarope which flew east on Oct.10. The meteorological events at the end of the month undoubtedly produced the best watches of the Autumn and confirmed, in my mind, that interesting sea watches, particularly in the Autumn, are seen in conditions when the weather and winds rapidly change from settled calm weather to strong onshore winds. On Oct.21 the wind dropped to a light NW across the whole country and the North Sea; the following morning a low pressure had rapidly approached and its associated frontal system was over Sussex. In the SSW gale, despite poor visibility large numbers of Kittiwakes and skuas were seen. For the next few days the wind switched and changed about; one day light winds, the next a howling southerly gale and on each of these occasions good movements were seen. The details of these exciting days can be seen in the tables but this period helped to produce record numbers of Kittiwakes, good numbers of Little Gulls and most memorable close views of skuas including 3 Pomarines, 7 Bonxies and at least 23 Arctic Skuas.

By early November the weather had settled somewhat and for a change the wind blew from between South and East, initially in light puffs but by Nov.7 reaching force 5 or 6. Undoubtedly these winds from the continent aided the Black Redstarts to reach our local beaches and would also assist the Brent Geese moving south-westward; the peak of which was 729 noted on Nov.9. This years total of Brent Geese was the second highest recorded from these shores being surpassed only by the enormous movement of 6000 noted in 1982. The numbers of auks noted in the Channel also increased as 22 were noted on Nov.8; one could speculate why auks appeared in SE winds when ringing recoveries suggest that the majority of auks wintering in the English Channel are birds from the Irish Sea colonies. Another sudden change in the direction and strength of the wind on Nov.27 brought another movement of Kittiwakes, the Autumns' peak of 110 Dunlin and a very late Manx Shearwater which was one of only four seen throughout the Autumn.

Winter:- During December the numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers and Great Crested Grebes fishing offshore slowly increased to a peak of 34 and 3 respectively on Dec.9. The month remained very mid and a burst of Kittiwakes and Little Gulls on Dec.7 and 8 were the only notable movements. Divers slowly increased in number but the total at the end of the year was well below that for previous years. Likewise virtually no wildfowl were noted as record low numbers of Shelduck, Wigeon, Eider and Common Scoter were seen. The lack of cold weather undoubtedly accounted for these figures because westward movement rapidly increased as arctic weather hit the continent and Southern England during the early days of the new year.

This report is based on records provided by:- S.R.Allen, B.R.Clay, F.J.Forbes, C.J.Fox, M.P.Hall, C.E.Hope, R.Ives, P.James, C.E.Messer, O.Mitchell, J.A.Newnham, A.J.Prater, R.J.Sandison, B.J.Short, D.I.Smith.

Dr.J.A.Newnham.

GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY

The winter of 1984/5 is the third year of the Society's Garden Bird Feeding Survey. Following the methods of the national scheme organised by the B.T.O., our survey aims to monitor the importance of providing food for birds in the winter months. Members are encouraged to record the maximum number of species seen feeding together each month from October to February.

During the first two years a rather small proportion of the membership contributed but this current winter shows a useful increase in participation.

Records suggest that almost any garden which regularly provides food will attract the common species, such as the House Sparrow, Starling, Blackbird, Robin and Blue Tit.

Larger gardens, and particularly gardens with a good variety of shrubs or trees support a wider range of species, which often include Dunnock, Great Tit, Collared Dove, Greenfinch and Coal Tit. A few gardens, which are favourably located and well stocked with cover provide the more unusual records, such as Firecrest, and winter Blackcap.

The Results of the 1983/4 Survey.

Total number of contributors:-	13
Maximum number of species in one garden:-	28
Minimum number of species in one garden:-	8
Average number per garden:-	17.5
Total number of species recorded in the first two years of the survey:-	40

Species added for the first time in 1983/4 were Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Jay, Long-tailed Tit, Willow Warbler, Bullfinch, and Tree Sparrow.

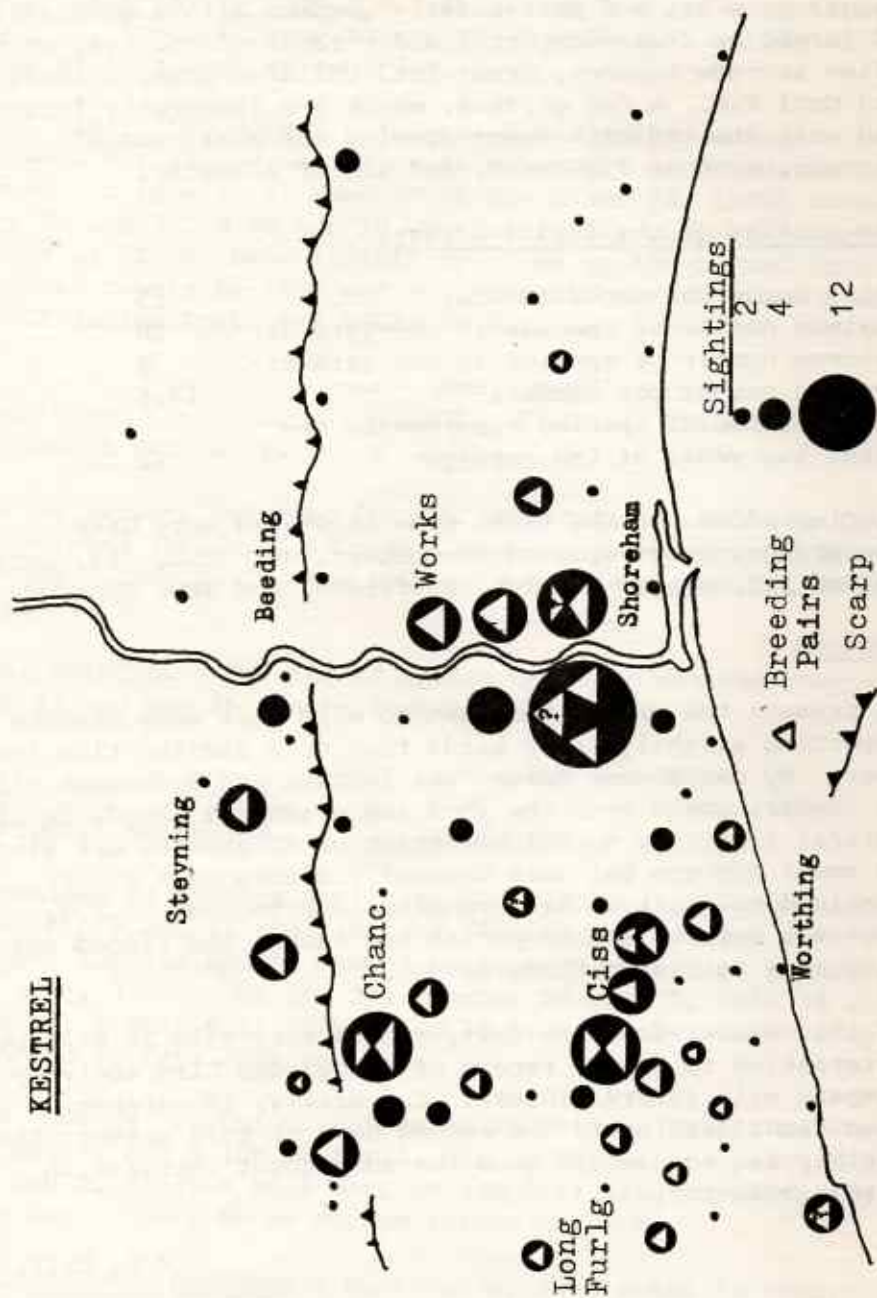
1984/85

At present the winter has been so mild that many members are reporting slightly fewer birds than at a similar time last year. My own sodden garden has fuchsia and Hydrangea still in flower, gnats over the pond and a general abundance of natural food. My normal seventeen or so species are around in small numbers but more unusual visitors have either declined to visit or have remained undetected. J.A.N, however, reports Blackcaps and has caught and ringed one Firecrest in his Worthing garden.

If this winter does, in fact, remain very mild it will be interesting to have a record of our garden bird activity to compare with future winters. Conversely, if harsher conditions develop in the second half of this winter, the monthly records should show the subsequent increase in garden activity.

M.P. Hall.

KESTREL



RAPTOR SURVEY

This report has been compiled from members observations and I am very grateful to all those concerned. Coverage, however, was somewhat patchy and in some areas completely lacking. The preponderance of westerly records indicates the distribution of active ornithologists and is not a true reflection of the birds' status in the area.

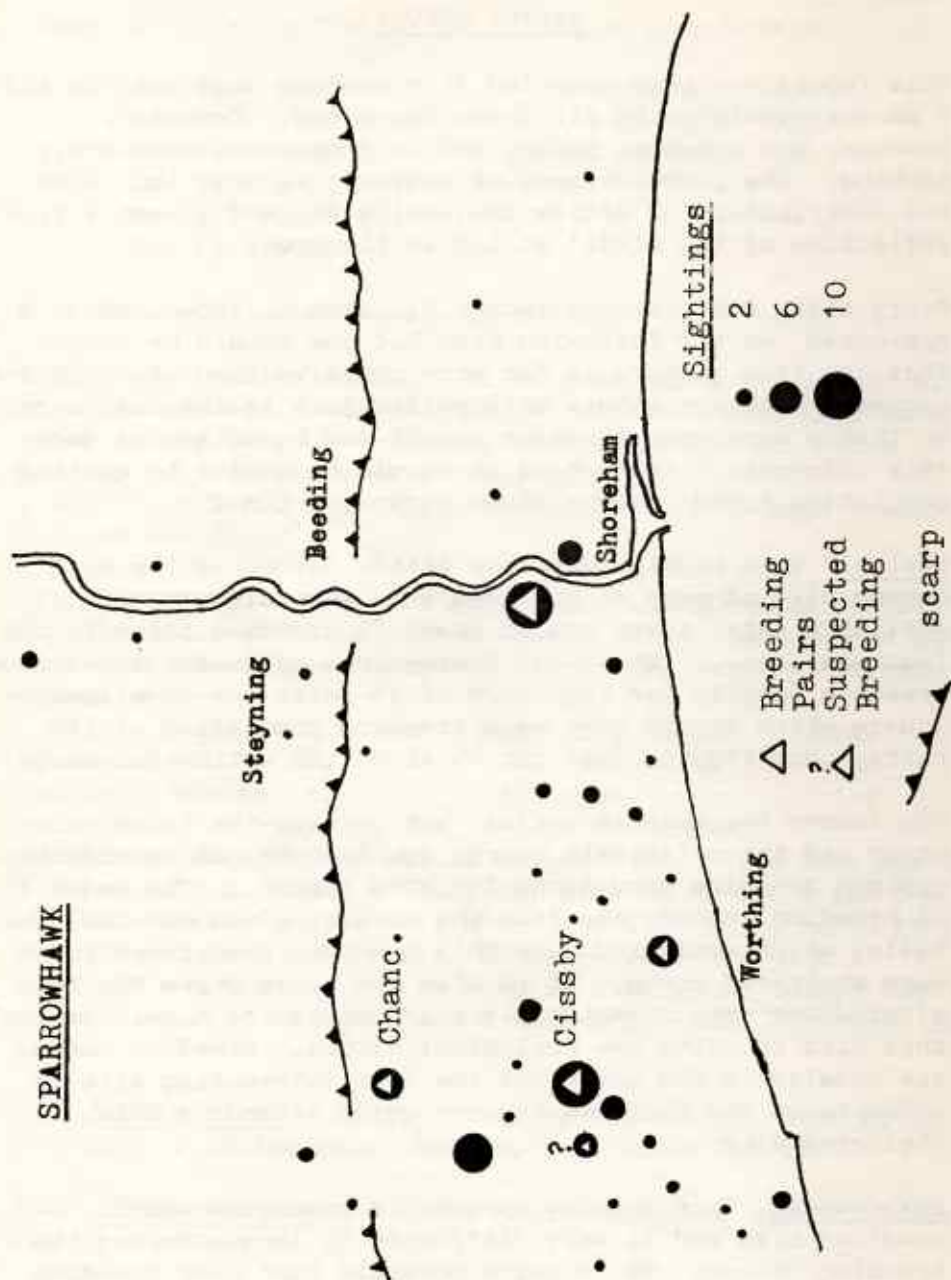
Every sight and breeding record has been collated and presented on the following maps but one should be aware that the true picture is far more positive than the diagrams suggest. Perhaps others will participate in the next survey so that a more comprehensive result can be obtained; once this information is to hand it should be easier to monitor population trends over a given period of time.

Kestrel This highly adaptable little falcon is the most common bird of prey in our area and, according to the available data, there are at least 31 breeding pairs in the (western) area. Sharrock, however has estimated an average breeding density for this bird of 75 pairs per 10 kilometre square which should give us a breeding population of 150 pairs - our figures fall far short of the national average.

The reason for this is unclear but perhaps the large urban areas and the relatively barren downland do not provide the optimum breeding conditions for this species. The majority of breeding records are from the coastal plain and the Adur Valley which would indicate this species' preference for more sheltered areas. It is also the areas where Man has altered the area dramatically which shows the flexibility of this bird in using new ecological niches. Breeding sites are usually in old trees but the most interesting site is undoubtedly the Shoreham Flyover which affords a safe, sheltered site.

Sparrowhawk This dashing species is a very secretive woodland bird and is very difficult to locate during the breeding season. It is quite possible that many breeding pairs have been overlooked in our area especially on the

SPARROWHAWK



wooded scarp slopes of the South Downs where, surprisingly enough, no records were received. There are at least 5 pairs in the area which is below the national average. Sharrock estimates an average of 5 pairs per 10 km square but perhaps our figures are not far below the expected 10-11 pairs.

There is not enough woodland on the coastal plain to support a large breeding population but it is interesting to note that the Cissbury area has at least two breeding pairs. The Sparrowhawk was seriously affected by pesticides in the early sixties and there was a national population crash. Fortunately, this trend has been reversed and the increase in sight records would indicate that this bird is recovering well from this setback. Any more breeding records would be gratefully recieved.

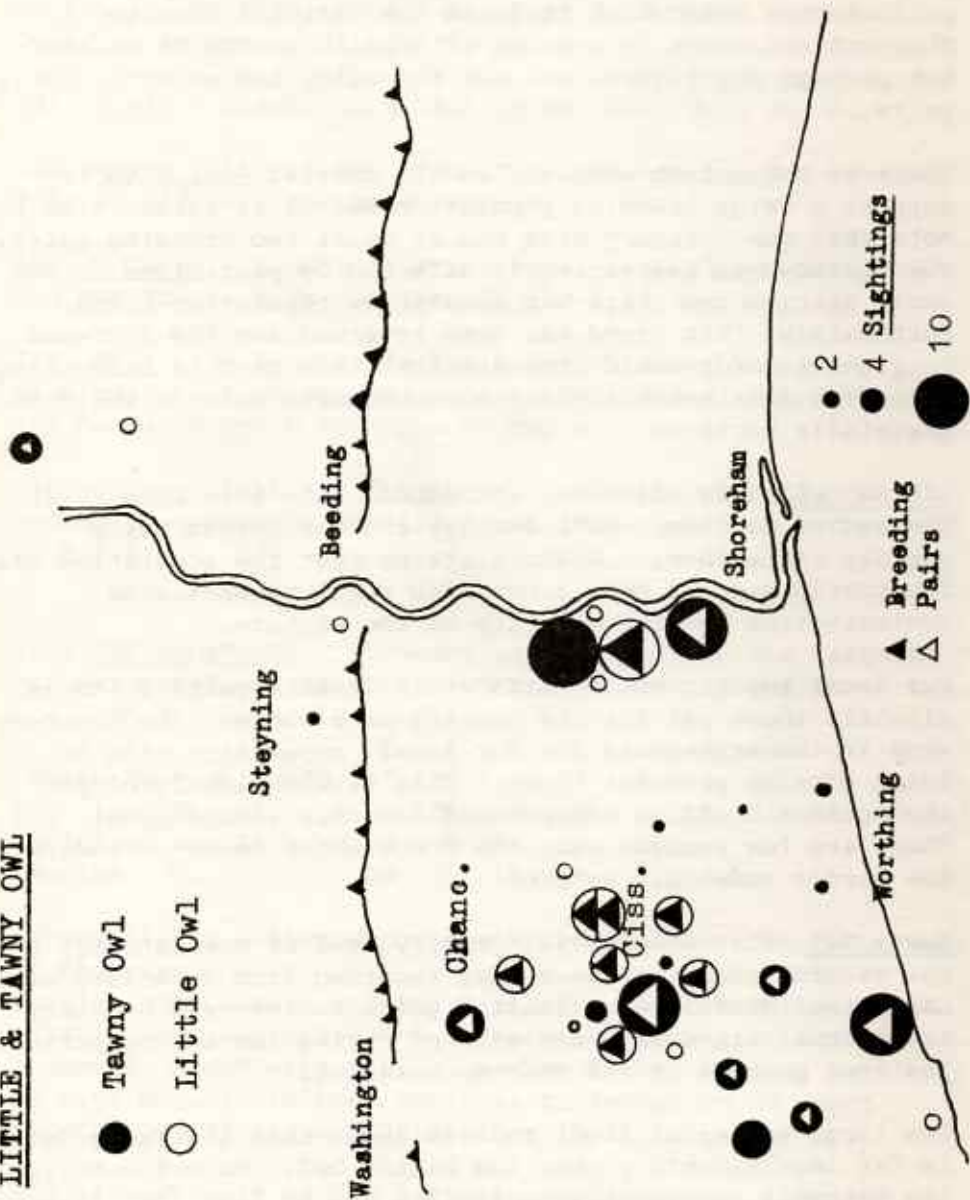
Little Owl This bird was introduced into this country at the end of the nineteenth cetuary and has spread quite rapidly since then. Mikkola states that the population has fluctuated a great deal since 1940 owing to pesticide contamination and the severity of the winters.

Our local population consists of at least 8 pairs which is slightly above par for the country as a whole. The Cissbury area is the stronghold for our local population with at least 6 pairs pressent there. This site obviously offers the optimum breeding environment for this semi-diurnal owl. There are few records away the Downs which seems to indicate the bird's sedentary nature.

Tawny Owl This species is normally fond of woodland but as our records show they have been recorded from a variety of habitats. There are at least 8 pairs in the area but many traditional sites were not watched during the survey period. The true picture is far more encouraging.

The large number of sight records shows that the Tawny Owl is far less sedentary than the Little Owl. Unfortunately, the Tawny is susceptible to traffic and no less than five were found dead between Swandean Hospital and Patching Pond

LITTLE & TAWNY OWL



on the A27 (M.Walker). Of the records to hand there seems a distinct tendency for this bird to haunt the lower slopes in our area. This bias could be purely the result of people not venturing out after dark into the field. As this bird is very noisy throughout the the year many suburban birds have been recorded which is very positive indeed.

Barn Owl Although records were not specifically asked for, one person reported a pair from the Downs. It is likely that this is the only pair for our area; if so it is a tragedy to have lost this beautiful bird as a common breeding bird for the Shoreham area.

Acknowledgments:- Thanks to the following who submitted records - S.R.Allen, R.Edney, B.F.Forbes, M.Hall, D.Hicks, R.W.Ives, P.Maynard, B.Metcalf, J.A.Newnham, B.Reeve, R.J.Sandison, H.Sturman, B.Upton, M.Walker, R.Weal, A.N.Other (no name given).

References:-

Atlas of Breeding Birds	Sharrock	Poyser
Owls of Europe	Mikkola	Poyser

R.A.Ives.

A STUDY OF BREEDING LAPWING

For many years the population of breeding Lapwings in the county has been declining; Walpole-Bond noted this at the end of the last century and it seems to be a trend which has since continued. There was a marked decline after the cold weather of 1962/63 but generally there has been a gradual decrease in Southern Britain whilst in northern parts the numbers have risen. A variety of explanations have been postulated and the main reason is thought to be due to changing land use such as drainage of wet pasture and more intensive cereal cultivation.

With this background information the Sussex Ornithological Society undertook a breeding study of Lapwings in the Spring of 1984 designed not to census the Lapwing's population in the county but to look more closely at the Lapwing's relationship with land use. A number of large tracts of land were surveyed to plot the distribution of breeding Lapwings and to identify the fields preferred by these breeding plovers. In the Shoreham district a large area of farmland was surveyed extending from Mile Oak to Patching Pond and northward as far as Henfield in the Adur valley. Past studies have been less extensive but have shown breeding densities of up to 22 pairs per 2500 acres on the chalk farmland north of Worthing and curiously no breeding Lapwing on similar farmland east of the River Adur.

The results, shown in the table, revealed 83 pairs of Lapwing in the areas of farmland surveyed and an additional 4 pairs in the sand pits near Washington. A rough estimate of the area surveyed would be 70 square kilometers (17500 acres) which gives an overall breeding density of about 12 pairs per 2500 acres. The table clearly shows however, that the breeding density is far from uniform with none being recorded in the lower Adur valley nor, as before, on downland east off the Adur. Both areas A and B reveal equivalent densities of between 18-19 pairs per 2500 acres which is similar to findings in past studies.

Number of Pairs of Lapwings Breeding in Spring 1984

	AREA					
<u>Arable habitats</u>	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
i. Autumn sown cereal	8	3	-	-	-	11
ii. Spring sown cereal	-	41	-	1	-	42
iii. Other spring sown crops	1	-	-	1	-	2
iv. Bare plough/land	2	-	-	-	-	2
v. Stubble	-	3	-	-	-	3
 <u>Grassland habitats</u>						
i. Wet grassland	4	-	-	-	-	4
ii. Permanent grass	5	-	-	-	3	7
iii. Ley grass	2	7	-	-	-	9
iv. Rough grassland	2	-	-	-	-	2
						<u>83</u>

Area A - farmland north of A27 and west of A24 near Clapham and Patching.

Area B - downland between A27 and east of A24 between Cissbury/Chanctonbury/Coombes.

Area C - downland between A27 and east of R.Adur; north of Southwick/Shoreham.

Area D - farmland north of the downs, mainly Wiston Estate.

Area E - Adur Valley and Adur levels north to Henfield.

Although the density in area A is similar to that in area B the type of habitats used by the Lapwing are notably different. The majority of pairs on the chalk downland north of Worthing were in small clusters on bare or nearly bare ground, and fields of spring sown cereal offered the largest areas of this type of terrain. Those pairs recorded in autumn sown crops were in areas where germination was poor and all the birds holding territories in grass leys were close to extensive areas of bare ground for feeding.

The area west of the A24 London/Worthing road is at a lower altitude and was not so intensively cultivated with cereals so here more than half the pairs were noted on grassland but a remarkable 8 pairs were nesting in autumn sown cereals and none in fields of spring sown cereals, the favoured terrain east of the A24. Across the whole area Lapwing avoided fields where farm animals were grazing and except for single pairs in a bean and mustard field none were found in fields of other crops like rape.

Even at a local level the results have demonstrated differences in habitat preference and breeding densities and undoubtedly these results have helped in the county study of this fascinating species.

I would like to thank the following who so carefully carried out the necessary fieldwork:- Ms.S.Hitchings and E.Muirhead; Messrs. G.Cooper, R.Edney, C.Fox, E..Fuller, D.Labdon, L.Mayhead, A.Prater,R.Sandison, D.Smith; Drs. J.Newnham and A.B.Watson.

Dr.J.A.Newnham.

FIELD OUTINGS 1984

Field outings started on the 22nd of January with our now annual visit to Amberley Wild Brooks which was led by Colin Messer. 14 members enjoyed excellent views of wildfowl especially on the Waltham Brooks which had attracted 450 Wigeon, 80 Shoveller, 40 Pintail, 60 Mallard and a superb flock of 200 Canada Geese. A distant flock of 70 Bewick's Swans were counted with the aid of a telescope as they grazed in the fields north of Greatham.

Dr. John Newnham organised conservation working parties at the Shoreham Sanctuary on the 5th and 19th of February which he describes in the Sanctuary report.

Just 6 members braved the persistant rain on the outing to Sidlesham on the 27th of March. Phil Clay, the leader, was himself feeling rather under the weather as he was just getting over a bout of 'flu. An hour or so was spent in the observation hide overlooking the ferry pool on which a good selection of waders were seen including Black-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Ringed Plover, Dunlin and Redshank. However, with the continuing bad weather it was decided to call it a day around 11.00.

It was raining again on the 25th of May when 8 members joined Colin Messer for an evening walk around Arundel Park. Before entering the park the party skirted the edge of the Wildfowl Trust reserve; this produced a number of Gadwall, Carolina Duck, Mandarin, Wigeon and Shoveler. By peering over the reserve fence members made some useful comparisons between Bewick and Whooper Swans. Later, after a short walk by Swanbourne Lake, the outing was finally abandoned due to heavy rain.

There was a change of venue to John Dixons outing on the evening of 6th July. Due to an apparent absence of Nightjars at Wiggonholt Common it was decided to visit Coates Common instead. Luckily Nightjars were present there as well as roding Woodcock. Earlier in the evening at Waltham Brooks members watched feeding waders such as

Redshank, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper.

The annual Adur River walk on the evening of 24th August was again blessed with fine weather and was attended by 18 members including several new ones who were most welcome. Stanley Allen led the party south down the river bank from the Tollbridge to the saltings south of the A259. A total of 30 species was seen in two hours; the most bizzare being a Ring-necked Parakeet. 98 Redshank were counted with 2 Greenshank, 9 Herons, a Yellow Wagtail, a yellow-legged Herring Gull and a large roost of Corn Buntings.

Bernard Forbes took the outing to Cissbury Ring on the 9th of September, unfortunately rain and strong winds probably kept some members away as only 5 turned up with two more joining the party later in the morning. Very few birds were seen due to the strong winds; notable birds for the day included 5 Redstarts, a Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Turtle Dove, Jay and Green Woodpecker. With the persistant bad weather the outing came to an end at 12.00.

On the 7th October, despite heavy showers, 24 members attended the outing to Climping Beach. The leader Dave Smith, reported a total of 40 species which included Short-eared Owl and a Sparrowhawk. Chiffchaffs, Swallows, House Martins, Stonechats, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers and a small flock of Tree Sparrows were also seen.

8 members turned out at the Tollbridge for the Adur wader count on the 8th of December. Colin Messer had started the count at first light and had witnessed a very large movement of Lapwings, around 9000 birds of which 6000 were flying very high and moving north up the valley. The mornings totals also included a low count of 16 Ringed Plover, a high count of 62 Snipe, plus 900 Dunlin, 93 Redshank, 10 Herons, a Brent Goose, 2 Stonechat and 2 Kestrel.

C.E.Messer.

LECTURES 1984

Monday 16th January

Mr John Dixon tackled the unusual subject of bird plumage detail and aspects such as feather tracts, often only familiar to bird ringers, were illustrated with the aid of slides in an informative and highly entertaining way.

Monday 6th February

Miss Ann Griffiths, of the West Sussex County Council, gave a very stimulating talk on the policy and management of designated areas by conservation bodies operating in Sussex. Her extensive knowledge coupled with her enthusiasm gave members a valuable insight into the practicalities and politics of conservation matters.

Monday 5th March

Mr Neville Sibley, with assistance from his wife, gave two presentations. The first, an illustrated journey down the Adur from source to mouth, included much local history along the way and was followed by an introduction to bird photography, including some of the techniques, excellently demonstrated by the slides which proved the versatility of even a standard lens!

Monday April 2nd

After the A.G.M. Mr. Mike Hall introduced the raptor survey with a talk on the Sparrowhawk which included data on its decline, recovery and present status. Dr. John Stafford then analysed the local distribution history of this and the other raptors in the survey. Dr. John Newnham completed the picture by discussing identification and recording of these birds for the survey.

Monday 15th October

Having recently moved to Ashington Mr Chris Fox talked on 'things that fly in TQ11'. With a liberal interpretation of 'flight' including flower seeds disseminating in the wind members were given an impressive demonstration of the natural history to be discovered on a 'local patch'.

Monday 19th November

Mr. Bob Edgar talked to the Society about his ringing activities at Beachy Head. One of the important aspects of this work lies in the monitoring of British populations of some of the commoner British passerines, especially warblers. It clearly emerged that such species such as Whitethroat, Sedge and Grasshopper Warbler have been drastically reduced in recent years, in some cases associated with the African droughts. Members were also shown some of the rarer species which frequent the site.

Monday 3rd December

In a departure from the usual slide quiz Mr. Stanley Allen prepared a compilation of bird sounds to test members ornithological ears! The result was an enjoyable and light hearted evening which nonetheless confirmed the value of knowing those odd "cheeps" and "twitters".

NOTES, NEWS AND ACCOUNTS 1984

OFFICERS

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Dr.J.Stafford.

Hon. Secretary

Mr.J.Dixon,
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West Chiltington 2234.

Hon. Field Secretary

Mr. C. Messer,
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Worthing 35108

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. S. R. Allen,
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Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.
Shoreham 63332.

Hon. Recorder

Mr. B. F. Forbes,
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Lancing, West Sussex.
Lancing 753876.

Hon. Report Editor

Mr. B. R. Clay,
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Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex.
Worthing 49225.

Chairman of the Council

Dr. J. A. Newnham.

Sanctuary Committee

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

Other Committee Members

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

Membership

At the time of going to print there were 150 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 few weeks of 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>Dates</u>
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Rarities should have full supporting notes. All records should be sent to Mr. Bernard Forbes at 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex.

Previous Years Reports

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

Secretary's Note

1) Members are entitled by their subscription to the Annual Report which is published during the year in which their subscription runs. This means that the report is only circulated to those members who have 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.

2) In accordance with the rules, draughted and approved by the Society, 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 criticisms to come along and air their views. Anyone wishing to do so should contact me.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1984

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1984</u> £	<u>1983</u> £
Balance brought forward	776.44	555.21
Subscriptions	390.50	364.50
Donations	-	26.00
Sale of reports	13.60	28.00
Net raffle and refreshment receipts	63.87	43.10
Building Society interest	23.08	-
Bank deposit interest	8.44	32.29
	<u>£1275.93</u>	<u>£1049.10</u>

PAYMENTS

Printing	250.57	198.50
News letter expenses	19.86	-
Stationary	-	3.33
Secretary's expenses		
including hire of hall	60.50	31.50
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Sundries	5.00	14.61
Wine for Christmas meeting	22.09	20.72
Balance carried forward	913.91	776.44
	<u>£1275.93</u>	<u>£1049.10</u>

Signed

S.R. ALLEN (Hon. Treasurer). Date: 21st February 1985

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.

CHATER SPAIN BROS. Chartered Accountants
52/53 Old Steyne, BRIGHTON. BN1 1PH.

Date 21 Feb. 1984.

