

**Shoreham District
Ornithological Society**

REPORT 1986



No. 34

Price £1.50



Little Bittern

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 1986

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Cover Logo by C.E.Messer.

Line Drawings by R.Ives.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Whilst 1986 may have been a quieter year if judged by the number of rarities found in our area, ornithological activity by our Members was not diminished. The Society has been more active than ever during the past year on the conservation front with a number of officers and members being involved in several conservation schemes throughout the area.

Mike Hall has documented in this report the progress in the Ferring Rife scheme where his involvement with Southern Water heralds an exciting future for this area. The Society has also been actively involved in the conservation project by Ricardo's on their test track land by the Adur Flyover at Shoreham and with the National Trust concerning the scrub at Cissbury. The latter site has a particular significance in view of the proposals for the A27 Worthing By-pass. Any effort that this Society can provide to safeguard or improve the habitat within our area is one of the most valuable contributions we can make to the future of our ornithology.

We are extremely indebted to Richard Weal for adding yet another successful dimension to the Society; his organisation and leadership of the weekends to north Kent and more recently to Norfolk has been a greatly appreciated.

On the administrative side Colin Messer's departure to Sweden caused his enforced resignation as Field Secretary; we thank him and wish him well and welcome Dave Smith who has ably filled the gap. John Newnham stepped down as Chairman but continued on the committee, the value of John's contributions to this Society are inestimable. Mike Hall, who took over as Chairman, has been instrumental in many of the Society's recent initiatives and is a natural successor.

Finally a thank-you to all Officers and Members who have assisted the Society in some way during the past year and a personal thank-you to John Newnham and my wife Diane for their invaluable help with this report.

BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM DISTRICT 1986

After the megatick year of 1985, 86 has been somewhat quieter with only three major rarities recorded over the entire area, although once again the cold spell at the beginning of the year produced a mass influx involving many species.

January was fairly mild, but 24 Bewick Swans, 750 Wigeon, 400 Snipe and 11 White-fronted Geese were seen on the Adur Levels. One lone observer located the Sociable Plover briefly on the Airport, it was not to be seen again. A Merlin and 10 Knot were on the Adur and single Long-tailed Duck and Goosander were seen from Worthing Beach. February saw large flocks of thrushes invading our area and Woodcock were turning up in gardens. Good numbers of Goldeneye and Grey Plover were counted on the Adur, Jack Snipe and Green Sandpiper were at Ferring Rife in early March whilst 2 Smew were on Widewater. Raptor interest was provided by a Merlin at Cissbury and a couple of Short-eared Owls seen on the Adur Levels.

Although by mid March the first Chiffchaff and Wheatear had been seen or heard, the traditional migrants in April were thin on the ground. However seawatching off Worthing beach gave rise to sightings of Great Northern Diver, Red and Black-necked Grebe, Goosander, Avocet and 3 Spotted Redshank. Elsewhere a Short-eared Owl spent most of April around New Salts Farm, a Merlin was recorded at Cissbury and Little Ringed Plover and Water Pipit appeared at Widewater. Last but not least in April was a Wood Warbler singing on Washington Common on the 26th.

May saw an increase in seawatching activity producing record numbers of eastward bound Arctic and Great Skuas for the log, along with many other hundreds of birds, including highlights such as Great Northern Diver, a Long-tailed duck, a Mediterranean Gull and 4 Roseate Terns.

June, a quiet month for quantity, produced quality with a Little Bittern which showed itself briefly for a couple of days at the Sanctuary but was only seen by a few lucky observers. A Firecrest was trapped, also at the Sanctuary; are they breeding in our recording area? The departing shot from Colin Messer was the sighting of a Honey Buzzard, drifting high over his house at Worthing on the 8th; only our second record - the first just last year. Summer birds were hard to find, with the best being a Grasshopper Warbler heard on the Downs, up to 4 Quail calling near Cissbury, 15 Crossbill frequenting the east side of Storrington in July and an immature Eider Duck roosting on Ferring beach. A count of Sand Martin nest sites in the sand pits north of the Downs only produced approximately 25 occupied holes.

August and September enabled many people to see plenty of common migrants, especially Yellow Wagtail and Wheatear, with up to 50 of each species around the Adur Recreation Ground in early September. Crossbills were recorded from the Sanctuary and Cissbury in August. Waders were plentiful at or around the Adur, with Curlew Sandpipers, Common Sandpipers, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank being notable highlights. A Merlin frequented New Salts Farm at the end of September. The bird of the Autumn was surely the Glossy Ibis drifting over the Sanctuary on Sep 18th, not to be seen again but part of an influx over many counties; the luck of Newnham strikes once again!

During October and November no major rarities were found although there were many late records of the commoner species, including a Whinchat on the Downs on November 2nd, a Little Tern at Coombes on the 3rd, whilst seawatching produced 2 Little Auks also on the 3rd and a Sooty Shearwater on the 9th. 6 Bewick Swans on the Adur Levels on November 23rd increased to 15 by December 14th but otherwise December slipped by with just a Green Sandpiper at Ferring Rife, a Water Rail at Woods Mill and another Merlin on the Downs. Only 1 Chiffchaff and 3 Blackcaps were recorded from gardens with 1 or 2 Bramblings logged; the end of the year was a quiet one.

B.F. Forbes.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1986

This feature has been compiled from records sent in by local observers.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Whimbrel	Apr 10 Worthing	Sep 16 Ferring
*Common Sandpiper	May 10 Adur	Sep 16 Ferring
Sandwich Tern	Mar 28 Worthing	Oct 10 Worthing
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr 9 Worthing	Sep 26 Worthing
Little Tern	Apr 15 Worthing	Nov 3 Coombes
Turtle Dove	May 3 Wild Park	Oct 12 Shoreham
Cuckoo	Apr 24 Wild Park	Oct 6 Worthing
Swift	May 1 Worthing	Sep 14 Goring Gap
Sand Martin	Apr 25 Dev.Dyke	Sep 22 Devils Dyke
Swallow	Apr 22 Sullington	Dec 14 Goring Gap
House Martin	Apr 26 New Salts	Nov 30 Wothing
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 12 Widewater	Oct 15 Ferring
Redstart	Apr 19 Wild Park	Oct 29 Hove
Whinchat	May 3 Sompting	Nov 2 Steepdown
*Wheatear	Mar 16 Shoreham	Oct 16 Widewater
Sedge Warbler	Apr 25 Airport	Sep 20 Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 26 Wild Park	Sep 28 Sanctuary
Whitethroat	Apr 25 Dev.Dyke	Oct 21 Wild Park
Garden Warbler	May 1 Lancing	Sep 22 Devils Dyke
*Blackcap	Apr 5 Broadwater	Oct 19 Sanctuary
*Chiffchaff	Mar 9 New Salts	Oct 18 Wild Park
Willow Warbler	Apr 5 New Salts	Sep 28 Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May 10 Cuckoo Cnr	Oct 8 Woods Mill

* Excluding possible wintering birds.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA 1986

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

P.Allen, S.R.Allen, M.I.Banks, T.Bujock, G.L., L.M., M.L. & N.J.Champion, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, R. Edney, R.H.Eyre-Walker, J.Feest, B.F.Forbes, F.J.Forbes, C.J.Fox, C.P.Griffiths, M.P.Hall, S.Harthill, C.Hope, R.Ives, R.W.C.Ives, H.Jackson, L.R.Keen, D.King, D.H.Labdon, G.T.J.Martin, J.Maskell, S.Maskell, V.Maynard-Smith, C.E.Messer, B.Metcalf, Dr.J.A.Newnham, K.Noble, J.V.Nye, B.Reeve, M.Russell, R.J.Sandison, R.M.Shaw, T.C.Smart, D.I.Smith, Dr.J.Stafford, H.Sturman, J.Underwood, R.Weal, P.J.Whitcome.

See also acknowledgements in Seawatching Report.

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.

'Downs' refers to the downland area between the Adur Valley and the A24 including Cissbury/Chanctonbury. References to Worthing Beaches 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	July
Worthing Beach	34	22	55	148	186	13	5
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
	18	17	30	29	11	568	

1. RED THROATED DIVER - most were noted at Worthing beach where recorded between Jan 1 and May 16, and again after Sept 17; 24% of all flying divers were this species and the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	47	6	1	16	12	-	-	1	5	5
W.	54	11	-	2	4	-	1	1	3	2

Peak movements at Worthing beach were 16W/8E on Jan 23; 15W/8E on Jan 25 and 6W/14E on Jan 30. Elsewhere small numbers, involving 9 birds, were noted in winter at Widewater, Brighton marina, and Shoreham harbour.

2. BLACK THROATED DIVER - recorded from Worthing beach between Jan 21 and May 20, but none noted there at the end of the year. Only 6.5% of all flying divers were identified as this species and the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	8	2	-	11	20	-	-	-	-
W.	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

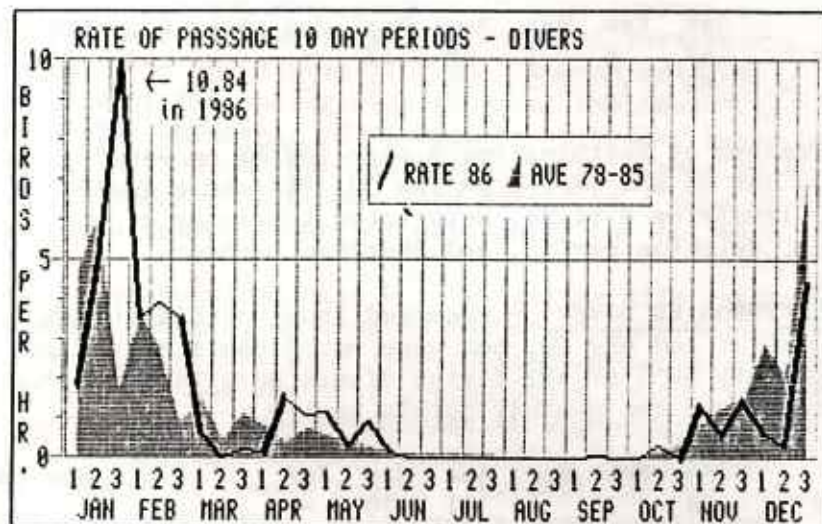
The peak movements at Worthing beach were 4E on Jan 25; 9E on May 4 and 5E on May 6. A single at Widewater on Feb 9 and 2 offshore Worthing beach on Mar 2 were the only other records.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER - 1E at Worthing beach at 0940 on Apr 25 (DIS) and 1W in sp there at 0710 on May 21 (JAN) were the only records emphasising how scarce this species is in this area.

DIVER SP - noted at Worthing beach from Jan 1 to June 10 and again after Sept 17. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	128	21	11	159	141	-	-	2	14	17
W.	100	60	2	7	13	1	1	1	20	9

Peak movements at Worthing beach were 24W/20E on Jan 23; 35W/20E on Jan 25; 30E on Apr 15; 28E on Apr 16; 28E on Apr 23; and 1W/49E on May 4. Unusually late were 2W/17E on May 21 and 6E on May 31.



6. LITTLE GREBE - maximum monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater .	2	-	-	-	1	1	1
River Adur.	2	3	7	-	-	-	-

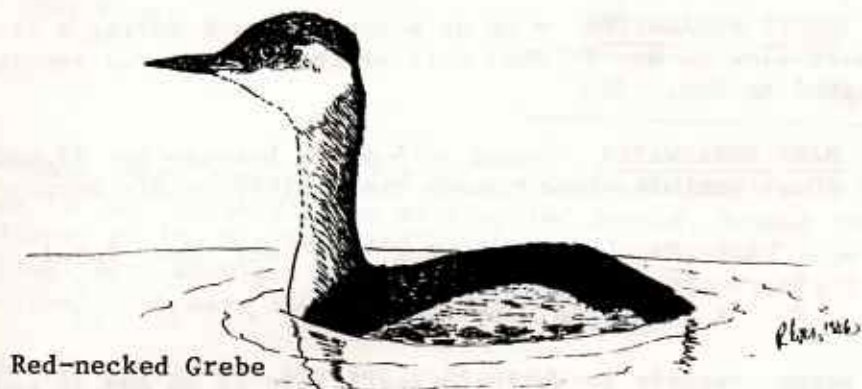
5 more were at Southwick Canal on Mar 13 but generally low numbers were recorded. Regular counts from Widewater, Adur and Southwick Canal would be interesting

7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE - noted regularly offshore at Worthing beach between Jan 1 and May 11, with peak counts of 11 on Feb 11 and 5 on Feb 19. Recorded there again after Oct 12. The monthly totals of those seen flying were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	5	9	10	3	-	-	-	4	-	-
W.	7	18	1	3	1	-	-	3	-	-

The peak movement at Worthing beach was 13W in 2.2hrs on Feb 27. Seen offshore at Widewater with 14 on Jan 25, 5 on Feb 9 and 4 on Mar 2. During Feb up to 5 noted Shoreham harbour with 8 there on Mar 6. With 2 on Brooklands at the beginning of March it is noteworthy that all the records come from or near to the coast.

8. RED-NECKED GREBE - singles offshore at Widewater on Apr 6 and in Southwick Canal on Oct 28 were the only records.



Red-necked Grebe

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE - all the records span from late Jan to early Mar with 2 offshore at Widewater on Jan 25, a confiding individual in wp at Brooklands between Feb 8-15, four records of singles at Worthing beach between Feb 12-Mar 3 and 1 Shoreham harbour between Mar 4-6.

10. BLACK-NECKED GREBE - at least 5 and possibly 7 individuals in sp offshore at Worthing beach on Apr 14 (DIS/RJS).

SLAV/BLACK-NECKED GREBE - 1W at Worthing beach on Aug 5 was the only small grebe seen in flight offshore.

12. FULMAR - recorded on seawatches at Worthing beach between Jan 26 and Sept 2 but the following table reveals how scarce they are from Sept until Mar. Record numbers were noted in the spring.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.			28	171	183	7	-	10	2	-	-	-
W.	1	3	32	300	269	29	-	13	1	-	-	-

The peak movements at Worthing beach occurred in unsettled weather with 47W/18E on Apr 15; 30W/22E on Apr 20; 15W/39E on Apr 27; and 48W/82E on May 4. As usual most were moving W with only 38.8% of the spring records being eastbound birds.

17. SOOTY SHEARWATER - 1W at Worthing beach during a fresh onshore blow on Nov 9 (JAN) will be the fourth area record if accepted by SOS.

18. MANX SHEARWATER - seen on 5 dates between Apr 22 and June 10 at Worthing beach where the monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total.
E.	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
W.	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	10

The autumn records at Worthing beach were 1E on Aug 26 and 2W on Nov 13 (RJS). The only other record was 2E offshore Widewater on May 5.

25. GANNET - recorded offshore during every month and the monthly totals are shown below:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	-	7	6	121	303	18	4	22	69	8	6	1
W.	2	1	7	130	302	19	16	10	11	19	95	3

Record numbers were recorded in the spring at Worthing beach with peak movements of 5W/173E on May 4 and 120W/4E on May 10. The largest autumn movements were 10W/54E on Sept 16 and 73W/4E on Nov 9.

26. CORMORANT - the significance of movements at Worthing beach still is unclear but probably represent birds moving between feeding and roost sites, the monthly totals recorded were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	8	9	43	35	1	-	5	12	6	10	1
W.	4	2	4	5	31	7	-	6	17	19	17	3

Counts at Southwick beach included 21 on Feb 14 and 20 on Mar 19. Offshore at Widewater 18 were noted on Sept 14. Regular counts at Southwick would be useful.

Roost counts Wyckham Farm Adur Levels:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	-	-	27	11	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	11

27. SHAG - 1E with 3 Cormorants at Worthing beach at 0717 on May 31 (JAN) is the only record this year.

39. HERON - Noted throughout the year with the maximum of 15 at New Salts Farm on Sept 28. Up to 3 regular Ferring Rife during winter. At Worthing beach 2E on Apr 13, 1W on Apr 14 and 3N on June 6 were the only seawatching records and 3 over Cissbury on Aug 29.

32. LITTLE BITTERN - a female at Sanctuary on June 1-2 (JAN) is the second for the area, the first appearing in the spring of 1966.

43. GLOSSY IBIS - 1 flew over the water meadows near Sanctuary and departed eastward over Mill Hill on Sept 18 (JAN). This, the first record for this area, is the first in Sussex since 1965 and was one of several noted in Britain during the autumn.

46. MUTE SWAN - peak monthly counts at Widewater:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	16	16	12	2	-	-	-	10	-	-

Elsewhere counts of 32 wintering at Adur Levels on Feb 16 and 39 there on Dec 28; 2E Worthing beach on June 13 and confirmed breeding at Sanctuary and Brooklands.

47. BEWICK'S SWAN - 10 at Adur Levels on Jan 11 had increased to 24 a few days later; 6 had returned there by Nov 23 with 15 on Dec 14 and 5 on Dec 20. 1W high over Worthing beach on Nov 30.

51. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - the only flock was of 9 Adur Levels on Jan 11. A single bird at Storrington sand pits on Apr 12 and Wiston Pond on Apr 13 is of dubious origin.

55. CANADA GOOSE - The disappearance of 4 young raised by a pair at Woods Mill was thought to be due to mink. The only other records were 4 at Small Dole Clay Pits on May 16 and 9W at Worthing beach on June 4.

57. BRENT GOOSE - as usual most were seen on seawatches, at Worthing beach recorded until May 24 and again after Sept 13: the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	52	83	2519	917	239	-	5	27	193	32
W.	37	7	26	37	-	-	18	281	2895	75

The peak movements at Worthing beach were 629E on Mar 13; 408E on Mar 15; 476E on Mar 16 and 361E on Apr 13. The main autumn movement of 2566W and 127E in 4.8hrs occurred on Nov 2 during strong northerly winds. Elsewhere the only records were of a single at Widewater in Jan and 1 or 2 at Goring Gap during Nov and Dec.

61 SHELDUCK - as usual most were seen by seawatchers and the coastal movements at Worthing beach can be summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	9	4	61	50	40	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
W.	13	10	16	68	46	-	-	-	2	7	43	25

The largest movement was only 30E on Mar 18. Records elsewhere were 9 Adur Levels on Jan 11, up to 13 Adur between Jan 18 and Apr 6 and up to 5 Widewater in early Mar.

64. WIGEON - the largest numbers were seen in the Adur Valley with 750 Adur Levels on Jan 11 and 120 flying S at Beeding on Feb 8. Between Jan 1 and Mar 28 noted on 9 dates passing Worthing beach; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	2	27	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
W.	60	6	2	-	-	-	18	10	26	-

Despite exceptionally cold weather in Feb very few were seen, the peak of 40W occurring on Jan 1. Likewise autumn sea passage was small with no cold weather stimulating movements.

67. GADWALL - Up to 3 were regularly seen at New Salts Farm, Adur or Widewater throughout the year. The only other observations were 2E at Worthing beach on Mar 18 and 2W there on Mar 22.

69. TEAL - Most were noted at Adur Levels with counts of 100 on Jan 11, 45 on Mar 2 and 15 on Apr 4. A pair remained there until May 27. Elsewhere small numbers were seen Adur, Ferring Rife and Woods Mill.

At Worthing beach noted in small numbers on 10 dates between Jan 7 and Apr 27 and again after Aug 25; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	2	15	10	-	-	-	1	-	-
W.	8	9	2	-	-	5	3	-	22	-

70. MALLARD - There were scattered counts of 30 Adur Levels on Feb 16, 40 offshore at Worthing beach on Mar 2, 44 at New Salts Farm on Sept 3 with 70 there on Nov 9 and finally 25 at Small Dole on Nov 15. Few recorded passing Worthing beach between Jan 26 and June 9, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	2	2	8	-	5	-	-	-	-
W.	9	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	2

72. PINTAIL - During the winter there were 7 Adur Levels on Jan 11 with 5 there on Feb 16, 13 flew SW over Airfield on Jan 9, 1 Widewater on Feb 8 and 2 on Adur on Mar 5. Thereafter all the records were from Worthing beach where a total of 13E/2W occurred on 4 dates between Mar 11 and Apr 21. During the autumn only 2E at Worthing beach on Sept 13 and 4W there on Nov 2.

75. SHOVELER - singles Adur Levels on Feb 16 and at Small Dole on Mar 16, a total of 6E/6W on 4 dates between Mar 11 and Apr 15 at Worthing beach, and 5 at Adur Levels on Nov 23 were the only records for the year.

77. POCHARD - the maximum monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater.	7	24	11	-	-	4	3
Brooklands.	7	14	-	-	-	-	-

Recorded at Widewater until Mar 5 and again after Nov 9. At Worthing beach 10E on Mar 16, 2W on Nov 2 and 20W on Nov 7.

80. TUFTED DUCK - the maximum monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater.	5	23	24	-	-	-	4
Brooklands.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-

At Worthing beach only 7W noted on 2 spring dates and 13W on 2 autumn days. There were 2 pairs at Wiston Pond on May 6.

81. SCAUP - all the records occurred during and after the cold spell in Feb. At Brooklands singles seen on Feb 9, Mar 9 and Mar 16; 2 Adur between Feb 10 and Feb 21; 1 Adur Levels on Feb 16 and at Widewater 3 females on Feb 19 with 2 remaining until Mar 17;

82. EIDER - coastal movements noted Worthing beach can be tabulated:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	11	1	14	58	30	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
W.	6	11	-	2	5	16	-	-	2	-	35	3

The peak, a mere 18E on Apr 16 and 26W on Nov 5, show no large movements were seen. Elsewhere 2 offshore Widewater on Apr 18 and Oct 11, an imm roosting Ferring Beach between July 10 and 27 and 3 offshore Worthing beach on Oct 16 were the only other records.

86. LONG TAILED DUCK - a single female W at Worthing beach on Jan 3 (JAN) and 1 E there during the afternoon on May 4 (OM et al). were the only records.

87. COMMON SCOTER - recorded passing Worthing beach during each month and the totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	7	11	63	1718	1630	70	-	11	21	9	4	-
W.	33	-	3	32	36	15	1	14	14	12	4	2

There were unusually low numbers during Mar, the peak movements being 563E on Apr 15, 246E on Apr 25, and 229E on May 20. The only other records were 15 offshore at Widewater on June 29 and 12 offshore at Worthing beach on Oct 16.

89. VELVET SCOTER - The distribution of the records from Worthing beach, as shown below, show this species to be mainly a spring migrant.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	-	-	31	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-

The peak spring movements at Worthing beach were 13E on Apr 23 and 11E on May 20. In the autumn there 1W on Oct 27, 2W on Nov 2 and at Widewater 2E and 5W on Nov 5.

91. GOLDENEYE - 1 Adur on Jan 18 and 2 there on Feb 15 preceeded the main influx in early Mar when there were 9 on Adur. The 1 or 2 noted at Widewater at this time were probably from this Adur party. At Worthing beach singles flew W on Jan 25 and E on Mar 11 where there were also 2 offshore in Feb. Between Nov 2 and 9 a total of 5W on 3 dates also at Worthing beach

The approximate monthly totals were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-

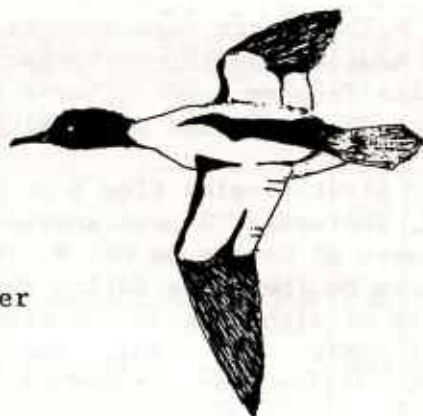
93. SMEW - 1 redhead Upper Adur Levels on Feb 16 and one at Widewater between Mar 2 and 13 with 2 there on Mar 3.

94. RED BREASTED MERGANSER - Regularly noted offshore during the winter and spring, the monthly totals from Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	177	78	112	375	32	-	-	-	8	12
W.	73	73	49	37	2	-	4	23	82	7
max feeding	39	30	48	19	-	-	-	3	16	

The peak movement of 70E at Worthing beach was on Apr 13 and last noted on May 29. An earlier return in autumn than usual; the first noted at Worthing beach on Sept 2. The only other notable records were 25 offshore at Widewater on Apr 12 and singles on Brooklands and Widewater during the winter months.

95. GOOSANDER - all the records were from the coast with a male W at Worthing beach on Jan 25, 2 males W there on Mar 9 and a redhead E on Apr 15. A single at Brighton marina on Mar 2 completed a good year.



Goosander

97. HONEY BUZZARD - 1 over Worthing on June 18 (CEM) will be the second record for this area if accepted by the SOS.

103. MARSH HARRIER - Despite an increasing national population there were no records.

104. HEN HARRIER - There were no records in 1986.

108. SPARROW HAWK - Recorded regularly in winter from 18 - 20 sites equally distributed between coastal, downland and wealden areas. Possibly 13 pairs bred in 12 localities and there was a notable increase in observations after Aug particularly from the coastal strip and urban areas. This species has become very regular throughout the recording area.

109. COMMON BUZZARD - singles were seen over the Downs during Feb and on Apr 5, July 10, July 17 and Oct 11. Also noted at Wiston on May 15; over Lancing on Aug 9 and coasting E at Worthing beach on Sept 17.

115. KESTREL - Breeding season records suggest 25 pairs. Noteworthy records were 1W Worthing beach on May 31 and a gathering of 7 at Long Furlong on Aug 14.

118. MERLIN - There were more records than usual with singles noted Adur on Jan 16; at Lychpole on Mar 26 and Apr 13; at New Salts Farm on Sept 30; over Findon Valley on Oct 25; at Cissbury on Nov 20 and at Washington on Dec 16.

119. HOBBY - first singles flew N at Worthing beach on Apr 21 and Apr 22, thereafter a good scattering of records until the last was seen at Goring on Oct 9. It was noteworthy that only 2 were seen on the Downs during the autumn and the monthly numbers of sightings in the area were:-

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
2	2	3	-	3	5	1



Hobby

123. PEREGRINE - singles noted on Portslade Downs (RMS) and in the Adur Valley on Nov 6 (JS/RJS) need confirmation by the SOS.

130. GREY PARTRIDGE - a covey of 10 Sanctuary was the first record there for several years.

131. QUAIL - regularly calling at Fulking Hill between June 26 and Aug 12 and up to 4 in Cissbury area between June 16 and Aug 5. Here 2 calling from barley and 2 from grass fields.

136. WATER RAIL - Singles noted at New Salts Farm from Feb 11 to Apr 18 and Airport between Feb 15-16. Up to 2 at Woods Mill in early Nov with 1 there throughout Dec.

142. MOORHEN - up to 14 at Brooklands during the harsh winter weather. Pairs bred at Woods Mill (3), Storrington Mill Pond and Sanctuary.

145. COOT - the peak monthly counts at Brooklands were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
44	65	62	8	24	30	38

The peak in Feb coincided with severely cold weather, the count at Widewater during this period was 16 on Feb 23. Breeding pairs were noted at Brooklands, Steyning Mill Pond and at Wiston Pond.

151. OYSTERCATCHER - recorded in every month and as usual the largest numbers were noted on seawatches:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	53	74	85	188	173	-	-	20	21	21	51	21
W.	57	1	56	54	90	1	-	26	25	32	14	3

The largest number recorded at Worthing beach was 27W/26E on May 16: however, most are probably birds on roosting or feeding flights. Good numbers continue to be seen on both the Adur and shorelines with the peak monthly counts as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	16	16	11	6
Goring	25	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	30	20

153. AVOCET - a good year with all the records falling in the spring. Singles were seen on the Adur on Apr 12 and May 5 and at Worthing beach the records were singles passing E on Apr 25 and May 3, and a party of 13E on May 20.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - 1W at Widewater on Apr 11 was the only record.

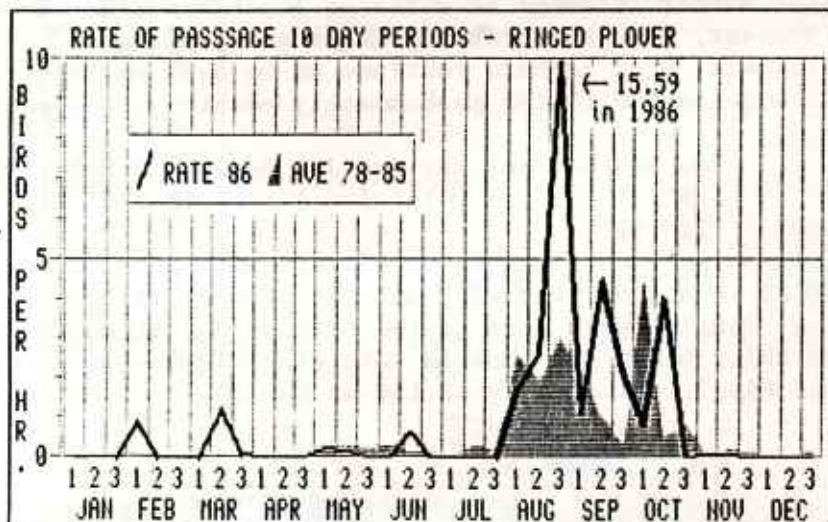
159. RINGED PLOVER - Peak monthly counts as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur	130	200	36	12	3	6	-	330	180	170	121	80
Goring	192	73	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	124	14	2

The autumn numbers on the Adur remain high but the roost at Goring Gap showed marked fluctuations in numbers and had probably found another site at the end of the year. Away from these main sites were 42 at Shoreham beach on Feb 13 and up to 88 feeding amongst the seaweed on Worthing beach in Aug. Movements passing Worthing beach were as follows with peaks of 18E on May 2 and 102W on Aug 21.

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	26	5	30	3	-	4	45	32	11	-
W.	3	2	7	-	-	125	14	1	24	-

Breeding territories were held by at least 3 pairs at Widewater, a pair at Shoreham harbour, a pair on the Portslade Downs and a pair at Sompting Brooks.



165. GOLDEN PLOVER - No large movements or flocks were noted: at Worthing beach 3E on Jan 12 and 3E on Mar 18; 1 Airport between Jan 6-8 and again on Sept 21 with 2 there on Aug 24; 2 Cissbury on Aug 30 and singles there on Sept 21 and Sept 28; 1 Fulking Hill on Nov 3 and finally 1 Adur Levels on Nov 23.

166. GREY PLOVER - Once again good numbers were noted and the peak monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur	4	28	14	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Goring	189	196	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	64	33

The winter counts on the Adur are the largest recorded. Movements at Worthing Beach were below average and were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	3	4	20	6	96	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
W.	17	1	2	12	26	-	-	1	6	9	20	-

The peak at Worthing beach was 67E on May 2 with the last noted in spring there on May 23. The main autumn arrival coincided with a movement of Dunlin and Brent Geese in early Nov.

167. SOCIABLE PLOVER - 1 Airport on Jan 3 (MR); the first year individual which was in the area from Oct 31 1985 was seen only on this occasion in 1986.

169. LAPWING - winter counts included 600 at Ferring Rife on Jan 12, 300 Adur Levels on Jan 26 and 830 there on Feb 9 and 3000 feeding on Adur on Jan 11 and Feb 7. Despite the cold the only movement noted was 110W at Worthing beach on Feb 7.

The downland breeding population showed further declines with only 5 pairs between Cissbury, Chanctonbury, and Steyning Round Hill, 3 pairs at Lychpole Hill, 4 pairs between Chantry Hill and Washington, and 4 pairs on downs near Findon cricket ground. By mid Sept 400 gathered at New Salts Farm increasing to 900 by Nov 15 and finally 400 Adur Levels on Nov 23.

170. KNOT - irregularly noted on Adur with 10 on Jan 12 and singles in Mar and Oct. A poor spring passage at Worthing beach as only recorded on 3 dates with 65 out of the total of 74E being seen on May 6. During Sept 8E and 8W at Worthing beach and finally 5E at Widewater on Dec 24.

171. SANDERLING - max monthly counts at Goring/Ferring:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
203	133	30	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	12	-

The coastal movements observed at Worthing beach can be summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	-	-	66	188	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
W.	6	-	-	52	105	-	-	-	7	-	-	-

The peak movements at Worthing beach were only 44E on May 2 and 33E on May 7. Unusual records included 7 feeding in Ferring Rife in Feb, 1 Adur on Aug 21 and 2 there on Sept 11.

175. LITTLE STINT - Singles Adur on Aug 1 and at Widewater on Sept 19 were the only records.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER - recorded on Adur on 6 dates between Aug 27 and Oct 1 with the maximum of 3 on Sept 23.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER - there were no records in 1986.

184. DUNLIN - The peak monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur	800	750	-	8	5	-	6	49	-	17	378	-
Goring	289	433	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	102	170

Up to 180 feeding West Worthing beach during the winter; roost movements continue eastward on rising tide; the maximum of 493E on Jan 26. The coastal movements from the Worthing beach sea-watching log were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	-	58	50	188	-	-	1	-	-	87	-
W.	-	-	29	36	105	1	-	-	6	14	508	2

The peak movements were 156E on May 2 and 139W in fresh SW winds on May 10. The main autumn arrival was in northerly winds on Nov 2 with 394W and 57E in 4.8hrs and a further 63W in 2.2 on Nov 3.

188. RUFF - The only records were singles at New Salts Farm or Airport between Jan 1-8, 2 at Ferring Rife on Feb 21, 2 Adur on Mar 8 and 1 there between Aug 3 and Oct 3.

189. JACK SNIPE - 1 at Ferring Rife on Feb 21, 2 on Mar 1 and a single at Small Dole clay pit on Apr 4 were the only records.

190. SNIPE - During mild weather in Jan there were good counts of 104 at New Salts Farm on Jan 8, 150 Adur on Jan 11 and 400 at Annington on Jan 19 but after the colder weather in Feb there were only 60 Adur on Feb 8, 20 at Ferring Rife on Feb 22 with 60 there by Mar 1. During the spring 40 Adur Levels on Apr 4 and 1 drumming there May 27. The only record late in the year was 15 Adur Levels on Dec 14

194. WOODCOCK - Records spanned Jan 2 to Mar 15 from 11 localities and involved 19 birds; the majority were in the cold snap during Feb when 3 were recorded from urban gardens and 3 in Wild Park, Brighton. The only records later in the year were singles over Offington on Oct 4 and at Cissbury on Dec 31.

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT - This remains an unusual bird in this area with the only records being 15E at Worthing beach on May 2, 1W there on May 12 and 1 Adur on Nov 2.

196. BAR TAILED GODWIT - as usual most were noted passing Worthing beach where the monthly totals were:-

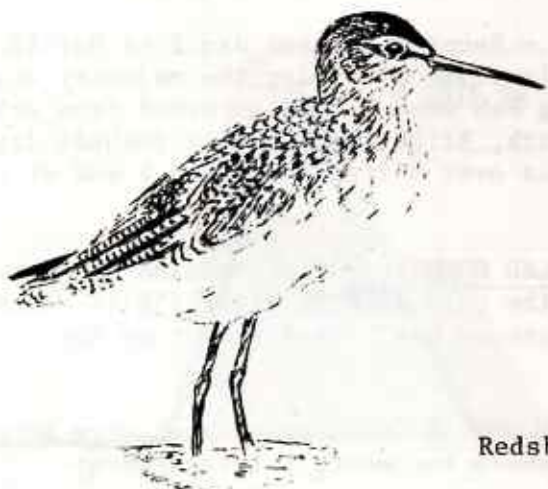
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	2	7	629	2159	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
W.	1	-	2	22	20	-	1	13	-	-	-	-

The last was seen on May 30 and the peak movements were 650E on May 1 and 581E on May 6. The only other records were of 1 or 2 feeding on Worthing beach or GB during the winter and 4 Goring Gap on Feb 28.

198. WHIMBREL - coastal movements at Worthing beach were noted between Apr 10 and May 24 in the spring and again between July 22 and Aug 7, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	-	-	189	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.	-	-	-	33	37	-	1	14	-	-	-	-

The peak movements were 9W/59E on Apr 16, 4W/61E on Apr 24 and 37E on May 2. Small numbers were noted on Adur during both spring and autumn with a maximum of 3 on Aug 29. Slightly more unusual were singles at Beeding Hill on July 8 and at West Hove G.C. on Aug 6.

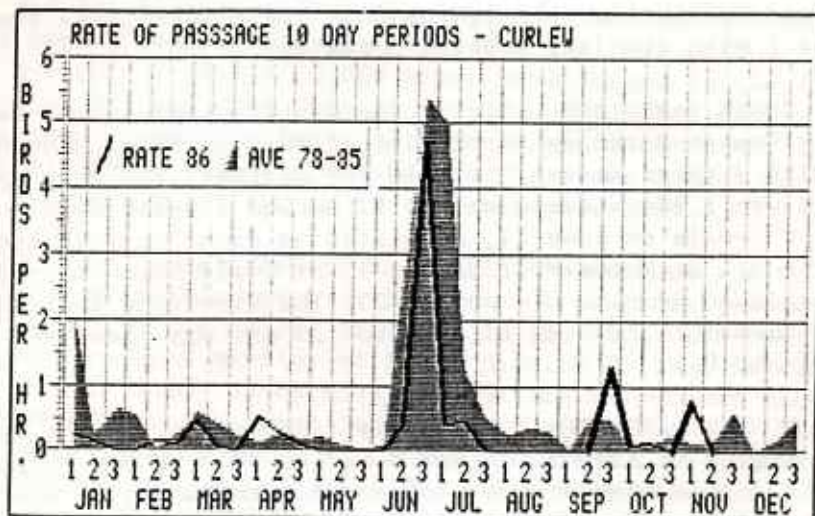


Redshank

199. CURLEW - most were recorded on seawatches at Worthing beach where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	1	13	40	7	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
W.	3	-	1	10	3	20	2	-	3	2	12	-

The peak movements were 10E on Apr 13, 17W on June 24 and 8W on Nov 2. Additionally 7W at Widewater on Jan 11, 4 Ferring Beach on Apr 20 and 1 over Wiston on July 14.



201. SPOTTED REDSHANK - 3W at Worthing beach on Apr 22 (RJS), singles on Adur on Aug 2 and 29 and 1 over Chanctonbury on Sept 6 provide the best series of records for this species for many years.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
148	160	29	2	-	10	-	80	69	130	-	62

Small numbers noted passing Worthing beach in the winter months, usually involving up to 5 birds thought mainly to involve birds moving to and fro with the rise and fall of tide, however flocks of 15 and 27 west on May 6 was the largest spring movement ever noted at Worthing beach.

An albino individual noted Adur between Jan 11 and Feb 15.

204. GREENSHANK - The only spring record was 1E at Widewater on Apr 27. All the autumn sightings were in the lower Adur Valley with a single on July 4, 4 on Aug 21 increasing to 8 by Aug 29 and 9 on Sept 3. Small parties remained on the Adur throughout Sept and 4 were still there on Oct 1 with the last 2 being noted on Oct 16.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER - During the winter singles were seen by the Cement Works on Jan 23 and at Ferring Rife throughout Jan with 3 there during the cold Feb weather. The only spring record was 1 Adur Levels on Apr 4. Autumn singles were noted at Adur Levels on June 21, at Wiston on June 30, over Lancing on July 31, at Woods Mill on Aug 9, at Small Dole on Sept 6 and again on Adur Levels on Nov 23. The wintering individual had returned to Ferring Rife by Nov 29 and was then seen throughout Dec.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER - Scarcely recorded during the spring with singles at Airport on Mar 8 and on Adur on May 10 and May 15. Autumn migrants were observed between July 4 and Sept 16 involving at least 28 individuals. The largest counts were 4 on Adur on July 19 and 3 at Small Dole on Sept 2. The last 2 were noted at Ferring on Sept 16.

213. TURNSTONE - most regularly seen between Worthing beach and Ferring Beach, where the maximum monthly totals were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	2	4	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	13	7

A poor year for visible passage as monthly totals passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	-	2	3	16	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.	6	-	-	3	10	-	-	1	2	1	5	-

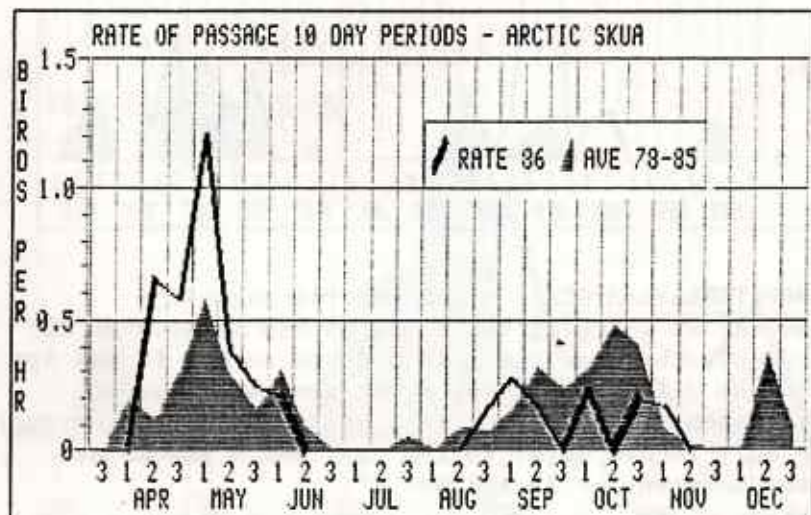
The peak was only 29E on May 2.

217. POMARINE SKUA - The spring totals of 1W/41E at Worthing beach were all seen in a short period in early May when the daily totals were 1W on May 1, 9E on May 2, 20E on May 3 and 12E on May 4. The only autumn record of 2 singles W was on Nov 5 (RJS).

218. ARCTIC SKUA - A record spring at Worthing beach with records spanning Apr 15 to June 1, the peak movements were 27E on Apr 15 and 2W/48E in 14hrs on May 4. The monthly totals recorded on seawatches were:-

		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.		-	74	134	1	-	1	-	1	1	-
W.		-	2	7	-	-	-	3	4	3	-

Few seen in autumn with the last on Nov 10.

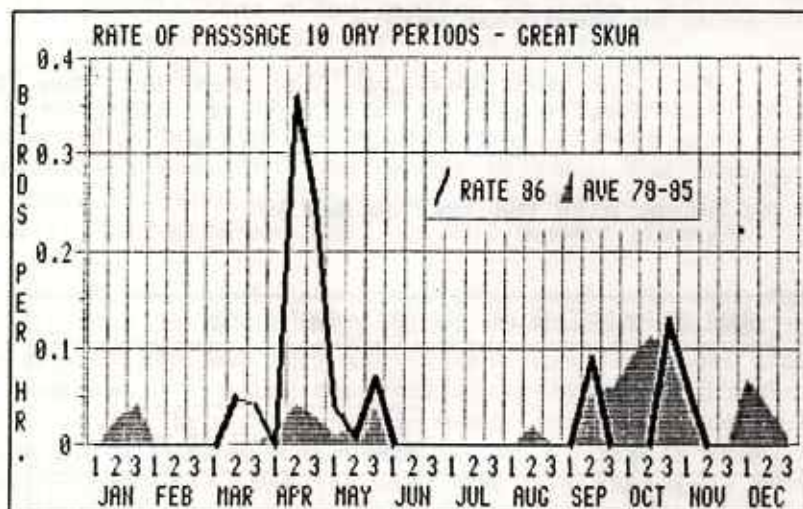


220. GREAT SKUA - a record spring at Worthing beach with records between Mar 18 and May 24, the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	1	29	6	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
W.	1	8	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

The peak movements were 5E on Apr 15, 1W/7E on Apr 16, 1W/4E on Apr 21 and 4W/3E on Apr 22. On this last date an individual at Widewater was seen to fly NW inland over Lancing.

The autumn individuals at Worthing beach were noted on Sept 17, Oct 24 and 27, and Nov 2.



222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL - The records suggest 6 individuals; at Worthing beach ads on Feb 14 and Feb 25 were probably the same but 1 ad E there on Mar 18 and Apr 16 were thought different birds. A 1st summer E also at Worthing beach on May 22 and 1 ad still in full sp on July 13. The only record later in the year was a sub-ad at Widewater between Oct 29 and Nov 17.

225. LITTLE GULL - spring passage at Worthing beach noted between Apr 15 and May 16 where the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	31	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
W.	-	6	1	-	-	-	1	7	4	-

The peak movements were 22E on both Apr 23 and May 4 and 11E on May 2. In autumn at Worthing beach 7W on Oct 27 was the peak and the last 2E on Dec 30. Elsewhere singles were noted at Ferring Beach on Jan 5, Adur on Sept 4 and Shoreham harbour on Nov 18.

228. BLACK-HEADED GULL - after the main departure of wintering gulls coastal movements at Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Worthing E.	562	3551	1365	10	5488
W.	-	185	198	118	501

The peak movements were 639 E in 6.6hrs on Apr 24 and 1211E in 9.1hrs on Apr 27. A totally albino individual with pink bill passed E at Worthing beach on May 16. Counts were 1750 Adur on Aug 7 and 1000+ at Cissbury on Aug 21.

233. COMMON GULL - few were noted passing Worthing beach in spring as shown by the following table:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Worthing E.	62	481	-	-	543
W.	-	10	-	-	10

The peak of 100E occurred on both Apr 19 and 21. Adults returned to Worthing beach by July 1 although 1 was on Adur on June 14.

234. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - only 10E noted throughout the entire spring watching at Worthing beach.

235. HERRING GULL - There was no systematic count of breeding pairs although 8 nested in the vicinity of Hove Town Hall and several pairs nested in Worthing. Individuals of the yellow-legged race were seen Adur between July 4 and Oct 8 with the maximum counts of 8 on Aug 5 and 10 on Oct 8.

237. GLAUCOUS GULL - an individual considered to be a 3rd year Glaucous/Herring hybrid at Adur Levels on Dec 14 (CJF).

238. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - as usual the largest counts were in the lower Adur Valley where 240 noted on Jan 3, 78 on Aug 31 and 110 on Nov 7. Further inland there were 42 at Small Dole on Sept 30.

240. KITTIWAKE - recorded offshore during every month and the monthly totals at Worthing beach were:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	11	156	3	119	134	6	1	3	3	3	6	-
W.	169	1	21	100	107	7	2	7	2	241	130	19

The peak movements at Worthing beach were 61W in 3hrs on Jan 21, 151E in 2.2hrs on Feb 27, 50W/49E in 7.5hrs on Apr 15 and 1W/37E in 12.6hrs on May 17. The autumn peak was 100W in 4.5hr on Oct 27 and 55W in 4.3hrs on Nov 9.

245. SANDWICH TERN - recorded at Worthing beach after Mar 28 and until Oct 10, the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Worthing E.	5	1897	2300	38	22	31	32	1	-
W.	-	74	203	31	15	77	36	2	-

The peak movements there were 263E on Apr 15, 500E on Apr 23, 289E on May 2, 371E on May 4, and 260E on May 5.

246. ROSEATE TERN - a good spring at Worthing beach with 1E on May 5 (JAN,DIS), 2E on May 17 (JAN,SH) and 1E on May 20 (RJS,DIS).

247. COMMON TERN - recorded Adur late Aug with max 10 on Aug 27.

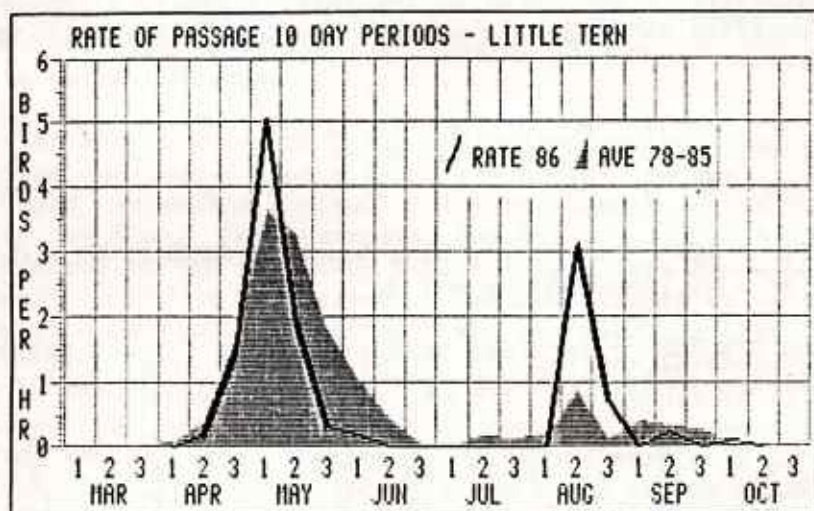
COMMON/ARCTIC TERN - recorded offshore between Apr 9 and Sept 26, the monthly totals can be summarised:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Worthing E.	-	678	7482	31	-	29	106	-	-
W.	-	26	40	2	5	100	72	-	-

The peak movements at Worthing beach were 1745E on May 4, 1591E on May 5, 1426E on May 6 and 1069E on May 17. There were no notable movements in the autumn.

251. LITTLE TERN - noted offshore between Apr 15 and Oct 7, the following table demonstrates the monthly totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Worthing E.	-	102	535	1	-	5	3	-	-
W.	-	15	60	-	-	14	-	1	-



The peak movements were 141E on May 2 and 101E on May 5. A single noted at Adur on Aug 26 and an exceedingly late individual at St Botolph's on Nov 3 (JS,BR).

253. BLACK TERN - Between Apr 23 and May 20 a total of 1W/40E at Worthing beach, the peaks were 16E on May 4, 6E on both May 6 and 17, and 8E on May 20. 1E on Sept 16 was the only autumn record.

255. GUILLEMOT - Most were noted in Jan with 5 at Brighton marina on Jan 23, 20 offshore at Widewater on Jan 25 and 8 Shoreham harbour on the same day. At Worthing beach 1 or 2 noted offshore on 7 dates between Jan and Mar 7 when a bridled (oiled) individual stood on the lowtide line. The monthly totals of moving birds at Worthing beach were:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
W.	36	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The peak of 14W occurred on Jan 23.

257. RAZORBILL - not noted so regularly offshore although more identified in flight in spring, the totals at Worthing beach were:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	-	-	-	1	17	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
W.	17	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

260. LITTLE AUK - 1W at Worthing beach at 0800 (JAN) and 1 W there at 1310 (BRC/JAN) on Nov 3.

AUK SPECIES - recorded moving offshore in most months; the following table shows the monthly totals of all auks -

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E.	118	1	3	15	93	2	-	-	2	-	7	2
W.	248	7	-	13	78	2	-	-	1	-	22	-

The peak movements were seen at Worthing beach in the winter months; 153W in 3 hrs on Jan 21, 42W/78E in 4hrs on Jan 23 and 10W/33E in 14hrs on May 4.

264. STOCK DOVE - At least 20 pairs were reported from 10 localities during the breeding season with 6 pairs between Cissbury and Lychpole, and 3 pairs at both Woods Mill and Storrington sand pits. No large flocks were noted; the largest being 40 at Cissbury on Apr 29, 35 at Adur Levels on Nov 7 and 12 Sompting refuse tip on Dec 3.

265. WOOD PIGEON - Large flocks were noted as follows: 280 at Mill Hill on Feb 18, 1600 over Shoreham on Mar 2, 80 Sanctuary on Apr 12 with 150 there on Nov 29, and finally 1700 on Downs on Dec 26.

266. COLLARED DOVE - The only notable record was 35 in a Patcham garden on Jan 24. Counts of feeding flocks or roosts would be welcome.

267. TURTLE DOVE - After a record at Wild Park, Brighton on May 3 there was a more general arrival on May 11. Noted throughout the spring and summer at 12 localities involving approximately 16 pairs. There was no notable autumn passage and the last were singles at Worthing on Oct 2, at Fulking Hill on Oct 3 and at Shoreham on Oct 12.

269. RING NECKED PARAKEET - 5 at Hollingbury Woods during the breeding season.

271. CUCKOO - First recorded at Wild Park, Brighton on Apr 24 but during the next 7 days noted at 8 localities with 4 at Airport on Apr 26 and 4 at Cissbury on Apr 28. Records during the summer suggest 20 pairs bred at 18 different sites. The last seen were singles at Upper Beeding between Sept 12 - 21 and at Worthing beach on Oct 6.

274. BARN OWL - Possibly 2 pairs resident in the area, one of which was not seen in 1985. Additional winter records included singles near Woods Mill on Jan 15, at Adur Levels on Nov 15 and at Airport on Nov 20.

279. LITTLE OWL - Although not so well reported as in 1985 11 pairs were recorded of which half were noted on the central downland block. One calling Sanctuary on June 3 was unusual.

280. TAWNY OWL - At least 11 pairs were reported during the breeding season. A pair at Southwick Green which raised 2 young was the first at this site for 5 years.

282. SHORT EARED OWL - The only records were 2 Adur Levels on Mar 3 and 2 New Salts Farm on Apr 5 where 1 remained until Apr 25.

289. SWIFT - First seen at Worthing beach on May 1 and thereafter 142 seen arriving from the sea until June 10; the peak a mere 38N on May 14. A general arrival was noted in the first week of May with small numbers seen at 4 sites. The largest autumn gatherings were 200 at New Erringham Farm on Aug 8 and 750 over Truleigh Hill on Aug 9. The last birds were seen at Goring on Sept 14 and at Woods Mill on Sept 15.

293. KINGFISHER - A good year with 4 possible breeding pairs, 3 of which were north of the Downs. Regularly noted in the lower Adur Valley between Jan - Mar and Sept - Dec. More unusual records included singles at West Durrington on Feb 8, at Westmeston on July 7 and Widewater on July 11

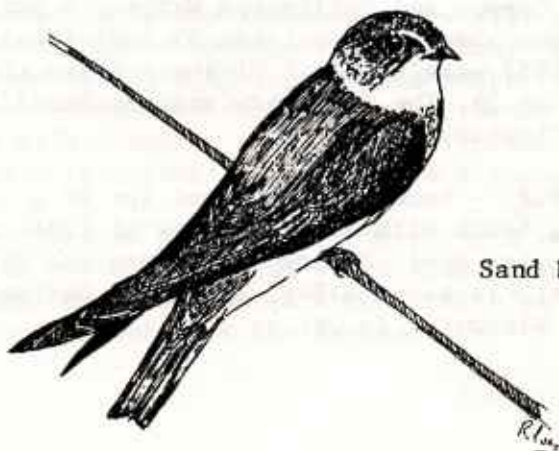
300. GREEN WOODPECKER - Summer records suggest at least 14 pairs in the area with 8 pairs in the downland woods and 5 pairs in the Weald. Away from these sites were singles at Ferring Rife on Feb 21 and at Goring Woods on Nov 5. All records in our area north of the Downs would be useful.

302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Breeding season records suggested at least 11 pairs within the area with 5 at downland sites, 4 on the coastal plain and levels, and only 2 at Wealden localities. During the winter 6 were reported feeding on fat in member's gardens.

303. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER - a good year with at least 7 records. Singles were reported from High Salvington on Jan 9; Clapham Woods on Mar 1; climbing phragmites by a tiny pond in a West Worthing garden on May 28; at Withdean Park on Sept 6; from Wild Park in Brighton on Sept 21, and Brighton Cemetery on Dec 17. Also irregularly noted at Woods Mill where a pair may have bred.

311. SKYLARK - The majority of records were of flocks noted during the cold weather; these included 300 at Ferring Rife throughout Jan and Feb, 150 at Chanctonbury on Jan 26, 100SW at Worthing beach and 300 in the Adur Valley on Feb 7, 150 at Sweet Hill on Feb 26, and 125 Adur Levels on Mar 2.

313. SAND MARTIN - The only spring records were 1 at Devil's Dyke on Apr 25, 2 at Widewater on Apr 29 and 1N at Worthing beach on May 16. Between 20 and 25 holes were occupied at Storrington sand pits on May 16.



Sand Martin

During the autumn 13 Airport on Aug 8 and 6 at Brooklands on Aug 30 were the largest counts. Only 3 were identified in a massive hirundine movement at Goring on Sept 20, and the last was seen at Devil's Dyke on Sept 22.

314. SWALLOW - first noted at both Sullington and Worthing beach on Apr 22 but a more widespread arrival occurred on Apr 25 and 26. At Worthing beach 180 noted arriving on 19 dates with a peak of 60N on May 18. During the autumn a gathering of 2000 at Cissbury on Sept 10 and at Goring in 2 hrs on Sept 20 an estimated 24,000 passed eastward. The last was noted also at Goring on Dec 14 (CEH).

316. HOUSE MARTIN - records for this species were similar to the Swallow with first sightings at both New Salts Farm and Worthing beach on Apr 26, thereafter at Worthing beach a total of only 53N on 8 dates with a peak of 36N on May 18. An estimated 2000 at Cissbury on Sept 10 500 there on Sept 20 and 950W on Sept 27; 500 at Sanctuary between Sept 17 and 19, and a large movement of c36,000E, including an albino, at Goring in 2 hrs on Sept 20 were the main records from the autumn. Late records included 3 at Worthing on Nov 25 and 1 there on Nov 30.

320. TREE PIPIT - noted in the spring at Wiston on Apr 27 and New Salts Farm on Apr 29. Breeding pairs were located at both Washington Common and Sullington Warren. A notable autumn passage was observed involving 95 individuals. As usual the most (85) were noted at Cissbury where the peak of 20 occurred on Aug 24. The last were seen at Devil's Dyke on Sept 19 and at Cissbury on Sept 20.

322. MEADOW PIPIT - between Mar 11 and Apr 20 a total of 270N at Worthing beach with a marked peak of 228N on Mar 29. At Sanctuary 3 pairs bred. During the autumn the largest flocks were 80 at Cissbury on Sept 22, 80 at Goring Gap on Oct 4 and 40 at Widewater in Oct.

324. ROCK PIPIT - During the first few months only 9 birds were seen on the beaches between Ferring and Shoreham, the most being 4 at Widewater on Mar 8. The first autumn record was at Widewater on Oct 14, thereafter recorded in small numbers at the usual sites.

WATER PIPIT - Taxonomists now consider this to be a separate species rather than a different race of the Rock Pipit therefore the 1 at Widewater on Apr 12 (RMS) is technically the first in this area.

325. YELLOW WAGTAIL - the first was noted at Widewater on Apr 12 with 19 then being seen at various sites until May 14 which included 13 noted at Worthing beach. One or 2 pairs at Adur Levels during the summer and 2 at New Salts Farm during July. Autumn passage was noted between Aug 23 and Oct 15 when at least 506 individuals were seen. The peak occurred on Aug 31 with 80S at Sompting and 55 were counted at Adur recreation ground; 40 at West Hove golf course on Sept 22 was also noteworthy. The last was seen at Ferring on Oct 15.

327. GREY WAGTAIL - at least 4 were seen at coastal sites in Jan and Feb. Resident at both Woods Mill and Storrington Mill Pond, successfully breeding at this last site. Most regularly noted in Sept with singles at Widewater and Sanctuary, 2 at Cissbury on Sept 21 and 6 Adur on the same day. Up to 2 birds present Adur during Nov/Dec and 1 Stanmer House on Dec 20.

328. PIED WAGTAIL - Plentiful on the coast in the winter with a count of 15 at Widewater on Jan 17 increasing to 27 by Mar 8. Flights over Maybridge of 36E on Feb 9 and 38E on Feb 16 were birds probably going to a large roost on the Seeboard offices in East Worthing where in excess of 1000 were roosting at the end of the year. During the autumn a total of 121E during early morning watches at Worthing beach with a peak of 36E on Sept 27. Other autumn counts included 22 at Preston Park on Oct 21, 30 at Ferring beach during Sept/Oct and c500 roosting in a reed bed near the Adur flyover.

338. NIGHTINGALE - Recorded between Apr 26 and May 22; records suggest at least 8 birds from Hole St, Wiston; Spithandle Lane, Ashurst; Chantry Lane, Storrington; Small Dole; Woods Mill and Wild Park. The only autumn record was a bird trapped at Cissbury on Aug 17.

342. BLACK REDSTART - Fewer than recent years as clearly revealed in the following table of approximate monthly totals:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	2	1

Records were from the usual sites like Widewater, Shoreham harbour, Brighton marina and Worthing beach. However, 5 at a Hollingdean allotment on Oct 25, and singles in a Brighton garden in Feb, at Durrington in Nov, and at Stanmer House in Dec were more unusual.

343. REDSTART - The only spring records were singles at Wild Park on Apr 19 and at Cissbury on Apr 20. The main autumn passage commenced with 6 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 23. At Cissbury 20 noted between Aug 28 and Sept 28 with a peak of 8 on Sept 10 and similarly at Wild Park, 21 were seen between Aug 29 and Sept 20 with a peak of 10 on Sept 6. Elsewhere 14 were noted from 10 sites, several being in members gardens, which included the last in Hove on Oct 29.

344. WHINCHAT - The 3 spring records of singles at Sompting Brooks on May 3, and at Cissbury on May 6 and May 11 show this to be a unusual spring migrant. Much more regularly noted in autumn, although the 160 birds recorded was lower than usual. After the first at Saddlescombe on Aug 7 the peak counts were 9 at Wild Park on Aug 29, 20 at Ferring Rife on Sept 9 and 15 at Hillbarn on Sept 20. The last was noted at Steepdown on the late date of Nov 2 (JU).

345. STONECHAT - Fewer birds were located, with possibly 2 pairs wintering, no breeding records and a small autumn passage after Sept 12.

The approximate monthly totals were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	12	3	5

Most of the records were from the beaches and Adur Valley, the exceptions being 1 at Devil's Dyke on Sept 26 and a pair at Waterhall on Oct 4.

346. WHEATEAR - First 2 recorded at Shoreham Beach on Mar 16 and 1 at Widewater on Mar 19. Several others noted during Mar including 17 at GB on Mar 31. The main arrival occurred in Apr with peaks of 32 at Worthing beach and 30 at Widewater on Apr 2, 26 at Worthing beach on Apr 3 and 22 there on Apr 8, and 15 on Downs on Apr 5. By May 15 at least 270 had been recorded.

The first autumn migrants were seen at Truleigh Hill and Ferring beach on Aug 9 and thereafter at least 536 were noted from 5 coastal and 5 downland sites. Peak counts were at Adur recreation ground where 28 on Aug 23, 61 on Sept 2 and 50 on Sept 18. Elsewhere smaller numbers were recorded; noteworthy were 25 at Cissbury on Aug 29, a total of 79 at West Hove Golf Course between Aug 19 and Sept 24, and a total of 49 at Ferring between Aug 9 and Sept 21. The last was 1 at Widewater on Oct 16.

359. RING OUZEL - There were no spring records but during the autumn singles were noted at Sanctuary on Oct 8; at Wild Park between Oct 11 and 25; at Cissbury on Oct 12, 17, and 25; and at West Durrington in late Oct.

364. FIELDFARE - There was a notable influx involving at least 2,400 birds during the cold weather from Feb 6 to Mar 1. Many were in urban areas with the largest counts being 250 in Lancing on Feb 6, 600E in 2hrs at Worthing beach and 500 near the Sussex Pad on Feb 7, 300 at High Salvington on Feb 8 with 290 there on Feb 24 and 180 in a Goring garden on Mar 1. Most left in early Mar, the last being at Woods Mill on Mar 19.

The only autumn influx occurred on Nov 2 with 11 at Storrington, 30 at Steepdown and 50 at Woods Mill. Thereafter 50 at Adur Levels on Nov 7 and 30 at Sussex Pad on Nov 18.

366. REDWING - The only flocks noted prior to the cold weather were 100 in Wild Park on Jan 2 and 150 at Sanctuary on Jan 8. Like the Fieldfare larger numbers were seen during the cold Feb with 300 at High Salvington on Feb 8, 250 at Rock sand pit and 100 in West Worthing on Feb 12, and 200 roosting at Woods Mill. The last was seen at Brighton cemetery on Apr 11. The first autumn records were on Oct 5 with 8 at both Cissbury and Worthing; nocturnal movements heard on Oct 12 and 16 but the only notable flocks were 50 at Storrington on Nov 2 and 51 at Devil's Dyke on Nov 3.

367. MISTLE THRUSH - 13 pairs bred at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 7 pairs nested in Hove Park. The only autumn flock was 25 at Brighton cemetery on Oct 15.

369. CETTI'S WARBLER - One seen and heard in the area between Jan and Mar.

373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER - The only record was 1 singing near Park Brow on June 4.

378. SEDGE WARBLER - recorded between Apr 25 at Airport and Sept 20 at Cissbury. Details of breeding numbers and distribution are described in a separate paper.

382. REED WARBLER - The breeding survey results are outlined in a separate paper. During the autumn 19 were trapped at Sanctuary and 3 at Cissbury with the last there on Sept 22.

397. LESSER WHITETHROAT - The first 2 were recorded at Wild Park on Apr 26, with 2 in different Worthing gardens on Apr 28 and 2 at Cissbury on Apr 29. At least 20 pairs were reported in the breeding season from 9 different localities.

Autumn counts included a total of 128 at Wild Park between Aug 2 and Sept 26 with a peak of 20 on Sept 26, 30 at Cissbury on Aug 21 and 30 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 23. At Sanctuary 38 were trapped with a peak of 8 on Aug 30 and the last was recorded there on Sept 28.

398. WHITETHROAT - The first were recorded at Devil's Dyke on Apr 25 and at Woods Mill and Wild Park on Apr 26. Breeding counts were from Cissbury/Lychpole (10), Portslade Downs (4), West Hove Golf Course (2), Waterhall (5), Woods Mill (3), Devil's Dyke (8), and Wild Park (13).

Autumn passage was first noted at West Hove G.C. on July 19 and thereafter most places recorded a fair passage with the peak counts being 25 at Cissbury on Aug 17, 20 there on Aug 24 and 26 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 23. The last was recorded on the late date of Oct 21 at Wild Park.

399. GARDEN WARBLER - First noted in spring on May 1 at Lancing Clump but there were no more records until 2 at Wild Park on May 10 and at Woods Mill on May 11. Breeding counts were from Cissbury/Lychpole (6), Devil's Dyke (5), Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods (5), Findon (3) and Woods Mill. During the autumn 20 trapped Sanctuary with a peak of 9 on Aug 30. Other notable records were 4 Wild Park on Sept 4 with 6 there on Sept 12, and 2 at Hillbarn on Sept 18. The last was at Devil's Dyke on Sept 22.

400. BLACKCAP - Between Jan/Mar at least 15 were reported from 9 sites, mainly member's gardens, mostly south of the Downs. The first probable spring bird was at Broadwater on Apr 4 but none were then recorded until Apr 23 at Woods Mill.

Autumn recording at Wild Park totalled 155 with a peak of 45 on Sept 20; at Sanctuary 79 were trapped with a peak of 22 on Sept 21 whilst the best ringing day at Cissbury was Sept 7 when 27 were caught: finally 25 at Devil's Dyke on Sept 19 complete the best autumn records. A single in Nov and 3 in Dec were recorded from Withdean Park, Moulescombe, Ferring Rife and Worthing.

408. WOOD WARBLER - An exceptional year with singing spring birds at Washington Common on Apr 26, at Brighton cemetery on May 2, 2 at Wild Park on May 3 and 1 there on May 17. The four individuals in autumn were 2 at Devil's Dyke on Aug 15, 1 trapped at Sanctuary on Aug 17 and 1 at Withean Park on Aug 18.

409. CHIFFCHAFF - Winter records were of singles at Maybridge on Jan 4, West Durrington on Feb 9 and in a Worthing garden on Feb 26. The first migrants were at New Salts Farm on Mar 9, at Upper Beeding on Mar 16 and at Broadwater on Mar 23 but there was a more general arrival in early Apr with the peak spring count being 13 at Brighton cemetery on Apr 25. Noted at 5 localities during the breeding season. Autumn passage was monitored at Wild Park where the total of 232 included a peak of 55 on Sept 20. The peak at Cissbury was 40 on Sept 18 and the peak out of the 80 trapped at Sanctuary during the autumn was 21 on Sept 21. Singles at Sanctuary on Nov 15 and in Wild Park during Dec complete the records.

410. WILLOW WARBLER - The first in the spring were singles at New Salts Farm on Apr 5-6 and at Cuckoo's Corner on Apr 6: peak counts were 27 at Wild Park on Apr 26 and 15 at Cissbury on Apr 28. Breeding counts included 33 pairs at Devil's Dyke, 23 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 4 pairs at Sanctuary.

Autumn passage was not systematically counted at Cissbury although 80 there on Aug 16, 75 on Aug 17 and 50 on Aug 24. Elsewhere 28 at Wild Park on Aug 9, 32 trapped Sanctuary on Aug 17, 55 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 23, and the last seen at Sanctuary on Sept 28.

411. GOLDCREST - exceedingly scarce during autumn with none trapped at Sanctuary or Cissbury.

412. FIRECREST - 1 f. trapped Sanctuary on June 22 was the first summer record in the area; the only other was at Woods Mill between Nov 2 and 3.

413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - First noted at Cuckoo's Corner on May 10 and during the following 9 days 11 were seen at 8 different sites. Only recorded breeding at 4 localities with the maximum of 3 or 4 in Goring Wood. During the autumn 126 noted from 8 places; the peaks were 16 at Cissbury on Sept 5, 15 at Woods Mill and 24 at Wild Park on Sept 6. The last was at Woods Mill between Oct 6 and 8.

416. PIED FLYCATCHER - The only spring record was 1 at Mill Hill on Apr 24. During the autumn 18 birds were seen between Aug 13 and Sept 28 from a wide spread of locations including at least 4 members' gardens.

418. LONG TAILED TIT - Resident at Woods Mill with 23-30 during the winter. 20 frequented a Hill Barn garden during Sept and 12 seen regularly Sanctuary during Aug and Oct.

419. MARSH TIT - Recorded from 7 downland sites including 3 at Chanctonbury on Jan 26 and 5 at Cissbury on Oct 25. Noted at Woods Mill regularly in the early months and Nov; 3 at Clapham Woods on Mar 1 and 1 at Sanctuary between Sept 17 and 21.

420. WILLOW TIT - Pairs resident at Cissbury, Devil's Dyke and Woods Mill.

422. COAL TIT - Singles noted at Devil's Dyke on June 16 and at Cissbury on Aug 21 and Sept 27-28 were considered unusual.

423. BLUE TIT - Breeding season studies showed 15-20 nest boxes occupied at Woods Mill, 13 pairs at Devil's Dyke and 55 pairs in Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods.

424. GREAT TIT - During the breeding season 15-20 boxes were occupied at Woods Mill, 10 pairs bred at Devil's Dyke and 29 pairs were located at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods.

425. NUTHATCH - At Woods Mill 2 pairs were resident. Singles present in a Storrington garden in Jan and in a Hill Barn garden between Sept and Dec. Likewise singles were seen at Swandean on Oct 8, at Cissbury on Sept 27 and at Stanmer on Dec 20.
427. TREE CREEPER - Recorded from the following areas; Hove Park (2), Woods Mill, Goring Woods, Swandean Hospital, Clapham Woods, Sullington, Findon Park, Preston Park, Hollingdean Wood, Hollingbury Wood, Brighton Level, and Withdean Park.
436. JAY - There was no large movement recorded with flocks of 5 at Small Dole on Sept 30, 8 at Cissbury on Oct 12, 6 in Findon Valley on Oct 13 and 4 in a Hill Barn garden during Nov and Dec.
437. MAGPIE - Large gatherings included 54 in Wild Park on Feb 22 with 68 recorded there in Oct; 28 at Waterhall on Oct 7; and 18 Sanctuary in Oct and Nov.
438. JACKDAW - a count of 100 at Sanctuary on Oct 1 was unusually high for this site.
441. ROOK - Annual spring counts of local Rookeries would be useful and informative.
442. CARRION CROW - Between 30 and 50 regularly seen feeding on Ferring beach and GB, the only other gathering recorded was 22 Airport on Jan 11.
444. STARLING - The only counts were 7000 at Airport on Jan 10 and c10,800E over West Hove on Nov 17.
448. TREE SPARROW - Once again there were only a few records with 1 Adur Levels on May 16, 20 there on Nov 15 and 7 on Dec 14. Elsewhere the only record was 1 at Wiston on Sept 8.

451. CHAFFINCH - The only large flocks were 50 at Cissbury on Sept 18, 30 roosting at Sanctuary during Nov, 100 at Wild Park on Nov 15 and 50 in Preston Park in Dec.

452. BRAMBLING - Only singles were noted early in the year at Chanctonbury on Jan 26, Hove on Feb 21, at Patcham on Feb 28 and at Lychpole on Apr 5. After 7 at Cissbury on Oct 12 there were several records of small numbers at Findon Valley, Hollingbury Golf Course and at Preston Park.

455. GREENFINCH - Notable records included 32 on Shoreham Beach on Feb 13, 50 at Withdean Park on Feb 22, 50 at Varndean on July 14, 50 trapped at Sanctuary in July and Aug, and 42 at New Salts Farm on Nov 9.

456. GOLDFINCH - The only flocks recorded were 20 at Storrington Mill Pond on Jan 9, 20 at Cissbury on Jan 20, 70 at Upper Beeding on Mar 9, and 60 at Cissbury on Sept 5 with 70 there on Oct 3. Very few were seen on migration as only 2 noted in many hours at Worthing beach in spring and only 55W seen in autumn.

457. SISKIN - There appears to be an increase in records although many of the early sightings may relate to birds which arrived in this area during the large influx in 1985. Winter records were 10 at Coombes on Jan 25, 30+ at Storrington Mill Pond on Jan 24, up to 14 at Woods Mill during Feb, and 8E at Worthing beach on Feb 6. Regularly noted feeding on peanuts in 6 gardens between Jan and Apr. Other Spring records were 20N over Worthing on Mar 23 and 1 at Sanctuary on Apr 27. First noted in autumn on Sept 28 when 1 at Sanctuary and 13 at Cissbury with 39 there on Oct 12. Another small influx was suggested by records of 35 in Goring Woods on Oct 4, 50W at Wild Park on Oct 18, a number of small flocks at both Sanctuary and Woods Mill in Oct and 15 in Storrington on Nov 2.

458. LINNET - The only winter record of note was 40 at Wild Park on Feb 22. Between Mar 27 and May 16 a total of 159 seen at Worthing beach with a peak of 66E on May 2. Counts of flocks were 80 at Cissbury on Apr 5, 42 at Widewater on Oct 14 and at Goring Gap there were 166 on Nov 22 and 60 on Nov 29.

459. TWITE - Between Jan 12 and Feb 8 there were 7 in Adur Valley but none were seen at the end of the year.

460. REDPOLL - The only records in the early year were 5 at Washington Woods on Jan 12, 4 at Woods Mill in Jan, and 5 at Stanmer Park on Mar 30. After the first autumn record on Sept 7 at Cissbury there were records of only c100 birds seen at 11 localities. These including 15 over Steyning on Oct 14, 10E at Worthing on Oct 15, 9 at Ferring Rife on Nov 8, 25W at Wild Park on Nov 15 and a small flock resident at Woods Mill from Oct to Dec.

463. CROSSBILL - Another good year with 15 in the Storrington area between July 2 and 11, 1S over Sanctuary on Aug 13, and at Cissbury 1 on Aug 27, 2 on Aug 31 and the last on Sept 27.

496. YELLOWHAMMER - The only records received were of counts of 50 at High Salvington on Mar 1 and 150 at Cissbury on Sept 18.

510. CORN BUNTING - The only winter record was 37 at Airport on Jan 11. Breeding counts showed a high density between Fulking Hill, Devil's Dyke and Portslade where 35 singing males were located whereas there were only 6 pairs between Chantry Hill and the A24 and only 5 pairs in a large area of downland between Cissbury and Chanctonbury. Autumn flocks included 90 at New Salts Farm on Sept 8 and 40 at Sanctuary on Oct 8.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1986.

For the eleventh successive year the total of birds ringed in the area exceeded the 3000 mark. The total of 3967 was the 3rd highest ever recorded and as usual the majority (95%) were ringed as full grown birds and a mere 199 marked as pulli. Most of these pulli were tits ringed in nest boxes at the Sanctuary, Lancing College and Wiston.

The cannon netting programme to catch gulls on Sompting refuse tip continued and once again the total of 1689 gulls was the largest single contribution in the area. Most, as usual, were Black-headed Gulls but the total of 117 Common Gulls was noteworthy. Dr. Barrie Watson, as well as leading the gull studies, caught 368 smaller birds in and around Shoreham which included a valuable 156 Pied Wagtails trapped roosting in a local reed bed. Dr. John Newnham mist netted 176 birds in his Worthing garden and 996 at the Sanctuary; the trapping at the Sanctuary was particularly fruitful during the autumn migration. Like 1985 the activities of the Steyning Ringing Group, led by Phil and Brian Clay, were greatest at Cissbury: here their catch of 671 birds compares with a total of only 59 from Wiston and the Mumbles at Steyning. The grand total was completed by a visiting ringer who, whilst on a summer camp, ringed 8 birds near Erringham Farm.

A brief glimpse at Table 1, which shows the totals of the 51 different species, reveals a similar pattern to most years. However, 1986 was undoubtedly a good year for warblers as record numbers of Lesser Whitethroats, Common Whitethroats, Garden Warblers, Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were achieved and the total of Willow Warblers was second only to the large catch of 404 in 1977. On the debit side there were no Goldcrests ringed and the numbers of several of the finches remained low. The Ring Ouzel was only the third to be ringed in this area and the fourth Wood Warbler was the first trapped in the autumn, the others all being ringed on spring passage.

TABLE.1

Mute Swan.	4	Reed Warbler.	32
Sparrow Hawk.	3	Lesser Whitethroat.	59
Kestrel.	1	Whitethroat.	84
Black headed Gull.	1562	Garden Warbler.	40
Common Gull.	117	Blackcap.	191
Herring Gull.	7	Wood Warbler.	1
Gt. Black Backed Gull.	3	Chiffchaff.	142
Stock Dove.	1	Willow Warbler.	284
Wood Pigeon.	1	Firecrest.	1
Collared Dove.	1	Spotted Flycatcher.	1
Swift.	1	Pied Flycatcher.	3
Great Sp Woodpecker.	1	Long tailed Tit.	18
Swallow.	21	Marsh Tit.	1
House Martin.	160	Coal Tit.	8
Yellow Wagtail.	2	Blue Tit.	311
Pied Wagtail.	156	Great Tit.	125
Wren.	42	Magpie.	1
Duncock.	90	Starling.	23
Robin.	82	Chaffinch.	52
Redstart.	3	Greenfinch.	102
Ring Ouzel.	1	Goldfinch.	10
Blackbird.	90	Linnet.	1
Fieldfare.	1	Bullfinch.	53
Song Thrush.	47	Yellow Hammer.	18
Redwing.	3	Reed Bunting.	2
Sedge Warbler.	4	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3967</u>

RECOVERIES - the following are the more interesting recoveries reported since the last ringing report.

1). Black-headed Gull. During 1986 there were 15 birds ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at Sompting. These were from England (5), Belgium (2), Norway, Estonia (3), and USSR (4).

The recoveries of Black-headed Gulls ringed locally are shown below; it is interesting that over half are from abroad and follow the patterns described in more detail on pages 57-65 of the 1985 Sussex Bird Report.

The British recoveries were from Sussex (26), Kent (2), Greater London, Essex (8), Cambridgeshire (3), Huntingdonshire (3), Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Nottinghamshire, Avon (2), Humberside (2), Manchester, Lancashire, Cornwall, Devon, Hampshire (5) and Surrey.

The foreign recoveries were reported from Finland (12), U.S.S.R.(5), Estonia (2), Denmark (9), Sweden (12), Netherlands (10), Belgium (2), German Democratic Republic (2), Poland (4), West Germany (2), and France.

2). Common Gull. There were single recoveries from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

3). Herring Gull. As usual most of the recoveries were within England and comprise of Sussex (7), Hampshire, Dorset, Devon, Kent and Angelsey. The only foreign recovery was from the Netherlands.

4). House Martin.
ringed juv. 22-08-86 Strathaven, Strathclyde.
controlled. 18-09-86 Shoreham Sanctuary. 588km SE.

This bird was caught by using a tape-lure and shows the direction and timing of the autumn migration through Britain. The other House Martin recoveries from this area are listed in the 1981 and 1982 Shoreham reports.

5). Pied Wagtail.
ringed Ad.m. 11-10-85 Shoreham reed bed roost.
found dead. 16-12-85 Hexham, Northumberland 467km.

This is the third movement from northern England and is remarkable in highlighting an early date for this bird to move northwards.

- 6). Nightingale
 ringed juv. 06-08-83 Shoreham sanctuary
 controlled 17-08-86 Cissbury.

Only 6 Nightingales have been ringed during the past two decades therefore it seems remarkable that an individual should be noted at two of the local ringing sites some 3 years apart.

- 7). Whitethroat.
 ringed 1st.yr. 07-09-85 Shoreham Sanctuary.
 found dead. 13-05-86 Versailles, FRANCE.

This, our second recovery of a Whitethroat, was presumably ringed on autumn migration and found on spring passage.

- 8). Blackcap.
 ringed Juv.m. 12-07-86 Shoreham Sanctuary *
 controlled. 09-09-86 Hog Trough Bottom, Brighton.

- 9). Garden Warbler
 ringed 1st yr 19-08-85 Llangorse Powys
 found dead. 04-09-85 Shoreham, 245km ESE.

- 10). Chiff-chaff
 ringed 1st yr. 08-07-85 Prestatyn Clwyd
 controlled. 08-09-85 Cissbury.

These three warbler movements shed some light on the timing and origins of the migrants passing through this area in September.

- 11). Starling.
 ringed Ad. 12-01-63 Shoreham-by-Sea.
 ring found 01-12-85 West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

This recovery, in a typical place, would have been quite extraordinary if the bird was found too. However the ring may have survived many years after the birds death. The map opposite shows all the movements to date.

12). Greenfinch

ringed Ad f.	26-10-84	West Worthing.
killed by cat	17-07-85	Hastings. 70km. E

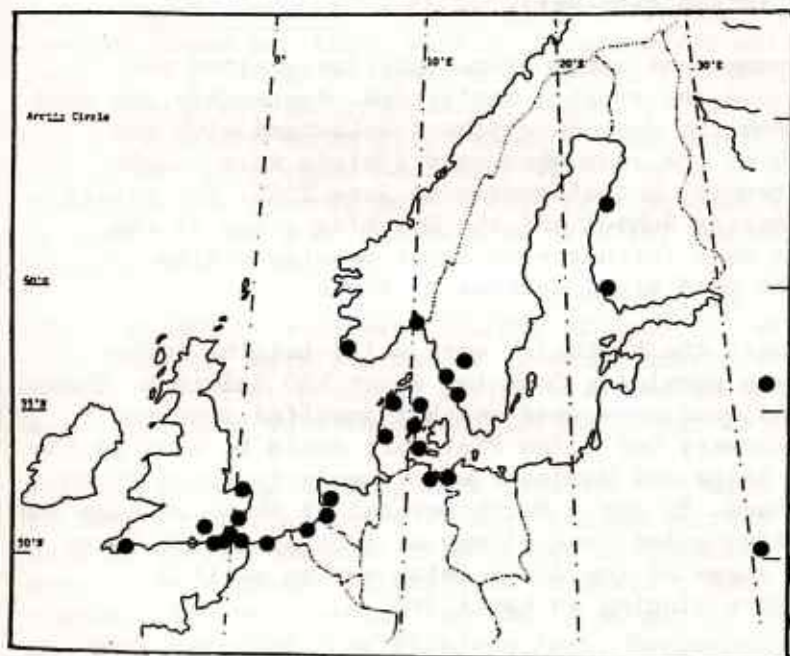
13). Goldfinch

ringed juv	23-08-80	Shoreham Sanctuary
trapped	15-10-80	Piedrabuena, Ciudad Real, SPAIN 1348km SSW.

Both of these finches are typical recoveries. It is curious that this eleventh foreign and fifth Spanish Goldfinch recovery should take so long to get reported.

There were, as usual, several local recoveries and retraps all of which help build a more complete picture of the behaviour and movements of our local, common birds.

Movements of Starlings from the Shoreham area.



J.A. Newnham.

SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1986.

During the year the copse was visited on at least 70 occasions and at least 30 of these were long visits with mistnets set to trap and ring birds. In recent years there has been less ringing during the winter months; the greatest effort being during the summer and autumn passage period. However, the winter is an ideal time for clearing the copse, hopefully to enhance the habitat. This year the two winter work parties successfully cleared a small patch of willow in the southeast corner of the copse and also removed a few hawthorn bushes on the hillside which subsequently proved a great help in the autumn mist netting activities. As usual many other small chores to keep the paths clear, the bridges sturdy and the fences secure were done throughout the year. In late October a large ride was cut through the copse by the electricity board to clear trees and shrubs from the overhead power cables; it will be interesting to see if this alters the birdlife in the Sanctuary.

During the summer and autumn three parties visited the Sanctuary to see the ringing activities. Regretably the visit of a party from the West Hove School coincided with the leanest catch of the year when only 7 birds were caught during an intensely hot afternoon on June 25th. The pupils from the Angmering School and the Worthing group of the R.S.P.B. were more fortunate as their morning visits coincided with good mixed catches of birds.

In early January the hawthorns were still bearing large numbers of haws providing food for about 150 Redwings. These disappeared as soon as severe weather engulfed southern England in February but a few Fieldfare could be seen on the hillside and Snipe and Woodcock were regularly noted by the unfrozen streams. By early March several of these streams and pools held large gelatinous clumps of frog spawn but there were no more signs of the forthcoming spring until 3 Chiffchaffs were singing on April 3rd.

In keeping with the past few springs the copse was not visited regularly enough to plot the arrival of most of the common migrants. However there were interesting records of 2 Stock Doves on April 12th and a Siskin on April 27th.

A pair of Mute Swans successfully raised 5 cygnets from a nest by the main stream and a pair of Mallard with innumerable ducklings were present in May. There was no Common Bird Census done this year but at least 4 pairs of Willow Warblers, 3 pairs of Reed Buntings, Meadow Pipits and Reed Warblers, 2 pairs of Lesser Whitethroats and Blackcaps and a single pair of Chiffchaffs were seen in early June. This month produced a collection of exciting birds; a skulking Little Bittern frequented and successfully hid amongst the reed and osier patch on June 1st; a Hobby flew over on June 2nd and a female Firecrest turned up in a mist net on June 22nd.

As usual the first signs of the autumn migration were present in July when at least 100 Swifts were seen feeding over the copse on the 7th and an increase in the numbers of warblers was noted at the end of the month. Small but regular parties of Greenfinches came to drink from the streams during this month.

The autumn passage was in full swing in August with good numbers of warblers passing through; the table showing the numbers caught reveals some of the best figures for many years. These include record daily totals for no fewer than four warbler species, these being 32 Willow Warblers on August 17th, 9 Garden Warblers on August 30th, 21 Chiffchaffs on September 17th and 22 Blackcaps on September 21st

Numbers Ringed During Autumn 1986.

Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Lesser White	Common White	Garden Warbler	Black-cap	Chiff-chaff	Willow Warbler
3	19	39	15	20	70	80	137

These greater numbers were, in part, due to the good fortune of mist netting days coinciding with good weather but also to the regular use of the adjoining hillside as a mist netting site. In recent years the lower part of the hillside has been grazed by horses making trapping impossible. However now the scrub has become too dense and the area has become unsuitable for grazing. The extent of the increased activity on the hillside can be judged from the following table.

Birds trapped on the hillside between 1983 and 1986.

Year	1983	1984	1985	1986
Total number caught on hill.	26	89	153	531
% of overall catch.	2.7	9.0	16.5	40.7

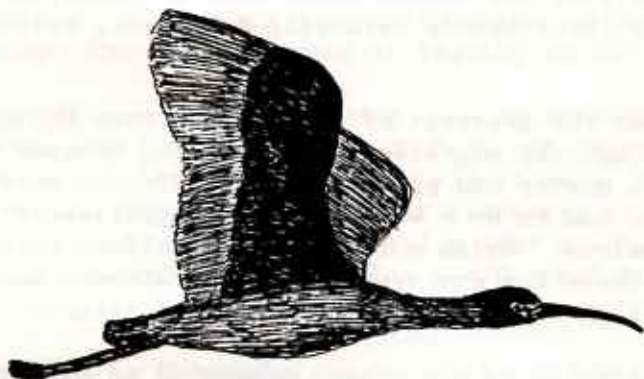
As well as good numbers of the common migrants the autumn also brought a good selection of the unusual. A Crossbill briefly alighted in the copse on August 13th before flying on down the valley, a Wood Warbler trapped on August 17th was the first autumn record and at least 3 Pied Flycatchers were seen. September was even better, a Glossy Ibis flew eastward over the copse and Mill Hill on September 18th and on the following day a Marsh Tit was heard and seen. Although this is not a scarce species this was only the second recorded at the Sanctuary, the first being in June 1954. Unusual numbers of Willow Warblers lingered into late September when 11 were trapped in the second half of the month; the total of only 19 in this period over the previous 20 years highlights the significance of this observation.

Interesting birds were noted into October; on most days a few Redpolls and Siskins were heard, a party of 40 Corn Buntings could be seen on the hillside, a Ring Ouzel was seen briefly on October 8th and a curiously grey Chiffchaff was trapped on the 11th. Winter thrushes were scarce throughout the autumn and as November approached so the number and variety of birds decreased. Kestrels were noted on most days throughout the year and Sparrow Hawks were seen regularly but on November 6th a fine Peregrine stooped over the copse before flying across towards Lancing College.

A late Chiffchaff accompanied a small party of tits on November 15th but thereafter the copse became very quiet.

As usual I would like to express the Society's thanks for the continued cooperation and help from the staff of the Southern Water Authority. Furthermore I would like to thank all the members who have helped both with the ringing and "gardening" activities throughout 1986.

J.A. Newnham.



Glossy Ibis

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1986

The spring migration was well underway when the first brief ringing session was carried out at the Mumbles on May 3rd when two Willow Warblers and a Chiffchaff were trapped; Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, House Martin and Cuckoo were also present on that day.

David King and I carried out two further sessions that spring. Two Reed Warblers ringed in 1982 returned for their fourth successive breeding season, but only nine new birds were trapped and only seven retrapped from previous seasons. It was the poorest year yet, although the main reed bed is in good condition, despite the lack of water. However the reeds around the pond are now dense enough to hold 2 pairs of Reed Warblers and a pair of Reed Buntings, the birds utilising the surrounding withy for feeding.

At Wiston six of the eleven boxes were occupied, all by Blue Tits. Only three broods were ringed however, yielding 27 young.

As last year the greatest effort was put into the Cissbury site, although the migration of my driving licence to Swansea for fifteen months did prove an inconvenience, more so to my brother who had to do a Worthing/Steyping/Cissbury trip on many occasions. Brian put in the main effort with 15 sessions, Chris Fox and myself attended eleven, Martin Banks and David King chipped in with 3 sessions apiece.

The first session of the season commenced on the 5th August to the sound of two Quail. Whitethroats and Willow Warblers were the main catch with totals of 14 and 19 each, but with a grand total for the day of 54 which proved to be about the average. Willow Warblers peaked in August on the 17th with 27 caught and again on the 30th when the 23 trapped formed part of the first big total(100+), although the catch was boosted by 20 Blue and 11 Great Tits. That was followed by a catch of 74 on September 7th but this slightly lower total was made up for in quality being the top Blackcap day with 27 ringed.

Chiffchaffs were typically later with a peak of 16 on the 28th September and the warblers finally departed on 5th October, when 5 Blackcaps and 5 Chiffs were the last rung at the site. The ringing year was rounded off with a Ring Ouzel on the 12th October and a new ringing tick for the site, a Redwing, on the 31st October.

Other highlights included, ringing wise, two House Martins on the 6th September, Redstarts on the 29th and 31st August, with a Pied Flycatcher also on that latter date. 'Bird of the Year' award, I think, will have to be the Sparrowhawk ringed on the 28th September.

Apart from the ringing, it is the sight records that make Cissbury such an enjoyable place with the continual overhead passage of Tree Pipits throughout August and September, accompanied by Yellow Wagtail, hirundine and Skylarks. Golden Plover were recorded on two occasions and a Curlew on one. Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were noted as was a Nuthatch on 27th September. Bramblings were present on the 12th and 31st October. Raptors were notable by their absence with only Sparrowhawk and Kestrel being recorded.

With the future decision about the Worthing Bypass one can only wonder how much longer this place will be so pleasant and tranquil. Will the noise of diesel become the dominant sound? Apart from the ruination of the site by the noise and actual desecration of the landscape, how will the passage of the birds be disrupted by this construction? Having had the Mumbles ruined by the Steyning By-Pass where the former peace and pleasure of the dawn chorus is now drowned out by the roar of the milk tankers, will the same threat now hang over Cissbury where the effect could be more devastating?

However, we can look forward to several more years, at least, of ringing on the site, during which time we can build up more data that could be useful should there be a protracted enquiry into the route for the bypass.

P.J.Clay.

FOLLOWING IN FATHER-IN-LAWS FOOTSTEPS

Those subjects which one chooses as a hobby are rarely the result of a random choice but can often be traced back to an event that has captured one's interest or to the influence of an enthusiast. When these two factors combine one can't fail to be launched! Thus it is to the Easter of 1981 that I can trace the genesis of my ornithological interest.

To contemplate a foreign holiday with one's parents-in-law when one has only been married a year would be looked upon as lunacy by the majority of newly-weds! However, in April 1981 after no second thought I duly set off for Cyprus with my wife and her parents.

Our meeting at Heathrow Airport went according to plan. Baggage was duly checked-in, boarding-passes obtained and passports scrutinised. Then followed the customary extended wait in the departure lounge. Eventually we were called forward. Then as our boarding passes were being checked before joining the aircraft our progress was halted. In the ensuing minutes we were directed back to the departure lounge and then placated by a representative of Cyprus Airways. It materialised that this airline operate on the assumption of a "10% no-show" rate. On this occasion it was to the tune of 59 irate passengers! Our departure was delayed by 24 hours and we were accomodated at a nearby hotel. Our luggage was more fortunate as it reached Cyprus on the scheduled flight! This incident has ensured that on all subsequent journeys by air an "overnight bag" remains with us.

Since the Turks invaded Cyprus in 1974 it has been a divided country with mainly Turkish Cypriots in the north and their Greek counterparts in the south. It was to the latter section that we eventually flew, the journey time to Larnaca being some 4.25 hours. Once through customs one soon discovers that Cyprus is not just another Greek Island but has been greatly influenced by its British heritage. Our taxi driver spoke fluent English and in the 2.5 hour drive, on the left hand side of the road, we learnt much about Cypriot traditions and the Island's recent troubles.

Cyprus is an important staging post for bird movements. Of 356 species recorded in the Island 23 are summer visitors, about 90 are winter visitors and some 174 are winter visitors/passage migrants. Easter is, therefore, a busy time for Cypriot bird activity.

Our base for the next fortnight was to be a friend's apartment in the ancient town of Paphos in south-west Cyprus. The apartments were built on the top of a 50 foot high island limestone cliff and the balcony of our second floor apartment looked south, across mixed farmland and olive groves, to the sea some 1/4 mile distant.

On the first morning of our stay my father-in-law, an enthusiastic bird-watcher for more than 50 years, was up early with his binoculars. No sooner had I joined him on the balcony than a Kestrel took off from the ledge below and proceeded to hunt over neighbouring farmland. Over the next fortnight this Kestrel was observed on most days as it went on sorties from its rocky ledge and it provided perfect opportunities for study for a novice birder.

The area was undoubtedly a prime feeding area for predators, for on several moonlit nights during the next fortnight we were treated to sightings of both Barn and Scops Owls. These birds were particularly active during the full moon phase. A Little Owl also afforded us close viewing one evening as it hungrily watched from a telegraph pole whilst we were leaving a restaurant feeling well content after a meal of moussaka, kebabs, dolmades and retzina!

At another restaurant-stop the waiter showed great interest in our field guides and could recognise and name many of the smaller birds such as Goldfinch and Bee-Eater. Sadly it appeared that his idea of a good day out was to sit in the fields with his transistor and shoot whatever birds came in to view! Indeed every year many thousands of resident and migrant birds are still captured and shot in Cyprus although groups like the Cyprus Ornithological Society do try and educate their countrymen and actively encourage conservation.

The Cyprus O.S. appreciate reports of sightings from visitors to the island and have produced a "Check List" and a list of species for which they require field notes. An annual report, to which we later contributed, is also published though this is usually five years in arrears! For the raw beginner J.Took's "Common Birds of Cyprus" is a handy guide to 88 of the more usual birds though some of its illustrations leave much to be desired.

Having secured the use of a hired car we were able to extend the range of our sight-seeing. On an early excursion I gained marks for observation for pointing out what I described as "a purple crow". This, I was told, was a Roller. This dramatic migratory bird could be seen regularly taking advantage of the views afforded by telegraph poles and wires. Other large species noted early on were Purple Heron, Grey Heron, a Bittern in flight and the pure white Little Egret. However, it was the Hoopoe with its bizarre head that made the greatest impression.

Cyprus still bears many marks which indicate its Greek and Roman heritage. Whilst visiting the remains of the Roman town of Curium I received lessons on the identification of smaller avian species. To my untrained eye they all looked like sparrows but my father-in-law patiently indicated the difference between a Grasshopper Warbler and a Wood Warbler, whilst nearby on rough ground a noticeable "extra bit on the head" denoted a Crested Lark.

The Easter of 1981 occurred in the second half of April and by then the Mediterranean around Cyprus was quite warm enough to enjoy a swim. On a leisurely "beach day" at the attractively named Coral Bay we observed a flock of 29 Garganey resting some 150 yards off-shore, before continuing their migration northwards. On the same day we observed a Yellowhammer in bushes as we left the beach. Short of noting it we took no further action. Some five years after the event I discover, on reading the Cyprus O.S. Report for 1981, that another observer saw a single Yellowhammer at the same spot four days later. It was the first noted in Cyprus for 14 years!

Perhaps the most memorable of our sightings were four adult Griffon Vultures seen soaring and taking advantage of an afternoon thermal near Pissouri. Later that day we were able to view two of these birds on their nests at Episkopi cliffs.

In terms of "ticks" our most successful day was in the Troodos Mountains which rise to 6,401 feet. Even in late April there was still snow on the summit of Mount Troodos. Many slopes have sparse vegetation or have been planted with pine. As most of the rough "roads" in the Troodos are single lane tracks with near-vertical drops on one side, for much of the time our speed was kept to 10 - 15 m.p.h. This was ideal from a birding point of view. Some 1/4 hour was spent in the cool shade of a wooded area tracking down a Nightingale which gave us a splendid concert. More obliging was a Jay, my "first", which in Cyprus is only seen regularly in the mountains. Settlements in the Troodos are scattered and in this sparsely populated region the former president, Archbishop Makarios III, is laid to rest. His shrine is on a mountain summit near Kykko Monastery from where breathtaking views can be had. During our descent towards Paphos we had close views of a Masked Shrike in a deciduous copse. Two days later when I "spotted" a shrike of my own it proved to be a Woodchat Shrike. Again, with the C.O.S. Report for 1981 I discover that this was the first of this particular migrant to be noted that year.

As with all holidays they are over all-too-soon. Yet with birding one should always be on the alert. On our last day we heard the spring arrival of the Bee Eaters in the fields below our flat. Unfortunately, the binoculars had been packed and by the time they were released "the birds had flown"! Later as we arrived at Larnaca Airport we observed some 15 - 20 Greater Flamingoes who had wintered there. As an introduction to the colour and variety in birds Cyprus can be strongly recommended. As with all things in life, too much success too soon can "spoil" one. So with the endemic Cyprus Warbler still "unticked" we have a very good excuse to return again, but next time we'll be first in the queue.

J.M.Maskell.

SEA WATCHING REPORT FOR 1986.

Introduction.

The sea was watched for over 568 hours this year, and although this is many hours shorter than the record endeavour of 1985, it is a very similar effort to the watching between 1981 and 1984. The histogram showing the hours watched depicts, as usual, the spring months to be the most popular but a glimpse at the illustration showing the overall rates of passage would suggest other periods are worthy of study. Indeed the best rates of passage were recorded during early November when the first cool weather of the autumn arrived. However, if one looks at the total numbers of birds recorded most, as usual, are noted in the spring; 37,279 (79%) from the total of 47,158 were recorded between March and May.

Since interest in sea-watching was rekindled in this area in 1978 a grand total of birds seen has been kept and sometime during the year this grand total exceeded a quarter of a million birds. Equally grand is the observation that at least 3865 hours have been logged; surely this is a reasonable sample to make analysis more meaningful even though this still only represents about 5% of the total time which birds could be passing by. Although the overall figures suggest about 75 birds are noted in each hour watched, those who regularly sea-watch will know there is a marked variation with many hours when no obvious movement is noted and then periods of frantic activity. Most of the observations were made from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens on Worthing Beach although records from Goring, Ferring and a few from Widewater beach are also included if these watches covered periods which were not recorded at Worthing.

During the spring months a daily log was passed between the regular observers; this experiment proved very successful in 1985 and was therefore continued. This kept all the contributors informed and markedly reduced the time spent in collating all the records at the end of the season.

Since the publication of the first detailed seawatching report in 1978 histograms have been used to display the rate of passage of the commoner species and once again similar graphs are drawn. Furthermore it has been possible to combine many years information to perform a similar exercise on some of the less numerous species, some of these are drawn in this report. By combining the data gathered over many years of watching one partly removes the effect the weather has on passage times and it is then useful to compare each years movements with the average for each species.

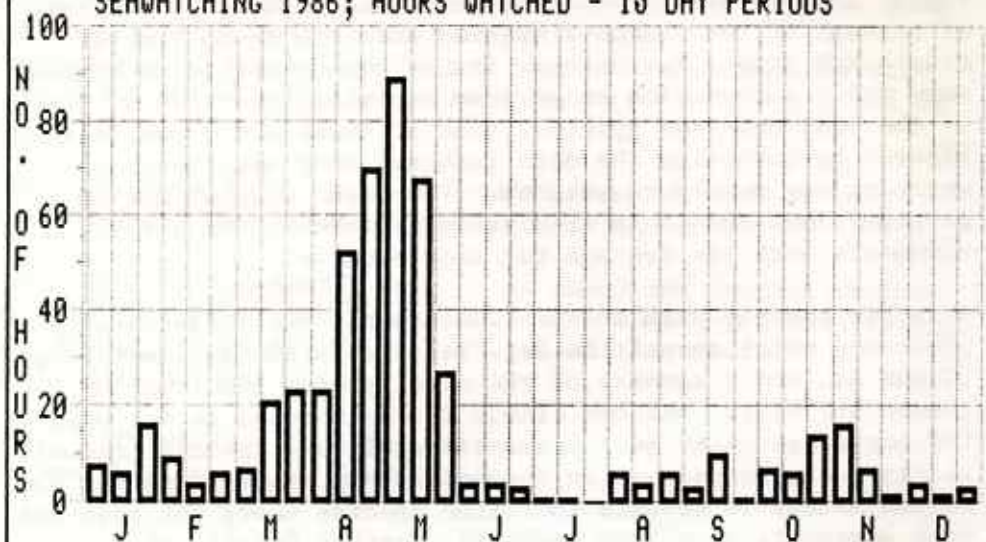
Also, in keeping with the previous years, two tables are presented which reveal the details of selected days watching (Table A), and a summary of the main species involved in the autumn and winter watches (Table B). Each table is intended for comparison with past years and as before table A. records mainly eastward passage in the spring and westward during the autumn except in certain indicated species where the east and west movements have been combined. Further details of individual species are documented in the systematic list.

The account is based on records from the following:-
S.R.Allen, B.R.Clay, J.Dixon, G.Edwards, B.F.Forbes, C.J.Fox, M.P.Hall, S.Hartnill, C.E.Hope, R.Ives, R.Jackson, M.E.Kalahar, D.King, C.R.Janman, C.E.Messer, O.Mitchell, J.A.Newnham, M.Prince, R.J.Sandison, R.Shaw, and D.I.Smith.

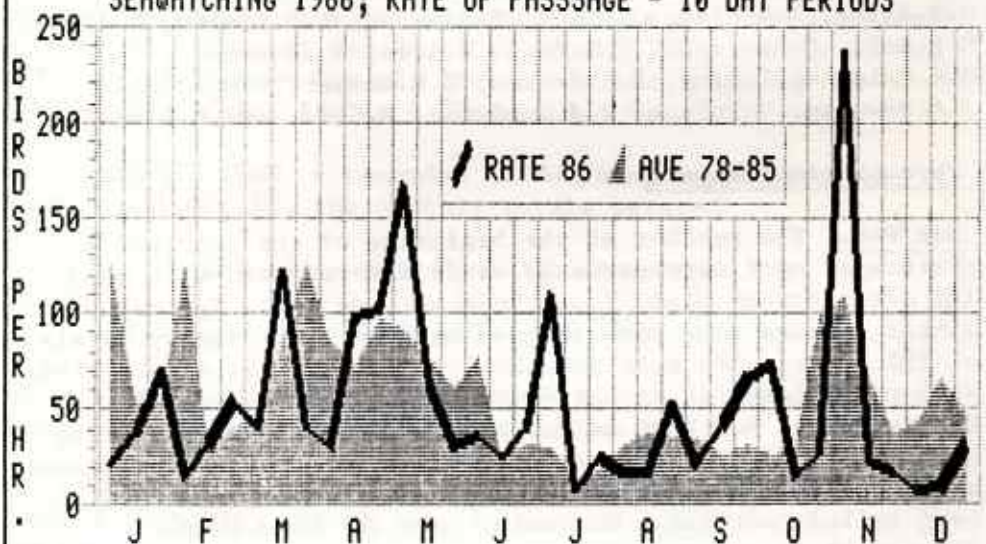
Chronological Report

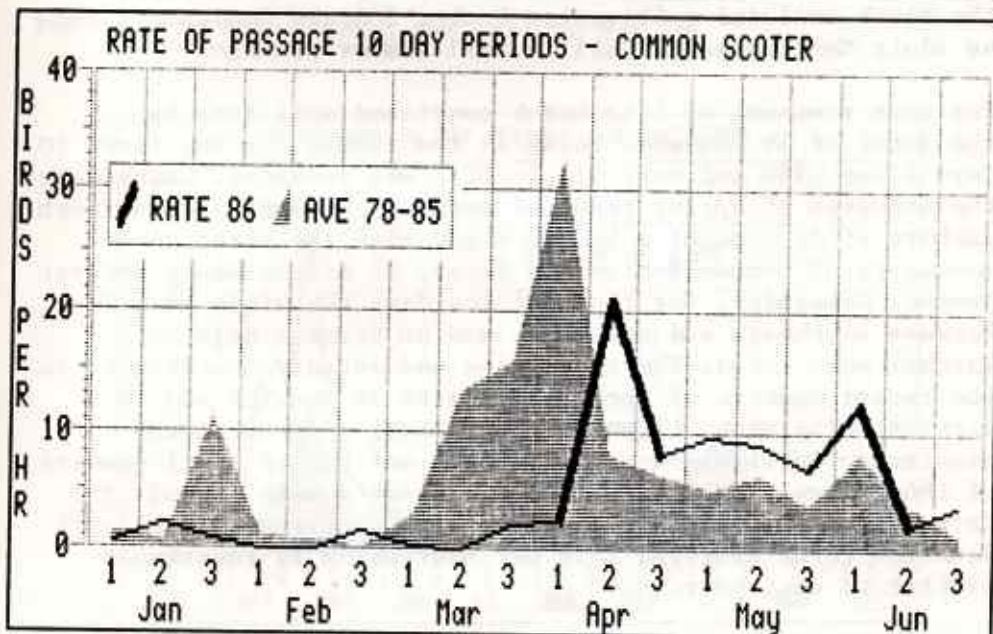
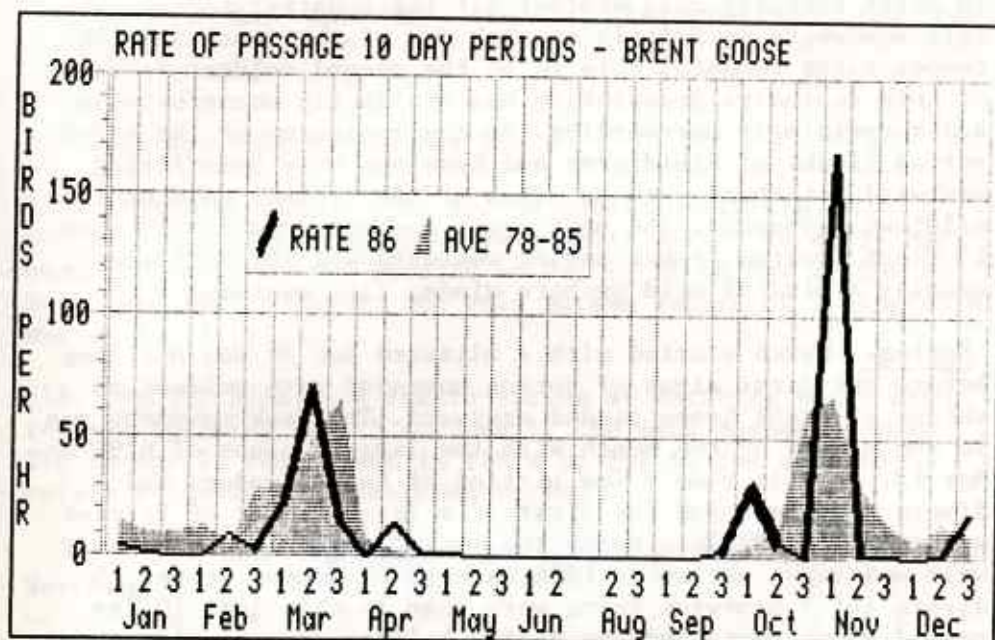
Jan/Feb. The weather at the beginning of the year was a mixture of cool northeasterly winds interspersed with mild and often strong winds from the south and west. Typical winter species were seen in good numbers with January totals of 228 divers, 366 auks and 180 Kittiwakes. Most of the birds were noted later in January with the peak of auks and Kittiwakes at Worthing logged on Jan 21 and 55 divers being seen on Jan 25. However, at Brighton a huge westerly movement of about 750 auks was noted during just 1 hour on Jan 19. A Long tailed Duck and a Goosander were the more unusual January birds.

SEAWATCHING 1986; HOURS WATCHED - 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1986; RATE OF PASSAGE - 10 DAY PERIODS





In early February cold weather hit the country; indeed snow fell somewhere in Britain on each day of the month and the temperatures revealed this to be the second coldest February of this century. Seawatching was distinctly uncomfortable and surprisingly unrewarding. At the beginning of the harsh period flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings were seen flying westward but there were no signs of the typical cold weather wildfowl movements. The best watch was noted on Feb 27 when 13 Great Crested Grebes passed westward and 151 Kittiwakes, usually a bird of mild onshore winds, flew eastward.

Spring. March started with a blizzard but it was not long before the first signs of spring movement were evident as skions of Brent Geese passed eastward. The peak movement was in the middle of the month with the largest count of 629E on Mar 13. At this time a few parties of ducks, waders and divers were seen and the first of a large number of Bonxies was recorded. By late March the spring migration is usually well underway; not so in 1986 as only 59 Common Scoter, 5 divers and 5 Sandwich Terns were seen in this last 10 day period which contained the Easter holiday. The highlights of the month included a Slavonian Grebe, 2 drake Goosanders and an adult Mediterranean Gull in full summer plumage.

The poor movement of late March continued well into April, the total of 38 Sandwich Terns is the lowest for the first 10 days since 1980 and very little else was recorded. Thankfully the momentum of spring returned abruptly on Apr 15 when fresh onshore winds brought a hectic watch with the first good movements of Common Scoter and terns, 27 Arctic Skuas and yet another Goosander. For the next few days the winds blew from between southeast and southwest and on several days good watches were noted. The conditions undoubtedly contributed to the record numbers of April skuas with 36 Bonxies and 76 Arctics being seen. Likewise the numbers of Brent Geese passing in April was unusually high, and record April numbers of 166 divers, 471 Fulmars and 251 Gannets were logged. The tern movements increased considerably so by the end of April Sandwich Terns averaged 12.8 per hour which is remarkably similar to most years.

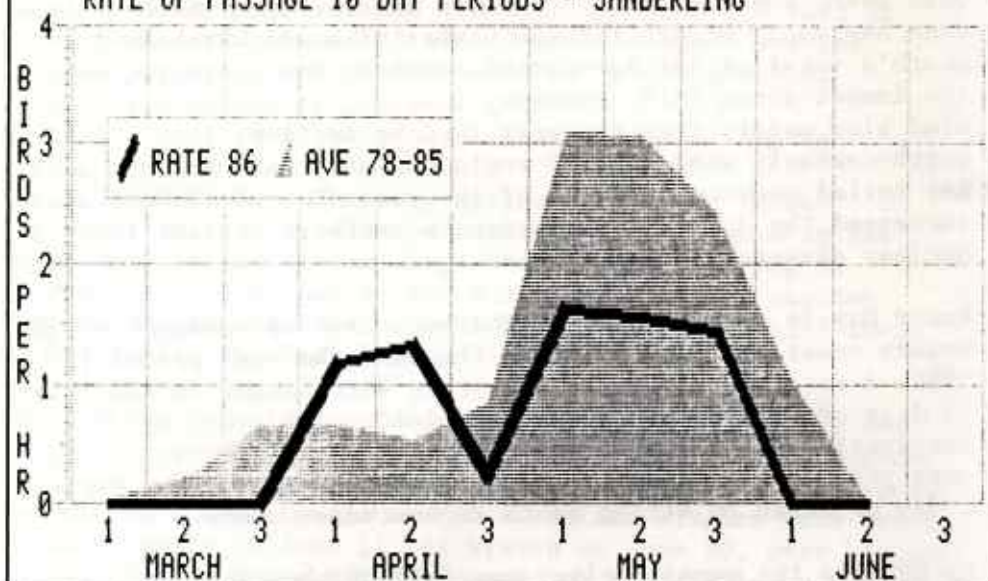
On the debit side the unsettled weather was not ideal for seeing waders and although an Avocet and 3 Spotted Redshanks were seen, the numbers of the more regular species were less than one would expect for the number of hours watched. The month's total of 651 Bar-tailed Godwits, for instance, was the lowest since 1979. Perhaps, however, it was as well the wind blew mainly from the west in late April as a north-easterly wind in 1986 would not only have brought more Bar tailed Godwits in sight of the coast but would have also increased the drift of radiation to southern England from the nuclear disaster in the Ukraine.

Early May is often quoted as the best time to seawatch on the Sussex coast; without question this was the best period in 1986. A total of nearly 15,000 birds were logged in the first 10 days of May and most days recorded good numbers of interesting birds. The best of these days and certainly the most predictable from the weather forecast was Sunday May 4, a day of fresh to strong south to southeast winds.

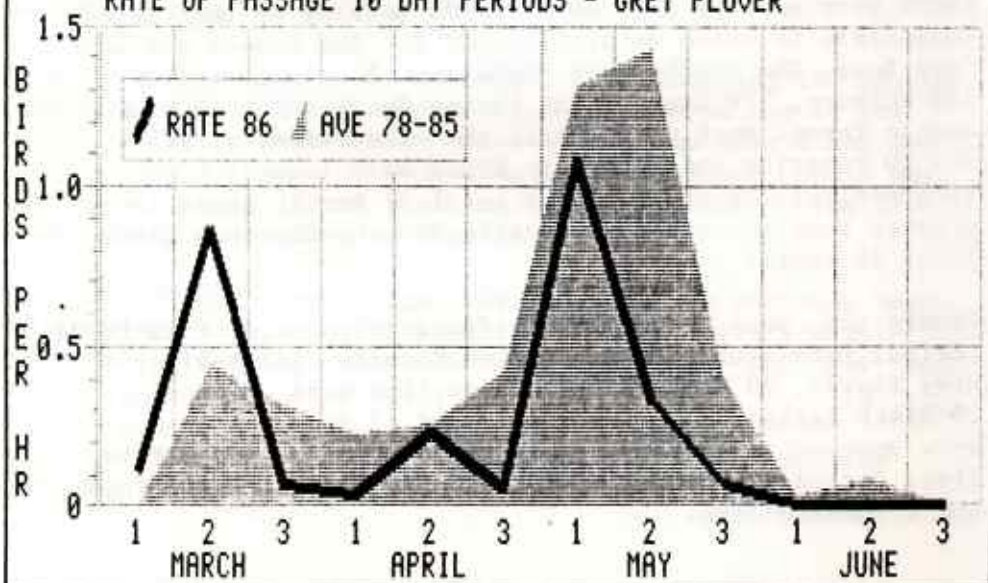
By 0600hrs the usual shelter was full of observers who were to enjoy a memorable watch as hundreds of seabirds passed fairly close to the shore. At times in the early morning there were so many parties of birds passing by that it was impossible to watch everything and the log keeper was kept very busy. The totals were impressive for these shores with 130 Fulmars, 178 Gannets, 22 Little Gulls and 1745 Common or Arctic Terns. Most will recall the close views of skuas, in all 20 Pomarine and 50 Arctic Skuas were logged: interestingly this record day total of Arctic Skuas is greater than the total of records for the Shoreham Society's first 24 years!

Waders too, were recorded most frequently during this 10 day period; totals of 2140 Bar tailed Godwits, 362 Dunlin, 97 Grey Plover, 80 Knot and 145 Sanderling were not unusual but 15 Black tailed Godwits on May 2 and 42 Redshank on May 6 were unexpected. Other unusual birds during this exciting first period of May included an Avocet, a Long tailed Duck, and a Roseate Tern.

RATE OF PASSAGE 10 DAY PERIODS - SANDERLING



RATE OF PASSAGE 10 DAY PERIODS - GREY PLOVER

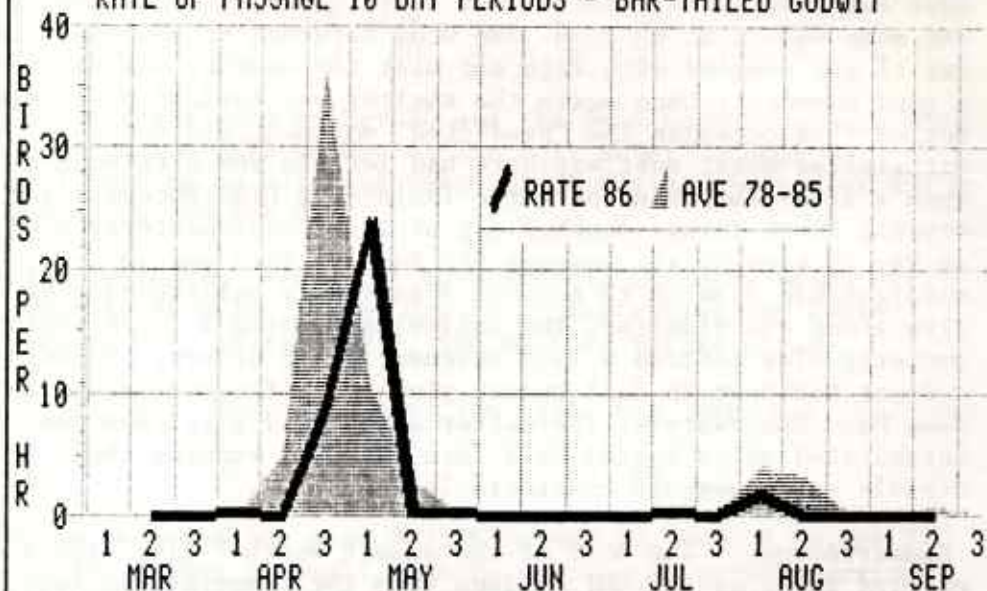


From May 7 to May 16 the winds blew mainly from the south west but despite this there were still Gannets, skuas, terns and some waders to be seen. The wind returned to southeast on May 17 and coupled with rain and mist the weather was set for a good movement. Once again the shelter was full of observers but on this occasion the "predicted" movement did not materialise until most watchers had left in the afternoon when a steady movement of terns included 2 fine Roseates and several Black Terns. Another day of light southeasterly wind on May 20 brought the seasons 4th Roseate Tern and an unforgettable view of 13 Avocets frantically calling as they flew along the tideline. The following morning a fresh south westerly blow induced a late movement of 18 divers, including a Great Northern in full summer plumage, a few more skuas and some Manx Shearwaters. Thereafter a westerly airstream was established which lasted well into June and reduced the visible sea movements considerably.

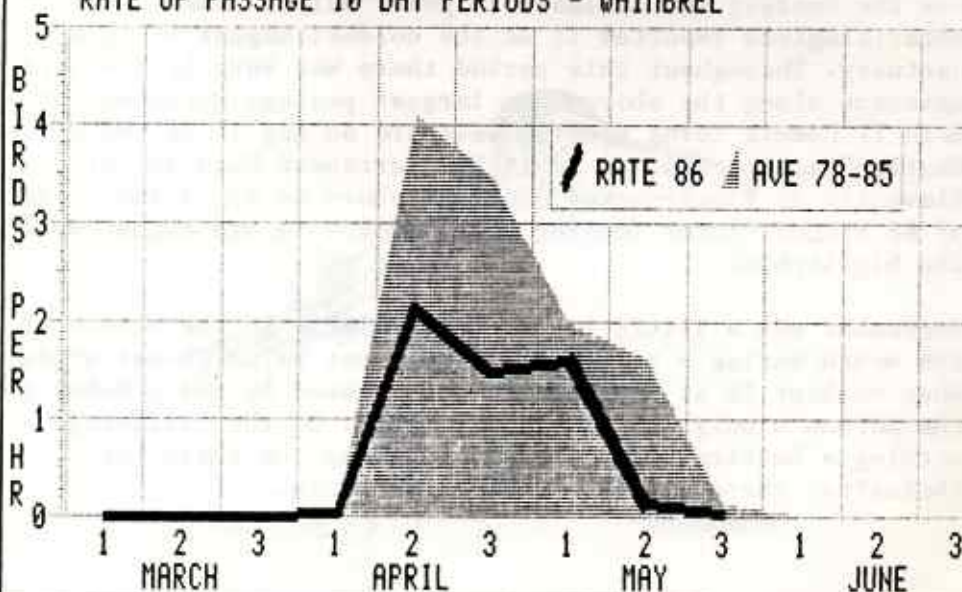
Summer/Autumn. The best of the summer weather came with a settled spell at the end of June when the temperatures rose to produce the hottest late June for the decade. The weather in July was unremarkable but few of us will forget how August was the coolest for at least 30 years whilst some meteorologists reported it as the coldest August of this century. Throughout this period there was very little bird movement along the shore, the largest passage noted was of a mere 77 Commic Terns passing westward on Aug 28 as "Hurricane Charlie" approached. An adult Mediterranean Gull in July, a Slavonian or Black-necked Grebe offshore on Aug 5 and a flock of 88 Ringed Plover feeding on the beach in mid August were the highlights.

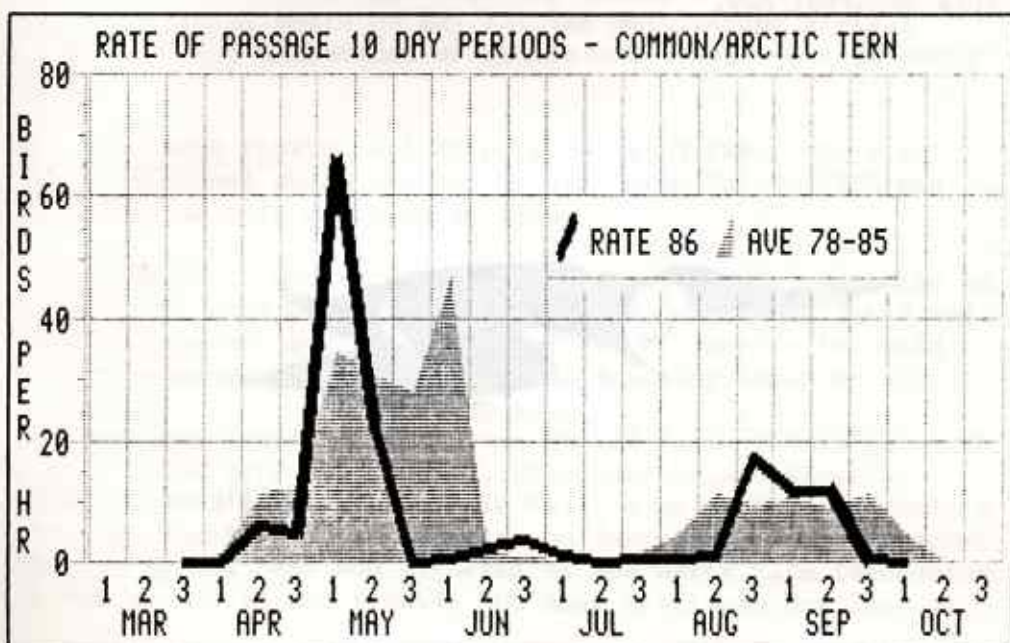
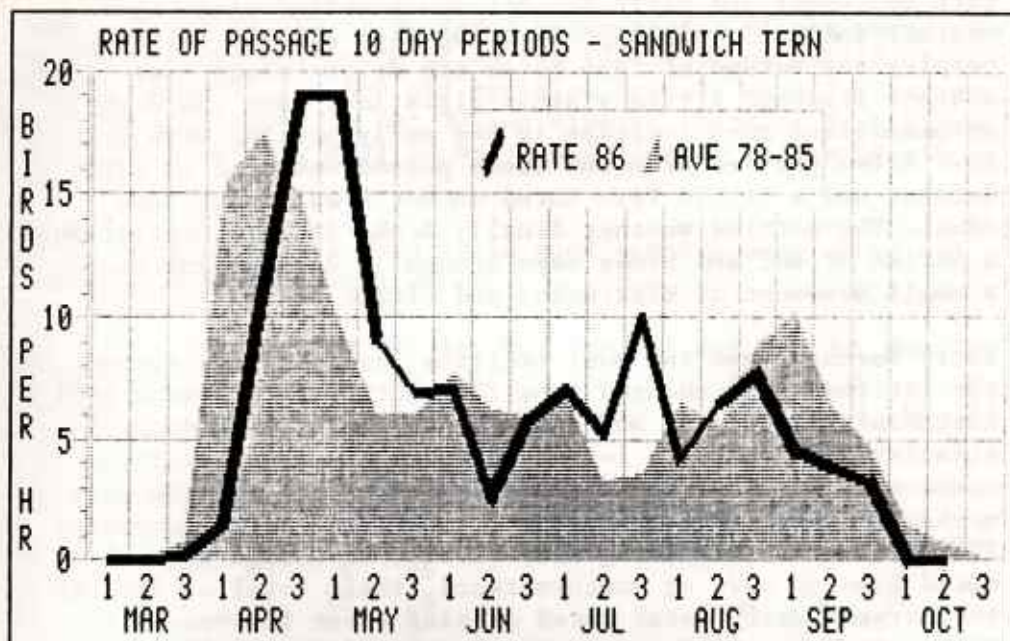
September was a little better particularly in the middle of the month during a period of strong east to northeast winds when on Sept 16 at least 64 Gannets passed by and a Hobby and the autumn's only Black Tern were seen. On the following morning a Buzzard drifted eastward along the shore but thereafter there were no notable movements.

RATE OF PASSAGE 10 DAY PERIODS - BAR-TAILED GODWIT



RATE OF PASSAGE 10 DAY PERIODS - WHIMBREL





Late September and early October was a period of settled weather and produced 23 consecutive days without rain so helping the autumn of 1986 to be the driest since 1947. This weather produced little visible migration, even the numbers of passerines seen coasting in the early morning were very low. A few parties of Brent Geese passed westward in early October and a Little Tern noted on Oct 6 was later than usual. The settled weather finally broke in late October when a series of wet and windy days brought 2 Bonxies and induced a small movement of Kittiwakes and Little Gulls.

Early November was the most exciting period of the autumn. On the 1st the winds changed from the southwest to give a cool northeasterly wind on Nov 2nd; these conditions undoubtedly stimulated migrants to leave the North Sea areas as large numbers of wildfowl and waders were seen. Brent Geese were moving westward all day on Nov 2, the final total exceeding 2500. During this morning many parties of Dunlin were also noted heading west or southwestward, their total of 394W is the largest daily total noted passing these beaches. Some Velvet Scoters, Goldeneye and a Bonxie added some spice to this eventful day.

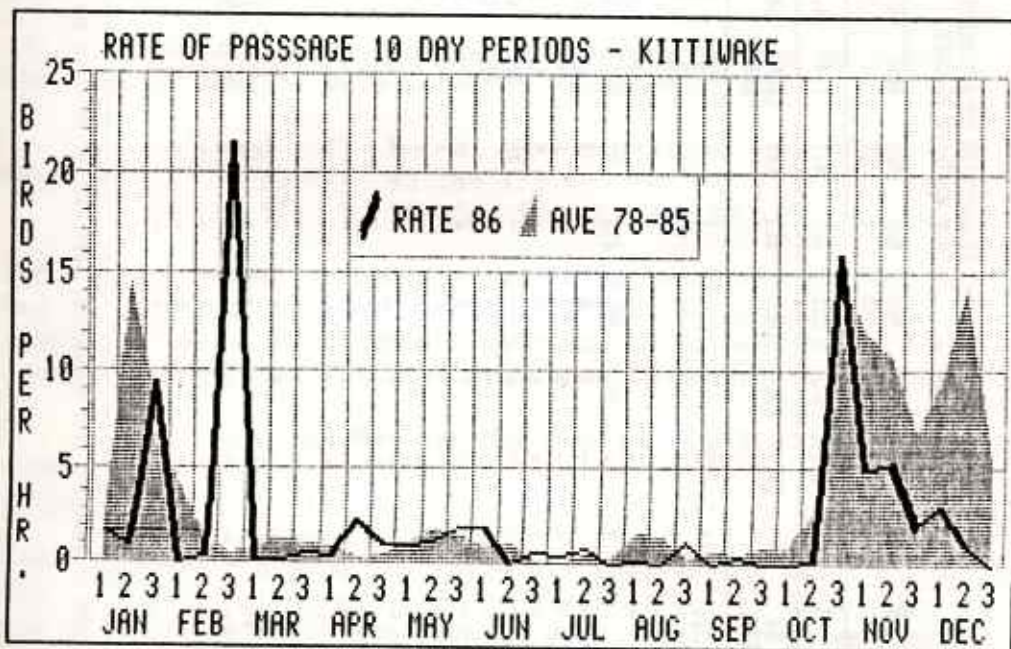


Guillemot

Smaller numbers of the same species were seen moving during the next few days but there were more unusual records at this time, the most interesting were 2 Little Auks, a Little Gull and an Arctic Skua on Nov 4th and 2 Pomarine Skuas on Nov 5th. A fresh onshore wind on Nov 9th brought a Sooty Shearwater close to the shore and the autumn's best movement of 77 Gannets and 55 Kittiwakes.

The rest of November and December were quiet months with no extremes of weather; a few divers, auks and Brent Geese were seen and the only highlights were a Bewick's Swan flying westward on Nov 30th and 2 Little Gulls moving eastward on Dec 30th.

J.A. Newnham.



SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS WINTER TO SPRING 1986
FROM WORTHING BEACHES

TABLE A(1)

DATE	JAN 21	JAN 23	JAN 24	FEB 27	MAR 13	MAR 15	MAR 16	MAR 28	APR 13	APR 14	APR 15	APR 16	APR 23	APR 24	APR 25	MAY 1	MAY 2
HRS WATCHED	3	4	2.2	3.7	3.5	3.2	4.1	7.4	6.6	7.5	5.3	11.7	6.6	9.1	6.8	13	13
WIND DIRECTION	SW	M4	ENE6	ESE4	CALM	SE3	SW5	CALM -SW4	SW3	SSE5	SSW3	ESE4	SW2	SE2	SE1	SE1	SE2
* DIVER SP	16	44	7	-	-	1	12	8	6	30	28	28	7	8	1	5	5
* FULMAR	-	-	-	2	4	2	-	2	7	65	24	23	25	33	9	31	31
* MANX SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* GANNET	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	38	19	5	4	1	-	7	7
* BRENT GSE	3	3	-	629	408	476	77	361	139	30	38	10	26	32	3	6	6
* SHELDUCK	-	-	-	8	8	-	4	6	14	12	2	6	5	4	-	-	-
* WIGEON	-	-	-	6	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* EIDER	-	-	-	6	-	-	5	1	1	2	18	-	6	-	-	15	15
* C. SCOTER	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	33	143	563	225	130	64	246	50	85	85
* RED BR. MERS	1	60	30	-	-	5	-	70	17	35	23	14	10	9	8	67	67
* GREY PLOVER	-	-	-	9	8	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	3	44	44
* SANDERLING	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	-	5	20	156	156
* BAR T. GOWIT	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	5	-	94	105	161	650	363	363
* WHIRBEL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	59	6	61	8	4	37	37
* POM. SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	1	7	7
* ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	8	1	1	1	-	-	-
* BONXIE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	9	1	11	11
* LITTLE GULL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	99	11	22	-	2	1	12	12
* KITTIWAKE	61	15	151	-	-	-	12	31	54	263	140	500	205	163	95	289	289
* SANDWICH T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	6	298	15	144	10	43	84	649	649
* COMIC T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	11	31	17	141	141
* LITTLE T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
* BLACK T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* AUK SP.	176	120	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	3	1	1	-	2	2

* Denotes summation of east and west movements; rest east movement in spring, west in autumn.

TABLE A(11)

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS SPRING TO WINTER 1986
FROM NORTHING BEACHES

DATE	MAY 3	MAY 4	MAY 5	MAY 6	MAY 7	MAY 10	MAY 12	MAY 17	MAY 20	MAY 21	AUG 25	SEPT 16	OCT 27	NOV 2	NOV 3	NOV 9
HRS WATCHED	10.4	14	11	11.4	6.8	7.3	6.8	12.6	11.2	4.1	2.6	4	4.5	4.8	2.2	4.3
WIND DIRECTION	WSW-SEA	SSE 6-7	SE2-SSW2	SE3	SSW5	SW6	SW6	SE4	SE4	SSW6	SE 5-7	NE4	SSW5	NNE6	SW4	SSW6
* DIVER SP	9	50	17	10	10	1	4	2	5	19	-	-	-	7	7	2
* FULMAR	14	130	9	27	22	17	17	16	6	26	11	-	-	-	-	-
* MANX SHEAR	12	178	7	3	51	120W	13	11	4	34	6	64	10	3	4	77
* GANNET	27	99	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2566	160	8
* BRENT GSE	6	2	-	4	1	-	13	-	1	12	-	-	4	6	27	1
* SHELDUCK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* WIGEON	-	2	-	-	-	5W	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	20	6	2
EIDER	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. SCOTER	105	128	177	186	48	-	49	24	229	63	4	9E	3W9E	-	1	2
RED BR. NERGS	-	14	5	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	15	6	14	11
GREY PLOVER	-	5	5	5	1	7W	20	2	6	-	-	-	7	18	-	1
SANDERLING	2	14	7	1	33	11W	9	16	9	3	-	5	-	-	-	-
DUNLIN	104	104	123	581	14	139W	16	15	-	-	-	-	6	394	63	20
BAR T. GDMIT	288	11	5	1	26	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHIMBREL	7	11	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POM. SKUA	7	20	14	5	10	1	10	5	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-
* ARCTIC SKUA	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* BONNIE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTLE BULL	1	22	1	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
* KITTIMAKE	7	32	2	-	5	23	15	38	48	2	4	2	7	-	1	1
SANDWICH T.	145	371	260	202	111	59	72	90	120	37	10	16	100	-	10	55
COMMON T.	177	1745	1591	1426	172	33	29	1069	331	5	77	15	-	-	-	-
LITTLE T.	39	35	101	41	30	26	13	28	29	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
BLACK T.	-	16	1	6	-	1W	-	6	8	-	-	1E	-	-	-	-
* AUK SP.	3	43	9	5	16	21W	1	6	3	5	-	3	-	13	3	7

* Denotes summation of east and west movements; first east movement in spring, west in autumn.

DETAILS OF THIRTEEN REGULARLY RECORDED SPECIES SEEN FROM WORTHING BEACH
DURING AUTUMN/WINTER 1986

TABLE B	JULY ALL	AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			TOTAL
		1- 10	11- 20	21- 31	1- 10	11- 20	21- 30	1- 10	11- 20	21- 31	1- 10	11- 20	21- 30	1- 10	11- 20	21- 31	
HOURS	5.0	7.0	5.0	7.0	4.0	11.0	2.0	8.0	7.0	15.0	17.0	8.0	3.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	111.0
Diver Sp. E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	3	5	3	-	14	33
Gannet E	4	6	2	14	-	69	-	1	2	5	4	2	-	1	-	2	24
Brent E	16	5	2	3	1	10	-	-	-	19	81	14	-	1	-	-	110
Goose W	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	13	14	-	171	-	-	-	-	-	154
Shelduck E	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	229	38	14	2749	14	10	1	5	69	203
Wigeon E	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	6	37	2	-	1	10	9	3147
Eider E	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	9	1	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	1
Compton E	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Scoter E	-	11	-	-	9	11	1	-	-	-	26	5	-	-	-	-	7
Red-brst E	1	10	-	4	-	14	-	-	-	9	4	3	-	1	1	-	54
Herg. E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	1	3	-	-	-	-	33
Little E	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	23	5	3	1	4	4	4	45
Gull W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	20	1	4	4	3	47
Kittiwake E	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	20
Sandwich E	2	2	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	3	2	4	-	-	-	-	116
Tern W	22	3	23	5	6	24	2	-	2	239	85	38	7	15	4	-	2
'Cosmic' E	15	22	26	29	11	19	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Tern W	5	-	7	22	1	105	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	401
Auk Sp. E	-	4	1	95	41	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	128
	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	20	2	-	-	-	-	135
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23

FERRING RIFE

A Conservation Agreement Between Shoreham District Ornithological Society and Southern Water.

Introduction.

During the winters of 1982 and 1983 Southern Water carried out a flood prevention scheme on the Ferring Rife following successive years of winter flooding. The work involved the creation of two overflow lagoons as well as the dredging of the river and nearby ditches. These activities, together with changes in the cultivation of adjoining farmland, resulted in considerable habitat loss, including the removal of hedgerows and scattered bushes.

From my general birding on the Rife, and in particular a regular count of autumn migrants, I had learned that the Rife provided an oasis for wildlife among the coastal farmland and urban developments and formed a routeway for autumn migrants moving southwards. Over one hundred and thirty species of birds had been recorded, twenty seven butterflies and a wide range of wetland and other plant species. A local biologist has been sampling the invertebrate life in the river for many years and considers it to be one of the richest streams in this part of Sussex.

In the years following the flood scheme it was evident that breeding birds had been significantly reduced; Spotted Flycatcher and various warblers being the most serious, obvious casualties. Autumn migrants such as Wheatear, Whinchat and Yellow Wagtail appeared in similar numbers to those before the scheme but warblers, flycatchers and other birds requiring cover declined significantly. Winter bird populations actually seemed to benefit from the changes, the wider river and expanse of open land attracted Goldeneye, Brent and Wigeon, as well as several thousand Lapwing. Snipe, Jack Snipe and Water Rail may have been affected by the loss of ditch habitats although as the new environment created by the scheme evolves these habitats should re-establish.

It became obvious to me that much could be done to alleviate the habitat loss in the area if the Water Authority could agree to some replanting and to slight changes in their routine management of the river channel and banks. Through the good offices of Stanley Allen a contact with Southern Water was made and after considerable discussion an agreement was reached.

The Agreement

The agreement recognises the paramount importance of flood prevention necessity but establishes that the Water Authority will carry out management work with as much regard for the wildlife as possible.

The Water Authority agreed to the following:-

- 1) Dredging and bank cutting will be monitored over the next three years to establish mutually agreeable regimes.
- 2) The excavation of a permanent pond in the southern lagoon.
- 3) The erection of a fence between the Water Authority land and adjacent farmland.
- 4) Agreement to provide funds for the purchase of native shrubs to be planted by volunteers.
- 5) The widening of a ditch to create more reed habitat.

With this generous agreement the Water Authority have made it possible for this society to significantly improve the wildlife potential of the Rife area.

Conservation

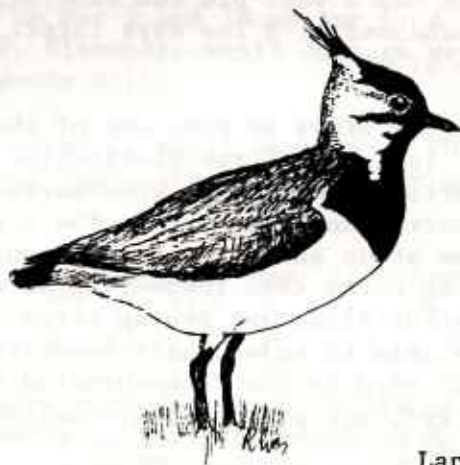
Over twenty members and a few other helpers met on a glorious day in December 1986 and planted almost 400 shrubs before lunch! May I express my personal thanks to all who helped and particular mention Chris Fox for his help in organising and for his wheels!

The shrubs were planted on the western boundaries of the lagoon and on a raised mound between the lagoons. Hawthorn and Blackthorn form the majority of the scheme, with smaller quantities of Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Buckthorn and Alder. There is also a small stand of Oak on the mound.

Since the original planting some Osier cuttings have been added from the Mumbles in Steyning and from our own Sanctuary. More willows are to come; bright golden types from a garden on the Ferring bank of the river. Next year a further 350 shrubs are due; the scheme will be completed by adding occasional other shrubs, such as elder when they become available and by transplanting some reed to the lagoon.

Taking a reasonably optimistic view I believe that the conservation work already carried out and that intended next year will create improved habitat and that the wildlife of the Rife will gradually benefit from the scheme.

M.P.Hall.



Lapwing

AFRICAN BIRTHDAY

Twelve flights, nearly three hundred species of birds plus thirty mammal species all in fourteen days of beautiful sunshine - what more can anyone ask! This was my birthday holiday in Botswana in October '86, Spring in Southern Africa. The birds are too numerous to list but included Tawny, Martial, Bateleur, Fish and Black-breasted Eagles. All were well seen as Botswana has few tourists at present, is sparsely populated and the birds and animals are not hunted or harried.

It was fortunately a really small party; eight of us with a leader. We flew from camp to camp - four in all - in Islander aircraft. It is quite exciting landing on an airstrip in the forest and finding elephant droppings but luckily no elephants! However we did have elephants visiting a borehole only a few yards from the tent in which we slept and we were able to watch them very closely and note the way they observe the pecking order before taking a drink.

A family party of lionesses with cubs and one lion were seen eating a zebra carcass. The lion was obviously well satisfied as he observed the cubs tearing at the carcass with him. One lioness had a week-old cub feeding, although we heard she had abandoned it a few days later. None took the slightest notice of us.

Of the many exciting birds we saw, one of the best was Pell's Fishing Owl. It is a very large distinctive owl with cinnamon underparts, rufous-brown upperparts and large brown eyes. We discovered the first owl at the top of a large palm tree staring down at us and within five minutes two more were found in adjoining palms also inspecting us with interest. They are magnificent birds and seeing three of them in daylight we were able to enjoy their beautiful colouring. Another colourful bird is the Pink-throated Longclaw which has a brilliant red, not pink, throat outlined with black.

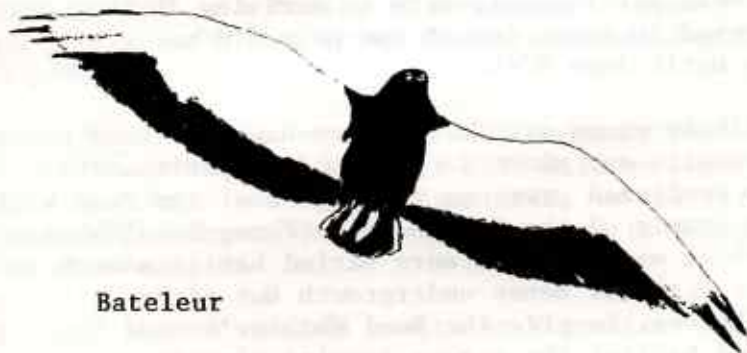
At one marshy area we had the luck to find a Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper and a Little Stint and were able to compare the difference in size.

At Xascaba camp we spent a very enjoyable sunset hour watching the heron roost flying in. Our count totalled 109 Reed Cormorants, 31 Purple Herons, 37 Slaty Egrets, 1 Yellow-billed Egret, 234 Squacco Herons, 30 Rufous-bellied Herons and 7 Black-crowned Night Herons. Luckily there were five of us counting or we should never have coped. No darters or other egrets used the roost. It was quite a sight.

To finish off the near perfect holiday we spent three days at the Victoria Falls, a magnificent spectacle, especially when viewed with a Trumpeter Hornbill in the foreground. Two rare species were also seen in this area, a Taita Falcon at it's plucking post/rock and two African Finfoot on the Zambesi.

But in spite of all the fantastic sightings to me the most memorable moments were the sounds of an African night topped by a velvet star-studded sky.

E. Chadwell.



Bateleur

SURVEY OF BREEDING REED AND SEDGE WARBLERS.

Changes in agricultural practice and differing land use have been blamed for several of the changes that are being recorded in the populations of common birds. One change which has taken place is the drainage of wet meadows and pastures to "improve" the land for the cultivation of cereals. As the land becomes dryer so ditches become unnecessary and are lost under the plough. Insidiously these changes have taken place so areas of damp scrub and overgrown, reed filled ditches have gradually disappeared. These are the haunts of the Reed and Sedge Warblers so a survey of these two species would not only provide estimates for their breeding populations but also document the wet and reedy areas in the county. Furthermore most ornithologists will have noted fewer Sedge Warblers in recent years; a decline which has been linked to the succession of dry seasons in their wintering areas in the Sahel region of Africa.

With these thoughts the Sussex Ornithological Society arranged for a full breeding survey during the spring and summer of 1986. Territories of singing males were plotted on maps and notes were made of their preferred habitats and the distribution of reedy ditches and reed beds. Sedge Warblers occupy their territory much earlier than Reed Warblers and were best located from late April until late May. Reed Warblers were particularly late in arriving in 1986 and were best surveyed in June; indeed one pair did not arrive at the Sanctuary until June 30th.

All the likely areas within the Shoreham area were surveyed and the results are shown in the table opposite. The observers confirmed previous findings that the Reed Warbler preferred stands of the Common Reed (*Phragmites*) whereas the Sedge Warbler was found in more varied habitats such as patches of scrub or dense undergrowth but often with nearby Hawthorn bushes. Despite the Reed Warbler's need for a more specialised habitat the survey results clearly show the Reed Warbler to be more numerous than the Sedge Warbler.

AREA	NUMBERS OF TERRITORIES	
	Reed	Sedge
Shoreham Airfield/Lancing Marsh.	15	18
New and Old Salts Farm.	7	4
Steyning Road Reed Bed.	10	-
Sanctuary and surrounding fields.	3	-
A 27 to Bramber (river valley).	6	8
Ladywells stream.	9	-
Upper Adur Levels (East of river).	76	18
Upper Adur Levels (West of river).	33	3
Sompting Brooks.	29	17
Ferring Rife.	-	-
Northbrook Farm (Durrington).	1	1
Patching Pond.	3	1
TOTAL	192	70

The table shows that over 75% of the Sedge Warblers were found in just three places; at Sompting Brooks, around the periphery of the Airfield and on the levels North of Upper Beeding. Reed Warblers were located in more sites but 57% of the area total were found on the Adur Levels.

Although the Society has not conducted any previous total surveys of these species there have been several past counts in certain localities which provide useful comparisons. The most recent and most methodical recording comes from a Common Bird Census done by Tony Prater on the Adur Levels just North of Upper Beeding the results of which are shown in the following table.

The number of territories on 55 ha. of permanent pasture just north of Upper Beeding (AJP)

	1981.	1982.	1983.	1984.	1985.	1986.
Reed Warbler.	26	37	25	39	30	44
Sedge Warbler.	22	27	17	12	6	10

The table reveals that 1986 was a good year for Reed Warblers at this site whereas the number of Sedge Warblers remains lower than the early 1980's. This situation does not exist throughout the area as Colin Messer's notebook revealed almost the same number of Reed and Sedge Warblers on the Sompting Brooks this year as were there "many" years ago.

In 1976 Richard Porter counted 74 pairs of Reed Warblers between Shoreham and Beeding Cement Works; this years count in the same area revealed only 41 pairs. Between the Adur flyover and Bramber there have been considerable changes in the land management during the last decade with a greater emphasis on cereal cultivation; this may partly account for this reduction particularly as the area north of Cuckoo's Corner to Bramber only held one Sedge Warbler and no Reed Warblers.

Several observers noted that reedy ditches had been either grazed by cattle or had been cut back during the winter months so in early spring there was no suitable habitat for newly arrived Reed Warblers. However, many of these ditches had sufficient reed growth to support Reed Warblers by July and may have been occupied in the later part of the breeding season. This seemed to apply particularly to the meadows near Bramber and on the west side of the river on the Adur Levels.

It is noteworthy that no suitable habitat exists in the eastern part of the Society's recording area and to the west only small numbers were recorded at Patching Pond and Northbrook Farm. Likewise none were found in the Ferring Rife area although with the prospects of reintroducing a reedy habitat the next survey of these species may yield a very different result here.

The full results of the county survey will eventually be published in the Sussex Bird Report. I would like to thank all the local observers who spent many hours in the field so helping to make this survey a success.

J.A.Newnham.

FIELD OUTINGS 1986

The first outing of the year was to Amberley Wild Brooks, when Colin Messer and 12 members attempted initially to watch the wildfowl on Waltham Brooks. Unfortunately, the day was marred by strong winds, driving rain, and appalling visibility, making watching near-impossible. After a half hour vigil in cars, conditions remained the same, forcing abandonment of the outing. Wigeon, Pintail, Teal and Shoveler were glimpsed through the gloom. If only the weather could be booked in advance!

Dr. John Newnham's conservation working parties in January and February are described in the Sanctuary Report.

Sunday 27th April was not an ideal day for seawatching; overcast, calm, misty, with a light westerly wind. 16 members joined Dr. John Newnham to watch off the Widewater, and a limited easterly passage was noted - a few Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwits, Turnstones, Sandwich and Little Terns, and Fulmars. The best "seawatch bird" of the morning was a Greenshank, seen by John before any members arrived!

A pleasant evening on 18th June brought 18 members to the Arundel Park outing, led by Colin Messer. Reed and Sedge Warblers sang around the Wildfowl Trust perimeter, while hundreds of Swifts circled overhead. Wildfowl seen flying in and out of the reserve were Wood Duck, Mandarin, Wigeon, and Mallard. A pair of Grey Wagtails were found on the mill stream, with good numbers of Gadwall and Tufted Ducks on Swanbourne Lake. Most members departed before dusk; Colin took the remainder into the park to look for Nightjars, but without success. However, they did have superb views of Fallow Deer!

20 members joined John Dixon for the outing to Waltham Brooks and Coates Common on 11th July. The water levels at Waltham Brooks were unusually high for most of 1986, reducing the number of waders expected. However, 2 Little Ringed Plovers and a Green Sandpiper were seen on a fair, clear evening. The party then moved on to Coates Common, where Nightjars put

in their usual appearance, together with roding Woodcocks and a calling Little Owl.

Fine, warm weather again prevailed on 22nd August, when Stanley Allen led 20 members along the River Adur from the Lady Jane car park, past the houseboats, through the Adur Rec. and onto the towpath bordering the airport. Ringed Plover and Redshank were present in high numbers on the saltmarsh, and everyone had good views of Turnstones, Oystercatchers and 2 Grey Plovers. Undoubtedly the highlights of the outing were found at the Adur Rec. - 2 very approachable Whimbrel, 28 Wheatears, 18 Yellow Wagtails, with Whinchat, Willow and Reed Warblers in the bushes on the western boundary. A Common Tern rested on a post in the river and a Common Sandpiper was heard, but not seen.

A fair start heralded Mike Hall's Ferring Rife outing on 13th September, attended by some 20 members. However, the weather quickly deteriorated with rain shortly after 10.00 hours. The first hour was spent in a productive seawatch, in a force 5 easterly wind. Several parties of Wigeon moved west - the only party moving east also contained 2 female Pintail. Small numbers of Common Scoter flew west, as did several juvenile Common Terns. Most waders moved east; a party of 8 Knot, plus small numbers of Dunlins, Grey Plovers, Ringed Plovers, and a single Sanderling. The Rife produced a number of landbird migrants - 10 Yellow Wagtails, 10 or more Wheatears, 2 Spotted Flycatchers, and one each of Whinchat, Blackcap and Garden Warbler.

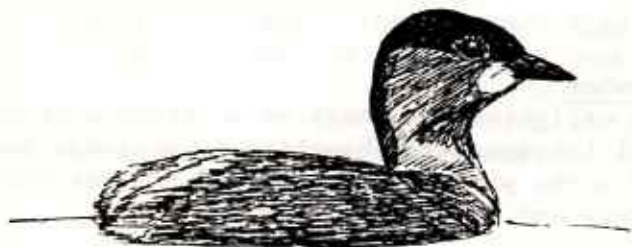
The TSB share issue unfortunately prevented Dave Smith from taking the Sidlesham Ferry outing on 27th September, many thanks to Mike Hall for taking over at short notice. 18 members attended on a warm, dry day, and were rewarded by a total of 80 species. Waders dominated Sidlesham Ferry itself, with excellent views of single Wood Sandpiper, Little Stint, Ruff and Snipe. Also present were Little Grebe, Sedge Warbler, and a Grey Wagtail. The walk via the Ferry Lagoon to Church Norton produced Whinchats, Stonechats and 2 Whitethroats, and prolonged views were obtained of Kingfisher, Water Rail, and Little Owl.

The churchyard yielded further migrants, including Redstart and Spotted Flycatchers, whilst an early Brent flock graced the harbour. Grey Plovers, Ringed Plovers, and Turnstones were seen along the shingle beach with Wigeon offshore, and a Sand Martin and a small Siskin flock overhead. A Great Spotted Woodpecker, silhouetted against a dead tree ended the day.

Bernie Forbes' Cissbury outing on 25th October began with the customary foul weather - heavy rain with strong NW winds. 5 members braved the elements, with conditions improving by 08.30 hours. Between the Cissbury car pack and Lychpole a number of species were recorded, including a stunning male Ring Ouzel, a Sparrowhawk, and a few Redwings, Goldfinches, Marsh and Long-tailed Tits.

The final outing of the year was on 9th November at East Head, where 7 members accompanied by Dave Smith attempted to watch in a force 8 to 9 south-westerly wind. Most birds had more sense and had already dived for cover, although 92 Golden Plovers, 6 Great Crested Grebes, several medium sized Brent flocks and a Merganser were present in the harbour. A single Redpoll called overhead, struggling against the wind. Waders were few; Sanderlings, Curlews, Grey Plovers, Dunlins and Redshanks. Good numbers of Teal with a few Wigeon plus a male Stonechat were present in the Scrape area.

D.I.Smith.



Little Grebe

LECTURES 1986

Monday 6th January

The winter chill was forgotten when Miss Jos Jocelyn showed us the scenery and birds of the Galapagos Islands, famous for their association with Darwin.

Monday 3rd February

Mr Andrew Cleave, a marine biologist, brought an appropriate maritime theme to the Society when he illustrated some of the problems birds face in a coastal environment with his slides taken at various localities on the British coastline.

Monday 3rd March

Mr Norman Flint's lecture on the Scilly Isles demonstrated the diversity of natural history, habitat and scenery to be found on these Islands during the seasons when the birdwatchers are usually less numerous!

Monday 7th April

After the business of the A.G.M. members were introduced to the practical requirements of the forthcoming Reed and Sedge Warbler survey by our own Messrs Newnham and Forbes.

Monday 6th October

Ms Sue Hitchings brought a local and topical flavour to this meeting with her talk on the acquisition by the RSPB of its new reserve on the Adur Saltings. Sue filled a gap in the programme created by Tony Prater's departure and we thank Sue for so successfully stepping in.

Monday 3rd November

Mr Oliver Ellis enlightened members on an often overlooked aspect of aerial interest; an absorbing evening was devoted to the study of moths giving a fascinating insight into their diversity, variety and biology.

Monday 1st December

A members' evening with a difference offered a miscellany of talks commencing with Bernard Forbes on the three B's - books binoculars and birds! - then Barrie (Fawkes) Watson's pyrotechnic dissertation on cannon netting, followed by the inimitable John Dixon on identification and rounded off by 'mine host' for the evening, Brian Metcalfe, on his past and present photographic safaris.

NOTES, NEWS AND ACCOUNTS 1986

Membership

At the 1st March 1987 there were 151 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>Observer</u>
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Rarities should have full supporting notes. All records should be sent to the Recorder at the address shown below.

Previous Years Reports

Some previous years reports are available on request. Special prices apply to purchases of three or more reports.

Secretary's Note

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.

OFFICERS 1986

President	Dr.J.Stafford.
Hon. Secretary	Mr.J.Dixon, Rock Cottage, Common Hill, West Chiltington, Nr. Pulborough. RH20 2NS. West Chiltington 2234.
Hon.Field Secretary	Mr.D.I.Smith, 15 Ryecroft Close, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. Worthing 47231.
Hon.Treasurer	Mr.S.R.Allen, 3 Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. Shoreham 463332.
Hon. Recorder	Mr.B.F.Forbes, 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex. Lancing 753876.
Hon. Report Editor	Mr.B.R.Clay, 16 Melbourne Avenue, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. Worthing 49225.
Chairman of the Council	Mr.M.P.Hall.
Sanctuary Committee	Dr.J.A.Newnham. Dr.A.B.Watson.
Other Committee Members	Mr.M.P.Hall; Dr.J.A.Newnham; Mr.R.Weal; Mrs.E.Chadwell.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1986

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance brought forward	894.88	913.91
Subscriptions	506.60	377.25
Sale of reports	24.10	9.90
Net raffle and refreshment receipts	29.95	42.93
Building Society interest	34.95	43.28
Donations	25.00	-
Lecture fee	10.00	-
Weekend trip - costs recovered	110.00	-
	<u>£1635.48</u>	<u>£1387.27</u>
	=====	=====

<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Display equipment	54.80	-
Printing	245.00	258.80
Postage and stationery	33.49	41.07
Secretary's expenses	46.00	15.00
Hire of hall	56.00	50.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Wine for Christmas meeting	42.77	24.38
Speakers fees	79.50	30.00
Donation to Mr.B.Clay	-	50.00
Sundries	13.00	19.14
Weekend trip hotel costs	110.00	-
Balance carried forward	950.92	894.88
	<u>£1635.48</u>	<u>£1387.27</u>
	=====	=====

S.R. ALLEN (Hon. Treasurer). Date: 23rd March 1987

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 23rd Mar.1987.

* ADVERTISEMENT *

* - BIRDWATCHING IN DEVON - *

* Small modern house in BRIXHAM available *

* anytime for short lets. *

* Good centre for Exe, Slapton, Hope Nose (Torquay) *

* and Dartmoor. 15 mins walk to Berry Head for *

* seawatching and Guillemot and Razorbill colony. *

* Full details from:- Peggy Allen, 3 Mill Hill, *

* Shoreham-by-Sea BN4 5TG. *

* Tel. Shoreham 463332. *

* ADVERTISEMENT *

* - VIVA ESPANA - *

* Apartment - Sleeps 2-4 *

* Available for letting. *

* SOUTHERN SPAIN - EXCELLENT LOCATION *

* Good For Birdwatching Trips *

* Details and further information from:- *

* Chris Fox. *

* Tel. Ashington 892948. *

